

# Iran Finishes Sixth in FIVB World Championships



Iran coach Slobodan Kovac expressed his anger for players not showing motive to play hard for fifth place.

WARSAW (IRNA) – Iran's national volleyball team finished sixth in FIVB World Championships in Poland after suffering a defeat against heavyweights Russia on Saturday.

Iran lost the game in three straight sets (25-19, 25-21 and 25-18).

During the first round of the 2014 Poland FIVB Volleyball Championships the Iranian national volleyball team had defeated Italy, US, Puerto Rico, and Belgium, with only one defeat versus France.

In the second round of the competitions, too, Iran beat Argentina, Australia and Serbia and was defeated only by the host, Poland, to qualify for the final round with seven victories and two losses, among the world's top six teams.

As Iran lost its two games to Germany and France, it failed to reach the semi-finals and had to compete for the fifth place with Russia, but it lost again and came sixth.

## Indonesia Named Host of 2018 Asian Games

JAKARTA (Tasnim) - Indonesia was formally named the host country for the 2018 Asian Games after Vietnam relinquished its hosting rights over financial concerns.

Indonesia's National Olympic Committee said Saturday that events would be held in the capital of Jakarta, along with the regions of South Sumatra and West Java.

The Vietnamese capital of Hanoi was initially awarded the games in

2019, but backed out in April, citing a lack of funds.

Asian Games organizers wanted to keep the games in 2019, but Indonesia asked to move them to 2018 to avoid clashing with the country's next presidential election.

Indonesia last hosted the Asian Games in 1962. The Indonesian city of Surabaya had earlier bid for the 2019 games, losing to Hanoi in the final vote.

## Sepahan FC Faces Transfer Ban



Sepahan football players pose for a photo before match.

TEHRAN (Persian League) - Sepahan football club cannot sign the new players until further notice after Iran's league organization announced they didn't observe the budget rule.

"We've asked four clubs including Sepahan and Esteghlal to describe how they've used their budget. Sepahan's description was not convincing so they would be banned

from signing the new players until further notice," chief of Iran's league organization Alireza Alipour told Fars news agency.

Alipour also stated that Esteghlal football club is on the verge of suspension due to the same reason.

Sepahan FC, who changed its coach last week, is now standing in the third place with 15 points.

## North Korean Weightlifter Sets World Record

INCHEON, South Korea (AP) — North Korea's Om Yun Chol beat his own world record in the men's 56-kilogram clean and jerk by 1 kilogram on Saturday to grab weightlifting gold on the first day of competition at the Asian Games.

Om, the 2012 Olympic champion and 2013 world champion, lifted 170 kilograms Saturday to earn North Korea's first gold medal at the games — a regional version of the Olympics. Om also had a combined total of 298 kilograms to mark an Asian Games record after lifting 128 kilograms in the snatch.

North Korea has 150 athletes competing in 14 sports at the games in the South Korean city of Incheon, where they are being cheered by local fans despite the bitter hostility between their governments dating from the 1950-53 Korean War, which ended with



Om Yun Chol of North Korea celebrates after winning the gold medal at the Men's 56kg weightlifting competition at the 17th Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea, Saturday, Sept. 20, 2014.

an armistice rather than a peace treaty.

Margarita Yeliseyeva of Kazakhstan won the other weightlifting gold in the women's 48-kilogram category with a combined weight of 194 kilograms.

At the end of the first day, hosts South Korea topped the medal table with five golds and a total of 13 medals. Powerhouse China was second with five golds and 11 medals overall. Mongolia is third with two golds, one silver and one bronze.

South Korea dominated in fencing, winning both gold and silver in the men's epee individual and women's saber individual. Lee Ra-jin edged out teammate Olympic gold medalist Kim Jiyeon to win the saber gold, while Olympic bronze medalist Jung Jin-sun defeated teammate Park Kyong-doo in the epee.

## Lille Confirmed for Davis Cup Final

PARIS (AFP) - Lille will host the November 21-23 Davis Cup final between France and Switzerland with a near-record crowd of around 27,000 expected to see Roger Federer compete in his first championship match.

The International Tennis Federation (ITF) announced that the

French Tennis Federation (FFT) had nominated the Stade Pierre-Mauroy, the home of French Ligue 1 football club Lille.

The tie will be played indoors under a retractable roof with the surface to be confirmed on September 22.

Lille stadium has a capacity of

over 50,000, but for the final a court will be set up at one end to make use of the permanent seating in conjunction with temporary stands.

The expected capacity will be a minimum of 27,000 spectators.

The highest capacity for a Da-

vis Cup Final was in 2004, when 27,200 spectators watched Spain defeat USA at the Olympic Stadium in Seville.

"Lille will be a spectacular setting for one of the most eagerly anticipated Davis Cup Finals in years," said ITF president Francesco Ricci Bitti.

## Tevez Back in the Frame for Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - Recently-appointed Argentina coach Gerardo Martino said he is set to hand Juventus striker Carlos Tevez an international lifeline after the former Manchester United and City star was left out of their World Cup squad.

Martino said the 30-year-old, who began his career with Boca Juniors and then Corinthians before a one-season spell with West Ham, will be in competition for the number nine shirt with Napoli's Gonzalo Higuain and Manchester City marksman Sergio Aguero.

"If I have to say where I imagine Tevez in my game plan, it is only at number nine," said the 51-year-old Martino, who left Barcelona at the end of last season after just one year in charge.

"There is no other position and he will be in competition with Higuain and Aguero, and then it is the coach's choice," Martino told La Nacion newspaper.

Tevez, who scored 13 goals in 64 matches for Argentina between

2004 and 2011 before being frozen out, will be 34 by the time the 2018 World Cup in Russia rolls around.

He won Premier League titles with United in 2008 and 2009 as well as the Champions League in 2008 before adding a third English title with City in 2012.

His current club Juventus won the Serie A crown last season while in 2003 he lifted the Copa Libertadores with Boca Juniors.

The Buenos Aires native is also a three-time South American player of the year (2003, 2004, 2005).

Martino took over from Alejandro Sabella who stepped down after leading the two-time global champions to the 2014 World Cup final where they were beaten 1-0 by Germany after extra-time.

"I will not be taking four number nines to the World Cup, so for me, the decision of Sabella (not to take Tevez) was not illogical," Martino said.

Tevez scored twice, his first European goals in five years on Tuesday,



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as Juventus began their Champions League campaign in style with a 2-0 Group A win over Swedish club Malmo.

Martino is set to unveil his squad next week for a tour of China where Argentina will face Brazil in a prestige friendly.

## Foolad Defeats Esteghlal at Azadi



Foolad football team defeated Esteghlal Tehran

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Foolad football team defeated Esteghlal in the Iranian Professional League (IPL) thanks to a late goal from Soroush Rafiei.

In the match held at the Azadi Stadium in Tehran, Rafiei scored the only goal of the match in the 84th minute.

"First, I congratulate my players due to this victory. I am satisfied with the way my players played," Dragan Skocic said in the post match news conference.

"We were not good enough in the first half and I made several changes in the second half in order to create more movement."

"Foolad could not win its two previous matches and we needed the victory against the blues," the Croat added.

Elsewhere, Gostaresh Foolad beat Zob Ahan 3-2, Saipa demolished newly-promoted Padideh 4-0, Naft Masjed Soleyman suffered a 2-0 home defeat against Naft and Paykan edged Malavan 1-0.

## Sacramento Kings Sign Casspi, Hollins

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) -- The Sacramento Kings have signed forward Omri Casspi and center Ryan Hollins.

The Kings announced the deals Thursday. Terms of the contracts were not released.

Sacramento selected Casspi 23rd overall in the 2009 draft. He was the first Israeli-born player to be drafted by an NBA team and play in the league.

Casspi has averaged 7.7 points, 3.8 rebounds and 20.7 minutes in his career with Sacramento, Cleveland and Houston. He averaged 6.9 points and 3.7 rebounds in 71 games with the Rockets last season.

Hollins has averaged 3.8 points, 2.2 rebounds in his eight-year career. He has played for Charlotte, Dallas, Minnesota, Cleveland, Boston and the Los Angeles Clippers.