

SHOOTING TOURNAMENT - SHOOTERS BATTLE FOR GOLD



Afrah Adel

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Shooting tournament of the Late Sheikh Faisal Al-Duaij Al-Sabah will come to an end today with a closing ceremony at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting ranges. The tournament began on Thursday as shooters compete in the Olympic Skeet, Trap and Double Trap events for men, women and juniors. The Secretary General of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Obaid Al-Osaimi lauded the role of the family of the late Sheikh Faisal Al-Duaij Al-Sabah towards the shooting sport and its athletes. He also appreciated the large participation by shooters both from clubs and from the National Guard - a total of 90 shooters. Al-Osaimi thanked the technical and administra-

tive departments for their efforts. The results of the competition are as follows:

Men's Double Trap Event

Jarrah Mohamad Al-Shuwaier won the first place and the gold medal; Ahmad Al-Afasi took the second place (silver medal) while Hamad Mohammad Al-Afasi won third place (bronze medal).

Women's Trap Event

Kuwait's shooter Shahad Al-Hawal won the gold medal; Sarah Al-Hawal won the silver medal while Asmaa Al-Qatami won the bronze medal.

Women's Skeet

Sheikha Al-Rashidi grabbed the first position, followed by Eman Al-Shammaa - and in third place was Fatima Al-Zaabi. Today will see men competing in the trap event.



Obaid Al-Osaimi



Shaha and Sarah Al-Hawal



MURRAY DUMPS INJURED RAONIC

MONTE CARLO: Andy Murray ran down a depleted Milos Raonic 6-2, 6-0 yesterday to power into his third semi-final at the Monte Carlo Masters. The second seed was always in command against the Canadian who has been suffering with the return of a right leg injury which troubled him at the Australian Open two months ago. Murray will await the winner from eight-time champion and fifth seed Rafael Nadal and 2014 Monte Carlo winner Stan Wawrinka, the reigning French Open titleholder. Murray has lost both of his previous semi-finals to Nadal, in 2009 and 2011.

The Scot collected the first two clay titles of his career last season, winning Munich and Madrid. Raonic, playing a quarter-final in the Principality for the third consecutive edition, was never in the match, failing to find a single ace in his 66-minute defeat. Murray said that while his win might not have been pretty, it still gave him confidence after struggling through his first two contests this week. "I've played a lot of tennis, though it has all not been of the highest quality," said the 28-year-old.

"I've been able to learn from my previous matches. Today I served one of my best matches. "Milos was not at his best, he can certainly serve better than today. I'm looking forward to the semi-finals." Murray's win improved his standing against Raonic to 5-3 as he backed up a semi-final win over Raonic in Melbourne. Raonic has managed to put together a solid season despite his physical setbacks, now standing 20-4. — AFP

LEDECKY GRABS GOLD AS FRANKLIN AND PHELPS SETTLE FOR CONSOLATION WINS

LOS ANGELES: Michael Phelps made a low-key start to the Mesa Pro Swim on Thursday, but his win in the 200m freestyle consolation final was a confidence booster in an event he's found tough in his comeback. "I swam that like I used to always swim it," said Phelps, who smashed the 200m free world record at the 2007 world championships before making it one of his eight gold medals at the 2008 Beijing Games in yet another world record. "I kind of just stepped on the gas in the first hundred, and that's when I swim my best 200 free."

Phelps, the 18-time Olympic gold medalist juggling preparations for the Rio Games and plans for the arrival of a baby boy with fiancée Nicole Johnson next month, just missed out on qualifying for the championship final in the event. His winning "B" final time of 1min 48.21sec would have given him bronze in the championship race won by Conor Dwyer in 1:46.61. "I think the biggest thing I had tonight is I was able to get confidence back in that race," Phelps said. "I haven't really swum that race well in a long time." Phelps, always cagey about just what his Olympic program plans are, said he wasn't sure if he'd tackle the 200m free at the US Olympic trials in June.

But he wants to keep improving at least enough to challenge for a spot on the US 4x200m free relay team in Rio. "I'm pleased with it," Phelps said. Dwyer's time

tied him for sixth-fastest in the world this year. Venezuela's Christian Quintero was second in 1:48.10 and Phelps's old foe Ryan Lochte was third in 1:48.85. US freestyle phenomenon Katie Ledecky won the women's 200m free in 1min 55.71sec. Ledecky, who set her latest world record in the 800m free at the Austin Pro Swim in January, showed her preparations for the Rio Games in August remain right on track. Allison Schmitt was second in 1:56.52 and Maya Dirado third in 1:58.64.

Four-time Olympic gold medallist Missy Franklin, like Phelps shut out of her championship final, settled for a victory in the 200m free consolation heat in 1:58.64 — nearly two seconds faster than her qualifying time. Ledecky said she missed racing against Franklin, but she didn't think there was cause for concern about her US team-mate. "Everybody's at different points in their season," Ledecky said. "She had a better swim tonight." Dana Vollmer, who set a 100m butterfly world record en route to Olympic gold in London, then retired to start a family, signaled her comeback bid is gaining pace with a 100m fly win in 56.94sec-fourth-fastest in the world this year. Vollmer, whose son Arlen was one year old in March, was comfortably ahead of runner-up Kelsi Worrell (57.27). — AFP