

Sports

Photo of the day



Abdo Feghali performs during Red Bull Car Park Drift UAE final at Dubai Festival City in Dubai. —Photo taken from www.redbullcontentpool.com

Chadwick to go off-road with Veloce in Extreme E

No slowing down for record-breaking Hamilton

LONDON: Jamie Chadwick, the first champion in the all-female W Series, has been bitten by the rally bug after testing the electric SUV she will race for the Veloce team in Extreme E next year. The new electric off-road series, which aims to raise awareness about climate change, starts up in the Saudi Arabian desert in March, with further rounds in Senegal, Greenland, Brazil and Argentina. Each of the 10 competing teams must enter a male and female driver, and Veloce confirmed Chadwick yesterday. "It's really, really taken my interest," the Briton, who is also a Williams F1 development driver and hopes to retain the role despite the team's recent change of ownership, told Reuters.

"I'm under no illusions about how much I'm going to have to learn. It's a lot of fun but also a discipline that I've now engaged a lot more with. "There's a style that's required that could actually really suit me ... the Extreme E format is really short, sharp and intense so the physicality of it isn't as bad as some of the track stuff. "It's definitely something I'd like to do more of and I'm keen to develop my off-road horizons." The 22-year-old said she would be interested also in eventually entering the Dakar Rally, the endurance event that had a female winner in German Jutta Kleinschmidt in 2001 when held in Africa.

Chadwick has yet to confirm other plans for 2021, with the W Series due to support Formula One at eight races but yet to publish a calendar. The 2020 campaign was written off due to the novel coronavirus pandemic. Three of the planned Extreme E races clash with Formula One's dates. Chadwick is backed by New Zealand-based, high-performance car maker Rodin and she said that could also lead to another opportunity elsewhere. "The first focus is

obviously Extreme E. At the moment I'm committed to all five rounds but we'll have to see what other calendar clashes might come into play and then we can make a decision," she said.

Chadwick is racing in regional Formula Three in Italy this year but results have been disappointing and she is unlikely to return even though teams can run an extra car for a female driver. Extreme E aims to promote sustainability and raise awareness with races in some of the world's most remote and harsh environments that are suffering from global warming and pollution. Seven-times Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton and former team mate Nico Rosberg have entered teams, although neither will race. Other teams are the US-based Andretti United and Chip Ganassi Racing.

Record-breaking Hamilton

Meanwhile, Lewis Hamilton heads into Sunday's Bahrain Grand Prix as the most successful driver in Formula One history, and now a seven times world champion, but the Briton will not be slowing down as he aims to round out a record-breaking season in style. The Mercedes driver clinched the title at the previous race in Turkey to equal Michael Schumacher's record seven, having already surpassed the Ferrari great's tally of 91 race wins.

With three races to go and 10 wins from 14, Hamilton is on course for his most successful campaign yet and become only the third driver after Schumacher and Sebastian Vettel to win 13 times in a season. "Now it's a bit more chilled but I still have three races ahead of me that I want to win," said Hamilton, who has not previously

won more than 11 races in a single year. Hamilton has won three times around the 5.4km Sakhir desert track, including last year after a loss of power robbed Ferrari's Charles Leclerc of an almost certain victory.

With Mercedes dominant, the Briton is favorite again but team mate Valtteri Bottas will be out to stop him. Bahrain marks the start of a whirlwind floodlit Middle Eastern triple-header that wraps up the season. A second race, the Sakhir Grand Prix, follows at the same venue but around the shorter outer circuit a week later before the finale at Abu Dhabi's Yas Marina.

While the titles are already decided, other battles are still being fought. Mexican Sergio Perez, Leclerc and Australian Daniel Ricciardo are separated by just four points in the battle for fourth overall. Racing Point, McLaren, Renault and Ferrari, separated by just 24 points, are fighting for third in the constructors' table. There could also be a flurry of driver announcements. Thailand's Alexander Albon is yet to be confirmed alongside Max Verstappen at Red Bull with Perez and Germany's Nico Hulkenberg in the frame as potential replacements.

Japanese Formula Two racer Yuki Tsunoda looks set to replace Russian Daniil Kvyat alongside Pierre Gasly at Red Bull-owned AlphaTauri. American outfit Haas are yet to announce their 2020 drivers with Ferrari-backed Formula Two championship leader Mick Schumacher, son of Michael, in the frame. Hamilton, out of contract at the end of the year, is also yet to sign a new deal with Mercedes. Sunday's race, like most this season, will be closed to fans due to the COVID-19 pandemic but organizers are putting aside a limited number of grandstand seats for the families of health workers. —Agencies

News in brief

Kawasaki clinch J League title

TOKYO: Kawasaki Frontale clinched a third J League title in four years with a 5-0 thrashing of nearest rivals Gamba Osaka yesterday. A hat-trick from 34-year-old Akihiro Ienaga and further goals from Brazilian Leandro Damiao and substitute Manabu Saito wrapped up the title with four matches remaining. Osaka came into the match in second place, with the near-impossible task of closing a 14-point gap on Kawasaki. However, the home side never looked in any danger. Following championships in 2017 and 2018, Kawasaki have now won three of the last four J League titles. Securing another league triumph has been seen as imperative for Kawasaki this season so they can send club stalwart, 40-year-old midfielder Kengo Nakamura, into retirement with another title. Nakamura came on as a late substitute to much applause from the 11,370 fans allowed in Todoroki Stadium. —AFP

Domestic abuse policy in tennis

LONDON: Former world number one Andy Murray has joined Novak Djokovic in urging men's tennis governing body ATP to come up with a policy on domestic abuse following allegations made against German Alexander Zverev by his ex-girlfriend Olga Sharypova. In an interview, former tennis player Sharypova said Zverev was emotionally and physically abusive to her. The US Open runner-up has repeatedly denied the allegations. In a delayed response to the allegations against the 23-year-old Zverev, the ATP said it condemned "any form of violence or abuse". Top-ranked Serbian Djokovic, who resigned as ATP's player council chief earlier this year, last week said that the ATP should look to adopt its own policy on domestic abuse, similar to those in American sports, regardless of legal proceedings. —Reuters

Greece coach Schip tests positive

ATHENS: Greece coach John Van't Schip has tested positive for coronavirus and will self-isolate for two weeks, the country's football federation announced on Tuesday. "Now is the time to rest and recover. I'm feeling okay with light symptoms," the former Dutch international winger said on the federation's Twitter account. Schip took over the Greek national side last August on a two-and-a-half year contract and recently led the team to a second-place finish in Nations League Group C3. The 55-year-old Canadian-born former Genoa and Ajax player played 41 times for the Dutch national team from 1986 to 1995. After completing his career as a player, Schip coached Dutch clubs PEC Zwolle, Ajax and Twente, as well as Australia's Melbourne City twice, either side of a spell with Guadalajara in Mexico. He was also the assistant coach for the Netherlands national team from 2004-2008. —AFP

Heat and Adebayo near deal

MIAMI: Bam Adebayo and the Miami Heat are near a five-year deal worth \$163 million, according to multiple reports. Adebayo's deal would include a player option for a sixth year pushing the maximum value to \$198.5 million. The 23-year-old was an All-Star last season, his first as a starter with the Heat, when he finished with 15.9 points per game and also averaged 10.2 rebounds and 5.1 assists. Miami selected Adebayo with the 14th overall pick in the 2017 NBA Draft. Heat president Pat Riley told Field Level Media at the 2020 All-Star Game in Chicago that the "sky really is the limit there," after Adebayo won the All-Star Skills Challenge at the United Center. He was voted runner-up in the NBA's Most Improved Player award balloting in 2020 behind Brandon Ingram of the New Orleans Pelicans. He was named Second Team All-NBA Defensive Team at the conclusion of the 2019-20 season. —Reuters

Ibis Hotel hold reception in honor of Jahra Sports Club



KUWAIT: Ibis Hotel held a reception in honor of Jahra Sports Club under the patronage of Sheikh Mubarak Abdallah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah accompanied by his sons Sheikhs Abdallah and Ahmad and

his nephew Humoud Mohammad Abdallah Al-Mubarak, club chairman Nawaf Jadayed, Secretary General Khalaf Al-Sahou, Kuwait national team manager and other officials. A shirt signed by the



club players was presented to the hotel for sponsoring the club during the current season. Memorial shields were exchanged by the two parties at the end of the reception.

Shooters compete in Kuwait shooting event

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: HH The Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Annual Championship competition in the Olympic skeet, trap, 10 meter air pistol and rifle, 25 meter rapid pistol, 50 meter rifle in addition to the Olympic archery at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex continues today at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex.

Competitions in the skeet and trap events will start today for both men and women, that in addition to the women's air rifle and pistol. Official training for the men's trap and skeet as well as the 50 m three position rifle will also start today from 9:00 am. Winners of the women's 10 meter air pistol and rifle will be determined by day's end. Chairman of the Higher Organizing Committee, President of Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations Engr Duajj Khalaf Al-Otaibi thanked HH The Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for his support.

The closing ceremony will be held Saturday in the presence of the Capital Governor Sheikh Talal Al-Khalid Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. He said the tournament marks the start of the local season. Eng Duajj Al-Otaibi said that participation at this tournament is free of charge for all ranges and arrangement were made to ensure compliance with the health requirements against coronavirus.

