

# World Para Athletics Championships: Javelin, shot put glories push Iran's medal tally into double figures

## Sports Desk

Ali Baziyar grabbed the sixth gold medal for Iran at the World Para Athletics Championships in New Delhi, setting a new championship record on his way to glory in the men's javelin throw F54 event on Saturday.

The Iranian delivered a 32.24m effort on his fourth attempt to beat reigning Paralympic champion Ivan Revenko for the ultimate prize, despite the Russian, competing as a neutral athlete, breaking the European record with 31.68m.

Baziyar's compatriot Erfan Bondori impressed with a personal-best 31.23m throw but settled for the bronze, taking Iran's medal count to 12 across eight days of action at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

Saturday's medals came after Ali Asghar Javanmardi and Hassan Bajoulvand had bagged a couple of golds for Iran in the men's field events the previous day.

A Paralympic bronze winner last year, Javanmardi secured his first world title in the shot put F35

contest, following the 2024 silver and the 2017 bronze – thanks to a 17.17m throw on his penultimate attempt.

Argentina's three-time Paralympic silver medalist Hernán Emanuel Urra finished runner-up to the Iranian with 16.77m, with China's Fu Xinhan (15.64m) taking the bronze.

Paralympic silver medalist Bajoulvand, meanwhile, registered a season-best 41.7m effort to finish atop the podium in the discus throw F11 class, with Brazilian world-record holder Alessandro Rodrigo Silva (40.14m) and Spain's Alvaro del Amo Cano (39.28m) settling for silver and bronze respectively.

On Thursday, two-time Paralympic champion Saeid Afrooz claimed his third world title in the men's javelin throw F34 discipline.

The Iranian recorded a 41.52m throw with his fifth attempt, breaking his own world record from last year's Paris Paralympics by 36 centimeters.

Elham Salehi won the gold in the women's javelin throw F54 event on Wednesday, thanks to a successful

17.06m attempt – the Iranian girl's second medal in New Delhi, following her bronze-winning campaign in the shot put F54 event on the preceding day.

Iran's second javelin medal in the women's competition on Wednesday came in the F56 class, where Zeinab Moradi finished with a bronze.

Hajar Safarzadeh has been the only Iranian medalist in the track events, winning the silver in the women's 400m T12 contest on Wednesday.

It was an all-Iranian one-two in the men's shot put F11 final on Tuesday, as reigning Paralympic champion Amirhossein Alipour defended his world title in style, shattering the championship record with a 14.59m throw.

Three-time Paralympic medalist Mahdi Olad, who won the silver of the category in Paris, again had to settle for a runner-up finish behind his fellow Iranian, courtesy of a season-best 14.23 throw.

Amanollah Papi got Iran off the mark in New Delhi on Sunday, winning a bronze in the men's javelin throw F57 event.



Ali Baziyar (L) and Erfan Bondori pose with the Iranian flag after winning the men's javelin throw F54 gold and bronze medals, respectively, at the World Para Athletics Championships in New Delhi, India, on October 4, 2025.  
● ISNA

## Tehran titans in turmoil after rocky start to new season

## Sports Desk

Not even the most pessimistic fans of Persepolis or Esteghlal could have foreseen such a turbulent start to the season for both Tehran archrivals when the Persian Gulf Pro League got underway in mid-August.

A summer spending spree, which brought a host of high-profile signings as well as new head coaches, had only offered hope of a fresh start for both sets of supporters after their teams had a season to forget last term.

Less than seven weeks gone, however, the new Iranian top-flight campaign has delivered a shared crisis that has both head coaches Vahid Hashemian and Ricardo Sa Pinto clinging to their jobs after a mere six games.

Ali Alipour came to Persepolis rescue again, finding the net from the spot with 14 minutes remaining, as the Tehran Reds salvaged a point in a 1-1 home draw against Golgozar Sirjan on Friday.

However, the result meant the capital giants have now managed just two wins in 14 games between them in all competitions this season.

It was the Reds' fourth successive league draw – all in front of the home support in Tehran – with their sole victory coming



Persepolis head coach Vahid Hashemian is dejected during a 1-1 home draw against Golgozar Sirjan in the Persian Gulf Pro League in Tehran, Iran, on October 3, 2025.  
● AHMAD MOEINI JAM/IRNA

against Sepahan (1-0) in the so-called 'Iranian Clásico' in Isfahan on August 25.

For Persepolis, the problem runs deeper than the results.

Despite the unbeaten start to the new season, the drab, and at times clueless, nature of the Reds' performances this season has done little to justify the appointment of Hashemian, who took up his first experience as a senior head coach when he replaced ex-Persepolis boss Isamil Kartal in July.

For all the respect that the former Iran international earned

through his time as a player at the German Bundesliga, questions are now being asked about Hashemian's tactical acumen, with sections of the home showing their frustration by jeering the head coach in recent games. Hashemian went on to praise his side's "best performance of the season" after Friday's draw, ruing "bad luck" and "missed opportunities", but the Reds' boss must be aware that his days at the club could be numbered if he does not turn his team's fortunes around after the upcoming international break.



Esteghlal head coach Ricardo Sa Pinto reacts on the touchline during a 1-0 loss to Al Muharraq in the AFC Champions League Two in Tehran, Iran, on October 1, 2025.  
● ALI SHARIFZADEH/IRNA

## Esteghlal blues

The circumstances may be even more dire for Hashemian's opposite number on the Blues bench, as rumors and speculation are already swirling about who might replace the Portuguese coach in the near future. When Sa Pinto returned to the club in the summer, he was widely regarded by many supporters as a messiah after a dreadful campaign had seen Esteghlal finish ninth in the 16-team league table in May.

The passionate Portuguese was tipped by many to build on a

busy transfer window – headlined by the signing of ex-Barcelona winger Munir El Haddadi, Albanian international Jasir Asani, and former Real Madrid and Sporting goalkeeper Antonio Adan – to complete his unfinished business, having left Esteghlal without a trophy despite his team delivering an aggressive and attack-minded brand of football during his previous tenure at the 2022/23 season.

Esteghlal began the new season with a 2-1 defeat against Tractor in the Iranian Super Cup game

but the 1-0 win at the home of the defending champion on the opening day of the league campaign offered genuine optimism for a serious title charge from the Blues.

However, that impressive victory remains the only moment of joy for Esteghlal fans throughout their campaign, as the club has since fallen to three defeats, coupled with four frustrating draws, in their subsequent eight games.

The Blues suffered arguably the darkest day in their 80-year history when they were humiliated 7-1 by Emirati club Al Wasl in their AFC Champions League Two opener in Dubai on September 17.

The club hierarchy was quick to voice its support for the under-fire head coach, but there have been no signs of a turnaround since. A second continental defeat – a 1-0 setback at home against Al Muharraq of Bahrain – on Wednesday led to a list of familiar faces in Farhad Majidi, Mojtaba Jabbari, and Sohrab Bakhtiarzadeh being touted as potential replacements for Sa Pinto.

Esteghlal will be chasing a second win of the season when taking on a resolute Chadormalou side today in Tehran, and failure to do so could well bring a premature end to Sa Pinto's second spell in Iran.



● IRSF

## Asian Aquatics Championships:

# Iran beats China for winning start in water polo event

## Sports Desk

Iranian men's water polo team got off to a winning start at the Asian Aquatics Championships in Ahmedabad, India, defeating China 14-9 in their Group A opener on Saturday.

The victory saw Iranian men make

amends for their last-four loss in February's Asian Water Polo Championship, where China came out victorious in the shootout on home turf to progress to the final, before falling 14-11 to Japan.

Next for Mahdi Panamtash's men in the group phase is a game against Hong Kong today, followed

by a match against Uzbekistan on Monday.

Japan, Singapore, India, Thailand, and Kazakhstan – which beat Iran in the third-place contest in February's showpiece in Zhaoqing – are in Group B of the competition.

Hamed Karimi, Amirhossein Amirian, Amirreza Jalilipour, Mah-

di Barzegari, Amir Aqaei-Karim, Farbod Behzad-Sabouri, Ashkan Iranpour, Farbod Borqei, Amin Qavidel, Alireza Mehri, Arman Shams, Mersad Ahham, Mahdi Yazdankhah, Mehrab Golestani-rad, and Erfan Sadrnia are the members of the Iranian team in Ahmedabad.