Elias Parhizkar Secures Iran's First Gold at Open SCO Cup



TEHRAN – **Iran's Elias Parhizkar has delivered an outstanding performance in the judo competition, securing the first gold medal for the Iranian delegation at the Open Cup of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Moscow, Russia.**

Elias Parhizkar won the gold medal at the SCO Open on Sunday.

In the -81kg weight category, Parhizkar defeated an opponent from Russia in the semifinals before overcoming a judoka from Tajikistan in the final. By clinching the championship title, he secured the first gold medal for the Iranian delegation in this tournament.

Additionally, Amir-Abbas Movahed won a bronze medal in the heavyweight division.

Iran has sent a 70-member delegation to compete in six disciplines: sport climbing, judo, weightlifting, artistic gymnastics, chess and table tennis.

The competition features 11 sports: table tennis, trampoline gymnastics, sambo, sport climbing, artistic gymnastics, weightlifting, fencing, rhythmic gymnastics, chess, judo and wushu.

The competitions will run until 23 November, with more than 100 medals to be awarded in 11 sports. The next highlight will be the traditional Kunming SCO Marathon, to be held in China on 6 December, 2026.

Team Melli Beats Palestine 2-0 at Basra Tournament



TEHRAN – **Iran's national team has defeated 10-man Palestine at the Basra four-nation tournament in Iraq.**

Palestine went to 10-man in the 66th minute after Ameed Sawafta was shown his second yellow card.

Sardar Azmoun opened the scoring for the Iranian side in 77th minute and Saleh Hardani made it 2-0 with six minutes remaining at the Basra International Stadium.

Iran will play Iraq on Tuesday, while Palestine take on Lebanon.

The tournament is expected to provide an important opportunity for coaches to test player readiness and assess their levels ahead of official competitions, as the date for continental commitments approaches.

AFC: Iran Undisputed King of Beach Soccer

TEHRAN – **As excitement peaks for the AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup Thailand 2026, the-afc.com turns its attention to Group B, which promises to be a thriller.**

Leading the cast are defending champions Iran and the-AFC.com takes a look at just what stands in their way.

The undisputed kings of beach soccer in Asia after winning their fourth title in 2025 to move past Japan with the most continental success, Iran will be confident of retaining their title as head coach Ali Naderi continues at the helm with the last edition, leading their charge.



Ali Mirshekari, who was crowned Most Valuable Player and Top Goalscorer at

Iran are drawn in Group B along with Lebanon, Afghanistan and Vietnam.

The 2026 AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup will be held in Phang Nga, Thailand.

The group stage will run from Nov. 18 to 23, followed by the quarterfinals on Nov. 25 and semifinals on Nov. 27.

The third-place play-off and final are scheduled for Nov. 28.

Foolad Sirjan Volleyball Team Starts on High Note in Central Asian League



TEHRAN - **Iran's Foolad Sirjan on Sunday defeated the India's Telugu Black Hawks 3–1 in their first match of the 2026 Central Asian Men's Volleyball League.**

The Central Asian Men's Volleyball League kickes off on Sunday in Bhubaneswar, India, and will run for one week.

The tournament features five teams—Bangalore Torpedoes, Mumbai Meteors, and Telugu Black Hawks (India), Foolad Sirjan (Iran), and Zhetysu (Kazakhstan)—competing for the title and the sole qualifying spot for the 2027 Asian Club Championship.

In the opening match, Foolad Sirjan faced the Telugu Black Hawks and emerged victorious with a 3–1 scoreline.

Led by Behrouz Ataei, the Iranian side lost the second set 29–27, they won the first, third, and fourth sets—with scores of 25–16, 25–9, and 25–20, respectively—placing them at the top of the standings with one win and three points.

Foolad Sirjan will play their second match on Monday, against the Bangalore Torpedoes.

Snooker Team Departs for India to Compete at World Championship



TEHRAN – **Iran's snooker team has departed for India to compete in the World 15-Red Snooker Championship.**

Amir Sarkhosh, Ali Gharagozlou, and Shahin Sabzi will face their opponents in the tournament's main draw.

India is hosting the World 15-Red Snooker Championship—featuring both men's and women's categories.

The tournament began with the preliminary rounds and will continue with matches in the main draw.

Amir Sarkhosh, Ali Gharagozlou, and Shahin Sabzi are representing Iran in the main draw. Thanks to their previous medal wins at the Asian level, they qualified for the main stage, bypassing the preliminary rounds.

The World 15-Red Snooker Championship will continue in Indore, India, until November 2, 2026.

Futsal Friendly: Russia Invites Iran's Women Team

TEHRAN - Iran's women's national futsal team will travel to Russia to play two friendly matches, as part of its ongoing preparations for the Asian Indoor Games.

Following their stellar performance and championship win at a tournament in China, the Iranian women's national futsal team is now continuing its preparations for the Asian Indoor Games.

During the tournament in China, the Iranian squad played four matches against the national teams of China and Hong Kong; they secured three victories and suffered one defeat, ultimately taking first place thanks to a superior goal difference.



With the Asian Indoor Games rescheduled to take place in Riyadh from March 28 to April 8, 2027, the national team's coaching staff now has more time to carry out their preparation plans. In this context, the Football Federation has received an invitation from Russia, and the national team is set to travel there for two friendly matches.

The exact dates for the trip have not yet been finalized, these two matches are officially part of the national team's schedule. This will provide the players with an opportunity to test their technical skills and fitness levels in an international environment.

The Iranian women's national futsal team is led by head coach Shahrzad Mozaffar.