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Iran men reclaim world weightlifting crown after eight years

Sports Desk

Iran's men's weightlifting team clinched the overall title at the 2025 World Weightlifting Championships in Fjorde, Norway on Saturday, ending an eight-year wait to return to the top of the sport. Competing with eight lifters, Iran secured one gold, four silvers and one bronze medal to amass 388 team points — enough to capture their second world team title, IRNA reported. North Korea and the United States finished second and third respectively. In the 94kg category, Alireza Moeini claimed gold in the snatch and silver in the clean and jerk. Ali Alipour added another silver medal and placed fourth overall. Alireza Nasiri delivered two silvers in the 110kg class to finish runner-up, while super-heavyweight lifter Ali Davoudi earned bronze in the +110kg category. The triumph marks Iran's first world championship title since 2017, when the team was led by then-lifter and now head coach Behdad Salimi.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (2nd L) remotely launches solar projects nationwide with a combined capacity to produce 250 megawatts of power per day in Tehran on October 11, 2025.

● president.ir

President launches 250 MW solar initiatives, vows gov't support to remove barriers

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Europe's new statement is just more carrot and stick

By Hamidreza Gholamzadeh
US affairs analyst

OPINION
EXCLUSIVE

On Friday, Britain, France, and Germany issued a joint statement declaring that they would seek to revive the stalled nuclear talks between Iran and the United States. The announcement came only after the trio triggered the "snapback" mechanism in late August to reimpose UN sanctions on Iran. When the UN Security Council voted down Russia and China's proposal to delay those sanctions in late September, all financial and trade restrictions linked to Iran's nuclear program were reinstated. The latest statement is a textbook example of Europe's long-standing carrot-and-stick approach toward Iran. On the one hand, the three countries see activating the snapback and turning up the pressure as the "right thing to do," while on the other, they urge Tehran to return to the ne-

gotiating table. This tactic of passing the buck and blaming Iran for the diplomatic deadlock has been a recurring feature of European policy. The reality, however, is that it was the Europeans who failed to meet their commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA. Following the US withdrawal from the accord in 2018, the Europeans promised to shield trade with Iran through a mechanism called INSTEX. Yet that initiative never got off the ground. Instead, it was the Europeans themselves who instigated the snapback—effectively dismantling the deal they claimed to support. Despite these broken promises, they continue to point the finger at Tehran, pursuing a mix of blame games and political pressure in hopes of coercing Iran back into talks. This dual strategy has also been evident in the joint statement issued on October 6 by the European Union and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, which questioned Iran's sovereignty over the three Persian Gulf islands. The move fits neatly into the broader pattern of political pressure designed to box Iran into negotia-

tions. But circumstances have changed. Europe has already played its hand. At this stage, talks with Europe — much like those with the United States — offer little to Iran. Tehran was already in dialogue with Washington when Israel launched strikes in June, sparking a regional conflict that saw the US target Iranian nuclear sites. Given that backdrop, fresh negotiations with either side would bring Iran no tangible benefit. Talks, at this point, appear to serve only as a tool of pressure or deception — something Tehran has little reason to accept. For its part, Washington has shown no real appetite for talks since the conflict. Iranian officials say the US refused to join any side meetings at the UN General Assembly in September. It's clear that the only kind of negotiation Washington would entertain is one where it sets the terms and Tehran simply falls in line — a notion that runs counter to Iran's position. Knowing this, the US sees little upside in reopening dialogue.

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US presence in Bagram poses compound threat to China, Russia, and Iran: Expert

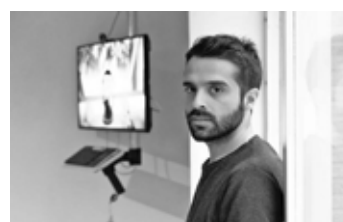
INTERVIEW

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