

# Iran Edge Philippines in Women's Futsal Asian Cup



TEHRAN – A late goal from Iran secured a 1-0 victory in their opening match of the AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup China 2025 as it saw off the Philippines Wednesday morning.

Making its tournament debut, the Philippines came within a whisker of pulling off one of the biggest upsets in the competition's history against the defending champion, who won every one of its 10 matches en-route to claiming the title in both previous editions in 2015 and 2018.

In the end, Iran found a way through in the dying stages as Maral Torkaman broke Philippines' hearts to take all three points in the Group B encounter at the Hohhot Sports Centre.

Team Melli Banovan will meet Hong Kong and Vietnam on Friday and Sunday, respectively.

## Taremi Assists Winner Against Barcelona in 2024-25 UCL

TEHRAN – Inter secured a dramatic 4-3 victory over Barcelona in the second leg of the UEFA Champions League clash, earning a spot in the final.

Three-time European champion Inter, which lost the 2023 final to Manchester City, will face either Paris Saint-Germain or Arsenal in Munich on May 31. PSG beat Arsenal 1-0 in London last week in its first match. The second leg is Wednesday in Paris.

There was little sign of the drama to come at half-

time, with Inter comfortably leading 2-0 after Lautaro Martínez scored and earned a penalty, which was converted by Hakan Çalhanoğlu.

But Barcelona had been in that position before, having gone 2-0 down early in the first leg last week before securing a thrilling 3-3 draw.

However, 37-year-old Francesco Acerbi stunned the visitors by scoring in stoppage time — his first-ever goal in European competition — forcing extra time.

Frattesi then delivered the final blow, skillfully con-



trolling a pass from Mehdi Taremi and evading young defender Pau Cubarsí before slotting the ball into the net. Barcelona nearly equalized

once more, but Inter goalkeeper Yann Sommer made a critical fingertip save to deny Lamine Yamal and preserve the win.

## President Pezeshkian Congratulates Youth Weightlifters on Championship



TEHRAN – President Masoud Pezeshkian has congratulated the Iranian people on the national team's remarkable victory at the 2025 World Youth Weightlifting Championships in Lima, Peru.

In his message issued, Pezeshkian voiced pride in the achievements of the Iranian youth, who earned a collection of valuable medals, bringing joy to the nation.

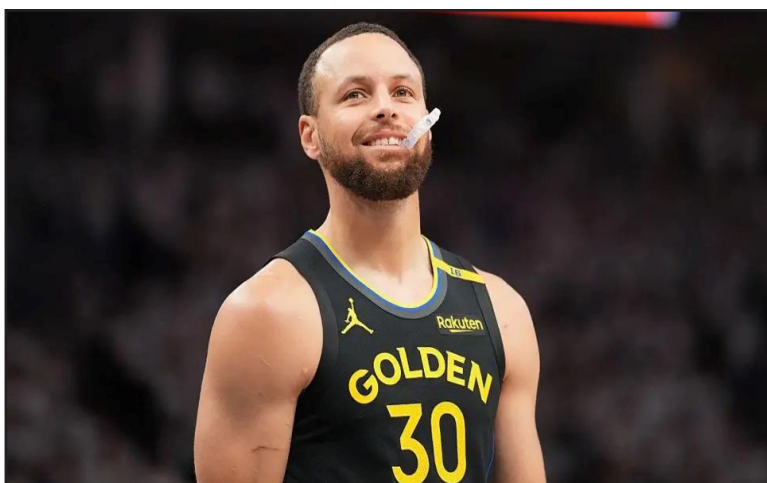
He emphasized that with comprehensive support for talented young individuals and by enhancing sports infrastructure, these ath-

letes can excel in future international competitions, ensuring that Iran continues to shine in various sports.

The president extended his congratulations to the people of Iran and praised the dedication of the officials and coaches of the national youth weightlifting team, as well as the families of the champion weightlifters.

Iran's junior and youth weightlifting team secured a total of 10 gold, 9 silver, and 5 bronze medals at the championships on April 30-May 5.

## Curry Injured in Warriors Win as Pacers Stun Cavs



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30)

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Golden State Warriors' win against the Minnesota Timberwolves in the second round of the NBA play-offs was soured by a hamstring injury to Stephen Curry.

The 37-year-old came off before half-time in game one of the series after pulling up during the Warriors' 99-88 win in Minneapolis.

The two-time MVP clutched the back of his left leg after a defensive play and initially tried to carry on before signalling to the bench that he needed to be replaced.

Buddy Hield, Jimmy Butler and Draymond Green shared the scoring burden in Curry's absence, hitting 62 points be-

tween them.

Curry is likely to miss game two (Friday, 9 May, 01:30 BST) at least, as the Warriors wait on the results of the scan.

"We're definitely game-planning for him to not be available for game two but we don't know yet," said Warriors coach Steve Kerr.

"With a hamstring, it's hard to imagine that he would play.

"I talked to him at half-time, he's obviously crushed. The guys picked him up and played a great game but we're all concerned about Steph.

"It's part of the game. Guys get hurt, you move on."

## Roglic Eyes Becoming Oldest Giro d'Italia Winner

PARIS (Reuters) - Slovenia's Primoz Roglic sets out to become the oldest winner of the Giro d'Italia when the year's first Grand Tour begins its 3,413 km trek from Albania to Rome on Saturday.

With reigning champion Tadej Pogacar focussing on the Tour de France, the door looks wide open for a host of riders seeking to wear the maglia rosa (pink jersey) on June 1.

Backed by a strong Red Bull-Bora-Hansgrohe team, including 2022 champion Jai Hindley of Australia, four-time Vuelta a Espana winner Roglic could surpass the record of Fiorenzo Magni who won the Giro, aged 34 and 180 days, in 1955.

"We know how tough this Giro will be, and we're also aware that all eyes will be on Primoz," Red Bull-Bora-Hansgrohe chief of sport Rolf Aldag said.

"That's why we're heading to the start in Albania with a strong, well-balanced team. Primoz is in great shape, and the group around him is well-rehearsed and gives us tactical depth."



Hansgrohe's Primoz Roglic celebrates on the podium while wearing the red jersey after taking the overall race lead by winning stage 19.

Roglic began the season in fine fashion by winning the Tour of Catalunya but with Hindley and also 2024 runner-up Dani Martinez in their starting list, Red Bull-Bora Hansgrohe boast a three-pronged General Classification (GC) attack.

The absence of Slovenian Pogacar and Denmark's Jonas Vingegaard means 35-year-old Roglic will be favourite to regain the crown he won in 2023.

They will not have it all their own way though with several other teams featuring strong overall contenders.

Young Spaniard Juan Ayuso leads the UAE Team Emirates challenge in the absence

of Pogacar having won the week-long Tirreno-Adriatico this season and going toe-to-toe with Roglic in a fierce battle in Catalunya.

The 22-year-old will be supported by a formidable team of domestiques and Britain's overall contender Adam Yates.

"Between myself and Juan I think we should be able to have a good crack on the general classification and try to defend the title, and I'm looking forward to getting started in what I hope will be a very competitive three weeks," Yates said.

While Ayuso seeks his maiden Grand Tour triumph, experienced trio Richard

Carapaz, Mikel Landa and Egan Bernal cannot be ignored.

Spaniard Landa, 35, has often sacrificed himself in the service of others but will be the main man in the Soudal-Quick-Step team.

Ecuador's Carapaz (EF Education-EasyPost) has a Giro overall title and Olympic road gold on his palmares while Colombian Bernal (Ineos Grenadiers) has looked close to the form that took him to the Giro title in 2021.

Albania is hosting a Grand Tour for the first time with the first of three stages in the Balkan country being Saturday's hilly 160 km stage from Durazzo to Tirana before Sunday's short time trial around Tirana. After a third stage featuring the race's first climb to 1,000 metres, the Giro heads back across the Adriatic to Lecce before snaking its way up the country.

The 108th edition of the race contains 52,000 metres of climbing - 10,000 more than last year - with two huge climbing days ahead of the Rome climax.