

## Sevilla lost out in Sardar Azmoun race as UAE move agreed



● REUTERS

Sevilla continue on their transfer hunt to sign a new striker with Sardar Azmoun rejecting a move to Spain. The Andalusians have lost two key attackers in the space of a week with Rafa Mir joining La Liga rivals Valencia and Youssef En-Nesyri heading to Fenerbahce, according to Football Espana. Despite the need to raise funds, as shown by those sales, Sevilla also need reinforcements and Azmoun was a long-term target. The Iranian international is under contract at Bundesliga champions Bayer Leverkusen until 2027 but the German side are open to selling him. After spending last season on loan at AS Roma, Azmoun has been looking for a new club, with transfer guru Fabrizio Romano claiming he is moving to the UAE.

## Tabriz hand-woven carpet goes to Paris 2024 Olympics



The Paris 2024 Olympics has fostered an opportunity for Tabriz carpets to showcase Iranian culture to the Olympics and the World Cup. Iranian designer of hand-woven carpets for the 2024 Olympic Games Hamid Arshadi said that six master carpet craftsmen from Tabriz, northwestern province of East Azarbaijan, have been assigned the weaving of the 2024 Olympic carpets during the last six months, according to Iran Press. Also, as the designer of the 2022 Qatar World Cup carpet map, he stated that seven carpets for the 2024 Olympics will be woven in Tabriz and presented in the international arena as the flagship of Iranian culture. Regarding the patterns used in the 2024 Olympic carpets, Arshadi said that the symbol of the National Olympic Committee of Iran, are olive branches and peace doves flying as a sign of peace. He said the woven carpets will be given to the International Olympic Committee of Lausanne, Switzerland, the Paris Olympic Game Committee, the Iranian Olympic Committee, and the Japanese Olympic Committee with the coordination of the National Olympic Committee of Iran.

# First Day wrap-up of Iran at Paris 2024 Olympics: Gymnast Olfati displays great performance

Five athletes from Iran put themselves in race with their rivals on the first day of the 2024 Olympics in Paris on Saturday as Iranian gymnast Mehdi Olfati displayed a great performance as he came fourth in the Men's Vault contest. Also, a victory by the table tennis player, advance of the Iranian female rower to another chance along with elimination of the shooting and fencing representatives were the performance of the Iranian representatives on the first day of the 2024 Paris Olympics.

The First representative of Iran in the single scull competitions of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games stood in fourth place and went for another chance.

Fallen in the first group of the primary matches, Fatemeh Mojallal competed with rivals from Uganda, South Africa, Spain, Australia, and Nicaragua.

She managed to set a record of 08:01:30 and stood after rowers from Australia, Spain, and South Africa, respectively. Mojallal failed to ascend to the quarter-finals, yet she can have another chance.

Fatemeh Mojallal is the rising star of Iranian rowing. She has earned a place in the women's single sculls event and will have big shoes to fill in the absence of Nazanin Molaei, who achieved Iran's best-ever rowing result at the Tokyo Olympics by reaching the B Final.

Mojallal will also have the honor of carrying Iran flag at the closing ceremony of the 2024 Olympics. This is a significant moment for



● IRNA

Iranian rowing, as it will be the first time that a rower has been given this honor since Homa Hosseini at the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

In fencing, Iran's saberist Ali Pakdaman won 15-11 against Yoshida Kento of Japan in his first match to become one of the top 16 in the Olympics. Pakdaman faced an athlete from South Korea in the round of 16 and lost 15-8. Mohammad Fotuhi, the other representative of Iranian saber, faced saberist from Mexico and lost 15 to 13 to the Mexican rival to be eliminated.

Mohammad Rahbari, the other member of fencing team faced

Sebastien Patrick from France. In this game, the saber representative of Iran lost in a tough and breathtaking match with a result of 15-13.

Hanieh Rostamian collected 571.16 points in 10-meter shooting competition among 44 shooters, but she failed to go to final round.

Nigeria's table tennis star, Olajide Omotayo, lost to Iran's Noshad Alamiyan 4-1 in the Round of 64 of the Paris 2024 Olympics men's table tennis singles event.

The home crowd in South Paris Arena 4 erupted as Prithika Pavade secured a 4-1 victory over Iran's Neda Shahsavari. With a

packed arena behind her, the French player produced a thrilling performance that had the crowd on their feet.

The 33rd round of the Olympic Games, the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, kicked off on July 26 and will continue until August 11.

Among the participating countries is the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is represented by 40 athletes at the marquee sporting event, including 29 men and 11 women, competing in 13 sports.

As in previous Olympic Games, wrestling, weightlifting, and taekwondo are expected to be Iran's primary medal contenders. However, there are also hopes for

strong performances in gymnastics, table tennis, and climbing, according to their respective federations.

Iran's Olympic contingent has already arrived in Paris in batches, with the third group landing on Tuesday morning.

Iran bagged seven medals at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

Shooter Javad Foroughi earned Iran's first medal, securing gold in the men's 10-meter air pistol event.

Greco-Roman wrestler Mohammadreza Geraei added another gold to Iran's tally.

Sajad Ganjzadeh clinched gold in the men's karate kumite competition in the +75kg category.

In weightlifting, Ali Davoudi won a silver medal in the +109kg weight class, lifting a total of 441kg—200kg in the snatch and 241kg in the clean and jerk.

Freestyle wrestler Hassan Yazdani secured a silver in the 86kg weight class, narrowly losing to his arch-rival from US David Taylor with a score of 4-3 in the final.

Iran also earned two bronze medals. Greco-Roman wrestler Mohammadhadi Saravi triumphed in the 97kg category, defeating Finland's Arvi Savolainen 9-2.

Amirhossein Zare won bronze in the men's freestyle 125kg, overcoming China's Deng Zhiwei 5-0.

Iran participated in the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics with a total of 66 athletes—56 men and 10 women—competing in 17 sports.

It finished 27th in the overall medal standings at Tokyo, with three gold, two silver, and two bronze.

## Iran secure semifinal spot in Asian Men's U-20 Volleyball Championship

Title-hotshots Iran, Japan, Korea and hosts Indonesia emerged victorious on the action-packed Top 8 round not only to stay unbeaten in the 22nd Asian Men's U-20 Volleyball Championship at Jawa Pos Arena and Gelora Pancasila here, but also advance to the do or die semifinals. After the rest and recovery day on Friday, the topflight competition resumed with top eight teams testing their mettle in Pool E and Pool F and the remaining eight lower-ranked sides fighting it out in Pool G and Pool H to chase for better opportunities and better positions between 9th and 16th places of the championship, which serves as the Asia's qualification tournament for the 2025 FIVB Volleyball Men's U-21 World Championship, [asianvolleyball.net](http://asianvolleyball.net) wrote.

In the Top 8 round on Saturday, former three-time champions Japan pulled off sensational straight-set 25-14, 25-13, 25-23 victory against Saudi Arabia in Pool E at Jawa Pos Arena.

Another Pool E clash at the same venue saw in-form Indonesia continue their winning streak on home soil with dramatic 3-1 (25-20, 25-23, 16-25, 25-18) win against India, silver medallists at the previous edition two years ago in Riffa, Bahrain. However, with only top two teams from each pool booking their semifinal spots, Indonesia and Japan are uncatchable in Pool E and through to the semifinals, with the former claiming 6 points from two straight wins and the latter bagging 5 points from two wins in a row. India and Saudi Arabia had respective one point and no point following two straight losses to come in third and fourth places in Pool E.



● [asianvolleyball.net](http://asianvolleyball.net)

In Pool F, reigning and seven-time winners Iran, which captured the last year's U-21 World Championship title to their name, became the only team not dropping a set to their respective opponents in the championship. The mighty Iranians on Saturday powered past Kazakhstan in thrilling three-setter 25-21, 25-16, 25-22. Opposite Pouya Ariakhah played a key role in helping Iran cruise past Kazakhstan, scoring a match-high 21 points from 19 kills, one block and one ace, while Opposite Ikramov Diyorbek led Kazakhstan with 18 points, all in attack. Iran will next take on Korea in the 2022 semifinal rematch.

Korea, former six-time champions and bronze medallists in Riffa, Bahrain, flexed their muscles on Saturday to demolish former four-time winners China 3-1 (25-16, 25-20, 22-25, 25-18) in exhausting 101 minutes.

China dominated the blocking game with 12 stuffs against Korea's 8, but the Koreans fared better in the other key elements including attacks (57 to 43), aces (6 to 2) and benefited from more opponent errors (26 to 22).

Iran led Pool F with 6 points from two straight wins without losing a set, while Korea also collected 6 points from two wins in a row to come in second position.

China and Kazakhstan did not win a point from similar two losses to finish third and fourth places respectively.

Following their remarkable unbeaten runs, Iran and Korea are assured of finishing top two in Pool F and claiming their semifinal spots, while China and Kazakhstan will be relegated to classification round for 5th-8th places although they have to first take on each other.

Meanwhile, in the classification round for 9th-16th places, Kuwait downed Hong Kong, China in competitive four-setter 25-22, 18-25, 26-24, 25-22 in Pool G.

In another Pool G encounter, Australia swept Bangladesh in well-fought three sets 25-17, 31-29, 25-21.

Hong Kong China, Bangladesh, Australia and Kuwait had 3 points each from similar 1-1 win/loss record, but following the sets and points ratios, Hong Kong China stayed atop Pool G, followed by Bangladesh, Australia and Kuwait respectively.

In Pool H, Thailand, which finished a well-earned fourth place at the previous edition two years ago, tasted their first victory in Surabaya following their epic tie-break win 25-20, 25-23, 24-26, 21-25, 15-9 in a fatiguing 129-minute clash against Chinese Taipei.

The other Pool H clash saw Vietnam sweep Qatar in comfortable straight sets 25-12, 25-22, 25-14.

Vietnam led Pool H with 5 points from two straight wins, with Chinese Taipei and Thailand trailing in second and third places with 4 and 3 points respectively from similar record of one win against one loss. Qatar have yet got a point from two straight losses to come in fourth place.