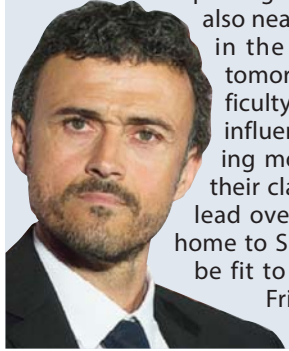


LUIS ENRIQUE AIMS TO FORGET SOCIEDAD WOE

BARCELONA: Barcelona boss Luis Enrique insisted the Catalan giants struggles away at Real Sociedad will have no impact on his side's preparation when they travel to San Sebastian today. The Spanish champions have a terrible recent record at Anoeta, failing to win on any of their last six league visits including five defeats. Enrique's toughest moment as Barca boss also came after a 1-0 defeat to then David Moyes's Sociedad in January 2015 after which sporting director Andoni Zubizarreta was sacked and Enrique also nearly lost his job. "I am not interested in what happened in the past because it doesn't affect what will happen tomorrow," Enrique said yesterday. "We are aware of the difficulty of the game but what happened in the past has no influence." Barca need to avoid another slip up to avoid losing more ground on La Liga leaders Real Madrid ahead of their clash in El Clasico next weekend. Real can extend their lead over Barca to seven points on Saturday with victory at home to Sporting Gijon. Enrique is confident Gerard Pique will be fit to start against Sociedad despite missing training on Friday due to a knock. —AFP



BAYERN MUNICH ANNOUNCE RECORD TURNOVER OF \$664M

BERLIN: German champions Bayern Munich on Friday announced record turnover for the 2015-16 financial year of 627 million euros (£533.3m; \$664.6m), up by more than 100 million euros on the previous year. Bayern's pre-tax profits also increased by around 30 percent, from 23.8 million euros in 2014-15 to 33 million euros. "Our entrepreneurial objective is the maximisation of sporting success alongside financial prudence," said the club's deputy chairman Jan-Christian Dreesen. "Our increasing financial power will be used primarily to make the regular investments required in our first-team squad in order to ensure we remain competitive among the elite teams in Europe." While spending on players and staff rose by 33 million euros, the increase in revenue is largely down to income from sponsorship and marketing growing from 113.9 million euros in 2014-15 to 169.8 million euros. Income from television rights marketing was 83.4 million euros, "a relatively low figure in international terms", as the club said, but up from 58.3 million. —AFP

FORMER CHELSEA DOCTOR REVEALS DEATH THREATS

LONDON: Former Chelsea team doctor Eva Carneiro received death threats following her departure from the club last year, she revealed in a newspaper interview published yesterday. "Even though I don't have a presence on social media I think I have made one post ever in my life—some of the threats of sexual violence and death threats make it through," she told the Daily Telegraph. "They (the abusers) just seem to be faceless cowards and they should be answerable to legislation." Carneiro, 43, left Chelsea in September 2015 after being publicly criticised by then manager Jose Mourinho for going onto the pitch to treat a player during a home game against Swansea City. Earlier this year she settled a constructive dismissal case with Chelsea, who apologised "unreservedly" over her treatment, and she also reached a discrimination settlement with Mourinho. Carneiro, who now works at her own clinic in London, feels not enough is being done to eradicate sexism in football. "I think sexism is the least challenged form of discrimination," she said. "Anti-Semitic and other racist comments are widely condemned and I don't think that is the case (with sexism) and it begs the question what that leaves room for behind the scenes." —AFP



Khaled Al Otaibi, Manager, Gulf Bank presenting a medal to one of the winners.



Group photo of the winners along with Khaled Al-Otaibi- Gulf Bank and Abdulmohsen Al-Babtain- Head of the Kuwait International Jiu-Jitsu Open organizing committee.

GULF BANK: GOLD SPONSOR OF KUWAIT INTERNATIONAL JIU-JITSU OPEN

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank concluded its gold sponsorship of the Kuwait International Jiu-Jitsu Open that recently took place over two days in Kuwait at the Ice Skating Rink in Kuwait City. Gulf Bank's sponsorship comes as part of its commitment to supporting youth initiatives and its campaign of promoting health and fitness activities. The championship included the partici-

pation of 300 athletes, representing 20 countries. A specialized referee crew panel from the United States of America supervised and oversaw the performance of competitors.

The Public Authority for Sports was the strategic partner of the Kuwait International Jiu-Jitsu Open, along with the Kuwait Olympic Committee acting as governmental partners.

Khaled Al-Otaibi, Gulf Bank Corporate Communications Manager commented on this occasion by explaining: "Gulf Bank would like to thank the organizing committee and its chairman Abdulmohsen Saleh Al Babtain on hosting a world class event. The Bank was proud to be the gold sponsor of the Kuwait International Jiu-Jitsu Open because we want to stress the importance of a healthy lifestyle and sup-

port world-class youth organized events. Not only do we want to encourage members of the Kuwaiti community to adopt sports activities regularly, but also to motivate young people to show their talents on the local and international levels."

Gulf Bank is strongly committed to giving back to Kuwait and society through its corporate social responsibility program. The Bank supports numerous events

focusing on youth, education, health and fitness, helping the underprivileged, women's empowerment, as well as promoting Kuwait's heritage and culture.

To learn more about Gulf Bank, visit one of Gulf Bank's branches, call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805, log on to the Bank's bilingual website www.gulfbank.com, or visit the its social media channels.



KUWAIT: Kenil Kuriakose, President of AECK presenting Man of the Match trophy to Mahesh (AECK).

KEA ENTER SEMIFINALS AS AECK, MACE AND TKM WIN

KUWAIT: The 19th Prof Ramachandran Memorial Cricket Tournament (RMC) conducted by College of Engineering Trivandrum Alumni Association (CETAA) and sponsored by GTE Olayan Co continued on 18th November with the second round of league matches.

In the day's 1st match, winning the toss and batting first, NIT were soon in trouble losing wickets at regular intervals against MACE. But Ajay (10) and Soj with a fighting 6th wicket partnership of 28 runs helped NIT to finish on a respectable 47 runs for the loss of 8 wickets in their 12 overs. Giju (2 wickets) and Roy, Jayesh, Sandeep, Tinu with a wicket each bowled steadily to keep NIT within manageable proportions. In reply the top order of MACE rose to the occasion with Jayesh

(15 no - man of the match), George Ramachandran Memorial Cricket Tournament (RMC) conducted by College of Engineering Trivandrum Alumni Association (CETAA) and sponsored by GTE Olayan Co continued on 18th November with the second round of league matches.

Hosts CET batting 1st in the 2nd match could not make much headway against the persistent attack of TKM and were reduced to 32 for 6 by the 10th over with only Prashanth (11) showing some resilience. But Zakir (15 no) in a late order flourish enabled CET to finish on a fighting 54 for 6 in their 12 overs. Anfar (2), Mukesh, Rahul and Javed with a wicket each had things under control for the majority of the innings. In reply, Shabeer (23) with 3 boundaries took charge early on and with Anfar at his explosive best (15 no - 3x4) took TKM to a commanding 9 wicket victory in the 8th over and put

TKM firmly on course for a semi-final spot. Daniel had the consolation of taking the only wicket to fall in TKM's innings.

In the third match, batting first against TEC, AECK had a good start with the openers putting on 24 runs by the 5th over. But it was the 2nd wicket partnership of 32 runs between Mahesh (35 - 1x6, 2x4, man of the match) and Nimish (23 - 4x4) which took the match away from TEC enabling AECK to put up a dominant score of 92 for the loss of 7 wickets in their 12 overs. Sreekumar (3 wickets) bowled spiritedly with good support by Gireesh and Sandeep (1 wicket each) but could not quite contain the class AECK line up. In reply, injury hit TEC seemed disheartened as none of their established batsmen could reach double figures and AECK won comprehensively by 55 runs. For AECK, Abulais, Nimish, Remon (2 wickets each), Munaz and Shameer (1 wicket each) once again showed their all round bowling strength.

In the final match of the day, NSS batting first lost their top order quickly and were precariously placed at 18 for 4 wickets at the half way stage. Anesh (20) with good support from Shyruddhin helped NSS to reach a fighting 50 runs being all out in the last over. For KEA, Nasif (5 for 10 including a hat-trick) did most of the damage with good support from Sabin (2 for 15). In reply, KEA openers Nitin (29 no - 3x4) and Govind (14 no) put up a brilliant display with fluent drives and pulls to all parts of the ground. KEA won by 10 wickets in the 7th over showing they are a real force to reckon with and strong contenders for the title.



KUWAIT: Sreenath, President, KEA giving away the Man of the Match award to Nasif (KEA).

DOMINANT DANES EXTEND W CUP LEAD IN MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE: Soren Kjeldsen and Thorbjorn Olesen remained on course to claim a first World Cup of Golf for Denmark after shooting a two-under-par 70 in yesterday's foursomes to extend their overnight lead to four strokes.

The Danish pair started the day at Kingston Heath with a three-shot cushion after sizzling second round 60 and mixed five birdies with three bogeys to move to 14-under for the tournament. "We showed yesterday that a really low score is possible out there in the fourball," Olesen told reporters.

"It's definitely not going to be easy tomorrow. There's a lot of great players here and a lot of birdies out there. It's a four shot lead, which is really nice, but it's not going to be easy." Americans Rickie Fowler and Jimmy Walker were second after a 69 in the alternate shot format moved them to 10-under, a shot better than China's Wu Anshun and Li Haotong, who made a double bogey-bogey start but recovered for a round of par 72.

Japan (71), France (72) and first-round leaders Spain (73) will be tied for fourth seven shots off the pace going into today's final round fourballs at the sandbelt course.

It looked like being a bigger deficit when 26-year-old Olesen sank a four-foot birdie putt at the 13th to give the Danes a six-shot lead over the field.

The putts would not drop for the duo over the next couple of holes, however, and at the 17th, Olesen's drive found one of the series of bunkers on the left of the fairway.

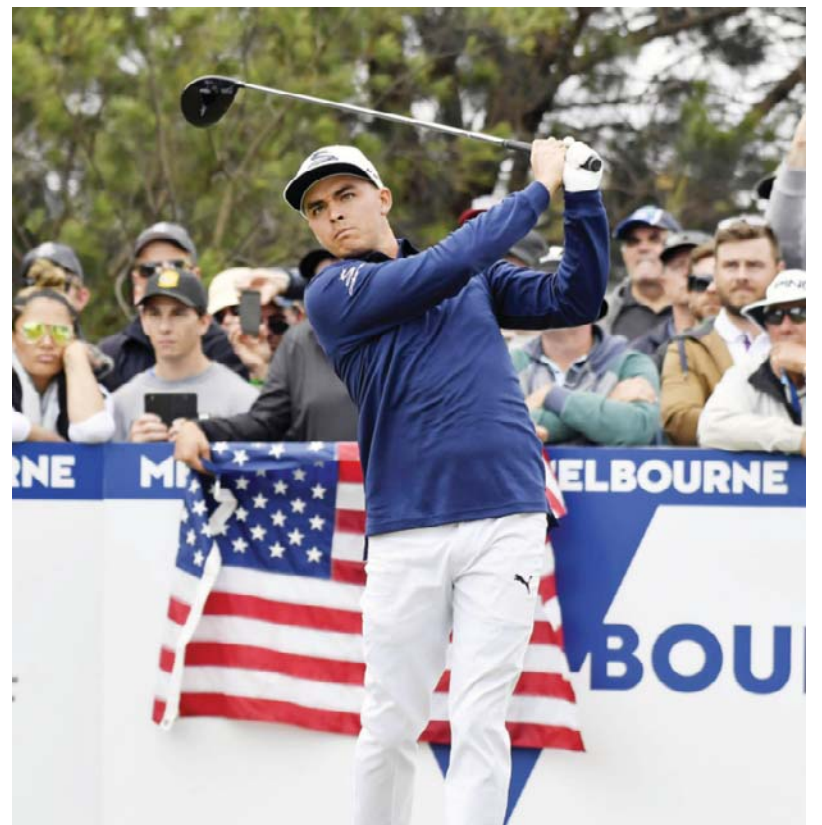
Kjeldsen got the ball onto the green with a fine recovery shot but the pair three-putted for a bogey to take a little bit of the shine off their day. Walker had earlier drained a six-foot birdie putt on the same green to bring the Americans, who have won a record 24 World Cup titles, a shot closer to their rivals.

"It would be nice to be out front or a little closer, but with where we were coming into today, just putting up a solid round of golf was what we wanted to do," Fowler said.

"We did that and we gave ourselves a chance going into tomorrow." Australian Adam Scott's hopes of defending the title he won with Jason Day at Royal Melbourne in 2013 look slight as he and Marc Leishman hit a 70 to stand 10 shots adrift in a share of 11th. — Reuters



MELBOURNE: Denmark's Soren Kjeldsen hit out of the rough on the fifth hole during his match at the World Cup of golf at Kingston Heath in Melbourne, Australia, yesterday. — AP



MELBOURNE: United States' Rickie Fowler watches his tee shot on the 12th hole during his match at the World Cup of golf at Kingston Heath in Melbourne, Australia, yesterday. — AP