

FIFA Futsal World Cup:

Iran sent packing by Morocco in last-16 thriller

Sports Desk

Iran's Futsal World Cup campaign came to a disappointing end in Uzbekistan after a 4-3 loss to African champion Morocco in the round of 16. Stepping into the game on the back of a perfect record in the group stage, Vahid Shamsaei's men started on the front at the Bukhara Universal Sports Complex and took the lead in the fourth minute through Mohammadhossein Derakhshani, who converted Moslem Oladqobad's quick pass. The bright start, however, was followed by lapse of concentration and a series of errors by the Iranians as the Asian powerhouse trailed by three goals at halftime. Khalid Bouzid drew the Atlas Lions level in the seventh minute, before a Moroccan's kick-in went in off Iranian Alireza Rafieipour's leg four minutes later. Soufiane El Mesrar doubled Morocco's lead in the 17th

minute and then Idriss Raiss El Fenni's volley rounded off a fine buildup play right before the interval for one of the goals of the tournament. A promising start to the second half for Iran saw Hossein Tayebi pull one back with a trademark finish less than 30 seconds in, before Oladqobad fired home into top corner one minute later. With the clock ticking down, Iran used the power play with Ali-Asghar Hassanzadeh coming on, though they still found it tough to make it through an organized Moroccan defense. The final buzzer sent the Africans into a frenzy, but their celebration was short-lived as the referee pointed to the second penalty spot following a video review, giving Iran a lifeline right at the death. However, Sajjad Yousefkhah hit the post with the last kick of the game and Iran failed to progress beyond the World Cup last-16 for the first time

since the 2012 edition. Meanwhile, Morocco, the first African team to beat Iran in the World Cup, headed into a second successive quarterfinal and will take on Brazil on Sunday. "The World Cup is over for us and there are no words to say," a devastated Shamsaei said after the game, adding: "We had two different halves today; very poor in the first but much in control in the second. That is what happens when you don't convert your chances. The luck wasn't on our side. All the best to Morocco." Elsewhere in the last-16 round, Dauren Tursagulov's last-gasp winner clinched a shock 2-1 win for Kazakhstan over defending champion Portugal. In an end-to-end encounter, Chingiz Yessenamanov's opener was canceled out by Portuguese Zicky before Tursagulov scored with 14 seconds remaining.



MOHSEN DAVOUDI/FFIRI

World Junior Wushu Championships:

Iranians win more medals on Day 3



IWUF

Sports Desk

The third day of the World Junior Wushu Championships saw Iranians bag silver and bronze medals in the talou contests in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei. Having won a nanquan gold on the opening day of the competitions, Ramtin Siahmoshtei tallied 8.856 points for a silver medal in the boys'

nandao contest. Tara Homafar, meanwhile, won a daoshu bronze, courtesy of an 8.710-point performance in the girls' event. Friday's result came after the Iranians had won four talou medals, including double golds, on the first two days of the event in the Brunei capital. Representing the country in the girls' nangun event, Sana

Chak scored 8.776 points to beat contestants from Indonesia and Turkey to the gold. In the men's draw, Arsham Khalilpour had to settle for a bronze medal behind Indonesian and Singaporean athletes with 8.500 points in the changquan contest. Sana Panahi finished runner-up in the women's event changquan with 8.503 points.

IWF World Junior Championships:

Iran's Emadi wins snatch bronze, misses out on total podium

Sports Desk

Iranian weightlifter Hassan Emadi finished his campaign in the IWF World Junior Championships with a snatch bronze in the men's 109kg contests in León, Spain. The Iranian recorded 163kg to finish behind Russian Uladzislau

Sakovich (170kg) – taking part as a neutral athlete – and Turkey's Muhammed Emin Burun, who took the silver with 168kg. Emadi then registered a best effort of 191kg in the clean & jerk contest, though it wasn't enough for him to finish in the top three, as Sakovich bagged a second gold with 204kg, followed by Geor-

gia's Gurami Vekua (200kg) and Jordanian Asem Al-Sallaj (199kg). Emadi had to settle for a fourth-place finish in total with 354kg. Alireza Abbaspour had won three medals for Iran earlier in the competitions, collecting the snatch bronze before the C&J and total silvers in the in the men's 89kg contests.



IWUF

Champions Leverkusen ready for 'full throttle' Bayern, says Alonso



REUTERS – Bayer Leverkusen are expecting Bayern Munich to go all out when the sides meet in the Bundesliga today and the champions will need to produce a perfect performance to take anything from the match, manager Xabi Alonso said. Leverkusen last season became the first team to finish a Bundesliga campaign unbeaten as they lifted the trophy and ended Bayern's run of 11 straight titles, but this time around, their Bavarian opponents are determined to reclaim their crown. League-leaders Bayern have won all four of their Bundesliga matches this season and sit top of the standings with 12 points, three more

than second-placed Leverkusen. "The anticipation is great and we want to show a good game. We need a perfect performance to take something home with us," Alonso told reporters on Friday. "FC Bayern have made a good start to the season, it will be a challenge tomorrow. We need to play at our highest level, with and against the ball for 90 minutes. Bayern will go full throttle, we have to be ready for that." Leverkusen have been defensively fragile this season, conceding nine goals in four league games, and they let in three in a roller-coaster 4-3 win over VfL Wolfsburg in their last match. After the match Alonso slammed his side's poor

defending and ahead of their game against Bayern, the Spaniard once again stressed the need for discipline in defence. "The team has to be compact, we have to defend together as a team. We have a clear game plan, we can't be too soft and we can't allow large gaps," Alonso said. "We have a clear game plan as to how we want to play. We will give everything... If we don't defend well, it's hard for the players to win. We want to be consistent. We don't want to be up and down." Following their league clash against Bayern, Leverkusen host Italian side AC Milan in the Champions League on Tuesday.