

Freestyle Wrestlers Advance to Semifinals in World Championship



TEHRAN – Iranian freestyle wrestlers in three weight categories kick-started their matches in the World Wrestling Championships 2025 in

Zargherb, Croatia on Saturday.

Kamran Ghasempour reached the semifinals of the championship in the 86 kg weight cat-

egory by defeating the Russian representative.

Ghasempour defeated the Russian Ibrahim Kadif in a breathtaking fight with a score of 5-4 and reached the semifinals.

Ghasempour will face Zahid Valencia of the United States in this stage.

In the 61 kg weight category, Ahmad Muhammadnejad Javan defeated Joshua Kramer of Ecuador by a score of 13-2 in the first round. In the next round, he defeated Nouredin Norouzav of Azerbaijan by a score of 5-2 and advanced to the quarterfinals. In this, he defeated Kamil Karimov of Ukraine by a score of 8-4 and advanced to the semifinals.

In the 125 kg weight category, Amir Hussein Zare, after a break in the first round, defeated Yanovan Smith of Puerto Rico by a score of 11-0 in the second round and advanced to the quarterfinals. In this round, he defeated Solomon Manashvili of Georgia by a score of 10-0 and advanced to the semifinals.

Volleyballers to Play Egypt at 2025 World Championship Opener



TEHRAN - Iran will start the 2025 FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship on Sunday with a match against Egypt.

The national Iranian team is drawn in Pool A along with Egypt, Tunisia and the Philippines.

Roberto Piazza's side will also play Tunisia and the Philippines on Tuesday and

Thursday, respectively.

Italy is the defending champion, having won its fourth title in 2022.

Taking place in Manila, Philippines, 32 teams from across the world are competing for the coveted title, divided into eight pools of four teams, where the top two advance to the knockout stage.

Iranian Judokas Win Silver, Bronze at Asian Championship

TEHRAN – Iranian teenage judokas won one silver and two bronze medals at the Asian Judo Championships that was held in Indonesia.

Iranian teenage judokas have secured one silver and two bronze medals at the Asian Judo Championships held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The two-day junior competition concluded Friday night, with Iran's standout performance coming from Samira Khak-khah in the girls' under-63 kg category.



She defeated opponents from Jordan and Indonesia to advance to the final, where she

faced a strong contender from South Korea. Despite her efforts, Khak-khah lost the deci-

sive match but earned a valuable silver medal.

In the boys' competitions, Amirhossein Nazari clinched bronze in the under-90 kg weight class. Muhammad Pouria Banaeian also won bronze after defeating his teammate Ali-Asghar Malekzadeh in the third-place contest.

The Asian Judo Championships will continue on Saturday with the youth category matches, scheduled to run for two days.

Futsal Team Learns Rivals at 2026 Asian Cup Qualification



TEHRAN – Iran will start the 2026 AFC Futsal Asian Cup qualification with a match against Bangladesh.

Team Melli will face Bangladesh on September 20 at the Stadium Tertutup Sukpa in Kuantan, Malaysia.

Vahid Shamsaei's side will also face the UAE and Malaysia in Group G on September 22 and 24, respectively.

A total of 16 teams will qualify to play in the final tournament. The host country Indonesia qualified automatically, while the other 15 teams are decided by qualification, with the matches played between September 20 and 24, 2025 in centralized venues.

India Beat Iran in FIBA U-16 Women's Asia Cup 2025

TEHRAN – India earned a late win over Iran in a thrilling start to Division B play of the FIBA U-16 Women's Asia Cup 2025 on Saturday at the Karisma Arena in Seremban, Malaysia.

India came from behind to beat Iran 70-67.

Indian Mahek Sharma finished with 15 points and 13 rebounds.

Sharma's heroics, furthermore, saved the efforts of her teammates in orchestrating the resistance, which saw Reva Kulkarni lead the way with a well-rounded performance with 20 points, 7 rebounds, and 6 assists.

Teams finishing first in their groups will advance directly to the Final Four.



Mobina Beheira, meanwhile, had 18 points to lead Iran in the loss. Elina Kazemevini made 13 points and 5 rebounds as the two led their third-quarter surge to take the lead, which they were able to grow to 11.

Sara Mokhtari added 11 points and 8 rebounds for the young Team Melli, who will try to notch its first win when they face Samoa on Sunday as well at 11:30 local time in a clash between teams hungry to break through.

Amir Hussein Hedai Shines in Istanbul Federer Table Tennis Tournament



TEHRAN – Iran's table tennis table athlete Amir Hussein Hedai defeated the Spanish player in the first round of the main draw of the Istanbul Federer Table Tennis Tournament and advanced to the round of 16.

In the first round of the main draw of the Istanbul Federer Table Tennis Tournament, Amir Hossein Hedai

faced "Miguel" from Spain and defeated him 3-0.

Hedai advanced to the round of 16 of the Istanbul Federer Table Tennis Tournament and became the opponent of "Philip Jeliko" from Croatia

The Istanbul Federer Table Tennis Tournament, which started from September 10 to September 14, continues.

Tractor Down Aluminum in Iran Professional League

TEHRAN – Defending champion Tractor defeated Aluminum 4-1 in the 2025-26 Iran Professional League (IPL) on Friday.

In the match held in Tabriz, Domagoj Drozdek scored three goals in the first half and Behrouz Norouzifard pulled a goal back just before the break.

Tractor's Albanian forward Regi Lushkja made the scoreboard 4-1 just after the hour mark.

Later in the day, Esteghlal lost to Esteghlal Khuzestan 1-0 at the Foolad Arena in Ahvaz. Mohammad Sharifi scored



the sole goal in the 34th minute.

Kheybar Khorramabad and Fajr Sepasi shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw, while Gol Gohar drew 1-1 with Sepahan in Sirjan.

Persepolis will meet Foolad in Tehran on Saturday, Shams Azar host Paykan, Zob Ahan face Mes Rafsanjan in Isfahan and Chadormalou play Malavan in Yazd.