

## Men's Artistic Gymnastics Asian Championships:

## Iran's Olfati clinches historic vault gold



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## Sports Desk

Mahdi Olfati wrote his name into history books of the Iranian sport by grabbing the vault gold medal at the Men's Artistic Gymnastics Asian Championships on Sunday. Having registered a best qualification result of 14.450 points on Thursday, Olfati scored 14.500 points in Sunday's showdown to walk away with the ultimate prize in Jecheon, South Korea – a first gold medal for the country in 12 editions of the competition. China's Huang Mingqi won the sil-

ver, while reigning Olympic champion Carlos Yulo of the Philippines had to settle for the bronze medal. This was yet another historic feat for 24-year-old Olfati, who also won a first-ever gymnastics medal for Iran at Asian Games, grabbing the men's vault silver in Hangzhou two years ago, and was then part of the final cast of the category in last summer's Paris Olympics. Earlier on Sunday, Amirmohammad Rahmani scored 12.966 points to claim a prestigious silver medal in the junior rings final, with his fel-

low-Iranian Abolfazl Nikkhoo finishing eighth. Siavash Siahi won a first medal for the country in Jecheon on the preceding night, clinching the bronze in the seniors' rings event. The Iranian scored 14.133 points at the Jecheon Gymnasium to stand behind Chinese duo Lan Xingyu and Yang Haonan. Former world champion Lan scored 14.933 points to walk away with the ultimate prize, taking his personal tally to seven Asian golds, with Yang settling for the runner-up finish with 14.233 points.

## 'Fourteen years in the making', Iranian Mobini says of Asian milestone

## Sports Desk

Reihaneh Mobini is grateful to see 14 years of relentless hard work and dedication pay off after the Iranian girl won a historic gold medal at the Asian Athletics Championships. Having registered a second-best qualification effort of 6.33m in the long jump contest, Mobini saved her best for the final showdown in Gumi, South Korea. The Iranian girl jumped 6.40m with her second attempt to walk away with the ultimate prize last week, clinching a first senior women's gold medal for the country in 26 editions of the flagship continental event. "This was a first outdoor tournament for me at the senior level. My entire focus had been on the Asian Championships since the first day of the international season," said Mobini, who had every corner of her room covered by the motivational note reading, 'You will have to win the Asian gold'. "All top Asian jumpers were present at the competition, so my coach and I had to give everything to achieve our goal. The final event was delayed by two hours due to bad weather, which had an impact on the performance and personal records of all competitors. Thankfully, I still managed to jump 6.40m to win this precious gold medal," added the Iranian girl. Of her historic feat, Mobini said, "Honestly, I didn't even know I was making history as the first female Iranian gold medalist at the tournament. When that gold medal was finally around my neck, I thanked God

for keeping me strong through this tough path." "This medal wasn't the result of just one year's work, but represents 14 years of dedication to competitive sports. Along this path, I've fallen and failed countless times, but each time I rose up and continued stronger," said Mobini, who is in her final year of dental school. Speaking of the challenges of studying and being a competitive athlete at the same time, Mobini said, "It's been an incredibly tough journey for me. I had to be at the university from 7 AM to 5 PM, then drag my exhausted body to practice. But this final year, with a lighter academic load, I could dedicate more time to training. It demands a tremendous sacrifice to make a balance between studies and sports." "I had eight or nine training sessions weekly, with each one lasting about two and a half hours. Because I strictly followed my coach's program to make sure training would never disrupt my education." Next for the Iranian girl is the World University Games – starting July 16 in Rhine-Ruhr Germany – followed by September's World Championships in Tokyo. "This world event will be my first experience competing at this level, where I'll face the very best in the sport. I won't underestimate my abilities, and will give absolutely everything to perform at my peak – no matter what the final result may be," said Mobini. Mobini said her ultimate goal is to compete at the 2028 Olympics, though she prefers to "take one step at a time" until securing a berth in Los Angeles.



Iranian long jumper Reihaneh Mobini is seen in action at the Asian Athletics Championships in Gumi, South Korea, on May 28, 2025.  
● iranathletics.ir



## AVC Women's Volleyball Nations Cup:

## Iran rallies past Indonesia in five-set thriller

## Sports Desk

Iranian volleyball girls got off to a winning start at the inaugural AVC Women's Nations Cup on Saturday, coming from behind twice to beat Indonesia in a five-set thriller in Hanoi, Vietnam. Iran gave away a tightly contested first set 23-25 to the experienced Indonesian squad

before rallying to level the scoreline at 1-1 with a 25-23 second-set win. Indonesia regained control in the third, winning 25-16, but Iran stormed back to take the fourth set 25-19 and sealed the decider 15-12 with a dominant display. Iran held the upper hand in both blocking (17 to 6) and attacking (65 to 60), showcasing superior balance and firepower. Five Iranian players scored in double figures, led by outside hitters Shaqayeq Hassankhani and Masoumeh Qadami, who contributed with 16 points apiece. Middle blocker Reihaneh

Karimi added 15, opposite spiker Sepinood Dastbarjan had 14, and middle blocker Zahra Salehi chipped in 11. For Indonesia, outside hitter Ersandrina Devega Salsabila delivered a match-high 25 points, including 24 kills. Next for Iranian girls in Pool B are matches against the New Zealand, the Philippines, Kazakhstan, and Mongolia. Earlier on the first day of the competition, Kazakhstan secured its first victory of the eight-day tournament by sweeping New Zealand 3-0 (25-15, 25-23, 25-15), while the Philippines also came out on top against Mongolia in straight sets (25-18, 25-16, 25-14).

Iranian girls celebrate a point during a 3-2 victory over Indonesia at the AVC Women's Nations Cup in Hanoi, Vietnam, on May 7, 2025.  
● volleyball.ir