

Ghotbi may return to Persepolis

Tehran Times Sports Desk
TEHRAN — In a meeting held on Wednesday, Persepolis' managerial board emphatically declared last season's coach, Afshin Ghotbi, should come back to lead the team during the upcoming season.

The members expressed their satisfaction with a unanimous vote choosing Ghotbi as Persepolis head coach.

Afshin Peirovani, Iran's former national team assistant coach, will also start his job as team coach on Saturday.

Ghotbi bade farewell to Persepolis after he ended the five-year title draught in Iran's Professional League (IPL) last season.

Jabbari likely to join Olympique Marseille

Tehran Times Sports Desk
ARDEBIL — Free agent Mojtaba Jabbari said he has reached an agreement with French club Olympique Marseille.

"I had some offers from German teams but would prefer to join Marseille. However, there are a few UAE teams that are interested in me and I will consider them in case," Jabbari told the Mehr News correspondent in Ardebil on Tuesday night.

"My contract with Esteghlal has expired now and I am a free agent player. I am going to continue my career in Europe, but there is no doubt at all that I will only play for Esteghlal in Iran," he added.

Djokovic upset by Safin in 2nd round at Wimbledon



WIMBLEDON (AP) — Novak Djokovic was upset in straight sets by Marat Safin in the second round Wednesday, ending the Serb's chances of testing his theory about Roger Federer's vulnerability.

The 75th-ranked Safin won 6-4, 7-6 (3), 6-2 on Centre Court, stunning the third-ranked Djokovic who was ranked third and came into Wimbledon confident after beating top-ranked Federer in the semifinals at the Australian Open en route to his first Grand Slam title.

But the 21-year-old Djokovic came up against one of the toughest second-round opponents he could have drawn.

Former No. 1 Safin has won two Grand Slam titles and also

had a semifinal upset against Federer in Australia, beating the Swiss star before winning the 2005 title.

Djokovic said Federer, bidding for his sixth consecutive Wimbledon crown, was vulnerable after his recent lopsided French Open loss to No. 2-ranked Rafael Nadal.

The hype surrounding those comments set up an enticing semifinal here. Now, it will be Safin who tries to go down that path.

Djokovic seemed to be vulnerable himself, playing on a surface he is not entirely comfortable on and struggling with his serve in a blustery breeze. After saving three match points, he served a double-fault to give his Russian opponent a fourth, then double-faulted again to concede.

He shook his head as he walked forward, and hugged Safin across the net.

Grass is not Safin's favorite surface, either. Wimbledon is the only major where he has not advanced beyond the quarterfinals. But he is a dangerous floater now.

Safin said he came in under the radar, with Djokovic under all the pressure.

"He's the one who has to win matches. For me, nobody expects anything," said Safin, who admitted he had not dared look beyond the second round. "Now, I'll have to check — the way I'm playing now, I

Iranian duo named as Olympic overseers

Tehran Times Sports Desk

TEHRAN — Khosro Amini and Farhad Moradi have been chosen as Olympic overseers by the organizers.

FINA's Technical Water Polo Committee deputy, Amini, will oversee the competitions in respect to compliance with international rules and criteria.

Meanwhile Moradi, FINA's Medical Committee member will perform as an overseer of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) in this prestigious event.

"Iranian disabled athletes need more support": Karegari


Tehran Times Sports Desk

TEHRAN — The vice president of Iran's Sports Federation for the Disabled said that the Iranian disabled athletes have to be supported more by the officials.

"We are preparing for the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games to be held in the next two months, therefore we need more financial support. Iran's Interna-

tional Olympic Committee (IOC) has decreased our budget in the current year while they should have increased it because of overhead expenditure ahead of Paralympic games," said Ghaffur Karegari.


"Prejudicial behavior can undoubtedly harm the athletes and we hope they provide well-equipped facilities for us as soon as possible," he added.



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FERTILIZER INTERNATIONAL

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Ali Abbasi expounds on

Performance of the Upper Karimabad Village of Rafsanjan's Islamic Council



Hossein Mohammadi

Hossein Abbasi

Mohammad Nazari

Ali Abbasi Arababadi

Foreword,

The Islamic Council of the upper Karimabad village of Rafsanjan has been named as one of the successful councils in the first and the third round of activity.

In this line, we have organized an interview with Mr. Ali Abbasi the chairman of the Islamic Council of the upper Karimabad village of Rafsanjan who has served people in the first and the third rounds of the council.

He has explained about activities of the council in the past year.

The first fundamental step: Destruction of the cooperative located in the middle of the main road

Destruction of the cooperative located in the middle of the main road which caused many problems and car accidents and relocation to a suitable place was approved by the district governor, the rural cooperatives union, and the roads and transportation department.

A plot of land was purchased and its deed of property was submitted to the cooperatives union

and it was decided to construct the new building as soon as possible.

Turning a street to a boulevard

Although persuading people whose houses were located along the green spaces and the street around the cooperative to recede was not a simple task but we managed to encourage them to do the job. After destruction of the building, we turned the street into a boulevard furnished with green plants and curbing as well as waterscape.

Collecting public contributions in gas supply, the next step

Following up for collecting the public contributions for gas supply project was the next step in the upper Karimabad village Islamic Council. Considering that the money was transferred to the state coffers, returning the sum was difficult. But, through several referrals to the district governor's office and Rafsanjan Gas Company as well as Kerman Gas Company the money was returned.

This issue satisfied the people

of the village. Cooperation with the gas company for installing the gas pipelines is among other activities.

Water shortage, another problem

Water shortage is one of the major predicaments in the upper Karimabad village. People have referred in person or collectively to the governor's office and the water and wastewater company or have written letters requesting for removing the problem.

Through follow up of the Islamic Council, a water pipeline was laid from Sa'adat Abad to Karimabad. This measure reduced the problem to a great extent.

The water and wastewater company has also repaired the worn-out water pipelines.

In order to prevent from water loss, we relocated the laundry of the greenery to another place.

Railing the bridge over the upper Karimabad River by the roads and transportation department and visiting the river's weir by experts of the irrigation office and digging a canal for directing surface waters during rainfall are among the most notable activities of the council.

Measures taken for electricity supply

Several referrals to the electricity company for lightening and installing lamp posts especially around the cemetery and replacing the burnt lamps have been carried out by the council.

Launching a bakery

Considering the shortage of bakeries, we launched an indirect heat

bakery in the village in order to provide people with high quality bread.

Schools renovation

The benevolent play an important part in schools renovation in the upper Karimabad village. During a ceremony attended by the governor, the district governor, and other officials of Rafsanjan, groundbreaking operations for construction of the laboratory of Mitra Kheirandish School were commenced in the presence of Mr. Hassan Kheirandish, the benevolent school builder.

Replacing the worn-out water pipes of the late Tahereh Kheirandish School was another activity of the upper Karimabad village Islamic council.

Other measures taken

Purchasing the license of a third-division football team, fencing the eastern side of the village's gym, cooperation with the Post Office for attaching postal code labels, cooperation with the Registry Office for dispatching the national code cards, cooperation with the Commerce department for distribution of the staple foods coupons, setting up sessions during the pistachio cropping season for preventing from problems caused by non-native workers, planting trees in Shahid Beheshti and Chamran streets, and cooperation with schools in holding sport competitions and other ceremonies are other measures taken by the Islamic council.

Appreciation

In the first place, I should appreciate my colleagues in the Islamic Council including Messrs. Moham-



mad Nazari and Hossein Abbasi, the respected rural governor Mr. Hossein Mohammadi as well as the administrative council of the upper Karimabad village (the arbitration council, the Basij base, and the health house).

I should also thank the governor, the district governor, the mayor, the electricity company director, Mr. Bami Nasserli director of Rafsanjan Rural Cooperatives Union, the Roads and Transportation Department, the Education Department, the Water and Wastewater Company, the Telecommunications Company, as well as principals of Karimabad schools and particularly the benevolent Mr. Hossein Kheirandish and Ms. Batool Kheirandish for their supports.

And the last but not the least, I appreciate people of Karimabad for their contribution.