

Sports

**Bayern wait on Mueller for Leipzig double-header**

**BERLIN:** Bayern Munich are waiting to hear if stand-in captain Thomas Mueller can play in this week's double-header against RB Leipzig after the Germany star suffered a hamstring injury. Mueller lasted just ten minutes of Saturday's 1-0 Bundesliga win at ten-man Hamburg. He came off the bench at half-time, set up Corentin Tolisso's winning goal on 52 minutes and then went off injured three minutes later. "I have a problem with my right hamstring," he glumly told reporters with a scan on Sunday set to reveal the injury and if the Germany forward will be sidelined. Bayern face tough back-to-back fixtures against RB Leipzig. They face RB away on Wednesday in the second round of the German Cup, then host Leipzig on Saturday at the Allianz Arena in a mouth-watering Bundesliga clash. Bayern are level on 20 points with Bundesliga leaders Borussia Dortmund, but second on goal difference, with RB Leipzig just one point behind in third. —AFP



**Volvo Ocean flotilla leaves Alicante**

**ALICANTE:** New Zealand's Olympic champion Peter Burling and the rest of the crew on board the seven boats in the Volvo Ocean race embarked on a gruelling eight-month round the world odyssey from Alicante yesterday. The Volvo flotilla set sail at 1200 GMT destined for their first port of call at Lisbon with Spanish boat Mapfre and the Chinese entry Dongfeng in early command. Burling, who has won the America's Cup and a gold in the 49er class at the Rio Olympics, is with Team Brunel. Ahead of them is an 83,340km (45,000) nautical miles 11-stage journey with an expected finish in The Hague around June 25 next year. Briton Dee Caffari is the only female skipper and the sole one to choose a 50-50 male/female crew aboard Turn the Tide on Plastic. Caffari's United Nations-backed yacht is up against not only Team Brunel, Mapfre and Dongfeng but also Team AkzoNobel, skippered by Kiwi Brad Jackson, a three-time winner in his six previous participations. —AFP

**India's Bhullar clinches commanding win in Macau**

**HONG KONG:** India's Gaganjeet Bhullar held his nerve to complete a wire-to-wire victory and lift his eighth Asian Tour title at the Macau Open yesterday. Bhullar had seen his four-shot lead reduced to one in round three but on Sunday, he drained five birdies on the front nine and won by three shots despite a nerve-jangling double bogey on 16. The 29-year-old fired rounds of 64, 65, 74 and 68 for an aggregate score of 13-under 271, lifting his first Asian Tour trophy of the year. Bhullar's fellow Indian Ajeetesh Sandhu and Filipino Angelo Que shared second place at par-71 Macau Golf and Country Club, while Taiwan's Hung Chien-Yao was alone in fourth. Sandhu was gunning for his third title in a row after he claimed his maiden Asian tour victory in Taiwan this month and triumphed on the Japan Challenge Tour a week later. Bhullar, the 2012 champion in Macau, bogeyed his opening hole on Sunday before he stormed ahead with birdies on two, three, four, seven and nine to turn in 31. — AFP



# Kuwait grabs more medals on final day of HH the Crown Prince tourney

**KSSC is keen to organize shooting tournament every year**



By Abdellatif Sharara

**KUWAIT:** HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah patronized the closing ceremony of the tournament and was represented by Commerce and Industry Minister, Acting State Minister for Youth Affairs Khalid Nasser Al-Roudhan. The ceremony was also attended by Acting Director General of Public Authority for Sports Dr Humoud Fulaiteh, President of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Eng Duaij Khalaf Al-Otaibi and Kuwait Shooting Sport Federation board members. In his closing speech Eng Duaij Al-Otaibi welcomed the representative of HH the Crown Prince, adding that KSSC, is keen to organize this tournament each year as it is revered by all Kuwait shooters, as the tournament witnessed the participation of shooters from UAE Shooting Association besides 300 shooters from the club, National Guard and military. Al-Otaibi lauded what HH the Crown Prince has given Kuwait shooting, adding that "since the start of Kuwait shooting sport HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf cared for this tournament as support and encouragement of

shooters, adding that we at the shooting club are happy to organize this tournament as it declares the start of the new 2017/2018 shooting season". Al-Otaibi spoke of the achievements KSSC in the past season, and one notable achievement was lifting the suspension of the shooting sport in Kuwait in a historic ruling by the Court of Arbitration for

those tournaments. Engineer Al-Otaibi said Kuwait shooters participated in the "Popular Heritage" and opened the shooting range at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Heritage village, while in June 2016, the Jahra branch was opened, then in April 2017 the shooting range was opened at Sabahiya Youth Centers in Cooperation with the Public Authority for Sports. Al-Otaibi thanked the political leadership headed by HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Prime Minister and government, adding that if it was not for their support, none of the achievements would have been achieved. Minister Al-Roudhan spoke to journalists following the ceremony and lauded the achievements of the KSSC particularly at the Olympic level. He said that he was satisfied towards the attention given to up-rising shooters of both genders, and thanked its chairman and board members. Results of the final day of competition were as follows: **50 M Rifle 3 Positions:**



**Al-Roudhan lauds KSSC achievements**

Sport (CAS). He said our shooters won two Olympic medals in Brazil 2016, along with many medals that our shooters won during the HH the Amir Cup that was held in Italy, the Asian Championship in Kazakhstan and World Cup in Moscow, as Kuwait shooters collected 9 gold medals, 5 silver and 3 bronze during



**Trap - Men:** Abdelrahman Al-Faihan, Talal Al-Rashidi, Tami Al-Rashidi.  
**50 M Pistol Men:** Saad Al-Ajmi, Hamad Al-Namshan, Ali Al-Subaie.  
**Skeet - Men:** Abdallah Al-Rashidi, Mansour Al-Rashidi, Abdelaziz Al-Faihan.

**Olympic Archery:** Abdallah Taha, Mohammad Hader, Bader Saleh.  
**Compound Archery:** Abdallah Malallah, Amer Al-Hajiri, Salem Zaid Al-Saeed.

**Japan's Murata stops N'Dam to win world title**

**TOKYO:** Japan's Ryota Murata beat champion Hassan N'Dam by technical knockout yesterday to capture the World Boxing Association middleweight title. The 2012 Olympic champion avenged a controversial points loss to the Frenchman earlier this year with a convincing display in Tokyo, inflicting heavy punishment on N'Dam who failed to come out for round eight. "I'm not crying," joked Murata after bursting into tears on seeing the referee wave the fight over, making him only Japan's second middleweight world champion-and first in 22 years. "I was surprised at the way the fight finished but I knew he was feeling the pace and wanted to finish the job quickly," added the 31-year-old, proudly cradling the WBA "regular" world belt. "We were both pretty tired so it's a bit lucky he stopped. But there was no way I was going to lose that fight." Gennady Golovkin remains the association's "super" champion and also holds the WBC, IBF and IBO titles. "Boxing lovers will know there's a stronger middleweight champion than me out there," said Murata, referring to the unbeaten Kazakh. "I'll try my best to beat him." Their last meeting in May ended acrimoniously after N'Dam won a split decision, even though Murata had largely dominated the fight and knocked his opponent down. Two of the judges were suspended for six months while WBA president Gilberto



**TOKYO:** Japan's Ryota Murata waves to spectators after defeating France's Hassan N'Dam in their rematch for the WBA world middleweight boxing title in Tokyo, yesterday. Murata became the new world champion. — AP

Mendoza apologised to Murata, saying there were "no words to repair the damage". N'Dam started the sharper of the two yesterday as he looked to score early points. The former WBO champion's gold gloves frequently found Murata's chin in the first two rounds. But Murata wobbled the Cameroon-born champion with a right hook in the fourth, and another savage right in the sixth triggered sustained pressure which eventually took its toll on N'Dam. Murata improved his professional record to 13 wins against one loss. "After the first

couple of rounds, I had no more strength left," said the 33-year-old N'Dam, who asked his trainer to untape his gloves after being caught with more stinging blows in the seventh round. "I had nothing left in my arms, nothing in my legs." N'Dam slipped to 36-3 with his defeat. "I wanted to continue but my team decided that it wasn't worth taking more punches," he added. "Murata put me under more pressure than last time and threw more punches. I congratulate him and hope we can fight a third time." — AFP

**Exhausted Justin Thomas puzzled by 'bizarre' CJ Cup win**

**JEJU:** Justin Thomas shot nine-under par in the opening round of the inaugural CJ Cup and said yesterday it was "bizarre" he won three days later still on the same mark. Thomas shot a 63 in benign conditions in the first round and made the Nine Bridges course look ridiculously easy. It could not have been more different over the next three days as the wind whipped ferociously around the slopes of South Korea's tallest mountain Hallasan-the gorgeous setting on Jeju Island for the US PGA Tour's first-ever event in the country. Thomas was astounded that he finished on nine-under par and that it was still good enough to get him into a playoff against Marc Leishman. "It's bizarre that that happened," he told AFP. "I never would have guessed it, especially after the first round. But it really was so, so difficult out there, especially the last two days when it was cold and hitting into the wind: your ball just goes nowhere." Thomas's third-round 70 in brutal winds was the only time after the first round that he broke par again and he reckoned after that round "for a fact, I played better than I did on Thursday." He said people watching on TV might think players were hitting bad shots and putting poorly. But without being there it

was impossible to imagine the degree of difficulty. "I mean, I hit a seven-iron from 128 yards on one hole today," he said yesterday. A big hitter like Thomas could normally launch that around 180 yards. "The wind is just so strong and with all the trees and it bounces around and swirls a lot," he said. "The hardest thing was putting. The gusts when it picks up or dies, you just have to time it so perfectly. It was so difficult." The exhausted 24-year-old cracked a smile after beating Leishman on the second playoff hole in his final event of the autumn swing. "I am so excited to not do anything from now on," he said, looking forward to a break after a schedule of nine events in the past 11 weeks-the past two in Asia. "I have officially nothing left in the tank." Thomas will rise to a career-high number three in the world when the new rankings are published today. He had already joined Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods and Jordan Spieth as the only players to win five times in a season, including a major, before the age of 25 when he won the Dell Technologies Championship before the CJ Cup. With three wins in his last seven events and six in the last 12 months Thomas has earned his break. — AFP