

Iranian Badminton Players Win Central Asian Title With 15 Medals



TEHRAN - Iranian badminton players won the Central Asian Championship in Khujand, Tajikistan, by winning the team category and winning 11 gold and 4 silver medals in the Central Asian singles and doubles categories.

Iranian players delivered brilliant performances in the finals of the singles and doubles competitions and won 11 gold and 4 silver medals in the event.

In the women's category, Iranian players in the under-16, under-19 and under-23 age groups took part in the final matches, and won five championship titles and two runner-up titles.

In the under-19 singles, Aysan Zarei won the championship title by defeating Diana Namenova from Kazakhstan.

In the U-16 singles, Termeh Husseini Volokhlai faced Sofia Zakrova from Uzbekistan and lost 2-1 to win the silver medal.

In the U-19 doubles, Hana Molakarimi and Aysan Zarei won the championship by defeating the representatives of Uzbekistan.

In the U-23 doubles, Ferdows Foroughi and Aysan Shorideh Ziabari won the championship title by defeating the representatives of Kazakhstan.

In the U-16 doubles, Zahra

Amni and Termeh Husseini Volokhlai won the gold medal by defeating the representatives of Uzbekistan.

In the U-23 singles, an all-Iranian match was held between Aysan Shorideh Ziabari and Ferdows Foroughi, in which Ferdows Foroughi won the championship by defeating the representatives of Uzbekistan by defeating the representatives of Uzbekistan.

In the U-23 singles, a match was held between Aysan Shorideh Ziabari and Seyde Aysan Shorideh Ziabari, in which Aysan Shorideh Ziabari won the silver medal with a 2-0 victory and Aysan Shorideh

Ziabari won the silver medal.

In the men's section, and in the U-19 singles, Muhammad Matin Ghasemi won the championship title by defeating Amir Ali Ahmadlu.

In the U-23 singles, Ali Hayati won the gold medal by defeating Maqsood Tajibulayev from Kazakhstan.

In the U-16 singles, Amir Muhammad Mardane won the championship by defeating Amir Reza Harif Bilandi, and Amir Reza Harif Bilandi won the silver medal.

In the U-19 doubles, Amir Ali Ahmadlu and Muhammad Matin Ghasemi won the championship title by defeating representatives from Uzbekistan.

In the U-16 doubles, Amir Reza Harif Bilandi and Amir Muhammad Mardane won the championship by defeating representatives from Kazakhstan.

In the U-23 doubles, Ali Hayati and Amir Hussein Hassani won the gold medal by defeating representatives from Kazakhstan.

The fifth Central Asian Regional Badminton Championships was held in Tajikistan with the participation of representatives from the countries of the region, and the competitions were held in the age categories under 16, under 19, and under 23.

Iran Basketball Team Drops to Seventh in FIBA Asia Rankings



TEHRAN - The Iranian national basketball team has slipped two spots to seventh place in the latest FIBA Asia power rankings following consecutive defeats to New Zealand and the Philippines during the fourth window of the 2027 FIBA World Cup Asian Qualifiers.

According to the latest rankings released by the International Basketball Federation (FIBA), Team Melli's drop comes after a challenging international window. Iran first suffered a narrow 93-91 overtime heartbreak against New Zealand before falling 68-56 to the Philippines.

In its analytical report, FIBA highlighted the return of Mohammad Amini to the national squad. Amini, who recently competed in the NBA Summer League with the Boston Celtics, averaged 11.5 points across the two matchups. However, he

struggled heavily with his shooting efficiency, converting just 20.7 percent of his field-goal attempts and missing all 12 of his three-point shots.

The FIBA report also underscored the glaring void left by key absentees. Iran continues to feel the loss of Sina Vahedi, who is still undergoing rehabilitation for a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL), alongside the absence of veteran guard Behnam Yakhchali.

In the updated continental standings, Australia maintains its firm grip on the top spot, followed by New Zealand, Japan, the Philippines, China, and Lebanon. Iran sits in seventh place, ahead of South Korea, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Syria, which round out the top 12 teams in the current FIBA Asia power rankings for the 2027 World Cup Qualifiers.

Croatia's HNK Rijeka Sign Muhammad Mohebi on Free Transfer

TEHRAN - Croatia's Rijeka football club has completed the signing of Iran international Muhammad Mohebi, adding an experienced and versatile attacker to Matjaž Kek's squad on the final day of the transfer window across much of Europe.

The 27-year-old passed his medical before signing a two-year contract at Rujevica. Mohebi arrives as a free agent following the expiration of his contract with Russian side Rostov, meaning Rijeka did not have to pay a transfer fee.

The Iranian said the club's ambitions played an important role in his decision to move to Croatia.

"Thank you for the warm welcome. I did some research into the history of the city and the club and saw that there are big ambitions here. I liked that and that's why I came to Rijeka. I hope we can try to win trophies together," Mohebi said.

Standing 186cm tall, Mohebi operates primarily on the left wing but can also play on the opposite flank or through the middle. He arrives with considerable international experience as an established member of the Iran national team.

Mohebi featured three times for Iran at this summer's World Cup and made his biggest impact against New Zealand, scoring with a header to secure a 2-2 draw.

"That experience was very important



for me because I didn't play at the World Cup in Qatar. We wanted to progress, but unfortunately we couldn't do it. We ended up drawing three times and simply didn't have any luck. Hopefully we can be more successful at the next World Cup and Asian Cup," he said.

His recent World Cup experience gives Kek another player accustomed to football

at the highest international level, while his ability to cover several attacking positions should offer Rijeka greater flexibility.

Mohebi spent the previous three seasons with Rostov, recording 15 goals and 11 assists in 80 league appearances. Last season he made 28 appearances in the Russian league, scoring three goals and providing another three assists.

Before moving to Russia, he represented Iranian clubs Shahin Bushehr, Sepahan and Esteghlal. Mohebi had already experienced European football with Portuguese side Santa Clara, giving him experience of different leagues and playing styles before his arrival in Croatia.

Red Bull Salzburg were also reportedly interested in the Iranian during the summer, but Mohebi ultimately opted for Rijeka and the opportunity to work under Kek.

"I can play in several positions, on the wing, in attack and in midfield. The most important thing is to play and help the team. I've played in Portugal and Russia, which are good leagues, so I think I bring a lot of experience," Mohebi said.

For Rijeka, securing a 27-year-old international with World Cup experience without paying a transfer fee represents an intriguing late-window addition. Kek now has another experienced attacking option as Rijeka prepare for the challenges ahead.

Asian Volleyball Championship Schedule Released as Iran Target Olympic Berth



TEHRAN - The 2026 Asian Men's Volleyball Championship—doubling as the opening qualification stage for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games—is set to begin on Friday, September 4, in Japan.

The ten-day tournament features 12 national teams divided into three pools competing through September 13. Iran has been drawn into Pool B alongside China, India, and New Zealand.

The preliminary round opens on Friday, September 4, with Iran facing New Zealand in its opening match at 07:00 IRST. South Korea will play Chinese Taipei at 10:30 IRST, followed by host nation Japan taking on Oman at 14:00 IRST.

Action continues on Saturday, September 5, featuring Australia against Bahrain at 04:30 IRST, China facing India at 08:00 IRST, and Qatar meeting Thailand at 11:30 IRST.

Iran returns to the court on Sunday, September 6, to play India at 04:30 IRST, while Qatar faces Chinese Taipei at 08:00 IRST and Japan takes on Bahrain at 14:00 IRST.

Monday's slate on September 7 includes Oman against Australia at 04:30 IRST, New Zealand against

China at 08:00 IRST, and Thailand taking on South Korea at 11:30 IRST.

On Tuesday, September 8, India plays New Zealand at 04:30 IRST, Qatar meets South Korea at 08:00 IRST, and Japan faces Australia at 14:00 IRST.

The preliminary round concludes on Wednesday, September 9, as Bahrain plays Oman at 04:30 IRST, Chinese Taipei meets Thailand at 08:00 IRST, and Iran clashes with China in a high-stakes fixture at 11:30 IRST.

At the conclusion of the pool stage, the top two teams from each group will advance directly to the quarter-finals, joined by the two best third-placed teams across all pools. Standings for the remaining quarter-final spots will be determined by match wins, total points, set ratio, point ratio, and head-to-head results.

The quarterfinals are scheduled for September 10 and 11, followed by the semi-finals on September 12. The tournament will conclude on Sunday, September 13, with the third-place match and the final, where the champion will secure direct qualification for LA 2028.

10 Karatekas to Compete in Nagoya Asian Games

TEHRAN - The Vice President of the Karate Federation said that 10 Iranian karatekas and one referee will participate in the Nagoya Asian Games.

Saeed Nasrollahi, speaking to reporters on Wednesday on the sidelines of the general and annual assembly of the Zanjan Province Karate board, added, karate is one of the disciplines that will be present in the Nagoya Asian Games in both the men's and women's divisions, and the only karate referee in these competitions is "Leila Jafari" from Zanjan Province.

He added, in the men's division, four athletes will partici-

pate in the Kumite and Kata disciplines, and in the women's division, six athletes are also in the team, and in total, 10 athletes, including four men and six women, will represent Iranian karate in the Nagoya Asian Games.

Nasrollahi continued, in the men's division, there will be one athlete in the individual kata, and three other athletes will compete in the kumite division, and in the women's division, for the first time, team kata will be held at the Asian Games, and Iran will also have a representative in this division.



Regarding the number of athletes present in the kumite division, he said: In the team

kumite, each team has three athletes, and competitions will be held in different categories.