

Iran Women beats Nepal to win Indian tourney

Sports Desk

Three goals inside eight minutes in the second half helped Iran defeat Nepal 3-0 and clinch the Tri-Nation Women's International Tournament title in Shillong, India, on Friday.

The commanding victory came on the back of Tuesday's 2-0 triumph against India and ensured Marziyeh Jafari's girls topped the standings with six points, rendering Monday's match between India and Nepal a formality in terms of the title chase.

Sara Didar, who came off the bench to score twice against the host, again made her presence felt as a substitute, breaking the deadlock in the 49th minute, followed by quick-fire strikes by prolific captain Zahra Qanbari and Shabnam Behesht.

The evening started with Nepal showing admirable resilience against an Iranian team ranked 70th in the world as the South Asian side held its shape in the opening half.

Iran, meanwhile, dominated possession, dictating the tempo and launching wave after wave of attacks, yet Nepal's disciplined backline and determined pressing frustrated



Iranian girls celebrate with the trophy at the Tri-Nation Women's International Tournament in Shillong, India, on October 24, 2025.

● FFIRI

its opponent.

Nepal grew in confidence as the first half wore on, carving out a few half-chances of their own.

Though the finishing was wayward, the sheer grit to fight Iran in midfield was admirable.

The first 45 minutes ended goalless, but it was clear the match was teetering on the edge of a

decisive breakthrough.

That breakthrough came swiftly after the restart, when Didar latched onto a long ball from goalkeeper Raha Yazdani and muscled past defender Bimala BK before coolly slotting home past goalkeeper Anjila Tumbapo Subba to give Iran the lead.

Iran smelled blood and Nepal,

despite its spirited defense in the first half, began to unravel. Qanbari doubled the lead with a superbly executed free-kick from the right flank. Her curling delivery completely outfoxed Subba and nestled into the top-right corner.

Iran's third came in the 57th minute and it was the pick of

the lot. Behesht unleashed a stunning left-footed strike from 20 yards, a rising effort that flew past Subba with pace and precision. It was a moment of pure class that effectively killed off the contest.

Three goals in eight blistering minutes broke Nepal's resistance and confirmed Iran's dom-

inance. The final whistle brought Iranian celebrations, as they lifted the trophy after a statement performance.

The tournament was part of Iran's preparation for next March's AFC Women's Asian Cup in Australia.

Iranian girls, who will feature in the finals for only the second time following their debut in 2022, will play the host, South Korea and the Philippines in Group A of the competition.

Iran will get its campaign underway against South Korea – runner-up to China in the previous edition – at the Gold Coast Stadium on March 2, before squaring off against Australia, which made it to the 2023 World Cup semifinals on home soil, three days later.

Jafari's girls will hope to be in contention for a top-two finish in the group and a last-eight spot when they play the Philippines on March 8.

Asian Youth Games:

Iranians claim four golds in mixed martial arts

Sports Desk

Iranians grabbed four mixed martial arts golds at the Asian Youth Games on Saturday to take the country's haul to 20 medals in the multi-sport event in Bahrain.

Tiam Dehpahlevan defeated Mongolia's Ulziitnaran Bat-Erdene by unanimous decision to claim the ultimate prize in the girls' 60kg weight class. Iran's second gold in the girls' event came in the 55kg division, where Vania Fat'halipour beat Japan's Atsuhiko Takada by split decision in the final showpiece.

In the boys' competition, Amirmohammad

Hatamian came out on top against Travis Ratcliff of the Philippines, also by unanimous decision, in the 60kg showdown, while Amirmahdi Vazifeh defeated Nurtileu Otegen by neck submission in the 80kg final.

Illia Vahedi had to settle for silver in the 70kg division after a final loss to Tajikistan's Umed Umarjoni.

Saturday's results took Iran's MMA medal count to six following Kamand Karamzad's bronze in the girls' 50kg category on the preceding day.

Elsewhere, Asal Goltappeh, the

Iranian flag barrier in the opening ceremony, had to settle for a silver medal in the taekwondo event following a 2-0 setback against China's Zhang Qing in the girls' +63kg final.

Meanwhile, Iran secured a last-four spot in the girls' futsal event after a goalless draw against the Chinese Taipei in its final game in the group stage on Saturday.

Iranian girls had beaten Hong Kong 6-0 in their opening game in the Games before demolishing the host 14-0 on Friday.

In volleyball, Iran's both girls' and boys' teams progressed to the quarterfinals.

Iranian under-18 girls defeated Indonesia 3-0 on Friday to claim a fourth successive victory in the competition and will face Hong Kong at Isa Sports City today.

The Iranian boys also came out victorious in straight sets against Indonesia to set a last-eight clash with Mongolia today.



Iranian MMA fighter Tiam Dehpahlevan celebrates with the Iranian flag after winning the gold medal in the girls' 60kg event at the Asian Youth Games in Sakhir, Bahrain, on October 25, 2025.

● JSNA

IHF Men's U17 World Championship:

Iran off to losing start against Germany

Sports Desk

Iran got off to a losing start at the inaugural Men's U17 Handball World Championship in Casablanca, Morocco, suffering a 45-20 against Germany in Group C on Friday.

German Can Akkoc delivered a player-of-the-match performance, while Kalle Gaugisch and Julius Eisend contributed with six goals apiece for the European powerhouse.

Mohsen Hadizadeh topped the scoring for Iran with five goals, with Amirhossein Samarbakhsh finishing on four.

Germany was the favorite before the contest, however the European team was missing two key players, but that was nowhere to be seen, as it dominated the match against the Asian champion.

Iranians were coming with big ambitions in this competition, especially as they were crowned Asian champions last month, but they failed to contain Germany, which used the entirety of its roster, with all outfield players scoring at least one goal.

By half-time, Germany was up 19-10, but still missed a lot of chances, with the shooting efficiency drastically improving in the second half, when the Eu-



Germany's Leonard Volk shoots during a victory over Iran at the Men's U17 Handball World Championship in Casablanca, Morocco, on October 24, 2025.

● IRIHF

ropean side upped the ante and had its overall efficiency up to 66%.

Gaugisch and Eisend scored almost one goal per minute in the second period to help Germany jump to an eventual 45-20 win, the second-largest in the competition so far.

Elsewhere in the group, Agustin Refojos scored seven goals to steer Argentina to a 43-25 victo-

ry over Puerto Rico.

Iranian boys will face Argentina in their second outing on Sunday, before taking on Puerto Rico two days later at the Nouacer Hall.

The winner of the three group will secure a place in the semifinals of the 12-team tournament, with the second teams hoping to progress to the last four as the best runner-up.

Persian Gulf Pro League:

Persepolis back to winning ways but Hashemian's future in doubt

Sports Desk

Persepolis secured only a second win in eight games at the new Persian Gulf Pro season, defeating Zob Ahan 2-0 at the Shahr-e Qods Stadium on Friday.

Persepolis striker Mohammad Omri found the net in his first start of the season with a superb curling effort

from the edge of the box in the 37th minute, before prolific striker Ali Alipour headed home his fifth goal of the campaign eight minutes from normal time.

The victory helped Persepolis – which is chasing an eighth top-flight title in a decade – end a six-game winless run in the Iranian league. However, it could

still prove to be the swan song for head coach Vahid Hashemian.

Numerous reports in Iranian media on Saturday suggested that the club has agreed terms with Brazilian Osmar Loss Viera, who is expected to take charge of the Reds for a second spell in the coming days.

Hashemian replaced Turkish

coach Ismail Kartal for his senior managerial debut in July but his tenure in nearing the end after less than four months following a run of drab performances and five frustrating draws in the league.

Osmar, meanwhile, will be treated to a hero's welcome by the Persepolis faithful, having led the Reds to the

2023/24 league crown in his previous stint.

Osmar left Persepolis after his title-winning campaign to join Buriram United, winning a domestic treble as well as the ASEAN Club Championship with the Thai League 1 outfit last season.



Persepolis striker Mohammad Omri (c) celebrates his goal with teammates during a 2-0 win against Zob Ahan in the Persian Gulf Pro League in Shahr-e Qods, Tehran, Iran, on October 24, 2025.

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