

Iran's NOC President Meets World Rowing Chief



TEHRAN — Mahmoud Khosravi Vafa, President of Iran's National Olympic Committee (NOC) has held a meeting with Jean-Christophe Rolland, head of the World Rowing Federation, in Lausanne, Switzerland. Accompanied by NOC General Secretary Mehdi Alinejhad,

Khosravi Vafa said that rowing in Iran has long been part of the National Federation of Aquatics, but recently, under the leadership of Mohsen Shadi—one of Iran's rowing champions—the sport has begun functioning as its own federation, Tehran Times reported.

Rolland also spoke about his friendly relationship with Ahmad Donyamali, Minister of Sports, stating that the move toward autonomy for rowing and its transformation into a federation was the correct decision, and that the next steps after elections should align the federation's policy with international laws and sovereignty principles.

Salehipour Finishes Sixth in World Weightlifting Championship



TEHRAN - Ilya Salehipour of Iran has settled for sixth place in 88 kg category in 2025 World Weightlifting Championships in Norwegian city of Fjorde.

The 19-year-old Ilya Salehipour placed fourth in a single snatch, initially managed to control the 193 kg weight, but failed twice in a row against the 202 kg weight.

Salehipour stood in eighth place at the end of the double snatch and took sixth place in

the 88 kg category with a total of 356 kg.

From 2-11 October, Fjorde, Norway, is hosting the 2025 IWF World Championships, the first time a small city has staged such a major weightlifting event.

Lifters will compete for medals across the new 16 weight classes, approved by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) from June 2025.

Ali Pordel Wins Silver at Asian Heyball Championship 2025

TEHRAN — Iran's Ali Pordel won a silver medal at the 2025 Asian Heyball Championship 2025 at the Myna Tyche Hotel in Amman, Jordan.

In the men's final, Indian cueist Sundee Gulati produced a clinical performance to defeat Pordel 7-2, capturing his maiden international Heyball title.

The men's bronze medals were shared by Arfan Dad of Pakistan and Ahmed Alo-



qaili of Jordan, both of whom delivered commendable per-

formances to reach the semi-final stage.

The Asian Heyball Championship 2025, organized under the banner of the Asian Confederation of Billiard Sports (ACBS), concluded with high praise for its competitive standard and flawless organization. The championship not only marked a new chapter for Heyball in Asia but also reflected the growing depth of talent and international appeal of the sport across the continent.

Iran Football Team Arrives in Volgograd for Friendly



TEHRAN — Iran's national football team delegation arrived in Volgograd, Russia, on Wednesday.

Team Melli is scheduled to play Russia in a friendly on Friday. Iran will then travel to Dubai to

face Tanzania four days later.

Amir Ghalenoei's side has already qualified for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, and these two matches will serve as preparation for the prestigious tournament.

Vania Yavari Secures Quota in WTTC



TEHRAN - Iranian table tennis player Vania Yavari has secured a quota to participate in the World Junior Championships, the International Table Tennis Federation announced.

Yavari also to participate in the World Championships by coming in 50th in the under-15 age group in the world.

Previously, Iran's junior table tennis team and youth national player Benjamin Faraji have earned a ticket to participate in the World Championships.

The World Junior and Youth Table Tennis Championships will take place in mid-December and hosted by Romania.

Djokovic Enters Quarters at Shanghai Masters



Novak Djokovic

SHANGHAI (Reuters) - Novak Djokovic overcame pain in his left ankle, the Shanghai humidity and the challenge of Jaume Munar to reach the quarterfinals at the Shanghai Masters for the 11th time.

The Serbian received multiple medical timeouts for a leg issue during the two hours and 40 minutes clash and frequently placed an ice towel over his head during changeovers, with humidity levels exceeding 82 percent. Djokovic threw up courtside on several occasions and collapsed to the floor after losing the second set before he received medical support. However, despite the chal-

lenging conditions, the 38-year-old dug deep to grind down Munar 6-3, 5-7, 6-2 in one of the most physical matches of the season.

Djokovic has reached the quarterfinals in all 11 of his Shanghai appearances, lifting the trophy a record four times. The world No. 5 is the highest-ranked left player in the draw and he will next meet Belgian Zizou Bergs.

Also on Tuesday, Holger Rune moved a step closer to his first ATP Masters 1000 title in almost three years, after he overcame Frenchman Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard 6-4, 6-7(7), 6-3.

Ronaldo Becomes Football's First Billionaire, Says Report

JEDDAH (Reuters) - Cristiano Ronaldo has become the first footballer to reach billionaire status, according to the latest Bloomberg Billionaires Index, which has valued the Portugal great's net worth at an estimated \$1.4 billion.

The 40-year-old striker's financial ascent comes after he signed a new contract with Saudi side Al-Nassr in June reportedly worth more than \$400 million.

Bloomberg said that Ronaldo earned more than \$550 million in salary between 2002 and 2023, supplemented by a decade-long Nike deal worth nearly \$18 million annually, and lucrative endorsements with Armani, Castrol and others that added more than \$175 million to his fortune. Ronaldo's move to Al-Nassr



Al Nassr's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after the match

from Manchester United in 2023 had already made him the highest-paid player in football history, with an annual salary of 177 million pounds (\$237.52 million), plus bonuses and a reported 15% share in his Saudi Arabia club. Argentina and Inter Miami for-

ward Lionel Messi has earned more than \$600 million in pre-tax salary during his career.

Ronaldo's billionaire status places him among a rare group of athletes that includes basketball greats Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson and LeBron James, golfer Tiger Woods and tennis

player Roger Federer.

Ronaldo suggested he is not considering retirement any time soon.

"I still have a passion for this," he said at the Portugal Football Globes gala on Tuesday. "My family says it's time to quit and they ask me why I want to score 1000 goals if I've already scored 900-something. But I don't think that way inside."

"I'm still producing good things, I'm helping my club and the national team. Why not continue? I am sure that when I finish I will leave full because I gave everything of myself. I know I don't have many years left to play, but the few I have left, I have to enjoy them to the fullest."