

Iran to Participate at Thailand Five's Futsal Tournament



TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iran national futsal team will take part at the Thailand Five's Futsal Tournament.

Iran coach Mohammad Nazemalsharia has said Team Melli will take part at the competition as part of preparation for the AFC Futsal Championship.

According to Nazemalsharia, Spain has so far announced its readiness to participate at the event.

The Thailand Five's Futsal Tournament is the international championship for futsal, the indoor version of association football organized by Football Association of Thailand or FA Thailand.

The Thailand Five's tournament is held every year. The first event was held in 2008.

IOC Chief: Tokyo Olympics Would Be Canceled If Not Held in 2021



International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach

LONDON Dispatches) - The Tokyo Olympic Games will be cancelled if it is not possible to hold it in 2021, International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach told media.

The Tokyo Olympic Games, originally scheduled for July to August this year, has been postponed by one year to July 23 to August 8, 2021.

In April, Tokyo 2020 CEO Toshiro Muto denied further postponement of the Games before Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made it clear later that the Games will not be held unless the COVID-19 pandemic is contained.

"You cannot forever employ 3,000, or 5,000, people in an organizing committee," the IOC chief was quoted as saying. "You cannot every year change the entire sports schedule worldwide of all the major federations. You cannot have the athletes being in uncertainty."

Although Bach stressed "clear commitment" to host the Games in July next year, the IOC chief admitted they have to consider health measures, maybe quarantine for part of athletes and for other participants.

"There are so many different options that it's not easy to address them [now]," he said, adding that appropriate decision could only be made when they "have a clear view" on how the world will be like on the new dates for the Games.

Speaking of the possibility of having the Games behind closed doors, Bach said: "This is not what we want."

"But when it then would come to the decision... I would ask you to give me some more time for consultation with the athletes, with the World Health Organization, with the Japanese partners," he admitted.

World Tour to Resume With Taipei Open in September, Says BWF

LONDON (Reuters) - The Badminton World Federation (BWF) announced a new 2020 tournaments calendar on Friday with the World Tour set to return with the Taipei Open from Sept. 1-6.

Tournaments in New Zealand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and India have been rescheduled, while the season resumes in August with two BWF Tour Super 100 events in Hyderabad (Aug. 11-16) and Lingshui (Aug. 25-30).

The season-ending World Tour Finals in Guangzhou, China has been pushed back by a week and will now finish on Dec. 20 while the Thomas and Uber Cup Finals in Aarhus was postponed to Oct. 3-11 last month.

"It is a condensed calendar but we are confident this provides the framework to allow us to start again when it is safe and logistically possible," BWF secretary general Thomas Lund said in a statement.

"At this point in time, it's difficult to predict when international movement and entry restrictions will be lifted by individual countries and territories."



Zidane Hails Fit, Ready Real Madrid



Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane says his players are in good shape to restart

MADRID (AFP) - Zinedine Zidane expressed admiration at both the physical and mental form in

which his Real Madrid players have returned from the coronavirus lockdown and vowed they would give

everything to win a trophy.

"The players have worked well from home and that's why they have come back on great form, this is going to be crucial," Zidane said of their individual training plans.

"This week has been great because even working in small groups we can go further, work better, and next week will be even better."

Real are two points behind Barcelona in Spain's La Liga and the 12-time European champions also trail Manchester City after the first-leg of their Champions

League quarter-final.

Frenchman Zidane led Madrid to three Champions League titles in his first tenure at the helm of the club and hopes to win something in his first full season back in charge.

"After almost 60 days everyone is happy to get back here and catch up with each other, and to play some football, which is what they all love," said Zidane.

"We'll do everything to be ready for the restart and with eleven games to go we want to give it absolutely everything to win something."

Finland Aims to Restart Soccer, Relive Euro 2020 Euphoria

GENEVA (AP) — A stellar 2019 for soccer in Finland was meant to hit a new peak in the 2020 season.

The national team qualified last November for its first major tournament and Finland was going to spend mid-June obsessed by the European Championship.

Another Nordic nation making a long-shot debut dressed in blue and white, Finland was aiming to follow Iceland's inspiring run to the Euro 2016 quarterfinals.

The coronavirus pandemic has forced Euro 2020 — where Finland was set to play against top-

ranked Belgium, Denmark and neighbor Russia — to be postponed for one year.

On June 16, instead of preparing to face the Russians in nearby St. Petersburg, Finnish fans are looking to restart the national cup competition stopped in March.

July 1 is the target, pending government approval, to start the 12-team Veikkausliiga season. That's almost three months after the league's planned opening day and more than eight months since a memorable 2019 title was sealed.

Man Utd Say Pandemic Has Cost Them £28mn So Far



Manchester United were fifth in the Premier League when play was halted because of the coronavirus pandemic

MANCHESTER (Dispatches) - Manchester United say the coronavirus pandemic has cost them an initial £28mn - and expect the final figure to be far higher.

United revealed their third-quarter results to 31 March on Thursday.

Chief financial officer Cliff Baty said they are set to hand back £20mn in TV revenue to broadcasters even if the Premier League season is completed.

United lost an additional £8mn over the final three weeks of March, when they had three matches postponed.

A total of 11 United matches have been postponed because of the pandemic.

Speaking in a conference call

after the latest financial results were released, Baty explained that Premier League television broadcasters would get £20m back from the club because of changes in dates and kick-off times resulting from the pandemic.

With games called off - including matches in the Europa League and FA Cup - Baty said that sponsorship revenues had "contracted", and that retail sales had been "impacted" with the club store at Old Trafford still closed.

He added that matchday revenues were "significantly impacted", with an acceptance games will be played behind closed doors for the foreseeable future.

Froome Relishing 'New Challenge' in Virtual Cycling Race

MILAN (AFP) - Four-time Tour de France champion Chris Froome said he was relishing a new test as he headlines 'The Challenge of Stars' virtual cycling race against an Italian backdrop this weekend.

The Giro d'Italia, the first Grand Tour of the season, originally set for May 9-31, has been pushed back until October.

But 16 riders -- eight sprinters and eight climbers -- will participate in a knockout tournament in two categories on the BKOOOL cycling simulation platform.

"At a time like this when we



are unable to race it's great to be able to use technology to put on

an event like The Challenge of Stars and bring entertainment to

the cycling fans," said former Giro d'Italia winner Froome.

Sprinters will race over 1.2km in the virtual Tuscan countryside on Saturday, with climbers including Froome and fellow multiple Grand Tour winner Vincenzo Nibali of Italy tackling a 2.9km ascent up a simulated Stelvio on Sunday.

Team Ineos rider Froome will ride against France's Warren Barguil of Team Arkea Samsic in the head-to-head format, with Nibali taking on CCC Team's Simon Geschke of Germany.