

Women's Volleyball Reaches Historic 100-Point Mark After Asian Championship Win



Iranian women's national volleyball team poses for a photo following victory over Chinese Taipei at 2026 Asian Women's Volleyball Championship in Tianjin, China, on August 21, 2026.

TEHRAN - Iranian women's volleyball team reached a historic milestone by surpassing 100 points in the FIVB world rankings after opening their 2026 Asian Women's Volleyball Championship campaign with a 3-1 victory over Chinese Taipei.

The tournament is being held in China's Tianjin from August 21 to 30, with 12 teams competing for the Asian title.

China, Chinese Taipei, Iran and Iraq make up Pool A, while the top two teams from each group and the two best third-placed sides will advance to the quarterfinals. The champion will also earn direct qualification for

the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Iran initially struggled against Chinese Taipei on Friday, dropping the opening set 25-16. The Iranian side, coached by Alireza Tolou Kian, responded strongly, edging the second set 27-25 before taking the third 25-19 and closing out the match 25-14.

Elaheh Poursaleh led all scorers with 25 points as Iran secured a victory that marked the team's first-ever win over Chinese Taipei in the Asian Women's Volleyball Championship.

The result also delivered a landmark gain in the FIVB world ranking. Iran collected 8.87 ranking points from the victory, taking its total to 104.47

and lifting the team to 41st in the world. The FIVB's official ranking system awards points according to results in major international competitions and is updated regularly.

The victory was particularly significant given Chinese Taipei's recent form. The team finished runner-up at the 2026 AVC Women's Cup in June, while Iran placed seventh in the same competition.

Iran captain Shabnam Alikhani said detailed preparation had helped the team approach the match with confidence.

"Our detailed analysis and knowledge of Chinese Taipei gave the play-

ers the belief that we could beat this fast team," Alikhani said. She added that the squad hoped to maintain the same intensity throughout the remainder of the tournament.

Tolou Kian also highlighted the significance of the result, saying Iran had been more organized and had secured a first-ever victory over Chinese Taipei at the Asian championship.

The coach, however, pointed to the need to remain realistic about the team's goal. He identified South Korea, Vietnam, Kazakhstan and Chinese Taipei as the teams Iran should be targeting, while acknowledging the considerable experience of continental powers such as China, Japan and Thailand, who have regularly competed at the highest international level.

"We do not want to think in an idealistic way," Tolou Kian said, emphasizing that Iran's immediate objective should be to defeat the teams within its competitive reach and build on the opening victory.

Iran's next Pool A match is against host China on Monday. China is among the strongest teams in the competition and has won the Asian women's championship 13 times, while Thailand enter the tournament as defending champions.

The 2026 championship carries added importance beyond the continental title: the winner will secure a direct place at the 2028 Olympics, while the top three finishers will qualify for the 2027 FIVB Women's Volleyball World Championship.

Para Taekwondo Team Wins 13 Medals at Asian President's Cup



TEHRAN - Iran's para taekwondo representatives concluded their campaign at the Asian President's Cup in Pakistan with 13 medals, including five golds, three silvers and five bronzes.

Aylar Jami won gold in the women's -47kg category, while Maryam Abdollahpour claimed the top spot in the -57kg division.

In the men's competitions, Muhammad Taha Hassanpour (-58kg), Amir Hussein Alizadeh (-63kg) and Amir Muhammad Haghighatshenas (-70kg) also secured gold medals for Iran.

Iran's three silver medals were won by Zahra Rahimi in the women's -57kg category, Marzieh Nasrollahi in the women's -65kg division and Hamed Haghsheenas in the men's +80kg

category.

Amir Joudi (-70kg), Alireza Bakht (-80kg), Parimah Tourani (-65kg), Rosa Ebrahimi (-52kg) and Zahra Soltani (-47kg) earned bronze medals.

Iran therefore finished the Asian President's Cup with five gold, three silver and five bronze medals.

The Iranian men's team was led by head coach Mehdi Ahmadi and coach Ali Karimi Saber, while Atefeh Keshavarz served as head coach of the women's team, assisted by coach Shaghayegh Khanjani.

Iran participated in the competition as part of its efforts to collect more ranking points ahead of upcoming international para taekwondo events.

Iran Advance to FIBA U-18 Asia Cup Quarterfinals



TEHRAN - Iran's national U-18 boys' basketball team advanced to the quarterfinals of the FIBA U-18 Asia Cup after defeating India 83-66 on Thursday.

Iran faced hosts India in the play-off round for a place in the quarterfinals at Veer Savarkar Sports Complex in Ahmedabad and secured a 17-point victory.

Iran won the first three quarters 21-16, 26-17 and 23-13, while India took the fourth quarter 20-13.

Mehammad Yashar Kamalkhaleli led Iran with 23 points and an efficiency rating of 17, while Soheil

Soleimannejad scored 14 points and recorded an efficiency rating of 20.

Iran had reached the playoff round after finishing second in Group C, recording victories over Qatar and Sri Lanka and suffering one defeat against China.

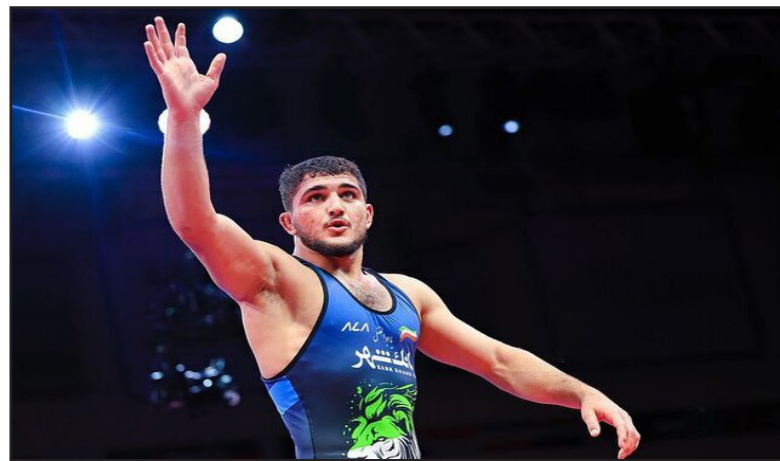
The FIBA U-18 Asia Cup is being held in Ahmedabad, India, with 16 teams divided into four groups of four. The tournament runs from August 13 to 23, with the top four teams earning qualification for the 2027 FIBA U-19 Basketball World Cup.

Rahmani Reaches U-20 World Wrestling Final

TEHRAN - Iran's Abolfazl Rahmani advanced to the final of the World U-20 Freestyle Wrestling Championships in Slovakia Friday, while Arman Elahi and Ali Asghar Tat were eliminated and Sobhan Esmi moved into the repechage round.

Competing in the 92kg category, Rahmani defeated Romania's Adrian Sas 11-0 by technical superiority in the semifinals, becoming Iran's only finalist across the first six weight classes of the tournament.

Rahmani received a bye in the opening round before defeating Japan's Hisashi Konishi 12-2 by technical superiority. He then cruised past Belarus' Alan Saga-



raev 11-0 in the quarterfinals.

At 57kg, Arman Elahi received a first-round bye before losing 12-6 to Kyrgyzstan's Zamirbekov. Elahi was eliminated after the Kyrgyz wrestler lost to his Russian opponent in the semifinals, ending Elahi's hopes of entering the repechage.

At 65kg, Ali Asghar Tat opened his campaign with a 10-0 victory over Uzbekistan's Anvarbekov before defeating Ukraine's Viktor Borokhan 8-5.

Tat then lost 5-3 to Russia's Umarov in the quarterfinals. He was eliminated after Umarov was beaten by

an American wrestler before reaching the final.

At 79kg, Sobhan Esmi received a bye in the first round before suffering a 10-0 defeat against Russia's Khaniev. With Khaniev advancing to the final, Esmi earned a place in the repechage round and remains in contention for a bronze medal.

In the opening two weight categories, Iran's Ahura Khateri reached the 61kg bronze-medal bout, while Abolfazl Shamsipour was eliminated from the 86kg competition.

Three Iranian wrestlers have now been eliminated across the first six weight categories of the championships.

Volleyball Team Loses to Russia in Ufa Cup Tournament



TEHRAN - The Iranian national volleyball team lost to Russia in its first match in the Ufa Four-way tournament on

Friday.

The Iranian national volleyball team, which arrived in the city last night to participate in

the Ufa Four-way tournament, played its first match against Russia on Friday and lost 3-1.

Ali Hajipour, Arshia Behnezhad, Seyed Essa Naseri, Muhammad Valizadeh, Pouria Hussein Khanzadeh, Ali Haghpour and Muhammad Reza Hazratpour were the starting lineup of the Iranian national volleyball team in this match.

Amin Esmail Nejad, Ilshan Davoudipour, Muhammad Nima Batani, Morteza Sharifi, Esmail Musafer, Mobin Nasri and Hossein Hajikolate are the other players sent by Iran to this tournament and the Asian Men's Championship.

Sayyadmanesh Scores, Assists as Lech Poznań Thrash FC Thun in European Cups

TEHRAN - Swiss champions FC Thun suffered a 0-7 defeat in the first leg of their Europa League playoff against Lech Poznań.

This is the second highest victory of the Polish club in European cups in the 21st century.

Iranian striker Allahyar Sayyadmanesh scores and helped the Lech Poznań beat the Swiss team in in European cups.

The opener 10 minutes in gave Kolejorz the perfect start, but a three-goal haul in the space of 11 minutes later on in the first half practically ended the tie.

A fifth was added just before the break, with two more scored in the second half as Thun had no answers to their opponents' ruthless finishing.

Lech, who last reached the Europa League proper in 2020/21, also scored seven times last summer in a Champions League qualifier against Breidablik. However, Thursday's victory was their largest-ever in a UEFA club competition match.

The seven goals conceded are already the most Thun have let in across a two-legged tie.

