

Three Iranian Greco-Roman Wrestlers Advance to Quarterfinals at U-23 World Championships



TEHRAN — Three members of Iran's Greco-Roman wrestling team — Ahoura Bouyeri, Gholamreza Farkhi, and Fardin Hedayati — have advanced to the quarterfinals of the 2025 U23 World Wrestling Championships in Serbia, following a strong start in the opening four weight categories.

In the 63 kg division, which features 24 competitors, Mohammad Javad Aboutalebi received a bye

in the first round but lost 3-1 to Babashov of Azerbaijan in his second bout. His chance to compete for a bronze medal now depends on whether his Azerbaijani opponent reaches the final.

In the 77 kg category (28 participants), Ahoura Bouyeri defeated Sepiuskas of Lithuania 14-4 in his opening match and then overcame Yeldos Kamlov of Kazakhstan 10-5 to secure his place in the quarterfinals. Bouyeri will face Nakibov of Uzbekistan for a spot in the semifinals.

In the 87 kg division, which also includes 28 wrestlers, Gholamreza Farkhi, a senior world champion, showcased dominant form

by defeating Valiev of Azerbaijan 8-0 in the first round and Alimjanov of Uzbekistan 9-1 in the second, advancing to the quarterfinals. He will next meet Rivalta of Italy.

Meanwhile, in the 130 kg category with 21 participants, Fardin Hedayati advanced directly to the second round after receiving a bye, where he overpowered Chilashvili of Georgia with a commanding 9-0 technical win to reach the quarterfinals.

The eighth edition of the U-23 World Championships - kicked off in Novi Sad, Serbia on October 20 with 700 wrestlers competing in the eighth-day tournament.

Sepahan, Ahal Desperate for Victory in ACL Two

TEHRAN — Sepahan of Iran and Turkmenistan's Ahal football team will be equally desperate for victory when they square off in Group C of the 2025-26 AFC Champions League Two.

Jordan's Al Hussein has already defeated both sides and looks set to claim

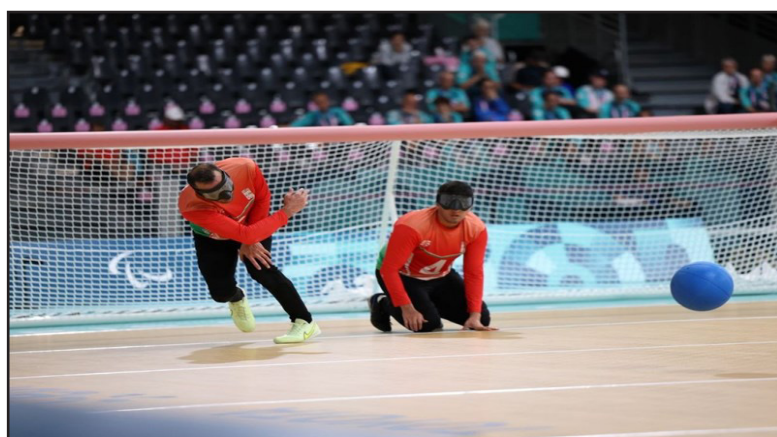


one of the two knockout stage spots.

Ahal was beaten 4-1 by Al Hussein while the Jordanian side edged Sepahan 1-0, leaving victory as the only option for both sides on Tuesday.

The match will be held in Isfahan's Naghsh-e Jahan Stadium.

Goalball Athletes Into Asia Pacific Championship Semifinals



TEHRAN (Tasnim) — Iran defeated Uzbekistan 11-1 in the 2025 Asia Pacific Goalball Championship on Monday and secured its place in the semifinals.

Iran has previously defeated Saudi Arabia, Australia, Thailand, and Uzbekistan in the competition.

The championship, organized by the Pakistan Blind Sports Federation, features 17 teams from 11 countries, including Kazakhstan, Iran, Japan, Thailand, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Iraq, and Uzbekistan.

The games started on October 16 at the Sports Complex Liaquat Gymnasium in Islamabad and will run for 10 days.

Report: Branko Ivankovic Set to Take Over Persepolis Coaching

TEHRAN — Croatian coach Branko Ivankovic is reportedly poised to take charge of Persepolis football club in Iran premier league.

Ivankovic, 71, was fired as China's national team coach in

late June following his side's elimination from the qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup.

The Croat has been linked with Persepolis and said he has had positive discussions with the club.

Under his leadership, Persepolis won Iran's league titles in 2017, 2018, and 2019. He also guided Persepolis to the AFC Champions League final in 2018.

Persepolis CEO Reza Darvish

resigned from his role hours after a 2-1 loss to Kheybar on Saturday night.

Vahid Hashemian is currently in charge of Persepolis, but the former Bayern Munich striker has yet to meet expectations.

Esteghlal, Al Wehdat Looking for Points

TEHRAN — Iran's Esteghlal football team will host Al Wehdat and neither team can afford to drop points after having suffered defeats in their two opening matches in Group A of the 2025-26 AFC Champions League (ACL).

The match will be held in Tehran's Shahr-E Qods Stadium.

Also, Al Muharraq of Bahrain will host Al Wasl in a meeting between two teams with perfect records.

Al Muharraq defeated Esteghlal 1-0 three weeks ago while UAE's Al Wasl beat Al Wehdat of Jordan



2-1. With the sides set for a double header, victory for either team on

Wednesday will take them within touching distance of a knockout stage spot.

Iranian Kurash Athletes Win Medals at 3rd Asian Youth Games



TEHRAN — Iran's Mahsa Barzegar and Yousef Baghchighi won a bronze and a silver medal respectively at the 3rd Asian Youth Games on Sunday.

Barzegar first defeated Syrine Mae Bacani from the Philippines 10-0 in the quarterfinals round of the Girls -70kg but lost to Kyrgyzstan's Saniet Talaibekova 10-0 in the semifinals.

Baghchighi lost to Uzbekistan's Otabek Yuldashboev

2-0 in the final bout of Boys' -65Kg.

He had defeated Indian Vaibhav Ohri and Afghanistan's Mohammad Mohammadi 10-0 on his way to the final.

The 3rd Asian Youth Games is taking place in Bahrain from October 22 to 31.

The Games serve as qualifiers for the 2026 Youth Olympic Games in Dakar.

Iran has sent 236 athletes to the Games.

Alireza Mortazi Wins Bronze at Pencak Silat



TEHRAN (Tasnim) — Iranian Pencak Silat athlete Alireza Mortazi claimed a bronze medal at the 2025 Asian Youth Games (AYG).

Temir Bikboev of Kyrgyzstan defeated Mortazi 23-4 in the Boys' 59Kg-63Kg semifinals.

He had defeated Bahrain's Jassim Al-Sabaie 46-3 in quarterfinals.

Uzbekistan's Nurislom Ruziboev will face Bikboev in the final.

The 3rd Asian Youth Games is taking place in Bahrain from October 22 to 31.

Pencak silat is a full-body fighting form incorporating strikes, grappling, and throwing, in addition to weaponry. Every part of the body is used and subject to attack.

The Games serve as qualifiers for the 2026 Youth Olympic Games in Dakar.

Iran has sent 236 athletes to the Games.

Volleyball Star Saber Kazemi Comes Out of Coma

TEHRAN — Iranian international volleyball player Saber Kazemi has woken up from an induced coma.

Kazemi, who recently signed with the Qatari side Al Rayyan and had appeared in their training sessions, suffered severe brain damage on Friday.

He was immediately hospitalized and placed in a coma but he has woken up from come. The treatment process is reportedly ongoing with seriousness.



Kazemi has been one of Iran's rising volleyball stars after competing in interna-

tional events such as the Olympics and the Asian Championship.