

# Azmoun suffers fresh injury blow as Iran names squad for friendlies

## Sports Desk

Shabab Al Ahli striker Sardar Azmoun will be unavailable for Iran's upcoming friendlies against Russia and Tanzania after picking up a new injury while on club duty.

The Iranian talisman sustained a fractured metatarsal in his foot as well as a torn ankle ligament during a training session on Saturday and is expected to be sidelined for up to fourth months. This is the Iranian striker's second injury setback in nearly five months. He had already missed two previous international breaks before making a scoring return in September, coming on as a substitute to net a last-gasp winner for Shabab Al Ahli in a top-flight win over Al Nasr.

Iran will play Russia in Volgograd on Friday, before facing Tanzania – No. 107 in the latest FIFA Men's World Ranking – in Dubai four days later.

The double header will be part of Iran's preparation for next summer's World Cup finals in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Iran head coach Amir Qalenei named a 24-man squad on Saturday, with Persepolis center-back Hossein Kan'ani, Al Nasr winger Mahdi Ghayedi, and Lech Poznan winger Ali Qolizadeh also set to miss the double header with injury.

Allahyar Sayyadmanesh, playing as a striker for Belgian top-tier club K.V.C. Westerlo, received a first international callout in 13 months, while teenage prodigy Kasa Taheri will be looking to make his senior Team Melli debut after scoring four goals in six Persian Gulf Pro League appearances for Zob Ahan.

The following is Iran's 24-man squad for October's international break:

Goalkeepers: Alireza Beiranvand

(Tractor), Payam Niazmand (Persepolis), Mohammadreza Akhbari (Sepahan), Mohammad Khalifeh (Iralco)

Defenders: Mohammad-Amin Hazbavi (Sepahan), Ali Ne'mati (Foolad Khuzestan), Hossein Abarquei (Persepolis), Shoja Khalilzadeh (Tractor), Mohammad-Mahdi Zare' (Akhmat Grozny), Arya Yousefi (Sepahan)

Midfielders: Mohammad Khodabandelou (Persepolis), Alireza Jahanbakhsh (-), Mohammad Qorbani (Al Wahda), Samman Qoddous (Ittihad Kalba), Omid Nourafkan (Sepahan), Saeid Ezzatollahi (Shabab Al Ahli), Mohammad-Javad Hosseinejad (Dynamo Makhachkala), Mohammad Mohebbi (Rostov FC), Mahdi Hashemnejad (Tractor), Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh (Tractor)

Strikers: Mahdi Taremi (Olympicos), Kasa Taheri (Zob Ahan), Allahyar Sayyadmanesh (K.V.C. Westerlo), Ali Ali-pour (Persepolis).



● JIA HAOCHENG/XINHUA

## World Para Athletics Championships:

# Iran's Khosravi shatters world record to retain shot put dominance

## Sports Desk

Iran's Yassin Khosravi grabbed a third successive shot put gold at the World Para Athletics Championships, thanks to a world record-breaking performance in New Delhi on Saturday.

Reigning Paralympic champion Khosravi saved his best for last, registering a 16.60m effort on his final attempt in the men's F57 class to improve his own world record – set in July 2023 – by an impressive 59 centimeters.

in the F11 category.

There was further glory for the country in the men's javelin throw contests, as Ali Baziyar won the F54 gold earlier on Saturday, with his compatriot Erfan Bondori settling for the bronze, after Paralympic champion Saeid Afrooz had broken his own world record en route to glory in the F34 division on Thursday.

Hassan Bajoulvand, meanwhile, grabbed the gold medal in the men's discus throw F11 competition.

Elham Salehi was the sole



● TASNIM

Brazilian Thiago Paulino Dos Santos – silver medalist in last year's Paris Paralympics – again had to settle for a runner-up finish behind the Iranian with 14.82m, with the host's Soman Rana took the bronze with a 14.69m effort. This was Iran's seventh gold medal across eight days of action at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

Amirhossein Alipour (F11), and Aliasghar Javanmardi (F35) also claimed the ultimate prize in their respective men's shot put events, with Mahdi Olad completing an all-Iranian one-two finish

Iranian gold medalist in the women's competitions, winning the title in the javelin throw F54 contest – the Iranian girl's second medal in New Delhi following a bronze in the shot put F54 event.

Zeinab Moradi won a bronze in the women's javelin throw F56 class, while Iran's only medal in the track competitions came in the women's 400m T12 category, where Hajar Safarzadeh won a precious silver.

Amanollah Papi got Iran of the mark in New Delhi with a consolation bronze in the men's javelin throw F57 showdown.

## Iranians collect four medals in Karate 1 Series A

## Sports Desk

Iranians bagged four kumite medals, including one gold, at

the final Karate 1 Series A event of the season in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

On Sunday, Asian silver medalist



Iran's Morteza Ne'mati won the men's -75kg gold medal at the final Karate 1 Series A event of the season in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.  
● IKF

Morteza Ne'mati overcame opponents from Kuwait, the Philippines, Chile, Turkmenistan, and France before defeating Russian European champion Ernest Sharafutdinov, competing as a neutral athlete, 6-1 in the men's -75kg final – the Iranian's second Series A gold of the season following his final victory over the Russian karateka in February's edition in Larnaca, Cyprus. Ne'mati's fellow-Iranian Ali Rahimi, meanwhile, bounced back from a last-four setback (10-4) against Sharafutdinov to beat Indonesia's Joshua Ignatius 7-5 and finish with a consolation bronze alongside Chilean Matias Rodriguez Fuentes.

Elsewhere, a second final showpiece featuring Iranian and Russian contestants saw former

world champion Aliasghar Asia-bari settle for the silver medal in the -84kg category after suffering an 8-7 loss to Eduard Gasparian.

Earlier in the competition, former Asian champion Saleh Abazari had won a consolation bronze, thanks to a 9-0 victory over Frenchman Faadel Boussag in the men's +84kg weight class. Abazari began his campaign with victories over Egypt and Italy but fell to a third-round loss to Japan's Kentarou Yamauchi, who went on to beat Türkiye's Kadir Furkan Genc for the gold medal. The Iranian still managed to beat Indonesia's Daniel Daniel and Italian Michele Ciani in repechage before sharing the third spot with Daniel Tielen of Australia.

## Persian Gulf Pro League:

# Tractor, Sepahan fire blanks in goalless stalemates

## Sports Desk

Defending champion Tractor shared the spoils with Foolad Khuzestan in a goalless encounter in the Persian Gulf Pro League at Ahvaz's Foolad Arena on Saturday. This was Tractor's fourth goalless stalemate in nine outings across all competitions this season – third in a row following a domestic league draw at home against newly-promoted Fajr Sepasi and the game against the UAE's Al Wahda in the AFC Champions League Elite last Monday.

The frustrating draw was still enough to send Dragan Skocic's side back atop the Iranian top-flight table with nine points from six games – courtesy of a superi-

or goal difference over Golgozar Sirjan, Malavan, and Iralco.

Tractor will play Malavan at home next, with Foolad playing away to Zob Ahan after the upcoming international break.

It also finished without a goal between Zob Ahan and Sepahan in the Isfahan Derby at the Naqsh-e Jahan Stadium on Saturday.

The result meant Sepahan has now managed a single victory in eight games in all competitions this season – a 1-0 away win against Khaybar last time out in the league – heaping pressure on head coach and club legend Moharram Navidkia, who was appointed to the role for a second spell in June.

Sitting 12th in the 16-team table with six points from as many



Tractor midfielder Regi Lushkja (31) is tackled by Foolad Khuzestan center-back Ali Ne'mati during a goalless draw in the Persian Gulf Pro League in Ahvaz, Iran, on October 4, 2025.  
● FFIRI

games, Sepahan will chase the second victory of the season when

taking on Esteghlal Khuzestan in Ahvaz on October 17.

## A'alamian bros withdraw from Islamic Solidarity Games

## Sports Desk



● IRNA

Nima and Noshad A'alamian withdrew from the table tennis competitions at the upcoming Islamic Solidarity Games – starting November 7 in Riyadh – due to club commitment, Iran head coach Jamil Lotfollahnasabi confirmed.

"Nima and Noshad were to be part of the Iranian squad in Riyadh. However, the table tennis event was brought forward by seven days to November 8, meaning it will now clash with the brothers' club commitments in the French league," Lotfollahnasabi said. The brothers will be replaced by

Mohammad Mousavi and Benjamin Faraji – third and fourth in the Iranian ISG trials respectively – at the sixth edition of the multi-sport event, joining Amirhossein Hodaiei.

Hodaiei defeated Nima A'alamian in the men's singles final at the previous edition of the Games in Konya 2021.