

Men, Women Sitting Volleyball Teams Advance to World Championship Quarterfinals



TEHRAN - Iran's men's and women defeated their opponents to secure a place among the top eight teams at the World Championships in Hangzhou, China.

Iran's men sitting volleyball team defeated Croatia in straight sets 25-17, 25-11, and 25-6 on Tuesday.

The team had previously recorded group-stage victories over Poland, Bosnia, and Japan, finishing top of their group with a perfect record and nine

points.

Iran will face the United States in the quarterfinals on Thursday.

Iran's women's sitting volleyballers defeated Germany in the round of 16 to advance to the quarterfinals of the event.

Iran won in straight sets 25-16, 25-17, and 25-14 on Tuesday.

The Iranian squad includes Zeinab Maleki, Fatemeh Jahani, Neda Panjebashi, Zahra Lotfi, Batoul Khalilzadeh, Fatemeh Abbasi, Mehri Fal-

lahi, Sepideh Jamaldoust, Maryam Kalhor, Maryam Nazeri, Zahra Nejati, and Farzaneh Heydari.

Iran had previously recorded wins over Rwanda and Kenya in the group stage, with their only loss coming against China.

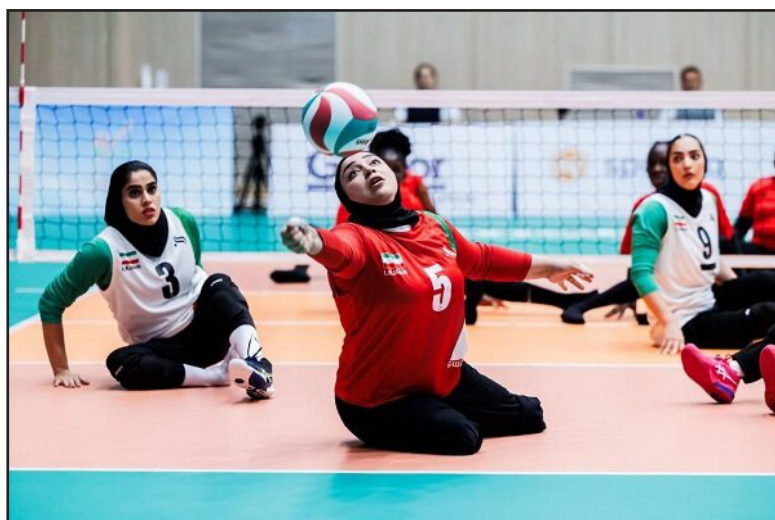
With a place among the top eight teams, Iran will now face the winner of the match between France and Canada.

Iran's women's sitting volleyball team secured ninth place in the world

rankings in 2022.

The 14th edition of the World Championships, which began on July 10 in Hangzhou, will continue until July 17. The two finalists in both the men's and women's divisions will secure qualification for the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympic Games.

Iran, with a record of eight championships, one runner-up finish, and three third-place finishes, is seeking its ninth world title in Hangzhou.



U-18 Volleyballers Beat Bahrain at AVC Championship



TEHRAN - Iran defeated Bahrain in straight sets (25-12, 25-18, 25-14) at the 2026 AVC Boys' U-18 Volleyball Championship on Tuesday.

The young Iranian team, who had defeated the Philippines 3-0 and India 3-1 in their opening matches in Pool B, will face South Korea on Wednesday.

Pool A features defending champions China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, and Indonesia. Pool C is composed of Pakistan, Thailand, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan; while Pool D includes Japan, South Korea, Australia, and Saudi Arabia.

The 2026 AVC Boys' U-18 Volleyball Championship is the 16th edition of the Asian Men's U-18 Volleyball Championship, a biennial international volleyball tournament organized by the

Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) with China Volleyball Association (CVA).

The tournament is scheduled to take place at Haikou Wuyuanhe Gymnasium in Haikou, China from 12 to 18 July.

This tournament will serve as the qualification tournament for the FIVB Volleyball Boys' U-19 World Championship. The top four teams of the tournament will advance to the 2027 FIVB Volleyball Boys' U-19 World Championship as the AVC representatives.

China are the defending champions after beating Iran 3-2 at the final in Manama.

Iran are the most decorated team in the competition, having won seven times, followed by Japan with three titles.

Ali Alipour Extends Contract With Persepolis



TEHRAN - Persepolis' striker and Iran international Ali Alipour has signed a one-year contract extension after reaching an agreement with club CEO Peyman Haddadi.

Iranian professional footballer who plays as a striker for Persian Gulf Pro League club Persepolis and the Iran national team.

At the age of 19 years and 185 days, Alipour was the youngest-ever player to score in the Tehran derby after scoring in Persepolis 1-0 victory on 15 May 2015. He is the only player in Tehran derby history who has scored the winning goal in two derby matches.

Alipour joined Persepolis in 2014 and has played for the Reds in Iranian football

league. He has played in 275 matches for the Persepolis and could increase his number of goals for the team to 100 next season and surpass Ali Parvin's record for the number of official games.

Alipour started his career with Nassaji Mazandaran. He made his professional debut in 2010 at the age of 14 with Azadegan League club Nassaji Mazandaran.

Alipour also has the record of being the top scorer in the Iranian Premier League. Four championship titles in the Premier League, the National Cup and the Super Cup, and participation in the first Iranian football championship are among his honors with the Red Persepolis shirt.

Iran's Flag-Bearers Announced for 2026 Asian Games

TEHRAN - Atoussa Golshadnejad and Fazel Atrachali will carry Iran's flag into the 2026 Asian Games, the Executive Board of the National Olympic Committee said on Tuesday.

The selection of the flag bearers of Iran's sports convoy in the 2026 Asian Games was one of the topics discussed at the 66th meeting of the Executive Board of the National Olympic Committee, which was held at



the committee's premises.

Accordingly, Atoussa Golshadnejad, the world karate champion, and Fazel Atrachali, the captain

of the national kabaddi team, were appointed as the flag bearers of Iran's convoy in the games.

This is the first time that

athletes from karate and kabaddi have been selected as the flag bearers of Iran's convoy in the Asian Games. Previously, athletes from wrestling, weightlifting, football, shooting, basketball, and taekwondo had assumed this responsibility.

The 20th Asian Games will be held in Nagoya from September 19 to October 12. The Iranian contingent will participate in the Games with 308 athletes.

Women's Taekwondo Team to Face India

TEHARN - The Iranian women's national taekwondo team will face India in its first match at the World Cup in South Korea.

The women's competition will be held on July 14, 2026, in the continuation of the Taekwondo World Cup, which is taking place in South Korea and the city of Changcheon.

There are eight teams in this section, and Iran's team will face India in the first round, and if it wins to advance to

the final, it will face the winner of Russia and South Korea.

On the other side of the table, Morocco will fight Kazakhstan and Thailand will fight China.

Iran's roster includes Yalda Valinejad, Baran Nemati, Fatemeh Ahmadi and Hasti Mohammadi in the edition.

In the men's section, the Iranian national team lost to Thailand in its first match on Tuesday and was eliminated.

