

IWF World Championships:

Nasiri shines with double silvers, shatters junior world records

Sports Desk

Iranian young gun Alireza Nasiri delivered an impressive performance on the penultimate day of the IWF World Championships, collecting double silver medals in the men's 110kg event in Forde, Norway.

Abolfazl Zare' was the other Iranian weightlifter in the class, posting a 176-210-386 record in the B Group to finish in the 12th spot. Nasiri got off to a shaky start to his campaign, failing with his first two attempts, but overcame the 184kg weight – an Asian junior record – to stand seventh in the snatch table.

Needing a special display in the clean & jerk to make the podium, Nasiri rose to the occasion by lifting a junior world record of 231kg to secure the silver medal. An overall tally of 415kg – also a new high in the junior division – then saw the 20-year-old Iranian

Iranian weightlifter Alireza Nasiri is seen in action in the men's 110kg event at the IWF World Championships in Forde, Norway, on October 10, 2025.
● IWF

pip former world and Olympic champion Ruslan Nurudinov of Uzbekistan to the runner-up place in total.

"I underperformed in the snatch as I was a bit intimidated by the competition early on and missed my first two attempts. I still managed to make the third lift to stay in contention. The 183kg weight I missed twice in the snatch was actually light for me," Nasiri said.

Regarding his bold decision to jump by seven kilograms for his third and final C&J attempt, Nasiri said, "I didn't think about the weight at all. I just focused on the fact that I had to make this lift to win the medal I came here for." Meanwhile, Uzbekistan's Akbar



Djuraev – a silver medalist in last year's Paris Olympics – dominated

the class with a clean sweep of triple golds, while setting new world

records in the snatch (196kg) and total (428kg).

Romania's Luis Lauret (188kg) and Armenian Garik Karapetyan (187kg) won the snatch silver and bronze respectively, with Nurudinov settling for the C&J bronze. Nasiri's medals took Iran's haul to five in Forde, after Alireza Moeini and Ali A'alipour had collected a gold and double silvers between them in the men's 94kg event on the preceding night.

It was an all-Iranian one-two in the snatch, with Moeini walking away with the ultimate prize thanks to a 182kg lift with his third attempt – becoming Iran's first world record holder since Sohrab Moradi. A'alipour took the silver with 176kg – one kilogram clear of Colombian bronze winner Jokser Alborno, who impressed from the B Group with three medals – while reigning Olympic champion Karlos Nasar settled for the fourth spot with 173kg.

The Bulgarian great, however, bounced back to dominate the C&J with a new world record of 222kg, with Alborno (215kg) and Romain Imadouchène (211kg) of France in the following spots. A'alipour missed two attempts to finish fourth in the C&J with 211kg – two kilograms above fifth-placed Moeini. On 173-222-395, Nasar also won the total gold – four kilograms clear of Moeini, while A'alipour stood fourth.

Qalenoei 'satisfied' despite friendly setback against Russia

Sports Desk

Iran head coach Amir Qalenoei was "satisfied" with his team's performance despite a 2-1 loss to Russia in a friendly game in Volgograd on Friday. Dmitri Vorobyov gave the home side the lead midway through the first half at the Volgograd Arena, before Tractor striker Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh drew Team Melli level three minutes after the break, tapping in Saman Qoddous's low cross from close range.

Aleksey Batrakov restored the advantage for the Russians in the 70th minute with a superb long-range effort as Iran was beaten in the first of its two friendly fixtures in October.

"I think everyone enjoyed watching this game. Both sides could have won it, but Russia capitalized on its chances," Qalenoei said after the game. "We executed our gameplans more effectively in the second half and managed to score, and could have even get a second, but conceded against the run of play. After that, the substitutions we made gave us a real chance to equalize, but in the end, we let the result slip away, though I'm still satisfied with my team's performance."

On what made the difference between the two sides, Iran coach said, "The Russian league is already in its eleventh week, while ours is only in its sixth, so it's only natural their players are in a better form. Given our team's injuries and absences, I consider our performance to be positive."

When asked if the occasion provided his team with a proper test ahead of next year's World Cup finals, Qalenoei said, "Definitely. Games like this, where the team is put under pressure, help us identify our weaknesses. Russia has been in decent form



Iran captain Alireza Jahanbakhsh (7) is seen in action in a 2-1 loss to Russia in a friendly game in Volgograd, Russia, on October 10, 2025.
● FFIRI

in its last 20 games, and tonight's match was very competitive. This match helped us to become better prepared for the World Cup."

Next for Iran is a friendly encounter against Tanzania – No. 107 in the latest FIFA Men's World Ranking – in Dubai on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Mahdi Alavi, the spokesman of the Iranian Football Federation, confirmed on Friday night that Team Melli will be part of a four-team friendly tournament – also featuring Egypt, Uzbekistan, and Cape Verde – in Dubai in November's international break.

Iran will play Cape Verde, with the winner taking on Egypt or Uzbekistan in the final.

World Para Powerlifting Championships:

Iranians impress with eight junior golds

Sports Desk

Iranians collected nine medals, including a remarkable eight golds, in the Rookie and Next Gen age class at the World Para Powerlifting Championships in Cairo, Egypt.

Atiyeh Sadat Hosseini, 17, made history by winning Iran's maiden women's gold at the World Championships, triumphing in the -61kg category. "I'm so happy and proud to get the gold here," said Hosseini who grabbed the gold with her second attempt of 90kg.

The Iranian girl posted 175kg in total to win her second gold medal.

Meanwhile, Iranian young guns stole the show on Friday, delivering a dominant performance in the men's heavy-weight categories much like their senior counterparts.

Mani Saeidi clinched the gold in the -88kg category (Next Gen) in style. The 19-year-old began his campaign by setting a new world record of 166kg before bettering the mark with 172kg on his second attempt. Reza Enayatollahi celebrated his 18th birthday in advance, securing the -97kg category



with a new Next Gen world record of 195kg with his second attempt.

"I worked hard for 11 years for this result. I believe the key to success is hard work and listening to your coach," said Enayatollahi, who aims for a medal at Paralympic Games. An overall tally of 383kg saw the Iranian prodigy also clinch the total gold.

Hassan Mohammad Hosseinpour claimed the ultimate prize in the Next Gen -80kg class, thanks to a 156kg lift, but settled for the total silver with 303kg.

Amirali Es'haqnia also en-

Iran's Mani Saeidi (c) celebrates with his junior gold medal at the World Para Powerlifting Championships in Cairo, Egypt, on October 10, 2025.
● BORNA NEWS

joyed a double-gold winning campaign in the +107kg with a 171-336 record as Iran finished third in the table – following Uzbekistan, which bagged 13 golds, and Armenia.

This was the largest ever Rookie & Next Gen World Championships with 120 athletes (36 female and 84 male athletes), aged 20 or younger, who competed in 19 events.

Iran frustrated by cancellation of women's futsal at Islamic Solidarity Games

Sports Desk

Iran's preparation for the inaugural Women's Futsal World Cup suffered a major blow after the cancellation of the women's futsal tournament at the upcoming Islamic Solidarity Games.

Iranian women were to participate at the multi-sport event – starting November 7 in Riyadh – but the event was called off due to "an insufficient number of teams registering for the event," Mohammad Tabe', Iran's chef de

mission in the Saudi capital, confirmed on Saturday.

"The ISG tournament would have served as a proper preparation for us ahead of the World Cup, but, unfortunately, only three teams registered, leading to its cancellation," Iran head coach Shahrzad Mozaffar said after a training session in Tehran on Saturday.

"To be honest, we had a feeling for the past two or three weeks that the event might not happen, which is why we started looking

for alternatives. We have already begun negotiations with several teams to arrange friendly matches during the same period," added the Iranian coach, who took the role for a second spell in June, replacing Forouzan Soleimani after a below-par Asian Cup in May. The two-time Asian champion had to settle for a consolation third place in China in May, though it was still enough to see Iran join Japan and Thailand in securing a World Cup spot. Iranian girls will get their World



Cup campaign underway against eight-time Copa America champion Brazil – the top team in the latest FIFA World Ranking – on November 23 in Group D, before

taking on Panama three days later. Mozaffar's side will hope to be in contention for a top-two finish in the group and a place in the round of 16, when squaring off

Iranian women's futsal players attend a training session in Tehran, Iran, on October 11, 2025.
● SOGAND NAZMI/FFIRI

against world No. 7 Italy on the final day of the group stage on November 29.

"Our goal is to arrange at least one or two friendly matches close to the World Cup start date. However, the World Cup teams are generally reluctant to play during that period, while other teams are out of their competitive form," added Mozaffar.

Iran will play Russia in a couple of friendly games in the Russian city of Tula on October 16 and 18.