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# Iran Secure Spot in 2018 Youth **Olympic Games**



TEHRAN (Press TV) - Iran men's national under-20 futsal team has thrashed Thailand in a quarterfinal showdown of the 2017 Asian Football Confederation (AFC) U-20 Futsal Championship, and secured its spot in the Buenos Aires 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games.

On Wednesday, young Iranian futsal players overcame rivals from the host nation 7-5 at the end of a match played at the Bangkok Arena in the Thai

capital city of Bangkok. Winger Panat Kittipanuwong scored the first goal by hitting the target in the first minute to give Thailand an early lead. Iran's Captain Touhid Lotfi drew level a minute later though.

Kittipanuwong then put the hosts ahead in the 10th minute, before Iranian midfielder Mohammad Taheri scored an equalizer shortly afterwards. Midfielder Mohammad Jame match.

grabbed Iran's third in the 39th minute before Worrapluch Jiwjaratrong before the second period ended in a three-all draw.

The Iranian sportsmen kept their composure as they returned to action. They maintained the lead, and Lotfi netted his second goal in the 43rd minute.

Osamanmusa, Muhammad however, put the ball into back of the net in the 45th minute to get Thailand's fourth goal of the

Hamidreza Karimi's shot hit the back of the net a minute later, before Iran's captain scored a hat trick.

Kittipanuwong scored Thailand's final goal in the 48th minute, before Iran's striker Hamzeh Kadkhoda netted the winner in the 50th minute.

Iran men's national under-20 futsal team will play Iraq in the final match of the 2017 AFC U-20 Futsal Championship on Friday.

The tournament kicked off in Thailand on May 16, and will wrap up on May 26.

A total of 21 teams are participating in the continental sports event. The 21 teams have been divided into four groups (one with six teams and three with five teams), with the group winners and runners-up advancing to the quarter-finals.

The 2017 AFC U-20 Futsal Championship serves as qualifying for the futsal tournament at the 2018 Summer Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires, Argentina, with the winner and the runner-up qualifying for the boys' tournament, where they will be represented by their U-18 representative teams.

# Djokovic, Nadal Could Meet in French Open Semifinals

PARIS (Dispatches) - Rafael Nadal could face Novak Djokovic in the semifinals of the French Open in his quest for a 10th title at **Roland Garros** 

The fourth-seeded Nadal, the only player with nine trophies from one Grand Slam tournament, will open against Benoit Paire.

Nadal has been the dominant player of the clay-court season and has won 17 straight matches on his favourite surface, while Djokovic has been struggling with form and confidence recently. Djokovic completed a career Grand Slam at the French Open

The top-ranked Murray will open against Andrey Kuznetsov.

### **Conte Can Achieve the Double With Chelsea**

LONDON (Dispatches) - Antonio Conte acknowledges it's been a great first season with Chelsea, the new English Premier League champion.

It could have a sweeter ending on Saturday if they can take the FA Cup, too.

The ability of the managers'

last year by beating Andy Murray in the final.

think that the season has fin- would prove pivotal. Chelsea would thrive in a 3-4-3 forma-"It's important to celebrate and tion, and claim 83 of a possible 96 points from that moment, to push a lot to explain that this including a 3-1 home win over Arsenal in February.

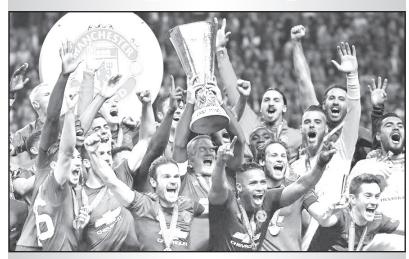
Conte has showed a preferwe're able to win the FA Cup. ence for fielding three central footsteps of Italian compatriot We must find the right motiva- defenders in his career, but he is Carlo Ancelotti, who won a far from predictable or rigid. There are subtle yet significant variations to the formations he deployed with Juventus, Italy, and so far at Chelsea. All relied on a back three, but Conte has adapted to the attacking players at his disposal.

tered on the dynamism of central midfielder Paul Pogba.

At Chelsea, it is winger Eden Hazard who has received the most freedom in Conte's system.

With Hazard and the formation, Conte can follow in the

# **Man United** Beat Ajax 2-0, Win Europa League



LONDON (Dispatches) - Manchester United's Paul Pogba and Henrikh Mkhitaryan scored a goal in each half as their team comfortably have outclassed Ajax Amsterdam to win an emotional Europa League final 2-0 and qualify for the group stages of the Champions League.

A minute's silence held for the victims of Monday's suicide bombing at a pop concert in Manchester in which 22 people died turned into applause as chants of "Manchester" and "We'll Never Die" bellowed out from the English supporters before the match.

World record signing Pogba opened the scoring in the 18th minute as United won the ball after an Ajax throw-in, the Frenchman's shot taking a wicked deflection to wrong-foot goalkeeper Andre Onana and fly into the net.

Mkhitaryan then flicked the ball home early in the second half following a corner and, with chants of "Manchester, Manchester" echoing around the stadium, United held on to win the one European trophy missing from the Old Trafford cabinet.

"We know things like this are very sad all over the world," said Pogba referring to the attack. "We had to focus. Manchester - we won for them. We played for England, we played for Manchester and we played for them -- the people who died."

"The goal was to win all the way through this season. We've done it, and we're proud," said Pogba. "People say we've had a bad season but the prize is great and we've done it now. We have three trophies so enjoy it now," he added.

United's triumph followed success in the League Cup and the Community Shield in Jose

Mourinho's first season in charge

at Old Trafford with Champi-

ter United could only manage a sixth-place finish in the Premier League.

Kayhan

United, wearing all blue as they did in winning the 1968 European Cup final, made an imposing start, with Pogba whistling a shot wide of the near post within the first minute.

The France midfielder was all over the pitch, appearing as a third centre back one moment to head the ball away from danger, channeling pinpoint passes to striker Marcus Rashford the next.

Pogba, who first came to United at the age of 16 before leaving for Juventus, put his side ahead with a hopeful low shot from the edge of the area that was sent looping past Onana in the Ajax goal thanks to a huge deflection from Davinson Sanchez.

Mourinho's coaching staff flew out of the dugout in celebration but the Portuguese stayed calm.

Ajax, fielding the youngest starting lineup in a European final, were expected to make a quick start as they did in their 4-1 win over Olympique Lyonnais in their semi-final first leg.

Instead the Dutch side were fenced in by United, nullified by Marouane Fellaini and man of the match Ander Herrera in the middle and stretched by Rashford's darting runs.

They rarely threatened during the first half and were given no time to settle in the second as Mkhitaryan reacted fastest to Chris Smalling's knockdown from a corner, the Armenian leaping to knock the ball into the roof of the net after 48 minutes.

Ajax hogged the ball for the rest of the match but rarely looked like getting past United, who saw the game out to preserve Mourinho's 100 percent record in European finals and deliver the continental trophy missing from their collection.

manager of the year to get his side up for a second big match in a fortnight will be key.

Chelsea has been in party mode for two weeks, since clinching the league then a week later lifting the trophy at home in the final round.

"The real danger for us is to

tion."

enjoy this moment but ... I'll try

season is already great, but this

season can become fantastic if

ished," Conte says.

Facing Arsenal in the final at Wembley reminds when Conte turned around Chelsea's season. Chelsea was eighth in the league in late September after it was humbled at Arsenal 3-0. Midway through that game, he made a tactical switch that

At Juventus, the attack can-Terry.

domestic double in 2010 in his first season at Chelsea.

ons League football secured af-Ancelotti was well liked in west London, but the Chel-

sea fans have taken to Conte with the sort of vigor usually reserved in England for homegrown talents like stalwart John

MADRID (Xinhua) -- The Spanish gation began. for the period between 2011 and 2013 according to reports in the Spanish press.

Thursday by radio stations, Cadena Ser and Cadena Cope, citing sources in the Spanish tax authorities.

that there is an internal debate within the tax authority over whether Ronaldo actually committed a crime or an administrative error, given that he tried to bring his situ-

## Ronaldo Defrauded €8mn in Tax: Report

Tax Authorities (Agencia Tributaria) considers that Cristiano Ronaldo defrauded over 8 million euros by not correctly declaring his image rights

The revelations were made on

However, the radio stations add ation up to date before the investi-

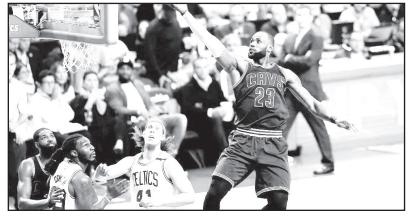
If finally it is considered that Ronaldo merely committed an administrative error, he would have to repay the 8 million euros, as well as the corresponding fine, but if it was considered to be a criminal offense he would face a prison sentence of four months in jail for every year he was considered to have offended (2011, 2012, 2013).

These revelations come just 24 hours after the Spanish Supreme Court maintained a 21-prison sentence for Leo Messi, who was considered to have defrauded 4.2 million euros in tax from earnings related to his image rights during the period 2007-2009.

# Cavs Crush Celtics, Devour Records as LeBorn's **Boys Book NBA Finals Spot**

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Lebron James was at his imperious best for the Cavs, who have taken their third Eastern conference crown on the trot and have their return ticket to the NBA finals.

His 32 points helped the home side crush the Boston Celtics 132 - 102 with the Cleveland crowd roaring on their champions, who will meet Golden State for a hattrick of winner-takes-all shoot-



outs with the western Conference champions. It was a night for superlatives.

The Cavs stand tall 12-1 for the

postseason, and broke the NBA re-

cord for series closeout wins. They

never trailed, led by 21 at the end

of the first quarter and at one point

by 39, For James, it will be his sev-

enth straight finals appearance. He

has also beaten Michael Jordan's

record as Top playoffs pointscorer.