

MATCH PRESS KIT Group B – Matchday 1

Pakhtakor (UZB) vs Al Nassr (KSA)

Pakhtakor Stadium, Tashkent
Tuesday, 1 March 2011, 17:00 local time

Esteghlal (IRN) vs Al Sadd (QAT)

Azadi Stadium, Tehran
Tuesday, 1 March 2011, 17:30 local time



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This press kit includes information relating to this AFC Champions League match.

Group background

Having emerged from the play-offs, Al Sadd are set to play in the AFC Champions League for the eighth time in nine seasons.

The Qatari club easily clinched their place in the 2011 competition by sweeping aside AFC Cup holders Al Ittihad of Syria 5-1 and Indian champions Dempo in the west play-offs.

But while the Qatari club have an excellent record in qualifying, they have failed to sparkle in the competition itself and have only reached the knockout stage once, in 2005.

However, the club from Doha are not the only team with a point to prove in the AFC Champions League this year. Al Sadd's first opponents, Iranian side Esteghlal, have yet to make it past the round of 16 while Pakhtakor of Uzbekistan have failed to get beyond the last eight since 2004.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia's Al Nassr will finally make their debut in the AFC Champions League after missing out on continental competition for over a decade.

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Match facts

Pakhtakor vs Al Nassr

With Al Nassr competing in the AFC Champions League for the first time, this match will be their first meeting with Pakhtakor in the competition.

Pakhtakor

- Pakhtakor's 2010 AFC Champions League campaign came to a close after a late penalty by Araujo condemned them to a 1-0 defeat by Al Gharafa in the round of 16 last year.
- The Uzbek side have won only two of their previous five home matches against Saudi opposition in the AFC Champions League. Their latest setback was a 3-1 defeat by Al Nassr's Riyadh neighbours Al Shabab in the group stage last year.
- Pakhtakor will be missing the scoring prowess of Alexander Geynrikh after the Uzbek international striker joined another AFC Champions League side, Korean club Suwon Samsung Bluewings last week. Midfield lynchpin Odil Ahmedov has also left the club to join Russian side Anzhi Makhachkala on loan.

Domestic form

- Pakhtakor have yet to begin their season in the Uzbek league. Their first game is against Kyzulqum on March 5.

Al Nassr

- Al Nassr have not played in an Asian continental competition since going out in the second round to Kuwaiti side Kazma in the 1999 Asian Cup Winners' Cup.
- Defender Ahmed Dokhi, 34, will be attempting to win an Asian title with a third different team. He was in the Al Hilal squad that won the Asian Club Championship in 2000 and with Al Ittihad when they captured the 2005 AFC Champions League before joining Al Nassr in 2009.

Domestic form

- Al Nassr's 3-2 win over Al Faisaly on February 25 sent them up to third in the Saudi league table on goal difference. However, they are still a long way behind leaders Al Hilal, who are 12 points ahead of them.

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Esteghlal vs Al Sadd

Esteghlal and Al Sadd are meeting for the second time in the AFC Champions League following their group stage clash in Al Ain in the inaugural tournament in 2003, which finished 2-1 in favour of the Iranian side.

Esteghlal

- Esteghlal have yet to lose a match at home in the AFC Champions League. In their eight previous games at the Azadi Stadium, they have won four and drawn four. That includes a 3-0 win over Al Sadd's Qatar league rivals Al Gharafa last season and a 1-1 draw with Umm Salal the year before.
- Midfielder Iman Mobali, who joined Esteghlal from United Arab Emirates club Al Nasr last year, was the club's only representative in the Iran squad that played in the AFC Asian Cup in January.

Domestic form

- Mehdi Sayed Salehi's late equaliser helped Esteghlal to salvage a 1-1 draw against Sepahan on February 24. They remained in second place, one point ahead of Sepahan but four behind leaders Zobahan.

Al Sadd

- Al Sadd powered their way into the AFC Champions League group stage with a pair of convincing wins in the qualifying play-offs. They hammered Al Ittihad of Syria 5-1 in the first round with Guinean striker Abdul Kader Keita and Brazilian forward Leandro netting two goals each and Majdi Siddiq netting the other. They then beat Dempo of India 2-0 with Keita and Leandro bagging a goal apiece.
- Although they are appearing in the AFC Champions League for the eighth time, Al Sadd have only played one previous match in the competition in Iran – a 3-1 loss to Mes Kerman in last year's tournament

Domestic form

- Al Sadd's challenge for the 2011 Qatar league title was all but ended after a pair of disappointing results last week. They drew 1-1 with Al Khor and then lost 2-0 at home to Al Arabi to drop to sixth place, 12 points behind leaders Lekhwiya.

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Competition fixtures & standings

Group B

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts
AL NASSR (KSA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AL SADD (QAT)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ESTEGHLAL (IRN)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PAKHTAKOR (UZB)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1 March 2011

ESTEGHLAL (IRN) - AL SADD (QAT) at Azadi Stadium, 17:30
PAKHTAKOR (UZB) - AL NASSR (KSA) at Pakhtakor Stadium, 17:00

15 March 2011

AL NASSR (KSA) - ESTEGHLAL (IRN) at King Fahd International Stadium, 20:30

16 March 2011

AL SADD (QAT) - PAKHTAKOR (UZB) at Sheikh Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium, 18:05

5 April 2011

AL SADD (QAT) - AL NASSR (KSA) at Sheikh Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium, 18:15

6 April 2011

ESTEGHLAL (IRN) - PAKHTAKOR (UZB) at Azadi Stadium, 17:30

19 April 2011

AL NASSR (KSA) - AL SADD (QAT) at King Fahd International Stadium, 20:40
PAKHTAKOR (UZB) - ESTEGHLAL (IRN) at Pakhtakor Stadium, 18:00

3 May 2011

AL SADD (QAT) - ESTEGHLAL (IRN) at Sheikh Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium, 18:25

4 May 2011

AL NASSR (KSA) - PAKHTAKOR (UZB) at King Fahd International Stadium, 20:45

11 May 2011

ESTEGHLAL (IRN) - AL NASSR (KSA) at Azadi Stadium, 18:00
PAKHTAKOR (UZB) - AL SADD (QAT) at Pakhtakor Stadium, 18:00

ROUND OF 16

24/25 May 2011

QUARTER-FINALS

14 September 2011 – First Leg

28 September 2011 – Second Leg

SEMI-FINALS

19 October 2011 – First Leg

26 October 2011 – Second Leg

FINAL

5 November 2011

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Squad information

Al Nassr

No	Pos	Player Name	DOB	Nat	PI	Min	Gs	YC	RC
1	GK	KHALID RAZI	05 Dec, 1981	KSA					
2	MF	AHMED DOKHI	25 Oct, 1976	KSA					
3	DF	ABDU BAKR BARNAWI	17 Feb, 1984	KSA					
4	DF	ABDULKARIM AL KHAIBARI	30 Aug, 1988	KSA					
5	MF	OVIDIU PETRE	22 Mar, 1982	ROM					
6	MF	AHMAD ABBAS	26 Aug, 1984	KSA					
7	MF	ABDULRAHMAN AL QAHTANI	22 May, 1983	KSA					
8	MF	VICTOR FIGUEROA	29 Sep, 1983	ARG					
10	FW	MOHAMMED AL SAHLAWI	10 Jan, 1987	KSA					
11	FW	SAAD AL HARTHI	03 Feb, 1984	KSA					
13	DF	MOHAMMED EID	03 May, 1987	KSA					
14	MF	IBRAHIM GHALEB	28 Sep, 1990	KSA					
17	FW	BADER AL MUTWA	10 Jan, 1985	KUW					
18	DF	ABDULLAH AL QARNI	11 Sep, 1987	KSA					
19	MF	ABDULMOHSEN AL ASIRI	11 Jun, 1990	KSA					
20	MF	RAZVAN COCIS	19 Feb, 1983	ROM					
21	GK	KAMEEL AL WABARI	07 Mar, 1986	KSA					
22	GK	ABDULLAH AL ENEZI	20 Sep, 1990	KSA					
23	MF	SAUD HAMOUD	17 Aug, 1989	KSA					
24	DF	HUSSAIN SULAIMANI	21 Jan, 1977	KSA					
25	MF	KHALED ASIRI	16 Mar, 1987	KSA					
28	GK	HUSSAIN RABEA	08 Jan, 1990	KSA					
29	FW	RAYAN BELAL	04 Oct, 1988	KSA					
31	DF	JONATHAN MCKAIN	21 Sep, 1982	AUS					
34	MF	ABDULAZIZ AL AZMI	06 Feb, 1991	KSA					
35	DF	SHAYA ALI SHARAHLI	30 May, 1990	KSA					
37	MF	FAHAD MUQBIL AL RASHDI	08 Jun, 1991	KSA					

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

PI: Matches Started (substitute appearances in brackets)

Min: Minutes Played

Gs: Goals scored (when Goalkeeper refers to goals conceded)

YC: Yellow Cards

RC: Red Cards

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Al Sadd

No	Pos	Player Name	DOB	Nat	Pl	Min	Gs	YC	RC
1	GK	SAAD AL SHEEB	19 Feb, 1990	QAT					
3	DF	NADIR BELHADJ	18 Jun, 1982	ALG					
4	MF	ALI AL MAHDI	02 Mar, 1992	QAT					
5	DF	MAJDI SIDDIQ	03 Sep, 1985	QAT					
6	DF	ALI NASSER SALEH	16 May, 1986	QAT					
7	FW	YUSEF AHMED	14 Oct, 1988	QAT					
8	MF	MESAAD AL HAMAD	11 Feb, 1986	QAT					
9	FW	LEANDRO	12 Feb, 1985	BRA					
10	FW	ABDULRAAB AL YAZIDI	30 Oct, 1988	QAT					
11	MF	HASAN AL HAYDOS	11 Dec, 1990	QAT					
12	FW	ABDUL KADER KEITA	06 Aug, 1981	CIV					
13	MF	ALI ASADALLA	19 Jan, 1993	QAT					
14	FW	KHALFAN IBRAHIM	18 Feb, 1988	QAT					
15	MF	TALAL AL BLOUSHI	22 May, 1986	QAT					
16	MF	ABDULAZIZ RASHID	19 Feb, 1992	QAT					
18	FW	FAHAD SAKET	15 Mar 1991	QAT					
19	DF	NASER NABEEL	11 Feb, 1990	QAT					
20	FW	ALI AFIF	20 Jan, 1988	QAT					
21	DF	ABDULLA KONI	19 Jul, 1979	QAT					
22	GK	BASEL SAMIH	17 Jun, 1981	QAT					
25	MF	WESAM RIZIK	05 Feb, 1981	QAT					
26	DF	TAHIR ZAKARIYA	20 Aug, 1988	QAT					
30	GK	MOHAMED SAQR	17 May, 1981	QAT					
32	DF	IBRAHIM MAJED	12 May, 1990	QAT					
33	DF	MOHAMMED KASOLA	13 Aug, 1986	QAT					
35	GK	MUHANNAD NAIM	01 Jan, 1993	QAT					
40	DF	LEE JUNG-SOO	08 Jan, 1980	KOR					
44	MF	DHEYAB HASSAN	20 Jun, 1990	QAT					
48	MF	OMAR YAHYA	20 Jun, 1992	QAT					
50	DF	ABDELKARIM HASSAN	28 Aug, 1993	QAT					

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Esteghlal

No	Pos	Player Name	DOB	Nat	PI	Min	Gs	YC	RC
1	GK	VAHID TALEBLOO	26 May, 1982	IRN					
2	DF	AMIRHOSSEIN SADEGHI	06 Sep, 1981	IRN					
3	DF	MEHDEI AMIRABADI	22 Feb, 1980	IRN					
4	DF	SOHEIL OMRAN ZADEH	30 Apr, 1985	IRN					
5	DF	BIJAN KOUSHKI	24 Jun, 1979	IRN					
6	DF	HADI SHAKOURI	02 May, 1982	IRN					
7	FW	FARHAD MAJIDI	03 Jun, 1976	IRN					
8	MF	MOJTABA JABARI	16 Jun, 1983	IRN					
9	FW	ARASH BORHANI	14 Sep, 1983	IRN					
10	FW	MILAD MIDAVOODI	20 Jan, 1985	IRN					
11	MF	IMAN MOBALI	03 Nov, 1982	IRN					
12	FW	MEHDI SEYED SALEHI	27 Jul, 1981	IRN					
13	MF	MOHSEN YOUSEFI	26 May, 1983	IRN					
14	MF	KIANOUSH RAHMATI	18 Sep, 1978	IRN					
15	MF	YAGHOUB KARIMI	31 Aug, 1991	IRN					
16	DF	ANDRE LUIZ	13 Feb, 1983	BRA					
17	MF	FARZAD ASHOUBI	16 Apr, 1980	IRN					
18	MF	MEHRSHAD MOMENI	15 Aug, 1987	IRN					
20	MF	FELIPE ALVES	25 May, 1982	IRN					
22	GK	MOHAMMAD MOHAMMADI	20 Sep, 1977	IRN					
23	MF	OMID RAVANKHAH	13 Apr, 1988	IRN					
26	MF	FARDIN ABEDINI	18 Nov, 1991	IRN					
30	GK	MAZIAR SHABANI	27 Jun, 1991	IRN					
31	DF	JAVAD SHIRZADEH	13 Aug, 1980	IRN					
32	FW	HAWAR MOHAMMED	01 Jun, 1980	IRQ					
33	MF	PEJMAN MONTAZERI	06 Sep, 1983	IRN					
37	FW	ESMAEIL SHARIFAT	06 Jun, 1988	IRN					
40	GK	MOHAMMAD TORKAMAN	05 Nov, 1990	IRN					

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Pakhtakor

No	Pos	Player Name	DOB	Nat	PI	Min	Gs	YC	RC
1	GK	NIKITA RIBKIN	20 Jan, 1992	UZB					
2	DF	IGOR KRIMETS	27 Jan, 1992	UZB					
3	MF	GULOM URUNOV	07 Jun, 1989	UZB					
4	DF	BOJAN MILADINOVIC	24 Apr, 1982	SRB					
5	DF	AKBARJON ISMATULLAEV	10 Jan, 1991	UZB					
6	DF	MUROD KHALMUKHAMEDOV	23 Dec, 1990	UZB					
7	MF	KHAKI MAKHARADZE	20 Oct, 1987	GEO					
8	MF	ABBOSBEK MAKHSTALIEV	12 Jan, 1994	UZB					
9	FW	TEMURKHUJA ABDUKHOLIQOV	25 Sep, 1991	UZB					
11	FW	IGOR SERGEEV	30 Apr, 1993	UZB					
12	DF	TIMUR KAGIROV	24 May, 1985	UZB					
14	MF	SHERZODBEK KARIMOV	26 Jan, 1989	UZB					
15	FW	ALEXANDER GEYNIKH	06 Oct, 1984	UZB					
16	DF	AKMAL KHOLMURADOV	04 Jan, 1989	UZB					
17	MF	ARAM BABAYAN	03 Aug, 1992	UZB					
18	FW	SANAT SHIKHOV	28 Dec, 1989	UZB					
19	MF	BEKZOD MIRKHAYDAROV	26 Jan, 1991	UZB					
20	MF	ILDAR MAGDEEV	11 Apr, 1984	UZB					
21	DF	KOMOLIDDIN TADJIEV	03 May, 1983	UZB					
23	FW	ALISHER AZIZOV	14 Feb, 1990	UZB					
24	DF	DAVRONBEK KHASHIMOV	24 Nov, 1992	UZB					
25	FW	DUSAN SAVID	01 Nov, 1985	MKD					
26	MF	DILSHOD SHAROFETDINOV	15 Oct, 1985	UZB					
27	DF	ILHOMJON SUYUNOV	17 May, 1983	UZB					
28	MF	STANISLAV ANDREEV	06 May, 1988	UZB					
29	DF	VLADIMIR KOZAK	12 Jun, 1993	UZB					
30	GK	TEMUR JURAEV	12 May, 1984	UZB					
32	MF	ABDUMUTALLIB ABDULLAYEV	19 Sep, 1992	UZB					
33	GK	ELDOR TADJIBAEV	03 Jun, 1986	UZB					
35	MF	AKRAMJON BAHRITDINOV	02 Oct, 1992	UZB					

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Team coach profiles

Al Nassr

Dragan Skocic

Born: 03 Sep, 1968 (42)

Nationality: Croatian

The 42-year-old Croatian began his football career with Rijeka and had spells in Spain with Las Palmas and Compostela before playing in the United Arab Emirates for Al Ittihad Kalba'a.

After hanging up his boots, Skocic turned to coaching at his home club Rijeka in 2005 before moving a year later to Slovenia to take charge of Interblock Ljubljana.

He joined Kuwaiti side Al Arabi in 2009 and then crossed the border to Saudi Arabia at the beginning of the year to take charge of Al Nassr, where he replaced Italian coach Walter Zenga.

Al Sadd

Jorge Fossati

Born: 22 Nov, 1952 (58)

Nationality: Uruguayan

Having nearly reached last season's AFC Champions League final with Al Shabab, Jorge Fossati was dismissed by the Saudi club in December but he is back for another crack at the continental title after being put in charge of Al Sadd for a second time.

The former Uruguay and Qatar national coach, who led Al Sadd through the AFC Champions League group stage in 2006 and 2007, tasted success in the 2009 Recopa Sudamericana with Ecuadorian giants LDU Quito.

His hopes of lifting the Asian crown last year were dashed in the quarter-finals when Al Shabab lost on away goals to eventual winners Seongnam Chunma.

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Esteghlal

Parviz Mazloomi

Born: 30 Sep, 1954 (57)

Nationality: Iranian

Like his older brother Gholam Hosein, Mazloomi was an Esteghlal player for a decade throughout the 1980s. Both brothers represented the national team, although Parviz's contribution was less pronounced.

He showed promise as a coach when he kept Aboomoslem in the top flight after taking over the strugglers midway through the 2007/08 season. But things took off for Mazloomi in 2009 when he led Mes Kerman to third place in the Iran Pro League and a debut berth in the 2010 AFC Champions League, just 10 years after their founding.

That in turn led to his appointment in the summer of 2010 as Esteghlal coach.

Pakhtakor

Ravshan Haydarov

Born: 15 May, 1961 (49)

Nationality: Uzbek

Having previously enjoyed success as a coach at Pakhtakor, Ravshan Haydarov returned to the club last May for his third spell in charge of the Tashkent giants, following the departure of Montenegrin coach Miodrag Radulovic.

The 49-year-old is perhaps best known for his time as the national coach of Uzbekistan. He led his national team to the 2004 Asian Cup where they won all three of their group games before unfortunately going out on penalties to Bahrain in the quarter-finals.

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Team facts

Al Nassr

- Once a major force in Saudi and continental club football, Al Nassr are making their debut in the AFC Champions League in 2011 after missing out on the continental tournaments since 1999.
- The Riyadh-based side are part of the leading quartet of clubs in the Saudi league alongside Al Ittihad and city rivals Al Hilal and Al Shabab. They have won six domestic league titles, all of them during a glorious phase from 1976 to 1995.
- They reached their pinnacle of success in 1998 when they won both the Asian Cup Winners Cup and Asian Super Cup. That earned them a place in the inaugural FIFA Club World Cup two years later, which led to their fans dubbing the club "The Global".
- They were nearly relegated in 2007 but bounced back to win the Federation Cup a year later before finishing third in 2010, their best league position in eight years, which secured them a spot in the AFC Champions League for the first time.

2009/10 season

Al Nasr secured a place in the AFC Champions League for the first time after managing a third-place finish in the Saudi league last season. Despite their lofty placing, they still finished a disappointing 13 points behind champions Al Hilal. They were also beaten by their Riyadh rivals in the Crown Prince Cup, losing 2-1 after extra-time in the quarter-finals.

Al Nassr's match against Pakhtakor will mark their AFC Champions League debut

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Al Sadd

- Apart from ever-present Pakhtakor, Al Sadd have made the most appearances in the AFC Champions League since the introduction of the tournament in 2003, playing in every edition apart from 2009. However the 1988 Asian Club Championship winners have only made it past the group stage once before in 2005 when they were eliminated in the quarter-finals by Korean side Busan I'Park.
- Having finished runners-up to Al Gharafa in the Qatar Stars League last season, the Doha club had to negotiate the West Zone play-offs in February in order to qualify for the AFC Champions League for an eighth time.
- However, the 12-time league champions achieved qualification with little real trouble, thrashing Al Ittihad of Syria 5-1 at Sheik Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium in the first round before downing Indian club Dempo 2-0 at home in the second round thanks to goals by Abdul Kader Keita and Leandro.

2009/10 season

The 2009/10 season was one of disappointment for Al Sadd as they finished runners-up behind champions Al Gharafa for the third season in a row after losing 4-1 to their rivals in their penultimate match of the season.. They also missed out on the Emir Cup League, losing 1-0 to Al Rayyan in the semi-finals.

AFC Champions League record

2010 – Group stage	2005 – Quarter-finals
2008 – Group stage	2004 – Group stage
2007 – Group stage	2003 – Group stage
2006 – Group stage	

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
Overall	45	17	12	16	62	55
Home	22	11	6	5	40	27
Away	21	5	6	10	18	25
Neutral	2	1	0	1	4	3

Biggest wins

Home: 5-1 – vs Al Ittihad (SYR), 2011, qualifying round
Away: 5-0 – vs Al Ahli (UAE), 2010, group stage

Heaviest defeats

Home: 1-4 – vs Al Najaf, 2007, group stage
0-3 – vs Al Hilal, 2010, group stage
Away: 0-3 – vs Busan I'Park

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Esteghlal

- Founded in the mid-1940s by a group of cyclists from the army, Esteghlal are one of Iran's oldest clubs. They share the cavernous Azadi Stadium with bitter rivals Piroozi and were the biggest team in the country before the arrival of The Reds.
- Their haul of trophies includes seven league titles and five domestic cups, and although they are yet to make a mark in the era of the AFC Champions League, they have twice won the tournament's fore-runner, the Asian Club Championship in 1970 and 1991. They were also runners-up in the same competition in 1992 and 1999
- Their previous AFC Champions League campaigns were largely disappointing affairs. Eliminated in the group stage in 2003 and 2009, they went out in the round of 16 last year after a 3-2 defeat by Al Shabab of Saudi Arabia.

2009/10 season

Esteghlal failed in the defence of the Iran Pro League title that they won in 2009 as they ended the season in third place, eight points adrift of champions Sepahan. Their Hazfi Cup campaign was brought to an abrupt halt in the second round by Steel Azin, who beat the Tehran giants 5-4.

AFC Champions League record

2010 – Round of 16

2009 – Group stage

2003 – Group stage

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
Overall	19	7	6	7	27	25
Home	8	4	4	0	11	4
Away	9	2	2	6	12	17
Neutral	2	1	0	1	4	4

Biggest wins

Home: 3-0 – vs Al Gharafa, 2010, group stage

Away: 2-1 – vs Al Ahli, 2010, group stage

1-0 – vs Al Faisaly, 2002/03, qualifying round

Heaviest defeats

Away: 1-3 – vs Al Ain, 2002/03, group stage

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Pakhtakor

- Although their position as the top club in Uzbekistan has been usurped in recent years by Bunyodkor, Pakhtakor hold the distinction of being the only team to have qualified for all nine editions of the AFC Champions League.
- The Tashkent-based side maintained their remarkable record by booking their spot in the 2011 competition after finishing second in the Uzbek League last season.
- Pakhtakor have won eight league and 10 cup titles in Uzbekistan. But for all of their domestic success, they have, so far, failed to deliver on the continental stage. They reached the semi-finals in the first two seasons of the AFC Champions League in 2003 and 2004 but then failed to get past the group stage in the next four seasons.
- Their poor run ended in 2009 when they reached the quarter-finals and they progressed past the group stage again last year but went out in the round of 16 after a 1-0 loss to Qatari side Al Gharafa.

2010 season

Pakhtakor had to settle for second place in the Uzbek league for the third season in a row after ending their campaign eight points adrift of champions Bunyodkor. They went out of the Uzbek Cup in the quarter-finals after a 3-2 aggregate defeat by Shortan.

AFC Champions League record

2010 – Round of 16	2006 – Group stage
2009 – Quarter-finals	2005 – Group stage
2008 – Group stage	2004 – Semi-finals
2007 – Group stage	2003 – Semi-finals

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
Overall	57	30	8	19	87	64
Home	29	21	3	5	55	23
Away	28	9	5	14	32	41

Biggest wins

Home: 4-0 – vs Al Wahda, 2004, quarter-final

Away: 5-1 – vs Arbil, 2008, group stage

Heaviest defeats

Home: 1-3 – vs Al Shabab, 2010, group stage

Away: 0-4 – vs Al Ittihad, 2009, quarter-final

Group B – Matchday 1

Pakhtakor (UZB) vs Al Nassr (KSA)

Pakhtakor Stadium, Tashkent
Tuesday, 1 March 2011, 17:00 local time

Esteghlal (IRN) vs Al Sadd (QAT)

Azadi Stadium, Tehran
Tuesday, 1 March 2011, 17:30 local time

Domestic results & standings

Al Sadd

Most recent games

Comp.	Date	Opponent	Res.
League	25/02/11	Al Arabi (H)	0-2
League	22/02/11	Al Khor (H)	1-1
League	07/02/11	Al Salilya (H)	3-2
League	04/02/11	Al Rayyan (A)	1-1
Cup	14/12/10	Umm Salal (A)	1-0

Qatar Stars League – current standings (top six)

Pos.	Clubs	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	Lekhwiya	15	11	2	2	28	10	35
2	Al Arabi	15	10	3	2	30	15	33
3	Al Gharafa	15	10	1	4	33	16	31
4	Qatar SC	15	8	5	2	29	17	29
5	Al Rayyan	15	7	5	3	22	14	26
6	Al Sadd	15	7	2	6	22	17	23

Al Nassr

Most recent games

Comp.	Date	Opponent	Res.
League	25/02/11	Al Faisaly (A)	3-2
Cup	18/02/11	Al Riyadh (A)	2-1
League	13/02/11	Al Shabab (A)	0-2
Cup	04/02/11	Al Quadisiya (H)	5-1
League	23/12/10	Al Taawon (H)	2-2

Quarter-final
Round of 16

Saudi League – current standings (top five)

Pos.	Club	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	Al Hilal	18	13	5	0	39	12	44
2	Al Ittihad	18	9	9	0	34	16	36
3	Al Nassr	18	8	8	2	36	23	32
4	Al Shabab	18	9	5	4	31	24	32
5	Al Ittifaq	18	10	2	6	29	23	32

Group B – Matchday 1

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Esteghlal

Most recent games

Comp.	Date	Opponent	Res.	
League	24/02/11	Sepahan (A)	1-1	
League	18/02/11	Naft Tehran (H)	3-1	
League	13/02/11	Paykan (A)	3-1	
League	06/02/11	Steel Azin (A)	3-1	
Cup	31/01/11	Shahrdari Yasuj (H)	2-0	Quarter-final

Iran Pro League – current standings (top five)

Pos.	Club	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	Zobahan	24	14	6	4	37	19	48
2	Esteghlal	24	12	8	4	40	30	44
3	Sepahan	23	11	10	2	38	19	43
4	Tractor Sazi	24	11	8	5	28	17	41
5	Piroozi	24	12	4	8	32	29	40

Pakhtakor

Most recent games

Comp.	Date	Opponent	Res.
League	31/10/10	Bunyodkor (H)	0-0
League	26/10/10	Dinamo Samarkand (A)	1-2
League	21/10/10	Navbakhor (H)	3-1
League	16/10/10	Andijan (A)	1-1
League	02/10/10	Olimaq (H)	2-0

Uzbekistan League – final standings 2010 season (top five)

Pos.	Club	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	Bunyodkor	26	20	5	1	45	10	65
2	Pakhtakor	26	17	8	3	41	19	57
3	Nasaf	26	13	7	6	30	20	46
4	Shurtan	26	12	6	8	35	28	42
5	Mashal	26	10	7	9	22	24	37

Group B – Matchday 1

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Competition facts

Roll of Honour

Year	Winners	Runners-up	Score
2010	Seongnam Ilhwa (KOR)	Zobahan (IRN)	3-1
2009	Pohang Steelers (KOR)	Al Ittihad (KSA)	2-1
2008	Gamba Osaka (JPN)	Adelaide United (AUS)	5-0 (agg)
2007	Urawa Reds (JPN)	Sepahan (IRN)	3-1 (agg)
2006	Jeonbuk Motors (KOR)	Al Karama (SYR)	3-2 (agg)
2005	Al Ittihad (KSA)	Al Ain (UAE)	5-3 (agg)
2004	Al Ittihad (KSA)	Seongnam Ilhwa (KOR)	6-3 (agg)
2002/03	Al Ain (UAE)	BEC Tero Sasana (THA)	2-1 (agg)

- The first Asian club competition – the Asian Club Championship – began in 1967 with Hapoel Tel Aviv of Israel defeating Selangor of Malaysia 2-1 in the final in Bangkok. The competition was discontinued in 1972 but was revived in 1986 when Korean side Daewoo Royals beat Al Ahli of Saudi Arabia 3-1 in the final in Jeddah.
- In 2002, the Asian Club Championship was discontinued and merged with the Asian Cup Winners' Cup to form the AFC Champions League. The inaugural tournament in 2002/03 was won by Al Ain, who beat Thailand's BEC Tero Sasana in the final to become the first United Arab Emirates club to win an Asian continental title.
- Al Ittihad of Saudi Arabia are the only team to have won two AFC Champions League titles. They claimed the 2004 crown after a 6-3 aggregate victory against Seongnam Ilhwa Chunma of Korea Republic and retained the title with a 5-3 aggregate victory against Al Ain the following year.
- Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors of Korea Republic were crowned champions of Asia in 2006 despite having never previously won their domestic league title. They beat Al Karama of Syria 3-2 on aggregate in the final.
- Urawa Reds of Japan took the title the following year, beating Iranian side Sepahan 3-1 on aggregate in the final. The J.League side did not lose a game during their run to their title, winning five matches and drawing the other seven.
- Gamba Osaka were also unbeaten when they claimed the AFC Champions League title in 2008. The Japanese club won nine of 12 games, including all six of their away matches, and thumped Adelaide United of Australia 5-0 on aggregate in the final. They also enjoyed a record 19-match unbeaten run in the competition that was ended by a 2-1 defeat to FC Seoul in the group stage in 2009.
- Pohang Steelers became the first team to win both the AFC Champions League and Asian Club Championship with their 2-1 victory over Al Ittihad in the 2009 final in Tokyo. Having won back-to-back Asian Club Championships in 1997 and 1998, they are also the first side to be crowned Asian club champions on three occasions.
- Seongnam Ilhwa Chunma became the second team after Pohang to win both the Asian Club Championship and AFC Champions League when they beat Zobahan of Iran 3-1 in Tokyo to win the 2010 tournament. They won the 1995 Asian Club

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Championship and 1996 Asian Super Cup when the club was known as Ilhwa Chunma.

- Seongnam coach Shin Tae-yong became the first person to win Asia's top club prize as both a player and a coach. He captained the 1995 side, which beat Saudi Arabia's Al Nassr 1-0 in the final in Riyadh.
- Korea Republic are the most successful country in the AFC Champions League with three champions – Jeonbuk Motors (2006), Pohang Steelers (2009) and Seongnam Chunma (2010). Japan (Urawa Reds 2007 and Gamba Osaka 2008) and Saudi Arabia (Al Ittihad 2004 and 2005) have each won twice and the United Arab Emirates (Al Ain 2003) are the only other country to have produced a champion.
- The AFC Champions League final has never gone to extra-time or penalties. However, it nearly happened in 2006 when Jeonbuk Motors and Al Karama were tied 2-2 on aggregate before Jeonbuk striker Ze Carlos netted the winning goal for the Korean side four minutes from time in the second leg.
- Seongnam's loss to Jeonbuk Motors in the 2010 K-League Championship play-offs means that they failed to qualify for the 2011 AFC Champions League. They are the first reigning champions not to qualify for the tournament the following season.

Asian Football Confederation information

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) is the governing body of the football in Asia, including Australia with a total of 46 members.

The organisation was founded on 8 May 1954 in Manila, Philippines and is one of FIFA's six continental confederations. The headquarters is at AFC House in Bukit Jalil in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and the current president is Mohammed Bin Hammam of Qatar, who succeeded Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah of Malaysia in 2002.

The AFC organised the first continental championship – the Asian Cup – in 1956, and introduced the first continental club competition – the Asian Club Championship in 1967.

In 1990, the AFC introduced a new competition for the continent's cup winners – the Asian Cup Winners' Cup. In 1995, the winners of the Asian Club Championship and Asian Cup Winners' Cup began to meet annually in the Asian Super Cup.

In 2002, however, all three club competitions were merged into the AFC Champions League, which featured domestic league and cup winners from throughout Asia. The inaugural tournament featured more than 40 teams but the competition format was streamlined for the second edition in 2004, which had the defending champions and 28 other teams from 14 countries.

The competition was revamped again in 2009 with 32 teams competing in eight groups. The final was also changed from a two-legged affair to a one-game championship match played at a neutral venue.