

Over 200 sports facilities damaged by US-Israeli aggression: Sports Ministry

Sports Desk

More than 200 sports facilities were damaged during the 40 days of the U.S.-Israeli aggression on Iran, the country's Sports Ministry announced. As the sixth week of the military conflict came to a close with a two-week ceasefire in the early hours of Wednesday, widespread damage to the country's sports facilities has come to light, with many venues directly targeted or severely impacted. The complete destruction of the iconic Azadi Indoor Hall in Tehran stands as the most bitter incident faced by Iran's sports community in the early days of the conflict. Around the same time, the Be'sat Sports Complex in southeastern Tehran was

also attacked and sustained significant damage.

As the raids by the Israeli regime and U.S. forces continued, other sports facilities in the Iranian capital – including the Wrestling Federation headquarters, the National Football Center, and the federations for shooting, cycling, volleyball, hockey, tennis, and handball – were affected by the attacks. The Aftab-e Enqelab Stadium also suffered considerable destruction.

Beyond the capital, sports venues in other provinces were also struck. According to figures released by the Legal, Parliamentary, and Provincial Affairs Deputy of the Ministry of Sport and Youth, sports infrastructure in 17 provinces has come under attack and sus-



tained damage.

A total of 203 sports facilities – including indoor halls, swimming pools, artificial turf fields, and administrative buildings – have been damaged in the attacks, with the extent of destruction estimated between 2% and 100%.

Based on assessments, Tehran, Isfahan, Kurdistan, and Markazi provinces experienced the highest levels of destruction to their sports complexes and facilities.

Following an order from Sports Minister Ahmad Donyamali, plans have been approved for the redesign and reconstruction of the entirely destroyed 12,000-seat Azadi Indoor Hall, with work expected to enter its implementation phase as soon as possible.



The photo shows the wreckage of Tehran's Azadi Indoor Hall which was destroyed by the US-Israeli airstrikes on March 5, 2026.

● IRNA

Iran names beach soccer squad for Asian Beach Games

Sports Desk

Iran head coach Ali Naderi named a 12-man squad for the upcoming Asian Beach Games.

The sixth edition of the multi-sport event will kick off on April 22 in Sanya, China.

Seyyed Mahdi Mirjalili, Reza Deiri, Davoud Shokri, Saeid Piramoun, Seyyed Ali Nazem, Mahdi Shirmohammadi, Ali Mirshekari, Movahed Mohammadpour, Mohammad-Ali Mokhtari, Mohammad-Ali Nazarzadeh, Mohammad Ma'soumizadeh, and Seyyed Mohammad Dastan have received a call-up by the Iranian head coach.

Naderi said that several training camps and friendly matches have been cancelled due to the wartime situation, but stressed that his players will "give their all" at the showpiece in Sanya.

The Iranian coach explained that prior to the holy month



● IRNA

of Ramadan, the team had completed 11 preparatory camps, during which the players reached an excellent level of physical conditioning. However, the final three camps scheduled for March were called off due to the

military conflict between Iran and a U.S.-Israeli coalition.

"Friendly matches had been arranged against Russia and Belarus, followed by a planned appearance at a tournament in Brazil,

but none of those fixtures materialized," Naderi told ILNA, adding: "Losing such competitive opportunities have affected the team's cohesion."

Naderi added that the Football Federation had offered

strong support in implementing the technical staff's plans. However, he pointed out that Iran's group-stage rivals had used the same period to play several friendlies and compete in various tournaments, meaning there will be no easy matches in China.

The head coach concluded by stating that the players have continued their training – individually and sometimes in small groups – since February 28. To make up for the disruption, the team will travel to the competition venue 10 days early to reach full readiness through intensive training. "Our goal is to put on a strong performance and defend Iran's name in this tournament," he said.

Iran will be represented by 57 athletes across 10 sporting events – including beach wrestling, beach volleyball, beach handball, beach soccer, jiu-jitsu, beach kabaddi, athletics, 3x3 basketball, sport climbing, and water polo – at the Games, which will resume after a decade, following Da Nang 2016 in Vietnam.

World Taekwondo Junior Championships: Iranian trio in action on Day 1

Sports Desk

Three Iranians will get their campaigns underway when the 15th edition of the World Taekwondo Junior Championships kicks off today in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Zahra Sadat Mousavi and Pinar Lotfizadeh will represent the country in the girls' -46kg and -59kg weight classes, respectively, with Amir-Ali Hazrati competing in the boys' +78kg category.

The second day of the competition will see Dina Babarrahim vie for glory in the girls' -55kg class, while Taha Nazer (-48kg) and Mohammad-Erfan Khodaei

(-55kg) will be in action in the boys' event.

On Tuesday, Bahar Tahmasbi will compete in the girls' -42kg category, while in the boys' competition, Benyamin Soltanian (-73kg) and Amirarsalan Ahmadi (-45kg) will carry Iran's hopes.

Asal Goltapeh and Negar Mozaffari will compete for Iran in the girls' -68kg and -44kg events on Wednesday, with Mohammad Javad Geryan and Amir Eghbali taking the mat in the boys' -78kg and -59kg divisions.

Heliya Ebrahimian will represent Iran in the girls' -49kg category on Day 5. In the boys' events, Abolfazl Najafi and Parsa Hooshyar will go head-to-head with their opponents in the -68kg and -63kg divisions.

The championships will conclude with Aynaz Micaeli and Rozhan Heydari in the girls' -63kg and -52kg events on Friday, while Ali Razmian competes in the boys' -51kg category.

A total of 986 young athletes will take to the mats across 20 weight categories for boys and girls in the Uzbek capital.

Named 'Caravan of Hormuz,' the Iranian squads had been conducting their preparatory camps in the north of the country amid the military conflict with the United States and Israel, which began on February 28, before embarking on their journey. On Tuesday, they crossed the Turkish border by land and traveled to the city of Van. From there, the team flew to Tashkent, arriving on Friday morning. The delegation has been named 'Hormuz' in honor of the bravery of Iran's armed forces in safeguarding the nation, particularly the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

Iran bagged a total of 11 medals, including a remarkable seven golds, to make a clean sweep of double team titles in the previous edition of the competition in Chuncheon, South Korea, in 2024.



● WORLD TAEKWONDO

Iranian saber team heads to Italy for FIE World Cup



● ISNA

Sports Desk

Iran's national saber team departed for Italy to take part in a training camp with French coach Christian Bauer and compete in the Padua World Cup. The upcoming World Cup edition will kick off in the Italian city of Padua on April 19. The Iranian fencers will join Bauer's

camp in an effort to make up for several months away from group training sessions.

The Iranian squad consists of Mohammad Fotouhi, Nima Aqaei, Taha Kargarpour, Parsa Poursalman, and Ahmadreza Shahmiri.

The team is led by head coach Mohammad Rahbari, with Farzad Baher serving as assistant coach.

Iran's Faraji earns table tennis quota for Summer Youth Olympics

Sports Desk

Iranian table tennis prodigy Benyamin Faraji has secured a qualification berth for the Dakar 2026 Summer Youth Olympics – starting October 31 in the Senegalese capital – the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) has officially confirmed.

Faraji earned his place after winning a bronze medal at the 2025 Asian Youth Games in Bahrain and securing a spot among the world's top 10 under-19 players in the ITTF rankings.

The fourth edition of the Games will take place across 25 competitive sporting events in three host cities of Dakar, Diambiadio, and Saly.



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