

⬇ Pitso Mosimane angrily talks to Esteghlal FC players during his last practice with the team in Tehran, Iran, on January 28, 2025.  
● ESTEGHLAL FC

# Pitso Mosimane terminates contract with Esteghlal FC

## Sports Desk

Pitso Mosimane has officially terminated his contract with Iranian club Esteghlal FC due to an unresolved dispute over unpaid salaries.

The three-time CAF Champions League-winning coach has walked away from his job in the Persian Gulf Pro League after the club failed to pay the entire South African technical team's salaries. He had brought Kyle



⬆ Pitso Mosimane (c), the former coach of Esteghlal FC  
● ISNA

ing unpaid salaries owed to him and his technical team," read the statement.

"Despite numerous opportunities provided by MT Sports Marketing & Management, Coach Pitso's management team, to resolve the matter — starting with initial discussions with the former CEO of the club last year, followed by a formal default notice delivered on 1 January 2025 — Esteghlal FC failed to address the issue.

"In good faith, Coach Pitso and the Technical Team extended a 15-day deadline as per the FIFA rules, to allow the new CEO and Board time to familiarize themselves with the situation and remedy the outstanding payments. However, the club did not resolve within the deadlines

they set for themselves. Coach Pitso Mosimane and his technical team are still owed more than two months' salaries."

Allegedly, the South African coach had given the club a 24-hour notice on Monday to pay any unpaid salaries or face contract termination.

Reports have it that the club officials were working hard to ensure Mosimane was paid in time to avoid his departure. They managed to settle the debt hours after the coach terminated his contract due to some difficulties in wiring the money to a bank account in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates.

This is the second club with which Mosimane is involved in a payment dispute, after Saudi

Arabian outfit Al Ahli were also penalized by the world football governing body after they terminated his contract following their promotion to the Pro League in 2023.

Mosimane signed with the Persian Gulf Pro League team based in Tehran in October 2024.

The team had started the season badly, and his experience was needed to save them from going down.

In the last 11 games across all competitions, the Capital Blues had suffered a single defeat and won three under Mosimane.

Esteghlal FC currently sits 11th on the Persian Gulf Pro League log standings and is slowly losing hope of becoming a contender for the AFC Champions League.

## Iran eyes hosting more int'l competitions

### Sports Desk

Iran's Minister of Sports and Youth emphasized that hosting more continental and global competitions is important to the country and ministry. In a press conference on the sidelines of the Cabinet meeting, Ahmad Donya Mali noted that the 33rd edition of the Iran Fajr International badminton championships is taking place in Semnan, central Iran, with around

200 participants from approximately 15 countries. According to the minister, the enhancement of national security has created an environment conducive to an increased number of international competitions.

⬆ Chinese Taipei n's badminton team walks into the stadium during the opening ceremony of the 33rd Iran Fajr International in Semnan, Iran, on January 29, 2025.  
● MEHR



## Mes Rafsanjan parts ways with Shojaei

### Sports Desk

The managers of the Iranian football club Mes Rafsanjan have come to an agreement with Masoud Shojaei to part ways, and Sirous Pourmousavi is set to take over as the new head coach of the team.

Shojaei's record with Mes Rafsanjan includes four wins and five losses in the league and cup competitions. His most notable victory was a 3-1 win over Perse-

polis in Tehran, which led to the sacking of Juan Carlos Garrido. His worst defeat was a 5-1 loss to Tractor in Tabriz. The team's failure to bounce back from a defeat against Foolad Khuzestan proved to be the final straw, leading the club's managers to decide to cut ties with Shojaei.

Pourmousavi faces a tough task in turning the team's fortunes around, as Mes Rafsanjan is currently 14th in the 16-team league table.

## Eslami's goal nominated for best goal of ACL MD6

Matchday Six of the AFC Champions League Elite 2024-25 brought another round of impressive goals that highlighted the talent and creativity in the West Zone.

An array of audacious lobbs, long-range volleys, and flawless team efforts showcased the artistry of Asia's premier club competition, AFC wrote.

In Al Ahli Saudi and Esteghlal FC match, Mohammad Hossein Eslami beat former Chelsea goalkeeper Edouard Mendy

with a volley from distance that bounced over the Senegalese's attempts to save.

The fans can vote to decide which goal will advance to the semi-finals.

Al Shorta's Mohanad Ali's goal against Persepolis, Al Sadd's Akram Afif's goal against Al Nassr, Pakhtakor's Otabek Jurakuziev's goal against Al Ain and Al Ain's Soufiane Rahimi's goal against Pakhtakor are also nominated for the best goal of MD6.



⬆ Esteghlal FC players celebrate a goal by Mohammad Hossein Eslami (80) against Al Ahli Saudi on Matchday Six of the AFC Champions League Elite 2024-25.  
● X

