

HAMBURG'S MUELLER TEARS KNEE LIGAMENT

BERLIN: Germany international Nicolai Mueller faces half a year on the sidelines after rupturing his cruciate knee ligament as he celebrated scoring in Hamburg's opening game of the season. The 29-year-old was left red-faced after scoring the winner in the 1-0 home Bundesliga victory against Augsburg eight minutes into Saturday's match. After netting, Mueller twisted away, repeatedly twirling in his goal celebration and leapt at the corner flag before tumbling to the floor in obvious pain. He tried to play on, but had to be replaced after 15 minutes. "That is certainly a downer, I have never experienced anything like it before," said Hamburg coach Markus Gisdol. Hamburg's worst fears were confirmed yesterday and the diagnosis means Mueller, who made two appearances for Germany on their 2013 tour of the USA, is out for at least six months. —AFP



CITY OUTCAST NASRI TO JOIN ANTALYASPOR

ISTANBUL: Manchester City's former French international midfielder Samir Nasri is in talks to join big spending Turkish side Antalyaspor on a two-year deal, reports in Turkey said yesterday. Nasri, 30, will earn an annual salary of four million euros (\$4.7 million) plus bonuses at the club in Turkey's Mediterranean resort city, the NTV Spor website said. The Fanatik sports daily said that Nasri arrived at Antalya's airport early yesterday afternoon and would sign a two-year contract. The Turkish club has yet to comment. On his Instagram page, the player posted a picture of him grinning broadly and making a victory sign as he boarded a private jet, with no comment except two aircraft icons to show he was travelling and a "... to show an announcement was expected. Nasri joined Manchester City in 2011 after three seasons at Arsenal, emerging as one of their key players but then spending last season on loan at Sevilla. — AFP

BULGARIA'S WEIGHTLIFTER CHOLAKOV DIES AGED 35

SOFIA: Bulgarian weightlifter Velichko Cholakov, an Olympic and world medallist, died yesterday at the age of 35, the hospital in his hometown of Smolyan announced. Cholakov took +105 kg bronze at the Athens 2004 Olympics and silver in the same division in the previous year's world championships. He was part of the Bulgarian team pulled from the Beijing 2008 Games after failed dope tests. Cholakov was one of 11 members of the contingent to test positive for a banned anabolic steroid. In recent years Cholakov dedicated his time to training young weightlifters in Smolyan. The cause of death has yet to be confirmed. —AFP



KUWAIT SHOOTING SPORT CLUB HONOR SHOOTERS

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait Shooting Sport Club celebrated the achievements made by Kuwaiti shooters during the Seventh Asian Shooting Tournament held in the Kazakh capital Astana. Kuwait ended in first place after winning four gold and one silver medal. This achievement comes following the lifting of the suspension on international participation which was placed on Kuwait by the ISSF, then CAS

ruled in favor of KSSF, allowing participation under the Kuwait flag and the national anthem was played four times. The celebration was held in the presence of President of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Eng Duajj Khalaf Al-Otaibi. Al-Otaibi thanked His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for congratulating the shooters and congratulated HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince for the achievement that the shooters made. He also thanked Speaker of the House Eng

Marzouq Al-Ghanem who also congratulated the shooting club and shooters. Al-Otaibi thanked the Public Authority for Sports, its Chairman of the Board Minister Khalid Al-Roudhan, its Director General Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and his deputies. Al-Otaibi said we are very happy for winning the seventh Asian shooting tournament. He said Kuwait was first followed by China and India. Al-Otaibi said we are very proud with this achievement and having the

Kuwait national anthem four times. He added that we are also happy that our juniors participated for the first time in an international tournament. The Kuwaiti shooters had earlier won four gold medals and one silver in the tournament in which 29 countries represented by 350 shooters. Kuwaiti shooters won an event that was held for the first time which is the mix event in which a male and female shooter participate as a team, with Abdelrahman Al-Faihan and Sarah Al-Hawal.

- The honored shooters are:
- Abdelrahman Al-Faihan who won the individual, team and mix team trap gold medals.
 - Talal Al-Rashidee who won the individual trap silver medal, and the team gold medal.
 - Sarah Al-Hawal who won the trap mix gold medal.
 - Abdallah Al-Rashidee, Mansoor Al-Rashidee, Hamad Al-Ablani
 - Ahmad Al-Awad
 - Hamad Nawaf Al-Khalidi.



GOLF

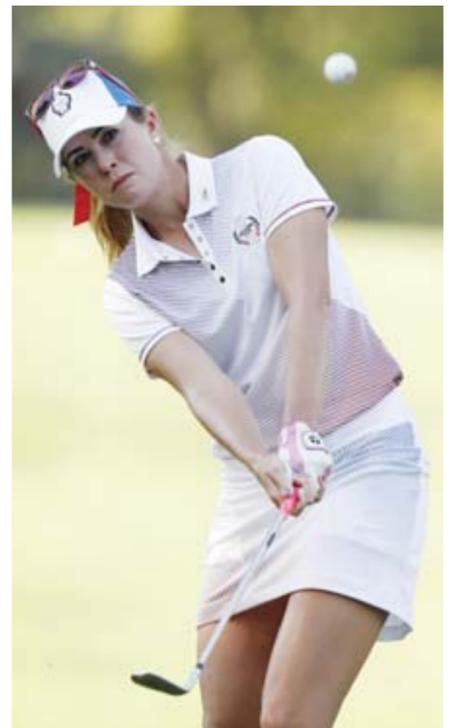
US IN CONTROL AGAINST EUROPE AT SOLHEIM CUP

LOS ANGELES: The United States take a commanding five-point lead into Sunday's Solheim Cup singles matches after another dominant fourball display in the match play showdown with Europe on Saturday. The United States won three of four fourball matches and five of eight points on offer on the day-to stretch their lead to 10 1/2 to 5 1/2 going into Sunday's 12 singles matches. After being whitewashed in Friday's fourball matches, the Europeans couldn't gain any ground with a split of Saturday morning's four foursomes matches at Des Moines Golf and Country Club in Iowa. And the Americans, trying to retain the title they won in Germany in 2015, went on to win three afternoon matches to extend their lead. Veteran Cristie Kerr set a US Solheim Cup record with her 19th career point when she teamed with Lexi Thompson for a 5 & 3 fourball victory over England's Jodi Ewart Shadoff and Germany's Caroline Masson. US captain Juli Inkster held the previous US record with 18 1/2 points. Kerr finished the day with 20 career points as

she and Thompson teamed up again to beat Scotland's Catriona Matthew and England's Georgia Hall 4 & 2 in fourball play. Kerr's birdies at the first and third put the US duo 2 up before Hall's eagle at the par-five fourth trimmed the deficit. But the European pair never managed to get ahead, and Kerr and Thompson were 2 up through 14 when Kerr holed out from a bunker for eagle at the 15th to put the Americans on the brink of victory. "She was an animal out there," Thompson said of Kerr after the match concluded at the 16th-where Matthew's long putt to extend the contest came up inches short. "We just knew they were going to play really tough, and they did," Kerr said. "They made a lot of birdies, they stuffed it on some holes that I had to make putts on top of them-Lexi had to make putts on top of them." A strong display from England's Mel Reid and Spain's Carlota Ciganda also proved fruitless as Americans Brittany Lincicome and Brittany Lang emerged with a 2 up triumph. Lincicome started with six straight

birdies and made 10 in the first 15 holes. Lang holed a wedge for eagle on the seventh hole as they vanquished a European pair that were 10-under. **'AMAZING GOLF'** European captain Annika Sorenstam said she could only congratulate the Americans on "some amazing golf". "We had 35 birdies and one eagle and lost three matches," she said. "It's easy to just kind of throw in your towel but they didn't. They kept fighting back and fighting back, getting it to 1 down. "So very, very proud of them. But you know it just wasn't enough. It's just sometimes you just get beaten by good golf. And that happened today. So they were on fire. All I can think of is I hope that fire is contagious and that we're on fire tomorrow." England's Jodi Ewart Shadoff and Sweden's Anna Nordqvist delivered the only afternoon win for Europe, defeating Lizette Salas and Angel Yin 4 & 2. In another close one, Americans Paula Creamer and Austin Ernst collected their

second win of the day, 2 & 1 over France's Karine Icher and Sweden's Madelene Sagstrom. Creamer and Ernst had beaten Reid and Dane Emily Pedersen 5 & 3 in foursomes play, with Reid and Pedersen undone by four straight bogeys on the back nine. Europe, missing England's Charley Hull who aggravated a wrist injury on Friday, rallied from early deficits to win two foursomes matches. **'STILL A CHANCE'** Nordqvist and Hall beat Lewis and Piller 2 & 1, while Matthew and Icher notched a 2 & 1 win over Danielle Kang and Michelle Wie. Hull is poised to tee it up on Sunday, when Europe will attempt an unprecedented comeback. The Americans rallied from a 10-6 deficit on the final day two years ago, but no Solheim Cup or Ryder Cup team has come back from more than four points down on the final day to win. "We saw what happened in '15," Nordqvist said. "If there are matches left, there's still a chance." —AFP



WEST DES MOINES: United States' Paula Creamer hits to the 16th green during her four-ball match in the Solheim Cup golf tournament, Saturday, in West Des Moines, Iowa. —AP