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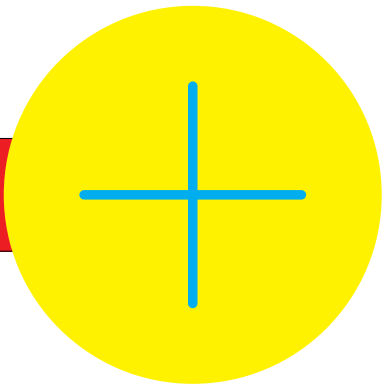
Iranian surgeons performing a surgery on a patient.

IRNA – For the first time in the Middle East, the revival and donation of organs after death of the donor was performed in Iran, announced the head of the organ supply and transplant unit of Iran University of Medical Sciences.

Wednesday
December 7, 2022
Vol. 8072

IRAN
NEWSPAPER

ISSN 1027-1449
Keytitle: IRAN (Tehran)
irannewspaper.ir



IRAN

Iranian Morning Newspaper

FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022: Samurai Blue heartbroken by Livakovic; super Selecao dances into quarters



Croatia's Dominik Livakovic saves a penalty from Japan's Kaoru Mitoma during the shootout victory in the World Cup last-16 round at the Al Janoub Stadium, Al Wakrah, Qatar, on December 5, 2022.

LEE SMITH/REUTERS

Asians' World Cup run in Qatar came to an end on Monday as Japan and South Korea were knocked out in the round of 16. Having beaten Germany and Spain in the group stage, Japan pulled off a brave performance against yet another European powerhouse in Croatia – finalist in 2018 – but fell to a 3-1 shootout defeat in Al Wakrah. Daizen Maeda opened the scoring two minutes before the break to boost Samurai Blue's quest for a first progress to the last-eight round, but Tottenham midfielder Ivan Perisic headed home an equalizer 10 minutes after the restart. Goalkeeper Dominik Livakovic proved to be the hero of the day for the Croatians, denying Takumi Minamino, Kaoru Mitoma and Maya Yoshida in the penalty shootout before Mario Pasalic sent Shuichi Gonda the wrong

way to steer his country into a third quarterfinals at the competition. The resilient Croatians were too familiar with the circumstances at the Al Janoub Stadium as they had come from behind to advance after the extra time on three occasions in Russia four years ago before the defeat against France in the final. "The Japanese might have underestimated us – never do that to the Croatians," Croatia coach Zlatko Dalic told reporters. "We're a small nation, but we're diligent, we're hard-working and we fight for what we want. "When we started the penalty shootout today, I was very confident, and I trusted (Livakovic)." This was a fourth last-16 exit for Japan, which also gave away a two-goal lead against Belgium in 2018 to suffer a 3-2 setback.

"Every day, for four years, we worked hard to break this barrier (by reaching the final eight) but we couldn't get the result we wanted. It's really hard to take," captain Yoshida said. However, head coach Hajime Moriyasu has every reason to be proud of his men, who came out on top in a group that featured two former world champions. "I don't think they succumbed to pressure," Moriyasu said. "The players who played the 120 minutes and those who took the penalties were courageous. I would like to praise their efforts, they tried under such immense pressure. "Of course we wanted to win and the result is unfortunate, but it does not negate all the efforts of the players... We couldn't break the barrier towards the final eight, but the players were able to show a new generation of Jap-



Brazilian players celebrate their second goal in a 4-1 victory over South Korea in the World Cup last-16 round at the Stadium 974, Doha, Qatar, on December 5, 2022.

CARL RBCINE/REUTERS

anese soccer. "We beat Germany and Spain – both World Cup champions. We should be confident in our ability and if we aim not just to catch up to but to surpass, I think there will be a different future ahead for Japanese football." **No disrespect** A last-gasp drama on the final day of Group H fixtures had seen South Korea overtake Uruguay for a top-two finish, but the East Asians' dream of emulating the 2002 success, when they reached the semifinals on home soil, was hit by a massive reality check against a dominant Brazil team. Vinicius Jr needed only seven minutes to get on the score sheet and Neymar – from the spot – Richarlison, and Lucas Paqueta added three more goals before halftime to put the tie to bed,

with the Brazilian players performing their trademark samba celebration for each goal. Even head coach Tite briefly joined the dancing by the bench after Richarlison's strike. The South American giant took the foot off the gas after the break and substitute Paik Seung-ho scored a late consolation for the South Koreans, for whom this will go down as a decent campaign, given the clear lack of depth in the squad and the over-reliance on global star Son Heung-min. "I believe our participation at the World Cup has ended in a very fair manner," Portuguese coach Paulo Bento said, also confirming he was leaving his role after their exit. Tite, meanwhile, was overjoyed by his team's bold attacking performance, while insisting he meant no disrespect to the oppo-

nent by his celebration – as ITV pundit Roy Keane suggested. "We try to adapt to the characteristics of the players. They are very young and I try to adapt a bit to their language, and part of their language is dancing," the 61-year-old said when asked about his moves at a news conference. "There's no interpretation other than happiness at the goal, happiness for the team, happiness for the performance. "There was no disrespect for the opposition nor towards Paulo Bento for whom I have a lot of respect." Chasing a record-extending sixth title – and first in 20 years – Brazil will take on Croatia on Friday. "Let's hope we can carry on dancing all the way to the final," Vinicius said. "And we are also sending a big hug to Pele. Let's hope he recovers quickly.



Falak-Ol-Aflak Castle
visitiran.ir

Two gorgeous castles in Iran

Not sure which ones of Iran's historical castles to put on your visiting list? As a country that has gone through the ups and downs of history and withstood countless invasions, Iran is dotted with these historical treasures. But which ones will paint you a vivid picture of the grand history and architectural ingenuity of the ancient land? This list of the top nine castles will lead you to them, iranontour.com wrote.

Rayen Citadel

On top of a hill located 106 km to the south of Kerman, the capital, city in the southeastern province of Kerman, sits an undefeatable fortress: Rayen Citadel. Rayen is one of the world's largest adobe structures and one of top castles of Iran. Since the time it was built (over a thousand years ago), Rayen has never bowed to any enemy. Once in the narrow passages and courtyards of this famous spot on the ancient Silk Road, merchants used to trade fabrics, swords, and war weapons. Now, the governor's quarters are widely restored, but the commoners' area is in ruins. Visit in the spring and fall when the weather is the most pleasant. The Rayen Citadel, with a rectangular

plan, is made of adobes and bricks. The citadel only has one entrance with two floors and a small room on top, which was protected with the moat. A chamber was constructed over the entrance gate which had some holes on its floor that made it possible for the guards to stop the invaders by pouring hot oil or throwing stones at them.

Falak-Ol-Aflak Castle

Overlooking the city of Khorramabad, the capital city of the western province of Lorestan, over a hilltop, Falak-ol-Aflak Castle stands as the iconic symbol of the city and its most cherished historical attraction. Reminding you of a medieval fortress, the impressive 1,800-year-old structure is a reminder of the glory of ancient Iran. Besides featuring archaeological secrets that capture your imagination, the castle is also a great place to discover the local culture and customs. Dress up as a Bakhtiari and enjoy a nice view of the city from the same place ancient soldiers used to guard it. It is amongst the most important structures built during the Sassanid Era. It has been known by a number of names.