

Rahmati named Havadar coach



● TASNIM

Former goalkeeper of Iran's national football team and Esteghlal club Mahdi Rahmati was appointed as the head coach of Havadar football club.

The 41-year-old coach replaced Masoud Shojaei in the Tehran-based football club, according to Tasnim News Agency.

Under leadership of Shojaei, Havadar finished 13th in the 16-team table.

Rahmati stepped down as the head coach of Nassaji in November 2023 following poor results in the top flight team.

Rahmati played for Iran's national football team from 2004 to 2014. He also played for Esteghlal in two stints.

Tractor completes signing of Igor Postonjski

Iranian football club Tractor completed the signing of Croatian midfielder Igor Postonjski.

The 29-year-old midfielder has most recently played for Croatian team NK Varazdin, a professional football club based in Varazdin, reported Tasnim News Agency.

Tractor has previously hired former Iran coach Dragan Skocic.

Postonjski started his playing career in HNK Gorica in 2017 and has also played in Inter Zapresic and NK Zagorec. He replaced Iraqi midfielder Safa Hadi in the Tabriz-based football team.

IPL: Almedin Ziljkic joins Esteghlal



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Croatian left winger Almedin Ziljkic officially joined Iran's Esteghlal football team.

The 28-year-old player played for Sarajevo last season, Mehr News Agency reported.

Ziljkic started his playing career in 2015 in Donji Srem and has also played in Serbia's Novi Pazar, Bosnian teams Gorica, Sloboda Tuzla, and Borac Banja Luka and Slovenian team Olimpija Ljubljana.

Esteghlal has previously completed the signing of Milad Zakipour, Mohammad Hossein Eslami, Ramin Rezaeian, Saman Fallah and Alireza Koushki.

Iran to possibly host Kyrgyzstan football team in Isfahan

Iran's national football team manager says there is a possibility that Iran will host Kyrgyzstan's national team in Isfahan.

This match will be held in the first week of the final selection stage of the 2026 World Cup on September 15, hosted by Iran, reported Mehr News Agency.

The 2026 FIFA World Cup, marketed as FIFA World Cup 26, will be the 23rd FIFA World Cup, the quadrennial international men's soccer championship contested by the national teams of the member associations of FIFA. The tournament will take place from June 11 to July 19, 2026.

Iran will be aiming to progress to a fourth World Cup in a row - and seventh in total - after appearing in 2014, 2018 and 2022 and take on a Qatar side attempting to qualify for the tournament for the first time.

The Qataris, who won a second consecutive Asian Cup title in February, played at the 2022 edition as hosts but have never progressed to the finals through the preliminaries.



● IRNA

The United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and DPR

Korea are also in the group. "If you look at our group, it's not

easy, we have UAE and Qatar but if you look at our results from

the previous round, (it gives us confidence) to qualify," Iran coach Amir Ghalenoei said late June.

Korea Republic leads the Group B cast with Iraq, Jordan, Oman, Palestine and Kuwait also in the hunt for the two automatic spots to the Finals.

Korea will be the favorites, having made 10 consecutive FIFA World Cup appearances since 1986.

Heading Group C will be Japan, who are seeking to qualify for the FIFA World Cup for the eighth consecutive time.

Standing in their way will be Australia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, China PR and Indonesia.

The preliminaries begin on Sept. 5 and run until June 10, with the winners and runners-up in each group qualifying automatically for the finals in Mexico, the United States and Canada.

The third and fourth place finishers in each group will advance to a fourth round, which will determine the continent's two remaining guaranteed qualifiers.

Tehran derby slated for Matchweek 6



● IRNA

Tehran derby between Persepolis and Esteghlal football teams has been scheduled for Matchweek 6.

Iran Professional League (IPL) for the 2024-25 draw ceremony was held on Tuesday evening in Tehran's Olympic Hotel, IRNA reported.

A total of 16 teams will participate in the 2024-25 season.

Persepolis is the defending champion and looks to win the PGPL title for the 10th title.

Chadormalu and Kheybar will take part in the upcoming season as newcomers after securing promotion to the league last season.

Sanat Naft and Paykan were relegated from the IPL to the First Division.

Ardebil to host world darts tournaments

Iran's Director General of Youth and Sports in Ardabil province has announced that the province will host the world darts tournament, titled the Safavi Cup.

Mohammad Ali Pahnavaar told IRNA on Wednesday that the tournament will be held on Thursday and Friday (October 3-4) in men's, women's, boys', and girls' divisions in Ardabil city, northwestern Iran.

He mentioned that the World Open Darts tournament, in the form of t

Persepolis defender Gvelesiani inks contract extension

Georgian defender Giorgi Gvelesiani extended his contract with Persepolis football team.

The 33-year-old player has penned a one-year contract with the Reds of Tehran, reported Tasnim News Agency.

Gvelesiani, who represented Georgia in Euro 2024, is the best foreign goal scorer in Persepolis with 16 goals.

Gvelesiani scored the winner against Mes Rafsanjan and helped Persepolis defend its title in the Iran Professional League (IPL).

Moghanlou joins Ittihad Kalba of UAE

Iran and Sepahan's international forward Shahriyar Moghanlou joined Emirati football club Ittihad Kalba.

Ittihad Kalba had plans to sign the 29-year-old striker in the January transfer window, but failed to hire the player, reported Tasnim News Agency.

Moghanlou played 82 matches for Sepahan and scored 37 goals for the Iranian club.

He helped Sepahan win Iran's 2023-24 Hazfi Cup in late June.

Iranian international winger Mahdi Ghaedi also plays in Ittihad Kalba.



● TASNIM



● REUTERS

IOC awards 2030 Winter Olympics to French Alps 'under conditions'

The International Olympic Committee on Wednesday awarded the 2030 Winter Games to the French Alps but under the condition that France gives financial commitments. The decision came after President Emmanuel Macron told IOC members he would ask France's next prime minister to give a financial "guarantee" for hosting the Games, AFP reported.

France is the only candidate

to host the Games but the funding has been in question because there is no government in place following inconclusive snap elections. But Macron told IOC members in Paris he would ask the prime minister who emerges from the ongoing talks to form a new government to make a "financial commitment" and also create an Olympic law. Speaking two days before the opening ceremony of the Paris Summer Olympics,

Macron said: "I want to confirm my full commitment and the full commitment of the French nation."

"I assure you I will ask the next prime minister to include not only this guarantee but also an Olympic law in the priorities of the new government."

Macron said France wanted to show "the rest of the world that the Winter Games are not just history - and we are proud to be part of it - but part of our future."