

Mohitizadeh looking to build on record-breaking form at Asian Games



IRAN ATHLETICS

Sports Desk

Iran's Fatemeh Mohitizadeh will look to carry her record-breaking form into the upcoming Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games after her latest triumph at the Women's National Athletics Championships in Shiraz. Mohitizadeh improved the Iranian national record in the heptathlon for the third time in less than a year, scoring 5,813 points on the final day of the championships. A silver medalist at the 2024 Asian Indoor Athletics Championships, the Iranian had previously raised the national record to 5,616 points at the third stage of the Tehran Grand Prix on June 16. She had also set a new mark with 5,562 points at the 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games in Riyadh last November, where she won the gold medal. Her latest performance underlined the 23-year-old's rapid rise and established her as one of the emerging stars of Iranian athletics. Mohitizadeh became the third Iranian female athlete to break a national record

at this year's national championships, following Faezah Ashourpour in the 100-meter hurdles and Zahra Najafi in the javelin throw. All three Iranian athletes will be part of the country's athletics roster at the Asian Games, which will kick off on September 22 at Nagoya's Paloma Mizuho Stadium. With the multi-sport event fast approaching, Mohitizadeh's remarkable progress has put her among Iran's serious medal hopefuls in Japan. Mohitizadeh also enjoyed a decent international outing recently in a preparatory competition in Belarus, where she improved her 100-meter hurdles mark and cleared an impressive 1.70 meters in the high jump. However, Parisa Behzadi, vice president of the Iranian Athletics Federation, insisted that Mohitizadeh would still need to improve her performance to fancy her chances of a podium finish at the Asian Games. Upon being elected president of the Iranian Athletics Federation two years ago,

former Olympic silver medalist Ehsan Haddadi vowed a 10-medal haul for the country at the Asian Games. The double-figure target may ultimately prove optimistic, particularly given the strength of Asian athletics and the fact that Iran managed a combined five medals, including three golds, in the previous two editions of the Asian Games. However, the recent progress of Mohitizadeh, coupled with Mohammadreza Tayyebi's established continental credentials, gives Iran a foundation on which to build. Iran's men's squad has perhaps its clearest medal candidate in Tayyebi in the shot put. His official 20.75-meter national record places him third on the Asian list, behind India's Tajinderpal Singh Toor (21.03m) and China's Xing Jialiang (20.95m). Tayyebi won gold at the 2025 Asian Athletics Championships with a throw of 20.32 meters, beating Xing to the top spot and strengthening the case that he can contend for another major continental medal.



Iran's Sadeq Azarang (L) poses on the podium with his kurash silver medal at the World Nomad Games in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan on Sept. 1, 2026.

IKA

Iranians win silver, bronze at World Nomad Games

Sports Desk

Iranians won two medals on the first day of action at the World Nomad Games in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan, on Tuesday. Sadeq Azarang settled for silver in the men's +90kg kurash class, which featured 22 contestants, after suffering a defeat to Uzbekistan's Nomonjon

Radjabov in the final. An Asian Games gold medalist at Hangzhou 2022, the Iranian defeated opponents from the host country, Russia and Georgia before beating his Turkmen opponent to reach the final. Mohammad Dehqan, meanwhile, claimed the second medal for the country, winning bronze

in guresh – a traditional Turkmen belt-wrestling discipline – after falling short against a Turkmen opponent in the semi-final of his respective weight class. Iran is represented by 130 athletes at the sixth edition of the multi-sport event, which kicked off with an opening ceremony – attend-

ed by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Sports Minister Ahmad Donyamali – at Bishkek Arena on Tuesday and will run until Sunday across three host cities. Held every two years, the World Nomad Games are dedicated to traditional ethnic sports practiced across Central Asia.

AVC Beach Volleyball Continental Championships:

Iran pairs off to winning starts in men's competition

Sports Desk

The two Iranian pairs enjoyed flying starts at the AVC Beach Volleyball Continental Championships in Shangluo, China, winning their group openers in the men's competition on Wednesday. Bronze medalists at the previous edition in 2024, Alireza Aqajani and Abbas Pourasgari, who won the fans' choice prize at the inaugural AVC Gala Awards last month, teamed up to beat New Zealand's Juraj Krajci and Noah Smith 2-0 (21-13, 21-10) in Pool A, which also features teams from the host country and Uzbekistan. Pourasgari stole the show with a remarkable 22 points, including six



blocks and one service point, while Smith finished on 11. Elsewhere, Abolhassan Khakizadeh and Amirali

Ghalenovi, who claimed an impressive silver medal at April's Asian Beach Games, also celebrated a straight-set



Iran's Amirali Ghalenovi (2) hits a spike during a victory against Kazakhstan's pair at the AVC Beach Volleyball Continental Championships in Shangluo, China, on Sept. 2, 2026.

AVC

victory in their opening fixture, beating Kazakhstan's Sergey Bogatu and Kirill Gurin 21-13 and 21-15 in Pool D, with Ghalenovi contributing 21 points, as the Iranian duo made up for their semifinal defeat to the Kazakh pair at the CAVA Championships in July. The event serves as the qualification pathway for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics, with the champions in each gender category securing a berth at the sporting extravaganza.

Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games: Iran to play Qatar in basketball opener



FIBA

Sports Desk

Iran will open its bid for a fifth men's basketball medal in six Asian Games editions against Qatar in Group B next Thursday at Nagoya's Aichi International Arena. The full fixture list for the upcoming multi-sport event was announced by the organizing committee on Tuesday, with 12 men's teams learning their pathways across the three groups. Iran will then take on Chinese Taipei on Sept. 12 in a repeat of the thrilling

quarterfinal clash at last year's FIBA Asia Cup in Saudi Arabia, where Iran produced an epic fightback to overcome a 21-point deficit and win 78-75. The final round of the group fixtures will see Iran take on Jordan on Sept. 13. The two sides met at the preliminary stage of the FIBA World Cup Asian qualifiers in July. Iran comprehensively won 67-49 in Amman before completing a 5-1 run to progress to the second round, making amends for the 73-60 setback against its familiar West Asian foe earlier in the qualifiers in February.

The top two teams from each group will be joined by the two best third-placed teams in the quarterfinals. Iran won back-to-back bronze medals in 2006 and 2010 and then improved to silver in the following two editions, before finishing empty-handed at Hangzhou 2022 following an 84-83 loss to the Philippines in the quarterfinals. Greek head coach Sotiris Manolopoulos's side will enter the Asian Games on the back of a disappointing doubleheader in the second-round Group E of the World Cup qualifiers in Pasay, the Philippines, last week. Iran suffered an overtime 93-91 defeat against New Zealand before losing 68-56 to the host in a packed

Mall of Asia Arena in Manila on Sunday. The two defeats left Iran third in the group standings with 13 points, three behind Australia and one point adrift of New Zealand. The bad news for the Greek head coach is that he will have to do without prolific guard Mohammad Amini, who will miss the showpiece due to club commitments with SLUC Nancy Basket in the French top-flight league. Having been sidelined by a knee injury sustained during the last-four defeat against Australia at the Asia Cup, Amini was part of the squad in Pasay. Amini chipped in 16 points in 26:55 on the court against New Zealand before adding seven against the Philippines.