

# Taftian Claims Iran's Third Gold in Asian Athletics Championships



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran's Hassan Taftian has seized the gold medal in the Men's 100 meters at

the 22nd Asian Athletics Championships.

Taftian won the gold medal with

a time of 10.25 secs. He defeated defending champion of Qatar Femi Seun who came second with 10.26 secs.

Yang Chun-han from Chinese Taipei claimed the bronze medal, clocking 10.31secs.

Iran's discus thrower Ehsan Haddadi and shot putter Ali Samari have previously won two gold medals in the competition.

The 2017 Asian Athletics Championships are the 22nd edition of the Asian Athletics Championships. It is underway from 6 July to 9 July 2017 at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, India.

Meanwhile, Moslem Niadoost from Iran also has claimed a bronze medal at the men's 1500m final of

the 22nd Asian Athletics Championships.

Niadoost came third with a time of 3:48.53 in the event.

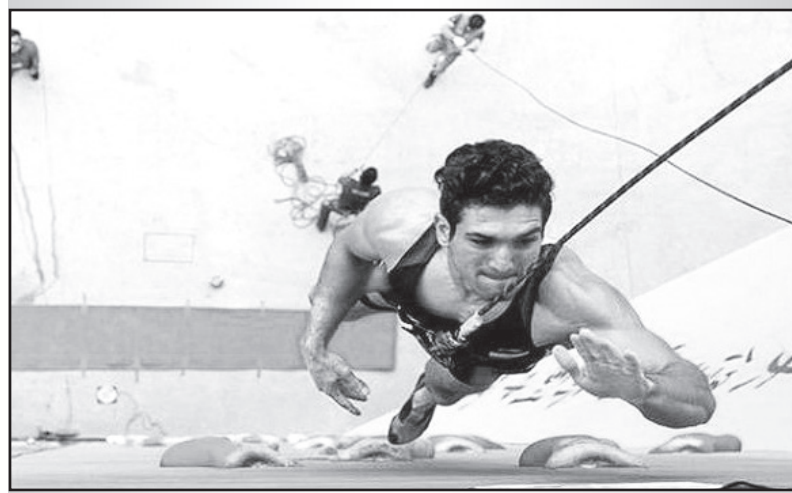
The gold medal went to Ajay Kumar Saroj who clocked 3:45.85.

Jamal Hairane from Qatar claimed the silver medal with a time of 3:46.90.

Iran's discus thrower Ehsan Haddadi, shot putter Ali Samari and sprinter Hassan Taftian have previously won three gold medals in the competition.

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## Alipour Wins Gold at IFSC Climbing World Cup



Iranian speed climber Reza Alipour Shenazandifard

Tehran (Dispatches) - Iranian speed climber Reza Alipour Shenazandifard has put on impressive displays at the International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC) Climbing World Cup Villars 2017 in Switzerland, and finished as the champion to snatch the gold medal.

On Saturday, the 23-year-old "Vertical World's Fastest Man" took part in the men's lead competitions, and set 5.63 seconds to claim the top position of the chart at the prestigious sporting event, the Islamic Republic of Iran Mountaineering and Sport Climbing Federation website reported.

Russia's Stanislav Kokorin clocked 6.11 seconds to land in the second spot and collected the silver medal. Vladislav Deulin, another contestant from Russia, got the bronze medal.

The IFSC Climbing World Cup Villars 2017 started in Switzerland on July 7, and finished the yesterday.

The tournament is being held in women's lead, women's speed, men's lead and men's speed sections.

Speed climbing is a race in its purest form. Two contestants face each other while moving up the ice in this discipline, and the faster climber wins.

Lead climbing, on the other hand, emphasizes on strength and techniques. Climbers go up the ice alone and try to reach a specific end point within a given amount of time.

To practice the sport at the highest level of competition, it takes athletes with strategic insight, power, precision and full commitment.

## Vettel Fastest in Final Austrian GP Practice

SPIELBERG, Austria (Reuters) - Ferrari's Formula One leader Sebastian Vettel looked a good bet for pole position after posting the fastest time in final practice for the Austrian Grand Prix on Saturday.

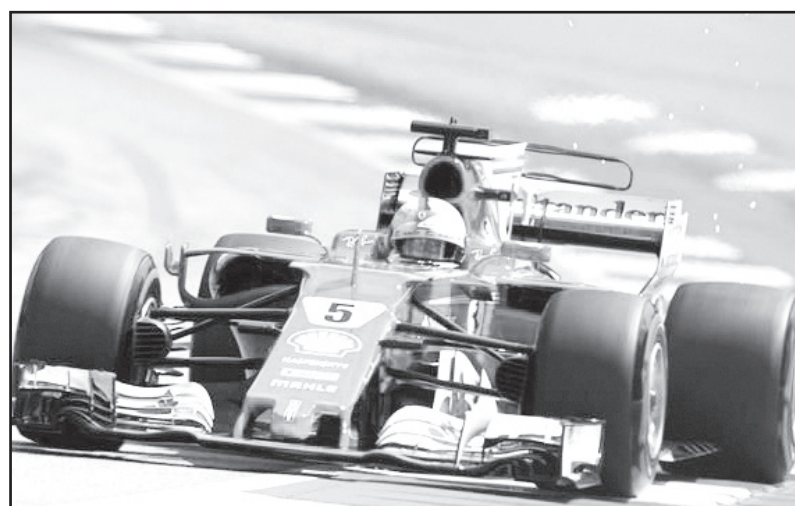
The German, 14 points clear of Mercedes's Lewis Hamilton after eight races, was 0.269 seconds quicker than his British rival, who suffered a front right brake failure that sent him off at Turn Three.

Mercedes said the relevant parts would be replaced for qualifying. Vettel's time was the fastest lap yet of the Red Bull Ring, with a time of one minute 05.092 seconds on ultrasoft tyres.

Hamilton had held the previous record, set on Friday. Hamilton domi-

nated the first two practice sessions but can start no higher than sixth after his team revealed that his car needed an unscheduled gearbox change, incurring a mandatory five place grid drop. The triple world champion's Finnish team mate Valtteri Bottas was third fastest, 0.423 off Vettel's pace, with compatriot Kimi Raikkonen fourth for Ferrari. Dutch teenager Max Verstappen was fifth fastest at his Red Bull team's scenic home circuit with Australian team mate Daniel Ricciardo, winner of the dramatic previous race in Azerbaijan, sixth.

The two Haas cars of Kevin Magnussen and Romain Grosjean were seventh and eighth, followed by the Toro Rossos of Daniil Kvyat and Carlos Sainz.



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## Manchester United Agree Fee for Everton's Lukaku

MANCHESTER (Dispatches) - Manchester United have agreed a fee with Everton for the transfer of Belgian international striker Romelu Lukaku subject to medical and personal terms, the Premier League side said on Saturday.

"MUFC is delighted to announce a fee has been agreed with Everton for the transfer of Romelu Lukaku, subject to a medical & personal terms," the club said on its verified Twitter feed.

British media reported that the fee for the 24-year-old would be around 75 million pounds,



Lukaku wants to leave Everton this summer and United have stolen a march on Chelsea.

making him the club's second most expensive signing after last year's world record deal for French midfielder Paul Pogba.

Lukaku, who also attracted interest from former club Chelsea, scored 25 league goals in 37 matches for Everton in the last campaign, four behind Tottenham Hotspur's Golden Boot-winning striker Harry Kane.

The striker, who has also scored 20 goals for Belgium, rejected a new contract at Everton in March and will reunite with United manager Jose Mourinho, under whom he served at Chelsea.

## Coleman to Run Only 100 at World Championships



American Christian Coleman

LONDON (Reuters) - American Christian Coleman will run only the 100 meters at the world championships in London next month, his management company said.

Coleman had qualified for the 100 and 200 with runner-up finishes at last month's U.S. championships. The 21-year-old, who set the fastest time of the year in the 100 by

running 9.82 seconds in June, and his coach decided to concentrate on the shorter race after a lengthy collegiate season.

With 48 races indoors and out, Coleman had run more often this year than Usain Bolt, Justin Gatlin and Andre De Grasse combined, HSI Sports Management's Emanuel Hudson told media.

Coleman, who has not competed since the U.S. championships, wanted to make his European professional debut in the 100 at the Monaco Diamond League's meeting on July 21, Hudson said.

"We have requested a lane for him in the men's 100 meters, but as of today have not been given a spot," Hudson said by telephone. World record holder Bolt has already been announced for the meeting's 100m in his last competition before the Aug. 4-13 world championships.

Coleman will be in Monaco to train and run with the U.S. 4x100 meter relay team. "If not the Monaco 100, we will go to worlds as is," Hudson said.

## 'Injury Cheats Should Be Shamed On Court'

LONDON (Reuters) - There is only one way to treat petulant players, such as Australia's Bernard Tomic, who call for a medical time out to treat a fake injury - expose them to public humiliation.

That is the theory of Bill Norris, the ATP's former Director of Medical Services who spent 35 years patching up the broken and sore bodies of top players from Ken Rosewall and Arthur Ashe to Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

Tomic was fined \$15,000 by the International Tennis Federation on Thursday after admitting he was "bored" and had faked an injury during a listless first-round defeat at Wimbledon.

"This young man (Tomic) not trying in his match at Wimbledon is not a good thing," Norris, who turns 75 next month, told media in a telephone interview from his home in Boca Raton, Florida. "If I got called out to court (and realized) some guy just wants to buy time, it is gamesmanship.

## Fiji Qualify for 2019 World Cup After Beating Tonga

LONDON (Reuters) - Fiji secured qualification for the 2019 Rugby World Cup after battling back from seven points down in the second half to beat Tonga 14-10 in their Pacific Nations Cup clash in Nuku'alofa on Saturday.

The Fijians, as the top-ranked Oceania side, will join Australia, Wales, Georgia and either Canada or Uruguay in Pool D in Japan. The game was locked 3-3 at halftime before Tongan prop Siegfried Fisihoi scored an early second half try to give the home side a 10-3

advantage. However, Leone Nakarawa crossed for the visitors with Ben Volavola converting and slotting two further penalties to give Fiji the four points to qualify with a game to spare.

Qualification was decided over results from the Pacific Nations Cup from 2016 and 2017. The Fijians won both of their games last year, beating Tonga 23-18 and Samoa 26-16 in Suva to notch up eight points. Samoa beat Tonga 30-10 last year in Apia, while Tonga beat

Two-time champion Rafael Nadal advanced to the fourth round at Wimbledon with a straight-set win over Russia's Karen Khachanov

LONDON (Xinhua) - Rafael Nadal has defeated big-serving Karen Khachanov in straight sets to reach the fourth round at Wimbledon.

The 10-time French Open champion fired 41 winners to beat the Russian 6-1, 6-4, 7-6 (3) on Centre Court to move into the last 16 for the first time since 2014.

"For a while I played fantastic, in the first set and a half, it was a great level," Nadal said. "Then it was a little bit tougher."

Nadal reduced the powerful 21-year-old to a mere bystander in the first 30 minutes of the match, moving energetically on the grass on a sweltering late afternoon.

It took Khachanov, ranked No.

34 in the world, half an hour to get a service hold on the board, in the first game of the second set.

The Russian managed to find his form in the third set, forcing it into a tie-break but made three unforced errors to see the chance slip off his hand.

"I played some good shots, from the forehand and the backhand," said Nadal. "Happy with almost everything. But in the third, I started to play a little bit shorter."

Since losing the 2011 final to Novak Djokovic, Nadal has been knocked out before the quarter-finals for four straight years by a player ranked outside of the top 100. He missed Wimbledon last year with a wrist injury.

the Samoans 30-26 last week in Nuku'alofa to give both teams five points from three games. Fiji travel to Samoa next week for the final game of the tournament where the second Oceania spot will be decided.

The second-placed side will join England, France, Argentina and the United States in Pool C. The third-placed team then face a playoff against a European side, with the loser of that game entering the repechage tournament.