

AFC U17 Asian Cup: Iran coach Abdi remains positive despite last-four heartbreak



● AFC

AFC – Head coach Hossein Abdi was far from dismayed despite Iran's 3-0 defeat to Japan in the AFC U17 Asian Cup semifinals in Thailand on Thursday. Iran had to concede to Japan's superiority at the Thammasat Stadium with Abdi admitting some of his players were unable to focus after finding themselves 2-0 down going into the break but said the experience gained in the tournament would not only help them in this year's FIFA U17 World Cup in Indonesia but also in the progress of their careers. "We prepared as well as we could in three days (since the quarterfinal win against Yemen) but my players were taken aback by Japan's first goal. We then conceded a second and I could see that some of my players were a little down. "I tried to rally them at half-time, telling them we had to play for the entire 90 minutes. The fact that we were also miss-

ing two key players made it difficult for us to fight back against a very good Japanese team," said Abdi. The Iranian head coach felt the outcome could have been different had they been able to finish their chances, especially when Japan were 1-0 up. Kasra Taheri was presented with a gift in the 21st minute when goalkeeper Wataru Endo scuffed a clearance but the forward fired wide from close range. "We should have scored that and we thought we had also earned a penalty only for the referee to overturn his initial decision. "The weather also made it very difficult for us. It was strange game but we will learn. "We have the World Cup to look forward to and I am sure my federation will ensure we prepare well for it. We will be representing not just Iran but the whole of Asia and we must do our best."

Iran up to 22nd in FIFA Men's Ranking, second in Asia



Iranian players celebrate lifting the CAFA Nations Cup trophy after a victory over Uzbekistan in the final in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on June 20, 2023. ● AFC

Sports Desk

Iran moved up by two spots to stand in the 22nd place in the latest FIFA Men's Ranking, released by the international football governing body on Thursday.

Amir Qalenoey's side collected 1556.59 points to remain second to Japan (1595.96 points) – 20th in the global ranking – among the Asian Football Confederation's member associations, with Australia (1530.45), Korea Republic (1529.3), and Saudi Arabia (1421.26) following Iran in the AFC ranking. The new ranking came after Iran routed Afghanistan (6-1) and Kyrgyzstan (5-1) before a Sardar Azmoun's strike sealed a 1-0 victory for the country over host Uzbekistan in the inaugural CAFA Nations Cup final in June.

Qalenoey, who replaced Portuguese Carlos Queiroz in March following the World Cup group stage exit last year, is tasked with steering the Asian powerhouse in next January's AFC Asian Cup in Qatar, where the three-time champion will be chasing a first title in 48 years.

Also in the FIFA Men's Ranking, the top three remained intact as reigning world champion Argentina is followed by France – beaten by the Argentines in the World Cup final shootout – and Brazil respectively. England moved up to fourth, thanks to back-to-back victories in the Euro 2024 qualifiers in June, with Belgium, Croatia, the Netherlands, Italy, Portugal, and newly-crowned UEFA Nations League champion Spain completing the top 10.

Goalkeeper Hosseini leaves Esteghlal

Sports Desk

Esteghlal goalkeeper and skipper Seyyed Hossein Hosseini announced his departure from the Persian Gulf Pro League giant. "Best of wishes for Esteghlal and [new head coach] Mr. Javad Nekounam. Thanks for all the great days. Goodbye," the 30-year-old keeper wrote

in an Instagram post on Thursday. Hosseini, who spent nine seasons over two spells with the Tehran-based Blues, received some harsh online criticism in the aftermath of a 2-1 defeat against archrival Persepolis in May, being blamed for the way he conceded Omid Aalishah's winner in the extra time.

Hosseini, who made a couple of appearances for Iran in last year's World Cup in Qatar, lifted the Iranian top-flight trophy with the Blues twice, with the second title coming after a remarkable unbeaten campaign in the 2021/22 season. He also won the Iranian Hazfi Cup title with the club in 2018.



● TASNIM

Hughes targets worlds after shattering British 100m record

THE GUARDIAN – A few days after shattering Linford Christie's 30-year-old British 100m record, sprinter Zhanel Hughes is busy recalibrating his sights towards new heights. Hughes's time of 9.83 seconds at the New York City Grand Prix last Saturday made him the fastest man on the planet this year, and a genuine contender for gold at the world championships in Budapest this summer. At the age of 27 he be-

lieves he is ready "to be part of the rumble". "They've seen what I am coming with, so they know that I'm not one to mess about with," he says of his rivals. "I'm ready to compete, I'm excited and I'm enjoying myself." It is almost a decade since Hughes was hailed as the "next Usain Bolt" after switching allegiances to Britain from the Caribbean island of Anguilla as a teenager. But while a serious knee injury and some false starts in major events have hindered his progress, the sense is that he is coming into his prime. Asked how he has kicked on, Hughes stresses that he has become a lot hungrier and only took two weeks off at the end of last season. He also credits the work of his coach, Glenn Mills, who used to train Bolt.

"Obviously going to Budapest being a contender will be exciting," he says. "And once I'm going through the rounds, everything else is possible. You just need to be a part of the rumble – and if you can be patient and the most relaxed person in the field then anything is possible."

● GETTY IMAGES

Date: 1402/04/10 - No.: 55/02/8708

INVITATION TO ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER
First Announcement
AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY

شرکت خدمات حمایتی کشاورزی
وزارت جهاد کشاورزی

Agricultural Support Services Company, hereinafter will be referred as ASSC, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Jihad-Agriculture of I.R. of Iran, is considering the purchase of 2×30000±5% MTS of Granular Mono Ammonium Phosphate GMAP (11-52) through one step international tender. All of the qualified and interested companies are invited to receive tender documents from **Saturday** dated **1/7/2023** until **Wednesday** dated **5/7/2023** (5 working days) from our purchasing committee (located at the 9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran). The bidders are requested to submit their letters of introduction, along with remittance bill of Iranian Rial 1,200,000 to ASSC's account no. 4001039704005791 with SHEBA no. IR250100004001039704005791 at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran through payment order of SATNA or PAYA with the 30 character identification code of 358039782263500650000000000006.

The bidders are required to submit their sealed and stamped envelopes containing offers latest on **Saturday** dated **5/8/2023** (during official working hours) to our security office, located on the 8th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelopes will be on **Sunday** dated **6/8/2023** at 14:00 with the presence of bidders' representatives in our purchasing committee (9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

- ❶ The bid bond value should be at 291021 or in equal value of that in any other foreign currencies, except US dollars, based on the Telegraphic Transfer rate of the basic and essential commodities on CBI's ETS website, www.fxmarketrate.cbi.ir, on 12/6/2023 for each lot of 30000 MTS ± 5% in bank guarantee.
- ❷ The bidders are permitted to submit the bid bond in Iranian Rial. Therefore, the value of bid bond for each lot of 30000 MTS ± 5% will be IRR 89,126,000,000 which must be only submitted by the bidders.
- ❸ After approval of ASSC's Financial Manager, the bidders are permitted to use their previous and definite outstanding claims as the bid bond.

For more information, you may refer to our website www.assc.ir,
and <http://fiets.mporg.ir> or contact us by phone no. 00982188776325.

Public relations and international affairs of agricultural support services company

1306-1519600