

# Iranian Para Powerlifter Bags Gold Medal in Thailand

BANGKOK (Dispatches) - Iran's Amir Jafari has won the gold medal of the 2021 World Para Powerlifting Championships underway in Thailand.

Amir Jafari received the gold medal in the 65-kilogram weight category.

He lifted the 197 kg weights to stand on the podium.

In this category, representatives from Kazakhstan and Thailand won the second and third titles.

The tournament expected to be the final Paralympic qualifying round.

## 2021 Islamic Solidarity Games Postponed



TEHRAN (Tasnim) - The 2021 Islamic Solidarity Games, which were planned to be held in Konya, Turkey, were postponed.

The event has been postponed until 2022 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Islamic Solidarity Games is a multinational, multi-sport event. The Games

involve the elite athletes of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation who compete in a variety of sports.

The Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation (ISSF) and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) is the organization that is responsible for the direction and control of the Islamic Solidarity Games.

## Nadal, Osaka Scoop Top Laureus Awards

PARIS (Dispatches) - Spain's Rafael Nadal was named the 2021 Laureus Sportsman of the year on Thursday, while fellow tennis player Naomi Osaka won the top women's honor.

Japan's Osaka won her second U.S. Open title last year, while Nadal equalled Roger Federer's record of 20 Grand Slam titles by claiming his 13th French Open crown.

Nadal picked up his fourth Laureus honor, hav-



Spain's Rafa Nadal looks at the ball during his second round singles match against Argentina's Federico Delbonis on day five of the Monte-Carlo ATP Masters Series tournament in Monaco on April 14, 2021.

ing previously scooped the Breakthrough, Comeback and men's individual awards.

"The rest of the sportsmen probably deserve the trophy the same as me, but this was the year for me and I can't be happier," the 34-year-old Nadal said.

"Winning the French Open and equalling the 20th Grand Slam of Roger Federer has been an unforgettable moment.

## Ronaldo, Ibrahimovic Face Off in Battle for Champions League Spot



Juventus forward Cristiano Ronaldo is the top Serie A scorer this campaign with 27 goals.

ROME (Reuters) - Dethroned Juventus host AC Milan on Sunday in a clash of former Serie A title hopefuls now fighting to qualify for the Champions League.

Juventus' bid for a 10th consecutive title collapsed as Inter Milan sealed their first league crown since 2010 with four games to spare last weekend.

Antonio Conte's Inter host Sampdoria in the San Siro Saturday, their first game at home since being crowned champions, with fans only allowed to celebrate outside because of Covid-19 restrictions.

Behind Inter, five teams battle for the other three Champions League spots.

Atalanta, Juventus and AC

Milan are all level on 69 points, with fifth-placed Napoli two points behind and Lazio a further three points adrift but with a game in hand.

Not qualifying for the Champions League would have been unthinkable at the start of the season for Juventus, twice finalists of Europe's top club competition in the past decade. "We know that we have to qualify for the Champions League at all costs," said Juventus coach Andrea Pirlo, whose side also host Inter before the end of the season.

Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice last weekend at Udinese to rescue three points and extend his lead at the top of the scoring charts with 27 goals, six more than Inter star Romelu Lukaku.

Ronaldo, 36, has one more year left on his contract, and

amid speculation over his future failure to qualify for the Champions League could herald his exit.

Veteran Sweden star Zlatan Ibrahimovic has already committed to another season at Milan which will take him to 40 years old.

Ibrahimovic galvanised Milan after his return midway through last season, leading the line as the 'Rossoneri' went 27 games unbeaten before losing 3-1 to Juve at the San Siro in January.

Sitting top of the league until after this campaign's winter break, Milan crumbled in their biggest matches against Juve, Inter, Atalanta and Lazio.

However coach Stefano Pioli insisted the priority was always a return to the Champions League for the first time in eight years.

## Bottas Tops First Practice in Spain

MADRID (Dispatches) - Valtteri Bottas headed Max Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton in a tight first practice at the Spanish Grand Prix.

Bottas in the Mercedes was just 0.033 seconds quicker than Verstappen's Red Bull, with Lewis Hamilton 0.123secs behind his Finnish team-mate. McLaren's Lando Norris was fourth quickest, ahead of the Ferraris of Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz.

Alpha Tauri's Pierre Gasly was seventh, ahead of Sebastian Vettel's Aston Martin.

The session followed the pattern of the season so far at the front, the Mercedes and Red Bull cars extremely closely matched, and McLaren and Ferrari their closest challengers.

Ferrari's pace was notable for coming on the medium tyre, while almost all the other drivers set their fastest time on the faster soft, which the Italian team did not use.

Norris was just 0.440secs off the pace in the McLaren, as he tried a new front wing and floor for the team's first big upgrade of the season.



Leclerc was only 0.052secs off Norris, with team-mate Sainz just 0.024secs further back.



Los Angeles Clippers guard Paul George (13) holds the ball as Ivica Zubac (40) sets a screen on Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard, center, during the second half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, April 6, 2021, in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Paul George led seven players in double figures with 24 points and the Los Angeles Clippers routed a Lakers team minus LeBron James 118-94 on Thursday night, moving into the No. 3 spot in the Western Conference playoff race.

The loss kept the defending NBA champion Lakers at No. 6. The Staples Center co-tenants could potentially face each other in the first round.

The Lakers have lost four of five, with six games remaining in the regular season. The only thing they've clinched so far is a spot in the new play-in tournament, which James has derided. Still dealing with a high ankle sprain, he will be out again Friday night for a pivotal game at Portland. That season series is tied at one.

Davis was limited to four points on 2-of-9 shooting in nine minutes. He said he tweaked his ankle after stepping awkwardly on the scorer's table in the first. He fell, but got up and stayed in the game. He was later ruled out due to back spasms.

Kawhi Leonard had 15 points, eight rebounds and six assists, and Ivica Zubac added 14 points and eight rebounds for the Clippers, who have already clinched a playoff berth. They've won two straight after dropping three in a row, and are a half-game ahead of

fourth-place Denver in the standings.

Kyle Kuzma led the injury-plagued Lakers with 25 points.

Davis' latest setback comes after he already lost two months recovering from a calf injury.

The Clippers shot 63% in the first half, when they led by 24 points. The Lakers' only lead came when Davis scored the game's first basket.

The Lakers got within four early in the second quarter, but the Clippers responded by scoring 11 straight to restore a double-digit lead that stretched to 65-42 at halftime. DeMarcus Cousins had nine of his 11 points in the second, hitting a 3-pointer and getting a steal and dunk as part of an 8-0 spurt.

The Lakers outscored the Clippers 29-27 in the third, but couldn't make a serious dent in the deficit. Kuzma's 3-pointer drew them within 17 early in the period, when Andre Drummond picked up his fourth and fifth fouls.

Kuzma played part of fourth with the Lakers' second unit, which scored all of the team's 23 points in the period.

The Clippers were better on the boards (47-34) and at the free throw line, making 23 of 26. The Lakers hit 18 of 29.