

## Sports

## Bale recovery boosted by diagnosis of calf muscle

LONDON: Real Madrid forward Gareth Bale has been diagnosed with a swollen left calf muscle but has not torn it, his club said yesterday, boosting the player's chances of facing former club Tottenham Hotspur in the Champions League later this month. Confusion has clouded the extent of Bale's latest injury with Real initially saying he had only suffered cramp towards the end of their 3-1 win at Borussia Dortmund on Sept. 26. Coach Zinedine Zidane said the player was not seriously injured and was happy to see him go on international duty with Wales, despite omitting him from the squad for last Sunday's La Liga game against Espanyol. Bale, however, had to leave the Wales camp on Tuesday because of the injury, forcing him out of his country's crucial World Cup qualifiers with Georgia and the Republic of Ireland. —Reuters



## Leicester dealt transfer blow as FIFA rejects Silva appeal

LONDON: Leicester City's attempts to sign Adrien Silva from Sporting Lisbon were dealt a blow yesterday, with FIFA saying it had rejected an FA petition to grant the midfielder an international transfer certificate. Leicester bought the 28-year-old just before the transfer window closed on Aug. 31, but FIFA, who handle international transfers, received the paperwork moments after the deadline for registration ended. FIFA refused to sanction Silva's transfer, prompting the English FA to write to the world governing body in early September, but that appeal has now been rejected. "The petition made by The Football Association for permission to request the International Transfer Certificate for the player Adrien Silva and subsequently register the player for its affiliated club, Leicester City FC, is rejected," FIFA said in a statement. Leicester will now only be able to sign the player when the transfer window reopens in January, unless they take their case to the Court of Arbitration for Sport. A Leicester spokesman declined to immediately comment on the matter. —Reuters

## Cilic pummels Uchiyama to reach Tokyo quarters

TOKYO: Top seed Marin Cilic crushed local favourite Yasutaka Uchiyama 6-3, 6-4 yesterday to reach the Japan Open quarter-finals. The towering Croatian, runner-up to Roger Federer at this year's Wimbledon and a former US Open champion, needed just over an hour to complete the rout in Tokyo. Cilic, the current world number five and a semi-finalist in Japan last season, hit 14 aces and dropped only four of 34 points on his first serve as he advanced to play American Ryan Harrison in the last eight. Harrison upset fifth seed Kevin Anderson of South Africa—who reached last month's US Open final, where he was beaten by Rafa Nadal — 6-3, 1-6, 7-6 in a see-saw match. Elsewhere Argentina's Diego Schwartzman advanced, the eighth seed thumping Bernard Tomic of Australia 6-3, 6-1, while Frenchman Adrian Panatta overpowered Czech Jiri Vesely 6-3, 6-2. —AFP



## Crown Prince annual shooting tournament begins from Oct 19

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait Shooting Sports Club announced the start of its 2017-2018 season with the tournament of HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah annual shooting tournament from 19-21 October. The tournament will be at Olympic shooting events in the trap, double trap, skeet, 10m air pistol and rifle, 50 meter pistol and rifle and Olympic archery.



## Shooters from Kuwait, Saudi, UAE will compete

Shooters from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and UAE will compete in the tournament to be held at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex.

Meanwhile President of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Eng Duaij Al-Otaibi thanked, on behalf of KSSC board members and the shooting community, HH the Crown Prince for his support and continued encouragement of shooters and the shoot-

ing sport, as shooters exert their efforts to represent their country and have Kuwait flag in prominence during all international events. He said this tournament plays a major role in the participation of a large number of athletes from Gulf and Arab countries due to the importance of winning its title at the start of the season.

Al-Otaibi said the organizing committee made all preparations to have this tournament come out at its best, as all ranges at the Olympic

complex were made ready. Registration for shooters planning to participate in the HH the Crown Prince Shooting Tournament will be opened on Saturday October 14th and will be closed on October 17th, and then officiating committees will make the draw and distribute the groups.

Al-Otaibi said any shooter who breaks the world record during this tournament will get double prize.



KUWAIT: Eng Duaij Al-Otaibi with HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

## Hamilton, Mercedes in search of lost speed at Suzuka

SUZUKA: Lewis Hamilton and his Mercedes team will be looking for lost speed as Formula One wraps up its Asian leg in Japan this weekend. The championship leader is thankful to have extended his advantage over Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel to 34 points with five races remaining but he is also conscious that there is work to be done.

Mercedes were slower than Ferrari and Red Bull for the second successive race in Malaysia after similarly struggling for pace in Singapore. That represented unfamiliar territory for the reigning champions, even if they came away with a tidy points haul as Ferrari self-destructed.

Hamilton has won twice before at Suzuka, and three times in Japan when Fuji is included in the reckoning, while Mercedes are unbeaten there in three years. On paper it should suit them again, but there is also an air of uncertainty with Red Bull very much in the mix after Max Verstappen's victory at Sepang.

"There are a lot of question marks generally which we need to assess," said

Mercedes team boss Toto Wolff. "I think we should have been quicker than we were (in Malaysia) but Suzuka should be much more in the window.

"I'm very much looking forward to Suzuka to see how the car behaves there because it should be completely different." Last year, Hamilton arrived in Japan ill at ease and still feeling the agony of an engine failure at Sepang while leading from pole position—a blow that ultimately cost him the championship.

He played around on Snapchat and then moodily refused questions from 'disrespectful' media who criticised his behaviour. This time he is riding a run of good fortune, with an opening lap crash for Vettel in Singapore dealing the German a significant setback in a race that the Briton went on to win.

In Malaysia he finished second after his rival raced to fourth place from last on the grid due to a power unit problem in qualifying. Vettel had a new engine for Sepang and the four times winner in Japan will expect to be quick on Sunday, with fears



Lewis Hamilton

for his car's gearbox subsiding since he and Canadian Lance Stroll collided on the post-race slowing down lap.

"It's been a difficult weekend, but nevertheless the speed is there," said the four-time champion, who has four wins this year to Hamilton's seven. But both he and Hamilton also have to contend with a resurgent Red Bull.

"The Red Bulls are right in it now," said former racer and television commentator Martin Brundle. "You think of Suzuka, it's just one corner after another. You always want power but they should be mighty in

Suzuka, the Red Bulls."

Sunday's race will also be Honda's last home grand prix as power unit suppliers to McLaren, with the Japanese manufacturer set to tie up with Toro Rosso next year. The Woking-based team head into the weekend having chalked up their first consecutive points finishes of the season.

A third race in the points this weekend, at a track owned by Honda, will see McLaren, who are switching to Renault power next year, equal their best successive run of top-10 finishes since joining forces with the Japanese firm. — Reuters

## Black leads all-around qualifying

MONTREAL: Canada's Ellie Black grabbed the early lead in qualifying for the women's all-around final at the World Artistic Gymnastics Championships on Tuesday, leading the standings after two subdivisions.

The 22-year-old from Halifax, who finished fifth in the all-around final at last year's Rio de Janeiro Olympics, led the way with 55.766 points with three more subdivisions to come later. Russia's Elena Eremina was second with 54.999pts while Belgium's Nina Derwael was third in the standings with 53.598pts. Amy Tinkler of Britain meanwhile continued her strong comeback from a torn calf muscle after finishing the day in fifth, with 52.831. Tinkler, a bronze medallist in the floor routine at the Olympics last year, only resumed training in August after undergoing surgery to repair her injury earlier this year.

The 17-year-old from Durham has also battled illness in the build-up to this week's championships. "I'm really buzzing with my performance," she told reporters. "With the build-up, it's been a rough week. I've been really ill. "I'm still not 100 percent but I'm a lot better than I was last week. I'm really happy to be out here representing again."

Tinkler now faces a nervous wait to see if she will finish among the 24 who will qualify for Friday's all-around final. "It's quite hard waiting," Tinkler said. "Waiting is more nervous than competing to be honest."

The women's competition is relatively open, with reigning Olympic and world champion Simone Biles of the United States skipping Montreal as part of a year-long competitive break.

In the men's qualifiers meanwhile, the final line-up was confirmed with Cuba's Manrique Larduet the top qualifier. Larduet had led after Monday's qualifying session which was overshadowed by the shock withdrawal of defending Japanese champion Kohei Uchimura, who limped out with an ankle injury.

China's Xiao Ruoteng booked his place in the final in second, ahead of Russia's David Belyavskiy in third. Rio silver medallist Oleg Verniaiev of Ukraine qualified in fifth spot.

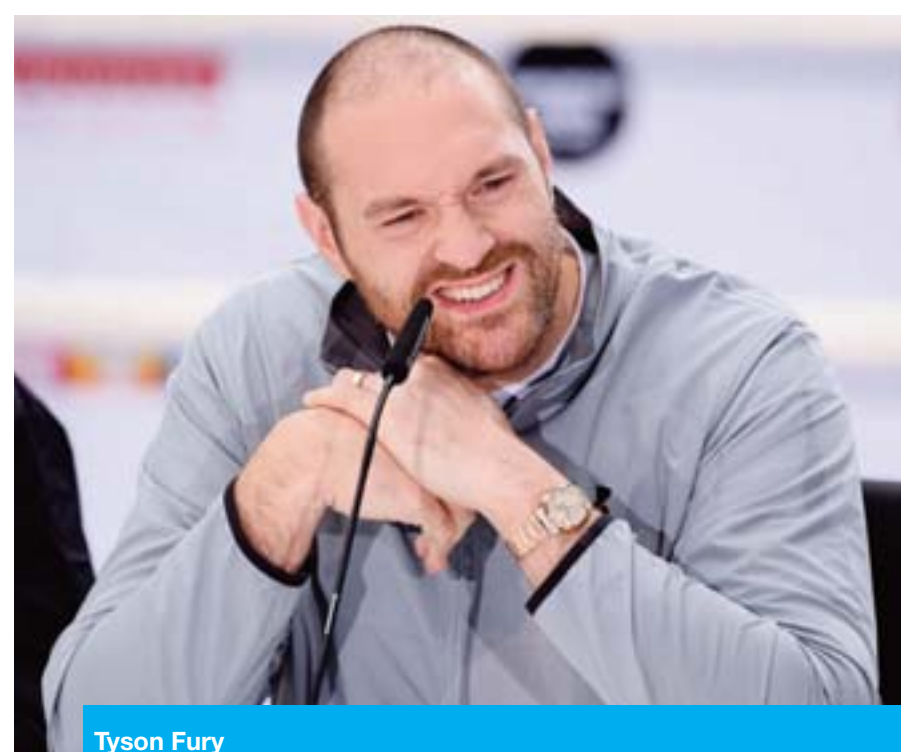
The men's all-around final takes place today with the women's medals decided tomorrow. The apparatus finals medals take place over the weekend. There is no team event at the world championships in the year immediately following an Olympics. —AFP

## Tyson Fury 'will not apply' for new licence

LONDON: Britain's troubled former heavyweight world champion Tyson Fury said yesterday he will not be applying for a new boxing licence. The 29-year-old has not fought since his shock defeat of Vladimir Klitschko to win the WBA, WBO and IBF heavyweight titles in November 2015.

Having twice postponed rematches with Klitschko, the 29-year-old had his licence suspended last October when he admitted he was using cocaine and struggling with depression. Fury had hoped to return to the ring earlier this year but that plan was scuppered when

his UK Anti-Doping hearing was adjourned in May. Not for the first time, the British boxer now appears to have announced he is quitting by saying on Twitter that he will not apply to the British Boxing Board of Control for a licence. "After thinking long & hard about my return I will not be applying for aBBBOCboxinglicense. After the way they have handled stuff. No thanks," he tweeted. Fury was at ringside last month when his cousin Hughie Fury came up short in his bid to take the WBO heavyweight title from champion Joseph Parker in Manchester. — AFP



Tyson Fury