

## Persian Gulf Pro League:

## 10-man Tractor beats Sepahan to go top

## Sports Desk

Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh scored his fourth top-flight goal of the season as 10-man Tractor claimed a massive 1-0 victory at Sepahan to overtake its host on top of the Persian Gulf Pro League table.

The visitors had to play with 10 men for the best part of the game in Isfahan's Fooladshahr Stadium after a VAR review convinced referee Vahid Kazemi to show star winger Mahdi Torabi his marching orders for a foul on Mohammad-Mahdi Mohebbi on the half-hour mark.

Summer signing Mahdi Limouchi missed a glorious chance to break the deadlock for the home side late in the first half, only to see his close-range effort cleared by Aref Aqasi's tackle on the line and come off the post.

With both sides heading for a goalless stalemate in the first half, Hosseinzadeh gave Dragan Skocic's men a surprise lead in stoppage time, finding the net on the rebound after Sepahan keeper Payam Niazmand's save on Igor Postonjski's effort from outside the box.

Tractor held off the host's desperate push for an equalizer after the break to walk away with a first win against a Big Four opponent – which also includes Persepolis and Esteghlal – in two years and move atop the table with 13 points, thanks to a superior goal difference over Malavan and Sepahan.

On a rain-soaked pitch in Sirous Qayeqran Stadium, Milad Baqeri headed home an 86th-minute winner to help Malavan continue its impressive start to the season with

a 1-0 home win against Esteghlal Khuzestan.

Elsewhere, Golgozar and Havadar shared the points in a goalless game in Sirjan, while Iralco defeated Kheybar Khorramabad 1-0, courtesy of Rahman Ja'fari's sublime finish in the first half, to celebrate a first victory of the campaign.

Hadi Habibinejad's 93rd-minute strike led newly-promoted Chadormalou to a 1-0 triumph over Moharram Navidkia's Mes Rafsanjan at home.

Friday's results came two days after a stoppage-time spot-kick by Hossein Kan'ani had secured a sensational 1-0 win for Persepolis against archrival Esteghlal in Tehran Derby.

Chasing an eighth league crown in nine seasons, Persepolis is fourth in the table with 11 points with a game in hand, while Esteghlal – without a league victory since the opening-day win at Shams Azar – is 11th with five points.

The Tehran-based clubs will be back in AFC Champions League Elite action on Monday.

Persepolis will be looking to bounce back from a first-day loss at Al Ahli Saudi when welcoming Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor to Shahr-e Qods Stadium, while Javad Nekounam's Esteghlal will hope to end the domestic woes in an away game against Al Sadd in Doha's Jassim bin Hamad Stadium.



Head coach Dragan Skocic (R) and Tractor players celebrate after a 1-0 victory over Sepahan in the Persian Gulf Pro League in Isfahan, Iran, on September 27, 2024.  
● RASOUL SHOJAEI/IMNA

World Junior Wushu Championships:  
Sanda success as Iranians snatch  
double golds on Day 4

## Sports Desk

Iranians continued their impressive campaign on Day 4 of the World Junior Wushu Championships by bagging double gold medals as well as a silver in the boys' sanda contests in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei.

Representing the country in the 56kg – children event, Ali Rezaei defeated an opponent from Laos to walk away with the ultimate prize, while Amirreza Salar came out victorious over Shun Yat Leung of Hong Kong in the 45kg final for Iran's second gold in the same age-group.

Meanwhile, Ali Miri had to settle for a runner-up finish in the 80kg – junior category following a final defeat against Egyptian Youssef Karim Adel Taha.

Further sanda success awaits the country after seven Iranian boys and girls secured a place in the final showpiece of their respective weight classes on Sunday.

Saghar Hosseinzadeh, Yekta Adibi, and Diana Rahimi will chase a gold in the girls' finals, with Alireza Zamani, Amirhesam Mohammadi, Abolfazl Asadi, and Soroush Haji Mash'had going for glory in the boys' contests. Elsewhere, Iranian girl Sana Chak bagged a third talou medal in the competitions,



scoring 8.803 points for the nanquan silver.

Arsham Khalilpour also finished his campaign with a talou silver, courtesy of an 8.430-point performance in the boys' jianshu event. Ramtin Siahmoshtei took his personal haul to three medals with a bronze in the boys' nanquan contest, while Zahra Botshekan finished third in the women's final of the same talou event.

Iranian boy Amirreza Salar (L) poses for a photo after winning the 45kg – children gold medal in the World Junior Wushu Championships in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, on September 28, 2024.  
● iranwushufed.ir

Iranian bodybuilders crowned  
world men's champion

## Sports Desk

A remarkable haul of 153 medals saw Iran dominate different age classes in the IFBB World Bodybuilding Championships & Men's Fitness World Cup on the Kish Island, southern Iran.

Iranians bagged 51 golds, 52 silvers, and 50 bronze medals across four days of the competitions.

Iran tallied 122 points for the top spot in the juniors' event, followed by Iraq (79pts), and China (53), while the home country also finished atop the masters' table with 160 points, with Russia (125) and Romania (82) in behind.

A third team trophy for Iran came in the seniors' contests, where the host dominated with 285 points, followed by China (152) and Saudi Arabia (147).



● iranbbf.ir

## Iran edges India in U20 Asian Cup qualifiers



AFC – Iran needed a late strike to earn a hard-fought 1-0 win against India in their AFC U20 Asian Cup qualifiers Group G match in Vientiane, Laos, on Friday.

Both teams enjoyed opening day wins with India sealing a 4-1 victory over Mongolia, while Iran scored eight unanswered goals against Laos.

Iran struck in the 88th minute through Yousef Mazraeh to seal the three points and take a huge step towards making the February's finals in China.

● AFC