

# West's double standards evident in Paris Games: *Leader*

## Sports Desk

**PRESS TV** – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamanei has deplored “double standards” employed by the countries ruling over international governing bodies of the sports, saying that the flawed policies were starkly evident during the recently-finished Summer Olympics and Paralympics in Paris. Ayatollah Khamanei made the remarks on Tuesday in a meeting with a group of Iranian medalists, athletes, coaches and organizers of Iranian sports delegations to the international multi-sport events. “One thing which was strongly noticeable this year at the Olympic Games was the dual policies of the countries regulating international sports matters. They really showed that double standards and biased policies govern their behaviors,” the Leader pointed out. Ayatollah Khamanei added

that certain countries banned a country because it had waged a war against another country, but they “refused to ban the Zionist regime from the Games despite the fact that it has killed thousands of children and massacred over 41,000 people in nearly a year,” lambasting such double standards as heavily biased.

“This is what we have long been saying. Some people tend to refer to our words as exaggeration. It is no exaggeration. They assert that sports should not be politicized. This is while they take and exhibit the most politicized actions in the field of sports,” the Leader noted.

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamanei poses for a family photo with Iranian medalists, athletes, coaches and organizers of Iranian delegations to the 2024 Paris Olympics and Paralympics in Tehran, Iran, on September 17, 2024. [khamenei.ir](#)



## FIFA Futsal World Cup:

# Shamsaei hails team effort as Iran runs riot against Venezuela



## Sports Desk

Iran head coach Vahid Shamsaei praised his players for being “like a true team” after the Asian powerhouse opened its Futsal World Cup campaign in style, cruising to a 7-1 victory over Venezuela in Group F. Salar Aghapour got Iran off the mark in Bukhara Universal Sports Complex thanks to a sublime team goal seven minutes into the game and then Mahdi Karimi scored twice before Milton Francia pulled one back for the Venezuelans, only to see Behrouz Azimi restore the three-goal cushion for Shamsaei's men at halftime. Aghapour bagged his second of the afternoon three minutes after the break with Amirhossein Davoudi and Azimi also on the scoresheet in the

second half as Iran tied its all-time biggest World Cup win, having beaten Cuba by the same scoreline in 1996. “It was a good game. I have special respect for Venezuela as they finished third in Copa America [in February] and I had seen many impressive performances from them,” Shamsaei said after the game. “Our players were like a true team today and gave it their all throughout the game. We were looking to start the tournament with a victory and I'm glad we made it in a tough match,” added the Iranian. “There were short spells when we lost hold of the game, but the players managed to turn things around. Now that the game is behind us, we need to look ahead to the next matches and take things step by step,” said Sham-

saei, whose team sits atop the group table on goal difference before facing Guatemala – beaten 6-3 by France later in the day – on Thursday. Monday's game marked a milestone for Iranian skipper Ali-Asghar Hossainzadeh – who matched a record fifth participation in the World Cup finals – while it was a debut appearance in the global showpiece for some of Shamsaei's young talents, including Man of the Match Aghapour and Azimi.

Iranian players celebrate a goal during a 7-1 victory over Venezuela at the FIFA Futsal World Cup in Bukhara, Uzbekistan, on September 16, 2024. [ROBERTUS PUDYANTO/GETTY IMAGES](#)

## AFC Champions League Elite:

# Esteghlal off to flying start; Persepolis rues poor finishing

## Sports Desk

Persian Gulf Pro League club Esteghlal kicked off its AFC Champions League Elite campaign in emphatic fashion, defeating Qatari side Al Gharafa 3-0 in Tehran. Esteghlal archrival Persepolis, meanwhile, was left regretting missed chances in front of the goal after a 1-0 loss to Al Ahli Saudi in Jeddah.

### Perfect start

Having endured weeks of uncertainty swirling around his future on the Blues' bench, Esteghlal head coach Javad Nekounam couldn't have asked for a brighter start in the Shahr-e Qods Stadium after Al Gharafa defender Abdalla Yousif turned Ramin Rezaeian's cross from the right flank into his own net four minutes into the game. The Blues had to wait until the closing stages for a second goal when Rezaeian nutmegged Matias Nani on the right flank before his low drive found the bottom corner in the 79th minute. Substitute Aarash Rezavand wrapped up

the points with a cool finish from inside the box two minutes from normal time. “This win is for the players who worked hard. I was just by their side and they showed that they have a high position in Iranian football,” said Nekounam said after the game. “The condition of the team is getting better day by day. The players overcame the difficult conditions we faced in the last few days and I am really happy for the fans.”

### Wasteful Reds

When Ivorian midfielder Frank Kessie fired a star-studded Al Ahli in front with less than two minutes into the game, Persepolis fans feared for a long night in a packed Prince Abdullah Al Faisal Stadium. The following proceedings, however, proved otherwise as the Iranian champion dictated the tempo for the remainder of the first half, with Soroush Rafiei and Vahid Amiri winning the midfield battles while Oston Urunov was a menace on the left flank. Persepolis came close to drawing level in the 35th minute as Ali Alipour's point-

blank header forced Edouard Mendy into a superb save before Urunov's attempt on the rebound went just wide. The Reds thought their dominance paid off when Urunov was brought down in the box by Turkish center-back Merih Demiral and Jordanian referee blew in his whistle for a spot-kick, only to controversially change his decision after a VAR review. “Everyone in the stadium saw it was a clear penalty and I don't really why the ref changed his mind,” Persepolis coach Juan Carlos Garrido said after the game. The Reds were again the likeliest of the two sides to score after the break though they had goalkeeper Alexis Guendouz to thank for not conceding a second goal as he denied Algerian international teammate Riyad Mahrez from the spot just before the hour mark. The defeat meant Persepolis has only managed one win in four outings under the new Spanish coach but the performance in Jeddah was defiantly one to build on for the future games. “Overall, we played a good match. We have a good team and we have great



fans. Al Ahli have good players, especially Kessie, and I am happy with our control despite the opponents having several illustrious players,” said the Spaniard.

Esteghlal players celebrate their second goal in a 3-0 victory over Al Gharafa in the AFC Champions League Elite in Tehran, Iran, on September 16, 2024. [MOJTABA SALEH/AFC](#)