

Benyamin Faraji Wins Laos World Youth Championship



TEHRAN - Iranian table tennis player Benyamin Faraji has won the title of Laos World Table Tennis Contender Under-19 Competition. The 17-year-old became

the sensation of the international competitions held in Laos on Monday after he managed to crush Abhinandan Pradivadi from India in an exciting and close match with a score of 3-2 and stood on the first platform of the competition.

Iran's table tennis player won the first, fourth and fifth games in this match with the scores of 15-13, 11-9 and 11-9, respectively, and won the championship trophy.

Faraji defeated representatives from Hong Kong,

South Korea, Chinese Taipei and India on his way to the championship, and with a stunning performance, brought Iran the gold medal of this tournament.

Amir Bakhshi, the coach of the national youth team, lead the table tennis players sent to the Laos competition.

The Vientiane Youth Contender Competition was hosted by Laos from August 28 to 29, and was attended by the world's table tennis powers.

Freestyle Wrestlers Finish Runners-Up by One Point at U-17 World Championships



TEHRAN - Iran finished runner-up in the freestyle team standings at the U-17 World Wrestling Championships after collecting six medals, ending just one point behind champion Russia in a dramatic finish in Baku.

The championships, organized by United World Wrestling (UWW), were held at the National Gymnastics Arena in Baku from July 27 to Aug. 2, with Greco-Roman, women's wrestling and freestyle contests taking place over seven days.

Iran amassed 145 points in the freestyle competition, one fewer than Russia's winning total of 146. India placed third with 123 points, followed by Uzbekistan with 101 and Kazakhstan with 93.

Iran's campaign was powered by three gold medals.

Benyamin Ashofteh claimed the 51kg title, Reza Shamsipour won gold at 71kg and Amirali Ferasati

topped the podium at 80kg. The trio capped an impressive showing for the Iranian team.

Iran added a silver medal through Amir Hussein Esmali in the 110kg division.

Two more podium finishes came from Arman Elahi, who earned bronze at 55kg, and Sam Arshad, who finished third at 65kg.

Earlier in the championships, Iran's Greco-Roman team finished third overall with 96 points.

The Greco-Roman squad won four medals, including golds for Amirreza Tahmasbpour at 60kg and Alireza Rezaei at 80kg. Amirreza Mehri secured bronze at 92kg, while Aliakbar Akoo added another bronze in the 110kg class. Russia won the Greco-Roman team title with 127 points, followed by host Azerbaijan on 107, with Iran completing the podium on 96.

ISSF Head Hails Hanieh Rostamian

TEHRAN - President and Secretary General of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Luciano Rossi has congratulated Hanieh Rostamian on winning the bronze medal at the Hangzhou World Cup in China.

The President and Secretary General of the International Shooting Federation sent a message to Soheil Barkhodari, the head of the Iranian Shooting Federation, congratulating Hanieh Rostamian on winning the bronze medal at the Hangzhou World Cup in China.

In the message, the ISSF head hailed the brilliant results of Hanieh Rostamian for claiming the bronze medal in the



women's 10m air pistol at the Shooting World Cup held in Hangzhou.

He said: "The achievement not only demonstrates the athlete's commitment, talent and relentless effort, but also demonstrates the continued sup-

port and effective role of Iran's Federation in the growth and advancement of the sport of shooting. These achievements are a source of pride for your country and make a valuable contribution to the development and promotion of the

sport of shooting internationally. Please convey our most sincere congratulations to the athlete, the technical staff and coaches, and all those who contributed to this success."

In January, 2026, the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) officially announced the 2025 world rankings, placing Iran's Hanieh Rostamian among the top 10 shooters of the year.

Rostamian ranked 7th in the 25-meter pistol event and 8th in the 10-meter pistol event.

Another Iranian representative, Vahid Golkahdan, also made the rankings, finishing among the top 20 shooters in the 10-meter pistol category.

Iran Call Up 24 Women Futsal Players



TEHRAN - head coach of Iran's women futsal team Shahrzad Mozaffar announced the names of 24 players for women's national futsal team.

The camp will be held from August 11 at the National Football Center.

The second selection camp for the national women's futsal team will be held on Wednesday afternoon, August 11 at the National Football Center, where Shahrzad Mozaffar, the team's head coach, announced the names of the players invited to the camp as follows:

Anahita Balavard and Shima Kiani, Hanieh Heydarza-

deh, Mahdiah Nezamdoost, Hananeh Basareh, Fatemeh Bidar, Sara Fekri, Maedeh Najafi, Hananeh Salmani, Aida Bahramian and Zahra Parhonor, Arnia Mohammadi, Melina Khorshid and Mahdis Rezvani, Delnia Bahrami Rad, Tahereh Yaqouti, Narges Mohammadi and Fatemeh Sobhani, Fatemeh Abdolrahimi, Mahdiah Tarmiller, Yasna Yaqoubi and Nazanin Zahra Gholipour, Narges Gholamzadeh and Mobina Mohammadi

Volleyball Team to Hold Camp in Russia Ahead of Asian Championship



TEHRAN - Iran's national men's volleyball team will depart for a 10-day training camp in Russia on Aug. 20 as part of their final preparations for the 2026 Asian Men's Volleyball Championship.

The Iranian squad will travel to Russia with a 14-player roster before heading directly to Japan for the continental championship. The team are currently holding their training camp in Tehran, with head coach Roberto Piazza's staff continuing preparations.

The 2026 Asian Men's Volleyball Championship carries added significance, serving as the first qualifying stage for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic

Games. Under the competition regulations, the tournament champions will secure a direct berth at the 2028 Olympics.

In addition to the Olympic qualification spot, the championship also offers places at the 2027 FIVB Volleyball Men's World Cup, with the top three finishers earning qualification for the global event.

With Olympic qualification on the line, the tournament is expected to be one of the most competitive editions of the Asian Championship, as the continent's leading teams battle for both continental supremacy and a place on volleyball's biggest international stages.

Iraq's Al-Talaba Sign Iranian Player Morteza Pouraliganji

TEHRAN - Iraq's football club has signed a deal with Iranian player Morteza Pouraliganji for the new season.

Al-Naqil's moves are part of a strategy to reinforce the backline with international experience, in preparation for the 2026-2027 Iraqi Premier League.

Morteza Morteza Pouraliganji is 34 years old and has a long career at both club and national team levels.

He has previously represented the Iranian national team in many official matches, as well as playing for major

clubs in Asia, most notably Persepolis and Al Sadd, in addition to a professional stint in the Chinese league.

The player is recognized for his strength in aerial duels and his ability to lead the defensive line, which is exactly what Al-Student's management is looking for to enhance the team's defensive stability.

Al Talaba's management is aiming to combine experience and solidity in the heart of defense through this signing, having made several local contracts during the current transfer window.

