

‘Bright future’ ahead for Iranian weightlifting, says ex-world champ Baqeri

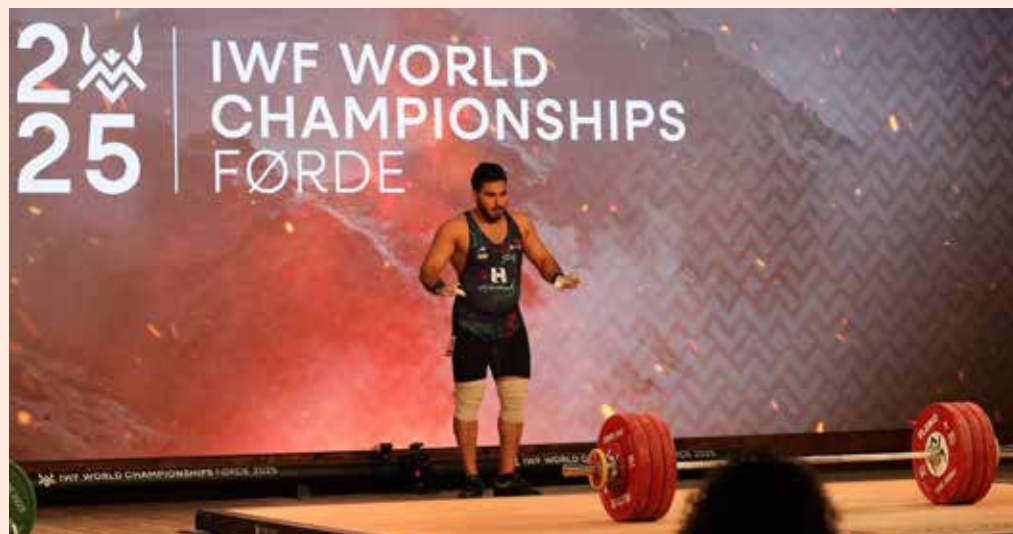
Sports Desk

Former world champion Kourosh Bagheri believes a “bright future” lies ahead for Iran’s young weightlifting team, following the country’s success in ending an eight-year men’s title drought at the IWF World Championships in Førde, Norway.

A medal haul of one gold, four silvers, and one bronze saw the Iranian eight-man squad collect 387 points to beat North Korea (354pts) to the top spot in the men’s standing and secure only a second trophy in the history of the sport’s flagship international event on Saturday.

Alireza Moeini and Ali A’alipour won a gold and double silvers between them in the 94kg event, while young sensation Alireza Nasiri claimed a couple of silver medals in the 110kg class.

Former Olympic silver medalist Ali Davoudi, meanwhile, managed to win a snatch bronze in the superheavyweight class despite struggling with a shoulder



Iran’s Alireza Nasiri is seen in men’s 110kg action at the IWF World Championships in Førde, Norway, on Oct. 10, 2025. ● IWF

injury on the final day of the competition.

The pinnacle of the Iranians’ campaign came in Thursday’s 94kg showdown, when Moeini lifted 182kg to set a new snatch world record for the weight class. Nasiri, 20, also impressed by shattering two junior world

records to pip former world and Olympic champion Ruslan Nurudinov of Uzbekistan to the C&J and total runner-up places.

“More important than the team’s title victory was the success of three young Iranians in finishing on the podium in their respective weight classes,” Baqeri told IRNA.

“The outcome was somewhat expected, though I had anticipated Ali A’alipour would finish with a total medal, but unfortunately, that did not materialize.

“Ali Davoudi also faced a difficult challenge. He was considered one of Iran’s main hopefuls for a medal but could only secure

a single bronze,” added Baqeri, who won the 94kg snatch and total gold medalist at the 2001 World Championships.

On record-breaking performances by two Iranians, Baqeri said, “Moeini had already set a snatch world record in training in Tehran and replicated that feat on the world stage. He delivered an outstanding performance by completing all six of his lifts and securing the total silver. He pushed Bulgarian Karlos Nasar to his absolute limit.”

Reigning Olympic champion Nasar finished empty-handed in the snatch but bounced back to grab double golds, breaking the clean & jerk world record.

“Although Nasiri did not get the result he wanted in the snatch, he managed to stage a strong recovery in the clean and jerk. While many had predicted a C&J gold medal for him – a predic-

tion I did not share – he still did a great job to win two silvers and post an excellent total, which is a commendable achievement at such a young age,” Baqeri said.

On what to expect from this group of young weightlifters, Baqeri said, “The team’s average age is very low, giving us a strong and promising age composition. Abolfazl Zarei is 19 and still eligible to compete at the junior level. Nasiri can also lift in this age category.

“This promising situation indicates that as we move forward, these young talents will only gain more experience and strength. We can expect to see them mature into more polished and powerful contenders on the global stage – at future World Championships, Asian Games, and the Olympic Games. The future is definitely bright for Iranian weightlifting.”

Iliya Salehipour (88kg) and Abdollah Beiranvand (79kg) were the other two Iranians in the men’s event, but were unfortunate to miss out on the podium despite posting some decent lifts. Ayat Sharifi – winner of two Asian golds in May – was also unlucky to be ruled out of the +110kg contests after failing to recover from a knee injury.

Iran advances to top 8 at Asian Table Tennis Championships

Sports Desk

The Iranian men’s national table tennis team has made a strong statement at the 28th Asian Table Tennis Championships by advancing to the top eight teams of the tournament. The third day of the championship began with a crucial victory for Iran over Singapore, a result that secured their place among the continent’s elite.

Iran entered the second round after impressive performances in the group stage, defeating both Mongolia and the Maldives.

In the knockout stage, the team faced Singapore and emerged victorious with a 3-1 scoreline. The win was highlighted by the outstanding performance of Noshad Alamiyan, who secured two wins in the match. Amirhossein Hodaie added the third victory for Iran, while Benyamin Faraji was defeated in his individual match, according to Tasnim News Agency. This performance not only advances Iran to the quarterfinals but also confirms their qualification for the 2026 World Table Tennis Championships, which will



be held in London. In total, thirteen teams from the

Asian Championships earn the right to participate in

the global event, and by reaching the top eight, Iran has already secured its spot among them.

The Iranian national team, led by coach Jamil Lotfollahnasabi, has displayed remarkable consistency throughout the tournament. The women’s national team also had a notable campaign in Group D. They secured victories against Kyrgyzstan and Nepal in their first two matches, demonstrating skill and determination. However, in the third match, the team suffered a defeat at the hands of Malaysia.

Karimi named best goalkeeper at Asian Aquatics Championships



● inn.ir

Sports Desk

Hamed Karimi, the goalkeeper of Iran’s national water polo team, has been officially recognized as the best goalkeeper of the 11th Asian Aquatics Championships, highlighting his outstanding performance throughout the tournament.

According to ISNA, Karimi’s exceptional skills between the posts earned him this prestigious accolade, awarded by the organizing committee of the competition. His performance played a pivotal role in Iran’s successful campaign, helping the team reach the final and secure a silver medal.

Iran began the event with a 14-9 win against China in their Group A opener, and then went on to breeze past Hong Kong (22-10) and Uzbekistan (28-7) to progress to the knockouts as the group winner.

Iran hammered Thailand 21-6 in the quarterfinals, before edging out Japan – Asian champion in March – 19-18 for a place in the final showpiece. The 11th Asian Aquatics Championships were held from September 28 to October 10, 2025 in Ahmedabad, India.

Karimi’s recognition as the best goalkeeper of the tournament not only highlights his personal achievements but also reflects the growing strength and competitiveness of Iranian water polo on the Asian stage. The national team’s performance at this championship signals a bright future for the sport in Iran, inspiring both fans and young athletes alike.

Iran names women’s volleyball roster for Islamic Solidarity Games



● SEPIDE ABDOLHAY/volleyball.ir

Sports Desk

Iran head coach Lee Do-hee named a provisional 15-player squad for the women’s volleyball competition at the upcoming Islamic Solidarity Games – starting November 7 in Riyadh.

Iranian girls will head to the multi-sport event fresh off a historic title-winning campaign at the CAVA Women’s Volleyball Championship in

Uzbekistan earlier in October – captured a maiden international gold for Iranian women’s volleyball since the first national team was established in 1963. The triumph rounded off an emphatic run for the Iranian girls, who did not concede a single set throughout the tournament, breezing past Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and the host nation in the league phase.

Fatemeh Khalili, the Most Valuable Player at the CAVA tournament, was joined by middle-blocker Reihaneh Karimi and opposite-spiker Aytak Salamat in the CAVA Dream Team, and the trio will again headline the Iranian squad in the Saudi capital.

Iran settled for a runner-up finish in the previous edition of the Games in Konya 2021 after a straight-set defeat against host and women’s volleyball powerhouse Turkey in the final.

The following is Iran’s full squad:

Aytak Salamat, Zahra Karimi, Elaheh Poursaleh, Masoumeh Qadami, Ghazaleh Bostan, Sepinoud Dastbarjan, Zahra Moghani, Kimia Kiani, Reihaneh Karimi, Fatemeh Khalili, Zahra Salehi, Negar Hashemi, Shaqayeq Hassankhani, Shabnam Alikhani, and Soudabeh Baqerpour

Women’s football teams making their mark internationally



Sports Desk

Farideh Shojaei, Vice President for Women’s Affairs at the Football Federation of Iran, stated that all activities and programs of women’s national football teams are being carried out according to the approved schedule.

Speaking during a meeting with female members of the Iranian Parliament on Monday, she highlighted the ongoing efforts to strengthen women’s football at both the youth and senior levels, IRNA wrote.

She stated that Iran’s under-17 women’s national football team traveled to Saudi Arabia to participate in the preliminary qualifying matches for the AFC Women’s Asian Cup, competing against the national teams of Saudi Arabia, Lebanon,

Iran’s under-17 women’s national football team ● THE-FFIRI.COM

and Kuwait.

“In addition, the senior women’s national football team is also preparing for international competition, with plans to travel to India to participate in a three-nation tournament against the national teams of Nepal and India,” Shojaei noted. She added that the Iranian women’s futsal team is scheduled to travel to Russia on Tuesday (Oct. 14) to play two friendly matches.

Expressing her appreciation for the continuous support of the Football Federation’s president, she underscored the importance of women’s presence in football management and decision-making roles.