



Saudia Arabia striker Yasser al Qahtani (C) stabs the ball into the back of the net in their Asian Cup quarterfinal against Uzbekistan at the Bung Karno Stadium in Jakarta on Sunday.

## Podolski vows

FROM PAGE 20

Despite interest from other Bundesliga clubs keen to get his signature, Podolski has told his agent he does not want to be at any other club.

"I have told my adviser, I am not prepared to leave and I want to prove myself here, there is no way I want to leave after just one year. I am only 22 and I want to play for Bayern for several years."

Still recovering from knee surgery last April, Podolski is unlikely to be ready for Bayern's first Bundesliga game of the season against Hansa Rostock on August 11, but is only a few weeks off resuming full training.

"After the knee operation, I need more time to let the knee settle down, I am in no hurry, I want to look after it now to make sure I can play football on it for years to come."

## Alonso win

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Heidfeld sixth for BMW.

The final point-scorers were Heidfeld's teammate Robert Kubica and Heikki Kovalainen of Renault who were seventh and eighth respectively.

The race started in a sprinkling of rain, Massa darted past Alonso into second place while Kubica and Heidfeld collided just behind.

Heidfeld, the German racing in front of his home crowd, came off worse and had to go into the pits for extensive repairs.

Then the heavens opened. Track conditions quickly became treacherous and the need for wet weather tyres became obvious.

## Kawaguchi

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with a carbon copy quarter-finals result -- winning 4-3 on penalties against Jordan after a 1-1 stalemate.

"There were many (English) Premier League players among the opponents (Australia) and their goalkeeper was excellent," said Kawaguchi, who struggled at Portsmouth in 2001-2003 and at Denmark's Nordsjaelland in 2003-2004.

"But I really didn't want to lose because it was an even game."

John Alois opened the scoring for Australia in the 69th minute only for Frankfurt striker Naohiro Takahara to level three minutes later.

Takahara said he had learned through videos that Australia's defence tended to be deceived by feint kicks.

"They were easily tricked," said Takahara after his tournament-high fourth goal.

"I faked a kick as I wanted and I could wrong-foot the opponents easily. Then I closely watched the keeper before I made that shot."

## Korea edge

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Striker Yeom Ki-hun almost broke the deadlock on the hour when his shot bobbed off the wet surface and Rodbarian did well to turn it away for a corner and keep his goal intact.

The match went into extra-time and Javad Nekounam looked poised to score at the end of the first period when his drive off a Karimi lay-off flashed just wide of the left post.

In the final minute of extra-time Iran coach Amrit Ghalehnoei switched goalkeepers with Vahid Talebloo coming on for Rodbarian as he planned his strategy for the penalty shoot-out.

Ghalehnoei defended his controversial tactic.

"He is very good with penalties, he saved 17 in training so I believed in that substitution," he said, adding that he would review his position once the dust has settled as he prepares for a backlash in Tehran.

"We did well tactically and physically," he said. "I insist on taking full responsibility for the result. The Iranian players need to be supported for the future."

## Saudi squeeze into semis

AFP, Jakarta



The woodwork and a linesman's flag helped Saudi Arabia beat Uzbekistan 2-1 in the Asian Cup here on Sunday and sneak into the semifinals.

The unlucky former Soviet Republic clattered the frame of the goal five times and had a goal wrongly ruled out for offside as they crashed out to the oil-rich kingdom in a thrilling contest.

It was a flying start as Saudi Arabia took the lead after only three minutes with Uzbekistan hitting the post two minutes later.

Abdulrahman Al Qahtani outpaced Anvar Gafurov down the Saudi left and sent a teasing cross into the box.

Uzbekistan almost paid a high price as Yasser Al Qahtani skipped clear but fired narrowly wide when one-on-one with Nesterov.

The second half began in much the same vein as the majority of the first with Uzbekistan again clattering the woodwork, Ibragimov's bouncing header from Djeparov's cross cannoning back off the bar this time.

But the Uzbeks escaped on 53 minutes when Hayrulla Karimov

was shown just a yellow card for bringing down Abdulrahman Al Qahtani, who would otherwise have been clean through.

The talented Saudis were now enjoying more success on the counter-attack as Uzbekistan pushed forward in an end-to-end game.

Saudi substitute Ahmed Al Mousa could have finished the game but Nesterov saved his chipped finish when clean through.

But only a minute later he seemingly did exactly that, firing off the post after another slicing Saudi move.

Uzbekistan finally got the goal their play deserved eight minutes from the end as another substitute Pavel Solomin prodded home after his team hit the woodwork for the fourth time.

A minute later and Alexander Geyrikh, yet another sub, thudded the post again. But still there was time for Al Jassam to dance into the box only for his close-range effort to be saved.

Uzbekistan move by hitting the upright with Yasser Al Mosailem beaten in the Saudi goal.

Uzbekistan quickly took total control of proceedings but a lack of concentration at the back meant the Saudis remained dangerous. On 19 minutes Uzbekistan struck wood again, this time captain Maksim Shatskikh's deflected shot just grazing the post.

Just before the half hour

Shatskikh seemed to have earned his side a richly deserved equaliser after mopping up a loose ball in the box but he was denied by a ridiculous offside flag, despite being yards inside.

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