

Greco-Roman Wrestlers Defend Championship in Athens With Six Medals

TEHRAN - Iran's junior Greco-Roman wrestling team has successfully defended its championship title at a major international competition held in Athens, Greece.

Despite competing with only nine wrestlers, one fewer than a full team, Iran secured first place with an outstanding performance.

Amirsam Mohammadi won the gold medal in the 92kg category, while Yazdan Delrouz claimed silver in the 110kg category. Additionally, four Iranian wrestlers earned bronze medals in various weight classes.

On Thursday, President Masoud Pezeshkian, in a message, ex-



tended his congratulations to the Iranian people following the impressive performance of the national youth Greco-Roman wres-

ting team at the event.

President Masoud Pezeshkian praised the team's championship, highlighting it as a testament to

the determination and capability of Iran's young athletes.

"This brilliant victory is the result of the tireless efforts and dedication of the Iranian young wrestlers, their hardworking coaches, and supportive families," Pezeshkian said in his message.

The president described the athletes as future-making champions who proudly raised Iran's flag by securing a total of six medals, including one gold, one silver, and four bronze.

In the team rankings, Iran finished first with 125 points. Uzbekistan followed in second place with 118 points, and Kazakhstan came third with 113 points.

U-19 Volleyballers Defeat Belgium at World Championship

TEHRAN - Iran Volleyball team has beat Belgium 3-1 (25-19, 17-25, 25-19, 25-20) to book their place in the 2025 FIVB Volleyball Boys' U19 World Championship quarterfinals.

Muhammadamin Rahimi and Amir Nader scored 14 points each for Iran and Belgium's Jannes Strobbe collected with 15 points.

Led by Iranian coach Adel Gholami, the young Iranian players will meet their op-



ponents from Finland on Friday.

Uzbekistan hosts the

Championship from 24 July to 3 August in Tashkent, with preparations supported

by the FIVB Volleyball Empowerment program through 12 months of coaching support, event equipment, and three knowledge transfer programs.

The World Championship marks an important moment for Uzbekistan volleyball. The Empowerment program provides the foundation for the country's efforts to develop talent and strengthen its presence in international competition.



Do-hee to Remain Iran's Women's Volleyball Head Coach for One Year More

TEHRAN - The Iran Volleyball Federation officially announced the renewal of head coach Lee Do-hee's contract for the women's national team.

The extension, announced, keeps her in charge for another year.

At 57, Korean coach Lee Do-

hee, who replaced Mitra Shabani last year, has delivered strong results.

Under her guidance, Iran's women's team (Team Melli) achieved a notable sixth-place finish at the 2025 AVC Women's Volleyball Nations Cup held in June.

Iran Clinches 10th Consecutive Asian Para-Taekwondo Title



TEHRAN - Iran's national para-taekwondo team swept up 12 medals at the 10th Asian Para-Taekwondo Championships in Kuching, Malaysia—keeping its decade-long continental dominance intact.

Iranian athletes secured three golds (Ali-Reza Bakht, Hamed Haghsheenas, and Marziyeh Nasrollahi); three silvers (Saeid Sadeghianpour, Maryam Abdollahpour, Amir-Muhammad Haghighatshenas); and six bronzes (Aylar Jami, Leila Mirzaei, Muhammad-Taha Hassanpour, Roza Ebrahimi, Zahra Rahimi, Mehdi Pour-Rahnama).

With this haul, Iran claimed its tenth straight Asian title in para-taekwondo, reinforcing the country's premier position across Asia. While official year-on-year team specifics from the 2025 tournament were not in Web sources, Iran's broader regional dominance is well documented, with golds and medals across both men's and women's brackets in the preceding 2024 championship in Da Nang, Vietnam.

Saeid Sadeghianpour and Maryam Abdollahpour delivered standout performances, while Pour-Rahn-

ama and Haghsheenas triumphed in their respective weight classes—solidifying Iran's depth across para-taekwondo disciplines.

The Sports Ministry and National Paralympic Committee issued official statements congratulating the athletes and coaching staff, praising their sustained excellence and contribution to Iran's sporting prestige. The championships come just a day after Iran's able-bodied taekwondo team captured the Asian title at the 2024 senior championships in Da Nang with 3 gold, 3 silver, and 3 bronze medals.

Iran's consistent performance in recent years builds upon earlier regional para-taekwondo successes, including medals at the Asian Para Games (Hangzhou 2022) where Iranian contestants finished first overall among participating nations in taekwondo, placing ahead of China and Uzbekistan in both men's and women's categories.

At the same Hangzhou Asian Para Games, Iran's Mehdi Pourrahnama and Hamed Haghsheenas each took gold, while Zahra Rahimi and Maryam Abdollahpour won women's titles—demonstrating parity across genders in Iran's para-sport system.

Iran Names Flag Bearers in 2025 World Games



TEHRAN - Sara Bahmanyar and Ali Gharagozlou will lead Iran's delegation as the flag bearers in the opening ceremony of the upcoming World Games in Chengdu, China.

The Games will be held from Aug. 7 to 17.

The Iranian delegation will participate in this edition with over 30 athletes

across nine different sports.

Bahmanyar is a female karate practitioner and has won four bronze medals in the Asian Championships as well as a bronze medal in the 2018 World Karate Championship.

Gharagozlou won the gold medal at the 2024 Asian Men's Snooker Championship in Doha, Qatar.

Lyles, Richardson Blaze Through 100 Heats at U.S. Championships

OREGON (Reuters) - Olympic and world champion Noah Lyles breezed through his 100 meters heat in 10.05 at the USA Track and Field Championships in Eugene, Oregon on Thursday before pulling out of the semi-finals to focus on the 200.

With a ticket to the world championships in Tokyo on the line, Kenny Bednarek was the only man to dip under 10 seconds in the first round, posting 9.95.

Lyles and Sha'Carri Richardson are guaranteed spots in the men's and women's 100 at the worlds in September thanks to their triumphs at Budapest in 2023.

Paris silver medalist Richardson clocked her season's best of 11.07 in the women's 100 preliminaries, with Jacious Sears leading the way with a 10.85 and Melissa Jefferson-Wooden third in 10.86.



Noah Lyles of the U.S. after finishing second in the Men's 100m final

"I was running that like a final," Lyles said after his heat. "I only have one round in the 100m (and) two rounds in the 200m. I'm in plenty of shape, you know, in terms of endurance and rest and recovery."

Richardson, competing in just her third race this year, said she was feeling good.

"It felt amazing. Being able to compete, feeling healthy, going out there and executing no matter what (and) just being the best

athlete I can be..." the 25-year-old said.

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"Just to run a qualifying round, show fitness and take the rest of the time to get ready for Tokyo."

DeAnna Price won the women's hammer throw with a throw of 78.53 meters, while Curtis Thompson won the men's javelin.

The meet runs from July 31 to August 3 at Hayward Field.

China's Qin Wins 'Miracle' Second Breaststroke Gold at Swim Worlds

SINGAPORE (AFP) - China's roaring Qin Haiyang won his second breaststroke gold of the Singapore swimming world championships on Friday, edging a 200m nailbiter.

World record holder Qin touched the wall in 2min 07.41sec, ahead of Japan's Ippei Watanabe (2:07.70) and Caspar Corbeau of the Netherlands (2:07.73).

The 26-year-old Qin won the 100m breaststroke earlier in the week but he celebrated his second victory as if it were his first.

He punched the air before whipping up the delighted Chinese fans in the arena, who screamed him on to a thrilling victory.

Qin started the race in lane eight after qualifying slowest from the semi-finals but it made no difference as he regained the world title he won in 2023 in style.

"Amazing," said Qin. "Have you heard of the lane eight miracle?"

"I did not know if I was second or third, I just heard 'whoa', so I knew I had won."



The lead changed hands several times throughout the race, with American AJ Pouch and Russian Kirill Prigoda also challenging.

In the end it was Qin who got the decisive touch ahead of Watanabe, giving the Chinese swimmer his fourth medal of the championships in Singapore.

Qin is returning to form after a difficult time at last year's Paris Olympics, where he did not even make the final of the 200m breaststroke.

His preparations for the Games

were thrown into turmoil when he was implicated in a major doping scandal months before the Games.

A report named Qin among 23 Chinese swimmers who had tested positive for a prescription heart drug ahead of the pandemic-delayed 2021 Tokyo Olympics.

They were not sanctioned after the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) accepted the argument of Chinese authorities that the positive tests were caused by contaminated food.