

# Iran Announces Boxing Lineup for 2017 Islamic Solidarity Games



The 4th edition of Islamic Solidarity Games is scheduled to open in Baku, Azerbaijan, on May 8 and will run through May 22, 2017.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - The Islamic Republic of Iran Boxing Federation (IRIBF) has announced the names on the final roster of the squad for the forthcoming encounters against opponents at the 4th edition of Islamic Solidarity Games in Azerbaijan.

The IRIBF picked Omid Ahmadisafa as Iran's representative at the 49-kilogram bouts of the multinational and multi-sport event in the Azerbaijani capital city of Baku.

Shahin Mousavi, Salar Gholami and Reza Moradkhani will take on their rivals at the 75-kilogram, 91-kilogram and 91-kilogram weight divisions respectively.

Alireza Estaki and Asghar Ashrafi have also been selected as members of the technical team.

The President of the National Olympic Committee of the Islamic Republic of Iran (NOCIRI), Shahrokh Shahnazi, said the committee will dispatch a 300-strong sports delegation to the 2017 Islamic Solidarity Games.

He added that the Iranian sportsmen and sports-women will vie for top honors in 16 sports.

The 4th edition of Islamic Solidarity Games is scheduled to open in Baku, Azerbaijan, on May 8 and will run through May 22, 2017.

A total of 24 disciplines from 20 sports will be contested in the Games.

The Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation (ISSF) is responsible for the direction and control of the multi-sport event.

## Pordel Collects Bronze at Lebanon 9 Ball International Open Championship



TEHRAN (Press TV) - Iranian billiard player Mohammad Ali Pordel has exhibited commendable skills at Lebanon 9 Ball International Open Championship, and claimed a bronze medal at the tournament.

On Tuesday evening, Pordel suffered a close 10-11 defeat in his individual contest against a contestant from the host nation at the semi-final round of the competitions in the Lebanese capital city of Beirut, and landed in the third place to receive a bronze medal. Pordel had earlier overcome rep-

resentatives from Lebanon, Egypt and the United Kingdom to secure a place among the top four billiard players.

Lebanon 9 Ball International Open Championship started in Beirut on April 13, and finished on April 18, 2017.

The tournament attracted a total of 125 cueists from Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, the United Kingdom and Venezuela.

Billiard players Mohammad Ali Pordel and Ali Reza Vahab represented Iran in the championship.

## Real Madrid Outlast 10-Man Bayern in Extra Time Behind Ronaldo Hat Trick

MADRID (Dispatches) - Cristiano Ronaldo scored the perfect hat-trick - header, left foot, right foot - to create history and become the first player to score 100 goals in the Champions League. But this was far from a perfect match.

Brilliant, chaotic, dramatic, epic even, but also hugely controversial as Real Madrid made it through to the semi-finals of this competition for a record seventh successive season as they strive to reach a third final in four years and become the first club to retain the European Cup in its modern form.

Ronaldo made history but this felt, also, like the kind of game that will be examined in years to come with a disbelieving shake of the head as to why video assistant referees had not been introduced earlier.

There were a string of controversial calls that could have been quickly dealt with on review and the normally urbane Bayern coach Carlo Ancelotti was angered.

"In a quarter-final you have to



Ronaldo celebrates his third goal of the game and fifth of the quarterfinal tie.

have, I don't know, a referee with more quality," he said of Hungarian official Viktor Kassai.

"Or have video because there were too many mistakes. He had a bad match, that's it... I had never been in favour of VAR technology, but I must admit it's necessary now."

He listed three of the mistakes. Two of Ronaldo's goals were

scored from offside positions and, before that, crucially, Arturo Vidal was sent off when he should not have been. Ancelotti did not add a fourth blunder - Bayern's second goal, which took the tie into extra time, also resulted from an offside position even if it was eventually an own goal.

As Ronaldo left the Bernabéu with the match ball - the 46th time

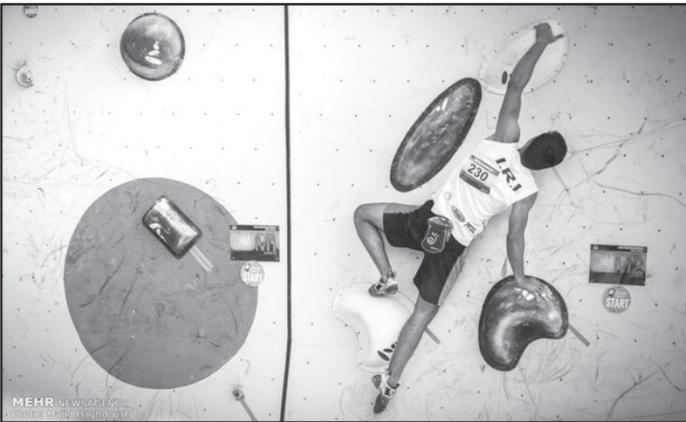
he has scored a hat-trick and, extraordinarily, he did not even play that well and was even whistled by the Real fans at one stage - no player has now scored more goals at this stadium as he took his tally to 213, three ahead of Alfredo Di Stéfano.

Bayern, though, left the Bernabéu with a maelstrom of different feelings that peaked with Vidal's controversial second-half dismissal.

It means the Germans had players sent off in both legs of this tie, one in which they dominated and probably deserved to go through but for Ronaldo's incredible interventions - five goals in all - and, in this match, the intervention of Kassai.

On a yellow card Vidal was sent off for a challenge on Marco Asensio when he clearly and cleanly got the ball with the substitute then tumbling over him. Vidal was so distraught and disbelieving that he refused to leave the pitch before being hauled off by Real captain Sergio Ramos.

## Rock Climbers Leave for China



TEHRAN (MNA) - National Iranian rock climbing team, comprising 6 athlete, left for China to take part in two stages of IFSC Climbing World Cup 2017.

The 2017 edition of IFSC Climbing World Cup will be held in the Chinese city of Chongqing on April 22-23 as well as in Nanjing from April 20-30.

Accordingly, Reza Alipour will represent Iran in the speed divi-

sion while Ali Baratzadeh, Saeid Safari, Amir Nouri, Amin Yazdizad and Sadra Boutorabi will compete against rivals in the bouldering section.

Rock climbing is an activity in which participants climb up, down or across natural rock formations or artificial rock walls. The goal is to reach the summit of a formation or the endpoint of a usually pre-defined route without falling.

## Bulls Beat Top-Seeded Celtics 111-97 to Take 2-0 Series Lead

BOSTON (AP) - The Chicago Bulls talked often during the regular season about believing they had the personnel to play as a physically imposing team.

Their output has caught up to those desires so far during the postseason.

Jimmy Butler scored 22 points, Rajon Rondo finished one rebound shy of a triple-double and the Bulls beat the Boston Celtics 111-97 on Tuesday night to take a 2-0 lead in their series against the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference.

While some might be shocked by how Chicago has played as a No. 8 seed that was just 41-41, Butler made it clear he's not one of those folks.

"I'm not surprised because everybody's so locked in right now," said Butler, who added eight rebounds and eight assists.

Rondo had 11 points and 14 assists on a night when all five Bulls starters reached double figures. Dwyane Wade had 22 points, including 16 in the second half, and Robin Lopez added 18 points and eight points.

"Everybody's putting in each work, watching film, working on their game," Butler said. "That's where your confidence always comes from."

The Bulls host Game 3 on Friday. After a better start by the Celtics, a familiar



Jimmy Butler #21 of the Chicago Bulls takes a shot against Jae Crowder #99 of the Boston Celtics during the first quarter of Game Two of the Eastern Conference Quarterfinals at TD Garden on April 18, 2017 in Boston, Massachusetts.

theme started to take hold as the Bulls took control by again dominating on the offensive glass. Chicago held a 43-38 rebounding edge for the game.

Isaiah Thomas scored 20 points for Boston.

Boston got within 91-82 early in the fourth before Chicago went on a 14-4 run to push its lead up to 19.

The Celtics did a much better job containing reserve Bobby Portis in Game 2 after he hurt them with 19 points off the bench in Game 1. But Paul Zipser picked up the slack in Game 2, scoring 16 points in 29 minutes.

After getting thoroughly pushed around underneath in Game 1, the Celtics grabbed the first four rebounds of the night while scoring the game's first seven points.

That changed quickly, though, as the Bulls responded with a 20-4 run. Boston's early rebounding edge evaporated just as fast, with all five Bulls starters grabbing an offensive rebound in the first six minutes of action.

Boston shot 46 percent for game, but too many times was just one-and-done in the half court.

Chicago again used its big men to push the Celtics out of the paint and was quicker to the ball in a lot of 50-50 situations. The Bulls outscored the Celtics in the paint 32-20 for the half.

## Djokovic Survives Shock to Reach Monte Carlo Round Three



MONTE CARLO (Reuters) - World number two Novak Djokovic came close to an early exit at the Monte Carlo Masters but finally emerged triumphant with a 6-3 3-6 7-5 second-round victory against France's Gilles Simon on Tuesday.

The Serbian was broken for 5-4 in the decider but bagged three games in a row to end Simon's resilience and reach the

third round of the first European claycourt tournament of the season.

Djokovic, who had a first-round bye, will next take on either Russian Karen Khachanov or 13th seed Pablo Carreno Busta, of Spain. "It was a very difficult match, with many changes of momentum," said Djokovic. "It was very tiring for me, the first clay of the season."