

Iranian Ice Hockey Team Beats Malaysia in World Championship



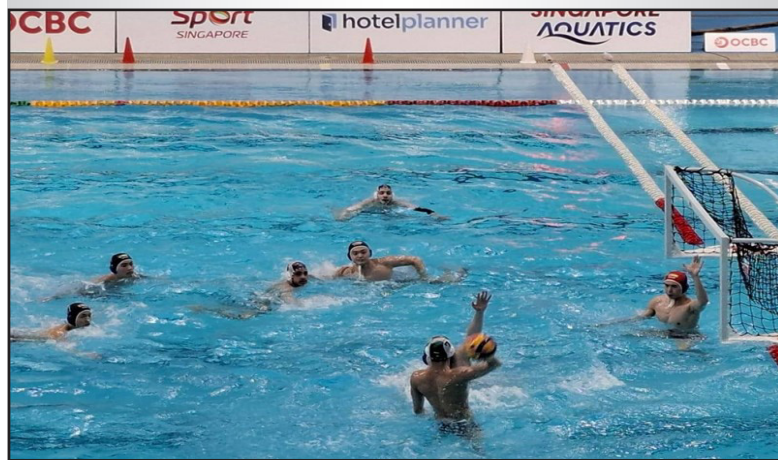
TEHRAN – Iran beat Malaysia (3–0, 0–1, 2–0) in the 2025 IIHF World Championship Division IV on Monday.

Team Melli, who had lost to Indonesia 2-1 (1–0, 0–1, 1–0) in its first match, is scheduled to meet Uzbekistan on Thursday.

The tournament is being held in Yerevan, Armenia, from April 13 to 19, 2025.

The tournament uses the round-robin format and the team with the highest number of points will be declared champion.

U-20 Water Polo Discovers Rivals in 2025 World Aquatics Championships



TEHRAN – Iran learned their opponents in the World Aquatics Men’s U-20 Water Polo Championships 2025.

Iran has been drawn in Group D along with New Zealand and Kazakhstan.

The competition will bring 20 countries together in Zagreb, Croatia from June 14 to 21.

Hungary comes into this biennial tournament as the defending champion.

- Draw Results
- Group A
 - The U.S.
 - Hungary
 - Croatia
 - Montenegro

- Group B
- Greece
- Serbia
- Italy
- Spain
- Group C
- Brazil
- Germany
- South Africa
- Group D
- Kazakhstan
- Iran
- New Zealand
- Group E
- Colombia
- Argentina
- Australia
- Group F
- Canada
- China
- Singapore

Alvarez Double Helps Atletico to 4-2 Win Over Valladolid

MADRID (Reuters) - Atletico Madrid's Julian Alvarez netted two penalties as they rallied to beat bottom side Real Valladolid 4-2 at a rainy Metropolitano on Monday to stay in the title hunt.

Third-placed Atletico have 63 points, three behind Real Madrid and seven adrift of Barcelona. Valladolid, who suffered their fifth consecutive defeat, are on 16 points, 14 points off the safety zone with seven games left.

Valladolid grabbed a surprise lead after 21 minutes when Mamadou Sylla calmly convert-



Atletico Madrid's Argentine forward #19 Julian Alvarez (center) jumps for the ball.

ed a penalty awarded following a VAR review for a handball by Clement Lenglet.

The advantage was short-lived as Alvarez equalized from the spot after another VAR intervention four minutes later following a foul by Javi Sanchez on Giuliano Simeone, who turned scorer himself to put Atletico ahead in the 27th minute.

But the visitors stunned Atletico once again by levelling in the 56th when Sanchez's free-kick took a deflection off Conor Gallagher in the wall, wrong-footing goalkeeper Jan Oblak.

Double Olympic Champion Remco Evenepoel to Return to Cycling



BRUSSELS (AP) — Double Olympic champion Remco Evenepoel will return in the Brabantse Pijl race at home in Belgium on Friday after a seri-

ous crash last year.

Evenepoel, who swept golds in the road race and the time trial at last year's Paris Olympics, sustained multiple fractures, a

dislocated collarbone and lung contusions in December when he crashed into a vehicle while training in Belgium.

"I am counting the days until I can race with the guys again for the first time in more than six months," Evenepoel said in a statement provided by his Soudal Quick-Step team on Tuesday. "I've worked hard all these months, I've been on a solid training camp in Spain, and I feel good and motivated for Brabantse. I'm not going there with any specific goals, as the most important thing will be

to get the race rhythm back after all this time."

The 25-year-old Evenepoel crashed into the open door of a postal van on Dec. 3. The impact was heavy enough to break the frame of his bicycle.

Evenepoel's main goal this season is the Tour de France in July. He was third last year at cycling's biggest race, before going on to become the first cyclist to sweep both road golds at an Olympics.

A two-time world champion, Evenepoel also won the Spanish Vuelta in 2022.

Report: Persepolis Eye Fenerbahce Midfielder Yandas



TEHRAN – Iran's Persepolis football club is reportedly interested in Fenerbahçe midfielder Mert Hakan Yandas.

The 31-year-old player has been with the Turkish giant since 2020.

Under the leadership of İsmail

Kartal, Persepolis has previously signed Turkish-German forward Serdar Dursun.

The Reds have almost missed the title in the Iran football league's current season and are going to strengthen for the next season.

Iraq Fires Head Soccer Coach Over Contract Breaches

BAGHDAD (AP) - Iraq announced on Tuesday the dismissal of head coach Jesus Casas with just two games remaining in Asian qualification for the 2026 World Cup.

In a statement, the Iraq Football Association said that the decision was due to a "serious breach of contractual obligations," from the Spanish boss and his assistants, "including their departure from Iraq without official permission..."

The federation added the action was taken based on Article 14 of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfers of Players. This article states that a party may terminate a contract "without consequences . . . where there is just cause."

There have been reports in domestic media that the Iraq federation decided to dismiss Casas, a former assistant with the Spain national team and appointed in November 2022, in March follow-



Iraq's head coach Jesus Casa.

ing two disappointing World Cup qualification results against the bottom two teams in the six-team Group B.

Iraq drew 2-2 at home to Kuwait and five days later had a dramatic last-minute loss to the Palestinian team to drop out of the two auto-

matic qualification places in the group.

Now the team is third behind leader South Korea and Jordan in second. Those two are the next opponents in June, meaning that Iraq has to win both to progress to its first World Cup since 1986.

Infantino Floats Atlanta for 2031 Women's World Cup

PARIS (Reuters) - FIFA President Gianni Infantino has hinted at Atlanta's potential as a host for the 2031 Women's World Cup as he brought the Club World Cup trophy to the city's Mercedes-Benz Stadium on Monday night.

Standing alongside Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens, Infantino praised the city's sporting credentials ahead of this summer's expanded Club World Cup tournament. "Atlanta has really become a soccer city," Infantino said.

"The fact that the stadium was built where you can

play football and soccer at the same time shows how much the city and everyone involved in sport in the city cares about the sport in general."

The Mercedes-Benz Stadium will host six matches during the tournament, including three knockout games, when the competition runs from June 15 to July 13.

Infantino suggested strong performances as hosts could strengthen Atlanta's bid for future tournaments. "It can be positive for the Women's World Cup potentially com-

ing up in 2031 in this part of the world," he said.

"We are, of course, looking for the best host cities for that World Cup as well. And, you know, Atlanta can score definitely some points on this."

The expanded 32-team Club World Cup will offer \$1 billion in prize money to participating teams.

The 2031 FIFA Women's World Cup is set to be hosted by the United States, marking the third time the country will stage the tournament after previously hosting in 1999 and 2003.