

Six Iranians Compete in Online Asian Junior Chess Championship



TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Six chess players have represented Iran at online Asian Junior Chess Championship.

The competition started on May 27 and will last until June 3.

The competition format begun with seven Zonal championships daily from May 27 to June 2, 2020. Each federation can field up to three players aged under-20 to the multi-federation Zonals.

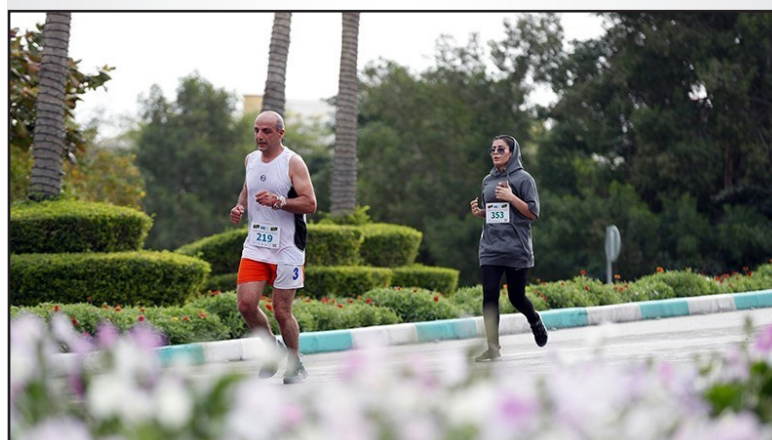
The top three of each Zone qualify into the Finals. Both stages will be 7-round Swiss

System tournaments.

Players will have to turn on their videocam and audio. They may not leave their seats during the game and videocams shall be livestreamed by Chess.com. In addition, players have to join a Zoom room for monitoring by tournament officials.

Mobina Ali Nasab, Anahita Zahedifar and Mitra Asgharzadeh will represent Iran's female team and Parham Maghsoodloo, Arash Tahbaz and Mohammad Amin Tabatabaei are members of Iran's male team.

Asian Half-Marathon Championship Canceled



TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The first edition of the Asian half-marathon championship has been canceled.

The event has been halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The inaugural continental had been scheduled for July 19 in Shanghai, China.

Asian Athletics Association President Dahlan Al Hamad announced the cancellation of the competition, saying the health of the athletes is the association's priority.

Olympic Chief Bach Consults With IOC Members Over Virus Fallout

LAUSANNE (AFP) - Olympic chief Thomas Bach on Wednesday held a series of talks with International Olympic Committee members on the potential consequences of the coronavirus pandemic that has seen the Tokyo Games pushed back a year to 2021, sources said.

Bach was to address the 100 IOC members in three different sessions decided by language and local time zone.

Bach's aim is to canvas the members for their view on "how to handle the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic", a source told AFP.

The IOC president wants



International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach

to hear "thoughts, ideas and experiences of all members

across the globe", it added.

While Bach addressed all Olym-

pic actors on March 24 when announcing the postponement of the Tokyo Games, it is the first time since the COVID-19 outbreak that he has specifically consulted IOC members.

Bach was backed up by Olympic Games executive director Christophe Dubi, IOC sports director Kit McConnell, IOC director general Christophe De Kepper and chief operating officer Lana Haddad.

The IOC's medical and scientific director, Richard Budgett, also took to the floor to discuss "the issue of a vaccine", according to a second source.

Tiafoe Wants to Draw More Black Kids to Tennis



MUMBAI (Reuters) - American Frances Tiafoe has already changed the lives of his immigrant parents thanks to his tennis career and the 2019 Australian Open quarter-finalist hopes he can also inspire more black kids to take up the sport.

Tiafoe, 22, was born to immigrant parents from Sierra Leone, with his father working as a janitor at a tennis centre in Maryland while his mother had to work double shifts as a nurse to help the family make ends meet.

He rose to a career-high ranking of 29 after reaching the quarter-finals of a Grand Slam for the first time in Melbourne last year and has already made almost \$3.5 million in prize money.

Tiafoe told the men's ATP Tour he wanted to be an inspiration.

"I want to be known as a guy who was caring for the fans, a

guy who wants to really build an unbelievable legacy," said Tiafoe. "My goal is to help more black people play tennis ultimately, and just to be a good role model."

After reaching the quarter-finals of the Australian Open, Tiafoe said he had promised his parents 10 years earlier that he would change their lives.

Tiafoe says that while he had to give up a lot to focus on tennis when he was young he loved the game so much it did not seem like a hardship.

"It's got to be a priority. You've got to be able to sacrifice certain things. You can argue I sacrificed doing normal things, just being a kid," he said.

"But I was having the time of my life, so I was really just enjoying it and that's all I wanted to do. "I was different than a lot of other kids."

Henderson: Lifting PL Cup Without Fans Would Be 'Strange'



Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson lifts the Champions League trophy

LONDON (AFP) - Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson says playing at an empty Anfield and winning the Premier League title with no fans present would be "pretty strange".

Liverpool were 25 points clear of 2019 champions Manchester City and on the verge of their first English top-flight crown for 30 years when the league was shut down by coronavirus in March.

Clubs returned to training in small and socially distanced

groups last week ahead of a proposed restart in June.

Henderson lifted the Champions League trophy in a packed stadium in Madrid last June but is preparing for a different experience this year.

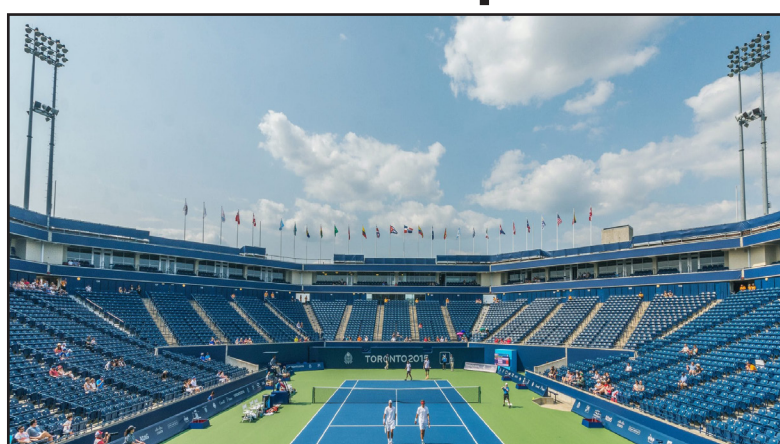
"Of course it would feel different because if you win any trophy and receive it without any fans there, it would be pretty strange," he told the BBC.

The 29-year-old England international midfielder said the title race was still not over.

World Team Tennis to Allow Up to 500 Fans at Matches

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - World Team Tennis, an innovative mixed-gender professional tennis league, will start from July 5 at the Greenbrier, West Virginia, and up to 500 fans will be allowed to attend matches during its three-week season, tournament organizers said.

WTT said it would adhere to all health and safety protocols required by authorities to ensure the well-being of its players, coaches



and essential staff amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Grand Slam champions Sofia Kenin and Sloane Stephens are set to take part in the event, which will consist of a 63-match regular season followed by the playoffs.

WTT plans to stage at least three matches per day at the Greenbrier's 2,500-seat outdoor stadium, while an indoor court will be installed for back-up.

FIBA Releases Guidelines for Restart of Basketball Activities

BEIJING (Dispatches) - Guidelines for National Federations have been published by FIBA to provide suggestions for restarting basketball activities amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

FIBA said in its media release that the guidelines, published in English, French and Span-

ish, were primarily for National Federations that were seeking direction and advice on the restart of basketball activities and competitions, with the vast majority around the world having been halted in mid-March due to the pandemic.

In the guidelines, FIBA called

on the National Federations all over the world to form a restart oversight committee and undertake a full risk and mitigation assessment as parts of initial preparations before the restart of the domestic basketball competitions and activities.

The guidelines suggested the

national basketball associations allow their teams to have 3-6 weeks of training which begins with the individual style prior to the restart. The National Federations are asked to take measures to ensure the health of all basketballers and attendances.

Kawasaki Extends Lowes World Superbike Deal

TOKYO (Dispatches) - The Japanese manufacturer signed Lowes to join five-time WSBK champion Jonathan Rea and replace Honda-bound Leon Haslam for the 2020 campaign.

Lowes got his Kawasaki tenure off to a strong start during the opening round at Phillip Island, which took place before the season was placed on hold by the global coronavirus pandemic, beating teammate Rea to win the final race of the weekend.

He leads the riders' standings by 14 points over new Ducati recruit Scott Redding.

"It is great to be with Kawasaki for 2021," commented Lowes. "I can continue adapting to the team and adapting myself to the ZX-10RR."

"Ever since I joined the team I have really felt like it was an opportunity for me to make another step forward with my riding. Being teammates with Johnny [Rea] I feel can learn so much from him and the atmosphere in the team is great."