

# Women Table Tennis Athletes Climb in World Ranking



TEHRAN - Iran Women table tennis leaped in latest rankings of the International Table Tennis Federation.

According to IRNA, based on the rankings for the 39th week of 2025, Shima Safaei climbed 98 places to 185th in the world

after winning a historic bronze medal in the Turkish Federer tournament.

Mahshid Ashtari also climbed

89 places to 263rd in the world, and Elena Rahimi rose 116 places to 276th in the world. In addition to these three major climbs, Neda Shahsavari, the captain of the women's national team, also climbed 232nd in the world.

In the men's rankings, Noshad Alemian, the captain of the national team, is still the top Iranian representative, ranking 80th in the world, followed by Benjamin Faraji in 135th place, Navid Shams in 160th place, and Nima Alemian in 164th place.

Wang Chuqin of China, Lin Shidong of China, and Hugo Calderano of Brazil are the top three male rackets in the world rankings.

## Malaysia's Tough Task Against Iran at AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers

TEHRAN — It all comes down to Matchday Three of the AFC Futsal Asian Cup Indonesia 2026 Qualifiers with seven groups to be decided on Wednesday.

In a Group G decider, Malaysia will have to produce the extraordinary if it is to stop Iran.

The 13-time champi-



on hit a total of 22 unanswered goals in its earlier matches against Bangladesh and the United Arab Emirates and the Malaysian defense can expect to be thoroughly tested.

The host, however, is within touching distance of the Finals and will be motivated to perform.

## Shahab Zahedi Among Avispa's Best Strikers



TEHRAN - The Iranian striker of Japan's Avispa football



team was among his team's best with his good performance in

the match against Tokyo.

Tokyo and Avispa Fukuoka football teams faced each other in the 31st week of the Japanese J-League, and ended with a score of 1-0 in favor of Tokyo.

Shahab Zahedi, the Iranian striker of Avispa, was in his team's lineup from the beginning and gave way to "Bin Khalifa" in the 55th minute. At the end of the match, the of-

ficial media of Avispa club announced that Zahedi had registered the most shots among Avispa players with two shots. The 29-year-old striker joined the Japanese team on loan from Ukraine's Zorya Luhansk last season.

Avispa Fukuoka, based in Hakata, Fukuoka, is a prominent Japanese professional football club competing in the top-tier J1 League.

## Beach Wrestling Team to Compete in Greece



TEHRAN — Iran's Wrestling Federation has sent three teams to the 2025 World Beach Wrestling Championships in Greece.

The event will take place at the foot of legendary Mount Olympus at the Aloha Beach Bar in Katerini, Greece, on September 25-26.

Iran's U-17 Team:  
60kg: Amir Ali Domirkolaei, Ali Asghar Kopej  
70kg: Yousef Hosseinpouran, Ilia Vaghari  
80kg: Abolfazl Sa'adati, Touraj Khodaei

90kg: Muhammad Mehdi Fotouhi  
Iran's U-20 Team:  
70kg: Muhammad Hussein Nikpour  
80kg: Sobhan Esmi  
90kg: Ramtin Ravanbakhsh, Sajad Hussein  
Over 90kg: Mersad Shak-eri  
Iran's Senior Team:  
70kg: Ali Akbar Zaroudi, Omid Khodadi  
80kg: Ali Gholami, Abdollah Sheikh Azami  
90kg: Hussein Kavousi  
Over 90kg: Amir Reza Sahraei, Soheil Gholipour

## Para-Archers Advance in World Championships in South Korea



TEHRAN — Iranian Gholamreza Para-Archers Rahimi and Muhammadreza Arab Ameri on Tuesday advanced to knock out round World Championships.

On the first day of the competition, the men's recurve preliminary round was held. Gholamreza Rahimi recorded a

record of 637 and Arab Ameri recorded a record of 555. Rahimi and Arab Ameri advanced to the elimination round by recording these records.

Continuing the Para-Archery World Championships, Hadi Nouri will begin his competition in the compound event.

## Arash Mirbagheri Ranks 34th in World Cycling Championships

TEHRAN — Iranian cyclist Arash Mirbagheri ranked 34th in the time trial event of the World Championships underway in Kigali, Rwanda, South Africa.

Mirbagheri started his career in the competitions on Tuesday in the individual time trial event.

Mirbagheri come to 34th place among 85 athletes in the individual time trial event, recording a time of 32 minutes and 5 seconds.

In this event, cyclists from the Netherlands, the United States,



and Belgium won gold, silver, and bronze medals, respectively.

Mirbagheri is set to compete

in the youth road endurance event over a distance of 119.3 kilometers on Friday, October 24.

## Paralympic Gharibshahi Champion Seeks Fourth World Gold Medal

TEHRAN — Iran's Ali Akbar Gharibshahi, a weightlifter with three world Para-Weightlifting gold medals, is seeking his fourth medal at the World Championships in Cairo, Egypt.

Gharibshahi came in first in the 107 kg category of the 2024 Paris Paralympic Paralympics, lifting 252 kg, breaking the Paralympic record and winning the first gold medal of this important event.



Gharibshahi started sports years ago after falling from a height and stay-

ing home for a while, and is now one of the golden men of sports in this land.