

Ali Cheheraghani Wins Gold Medal at Asian Boxing Championship



TEHRAN – Iranian boxer Ali Cheheraghani on Sunday won gold medal at Asian Youth Boxing Championships in Bangkok, Thailand.

Cheheraghani faced Adilet Tortobek from Kazakhstan in the final match of the 60 kg youth weight category and managed to defeat his opponent in a thrilling fight and won the gold medal of Iran.

Earlier, Mehdi Roozbahani in the 50 kg weight category, Ashkan Hashemi in the 65 kg weight category, Muhammad Saleh Mesbahi in the 70 kg weight category, and Abbas Garshasbi in the 90+ kg weight category had won bronze medals in the event.

Amir Reza Soltani in the 55 kg weight category, Mehdi Sabzi in the 75 kg weight category, and Armin Shahbahi in the 90 kg weight category failed to advance to next round and were eliminated.

Salah Calls Out UEFA Over Wording of Tribute to ‘Palestinian Pele’

LONDON (AFP) - Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah has called out UEFA over a tribute to Palestinian footballer Suleiman al-Obeid it posted on social media which failed to refer to the circumstances surrounding his death.

On Thursday, the Palestinian Football Association (PFA) said Obeid was killed in an Israeli attack while waiting for humanitarian aid in the southern Gaza Strip the previous day.

The 41-year-old, who was known as the “Pele of Palestinian football” according to the PFA, scored more than 100 goals during his career, including two in 24 international matches.



Mohamed Salah has previously advocated for humanitarian aid to be allowed into Gaza

In a post on X on Friday, UEFA

said: “Farewell to Suleiman al-

Obeid, the ‘Palestinian Pele’.

“A talent who gave hope to countless children, even in the darkest of times.”

On Saturday, Egypt international Salah, 33, responded with, external: “Can you tell us how he died, where, and why?”

At least 38 people have also been killed and 491 injured as a result of Israeli military activity over the past 24 hours, the Hamas-run health ministry said on Saturday.

Salah has previously advocated for humanitarian aid to be allowed into Gaza and called for “world leaders to come together to prevent further slaughter of innocent souls” amid the conflict.

Sardar Azmoun Wins Emirates Ballon d’Or



TEHRAN - League’s Best Player of the Season, winning the prestigious Golden Ball award in a ceremony held at Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi.

The Shabab Al Ahli star claimed the honor after an outstanding debut campaign in the ADNOC Pro League, where he scored 11 goals and provided six assists in 21 league appearances.

His performances were instrumental in Shabab Al Ahli’s remarkable treble triumph, securing the league title, the President’s Cup, and the UAE Super Cup.

Azmoun, 29, joined Shabab Al Ahli last summer in a surprise move from Italian Serie A side AS Roma. Initially met with skepticism, the transfer quickly proved successful as he became a key figure in the team’s attacking line.

He beat fellow nominees Mehdi Ghayedi, his Iranian international teammate, and Sharjah FC’s Brazilian forward Caio Lucas to win the award.

The selection committee praised Azmoun’s decisive contributions, leadership on the pitch, and ability to adapt quickly to UAE football.

Vahid Kazemi Appointed 2025 Super Cup Referee



TEHRAN – Vahid Kazemi has been appointed as referee for the 2025 Super Cup between Iran’s Esteghlal and Tractor football teams.

The match is slated for August 11 in Isfahan’s Naghsh-e Jahan Stadium.

This high-profile match will see

Tractor, the reigning champion of the Iran Professional League, face off against Esteghlal, the Hazfi Cup winner.

Historically, Persepolis is the most successful team in Super Cup, having won the title five times.

Esteghlal Complete Signing of Duckens Nazon

TEHRAN – Iran’s Esteghlal football team has completed the signing of Haitian forward Duckens Moïse Nazon.

The 31-year-old recently played for Süper Lig club Kayserispor.

He scored eight goals in 33 matches for the Turkish club.

Nazon has penned a three-year deal with Esteghlal.

Nazon has been a member of the Haiti national football team since 2014. He has scored 40 goals in 72 appearances for Haiti.



U-20 Women Footballers Fail to Beat Japan in Asian Cup Qualifiers



TEHRAN – Japan confirmed its ticket to the AFC U-20 Women’s Asian Cup Thailand with an 11-0 win over Iran on Sunday.

The triumph meant six-time champion Japan topped Group F of the Qualifiers with nine points, scoring 32 goals and conceding none.

Japan took the lead after 12 minutes, Miki Kimura tapping the ball home after some lovely work by Mao Itamura down the left flank.

Mao played an instrumental role again in Japan’s second goal, laying the ball nicely for Asako Furuta, who slipped past the Iranian defenders to slot home.

Japan’s third was netted in the 24th minute, the impressive Mao nodding home Kimura’s cross from the right.

The fourth came in the 34th minute, forward Satoko Fujisaki slamming the ball into the net from the top of the area after Iran hashed a clearance.

Japan refused to let up and Itamura further widened its lead in the 43rd minute, waltzing into

the penalty area and tucking the ball home for her fifth goal of the Qualifiers.

Mao completed her second consecutive hat-trick of the Qualifiers in the 50th minute, knocking home after the ball bounced over advancing Iran keeper Atena Tofigh.

Japan scored again from the kick-off, Satoko outrunning the chasing Iran defenders to slot home her second of the evening, with the forward becoming the second Japanese player with a hat-trick in the 58th minute after she slid to steer Asako’s pass into the goalmouth.

Substitute Anon Tsuda scored Japan’s ninth with her first touch of the ball in the 61st minute, knocking home Miharuru Shinjo’s corner.

Hikari Takahashi added her name to the scoresheet in the 74th minute, controlling Yuka Makiguchi’s lob with her chest before side-footing the ball into the net.

Hikari completed the emphatic win added in time, heading home Miharuru’s cross as Japan showed they will be title contenders at Thailand 2026.

Second Boxer Dies From Brain Injury After Tokyo Event

TOKYO (AFP) - A second Japanese boxer has died from a brain injury suffered at an event in Tokyo.

Hiromasa Urakawa, 28, died on Saturday after he was beaten via knockout in the eighth round of his fight with Yoji Saito on 2 August.

It follows the death of Shigetoshi Kotari on Friday from injuries sustained during a separate bout on the same card at Tokyo’s Korakuen Hall.

Both boxers underwent surgery for subdural haematoma - a condition where blood collects between the skull and the brain.

The World Boxing Organiza-



tion (WBO) said, external it “mourns the passing of Japanese boxer Hiromasa Urakawa, who tragically succumbed to injuries sustained during his fight against Yoji Saito”.

It added: “This heartbreaking news comes just days after the

passing of Shigetoshi Kotari, who died from injuries suffered in his fight on the same card.

“We extend our deepest condolences to the families, friends and the Japanese boxing community during this incredibly difficult time.”

Following the event, the Japan Boxing Commission (JBC) announced all Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation (OPBF) title bouts will now be 10 rounds instead of 12.

Japanese media reports, external the JBC has launched an investigation and is planning to hold a meeting in September to discuss the deaths.

Urakawa is the third high-profile boxer to die in 2025 after Irishman John Cooney passed away in February following a fight in Belfast.

Cooney died aged 28 after suffering an intracranial haemorrhage from his fight against Welshman Nathan Howells.