

U-19 Volleyballers Edge Poland in World Championship



TEHRAN – Iran edged past Poland 3-2 (25-22, 25-14, 17-25, 14-25, 15-13) in the 2025 FIVB Volleyball Boys' U-19 World Championship on Friday.

The Iranian team will meet Tunisia (July 26), Egypt (July 28), and Italy (July 29) in Pool C.

The World Championship is the 19th edition of the FIVB Volleyball Boys' U-19 World Championship, the biennial international youth volleyball championship contested by the men's national teams under the age of 19 of the members associations of the Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB), the sport's global governing body.

It is being held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from July 24 to August 3, 2025.

Pool A: Uzbekistan, Belgium, Argentina, Puerto Rico, Pakistan, Turkey

Pool B: France, Bulgaria, Japan, China, Algeria, Canada

Pool C: Iran, Italy, Egypt, Tunisia, Poland, Spain

Pool D: USA, Korea, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Finland

Tabatabaei Wins XXII Karpov International Tournament



TEHRAN – Iranian Grandmaster Muhammad Amin Tabatabaei won the XXII Karpov International Tournament.

The competition was held in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia.

Sanan Sjugirov defeated Vladislav Artemiev, while the games Vokhidov - Sadhwani, Vallejo - Malakhov, Tabatabaei - Martirosyan, and Sargsyan - Nesterov were drawn.

Arseniy Nesterov, Haik Martirosyan, Vladimir Malakhov, Raunak Sadhwani, Sanan Sjugirov, and Francisco Vallejo finished one and a half points behind Tabatabaei.

As all additional tie-breakers were equal between Nesterov, Malakhov, Martirosyan, and Sadhwani, a blitz tournament was played to determine the silver and bronze medalists.

Having scored 2.5 points out of three, Indian grandmaster Raunak Sadhwani took silver medal. The third place belongs to Russian Arseniy Nesterov, who came in half a point behind Sadhwani. The tournament was officially opened on July 18.

Tabatabaei won the event with 5.5 points, securing three wins and five draws.

Iranian Officials Appointed to Lead Asian Taekwondo Academy

TEHRAN - Following the conclusion of the Asian Taekwondo Union's electoral assembly, two prominent Iranian officials have been appointed to lead the newly restructured Asian Taekwondo Academy.

In decrees issued by Sang Jin Kim, the newly elected President of the Asian Taekwondo Union, Hadi Saei was named President of the Academy, while Asghar Rahimi was appointed Executive Director.

Hadi Saei, the President of the Taekwondo Federation of Iran, is one of Iran's most decorated athletes, a two-



time Olympic gold medalist and former world champion in taekwondo.

He also previously served as the head coach of Iran's national team and held a seat on

Tehran's City Council.

Asghar Rahimi, former head coach of Iran's national taekwondo team, as well as the teams of Kuwait and Pas Tehran, is currently a member of

the Technical Committee of the Taekwondo Federation of Iran.

President Kim had originally intended to distribute the academy's leadership between officials from different countries. However, in recognition of Iran's detailed four-year development blueprint for the sport in Asia, both posts were entrusted to the Iranian team.

The Iranian delegation is now tasked with finalizing the academy's strategic agenda, which will be submitted for approval at the upcoming session of the Executive Board.

Women Handball Team Finish 5th in Asian Youth Championship



TEHRAN – Iran finished in fifth place in the 2025 Asian Women's Youth Handball

Championship on Thursday. Iran defeated Chinese Taipei 34-33 in penalty shoot-

out after the match ended 30-30 in the regular time.

Iran lost to Japan and South Korea in the competition and defeated India, Hong Kong, and Chinese Taipei.

The preliminary round of the 11th AHF Asian Women's Youth Handball Championship was held on July 18, 19 and 21, with the semi-finals scheduled on July 23.

The final and the bronze

medal match are due to take place on July 26.

China will face Japan in the final, while Kazakhstan meet South Korea in the third-place match.

The Championship is being held from July 18 to 26, 2025, in Jinggangshan, China under the aegis of Asian Handball Federation.

It also acts as the qualification tournament for the 2026 Women's Youth World Handball Championship.

Piastri Fastest in Sole Belgian GP Practice

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium (Reuters) - Formula One leader Oscar Piastri showed impressive speed in sole practice for the Belgian Grand Prix on Friday with Max Verstappen starting Red Bull's new era by denying champions McLaren the one-two.

Piastri was a hefty 0.404 quicker than four-times world champion Verstappen, whose team are racing without Christian Horner in charge for the first time since they entered the sport in 2005.

McLaren's Lando Norris

was third on the timesheets, 0.504 off the pace and with work to do if he is to reduce Piastri's eight point lead.

With Belgium running to the sprint format, qualifying for Saturday's 100km race replaces the usual second Friday practice session.

Mercedes George Russell, who won last year before being stripped of victory for an underweight car, was fourth fastest with teammate Kimi Antonelli sixth and separating the Ferraris of Charles Leclerc and Lewis Hamilton.



McLaren's Oscar Piastri during practice

Canadian Lance Stroll was eighth for Aston Martin with teammate Fernando Alonso ninth and Racing Bulls'

Isack Hadjar completing the top 10 as his former boss Laurent Mekies started work as Horner's replacement.

East Azerbaijan Crowned National Road Cycling Champions



TEHRAN – The thrilling National Road Cycling Endurance Championships, held over three days in Qazvin province, came to an exciting close on Friday, with the East Azerbaijan team emerging as the undisputed champions of Iran in both the men's and women's categories.

In the men's elite individual time trial, Saeed Safarzadeh from East Azerbaijan delivered a stunning performance to claim the gold medal. Behnam Arian from Hamadan took second place, while Aydin Aliari, also from East Azerbaijan and the road endurance champion from the previous day, secured the bronze, underscoring the dominance of East Azerbaijan in road cycling.

In the men's junior category, Muhammad Nabi Mirbagheri from Alborz stood atop the podium, followed by Saba Hassan Sajadian of Tehran in second, and Omid Alizadeh of East Azerbaijan in third.

On the women's side, Pan-

tea Gholipour from Hamadan clinched first place in the elite road endurance race, with Mandana Dehghan, a professional cyclist from Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, finishing second and Elika Yousefi of Isfahan placing third. However, in the elite women's time trial, Reyhaneh Khatouni Dariyan from East Azerbaijan showcased remarkable talent to win the gold, with Dehghan again in second and Gholipour in third.

In the junior women's categories, Zahra Zare Vahid of East Azerbaijan dominated both the road endurance and individual time trial events, claiming top honors.

At the conclusion of this intense competition, East Azerbaijan proudly stood as the team champion in both the men's and women's divisions. Khorasan Razavi and Alborz finished second and third among the men, while Alborz and Fars took second and third in the women's team rankings.