



Iranian striker Mahdi Taremi (c) is surrounded by his Olympiacos teammates after scoring in a 3-0 victory over OFI in the Greek Super Cup game at the Pankritio Stadium, Heraklion, Greece, on January 3, 2025.

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Persepolis agrees deal to sign Uzbek striker Sergeev

Sports Desk

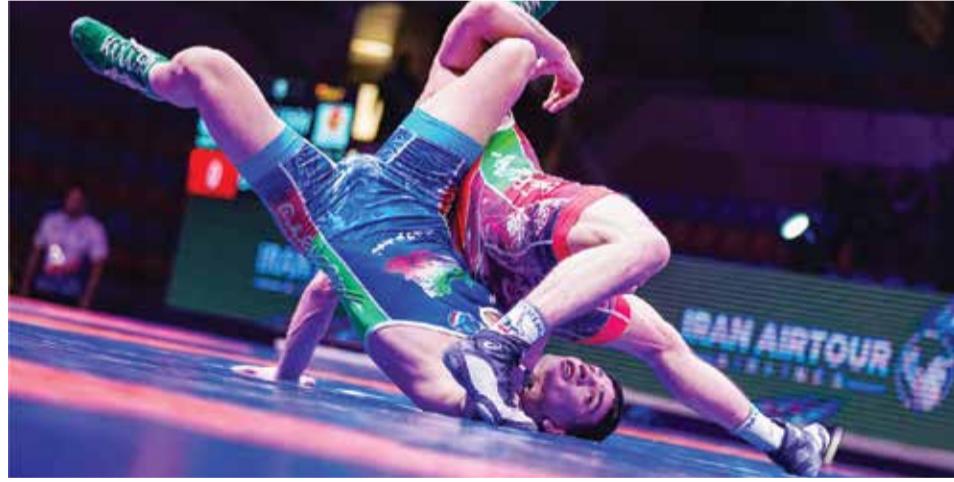
Persepolis has reached an agreement with Igor Sergeev to sign the Uzbekistan international striker from Pakhtakor, the Persian Gulf Pro League club announced on Sunday. Sergeev, 32, is set to arrive in Tehran on Monday to undergo medical tests ahead of completing his move to Persepolis. He will link up with Uzbekistan teammate Oston Urnov for the second half of the Iranian league season, with the transfer fee and contract length yet to be confirmed by the Capital Reds. Sergeev scored 25 goals and provided three assists in 38 appearances across all competitions as Pakhtakor finished runner-up to Neft-

chi in the Uzbekistan Super League, which concluded in November. Capped 81 times by Uzbekistan, Sergeev has scored 24 international goals – including one in a 2-2 home draw against Iran in the preliminary stage of the World Cup qualifiers in November 2023. The striker missed much of the final round of the Asian qualifiers after suffering a torn cruciate ligament, but returned to action in June, scoring in a 3-0 victory over Qatar to help Uzbekistan secure a maiden World Cup finals berth. The Central Asian side has been drawn in Group K alongside Portugal, Colombia, and one of DR Congo, Jamaica, or New Caledonia at the tournament in

North America next summer. Chasing an eighth league title in a decade, Persepolis sits second in the Iranian top-flight standings with 28 points from 15 matches – two points behind leaders Sepahan – after winning five of its last six games. That run has come since Brazilian head coach Osmar Loss Vieira returned for a second spell in October, replacing Vahid Hashemian. Sergeev's arrival will provide a major boost for the Tehran Reds, who currently have only one established No. 9 in Ali Alipour. His signing is expected to mark the start of a busy mid-season transfer window for Persepolis. The club have also held talks

with Uzbek international full-back Khojikbar Alijonov in recent weeks as a potential replacement for Ivorian defender Serge Aurier, who parted ways with Persepolis on Saturday – along with Iranian winger Farshad Ahmadzadeh – after the former Tottenham and Paris Saint-Germain player made just three starts since joining in the summer. Persepolis are also reportedly considering a move for Shams Azar's young defender Farzin Mo'amelegari, who is currently with the national team in Saudi Arabia for the upcoming AFC U23 Asian Cup, to provide additional competition for Iranian international Miad Mohammadi at left-back.

Iran names freestyle squad for Yasar Dogu tournament



Sports Desk

Iran have named an 11-man wrestling squad for the freestyle competition at the Yasar Dogu, Vehbi Emre & Hamit Kaplan International Tournament, which gets under way on Thursday in Antalya, Turkey. The two-day event will form part of Iran's selection process for major international competitions over the next 12 months, including September's Senior World Championships in Manama, Bahrain, and the Aichi-Nagoya

2026 Asian Games in Japan. Reza Mo'meni, who claimed the national title in late December, will be joined by world U20 silver medalist Ahoura Khateri in the 61kg weight class. Morteza Hajmollamohammadi will compete in the 65kg division despite suffering a final defeat to Peyman Ne'mati at the National Championships in Tabriz. Ali Rezaei – a gold medalist at the 2024 U20 World Championships – will feature in the 74kg category alongside Ali Karampour, who won a world

junior bronze medal two years ago in Pontevedra, Spain. Erfan Alizadeh, a silver medalist at last year's Ranking Series event in Tirana, Albania, and former world U20 champion Abolfazl Babalou will represent Iran in the 97kg division. Abolfazl Mohammadnejad will compete at 125kg as he looks to build on his world U23 gold medal from October. Amir Parasteh (57kg), Mohammadhossein Norouzian (86kg), and Javad Fat'hkhani complete the Iranian roster across eight weight categories.

Taremi scores to help Olympiacos win Greek Super Cup

Sports Desk

Iranian striker Mahdi Taremi was on target as Olympiacos defeated OFI 3-0 to lift the Greek Super Cup trophy on Saturday. The match finished goalless at the end of normal time at the Pankritio Stadium in Heraklion before the Iranian international broke the deadlock in the fifth minute of extra time, smashing home from the penalty spot after substitute Alexios Kalogeropoulos was fouled in the box by Konstantinos Kostoulas. Kalogeropoulos doubled the lead in the 107th min-

ute before Turkish midfielder Yusuf Yazici put the result beyond doubt six minutes later, as Olympiacos completed a domestic treble following last season's league and cup triumphs. "We dominated the match, but it was a difficult opponent that caused us several problems," Olympiacos head coach José Luis Mendilibar said in the post-match press conference. "However, after the first goal in extra time, things became easier for us and the path to victory opened up. Our opponent performed very well and proved to be a worthy

finalist," added the Spaniard. Taremi, meanwhile, took his tally to 12 goals in 20 games across all competitions since joining The Legend from Serie A giants Inter in the summer. Olympiacos sit second in the Greek Super League table with 36 points – one behind archrivals AEK Athens – after 15 rounds of matches. The club is 29th in the 36-team UEFA Champions League table with five points from six games, two points adrift of the final playoff spot with two matches remaining in the league phase.



UFA

Rostamian among air pistol top 10 in ISSF World Ranking

Sports Desk

Iranian shooter Hanieh Rostamian secured top-10 positions in the women's categories of the ISSF World Ranking – Version 2025, released by the International Shooting Sport Federation based on athletes' performances at international events over the past 12 months.

The 27-year-old Iranian ranks seventh in the 25m air pistol discipline and eighth in the 10m air pistol category.

A three-time world bronze medalist, Rostamian reached the final of the 10m air pistol event at November's World Championships in Cairo, Egypt, but narrowly missed out on the podium, finishing fifth with a score of 179.9 points.

She also competed in the final of the 25m event, placing sixth with 16 points.

Rostamian teamed up with fellow Iranian Vahid Golkhandan to claim a joint bronze medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team event at August's Asian Shooting Championships in Shymkent, Kazakhstan. The pair secured the medal with a 16-8 victory over Vietnam's Lai Cong Minh and Nguyen Thuy Trang in the third-

place match.

Golkhandan was the highest-ranked Iranian male shooter in the ISSF World Ranking, standing 15th in the 10m air pistol category. Former Olympic champion Javad Foroughi and Amir Joharikhoo were ranked 69th and 79th, respectively.



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