

Iran eliminated after Austria-Algeria thriller

REUTERS, Los Angeles

Iran's hopes of reaching the World Cup knockout phase for the first time came to an agonising end on Saturday after Austria's last-gasp equaliser against Algeria left them outside the tournament's eight best third-placed teams.

Amir Ghalenoei's side completed their Group G campaign on Friday with a 1-1 draw against Egypt, leaving them waiting to discover whether three points would be enough to earn a spot in the round of 32.

Iran had already endured one major setback when a stoppage-time winner against Egypt was ruled out for offside.

That left them needing other results in group stage matches to go their way, and for a few minutes on Saturday it looked as if Iran were going to squeeze through when Algeria struck in stoppage time to lead Austria 3-2.

However, the Austrians equalised with almost the final kick of the game, salvaging a 3-3 draw that sent both teams through and denied Iran a place in the knockouts in their seventh World Cup appearance.

Iran leave the tournament unbeaten after draws with Belgium, New Zealand and Egypt in a challenging campaign due to issues

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Canada midfielder Stephen Eustaquio emerged as the Maple Leafs' hero, scoring with a thunderous strike from distance in the 92nd minute to seal a 1-0 win over South Africa in their FIFA World Cup Round of 32 fixture at the Los Angeles Stadium in Inglewood today. The result sent co-hosts Canada into the last 16 of the tournament for the first time.

PHOTO: AFP

Police take steps to improve law and order

Form at least 8 subcommittees to draw up plans to curb crimes

TOUSIF KAIUM

Amid growing public concern over a persistent rise in violent crime, police have moved to strengthen their organisational capacity and internal coordination to improve law enforcement nationwide.

The police headquarters (PHQ) recently formed at least eight subcommittees under a panel, headed by Additional Inspector General of Police Khandaker Raliquil Islam, tasked with developing coordinated action plans to curb organised crimes, cyber offences, and narcotics trade.

Speaking to The Daily Star on the condition of anonymity, a senior official with knowledge of the initiative confirmed that the subcommittees have already started working.

"They have been given the responsibility to review the current law and order situation, identify key operational challenges and recommend strategies across a broad

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Major changes in police admin

21 cops transferred or assigned new responsibilities

UNB, Dhaka

The government yesterday carried out a major reshuffle in the police administration, transferring or assigning new responsibilities to 21 senior officers of the Bangladesh Civil Service (Police) cadre.

The home ministry issued a notification through its Police-1 branch announcing the transfers and promotions.

According to the notification, Deputy Inspector General Md Mushfequr Rahman has been promoted to additional IG and posted to Police Headquarters.

NSI Director (DIG) Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain has been promoted and appointed as additional IG of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), while DIG Md Moniruzzaman has been promoted to additional IG of Police Telecom.

Rab Additional Director General (DIG) Faruk Ahmed has also been promoted to additional IG and posted to Highway Police, Dhaka.

At the DIG level, Proloy Chisim has been posted to the Police Training Centre (PTC), Noakhali; Mia Masud Karim to the FDMN Office of the Armed Police Battalion (APBN); Mohammad Osman Gani to PTC Rangpur; and AFM Mosharraf Hossain Miyaji to PTC Khulna.

Among the additional DIG-level officers, Moha Asaduzzaman has been transferred to Rab, while AKM Akhtaruzzaman and Md Qutub Uddin have been posted to Police Headquarters. Md Al Mamun has

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Iran to control Hormuz over 'next 30 days'

Foreign minister warns any challenge to the strait will 'increase tensions' as Iran, US trade strikes



Bahrain civil defence and rescue personnel work in a residential building, which according to the Bahraini Interior Ministry, was hit by an Iranian drone, in Muharraq, Bahrain, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

AGENCIES

Iran's foreign minister said yesterday the Strait of Hormuz will remain under Iran's total oversight and management for "the next 30 days", and warned that any challenge to the country's control of the strategic waterway would increase tensions.

"Any attempt to adopt new or separate arrangements compared to what is underway by the Islamic Republic of Iran, will only lead to more complicated situations and delays in the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, and will increase the tensions, as we witnessed in the past two nights," Abbas Aragchi said at a news conference on a visit to Iraqi capital

Baghdad.

Tehran's top diplomat also called for the establishment of a security framework among Gulf countries, and urged all parties to adhere to the memorandum of understanding following recent attacks traded between both sides, reports Al Jazeera online.

Tehran said yesterday it carried out a third day of retaliatory strikes against US attacks on Iranian territory, as both accused the other of violating their fragile ceasefire, straining negotiations meant to end the Middle East war.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said they were taking measures to control traffic

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Germany's big names must deliver against Paraguay

AGENCIES

Germany will need to up their game in their World Cup round of 32 against Paraguay or risk going home, with their top players yet to peak at the tournament and expectations back home of a deep run in the competition piling pressure on the team.

The four-time world champions came into the World Cup on a nine-match winning run and demolished Curacao 7-1 in their Group E opener before snatching a stoppage-time win against Ivory Coast to secure top spot and a place in the knockout stage for the first time in 12 years.

They came into the tournament on the back of first-round exits in the 2018 and 2022 World Cups and looked set for a 12th straight win before a shock 2-1 loss to Ecuador in their last group match snapped their streak and instantly raised alarm bells among their fans.

It also cast doubts over coach Julian Nagelsmann's pre-tournament confidence they could go all the way.

Their biggest names in the squad -- Florian Wirtz, Jamal Musiala and Kai Havertz -- have so far failed to live up to expectations, delivering largely below-par performances, especially

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ASSAULT ON NAYEEM Probe report seeks action against 3 cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The probe committee formed by Chattogram Metropolitan Police has found evidence of misconduct by police officers in connection with the alleged harassment and assault of national cricketer Nayeem Hasan while he was in police custody.

The body, led by CMP Deputy Commissioner (West) Alamgir Hossain, submitted its report to CMP Commissioner Hasan Md Showkat Ali



yesterday afternoon, recommending strict departmental action against three police personnel of Khulshi Police Station.

The commissioner told The Daily Star, "The investigation committee has recommended departmental disciplinary action against the three police officers. The committee has also made a seven-point recommendation to prevent such incidents in the future."

"Departmental action will now be taken in line with the recommendations."

Earlier, two officers were suspended over the incident in Chattogram city's Lalkhan Bazar on June 14. They are Sub-Inspector Shafiqul Islam Bhuiyan of Khulshi Police Station and Constable Md Rasel Chowdhury.

On the night of June 14, spinner

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VENEZUELA QUAKE UN estimates damage at \$6.7b or 6% of GDP

Death toll tops 1,400

AGENCIES

The United Nations on Saturday estimated that the twin earthquakes that struck Venezuela caused \$6.7 billion in physical damage, equivalent to six percent of GDP.

The preliminary assessment is based on seismic modelling, satellite imagery and population data. It accounts for losses to assets including housing but does not cover wider economic disruption from Wednesday's disaster, the UN Development Programme said in a statement.

UNDP said that the back-to-back quakes hit major population and economic centres near Venezuela's northern coast, including the capital Caracas and the states of La Guaira, Carabobo, Miranda, Yaracuy and

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DEADLY HEATWAVE

France records around 1,000 excess deaths

AFP, Paris

French health officials said yesterday there had been around 1,000 more deaths than expected during a record-breaking heatwave that has baked much of western Europe for days.

"Since June 24, approximately 1,000 additional deaths (unconsolidated figures) have been observed compared to the deaths recorded in previous months," Public Health France said in a statement.

The agency said areas under red alert for heat had been particularly badly affected, and 85 percent of the deaths had been those aged 65 and over. The sharpest increases, the agency said, involved people dying at home, especially in the Ile-de-France region that includes Paris and its suburbs.

"This observation serves as a reminder of the need for measures of solidarity toward people who are isolated or experiencing profound loneliness, including in highly urbanised areas," the statement said.

The World Health Organization said yesterday that over 1,300 excess deaths had been recorded in Europe since June 21.

At least 191 million people were forecast to endure temperatures of at least 35C yesterday in Europe, with the

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Members of the French Civil Security Training and Intervention Regiment assist residents searching for victims after earthquakes in Caraballeda, La Guaira State, Venezuela, on Saturday.

PHOTO: REUTERS