

Riyadh 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games: Abdoli strikes swimming gold as Iran secures four medals on Day 2

Sports Desk

The second day of the Islamic Solidarity Games in Riyadh saw Iranian athletes claim one gold and three bronzes across swimming, judo, and boxing events, while the country booked a place in the futsal final. Samyar Abdoli secured Iran's first gold medal of the Games with victory in the men's 50m freestyle final. The Iranian swimmer – a gold medalist at last year's Asian Age Group Championships – clocked 22.44 seconds in a closely contested race to pip Egypt's Abdelrahman Elaraby (22.51) and the host's Zaid Alsarraj (22.57) to the ultimate prize. "My times improved with each race because I was saving my energy for the final and also learned from the mistakes I made in the previous heats. I am incredibly happy to have won Iran's first gold medal, and I hope this is just the beginning," 21-year-old Abdoli said. "With three days of competition left, I will also be competing in other events, namely the 100m freestyle and the 50m breaststroke. The competition is very tough, and I don't know if I'll be able to medal again, but I will certainly give it



Iranian swimmer Samyar Abdoli celebrates after securing the gold medal in the men's 50m freestyle event at the Islamic Solidarity Games in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Nov. 9, 2025. [isg-2025.com](#)

my absolute best," added the Iranian swimmer. Iran enjoyed further success in the pool on Sunday as Mohammad Qassemi, Mahdi Gholami, Ali Rashidpour, and Matin Sohran teamed up to claim bronze in the men's 4×200m freestyle relay. The Iranian quartet posted a time of 7:34.19 to finish

behind Türkiye (7:30.73) and Kazakhstan (7:33.50). Mehrshad Afqari (50m butterfly) and Arad Mahdizadeh (100m breaststroke) were also in action on Sunday but fell short of a podium finish in their respective finals. In judo, Maryam Barbat got Iranian women off the mark in Riyadh, settling for bronze in the -70kg weight class.

Iran's flag-bearer in the opening ceremony suffered a quarterfinal setback against Azerbaijan's Aytaj Gardashkhanli but bounced back to defeat Kyrgyzstan's Myrzaïym Duishonbekova by ippon in the repechage before beating Cameroonian Zita Ornella Biami in similar fashion to claim bronze. Elyas Parhizgar (men's -81kg)

and Amirabbas Choopan (men's -90kg), meanwhile, finished empty-handed in their respective divisions. Daniah Shahbakhsh took Iran's haul to four medals with a boxing bronze. After defeating Kyrgyzstan's Ryspek Bektenov in the men's 60kg quarterfinals, the former world bronze medalist lost 4-1 to

Uzbekistan's Madiyar Daniyarov – bronze medalist at April's World Boxing Cup – in the semifinals, sharing the bronze with Saudi boxer Thamer Almatrfi.

Iran into futsal final

Another semifinal clash between Iran and Uzbekistan on Sunday saw Vahid Shamsaei's men come from behind to secure a 4-2 win and book a place in today's futsal final. Shakhzodjon Sadiev gave Uzbekistan the lead three minutes into the game, only to see his goal canceled out by Masoud Yousef three minutes later as it finished 1-1 in the first half. A cagey second half came to life when Asian Player of the Year Salar Aqapour put Iran ahead with a long-range strike 10 minutes after the restart. The Iranian's joy, however, was short-lived, as Akbar Usmonov's shot slipped through goalkeeper Baqer Mohammadi's hands to give Uzbekistan an equalizer just two minutes later. Moslem Oladqobad surged forward from his own half before his sublime finish found the top corner to restore Iran's lead with eight minutes remaining and then Ali before Ali Khalilvand sealed the victory with a simple tap-in from

Saeid Ahmadabbasi's precise low cross.

"Uzbekistan is one of our main rivals and in Asia. Our match against them in the Asian Cup last year went to a penalty shootout. They're a strong team, and we will likely face them again at the Asian Cup in two months," Iran head coach Shamsaei said after the game. "Futsal is evolving rapidly worldwide. I said after the Afghanistan game that it's the players' effort that counts in futsal, not their reputation. My players worked hard in the second half today and controlled the game to advance to the final. "Four of our players had food poisoning before the game. Two of them even had to leave mid-game and I am so grateful for their dignity and courageous performance," added the Iranian futsal great. Awaiting Iran in today's showdown is Morocco, which defeated Saudi Arabia 6-3 in the other semifinal later in the day. Iran conceded a late equalizer to settle for a 2-2 draw with Morocco in the group stage on the opening day of the futsal event – a rematch of their last-16 encounter at the 2024 World Cup, which the African champions won 4-3.

Iran eyes bright future in women's volleyball despite modest finish in Amman

Sports Desk

Iran head coach Fatemeh Shaban Khamseh said she remains positive about the next generation of women's volleyball in the country, despite her team's modest finish at the Asian U16 Championship in Amman, Jordan. A straight-set loss to Kazakhstan on Saturday left Iran 10th among 14 teams in the second edition of the tournament in Amman, Jordan. The Iranian girls suffered back-to-back 3-0 defeats against the Philippines and Japan to finish bottom of

their group in the preliminary round, but bounced back to beat India (3-0), Australia (3-2), and the host nation (3-0) in the 9th-12th classification phase before the final-day setback. "Kazakhstan was a very strong team. They had tall, powerful players, which made it difficult for us to mount an effective attack. Compared to the other teams we faced, Kazakhstan presented a much tougher challenge," Shaban Khamseh said after the game. "Unfortunately, we weren't at our best today and lacked the necessary focus. Even

though we expected to be more coordinated and perform better on the final day of the competition, we couldn't deliver the performance we were hoping for," added the Iranian. However, Shaban Khamseh said she is confident that a "bright future" lies ahead for Iranian women's volleyball. "From the start of the tournament until now, we saw a remarkable improvement in the team. All experts, coaches, and referees here agreed that the Iranian players got better with each game," said Shaban Khamseh. "I hope the Iranian feder-

ation will support these talented players and create a pathway for them to gain more experience at higher age groups. These kids are genuinely gifted and if we invest in them now, we can cultivate an exceptional generation of players for the years to come. "This tournament was an invaluable experience. I am confident that if we stay on the right track and continue to provide the proper support, we will witness even greater successes from Iran's young female volleyball players in the near future," the coach concluded.



● AVC



● MNA

Asia Oceania Wheelchair Basketball Championships: Iran falls 79-71 to Australia

Sports Desk

Iranian men's wheelchair basketball team suffered a second consecutive defeat at the IWBF Asia Oceania Championships in Bangkok, edged 79-71 by defending champion Australia on Monday. In a rematch of last year's final, Jaylon Brown stole the show for Australia with a double-double of 28 points and 11 rebounds, with his teammates Tom O'Neill-Thorne and Bill Latham adding 28 and 17 points, respectively. Amirreza Ahmadi topped the scoring chart for Iran, chipping in 19 points during 31:39 minutes

on the court, followed by Mohammad-Hassan Sayyari (17pts) and Mahdi Abbasi (16). Chasing its first Asian men's crown in 20 years, Iran got off to a flying start in Bangkok, demolishing China 89-30, but fell to a 64-46 setback against Japan on Sunday. Iran will face South Korea next in Division A today, before squaring off against the host on Wednesday. All six top-tier teams will be joined by the two highest-ranked Division B sides in the quarterfinals. Afghanistan, Chinese Taipei, India, Iraq, Kuwait, New Zealand, the

Philippines, and Saudi Arabia complete the lineup in the second-tier division. Japan came out on top (71-50) against South Korea earlier on Monday, while Kuwait defeated Saudi Arabia by a 55-49 scoreline in Division B. Afghanistan routed India 93-26, with the Philippines beating the Chinese Taipei 51-40. The tournament serves as a qualifier for the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Para Games, while the two finalists will also secure their spots at next year's World Championship in Ottawa, Canada.