



Girls' Handball Wins First-Ever Asian Youth Games Gold

TEHRAN — Iran's girls' handball team has won the first-ever gold in the history of women's handball at 3rd Asian Youth Games in Bahrain on Tuesday.

The Iranian athletes thrashed India in a thrilling win 43-26 in their final match at the event.

Earlier, the Iranian side had defeated China 30-25, Uz-

bekistan 27-24 and Kazakhstan 27-23, and Thailand 32-16.

The 3rd Asian Youth Games are taking place in Bahrain from Oct. 22 to 31.

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

Iran has sent 236 athletes to the Games.

U-23 Freestyle Wrestlers Finish Second at World Championships



TEHRAN — Iran's freestyle team finished in second place at the U-23 World Wrestling Championships 2025.

The U.S. sealed the team title with 137 points over Iran, which finished second with 127 points. Japan was third with 85 points.

For a second time this year, the United States and Iran were involved in a thrilling team title race in Freestyle at a World Championships with the U.S. eventually winning the title.

After being tied at 102 points each at the U-23 World Championships in Novi Sad, the U.S. needed one win and Iran needed to win all three bouts on the final day of the competition.

The U.S. sealed the team title as soon as Jaxen Forrest won the 61kg final, giving his country an unassailable lead of 137 points over Iran, which finished second with 127 points.

With the team title, U.S. won the top spot in Freestyle in all age-group World Championships while Iran won the title in senior Worlds.

Iran won two gold medals, one silver and three bronzes.

Abolfazl Muhammadnejad in 125kg and Mobin Azimi in 92kg won two gold medals.

Sina Khalili in 70kg seized a silver and three bronzes were won by Milad Valizadeh (57kg), Mehdi Yousefi (79kg) and Abolfazl Rahmani (86kg).

The 2025 World Wrestling Championships were held in Novi Sad, Serbia from October 20 to 27.

The 2025 U-23 World Wrestling Championships was the ninth edition of the U23 World Wrestling Championships of combined events and it held from 20 to 27 October 2025 in Novi Sad, Serbia.

Iran Attends Para Games Planning in Nagoya



TEHRAN (Dispatches) — Muhammad Pouladgar, deputy of Iran's National Paralympic Committee, is attending the chef de mission meeting for the 2026 Asian Para Games in Nagoya, Japan.

The two-day session, which began on Monday, provides an overview of the Games and its disciplines, covering topics including team housing, nutrition, medical services,

transportation, anti-doping, registration procedures, and the issuance of identification cards.

On the second day, delegations are scheduled to visit competition venues, including the opening ceremony stadium and the Asian Games Village.

The Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Para Games, set for October 18-24, 2026, will feature 18 sports.

3x3 Basketballers Earn Silver

TEHRAN — Iran's girls' 3x3 basketball team finished with the silver medal after a 15-14 loss to Chinese Taipei in the final of the Asian Youth Games, underway in Manama, Bahrain.

Iran advanced to the final by defeating the UAE (21-3), Chinese Taipei (11-9), Kazakhstan (21-10), India (15-10), and China (21-19) on its path to the gold medal match.

The Iranian sports caravan, titled

"Ambassadors of Hope," is participating in the third Asian Youth Games in Bahrain with 236 athletes in 22 disciplines.

The 2025 Asian Youth Games, officially the 3rd Asian Youth Games, and commonly Bahrain 2025, is the third edition of the Asian Youth Games, a pan-Asian multi-sport event currently taking place in Bahrain from 22 to 31 October 2025.



Messi Eyes 2026 World Cup Despite Age, Fitness Concerns

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Lionel Messi, still chasing international glory nearly two decades into his career, says he hopes to play at the 2026 World Cup in North America, acknowledging his age and fitness will dictate his role in defending Argentina's 2022 title.

The Argentine great recently extended his contract with Major League Soccer side Inter Miami through 2028, signalling he is not yet considering retirement despite turning 39 next June.

Speaking to NBC News, the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner said he will take time next year to assess his physical condition before deciding whether to play in the tournament across the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

"It's something extraordinary to be able to be in a World Cup, and I would love to," the Argentine cap-



tain said in the interview released on Monday.

"I would like to be there, to be well and be an important part of helping my team, if I am there. I'm going to assess that on a day-to-day basis when I start preseason next year with Inter (and see if I can really be 100 percent, if I can be useful and then make a decision.

"I'm really eager because it's a World Cup. We're coming off winning the last one, and being able to de-

fend it on the field again is spectacular because it's always a dream to play with the national team."

Messi has enjoyed a professional career spanning more than 20 years, debuting for Barcelona at just 17 in 2004 before playing for Paris St Germain and joining Inter Miami in 2023. He sparked fresh interest in the American league in a critical moment for the sport in North America ahead of hosting next year's World

Cup.

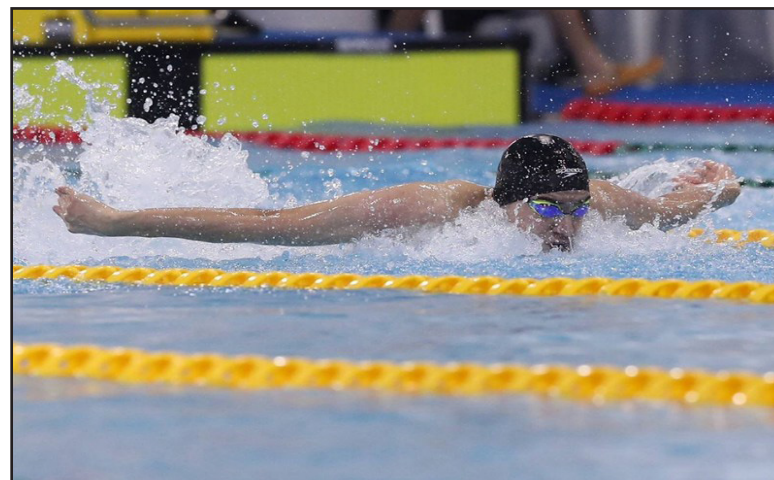
While Messi has amassed countless club and individual accolades, international success had eluded him until claiming the 2021 Copa America before beating France 4-2 on penalties to win the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

"It was the dream of my life," Messi said of the victory.

"It was also true that it was the only thing missing at a professional level because I had been lucky enough to have achieved everything at an individual level, at a team level with Barcelona, and I think that's every player's dream. When you ask a player what their dream is, it's to be world champion."

Messi has played in 195 matches and scored a record 114 goals for his country. A return for the 2026 World Cup would mark his sixth appearance in the tournament.

Mahdi Gholami Grabs Gold in Swimming



TEHRAN — Mohammad Mahdi Gholami has won Iran's 10th gold medal at the 2025 Asian Youth Games.

He claimed gold in the Boys' 100m Butterfly, marking Iran's first-ever gold in this event.

The silver went to Philipines' Jamesray Ajido, with a time of 55.11 seconds, while

Hong Kong's Kin Hei James Lau earned the bronze with a time of 55.23 seconds.

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