

# Iran Beat Italy at FIVB World Grand Champions Cup



## UWW Names Iran's Ghasemi to Its Commission



Iranian freestyle wrestler Komeil Nemat Ghasemi

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iran opened the 2017 edition of the FIVB Volleyball Men's World Grand Champions Cup with a 3-2 win over Italian rivals on Tuesday morning in the Japanese city of Nagoya.

At the end of a breath-taking stunning match, the Persian side managed to thrash Italy 3-2 (25-19, 23-25, 28-26, 29-31 and 15-11).

Igor Kolakovic's boys gained in the upper hand in the first, third and fifth sets while the European side was the winner only in the second and fourth sets.

The Men's World Grand Champions Cup features a total of six teams that play in a round-robin tournament from September 12 to 17. Nagoya and Osaka host the seventh edition of the tournament.

Italy won the inaugural edition of the World Grand Champions Cup in 1993 and claimed bronze medals in 2005 and 2013, while Iran seek a medal in their third appearance.

These two squads met for the second time at the World Grand Champions Cup. In their first encounter, Iran beat Italy in five sets 3-2 (26-24, 16-25, 25-23, 23-25, 15-12).

TEHRAN (Press TV) - The United World Wrestling (UWW) has elected Iranian wrestler Komeil Nemat Ghasemi as the new member of its Athletes Commission.

During the 2017 Senior World Wrestling Championships in the French capital city of Paris, the 29-year-old Iranian athlete was voted onto the commission along with six other wrestlers from Armenia, China, France, Nigeria, Switzerland and the United States.

Ghasemi won the silver medal in the men's freestyle 125-kilogram event at the 2016 Summer Olympics and clinched the bronze in the men's freestyle 120-kilogram class

at the 2012 Summer Olympics.

American world and Olympic champion Jordan Burroughs was selected to chair the UWW Athletes Commission. He will be a voting member of the UWW bureau and replaces 2008 Olympic champion Carol Huynh, who has served in the post since the commission was first established in 2013.

The Athletes Commission is tasked with protecting the rights and interests of all United World Wrestling Olympic style athletes.

The commission members reportedly reach out and communicate with active athletes as peers to collect feedback.

## Big Challenge to Stop Vettel Retaking Lead in Singapore

LONDON (Dispatches) - Mercedes say they face a difficult task stopping Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel retaking the championship lead in Singapore on Sunday.

Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton moved ahead of the German for the first time this season with victory in Italy.

The Briton leads Vettel by three points as they head to the slow and twisty Marina Bay track this weekend.

Team boss Toto Wolff said: "It is a circuit that we have found difficult to master"

He added: "We head to Asia with the expectation that we have a big challenge ahead of us."

Mercedes were beaten by Ferrari



Sebastian Vettel is three points behind leader Lewis Hamilton

in Singapore in 2015, when they had their least competitive weekend of an otherwise dominant year, and were run closer there last season by Red Bull and Ferrari than at virtually any other track.

The Ferrari has proved much more competitive than the Mercedes on slow tracks in hot climates - they took one-twins in both Monaco and Hungary.

Hamilton said after his back-to-back wins in Belgium and Italy: "The learning from these two weeks should collectively put us in a better position for Singapore but I think still Ferrari are going to be quick there. They are rapid through the medium and low-speed sections of circuits."

## Jaguar to Launch Formula E Support Series in 2018

LONDON (Reuters) - Jaguar is to launch an all-electric support series of races to accompany the Formula E championship late next year, the British-based carmaker said on Tuesday.

The world's first production-based electric series, revealed at the Frankfurt Motor Show, will start up alongside Formula E's fifth season and feature cars based on Jaguar's I-PACE performance SUV.

Jaguar Land Rover's first battery electric model is due to go on sale in late 2018. The company, owned by India's Tata Motors, has said all its new cars will be available in an electric or hybrid version from 2020.

Up to 20 cars will take part in 10 races, each lasting half an hour that will be held on the same circuits and weekends as Formula E in cities around the world including Hong Kong, New York and Paris.

Jaguar also has a team competing in Formula E, whose fourth championship starts in Hong Kong

in December and ends in Montreal in July 2018.

"With the launch of the Jaguar I-PACE eTROPHY we have strengthened our commitment to battery electric vehicles, international motorsport and Formula E," said Jaguar Racing chairman Gerd Mauser in a statement.

He expected the series to serve as a 'ladder' for young drivers into Formula E.

Formula E is increasingly of interest to major manufacturers, with Formula One world champions Mercedes and Le Mans 24 Hours winners Porsche due to enter season six in 2019/20.

Other manufacturers already involved in the electric series include BMW and Audi as well as Renault, Citroen and India's Mahindra.

European car bosses at the Frankfurt auto show were beginning to address the realities of mass vehicle electrification, and its consequences for jobs and profit.

## Froome to Compete in World Time Trial

LONDON (Dispatches) - Four-time Tour de France winner Chris Froome will compete for Great Britain in the individual time trial at the Road World Championships in Norway.

However, 2011 champion Mark Cavendish, who broke his shoulder during July's Tour, and Geraint Thomas have withdrawn from selection for the road race.

Lizzie Deignan, world champion in 2015, goes in the women's road race having had her appendix removed in August.

The world championships take place from 17-24 September in Bergen, Norway.

British Cycling's head coach Iain Dyer said he was "delighted" to see Froome included after the 32-year-old became the first man to follow a Tour victory by winning the Vuelta a Espana in the same year.

"I'm looking forward to seeing him in action on a course which suits his strengths," added Dyer, referring to the 31km route that features a 3.5km climb to a summit finish.

Froome had said immediately after winning the Vuelta in Madrid on Sunday that he would "put my feet up" after racing in Sunday's team time trial at the Worlds for Team Sky.



## Darrun Hilliard Signs Two-Way Contract With San Antonio Spurs



Darrun Hilliard

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Former Villanova Wildcat Darrun Hilliard has agreed to a two-way contract with the San Antonio Spurs.

Hilliard was drafted 38th overall in

the 2015 NBA Draft by the Detroit Pistons and spent his first two seasons with the Pistons, while also making stops with their G-League affiliate, the Grand Rapids Drive. Hilliard appeared in 77 games for the Pistons, averaging just under 10 minutes per game and 3.6 points per game.

Earlier this summer, Hilliard was traded by the Pistons to the Houston Rockets, and then the Los Angeles Clippers as part of the Chris Paul trade. Hilliard was waived by the Clippers shortly after.

Just two weeks ago Hilliard was part of the USA Basketball FIBA Americup team that won the gold medal. Throughout the five game tournaments, Hilliard averaged 13.1 points per game, to go along with 3.4 rebounds per game as well as 1.6 assists per game.

Each NBA team is only allowed a pair of two-way contracts, so it is notable that

the Spurs decided to give one to Hilliard. The Bethlehem, Pennsylvania native will not be the only former Villanova Wildcat on a two-way deal, Ryan Arcidiacono was signed to one by the Chicago Bulls in July.

## North Korea Crisis So Far No Threat to Pyeongchang 2018: IOC

LIMA (Reuters) - The escalating North Korean crisis had so far raised "no hint" of a security threat for next year's Pyeongchang 2018 winter Olympics in South Korea, the International Olympic Committee has said.

Hours after the United Nations Security Council unanimously stepped up sanctions against North Korea over the country's sixth and most powerful nuclear test conducted on Sept. 3, IOC President Thomas Bach said the Games next year were

under no threat so far.

Earlier this month North Korea launched its biggest nuclear bomb test.

"There is so far not even a hint that there is a threat for the security of the Games in the context of the tensions between North Korea and some other countries," Bach told reporters.

"We are in contact with governments concerned. In all these conversations with the leading figures in the different governments we can see there is no doubt being

Russian spy agency, media reports said.

The FA has written a letter to soccer's governing body FIFA expressing its concerns about

sensitive information such as injuries, strategies and tactics being leaked before matches during the World Cup, British newspapers said.

England players and staff have been advised not to use public Wi-Fi in Russia, including the connections provided at the team hotel.

According to media reports, the FA has also strengthened firewalls, introduced encrypted passwords and have strict guidelines for players regarding social media.

The FA could not immediately be reached for comment.

England, who lead Group F with 20 points, can seal their participation in the World Cup with a win over Slovenia in their penultimate qualifying match at Wembley on Oct. 5.

## FA to Increase World Cup Cyber Security Over Hacking Concerns

LONDON (Reuters) - The English Football Association will increase cyber security for the 2018 World Cup in Russia after hacking attacks by a group suspected of links to a

raised about the winter Games of 2018."

Bach said he was hoping for a diplomatic solution before the Games start next February.

"We are also keeping the door open for the athletes of the DPRK. The Games are open for all national Olympic committees. This contact continues," Bach said.

The Pyeongchang Games, the first Winter Olympics in Asia to be staged outside Japan, will run from Feb 9-25.