



## SALWA CUP- SEMIFINAL DOUBLES FACE OFF

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** The competition in Kuwait International Table Tennis Tournament (Salwa Cup), reached its peak in all six categories as the men and women semifinal doubles face off today. Meeting between heads of delegations were held with the Higher Organizing Committee in the presence of Deputy Chairperson Sheikhha Naeema Al-Ahmad, in addition to the officiating

council. Highly important matches are taking place today as high ranked players reached advanced.

China's Long Ma heads the world ranking with 3291 points followed by Zhendong Fan, Xin Xu, Jike Zhang. Germany's Dimitrij Ovtcharov is ranked 5th followed by Japan's Jun Mizutani, Taiwan's Chih-Yuan Chuang, then China's Bo Fang Belarus's Vladimir Samsonov respectively with Germany's Mirno Boll grabbing tenth place.

As for women's latest ranking, China's Shiwen Liu tops the list followed by her compatriot Ning Ding and Yuling Zhum. Japan's Kasumi Ishikawa is ranked fourth, Ai Fukuhara (fifth), Singapore's Tianwei Feng (Sixth), China's Meng Chen (seventh), Xiaoxia Li (eighth), Japan's Mima Ito (ninth) and China's Yang Wu (tenth).

Competition on Thursday night saw the participation of Kuwait women U21 doubles including Nour Salem, Shahad Al-Enezi, Sheikhha Al-

Hamad, Mariam Abdelraheem, Minwa Al-Shimmari and Kifaya Al-Aradah. Egypt's Shady Majdi lost to Hong Kong's Kit Kwan Ho. In the ladies competition, Japan's Honoka Hashimoto defeated Chengzhu Zhu; Brazil's Calderona Hugo defeated Korea's Hon Jong while Japan's Hina Hayata defeated her compatriot Hirano. Japan's Ai Fukuhara and Mima Ito; China's Ning Ding and Xiaoxia Li; Hong Kong's Huajun Jiang and Ching Ho Lee qualified for the semifinals.



## PUBLIC AUTHORITY FOR SPORTS SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** The Public Authority for Sports Shooting Championship continues at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex. The tournament which began on Thursday will continue until Sunday. A large number of national teams, club and National Guard shooters are participating in the event. Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Secretary General Obeid Al-Osaimi thanked Sports Public Authority, its Director General Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and all employees at the authority for their supports.

Al-Osaimi said KSSC will continue to hold its tournaments as scheduled in

order to continue training for local, Arab and international events. He added that PAS tournament this time comes as the Arab shooting tournament is approaching and will be held towards the end of this month in Cairo, Egypt. Kuwait will participate with a large number of shooters who are determined to win medals. The closing ceremony of PAS tournament will be held at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex on Sunday. Results of the first day were as follows: In the men's 10m Air Rifle, Abdallah Al-Harby came first, followed by Khalid Al-Subaie and Mohammad Adel, while in the 10m air pistol Hassan Al-Mulla came first seconded by Mideth Al-Sahli and Saad Al-Ajmi third.



## HAMILTON QUICKEST AS ROSBERG CRASHES

**MELBOURNE:** World champion Lewis Hamilton topped the timesheets for Mercedes in both practice sessions of the Australian Grand Prix yesterday but team mate Nico Rosberg crashed as waterlogged conditions put a dampener on Formula One's season opener. With intermittent showers blighting the day, the teams head into the race weekend short of set-up work and lacking valuable data on their tyres, meaning qualifying could be a lottery. Hamilton, bidding for a third successive title with Mercedes, could at least be satisfied with his pace, having been fastest on intermediate tyres in the second session and with the soft set in the first.

The Briton posted a lap of one minute 29.725 seconds in the opener, more than four-tenths of a second quicker than Red Bull's Daniil Kvyat, then 1:38.841 in the second session on an Albert Park track rendered too wet for dry-weather tyres. "That was a good day. The car performed well and I was lucky to get a couple of dry laps," Hamilton told reporters. "Hopefully it'll be dry tomorrow, so we can give something back to the fans who braved the weather." Force India's Nico Hulkenberg was second quickest in the later session, nearly half a second adrift of Hamilton, with Ferrari's former world champion Kimi Raikkonen third.

### Red Bulls show promise

Rosberg, who won the final three races of last season, had a day to forget. Sixth fastest in the opening session, he skidded at turn six in the second run and damaged his front wing in a collision with the barrier. The German rolled slowly around the track for a few moments before being called to stop, as Mercedes motorsport boss Toto Wolff glared at a television screen in the garage. Red Bull had a better day, with Kvyat's Australian team mate Daniel Ricciardo third behind the Russian in the initial run and fourth-quickest later on. "With the conditions like that and going into an interesting qualifying format tomorrow, it could be an opportunity for us," Ricciardo said. "Hopefully we can sneak up a couple of rows further up than we could in dry conditions." McLaren also had reason for cheer, with drivers Fernando Alonso and Jenson Button posting the sixth and seventh fastest times in second practice, just over a second off Hamilton's pace.

Four-times champion Sebastian Vettel, tipped to threaten Hamilton's ambitions of a fourth title overall, was eighth quickest in the second session after failing to post a time in the first as gusty winds buffeted the street circuit all day. Seven drivers, including all from Renault, Williams and Sauber, did not trouble the timers in FP2, with teams seeing little value in testing the car in the wet. New team Haas, the first US-owned F1 outfit in 30 years, had a cautious debut with French driver Romain Grosjean and Esteban Gutierrez posting slow times in both sessions.— Reuters