

Iran Add Two Silvers to Medal Tally at World Para Athletics Championships

DUBAI (Dispatches) – Ali Mohammadyari and Hashemiyeh Motaghian have won two silver medals at the Dubai 2019 World Para Athletics Championships.

Mohammadyari earned a silver at the Men's Discus Throw F 56 with a 43.51 throw.

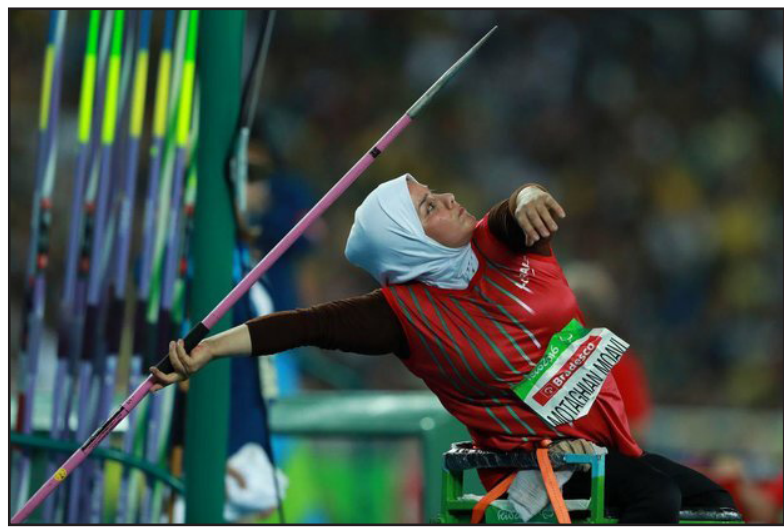
Brazilian thrower Claudiney Batista won the gold medal with 45.92 and Yogesh Kathuniya from India seized a bronze with a throw of 42.05m.

Motaghian also won a silver in the women's javelin F56 with a

throw of 22.67m. Rio 2016 Paralympic champion Diana Dadtzite from Latvia seized the gold with 25.54m and Brazilian Raissa Rocha claimed a bronze with 22.28m.

Iran's Mahdi Olad (Men's Shot Put F11 - Gold), Alireza Mokhtari (Men's Shot Put F53 - Silver), Mehran Nekouei Majd (Men's Shot Put F34 - Silver), Sajad Mohammadian (Men's Shot Put F42 - Bronze) had won medals for Iran.

The event has brought more than 1,400 athletes from 120 nations together from Nov. 7 to 15.



Zverev Beats Nadal at ATP Finals

LONDON (AP) - After being thoroughly outplayed by defending champion Alexander Zverev at the ATP Finals, Rafael Nadal refused to make any excuses.

The top-ranked Spaniard wouldn't blame the abdominal problem that forced him to pull out of the Paris Masters semifinals just nine days earlier, or a hand injury that kept him sidelined before that. And he bristled at the notion that his recent marriage could be a factor in a sub-par performance.

Something was clearly off for Nadal, though, who lost 6-2, 6-4 to a player he had a perfect 5-0 record against before Monday's match at the O2 Arena.

Nadal dropped his serve three straight times, didn't force a single break point, and his



Alexander Zverev of Germany plays a return to Rafael Nadal of Spain during their ATP World Tour Finals singles tennis match at the O2 Arena in London, Nov 11, 2019.

normally powerful forehand was responsible for more than four times as many unforced errors (13) as winners (3).

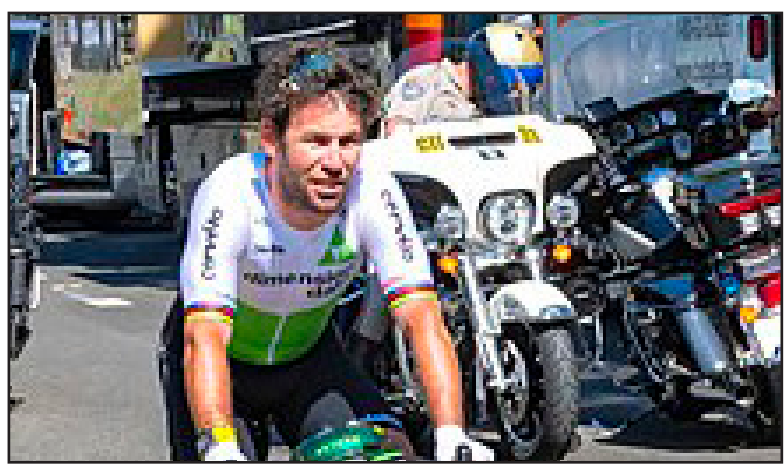
Still, Nadal insisted there was nothing wrong with him physically.

"I did not feel pain in the abdominal at all," he said. "So the physical issue was not an excuse at all. The only excuse is I was not good enough tonight."

Nadal hasn't finished a tournament since winning the U.S. Open in August, also pulling out of Shanghai because of a hand injury. That lack of playing time certainly isn't helpful coming into an event featuring only the top eight players in the world, rather than lower-ranked early opponents.

He still has to face Stefanos Tsitsipas and Daniil Medvedev in round-robin play, and probably has to beat both in order to reach the semifinals.

Cavendish Expecting a Big Fight for Win in Gent Six Day



LONDON (Dispatches) - Mark Cavendish says he's on good form and will be aiming for the overall victory when he pairs up with hometown hero Iljo Keisse at the Gent Six Day.

Cavendish first raced the event, which he calls "the Tour de France of track cycling", with Keisse in 2014 and is keen to put on a good showing.

"It's always special coming here to 't Kuipke [velodrome] in Gent. To me, it's the Tour de France of track cycling, so it's special,"

Cavendish told Sporza.

"It's even more special riding with the king [Keisse] again. When you're a kid, you dream of riding here. I never got to watch it until I rode the UIV Cup when I was an amateur, and I use to plead to stay afterwards to watch the pros."

Cavendish has had a tough few seasons while he suffered from the Epstein-Barr virus, but showed he is recovering well when he and partner Owain Doull took second at the London Six Day last month.

Ronaldo Could Face 'Two-Year Ban': Ex-Italy Striker Cassano

ROME (Dispatches) - Cristiano Ronaldo could have a two-year ban on his hands following his early exit from the Allianz Stadium on Monday, according to former Italy striker Antonio Cassano.

The Portuguese superstar walked off the pitch and straight down the tunnel after being substituted in the 55th minute against AC Milan. The forward appeared to shoot a look at manager Maurizio Sarri and mutter something angrily under his breath as he came off.

Cassano - who enjoyed spells at Milan, Inter, Roma and Real Madrid, among others - brought up the



Cristiano Ronaldo left the Allianz Stadium early after being substituted. (AP Photo)

possibility when discussing his own similar experience and warned Ronaldo that he could potentially be in violation of anti-doping regulations.

"Did he leave before the end of the game?" Cassano asked on Italian television show Tika-Taka. "You can't do that because there is an anti-doping control." The 37-year-old likened Ronaldo's experience to his own when he left the Stadio Olimpico early while representing Roma.

"I had to go back to the stadium urgently to avoid a two-year ban," said Cassano who opted for an early exit during the match against arch rivals Lazio.

Clippers Cruise Past Raptors 98-88 in NBA



Los Angeles Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard, right, shoots over Toronto Raptors center Marc Gasol during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles, Monday, Nov. 11, 2019.

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Kawhi Leonard struggled on 2-for-11 shooting and had nine turnovers, but Lou Williams led a big effort from the bench with 21 points and the Los Angeles Clippers beat the defending NBA champion Toronto Raptors 98-88 on Monday night.

Leonard finished with 12 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists to go with those nine turnovers, prompting Clippers coach Doc Rivers to joke about "almost a quadruple-double."

Throughout the game, Leonard faced plenty of double coverage.

"As soon as I walked across half-court they tried to get the ball out of my hands," he said. "They did a great job on me defending and sending an extra body. It got me better and it's going to get my teammates better."

Last season, Leonard led the Raptors to their first championship, averaging 30.5 points and 9.1 rebounds in 24 postseason games to earn his second Finals MVP award.

"I had a great time there. It's

the next chapter now. I can't live in the past," he said. "I'm with a different team and they want to have that same feeling."

The Clippers shot just 37% but dominated the boards 66-38, led by 12 each from Patrick Beverley and JaMychal Green.

Los Angeles' bench outscored Toronto's reserves 56-35, with Montrezl Harrell adding 14 points and 11 rebounds and Green posting 10 points and 12 rebounds.

Leonard's first five points all came on free throws, including two technicals. He missed his first six field goal attempts and finally scored on a coast-to-coast layup midway through the third quarter to put the Clippers up 62-55.

From there, the Raptors outscored Los Angeles 23-11 the rest of the period. Pascal Siakam had seven points and Fred VanVleet added five in the spurt as neither team led by more than two until Matt Thomas' 3-pointer and basket sent the Raptors into the fourth leading 78-73.

Hamilton's Success 'Getting a Bit Boring' for Verstappen

LONDON (Reuters) - Lewis Hamilton's domination of Formula One is "getting a bit boring" and the time is fast approaching for the younger generation to take over at the top, says Red Bull youngster Max Verstappen.

The Dutch driver hopes he and Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, also 22-years-old, will be fighting for the Mercedes driver's throne next year.

"I think it's good for the sport to have the young guys now coming up and hopefully taking over very soon," Verstappen said ahead of Sunday's Brazilian Grand Prix, the first race since Hamilton clinched his sixth title in Texas.

"It's getting a bit boring seeing Lewis win, so we have to try and change that," he added at an event to announce a personal sponsorship with pan-European online used car marketplace CarNext.com.

Verstappen has 100 starts and seven wins to his name since becoming the sport's youngest driver and next season he could yet become the youngest champion.

Hamilton, who can equal Michael Schumacher's record seven titles and surpass the great German's 91 wins, will be 35 in January.

"He's getting older ... so for sure it will stop at one point," said Verstappen.

"It's just going to depend on the team, to be honest. It's not going to depend on Lewis."

"If Mercedes keeps building really dominant cars, for sure he's going to win. So we just have to make sure as a team that we can beat them."

Verstappen said engine partners Honda had a breakthrough year in 2019 and he was confident former champions Red Bull, third overall, could be in the mix in 2020.

Munich to Host Multi-Sport European Championships in 2022

BERLIN (Reuters) - Munich will host the 2022 European Championships with the second edition of the multi-sport event also marking the 50th anniversary of the Olympic Games held in the city, organizers said on Tuesday.

"It is testament to the fantastic legacy of the Munich Olympic Park that we will bring our individual European Championships together again there," European Athletics president Svein Arne Hansen said in a statement.

The Aug. 11-21, 2022 event will feature six sports — athletics, cycling, golf, gymnastics, rowing and triathlon — that were part of the inaugural edition in Glasgow and Berlin last year.

Aquatics was part of the 2018 event but it has not been confirmed whether swimming and diving events will be contested in 2022.

Marathon Record Breaker Kosgei Up for World Female Athlete Award

LONDON (Dispatches) - Marathon world record holder Brigid Kosgei is one of five finalists for the Female World Athlete 2019 award.

Last month the Kenyan broke Briton Paula Radcliffe's 16-year-old world record, running a time of 2hrs 14mins 04secs to win the Chicago Marathon.

Kosgei, 25, also became the youngest winner of

the London marathon in April.

American Dalilah Muhammad, Jamaican Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, Venezuelan Yulimar Rojas and the Netherlands' Sifan Hassan are also up for the award.

Sprinter Fraser-Pryce won the world 100m and 4x100m titles in world-leading times of 10.71 and 41.44 in Doha, while Hassan broke the world mile

record with a time of 4:12:33 in Monaco.

Triple-jumper Rojas won nine of her 12 competitions, including gold at the World Championships with 15.37m, while Muhammad set a new world record of 52.16 in the 400m hurdles in Doha.

Britain's world heptathlon gold medalist Katarina Johnson-Thompson missed out on the shortlist, having featured among the initial 11 nominees.