

Leicester sack Manager Shakespeare



Craig Shakespeare (file pic)

London

Leicester City have sacked manager Craig Shakespeare just four months after he signed a three-year deal to take the job on a permanent basis.

The Foxes are third from bottom in the Premier League and have not won any of their past six league matches.

Shakespeare, 53, succeeded title winner Claudio Ranieri in February, initially on a temporary basis.

After steering the Foxes away from trouble to finish in 12th place, he was given the job permanently in June.

One of Leicester's players told *BBC Sport* the squad had not been told of the decision in advance, and only found out through media reports.

Shakespeare won eight of his 16 games in charge last season, and led the club to the Champions League quarter-finals.

His departure follows a 1-1 draw with West Brom on Monday.

The last time Leicester went six league matches without a victory, Ranieri was sacked - nine months after leading them to the title.

Of their 10 matches this season - eight in the league and two in the EFL Cup - Leicester have won three and drawn three, losing four. (*BBC*)

Lamin Deen backs Lee Johnston

Olympic bobsleigh pilot Lamin Deen has backed the appointment of Lee Johnston as British Bobsleigh head coach despite him making a racist comment in 2013. Johnston, a 45-year-old three-time Olympian, was disciplined and warned about his future conduct following a complaint by athlete Toby Olubi. (*BBC*)



**FIFA U-17
World Cup**

Spain enter quarter-finals

Guwahati, India

European champions Spain rallied to make the quarterfinals of the FIFA U-17 World Cup with a 2-1 victory over France, signalling their title intentions yesterday.

Spain will take on Asian surprise package Iran.

Juan Miranda (44th minute) and Abel Ruiz (90th) scored for Spain, while Lenny Pintor struck for France in the 34th minute at the Indira Gandhi Stadium.

Pintor put France ahead in the Round of 16 clash, but the lead did not last more than 10 minutes as Miranda restored

parity just as the half time approached.

Spain celebrated after Miranda headed in the ball to the top right corner off a Ferran Torres cross.

Moments before Spain erupted in joy, France had taken the lead when Pintor's right-footed shot from the centre of the box off Amine Gouiri's assist found the back of the net.

Just when it appeared that the match between the two European giants would go into extra time, the Spanish were awarded a penalty, which Barcelona starlet Ruiz

duly converted to break the French hearts and knock them out of the tournament.

Incidentally, France had lost to Spain in the quarterfinals of the European Championships.

Ruiz ensured the result would not be any different this time around when he concerted from the spot after the penalty was conceded by Oumar Solet.

In the four-minute injury time, Wilson Isidor's header from the centre of the box off Maxence Caqueret's cross was blocked by the Spanish defence.

There were attempts galore in both halves as France and Spain looked to outdo each other.

Before that, Pintor's right-footed attempt off Yacine Adli pass too was saved, as the Frenchmen's quest to find the equaliser ended in disappointment.

Spain, too, made their moves but they were also not effective enough.

Having staged a fine comeback after losing their tournament opener to Brazil, Spain are seeking their maiden FIFA U-17 World Cup title. (*IANS*)

Iran defeats Mexico in a pulsating contest

Goa, India

Iran made its way into its first-ever quarterfinal on the back of a nervy and pulsating 2-1 win against Mexico in the Round-of-16 clash at the Fatorda stadium yesterday.

Goals from Mohammad Sharifi and Allahyar Sayyad helped the Abbas Chamanian-coached side maintain its unbeaten run at the FIFA U-17 World Cup.

On the eve of yesterday's game, Mexico coach Mario Arteaga had hoped for a better

response from his side if it fell behind and he got exactly that.

His side was quick off the blocks but its bright start in the opening proceedings was cancelled out by two defensive errors at the back, which led to Iran racing to a 2-0 lead within the first 12 minutes.

Mohammed Ghaderi, who returned to the starting line-up, was brought down inside the box by right-back Adrian Vasquez. Sharifi stepped up to place it low to the right of Cesar Lopez, who went the other way.

In the 10th minute, Lopez was beaten once again when he was caught off his line by Sayyad, who was the quickest to react to a long punt upfield from his goalkeeper Ali Gholam Zadeh.

Mexico had a chance to get itself back in the game through its No. 9 Daniel Lopez, but he lost his shooting boots just as he was about to take a shot at goal. Mexico regrouped itself after the water break in the first half and came back strongly to punish Iran for taking its foot off the pedal.

Roberto de la Rosa was both the architect and the one to apply the finishing touches for its opening goal.

The midfielder played the ball over the top which stretched the Iranian back-line. He then ghosted onto a Diego Lainez's effort which was not cleared from the box before lashing a drive into the bottom left corner.

The Iranian side was breached for the first time in the regulation 90 minutes of play in the whole tournament. (*sportstarlive*)



Allahyar Sayyad of Iran celebrates scoring the second goal (Picture courtesy: FIFA)

Marcelo accused of tax fraud



Marcelo (file pic)

Madrid

Spanish prosecutors have accused Real Madrid left-back Marcelo of defrauding local tax authorities of nearly half a million euros.

Prosecutors say the Brazil international defrauded authorities of €490,917.70 (\$579,348) in 2013. They say the irregularities are related to Marcelo's use of companies abroad to handle earnings from image rights.

Marcelo, who has been in playing for Real Madrid since moving from Brazilian club Fluminense in 2007, is the latest player to be targeted by tax authorities in Spain.

Last year, Lionel Messi and his father were found guilty on three counts of defrauding tax authorities of €4.1m (\$4.6m) from income made from image rights.

Cristiano Ronaldo, Ricardo Carvalho, Angel Di Maria, Javier Mascherano, Radamel Falcao and Fabio Coentrao are among other players investigated by Spanish authorities. (*AP*)

Heynckes plots return to European glory

London

During their 5-0 bullying of little Freiburg at the weekend, the Bayern Munich supporters took a moment to acclaim their manager.

"Jupp! Jupp! Jupp!" they roared in appreciation of Jupp Heynckes, the 72-year-old who has taken charge of the team until the end of the season in the wake of Carlo Ancelotti's sacking. Heynckes is a throwback to when Bayern were great. Truly great. (*BBC*)