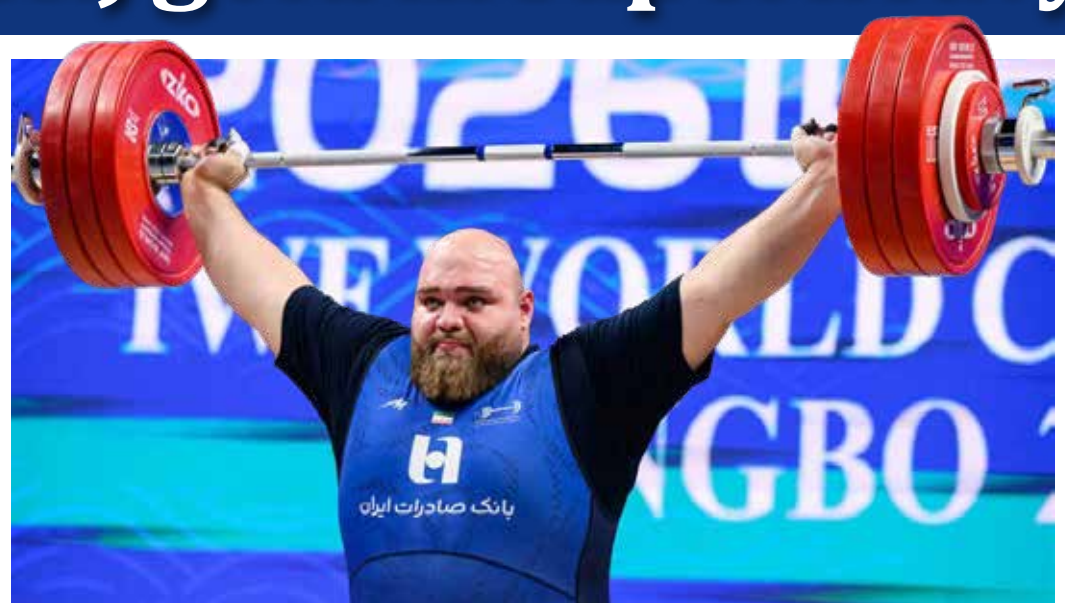
Weightlifting World Championships:

Yousefi sets new world record to clinch C&J gold in superheavyweight

Sports Desk

A thrilling final day at the Weightlifting World Championships in Ningbo, China, saw Iran's Alireza Yousefi win the clean & jerk gold in the men's +110kg category, setting a new world record in the process, before claiming silver in the total on Sunday.
Yousefi's fellow Iranian superheavyweight Ali Davoudi, meanwhile, settled for bronze in the snatch but missed out on the podium in the clean & jerk and total, finishing fourth in both events.
Ali Ammar Yusur, who controversially lost out to Davoudi in the race for gold at September's Asian Games after being denied an attempt due to a timing error, made history by winning gold in the total and snatch, as well as silver in the clean & jerk, to become the first Iraqi world champion in an Olympic sport.
The snatch competition was hardly one to remember for Yousefi, who opened with a successful 186kg lift before clearing 191kg and 195kg on his next two attempts, but ultimately had to settle for fourth place.
Ammar claimed snatch gold with 211kg, although he failed to improve his own world record by one kilogram, missing his 220kg attempt.
Two-time defending champion Varazdat Lalayan, a silver medalist at the Paris 2024 Olympics, finished runner-up to Ammar with 210kg, four kilograms ahead of Davoudi.
In the clean & jerk, both Davoudi and Yousefi had two attempts remaining after Ammar had completed his campaign with 255kg, while Lalayan had one attempt left.
Lalayan went first but failed to lift 257kg, capping a disappointing championships for Armenia, which saw four of its lifters bomb out, one withdraw and none complete more than three of their six attempts. Lalayan's 210-247-457 performance made him the country's only total medalist, with bronze.
Yousefi initially lifted 258kg but had the attempt overturned because of bar oscillation. The Iranian and his coaching staff were visibly unhappy with the decision, arguing that the rules only penalize "deliberate oscillation" and that the bar had moved without any intervention from the lifter.
Remarkably, Yousefi, who had trailed Ammar by 16kg in the snatch, bounced back to lift a world-record 263kg and claim clean & jerk gold. The effort also propelled him past Lalayan into second place in the total with a combined 458kg (195-263).
Davoudi, who had lifted 262kg to win the Asian Games title, failed twice in his attempt to clear 261kg after opening with 246kg, finishing with a total of 452kg (206-246). Meanwhile, Ammar and the Iraqi coaching staff, including his father and coach, celebrated the historic achievement backstage.
Only four superheavyweights this century have recorded a total in the 460kg range by the age of 22, and the other three were in Ningbo: Iranian head coach Behdad Salimi, his legendary compatriot Hossein Rezazadeh, director of Iran's national teams, and Georgian sensation Lasha Talakhadze, who withdrew from the B Group in his first international appearance since winning a third consecutive Olympic gold in Paris.
Sunday's results took Iran's medal tally to eight across four men's weight categories at the championships.
Alireza Nasiri, who turns 21 next month, recovered from a slow start to claim two impressive silver medals with a 185-233-418 performance in the men's 110kg category, where Uzbekistan's Akbar Djuraev swept all three gold medals.
Nasiri's compatriot Alireza Moeini, who won snatch gold and total silver in the 94kg category last year, had to settle for 12th place on his debut in the 110kg division. He posted a combined total of 388kg, lifting 180kg in the snatch and 208kg in the clean & jerk in the B Group.
Ali A'alipour, meanwhile, claimed three bronze medals in the 95kg category, posting a total of 396kg with lifts of 181kg in the snatch and 215kg in the clean & jerk.
Mir-Mostafa Javadi and Abdollah Beiranvand were the first Iranian lifters to take to the platform in Ningbo, finishing empty-handed in the 85kg category.
Beiranvand finished ninth with a total of 363kg (170kg in the snatch and 193kg in the clean & jerk), while former world champion Javadi placed 13th with 360kg (160kg and 200kg, respectively).
Iran collected 425 points to finish third in the men's standings, behind North Korea and China, which amassed 533 and 527 points, respectively.



Iranian weightlifter Alireza Yousefi competes in the men's +110kg category at the IWF World Championships in Ningbo, China, on November 8, 2026.
IWF

Taremi omitted as Iran names new-look squad for Basra tournament

Sports Desk

Al Wasl striker Mehdi Taremi headlines a list of high-profile absentees after Iran head coach Amir Qalenoei named a youthful, revamped 29-man squad for the November international break.
Iran will take on Palestine in a friendly tournament in Basra, Iraq, on Saturday before facing the host nation the following Tuesday.
The event was originally intended to serve as part of Iran's preparations for next January's AFC Asian Cup in Saudi Arabia. However, the Asian Football Confederation postponed the tournament until December 2027 amid security concerns in the region, following an escalation in the conflict involving Saudi Arabia and Yemen's Ansarullah movement.
With the flagship continental competition pushed back by 11 months, Qalenoei and his coaching staff have decided to inject fresh blood into the national team. The move comes after growing scrutiny of Iran's aging squad, which was the second-oldest at June's FIFA World Cup.
The new squad reflects "the coaching staff's belief in the need for a generational transition, as they look to pave the way for younger players and assess emerging talent in Iranian football. It is a process that is not being put off until some distant future but is already taking shape at this training camp," the Iranian Football Federation said on Monday.
"The coaching staff's approach during the current FIFA international window is to give younger players more opportunities and assess their abilities in the international matches in Iraq. "The plan was initially due to be implemented at the previous training camp but was postponed until the current gathering following coordination between the senior national team's coaching staff and the U23 team, whose young players took part in the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games in September.
"Accordingly, the coaching staff have decided to leave out several experienced members of the national team from the current camp to create more opportunities for younger players to feature and be assessed.
"The decision has been made solely as part of the technical plans for the current training camp and should not be interpreted as a change in the status or role of experienced players in the national team's future plans," the statement added.
Goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand, who is shortlisted for the AFC Player of the Year award to be announced later this month, has also been left out, along with veteran defenders Ehsan Hajsafi, Shoja Khalilzadeh and Ramin Rezaeian.
Meanwhile, Adib Zarei and Esmaeil Qolizadeh have earned their first international call-ups under Qalenoei.
The following is Iran's 29-man squad for the two friendlies in Basra:
Goalkeepers: Payam Niazmand (Persepolis), Habib Farabbasi (Esteghlal), Mohammad Khalifeh (Aluminium Arak), Adib Zarei (Shams Azar)
Defenders: Ali Nemati (Lusail), Mohammad-Mahdi Zare' (Persepolis), Aref Aqasi (Esteghlal), Saman Fallah (Esteghlal), Amin Hazbavi (Sepahan), Abolfazl Razzaqour (Foolad Khuzestan), Hossein Goudarzi (Esteghlal), Jafar Salmani (Al Talaba), Saleh Hardani (Esteghlal), Aria Yousefi (Sepahan)
Midfielders: Mohammad Qorbani (Al Wahda), Amirmohammad Razzaqinia (Esteghlal), Omid Nourafkan (Sepahan), Mohammad-Javad Hosseinnejad (Dynamo Makhachkala), Saeid Ezzatollahi (Shabab Al Ahli), Esmaeil Qolizadeh (Esteghlal), Mahdi Limouchi (Sepahan), Afshin Sadeqi (Nassaji Mazandaran), Amirhossein Farsi (Khaybar), Mohammad Mohebbi (HNK Rijeka), Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh (Tractor), Mohammad-Mahdi Mohebbi (Persepolis)
Strikers: Sardar Azmoun (Shabab Al Ahli), Kasra Taheri (Sepahan), Dennis Eckert Dargahi (Standard de Liège).


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Dakar 2026 Youth Olympics:

Iran suffers last-four heartbreak in women's futsal

Sports Desk

Iran's women's youth futsal team suffered a heartbreaking 3-2 defeat to Venezuela in the semifinals at the Dakar Youth Olympic Games on Sunday.
Iran fell behind 1-0 in the first half before Venezuela doubled its lead after the break.
The Iranian girls, however, staged a spirited comeback to level the score at 2-2 and force extra time.
The match went into two three-minute periods of extra time, but Iran conceded the decisive goal with just 30 seconds remaining in the second period to suffer a narrow defeat and miss out on a place in the final showpiece.
Iran had enjoyed an impressive run in the group stage, recording three consecutive victories over Cameroon, Costa Rica and Italy, which will face Iran again in the bronze-medal contest, to finish top of Group B and secure a semifinal berth.