Ali Alipour Clinches Bronze Medal at World Weightlifting Championships



TEHRAN - **Iran's weightlifter Ali Alipour has secured the bronze medal in the snatch event in the 95kg category at the 2026 World Weightlifting Championships.**

The 2026 World Weightlifting Championships — which serve as the first qualifying stage for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics—continued with the 95kg category in Ningbo, China on Wednesday . Ali Alipour delivered an exceptional performance in the snatch, challenging both world and Olympic champions.

Alipour competed with prominent athletes such as Bulgaria's Karlos Nasar and Qatar's Fares El-Bakh.

Alipour, who recently won the overall gold medal at the 2026 Asian Games in Nagoya, claimed the bronze medal in the snatch by successfully lifting 181 kg.

To secure the broze medal, Alipour first lifted 176 kg. For his second attempt, the coaching staff selected 181 kg—a weight the young athlete from West Azerbaijan Province handled with ease. In his third attempt, Alipour attempted to lift 184 kg but was unsuccessful.

In the snatch event, Bulgaria's Karlos Nasar won the gold medal and set a new world record by successfully lifting 185 kg. Nurgissa Adiletuly took the silver medal with a lift of 182 kg.

Greco-Roman Wrestlers Rise in UWW Rankings



TEHRAN - **Several Iranian Greco-Roman wrestlers have climbed in the latest United World Wrestling (UWW) rankings following the conclusion of the 2026 World Championships in Kazakhstan, while Muhammad Hadi Saravi dropped three places to sixth.**

United World Wrestling released its updated Greco-Roman rankings after the conclusion of the 2026 World Wrestling Championships in Kazakhstan, with several Iranian national team members improving their positions.

The latest rankings of Iranian wrestlers across the 10 weight categories are as follows:

55kg: Payam Ahmadi, a world silver medalist in the past two years, remained unchanged in third place.

60kg: Ali Ahmadi Vafa, a world silver medalist, climbed 15 places to third in the rankings.

63kg: Muhammad Mehdi Keshtkar dropped eight places to 12th following his unsuccessful campaign at the World Championships.

67kg: Saeid Esmaeili, a world champion in the past two years, secured third place in the rankings.

72kg: Danial Sohrabi, who won gold at the World Championships in Kazakhstan, moved up two places to second.

77kg: Ali Osko, a world bronze medalist, climbed nine places to third.

82kg: Gholamreza Farokhi, a world champion in the past two years, rose two places to fourth.

87kg: Alireza Mohmedi, a world and Olympic silver medalist, slipped one place to fifth.

97kg: Mohammad Hadi Saravi, who won bronze at the World Championships, dropped three places to sixth.

130kg: Fardin Hedayati, who claimed the world title in Kazakhstan, entered the rankings in third place after previously being unranked.

Participation in UWW international competitions and strong performances in these events play a significant role in determining wrestlers' ranking points and positions in the world standings.

Esteghlal Edge Al Shamal in AFC Champions League Elite

TEHRAN - **Yaser Asani's stoppage time strike earned Esteghlal FC a 1-0 win over Al Shamal in their AFC Champions League Elite 2026-27 tie on Tuesday.**

The victory meant the Iran side rebounded in style from last week's defeat to Shabab Al Ahli while there was disappointment for Qatar's Al Shamal, who had gone into the tie buoyant after defeating Al Hilal SFC on Matchday Three.

Al Shamal made just one change from the starting lineup that had stunned Al Hilal SFC 3-1 on Matchday Three, while Esteghlal opted for two changes following their 2-0 defeat to Shabab Al Ahli.

Saman Fallah warmed the gloves of Al Shamal goalkeeper Babacar Seck from distance in the sixth minute while at the other end, Habib Far Abbasi pulled



off a fine save to tip Baghdad Bounedjah's curling effort over the bar.

The Algerian forward was within shooting range again three minutes later when Mohamed Ben Romdhane laid the ball nicely at the top of the box but Bounedjah's effort went straight at Abbasi.

The Esteghlal goalkeeper continued to frustrate Al Shamal, denying Bounedjah again from inside the box following a swift counter-attack.

The Iranian side threatened in the closing stages, with Jaloliddin Masharipov floating a fine cross to Saleh Hardani, whose volley narrowly went wide of the left post.

Esteghlal started the second half aggressively and almost broke the deadlock in the 51st minute, with the move starting with Amirmuhammad Razzaghinia dispossessing Riyad Mahrez in his own half.

The midfielder then embarked on a swift sprint, exchanging passes with Saeid Saharkhizan, who laid the ball for Yaser Assani who relayed it to Razzaghinia whose shot was denied by a diving Babacar Seck.

Seck kept his side in the game when he saved Esmaeil Gholizadeh's close range shot moments later, before a deflected clearance by Federico Bais in the 75th minute redirected the ball back to Asani, but Seck pulled off another fine save to foil the Albanian.

Asani made amends in the second minute of stoppage time after Eslami threaded a neat pass to the forward to slot the ball past a sprawling Seck.

There was more woe for Al Shamal as Youssouf Sabaly was sent off after receiving his second yellow card two minutes later as Esteghal stayed in sight of the Round of 16.

National Futsal Team to Take Part in Four-Team Tournament in Thailand



TEHARN - **Iran's Football Federation announced the Iranian national futsal team will the take part in four-team tournament in Thailand with the participation of Argentina, Japan and Thailand.**

Ehsan Kamiani, head of the Futsal Committee of the Football Federation, said on Wednesday that the participation of national players in the tournament in Thailand in March has been finalized.

Kamiani said this tournament will be held with the participation of four teams: Iran, Argentina, Japan and Thailand, and will undoubtedly be one of the valuable opportunities for the national team to prepare.

Referring to the high level and status of the teams participating in these competitions, he stated: "Argentina is the runner-up of the 2024 World Cup and one of the great and permanent powers of world futsal. Facing such a team could be one of the important and memorable matches for Iranian futsal. Playing against a team with this level of experience and technical quality is a unique opportunity to evaluate the players' abilities and gauge the level of preparation of the national team."

Women's Squash Team Defeats South Korea

TEHRAN - **Iranian women's national team defeated South Korea in their second match at the 23rd Asian Team Squash Championships, securing first victory of the tournament.**

The Iranian squad faced South Korea on Wednesday in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Najmeh Boushehrizadeh lost 3–0 to Hwayoung Eom. In the second match, Baran Mohammadpour—after dropping the opening game to Dami Kim—won three consecutive games to secure a 3–1 victory, leveling the overall team score.

In the decisive third match, Fereshteh Eghtedari defeated Mingyeong Heo 3–1, sealing a 2–1 team victory for Iran.

The Asian Team Squash Championships are taking place in Islamabad, Pakistan, and will continue until November 7.

