

## Asian U20 Wrestling Championships:

## Freestyle glory completes team double for Iran

## Sports Desk

Iran claimed the freestyle title at the Asian U20 Wrestling Championships in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, by grabbing a remarkable four golds, double silvers, and one bronze medal across 10 weight classes.

The Iranian squad collected 179 points to finish atop the team table, with India (157 points) and Kazakhstan (133 points) in the following spots.

The freestyle crown came after the Iranian Greco-Roman squad had walked away with the team trophy in the Kyrgyz capital on Thursday, thanks to four golds and five bronze medals.

Reigning Asian senior champion Abolfazl Rahmani brought the curtain down on a dominant campaign for the country on Sunday by beating Turkmenistan's Dovletgeldi Myradov 6-2

to the ultimate prize in the 86kg contests.

Mohammad-Mahdi Mamivand won a first gold medal for Iran on the final day of the competitions, courtesy of a superiority win (11-0) against Umarhkhon Muydinov of Uzbekistan in the 74kg showdown.

Tohid Nouri, meanwhile, had to settle for a silver medal in the 92kg class following a 6-1 loss to Uzbek wrestler Sherzod Poyonov.

Iranian boys had bagged four medals, including double golds, on the preceding night.

Ebrahim Elahi defeated Ariya Yoshida of Japan 8-3 for the gold medal of the 70kg division, while Erfan Alizadeh rounded off an emphatic run in the 97kg contests by securing a 5-0 victory over Kamil Kurugliyev of Kazakhstan in the final.

Abolfazl Shamsipour finished

his campaign with a silver medal after a 5-4 loss to Amit of India in the 79kg final, with Arshia Haddadi bouncing back from a last-four defeat against Kazakhstan's Nurdanat Aitanov to beat Kabe Matjanov of Turkmenistan 11-0 for a consolation bronze in the 57kg class.

Earlier in Bishkek, Payam Ahmadi (55kg), Ahoura Bouveiri (77kg), Mohammad-Hadi Seydi (97kg), and Abolfazl Fat'hi (130kg) headlined Iran's medal haul in the Greco-Roman event by notching up the golds in their respective weight classes.

Meanwhile, Seyyed Iman Hosseini (60kg), Mohammad-Javad Talebi (63kg), Gholamreza Abdevali (67kg), Amir-Mahdi Saeidinava (72kg) and Hamdireza Keshkar (87kg) won five bronzes as Iran lifted the team trophy with 185 points – followed by Kyrgyzstan (166pts) and Uzbekistan (151pts).



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## AFC Women's Asia Cup qualifiers:

## Iran in pole position after Bhutan rout



Iran captain Zahra Qanbari (9) celebrates with teammates during a 7-1 victory over Bhutan at the AFC Women's Asia Cup qualifiers in Amman, Jordan, on July 13, 2025.

● AFC

## Sports Desk

Iran celebrated a second successive victory at the AFC Women's Asia Cup qualifiers by hammering Bhutan 7-1 in Amman, Jordan, on Sunday.

The victory left Marziyeh Jafari's girls, who had eased to a 4-0 win against Singapore on Thursday, on top of the Group A table, thanks to a superior goal difference over Jordan.

Zahra Alizadeh's cool touch put Iran in front in the second minute before Fatemeh Shaban's double gave Team Melli a three-goal lead inside 10 minutes at the King Abdullah II Stadium.

Having stepped into the game

on the back of impressive wins against Singapore and Lebanon, Bhutan pulled one back through Deki Lhazom in the 12th minute, but Negin Zandi's composed finish restored the three-goal cushion in the 36th minute.

Iran continued to dominate the game after the break with Zandi smashing an effort into the side netting before Alizadeh's wonderful lob hit the crossbar.

Iranians' tenacity saw them add more goals late on through skipper Zahra Qanbari (81st), and substitutes Mohaddeseh Zolfi (83rd) and Roujin Tamrian (85th) to round off an emphatic scoreline as they stayed on course for a place at the finals.

"We delivered a much better per-

formance than our first game [against Singapore] and played with more cohesion in all parts of the pitch. That's a positive sign, and I just hope we keep improving," said Iran boss Jafari, who left her role at Bam Khatoon in April to take the national team job.

"Khatun had played the Bhutanese champion in the AFC Women's Champions League [last year], which gave us a good understanding of their tactical structure and weaknesses and helped us come up with the right game plan today," added Jafari.

Later in the day, Jordan hammered Singapore by five unanswered goals to close the gap on Iran in the table.

Next for Iran is a game against Lebanon on Wednesday, with Jordan taking on Bhutan.

Iran and Jordan will square off on Saturday in what promises to decide the top spot of the qualification group and a place in the 2026 finals in Australia next March.

## Iranian fullback Moharrami joins Tractor

## Sports Desk

Iran international fullback Sadeq Moharrami left Dinamo Zagreb to join Persian Gulf Pro League champion Tractor as a free agent on Sunday. Moharrami, 29, is a fourth summer signing for the northwest Iranian club, following center-back Farshad Faraji, striker Masoud Zaer-Kazemeini, and Croatian midfielder Tibor Halilović, who joined from top-flight side HNK Gorica in his home country last week. Moharrami enjoyed a trophy-laden time at Dinamo Zagreb since joining the club in 2018, winning the Croatian

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league title on six occasions, as well as double Croatian Cup triumphs and one Super Cup silverware.

He made 143 appearances in all competitions as a right back over two spells – either side of loan stint at Lokomotiva Zagreb – for Dinamo, finding the net once, while providing teammates with nine assists.

Moharrami has 29 international caps under his belt and played for Team Melli at the 2022 World Cup and the AFC Asian Cup last year, where a sidelining ligament injury saw him miss out on the best part of the World Cup Asian qualifiers.

## Sinner rises above adversity to make Italian history

## Sports Desk

REUTERS – Jannik Sinner spoke of his pride at overcoming months of adversity on and off the court after claiming his first Wimbledon title by dethroning rival Carlos Alcaraz on Sunday.

The ice-cool 23-year-old beat the Spaniard 4-6 6-4 6-4 6-4 to become Italy's first Wimbledon singles champion and claim his fourth Grand Slam title.

Sinner's third major came at this year's Australian Open where he retained the title despite the dark cloud of a possible ban for a doping violation hanging over his head. Tennis authorities found the world number one bore 'no fault or negligence' for a positive test for anabolic steroid clostebol – Sinner saying it had inadvertently entered his system via a massage from a team member – but he accepted a three-month ban from World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) in February.

His title on Sunday was his first since returning in May and came five weeks after losing an epic French Open final to Alcaraz in which he squandered three match points. "Very emotional, even if I don't cry," Sinner told reporters on Sunday. "It feels emotional because only me and the people who are close to me know exactly what we have been through on and off the court, and it



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has been everything except easy. "We've tried to push every practice session, even if I was struggling at times mentally. Maybe even more in practice sessions because I feel like when I play the match, I can switch off and just play. I believe that this helped me a lot."

Sinner said the way he lost to Alcaraz in Paris had actually made it easier to move on.

"I always tried to be honest with myself ... I always tried to accept it," he said. "I believe if you lose a Grand Slam final that way, it's much better like this than when someone kills you."

"I did a lot of intensity in every practice because I felt like that I could play very good. That's why I also said after Roland Garros that it's not the time to be down, because another Grand Slam is coming up, and I did great here."

## Keshtkar, Dadmarz secure Greco-Roman spots at Wrestling Worlds

## Sports Desk

Iranian wrestlers Mohammad-Mahdi Keshtkar and Pouya Dadmarz defeated their domestic opponents at the World Championships trials in Tehran on Sunday as the country competed the 10-man Greco-Roman squad for September's showpiece in Zagreb, Croatia.

A gold medalist in last December's National Championships, Keshtkar, who also won a silver in February's Ranking Series event, came out victorious in back-to-back encounters against former world champion Meysam Dalkhani in the 63kg showdown. Keshtkar defeated Dalkhani 8-0 in the first bout and then repeated the superiority victory (12-3) over the Takhti



Iranian Greco-Roman wrestler Mohammad-Mahdi Keshtkar (L) is seen in action against Meysam Dalkhani in a 63kg bout at the World Championships trials in Tehran, Iran, on July 13, 2025.

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Cup gold medalist to punch his ticket for the Croatian capital.

Reigning world silver medalist Dadmarz, meanwhile, defeated teenage prodigy Armin Shamsipour – a world under-17 champion last year – by a 4-1 scoreline to remain on course for a third successive world medal in the 55kg division.

Joining Keshtkar and Dadmarz in the Iranian Greco-Roman squad are Olympic champions Saied Esmaeili (67kg) and Mohammad-Hadi Saravi



(97kg), plus world superheavyweight champion Amin Mirzazadeh (130kg), Ali Ahmadi-Vafa (60kg), Danial Sohrabi (72kg), Alireza Abdevali (77kg), Gholamreza Farrokhi (82kg), and Alireza Mohammadi (87kg), who won an impressive silver medal in last year's Paris Olympics.