

Brazil to take late fitness call on Neymar, says team doctor

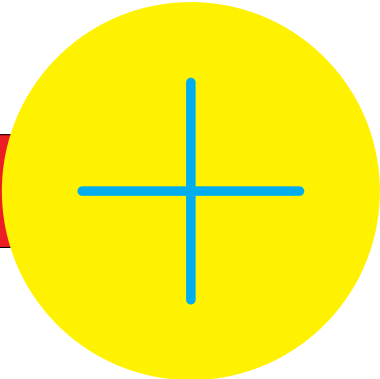


REUTERS – Brazil defender Danilo has shown positive signs in his recovery from an ankle injury while Neymar is racing against time to be fit for their last 16 clash against South Korea, team doctor Rodrigo Lasmar said after Friday's 1-0 defeat by Cameroon.

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Termeh: Persian silk delicacy



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Silk is one of the best examples of transition in evolution. One day the caterpillar stops its ordinary instinctive desire to feast on the leaves, hangs upside down from a twig, and magically forms a cocoon. The butterfly flies into its new way of life in the sky and leaves us a precious material called silk. Termeh is the next step in this exciting game of evolutionary transition. Persian grandmasters use sorcery, magic, and skills to create a delicate fabric called termeh out of silk, cotton, and wool, termehtavel.com reported. Yazd and Isfahan are the main cities that produce termeh. The history of termeh is connected to the Silk Road. Merchants brought silk to Iran through this road, and Iranian ingenuity used

this opportunity to introduce a masterpiece like termeh to the world. Iranian and Indian cultures are similar and have a lot in common. The people of India also played a huge role in the ongoing progression of termeh, especially with their usage of vibrant colors and unique designs.

Traditional and modern use of termeh

Termeh used to be a sign of wealth, power, and social class. It was only available for aristocratic families, and the upper class would use termeh in curtains, clothing, and even sajjadeh or Islamic prayer rugs. People also used termeh as an essential part of a dowry to provide

economic support for young couples. These days, termeh can be found in different price ranges, although its status has been changed; people use termeh in their daily lives. They use it as cushions, tablecloth, furniture cover, handbags, and even shoes. The dowry tradition is still alive, and young brides (especially in Yazd and Isfahan) are given expensive pieces of termeh.

Why is termeh so valuable?

The simple fact that termeh is a hand-woven cloth made of silk that is so hard to work with makes the process time consuming, hard to master, and difficult in general. Silk is an expensive material, the colors used in high-quality



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ty termeh are usually natural, therefore more valuable, and the number of masters working on high-quality hand-woven termeh is very limited.

What are termeh's different designs?

The process of making termeh is very similar to making carpets. First, you need a simple design on white paper; then the designer determines different colors for each part. Nowadays, some people even use computers to ease the process of designing. Masters create colors of termeh using the endless features of nature. The rose madder, saffron flower, tea leaves, walnut shells, pomegranates, and apple trees are the most common natural sources of dye used for termeh.

A design called paisley, in the shape of a bending cypress tree, is seen in almost every termeh. The design shows the specific role of the cypress in Persian culture and the fact that cypress is famous for being the symbol of modesty.

Where can you buy the best termeh?

Yazd and Isfahan are the main cities when it comes to the origin of termeh. Both cities have many masters and workshops practicing this splendid art. The grand bazaars in both cities provide high-quality hand-woven termeh.

How to differentiate a valuable from a cheap termeh?

In general, the number of colors

used in termeh fabric and the density of threads determine how valuable it is. More colors and more density means higher quality and, therefore, more expensive. The percentage of the silk used, unique patterns, and famous brands are also crucial elements in the value.

How to keep termeh?

Keep termeh in a dry and dark place. Silk is highly sensitive to light and could be affected severely, resulting in discolored and faded areas. Moth is another danger that you have to keep an eye on; you can use moth repellents such as cedar, rosemary, thyme, cloves, lavender, or bay leaves. Termeh should not be washed; it must be dry cleaned.

World Cup group stage roundup: Asians excel as big names crash out

South Korea's triumph meant a record three Asian teams qualified for the round of 16 of the competition – one more than South America, which is represented by Brazil and Argentina in the stage. Giant-killing Japan stunned the world football by winning Group E, which also featured Spain and Germany, after salvaging 2-1 victories over both European heavyweights, while Die Mannschaft suffered a second successive group exit at the tournament after lifting the trophy in 2014. Meanwhile, Australia, also a member of the Asian Football Confederation, recovered from a first-day 4-1 hammering by France to advance – thanks to 1-0 wins against Tunisia and Denmark. Germany and Denmark – a semifinalist in last year's European Championship – were joined by Belgium and Serbia in the list of European powerhouses to leave Qatar after



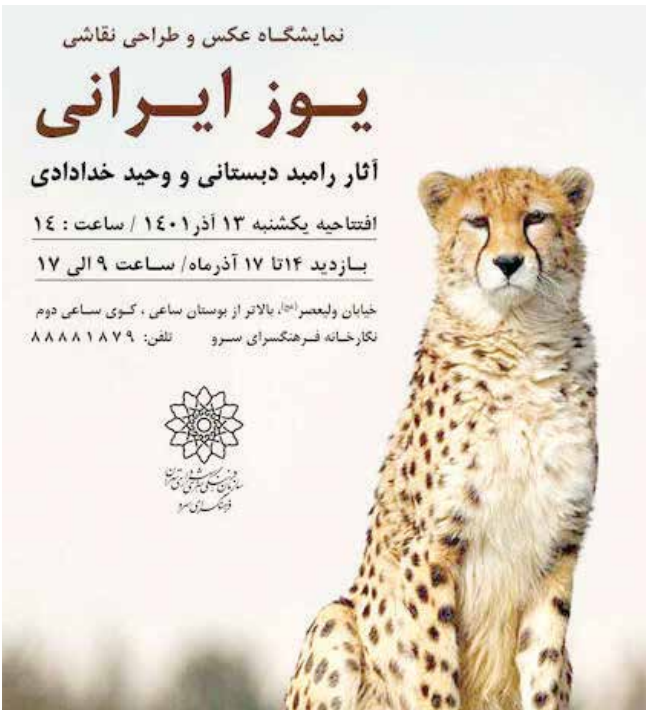
KAI PFAFFENBACH/REUTERS

three rounds of play. Belgium got off to a decent start in Group F – a 1-0 win over Canada – but a late 2-0 loss to Morocco was followed by a goalless stalemate against Croatia as Roberto Martinez's men, who finished third four years ago in Russia, were left

empty-handed in what might have been the last major event for the country's golden generation of football. No team made a clean sweep of victories in the group fixtures – with depleted France and Brazil falling to one-goal setbacks against Tunisia and Cameroon

respectively after securing top-spot finishes in their groups – and surprise wins for Morocco, South Korea, Japan, and Australia mean no one is in the safe zone at this year's event. Perhaps the biggest upset of the group phase came in the opening day in Group C, when Saudi Arabia responded to a Lionel Messi's first-half spot-kick within five minutes after the break as Saleh al-Shehri and Salem al-Dawsari sealed a famous 2-1 victory over Argentina. In terms of numbers, there were 525 minutes of added time across 64 group matches – equivalent to almost six extra games – though an average of 2.5 goals per game is lower than the previous two editions of the event. Defending champion France and star-studded Brazil remain the favorites to go all the way to the final showpiece at the Lusail Stadium but the drama and shock results over the past two weeks promise some intriguing contests until December 18.

Exhibition on Iranian cheetah opens



ISNA – An art exhibition titled 'Iranian cheetah', featuring drawings, painting and photos of the animal, is to open at Sarv Art Gallery in Tehran today. The show includes 21 artworks by Rambod Dabestani and Vahid Khodadadi. The display will run through December 7.