

# Iran Defeat DPR Korea in 2026 World Cup Qualifier



TEHRAN – Iran’s football team closed its AFC Asian Qualifiers - Road to 26 campaign with a commanding 3-0 win over DPR Korea on Tuesday.

DPR Korea was reduced to 10-man in the 66th minute after its mid-fielder Kye Tam was shown his second yellow card.

Muhammad Mehdi Mohebi opened the scoring for Iran in the 73rd minute and Mehdi Taremi made it 2-0 four minutes later. Hosseinzadeh completed the scoring three minutes into injury time with a composed finish on the run.

Amir Ghalenoei’s Iran ended the qualification as the first team with 23 points, two points above Uzbekistan, who defeated Qatar 3-0 earlier in the day.

Iran had already confirmed its ticket to next year’s FIFA World Cup to be hosted by Canada, Mexico and the United States.

## Women Sitting Volleyballers Earn Third Consecutive Win

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Mongolia sets (25-4, 25-8, 25-13) in the 2025 PVAO Sitting Volleyball Championships on Wednesday.

Team Melli had defeated Australia and Japan in its first two matches.

Competing in Women’s Pool A are Korea, Thailand and host China, while Pool B consists of Australia, Iran, Japan and Mongolia.

The Preliminary Round started on June 9 and runs through June 11 as teams compete in a single round-robin format to determine rank-



ings per pool.

Teams then head into a rest and recovery day on Thursday, June 12, with enough time and energy for the top two teams in each pool to play off in the semi-finals on Friday, June 13.

The winners’ trophy will be up for grabs at the title matches on Saturday, June 14, but contenders will likewise await the confirmation of the two best ranked teams (with the exception of the hosts) to qualify directly for the 2026 Sitting Volleyball World Championships.

## Ancelotti Earns First Win as Brazil Book World Cup Spot



*Brazil’s Richarlison (center) and Paraguay’s Gustavo Gomez battle for the ball during a World Cup 2026 qualifying soccer match at Neo Química Arena in Sao Paulo, June 10, 2025.*

MONTEVIDEO (Reuters) - Brazil qualified for the 2026 World Cup with a 1-0 win against Paraguay in South American qualifying to give

Carlo Ancelotti his first win as manager.

Real Madrid forward Vinicius Jr scored from close range in the sec-

ond half, finishing after fine work from Manchester United-bound playmaker Matheus Cunha.

The victory, Ancelotti’s first after a 0-0 draw against Ecuador on his debut last week, means Brazil have now qualified for every edition of the World Cup.

“We needed to win and qualify for the World Cup,” said Vinicius Jr.

“Now the coach will have more time to work. Of course, today wasn’t one of our best performances, but the important thing is always to win.

“Now it’s time to celebrate qualifying.”

Elsewhere, World Cup holders Argentina played out an entertaining 1-1 draw with Colombia in Buenos Aires.

Liverpool winger Luis Diaz opened the scoring with a fine individual goal, dancing through three defenders before finishing past Aston Villa goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez.

Argentina were reduced to 10 men with 20 minutes remaining when Chelsea midfielder Enzo Fernandez was sent off for a high-boot challenge on Colombia’s Kevin Castano.

But Lionel Messi’s side found an equaliser nine minutes from the end through Lyon’s Thiago Almadia, leaving Colombia four points clear of seventh-placed Venezuela.

Ecuador, Argentina’s nearest challengers, booked their spot at next summer’s tournament in Canada, Mexico and the United States after a 0-0 draw away at Peru.

## Senegal Become First African Team to Beat England With 3-1 Win in Friendly

NOTTINGHAM (Reuters) - Senegal became the first African team to beat England in 22 games on Tuesday, winning 3-1 in a friendly at the City Ground thanks to goals from Ismaila Sarr, Habib Diarra and Cheikh Sabaly.

Senegal stretched their unbeaten streak to 24 games, while England’s loss, which included a disallowed late goal from Jude Bellingham for a handball in the build-up, was their first defeat in four games under new manager Thomas Tuchel.

“Not good enough,” captain Harry Kane told ITV. “We had moments, but with and without the ball things aren’t clicking, we’re not finding the right tempo. We’ve lost that aggressive nature that we had.”

England -- with 10 changes from Saturday’s 1-0 lacklustre World Cup qualifying win over Andorra -- took the lead when Kane struck in the seventh minute after Senegal goalkeeper Edouard Mendy

saved Anthony Gordon’s shot but spilled the ball into the striker’s path.

The hosts conceded for the first time under Tuchel when Sarr caught Kyle Walker napping to poke in Nicolas Jackson’s cross in the 40th minute.

The visitors doubled their lead in the 62nd when Diarra latched onto a ball over the top then fired through goalkeeper Dean Henderson’s legs. Sabaly struck deep into stoppage time, prompting boos from England fans after the final whistle.

“We’re not going to panic but we know we need to be better,” Kane said. “New ideas, there’s new players coming into the team that don’t have experience at international level.

“It’s a mixture of things but no excuses. We need to find it quick, the World Cup is going to come around really fast so every camp is really important right now.”

Senegal peppered Henderson with nine shots on target



*Senegal’s Habib Diarra scores their second goal*

to England’s four, including an early header from Sarr that the goalkeeper pushed wide of the post.

Gordon squandered a glorious chance to give England a two-goal lead in the first half when he mis-hit Walker’s cross from close range.

Mendy made a great late save to deny England what would have been an equaliser from Bukayo Saka before Senegal added their third.

“Disappointing result, not

sure if maybe didn’t deserve a little bit more result-wise,” Tuchel said. “But felt again a bit frozen, not active enough for a long time of the match.

“We conceded the first two goals, very easy goals, that we needed to defend better. The reaction was good after we were down, suddenly more active, more free, more fluid, more aggressive towards the opponent’s goals. We had then big chances to equalise.”

## U.S. Begins Uneasy World Cup Countdown as Trump Moves Marines to Los Angeles

NEW YORK (Reuters) - U.S. cities hosting next year’s FIFA World Cup faced questions on Wednesday about how to reassure international fans concerned by President Donald Trump’s immigration crackdown and travel ban as the year-to-go countdown began.

The United States, along with Canada and Mexico, is set to co-host the finals, which will feature 48 teams and a record 104 matches in a tournament that FIFA boss Gianni Infantino said would usher in a new generation of soccer fans.

Celebrities and soccer stars were due to walk the red carpet at the Fox Studio Lot in Los Angeles - one of the host cities - for the year-to-go event there, a day after President Trump deployed Marines and the National Guard to quell protests.

California Governor Gavin Newsom described the deployment as an “unmistakable step toward authoritarianism,” while Trump officials defended it and branded the protests as lawless, blaming local and state Democrats for permitting upheaval.

Los Angeles is one of several host cities that will mark the year-to-go occasion, including New York-New Jersey, which will welcome fans at a waterside festival in Jersey City with the Statue of Liberty in view.

“If we look at (American) football as

the U.S.’s sport, soccer is the world’s sport and this is an opportunity for us to welcome people from all over the world,” Alex Lasry, the New York-New Jersey host Committee CEO, told Reuters.

Minky Worden, director of global initiatives at Human Rights Watch, said FIFA needed to work with the U.S. government to ensure the rights of competitors, support staff, fans and media were protected regardless of their identities or views.

“FIFA should publicly acknowledge the threat US immigration and other anti-human rights policies pose to the tournament’s integrity ... (and) should establish clear benchmarks and timelines for the US policy changes needed to ensure respect for immigrants’ rights during the 2026 World Cup and beyond,” she said.

U.S. Democratic leaders raised concerns over a national crisis on Tuesday as Trump moved U.S. Marines into Los Angeles to tackle civilian protests over his immigration policies.

FIFA did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino said last month after meeting Trump that he was confident the world would be welcomed in for the 2026 World Cup and this year’s Club World Cup, which runs from June 14 to July 13.

## Australia Seal World Cup Spot With Win Over Saudi



*Mitch Duke heads the Socceroos into the lead just after half-time against Saudi Arabia as Australia qualified for the 2026 World Cup.*

HONG KONG (Reuters) - Australia sealed qualification for the World Cup on Tuesday with a 2-1 win over Saudi Arabia in Jeddah while Oman kept their hopes of a place at the finals alive with a last-gasp 1-1 draw against Palestine in Jordan.

The Socceroos only had to avoid a five-goal defeat to confirm their appearance at a sixth consecutive finals and goals from Connor Metcalfe and Mitch Duke earned the Australians a come-from-behind win to brush aside the Saudis.

Abdulrahman Al-Obud had given the home side a glimmer of hope when he netted from close range in the 19th minute but Metcalfe equalized with three minutes left in the half to extinguish Saudi dreams.

Duke then put the visitors in front in the 48th minute when he glanced Martin Boyle’s free kick past Nawaf Al-Aqidi before Mat Ryan, making his 100th appearance for his country, saved a late penalty save to deny Salem Al-Dawsari an equalizer.

The win confirms the Australians as second-place finisher in Group C behind Japan, who secured their spot at the finals in March.

“It is special. It probably hasn’t sunk in yet,” said Tony Popovic, who took over as coach last September after Australia made a stuttering start to the third round of qualifying.

“It’s been a very intense period since I’ve joined. We’ve built a good foundation now (but) we want to really get better, kick on and try and do something special at

the World Cup.”

Saudi Arabia took third place in Group C and will feature in a fourth phase of qualifiers in October alongside Indonesia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq and Oman.

The Omanis kept their hopes alive at the expense of Palestine as Issam Al-Sabhi’s penalty deep into stoppage time earned the Persian Gulf side a draw that kept them in fourth place in Group B.

A header by Oday Kharoub gave Palestine a 49th-minute lead and a second yellow card for Oman’s Harib Al-Saadi had put Ihab Abu Jazar’s side in control until the dying minutes, when Muhsen Al-Ghassani was brought down in the area.

Al-Sabhi stepped up to send goalkeeper Rami Hamada the wrong way to seal fourth place in the group for Oman and eliminate the heartbroken Palestinians.

Earlier in the evening, Japan crushed Indonesia 6-0 with Daichi Kamada scoring twice in the first half in Osaka as the Samurai Blue won Group C while Wang Yudong’s late penalty had China finish their campaign with a 1-0 win over Bahrain.

South Korea completed their commitments in Group B with a 4-0 thrashing of Kuwait to ensure Hong Myung-bo’s World Cup-bound outfit topped the standings with an unbeaten record.

Jordan, who qualified for their first World Cup on Thursday, finished second in Group B despite losing 1-0 to Graham Arnold’s Iraq in Amman.