

## FIVB Boys' U19 World Championship:

## Iran makes quick work of Egypt to progress to last 16

## Sports Desk

Iran claimed a comfortable 3-0 (25-16, 25-22, 25-20) victory over Egypt on Monday to secure a last-16 spot at the FIVB Volleyball Boys' U19 World Championship in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Mohammad-Amin Rahimi contributed 11 points – including double aces – for Iran, with fellow outside-hitter chipping in 10. Egyptian middle-blocker Abo Gabal scored a game-high 12 points, while outside-hitter Zeyad Ghonim added seven for the African side, which suffered a third defeat in Uzbek capital. This was a third successive win for Adel Gholami's boys in Pool C, following a five-set loss to Spain on the opening day of the competition. Chasing a third world under-19 title, and first since

2017, Iran bounced back from the first-day setback to edge Poland in a five-set thriller, before easing past Tunisia in straight sets. Runner-up to France in the previous edition in 2023, Iran will square off against Italy in the final round of the group phase today. "Iran's group features some decent sides of the tournament in Spain, Italy, Poland, and even Tunisia and Egypt, which came here as the top two of the African Championships," Gholami said after the game. "We knew it was going to be a tough group, and the challenges would only grow with each game, but thank God, today's win confirmed a place in round of 16 for us. Hopefully, we can achieve another positive result against Italy tomorrow and then see what comes our

way in the knockouts," added the former international middle blocker. "We were aware of Egypt's weakness in transition plays. We performed exceptionally well in reception, serving, and attacking throughout the match, though our players were a bit hasty with their decision-making at times, making things harder for us, which is normal given their age and experience level." The top four in each of the four six-team groups will progress to the round of 16. Elsewhere on Monday, defending champion France overcame a two-set deficit to beat Japan 3-2 (33-35, 23-25, 25-21, 25-19, 17-15) in Pool B, while Belgium secured a top-four finish in Pool A, thanks to a 3-1 win (25-14, 20-25, 25-19, 25-12) against Türkiye.



Iranian players and coaching staff pose for a photo after a 3-0 win against Egypt at the FIVB Boys' U19 World Championship in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on July 28, 2025.

● FIVB

## Asian Junior Wushu Championships:

## Iranians win four medals on Day 3

## Sports Desk

There were further taolu medals for the Iran on the third day of the Asian Junior Wushu Championships in Jiangyin, China, while four Iranians progressed to the final bouts in the sanda contests on Monday. Having won a silver and a bronze earlier in the competition, Iranian girl Helia Chearqi scored 9.063 points to win the bronze in the nanquan event of the children age group. Mohammadreza Madadi, meanwhile, bagged a silver medal in the men's junior nanquan showpiece with 9.403 points, while Hasti Askari won the bronze medal of the same event in the women's competitions, also registering 9.403 points. Reza Siahmoshtei settled for a silver medal in the men's junior daoshu category, thanks to a 9.433-point performance.

In the men's junior sanda competitions, Amirhesam Mohammadi (60kg), Ali Rezaei (65kg), Amir-Mahdi Shirdel (75kg), and Amirreza Karimi

will vie for the ultimate prize after coming out victorious in the semi-finals of their respective weight classes.



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## Bayern agree £65.5m deal with Liverpool for Diaz

**BBC** – Luis Diaz is set to join Bayern Munich after the German champions agreed a deal worth 75m euros (£65.5m) including add-ons with Liverpool. Liverpool rejected an initial bid of £58.6m from Bayern for the Colombia forward earlier this month. Diaz, 28, was left out of Liverpool's squad for Saturday's 4-2 pre-season friendly defeat by AC Milan in Hong Kong because of speculation surrounding his future. He has been given permission by Liverpool to fly to Europe from Asia to complete a medical in the coming days. Liverpool have signed forwards Florian Wirtz and Hugo Ekitike already this summer and are interest-

ed in Newcastle United's Alexander Isak. Diaz arrived at Anfield from Porto in a deal worth an initial £37m in January 2022 and has scored 41 goals in 148 appearances, including 13 as the Reds won the Premier League title last

season. His 17 goals in all competitions in 2024-25 was the most prolific season of his career. Bayern won their 34th Bundesliga title last season and scored a league-high 99 goals, but only made it to the last 16 of

the German Cup and exited the Champions League in the quarter-finals. Diaz will provide an attacking option for the Bavarian side, who will be without forward Jamal Musiala for a "long period" after he suffered a broken leg and dislocated ankle at the Club World Cup. Diaz's shot conversion rate of 18.3% in 24-25 comfortably ranked as his best in a Premier League season. Many of his other attributes stood out statistically too. Diaz sat just outside the top 10 in the Premier League for most combined goals and assists (18), shots on target (30), chances created (56) and dribbles completed (52).



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## Persian Gulf Pro League:

## Tractor to begin title defense against Esteghlal

## Sports Desk

Tractor will begin its Persian Gulf Pro League title defense at home against Iranian Hazfi Cup champion Esteghlal on August 18. The game will be a second encounter between the two in seven days, following the Iranian Super Cup match at Isfahan's Naqsh-e Jahan Stadium. The opening day of the new Iranian top-flight season will also see Sepahan – runner-up to Tractor last season – play away to Malavan FC, while Persepolis, which finished third last term, will begin its bid for an eighth league trophy in a decade at home against newly-promoted Fajr Sepasi – in head coach Vahid Hashemian's debut on the Tehran Reds' bench. Persepolis will be chasing

their first league victory over Sepahan since December 2021 when the two domestic rivals face off in Isfahan on the second matchday. The two sides met on four occasions across different competitions last season, with Sepahan achieving a clean sweep of victories. Persepolis will then host Foolad Khuzestan on matchday three and Sepahan will visit Sirjan to face Mahdi Tartar's Golgozar. Elsewhere on matchday one, Esteghlal Khuzestan will host Shams Azar in Ahvaz, with Zob Ahan and Paykan, which also won promotion last season, squaring off in Isfahan. Last season's surprise package Chadormalou will welcome Yahya Golmohammadi's Foolad Khuzestan, which will be looking to im-

prove on the fourth-place finish last term. Golgozar and Iralco will meet in Sirjan, while Mes Rafsanjan will visit Khaybar. A second league game for Tractor will come at Mes Rafsanjan, before Dragan Skocic's side play at home against Iralco in the third round of fixtures. Esteghlal, meanwhile, which has Portuguese coach Ricardo Sa Pinto back in charge, will face Zob Ahan in its first home game of the campaign, followed by a trip to Ahvaz, where the Tehran Blues will meet Esteghlal Khuzestan on matchday three. The first Tehran Derby of the season will come on matchday twelve, as Esteghlal will be desperate to end a seven-year winless streak against archrival Persepolis in the league.



● IRNA