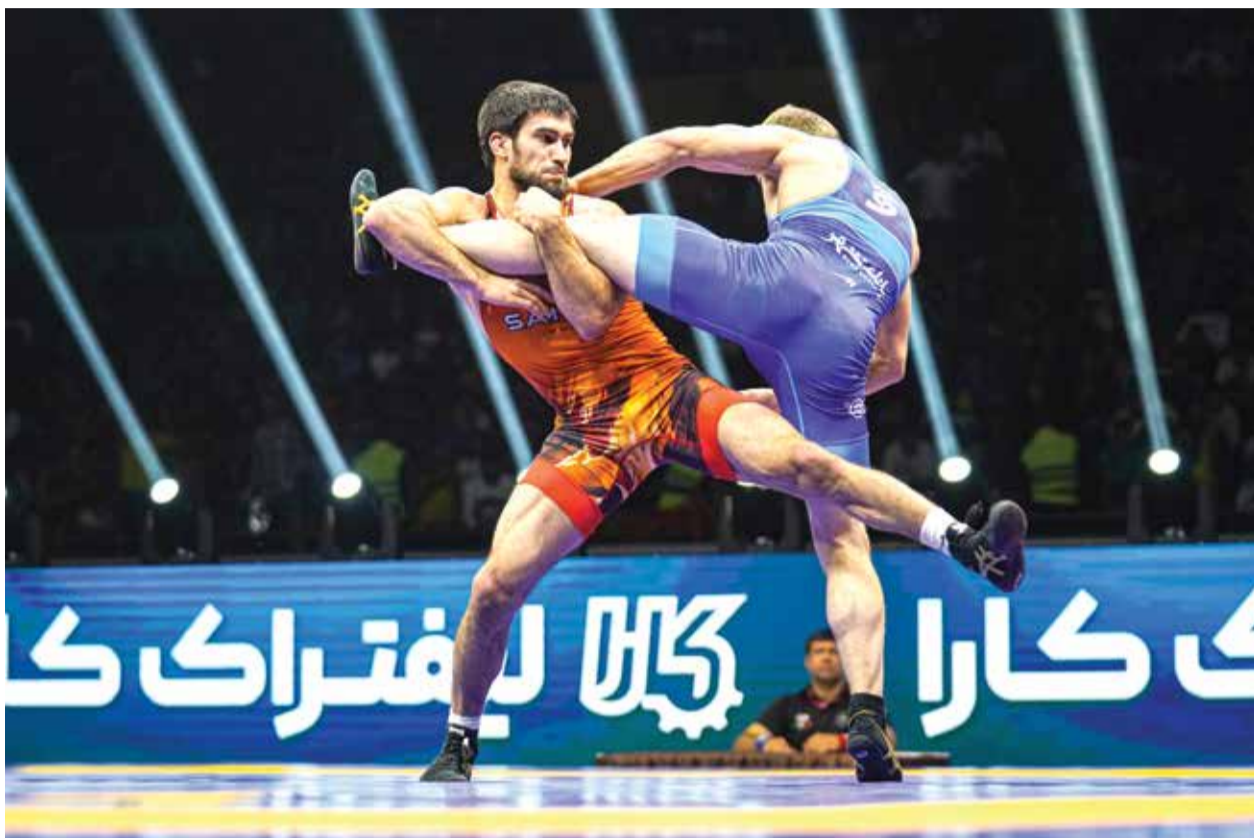


# Saipa crowned freestyle champion in Iranian Premier Wrestling League



## Sports Desk

Saipa lifted the freestyle trophy at the Iranian Premier Wrestling League, thanks to a victory over defending champion Shahr Bank in a start-studded final in Tehran.

It all came down to the superheavy-weight showpiece at the Azadi 12,000-seater Hall, where world champion Amirhossein Zare' outmuscled Ahmad Bazri 6-0 to seal a 6-4 triumph for Saipa.

The showdown began with a battle of former world silver medalists, with Reza Atri defeating Alireza Sarlak 2-1 in the 57kg contest to give Shahr Bank the lead.

Russian Abasgadzhi Magomedov – world champion in 2021 – came out on top against Ali Qolizadegan by fall in the 61kg bout to double Shahr Bank's advantage, before Shamil Mamedov registered a first win for Saipa after

his fellow-Russian Abdulmazhid Kudiev, who won a world bronze under the flag of Tajikistan in October, pulled out of the 65kg clash with injury while the two wrestlers were tied at 4-4.

Former world under-17 champion Sina Khalili then drew Saipa level with an emphatic 14-5 win against two-time world silver medalist Amir-Mohammad Yazdani in the 70kg bout.

Russian sensation Zaurbek Sidakov – a winner of three world titles and Tokyo Olympic champion – came out victorious 4-0 against two-time world bronze medalist Younes Emami in the 74kg clash to give Saipa the lead, but Fariborz Babaei's victory over Mahdi Yousefi in the 79kg contest leveled the scoreline at 3-3.

Russian Ibragim Kadiev put Saipa in front with a 6-0 victory over Ezzatollah Akbari in the 86kg battle, but the parity was restored again when reigning world under-23 champion Amirhossein Firouzpour defeated Hadi Vafaiepour 7-2 in the 92kg event.

Mojtaba Goleij gave Saipa the momentum in the penultimate bout, beating Mohammad-Hossein Mohammadian 6-0 in the 97kg class, before Zare' clinched the title with the 125kg win.

Saipa's Shamil Mamedov (1) is seen in action against Shahr Bank's Abdulmazhid Kudiev in the 65kg bout of the freestyle final at the Iranian Premier Wrestling League in Tehran, Iran, on Dec. 6, 2024.  
● IAWF

## Asian Women's Handball Championship: Iran facing mammoth task against South Korea in semifinals

### Sports Desk

Iran will be facing a daunting task when taking on South Korea in the Asian Women's Handball Championship last four in New Delhi, India, today.

Iran defeated Hong Kong 26-17 at the Indira Gandhi Arena on Friday to head into a third successive semifinal as the runner-up in Group B.

Sanaz Rajabi contributed with a game-high six goals, while Iranian goalkeeper Fatemeh Khalili delivered a Player-

of-the-Match performance as Iran finished second to Japan in the group table to secure a place in next year's World Championship in Germany and the Netherlands.

Nashmin Shafeian's girls got off to losing start in the group, suffering a 34-14 defeat against Japan, but bounced back to beat the host 32-30 in their second outing before Friday's victory.

Today's opponent however has proven to be in a league of its own when it comes to the Asian Championship, as

former world and Olympic champion South Korea remains the ultimate favorite to claim a 17th title – seventh in a row – in the 20th edition of the competition.

South Korea routed Singapore 47-5 in their Group A opener, and then defeated Kazakhstan 30-20, before making a clean sweep of group victories with a 25-14 triumph over China.

Kazakhstan, which managed to beat China to the second place in the group with four points, will square off against Japan in the other semifinal.



● IRIHF

## Ne'matzadeh claims statement win against Kiani in battle of Olympians



Mobina Ne'matzadeh (red) and Nahid Kiani are pictured ahead of the -57kg final in the Iranian Taekwondo Premier League in Tehran, Iran, on Dec. 6, 2024.  
● TAEKWONDO.IR

### Sports Desk

Mobina Ne'matzadeh walked away with a statement victory over Nahid Kiani in a highly-anticipated bout, featuring the two Iranian female medalists at the Paris Olympics, in the country's Taekwondo Premier League.

All eyes were on the -57kg final in Tehran's Taekwondo House on Friday, where Iranian

coach Mahrouz Saei in her corner, came out on top against Pars Jonoubi's Kiani – instructed by Iranian women's head coach Mino Madaah – in back-to-back rounds for the ultimate prize.

A world junior champion in 2022, teenage prodigy Ne'matzadeh became only the second Iranian girl to win a medal in the Olympic history – following Kimia Alizadeh's taekwondo bronze in Rio 2016 – when she defeated Saudi Arabia's Dunya Abutaleb in the third-place bout of the -49kg event in August.

The 19-year-old decided to move up to a higher weight class after the Games in the French capital and marked the new chapter of her career in style with Friday's victory. Reigning world champion Kiani etched her name into history books when she became the first Iranian female athlete to make it to a final showpiece in the Olympics, courtesy of a last-four victory over Laetitia Aoun of Lebanon in the -57kg contests, though ultimately settled for a silver medal after a loss to South Korean Kim Yu-jin in the final. With both Iranians eager for further Olympic glory in four years' time, Friday's bout may well have been only the first episode of their domestic rivalry leading up to the sporting extravaganza in Los Angeles.

## Wrestling glory as Iran hits 22-gold mark at Asia Pacific Deaf Games

### Sports Desk

Three Iranian freestyle wrestlers walked away with the ultimate prize of their weight classes to take the country's haul to 22 golds at in the Asia Pacific Deaf Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Mohammad Mohammadi Soroush defeated an Indian opponent 3-2 in the final for the gold medal of the 57kg contests, while Mohammad Siavashi

also came out in an Iranian-Indian final to win the 61kg prize.

Erfan Sattari had won a first freestyle gold for the country on Saturday, thanks to victory in the 92kg final, also featuring Iranian and Indian wrestlers.

Saturday's triumphs took Iran's tally to 50 medals – including 11 silvers and 17 bronzes – by the end of the penultimate day of the multi-sport event.

