

Persian Gulf Pro League: Persepolis to begin title defense against Iralco; Sepahan, Tractor facing off on Matchday One



● persopolisnews.com

Sports Desk

Reigning domestic double champion Persepolis will kick off the quest for a seventh Persian Gulf Pro League crown in eight years against Aluminium Arak – Iralco – on August 3 at Tehran's Azadi Stadium.

In one of the tightest Iranian top-flight races in recent years, Yahya Golmohammadi's side won the last seven matches to pip Sepahan to the title by a single point in May – before defeating Esteghlal in the Hazfi Cup final. Sepahan will be looking to lift a first league trophy since 2015 when starting the new season at home against Tractor, which finished fourth last term, thanks to an impressive run in the second half of the campaign under Spanish manager Paco Jémez.

Having massively bolstered their squads in the ongoing transfer window, both sides will again be among the favorites for the ultimate prize. Former Iranian skipper Javad Nekounam will embark on a new chapter of his managerial career as the head coach of Esteghlal when his team visits the scorching city of Abadan to take on San'at Naft.

Abdollah Veisi took charge of San'at

Naft's bench with eight games remaining last season to inspire the southern Iranian club to pick up 13 points and avoid relegation on the final day.

The last time these two met a 1-1 draw in Tehran effectively knocked Esteghlal out of the three-horse title race with two games to spare.

Elsewhere on Matchday One, Esteghlal Khuzestan – champion in 2016 – will mark its top-flight return after four years with a home fixture against other promoted side Shams Azar Qazvin, which won the second-tier league for a maiden Pro League participation.

Nassaji Mazandaran, which will represent the country in the upcoming AFC Champions League season as the 2022 Hazfi Cup champion, will host Paykan.

Both teams will have new managers at the helm as ex-Iralco boss Seyyed Mehdi Rahmati will be in charge of the home side, while Rasoul Khatibi has replaced Mojtaba Hosseini on Paykan bench.

Saket Elhami will take his new team Mes Rafsanjan to Tehran for a game against his last season's club Havadar, with Malavan and Zob Ahan squaring off in Bandar-e Anzali.

Alireza Mansourian's Foolad Khuzestan will get its new campaign underway at Golgozar Sirjan, which has hired Marinos Ouzounidis – a former coach at Greek giants AEK Athens and Panathinaikos – for the start of the season.

Derby day

The first big test of the season for Persepolis will come on Matchday Two when Golmohammadi's men fly to northwest Iran to meet Tractor against a feverish crowd at Tabriz's Yadegar-e Imam Stadium.

Sepahan will play away to Zob Ahan in the Isfahan derby, with Esteghlal facing Malavan at the Azadi Stadium for the first home game of the season.

The date of the fixtures is yet to be confirmed by the Iranian League Organization.

Nekounam will then lead the Blues in the away game against Sepahan in the Naqsh-e Jahan Stadium in the third round of fixtures.

Persepolis, meanwhile, will play Zob Ahan (h) and Foolad Khuzestan (a) before the most iconic fixture in the Iranian club football's calendar sees the Reds square off against Esteghlal in the Tehran derby on Matchday Five.

VNL 2023: Cuba defeat wraps up below-par run for Iran



● Cuba's Miguel Angel Lopez (18) hits a spike during a 3-2 victory over Iran in the Volleyball Nations League in Anaheim, CA, US, on July 9, 2023.

● FIVB

Sports Desk

The 2023 Volleyball Nations League will surely be one to forget for Iran, which ended up third from bottom in the 16-team preliminary round table – the lowest finish for the Asian powerhouse in the history of the competition.

Playing again without head coach Behrouz Ataei, prolific opposite Amin Esmaeilnejad and first-choice setter Mohammad-Taher Vadi – who were denied US visa entries – as well as injured Morteza Sharifi, Iran came from behind twice to force a fifth-set decider against Cuba on Sunday in Anaheim, California, before eventually suffering a 22-25, 28-26, 23-25, 30-28, 10-25 defeat in the final outing in Week 3.

Jesus Herrera Jaime contributed a game-high 28 points for the Cubans,

with outside hitter Miguel Angel Lopez finishing on 27 – including three aces. Twenty-year old opposite Bardia Sa'adat topped the scoring for Iran with 17 points, while Amirhossein Esfandiari and team captain Seyyed Mohammad Mousavi chipped in 16 and 14 points respectively.

This was a 10th defeat in 12 games for Iran, which had made it to the VNL Finals under Ataei last year before being knocked out by Poland in a thrilling five-setter in the quarter-finals.

Iran's two wins at the this year's event came in against China (3-1) in Week 1 and Germany (3-0) in the opening game of Week 2 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

An under-par campaign saw Ataei's men being beaten in straight sets by Japan, Slovenia, Italy, USA, and France, while leaving

the court with minimum point in five-set losses to Poland, the Netherlands, Bulgaria, and Argentina in the buildup to Sunday's game.

The United States topped the table with 10 wins and will take on Tokyo Olympic gold medalist France in the last-eight round – starting July 19 in Gdansk, Poland.

VNL's surprise package Japan, which also won 10 games for a place in the VNL Finals, will go head-to-head with Slovenia, with third-placed Poland squaring off against volleyball giant Brazil for a last-four spot on home soil.

Reigning world champion Italy and Argentina will meet for the second time in the ongoing tournament, with the Italians hoping to make amends after being stunned in straight sets by the South Americans in their opening contest.

FIVB U21 World Championship: Iran eases past Bahrain, marches into quarterfinals



● FIVB

Amir-Mohammad Golzadeh scored a game-high 16 points – including six aces – to inspire Iran to a straight-set (25-11, 25-19, 25-19) victory over host Bahrain in the 2023 FIVB Volleyball Men's U21 World Championship on Sunday.

Outside hitters Mobin Nasri and Younes Javan contributed 10 points apiece as a third successive victory in Manama saw Gholamreza Mome-

ni-Moqaddam's side ease to a top-spot finish in Pool A of the competition – also featuring Thailand and Tunisia – and book a place in the last-eight group phase.

Iran opened its campaign with a 3-0 victory over Thailand before coming from two sets down to beat Tunisia in a five-set thriller.

Iran and Thailand are pitted against Bulgaria and Poland in Pool E, with

the top two of the group progressing to the semi-finals.

Chasing a second world title after lifting the trophy in 2019, Iran will begin the second round today against Poland which finished second to Bulgaria in Pool C.

Argentina, Brazil, Belgium, and Italy will battle it out for the other two last-four places in Pool F, with the final showdown taking place on July 16.

Second Announcement

Tender invitation

Invitation to public tender for Ethylene Bis Stearamide(S40)

Tabriz petrochemical company intends to procure its required quantity of Ethylene Bis Stearamide for Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS) production plant from reputable & reliable producer and supplier of said product.

Interested suppliers should send their request to the following email to receive the tender documents within 7 days after the second announcement.

Email: n.ahmadian@tpco.ir

Phone No.: +98-41-34217426

Tender	No	Quantity
Ethylene Bis Stearamide(S40)	PVS-0241023	180000 kg

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