

# Eiri's double secures win in national team training match



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## Sports Desk

Iran national football team wrapped up their final intrasquad friendly before departing for Turkey, with the White Team cruising to a 4-1 victory over the Reds on Tuesday. According to ISNA, the Iranian national team split into two squads for the training match, with the Whites dominating the contest and scoring four goals. The White Team lineup featured Alireza Beiranvand, Danial Eiri, Hossein Kana'ani, Ali Nemati, Ramin Rezaeian, Roozbeh Cheshmi, Omid Noorafkan, Hadi Habibi-Nejad, Mehdi Mohabi, Aria Yousefi, and Ali Alipour.

Meanwhile, the Red Team included Mohammad Khalifeh, Shoja Khalilzadeh, Aref Aghasi, Saleh Hardani, Ehsan Hajsafi, Aref Haji-Eidi, Amir Mohammad Razaghi-Nia, Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh, Amirhossein Mahmoudi, and Kasra Taheri. Ali Alipour opened the scoring in the 50th minute after breaking behind the defense and finishing clinically. The goal was initially ruled out for offside, but after a VAR review, officials awarded the strike. The Whites doubled their advantage six minutes later when Hadi Habibi-Nejad delivered a corner kick that Danial Eiri powered home with a header. In the 83rd minute, Aria Yousefi added a third after

finding space inside the penalty area and calmly slotting past the goalkeeper. The White Team struck again in the 89th minute from another set piece. Ramin Rezaeian sent in a free-kick cross and Danial Eiri headed home his second goal of the match to make it 4-0. The Reds pulled one back in stoppage time through Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh, whose long-range effort beat the goalkeeper to seal the final score at 4-1. Iran's national team is scheduled to travel to Antalya in the coming days for a new training camp before heading from Turkey to the United States for the upcoming 2026 FIFA World Cup.

## Talavar tops Iran Davis Cup selection event

### Sports Desk

The Iranian Davis Cup selection process concluded with Younes Talavar being named the winner. According to IRNA, the fourth day of the national team selection

event saw Danial Moshtaghifar defeat Kiarash Hanifi 7-5, 6-3 to book his place in the final. In the other semifinal, Younes Talavar secured a 6-1, 6-4 victory over Moein Moazzam to reach the title match.



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However, since the two finalists had already been placed in the same group during the round-robin stage (Group 2), and based on pre-competition regulations stating that if two players from the same group reach the final, the head-to-head result would determine the winner instead of playing the final match, Talavar was ultimately declared the top player.

The Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Group 3 tournament will begin on July 13 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Iran Davis Cup team will compete in a group featuring Vietnam, Jordan, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Uzbekistan.

The selection event featured Younes Talavar, Danial Moshtaghifar, Kiarash Hanifi, Ilya Jafar, Arslan Qomi, Morteza Moazzam, Mohammad Khoshkholgh, and Sam Attaran, with Talavar ultimately emerging as the top-ranked player.

## Beiranvand named in Asia's Best XI

### Sports Desk

South Korean website Chosun has unveiled its current Best Eleven (XI) in Asian football, with Iranian goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand earning a place in the lineup as the only representative from Iran and the continent's top goalkeeper. The squad features a strong Japanese presence alongside three South Korean stars. From South Korea, Son Heung-min of Los Angeles FC, Lee Kang-in of Paris Saint-Germain, and Kim Min-jae of Bayern Munich were all selected.

Japanese players made up the majority of the team, highlighting the country's growing strength in international football. In attack, Son was joined by Ayase Ueda of Feyenoord



● IRNA

and Kaoru Mitoma of Brighton & Hove Albion. The midfield included Wataru Endo of Liverpool FC and Takefusa Kubo of Real Socie-

dad alongside Lee Kang-in. Japan's influence also continued in defense, where Kim Min-jae was accompanied by his Bayern Munich teammate Hiroki Ito and Yukinari Sugawara of AZ Alkmaar. Beiranvand, who plays for Tractor and the Iranian national team, was named the squad's first-choice goalkeeper. Uzbek rising star Abdulkodir Khusanov of Manchester City was also included in defense. Beiranvand previously represented Iran at the 2018 and 2022 FIFA World Cups and could make a third appearance at the tournament in the future. He suffered an injury during Iran's opening match at the 2022 World Cup and missed the following game against Wales.

## Iranian athletics target 10 medals despite concerns

### Sports Desk

With just a few months remaining until the Nagoya Asian Games, Ehsan Haddadi — the Iranian discus throw Olympic medalist and current President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Athletics Federation — has set an ambitious target of 10 medals, although Iran's athletics team appears to be far less prepared than expected.

According to ISNA, the Nagoya Asian Games will begin on September 19. Athletics is the highest medal-yielding sport at the Games, playing a major role in the overall medal standings of participating countries.

However, Iranian athletics has shown a steady decline in recent years and has failed to play a significant role in the country's medal tally, dropping from five medals at the 2010 Asian Games to just two medals in 2022 — a trend that points to long-term issues in planning and development within the federation.

Despite this, Haddadi, after being elected federation president, pledged to win 10 medals at the Nagoya Asian Games — eight more than Hangzhou and five more than Guangzhou. The key question, however, remains: which athletes are expected to deliver on this promise?

The most recent test for Iranian athletics came at the Sanya Asian Beach Games, where only one medal was achieved from five athletes sent to compete.

To realistically target 10 medals, at least 10 compet-

itive and prepared athletes would be needed to challenge Asia's best. Yet questions remain about who these athletes are, what condition they are in, how they are training, which competitions they have been sent to, and what the federation's overall plan is. The main medal hopes include Ali Amiri (800m), Mohammadreza Tayebi and Hassan Ajami (shot put), and Reyhaneh Mobini (long jump). However, among them, only Ajami competed at the Sanya Beach Games, where he won gold with a throw of

20.17 meters, while the others have only participated in domestic training camps. A look at Asia's top lists shows that rivals are already actively competing. In the women's long jump, India's Anicy Sojan Edappilly recorded a mark of 6.54m on March 15, 2026 — just one centimeter better than Mobini's national record.

In the men's 800m, Japan's 19-year-old Ko Uchiyai set a new Asian-leading time of 1:43.90 on May 3, 2026.

In men's shot put, India's Tajinderpal Singh Toor leads the Asian rankings with a throw of 21.03m, while Tayebi holds the Iranian national record at 20.87m.

Although rankings will continue to change as athletes compete in upcoming events, the key issue remains clear: while Asia's competitors are actively preparing and improving, Iran's current development strategy is under question — along with which athletes are expected to deliver the 10 medals promised by Haddadi.



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## Iran handball teams learn opponents at Asian championships draws



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### Sports Desk

Iran's youth and junior handball teams have learned their group-stage opponents following the Asian championship draws held in Kazakhstan. The draw for the Asian Men's Youth Handball Championship took place on Wednesday (May 13), with 11 participating teams split into two groups. Iran national youth handball team were placed in Group A alongside Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia, Chinese Taipei,

and China, ISNA wrote. Group A: Iran, Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia, Chinese Taipei, China. Group B: Japan, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Hong Kong. The tournament will be held from August 10 to 21 in Uzbekistan. Meanwhile, the draw for the Asian Men's Junior Handball Championship was also completed, featuring 13 teams divided into two groups. Iran national junior handball team were drawn into Group B alongside Japan,

South Korea, Kuwait, Qatar, India, and the United Arab Emirates — a group widely described as a "group of death" due to the presence of at least five title contenders. Junior Championship groups: Group A: China, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong. Group B: Iran, Japan, South Korea, Kuwait, Qatar, India, UAE. The junior tournament will be held from July 14 to August 4, 2026, in China.