

Iran unveils men's weightlifting squad for World Championships

Sports Desk

Iran weightlifting head coach Behdad Salimi named a 10-man squad for the upcoming IWF World Championships – starting October 2 in Forde, Norway.

Former Olympic silver winner Ali Davoudi, who collected triple world medals last year, will headline the Iranian roster, chasing glory at the +110kg contest.

Joining Davoudi in the super-heavyweight class is Ayat Sharifi, who will compete fresh off a double-gold-winning campaign at the Asian Championships in May.

Alireza Mo'eni and Ali A'ali-pour will be the Iranian contestants in the 94kg division, looking to build on an impressive run in major events over the past nine months.

The Iranian duo won three world medals between them last December, before collecting five medals – including triple golds – at the Asian event. Iran will be represented by three weightlifters at the 110kg category.

Alireza Nasiri will be the Iranian to watch in the division, after the young prodigy made a clean sweep of three world junior golds in April.

Mahdi Karami will also be among the favorites in the class, having bagged the snatch and total bronzes at the previous edition in Manama.

Abolfazl Zare' completes the Iranian trio in the 110kg contest, stepping onto the platform on the back of a snatch gold and double silvers at this year's World Junior Championships. Abodollah Beiranvand – an Asian snatch silver winner last

year – will vie for success in the 79kg contest, while Amir-mohammad Rahmati and Illiya Salehipour, who three Asian junior medals last year, will compete in the 88kg event.

Making his debut at the World Championships as the Iranian head coach, Salimi will hope to see his squad improve on last year's edition, where the country collected 10 medals but managed only a single gold through Alireza Yousefi, who will miss the Forde event with a knee injury, in the super-heavyweight clean & jerk contest.



Iranian weightlifter Ayat Sharifi, pictured during a training session in June, will compete in the +110kg contests at the IWF World Championships.

● IWFIR



Sa'adat receives Iran call-up after injury blow to Esmailnejad

Sports Desk

Iranian opposite-spiker Bardia Sa'adat received a late call-up by national team head coach Roberto Piazza after star player Amin Esmailnejad suffered an ankle injury on Sunday, making him a major doubt for the upcoming FIVB Men's Volleyball World Championship.

Esmailnejad, who was Iran's top scorer in the Volleyball Nations League preliminaries earlier in the summer, was forced out in the second set during a 3-1 friendly victory over Qatar in Doha.

Early assessments showed no fracture in his twisted ankle, but he could still be sidelined for three to six weeks to fully recover from the injury.



● FIVB

Iran will begin its campaign at the World Championship against Egypt in

Pool B on September 14, and then faces another African test in Tunisia

two days later, before taking on host Philippines on Sept. 18.

The top two of the group will progress to round of 16.

Sa'adat was also part of Iran's VNL roster, contributing double figures in three outings – including a team-high 24 points during a five-set loss to Slovenia in Week 1 in Rio de Janeiro.

Iran will be looking to build on a decent run in the Nations League, during which Piazza's men won six out of 12 games to finish eighth in the preliminary table but ultimately missed out on a place in the quarterfinals, as China – second from bottom in the standings – automatically qualified as the host of the VNL Finals.

Iran beach soccer up to fifth in World Ranking

Sports Desk

Iranian beach soccer national team moved up by one spot to sit fifth in September's BSWW World

Ranking – released by Beach Soccer Worldwide, the sport's international developmental body, on Monday. Iran collected 2508.5

points to overtake Spain in the global ranking, retaining the top spot among the Asian teams.

Japan (8th), the United Arab Emirates (10th),

Oman (12th) and Saudi Arabia (21st) followed Iran in the list of Asian member states.

Iran lifted a record fourth AFC Asian Cup trophy in Pattaya, Thailand, in March – thanks to an 8-1 victory over Oman in the final showpiece – but missed out on a last-four place at May's FIFA World Cup in Seychelles after a 4-3 setback against Belarus, having claimed a second bronze medal in last year's edition in Dubai.

The top four of the World Ranking remained unchanged, with Brazil, which beat Belarus in the final for a record-extending seventh World Cup title, on top with 5024.75 points.

Following Brazil in ranking are Portugal (3616pts), Italy (3375), and Belarus (3114).



● FIFA

CAFA Nations Cup:

Qalenoey rues 'lack of prep' as Iran hits three past India

Sports Desk

Iran head coach Amir Qalenoey said he would take responsibility for his side's lack of match sharpness at the ongoing CAFA Nations Cup despite a 3-0 victory over India in its second Group B outing on Monday. The Asian powerhouse dominated from the off against the minnow opposition at the Hisor Central Stadium but still had to wait until the hour mark to break the deadlock through Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh, who squeezed the ball past Indian goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu.

Persepolis striker Ali Ali-pour netted his first international goal in the 89th minute, pouncing home on the rebound after Mahdi Taremi's effort came off the post.

Taremi found himself on the scoresheet deep into stoppage time, when he latched onto a precise pass from Alireza Jahanbakhsh before dispatching a com-

posed finish to seal the win. The victory left Iran, which had beaten Afghanistan 3-1 on the opening day, on top of the group table, with India and cohost Tajikistan trailing Qalenoey's side by three points.

"Before I talk about the match, I need to address my own mistake and admit that we should have come into this tournament with a better preparation," Qalenoey said after the game. "Some of our players have played three matches in the past 10 days, while we made 18 changes to the national team roster for this competition, which is why we should have had four or five training sessions in Tehran before heading to the tournament. As I said, this is my failure as the head coach.

On Monday's performance and result, Qalenoey said: "India sat deep with nine or 10 players in its own half, looking to hit us on the counter-attack. However, our team also took on a very good shape in

our defensive third. Unlike the previous match, we reduced the space between our lines, and didn't give them any opportunities.

"In the second half, we understood India's approach a bit better. The substitutions made an impact, and we found the goals," added the Iranian.

"It's always more difficult to compete against teams with this kind of setup and high motivation because they have incredible work rate and multiple defensive layers; they simply don't want to concede. I just want to give credit to my players for delivering a much-improved performance compared to the previous game despite being very tired."

Next for Iran is a final group game on Thursday against Tajikistan, which beat Afghanistan 2-0 later on Monday.

The group winner will progress to the final showpiece at Tashkent's Olympic City Stadium on Monday.



Iran's Majid Aliyari (19) is seen in action during a 3-0 win against India at the CAFA Nations Cup in Hisor, Tajikistan, on September 1, 2025.

● FFIRI