

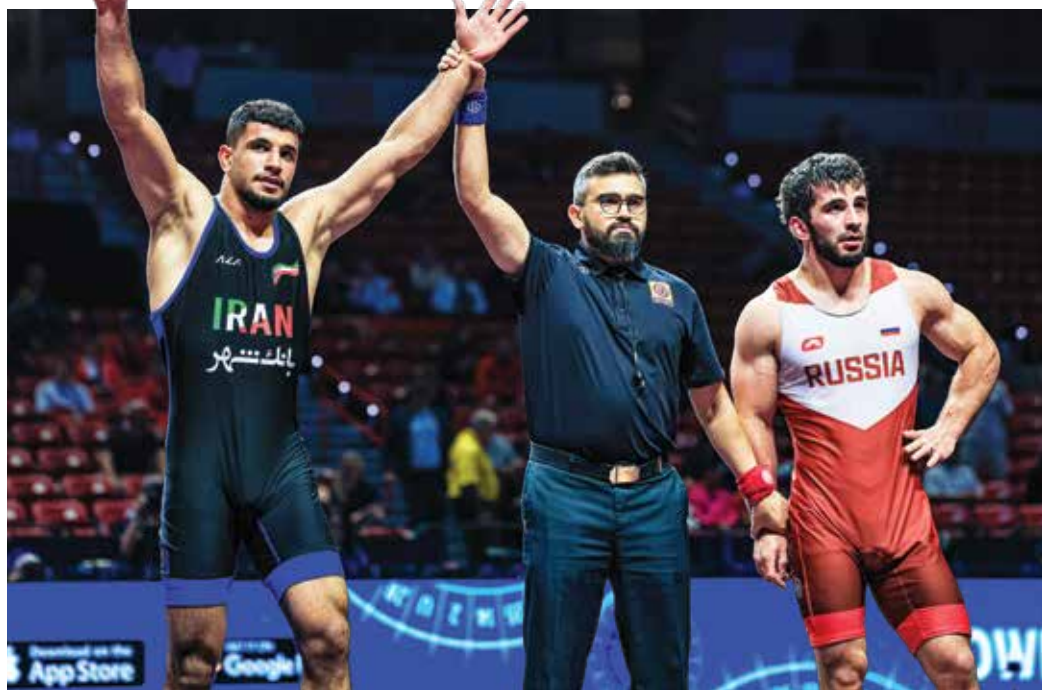
U23 Wrestling World Championships:

Mohmedi wins gold, spearheads Iran's three-medal haul in Greco-Roman

Sports Desk

The second day of the U23 Wrestling World Championships in Las Vegas saw Iran's Greco-Roman squad collect three medals, including one gold, across five weight classes on Tuesday.

Abolfazl Mohmedi headlined the medal hunt by claiming the ultimate prize in the 82kg class, while Mohammad Kamali and Mohammad-Hadi Seydi settled for bronze in their respective divisions. Mohmedi defeated opponents from Georgia, Croatia and Russia – conceding a single point in the process – to set up a final clash with Maritk Petrosyan, before edging out the Armenian 2-1 to take his personal medal tally at the competition to two, having won bronze last year in Novi Sad, Serbia. In the 67kg class, Kamali enjoyed an emphatic



Iranian Greco-Roman wrestler Abolfazl Mohmedi (left) has his hand raised in victory after defeating Russia's Ramazan Arapkhonov in the 82kg semifinals at the U23 World Championships in Las Vegas, Nevada, the United States, on October 12, 2026.

● UWW

run to the semifinals, claiming three victories by technical superiority, but was no match for Russia's Erzu Zakriev, suffering a 13-2 defeat. The Iranian still managed to bounce back

with a 6-0 win against Armenia's Yurik Hovayan to claim a consolation bronze, while Zakriev capped off his dominant run with an 8-0 triumph over Turkey's Azat Sariyar in the

final.

Seydi also finished on a winning note, recovering from a 4-1 loss to Ukrainian defending champion Yehor Yakushenko in the 97kg semifinals to defeat

Kazakhstan's Nurassyl Amanaly 8-0 in the bronze-medal bout. Yakushenko had also beaten the Iranian en route to the U20 world title last year.

Yakushenko was denied

gold by Belarus's Abubakar Khaslakhonau, who won the final 2-1 to avenge his defeat to the Ukrainian in the U23 European Championships in March.

Elsewhere, Iran's Mohammad Ashiri and Ahmadreza Mohsennejad endured disappointing campaigns, suffering early exits from the competition.

Ashiri fell to an 8-6 defeat against Olivier Tomasz Skrzypczak in his opening bout in the 60kg class and missed out on a second chance to reach the podium after the Polish wrestler failed to advance to the final.

A bronze medalist last year, Mohsennejad, who also won bronze at the Senior Asian Championships in April, saw his campaign come to an end after a single bout. His 3-1 defeat to Shakhzod Kuchkorov was followed by the Uzbek wrestler's loss in the next round.

Earlier in the day, Erfan Jarkani and Yasin Yazdi boosted Iran's bid for a third successive Greco-Roman team title by reaching the finals in their respective weight classes.

Building on his U23 world bronze from last year, reigning senior Asian silver medalist Jarkani defeated Turkey's Servet Angi 5-1 in the 63kg semifinals to set up a final showdown with Japan's Manato Nakamura.

Also a silver medalist at the Senior Asian Championships, Yazdi beat Norway's Martin Ljosaak 3-1 to advance to the 87kg

final, where he will take on Kazakhstan's Temirlan Turdakyn.

Meanwhile, reigning world U20 champion Armin Shamsipour suffered a shock 8-1 defeat to Vishvajit Ramchandra More in the 55kg quarterfinals but remained in contention for a medal after the Indian advanced to the final.

Ahoura Bouveiri was also handed a second chance in the 77kg repechage after Egypt's Moustafa Hussein Alameidin, who defeated the Iranian 5-1 in the second round, reached the final.

The 130kg event, dominated by Iran's Fardin Hedayati in the previous two editions, proved a disappointment for the country this time around, as Abolfazl Fat'hi – a world U20 bronze medalist last year – was beaten by Hungary's Laszlo Darabos on criteria (1-1) to crash out in the round of 16.

Golmohammadi set for Iran U23 job: *Report*

Sports Desk

Yahya Golmohammadi has reportedly reached an agreement with the Iranian Football Federation (FFIRI) on a three-year contract to take charge of the country's U23 team, subject to resolving outstanding issues with Iraqi club Duhok, Varzesh3 wrote on Tuesday.

Negotiations between the two sides intensified in recent days, with the former Persepolis head coach apparently agreeing to the federation's terms. The FFIRI is expected to approach Duhok to resolve financial matters and facilitate the termination of Golmohammadi's contract, paving the way for his appointment to be officially announced.

dured a difficult Golmohammadi has enjoyed considerable success during his coaching career, particularly at Persepolis, where he won multiple domestic titles and guided the Tehran giants to the final of the AFC Champions League. He has also managed Zob Ahan and Naft Tehran, establishing himself as one of the most successful Iranian coaches of his generation. Recent discussions between Golmohammadi and the federation reportedly covered several issues, including arrangements for friendly matches, the domestic football calendar, cooperation with the U23 setup and financial terms. The coach is understood to have accepted the federation's proposed conditions.



● PARSAN SANJI/IRNA

Golmohammadi's agent has also appeared to confirm the reports in a social media post, while Duhok officials are reportedly exploring the possibility of appointing Mesut Meral as his replacement.

The anticipated appointment would bring an experienced and highly decorated coach to the Iranian U23 side, which has en-

If confirmed, Golmohammadi will face a major challenge: guiding Iran to the football tournament at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics and ending the country's prolonged absence from the Games. Iran has not qualified for the Olympic men's football tournament since 1976, making the assignment a significant test for the incoming coach.

Sports Desk

Iranian international striker Sardar Azmoun scored two early goals to steer the UAE's Shabab Al Ahli to a 2-1 victory over Saudi heavyweight Al Ittihad on matchday two of the AFC Champions League Elite in Jeddah on Tuesday.

Backed by a capacity crowd at King Abdullah Sports City Stadium, the home side started positively, with Ahmed Al Julaydan forcing Matheus Donelli into a save from a tight angle in the sixth minute.

Shabab Al Ahli, however, struck a minute later when Guilherme Bala powered down the left channel and deep into the box before teeing up the unmarked Azmoun to slot home, with the goal confirmed following a VAR review.

Azmoun bagged his second of the night in trademark fashion in the 16th minute.

Reza Ghandipour, who had just replaced the injured Bala, released his fellow Iranian with a through ball before Azmoun outpaced his markers and rounded Serbian goalkeeper Predrag Rajković to convert from a tight angle, taking his tally to three goals and two assists in seven appearances across all competitions for the Emirati outfit this season.

Richard Ríos gave Al Ittihad a lifeline midway through the second half when the Colombian received Marwan Al Sahafi's layoff just outside the area before firing a powerful strike past Shabab goalkeeper Matheus Donelli.

Al Ittihad desperately pushed for an equalizer in the closing stages, with Ríos firing Houssein Aouar's cut-back just over the bar in the 88th minute before Saleh Al Shehri spurned

AFC Champions League Elite: Azmoun double leads Shabab Al Ahli past Al Ittihad



another chance in stoppage time.

Shabab Al Ahli, who had beaten Iranian top-flight side Tractor 1-0 at home in their league-stage opener, moved on to a perfect six points, trailing Al Ain, Esteghlal and Al Hilal on goal difference at the top of the West Zone's 16-team table.

"I dedicate this victory to our fans, and I'm happy that we managed to win and secure all three points. We defeated a strong opponent packed with star players," Azmoun said after the game.

"Al Ittihad are a quality team with a star-studded squad. They have some excellent players. We managed to win this difficult match thanks to our high level of concentration. I believe concentration

was the key to our victory," added the Iranian.

Meanwhile, Shahab Zahedi was the other Iranian striker in action in the continental club competition on Tuesday, making his mark in Johor Darul Ta'zim's impressive 2-0 away victory over FC Pohang Steelers.

With the match seemingly heading into the break goalless, JDT were awarded a penalty after Min-gwang brought down Zahedi two minutes before halftime. The penalty was overturned in favor of a free kick following a VAR review, but Min-gwang's yellow card was upgraded to a red, leaving the Steelers without their captain for the second half.

The Malaysian visitors made full use of their numerical advantage four minutes into



Shabab Al Ahli striker Sardar Azmoun celebrates after scoring during a 2-1 victory over Al Ittihad in the AFC Champions League Elite in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on October 13, 2026.

● AFC

the second half when Marcos Guilherme, picking up Zahedi's through ball, shrugged off his marker and drilled the ball between the goalkeeper's legs from the left of the six-yard box.

Guilherme put the match beyond the Steelers' reach in the 89th minute when he pounced on a parry by Hong Seong-min from a Bergson strike, evaded the defense and drove the ball into an empty net past the prone goalkeeper.

JDT are fifth in the East Zone standings with four points.