

FIFA U-17 World Cup:

Iran given Brazil,
England tasks
in group stage

Sports Desk

Iran will be facing a mammoth task in the FIFA U-17 World Cup later this year when taking on two age-group heavyweights in the group stage.

The draw for the event – starting November 10 in Indonesia – took place in the FIFA headquarters in Zurich on Friday, where Iran was drawn against Brazil and England, as well as Oceanian side New Caledonia in Group C.

Hossein Abdi's boys will begin their campaign against Brazil at the Jakarta International Stadium on Nov. 11, before squaring off against England three days later.

The final round of the group fixtures will see Iran play New Caledonia on November 17.

Brazil will head to Indonesia on the back of a 13th South American crown in April, looking for a record-equal-

ing fifth world trophy, and second in a row after defeating Mexico in the 2019 final. England, the under-17 World Cup champion in 2017, had a below-par run in May's European Championship – beaten by France in the quarterfinals – but still managed to bounce back with a 4-2 victory over the Switzerland to secure the continent's fifth berth for the competition. New Caledonia, meanwhile, made it to the final showpiece of the OFC U-17 Championship last January, before a 1-0 loss to New Zealand.

"We are in probably the toughest group at the World Cup," Iran head coach Abdi said after the draw, adding: "Brazil is the second most decorated team in the history of the competition, while England is also a top-quality side, but I don't have much information about New Caledonia."

Iran is one of the four Asian sides – alongside Japan,

South Korea, and Uzbekistan – to join host Indonesia in November's tournament, after reaching the last four of June's U17 Asian Cup in Thailand.

"We're still thrilled to be in this group as a top side of the continent as we only suffered a single defeat against Japan, which was among the top-seeded teams in the World Cup draw, in the Asian

Cup. We'll be looking to show our prowess against Brazil and England," added the Iranian coach.

Iran will hope to build on the previous World Cup participation in 2017, where

a brave run saw the Asian team beat Germany, Guinea, and Costa Rica to win the group and then come out victorious against Mexico in the knockout stage before falling to Spain in the quarterfinals.

Iranian players celebrate a goal during a 2-0 victory over South Korea at the 2023 AFC U17 Asian Cup in June.

● PFIRI

Djokovic propels Serbia into Davis Cup quarters

REUTERS – Novak Djokovic made a winning return to action following his U.S. Open triumph, as the world number one helped Serbia book their place in the quarter-finals of the Davis Cup on Friday with a group stage victory over hosts Spain. Playing just five days after lifting his 24th Grand Slam title in New York, Djokovic overcame the hot and humid conditions early on and recovered from 4-1 down in the second set to beat Alejandro Davidovich Foki-

na 6-3 6-4 in Valencia. The result secured an unassailable 2-0 lead for Serbia after Laslo Djere beat Albert Ramos-Vinolas 6-4 6-4 in the first match of the Group C tie and secured a tie in the last eight in Malaga, which will take place in November. "I was on a high with the U.S. Open win and the celebration at home and leaving my family is never easy but coming to another family – my Serbian squad – gives me the greatest of joy," Djokovic said.



● REUTERS

Taremi off the mark to put Porto back in the winning ways

Sports Desk

Mehdi Taremi opened his account for the season as Porto walked away with a 1-0 victory over Estrela da Amadora in the Portuguese Primeira Liga. Having scored twice in the mid-week 4-0 win against Angola during the international break, the Iranian striker came off the bench to replace injured Evanilson with 15 minutes into the game and found the net on the half-hour mark at the Estádio José Gomes on Friday.

The prolific forward dribbled past home side center-back Miguel Lopes with a delicate touch before his side-footed effort from the edge of the box went in off the post.

This was a fourth victory in five top-flight games for the Dragons, who had been held to a 1-1 draw at home against Arouca last time out. Having finished as the leading marksman in the league last season, Taremi will hope the strike would end weeks of saga surrounding him, dominated by a likely move to Serie A giant Milan collapsing on the final of the transfer window, as well as hostile comments made by a Sporting TV pundit toward the Iranian for allegedly intending to convince the Portuguese match officials to blow in their whistles for a spot-kick.

Carlos Xavier's remarks, calling Taremi "a Muslim, who did not even know how to swim when he first arrived in Portugal, but is now a good diver", came after Porto's outing against Arouca, in which the referee pointed to the spot after a challenge on the Iranian in the box, only to see his decision overturned by the VAR.

The Iranian Football Federation hit back at the former Sporting CP player for his comments, describing them as "absurd and disgraceful", while Porto wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter, that his "xenophobic and racist" words were "too serious to go unharmed."

Mehdi Taremi celebrates after scoring the winner in Porto's 1-0 victory over Estrela in the Primeira Liga in Amadora, Portugal, on September 15, 2023.

● fcporto.pt





NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

First Announcement

TENDER NO.: 08-38-0240001

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	POLYCRYSTALLIN DIAMOND COMPACT (PDC)DRILLING BIT 26 IN. (6 NO. BLADES, 9 NO. NOZEELES) I.A.D.C. 4.2.3 M	12 NO
02	NOZZLES FOR PDC BITS CONNECTION SIZE AS SPECIFIED FOR SIZE 17-1/2 TO 26 INCH 12/32 IN.& 13/32 IN.& 14/32 IN.& 16/32 IN.& 20/32 IN.	1080 NO

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 50,318/60 EURO or 20,305,620,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender documents including the materials through technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir-material_procurement_management_tab

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN

PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL

NO ADVANCE PAYMENT WILL BE PAID

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