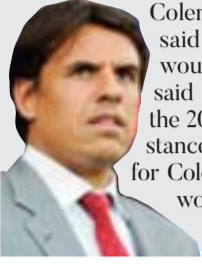


## Sports

## Wales players urge Coleman to stay on

**CARDIFF:** Senior Wales players have urged manager Chris Coleman to stay on despite the heartbreak of failing to qualify for next year's World Cup finals in Russia, a report said yesterday. Britain's Press Association said Coleman met with key players including the injured Gareth Bale at the team hotel following their 1-0 defeat to the Republic of Ireland in Cardiff on Monday. The squad have reportedly given their unanimous support to Coleman and it is also understood that the Football Association of Wales is hoping Coleman extends his near six-year stay at the helm. Coleman said in the immediate aftermath of the Ireland defeat that he would hold talks with the FAW over his future. The manager said after Wales had reached the semi-finals of Euro 2016 that the 2018 World Cup campaign would be his last in charge but his stance appears to have softened. Defender Chris Gunter called for Coleman to stay. "I think everyone in Wales, fans and players, would want to see him stay on 100 percent," he said. —AFP



## Women's soccer championship to be launched today: Hayat

**KUWAIT:** Deputy Chairwoman of the Women Soccer Committee at Kuwait Football Association Fatima Hayat said the committee is witnessing a notable activity, be it under the former transitional committee that was headed by Fawaz Al-Hasawi or the current one under Ibrahim Al-Shihab.

Hayat said that in 2010 former player Farah Boodai organized a league for women football, and materialized at the same time, and continued until now. Hayat said the women's championship will be launched today, (Wednesday), at Jaber stadium with the support of KFA. She said the championship will be of the home and away system, with teams made of seven players only, and the championship will conclude in the middle of March 2018. She said there are plans to hold the championship officially in two years, and each team will have 11 players.

## Dean Jones named as interim Afghan coach

**KABUL:** Former Australia batsman and cricket commentator Dean Jones will coach Afghanistan in their upcoming Hong Kong tour, officials said yesterday, in the latest sign of the team's rising fortunes. Jones, who visited Kabul last month to commentate on the Shpageeza Twenty20 tournament, will take charge for Afghanistan's four-day Intercontinental Cup game from October 20-23, and could become a permanent fixture, the Afghan cricket board said. "(The) Afghanistan Cricket Board has appointed Dean Jones, a prominent former Australian cricketer and commentator, as its head coach for the four-day Intercontinental games in Hong Kong," it said in a statement. "Both parties will consider a long-term agreement after the games," it added. Jones said in a Twitter message that he was happy to lead Afghanistan's cricket team in Hong Kong. "I am pleased to announce that I will be Afghanistan interim Head Coach for their Tour to Hong Kong #shouldbefun," he said. —AFP



# Bellinger and Dodgers beat D-backs 3-1 to return to NLCS

## Astros beat Red Sox in Game 4, advance to ALCS

**PHOENIX:** Rookie Cody Bellinger homered and drove in two runs, Yu Darvish pitched five strong innings, and the Los Angeles Dodgers swept their way into the National League Championship Series with a 3-1 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks in Game 3 of the NL Division Series on Monday. Bellinger and Austin Barnes homered off Zack Greinke (0-1). Darvish (1-0) gave up one run and struck out seven in five-plus innings to send the Dodgers to the NLCS against the winner of the Chicago Cubs-Washington Nationals series. The Cubs beat the Dodgers in six games in the NLCS last year. Bellinger, the likely NL Rookie of the Year, had 39 regular-season homers but was 1-for-12 in the NLDS before his opposite-field homer made it 2-0 in the fifth inning. Barnes' homer gave Darvish a 3-1 lead in the sixth inning, and the Dodgers used four relievers to hold on. Kenley Jansen recorded his second save of the series.



### Yankees look to rally from a 2-0 deficit to win

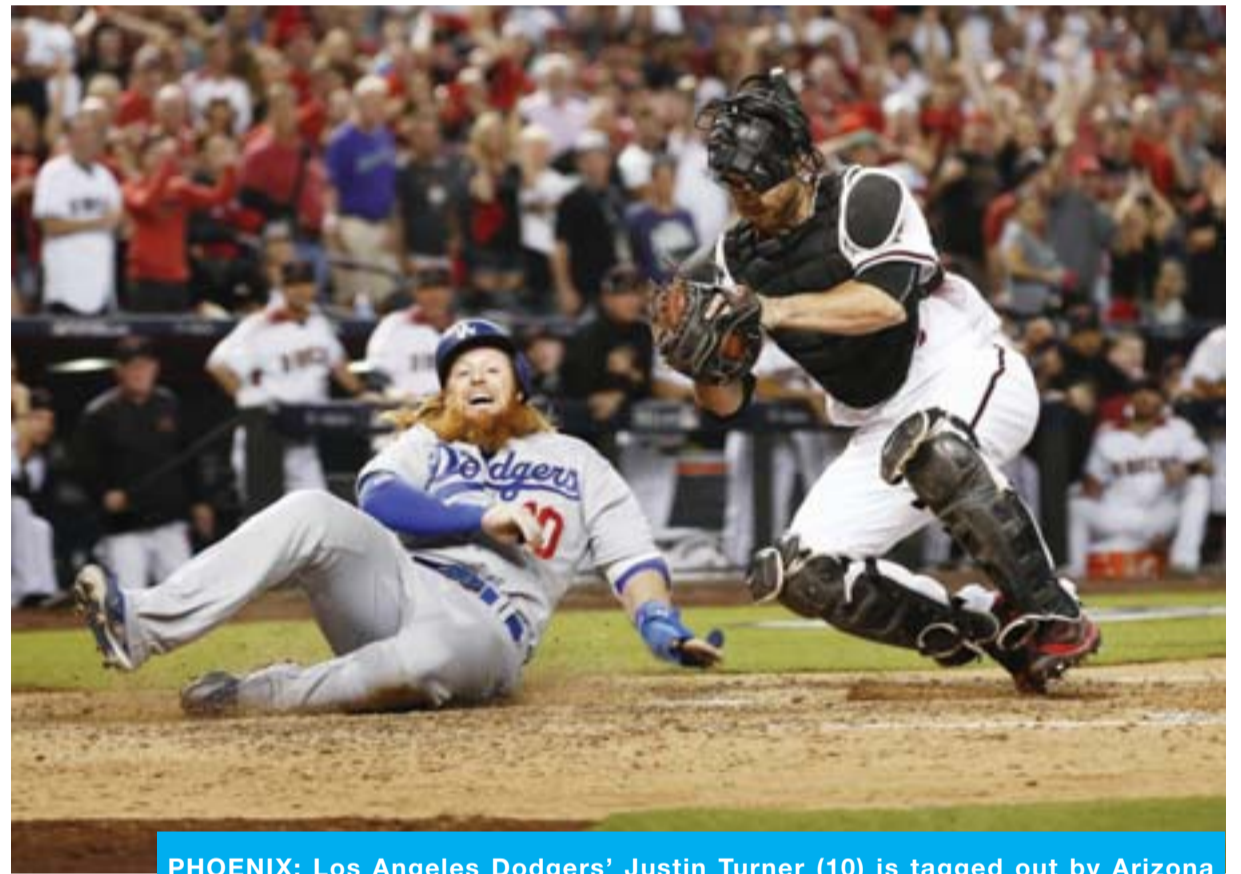
drove in the go-ahead run on a two-out single to left field in the eighth inning off Boston's Craig Kimbrel, who relieved starter-turned-reliever Chris Sale (0-2) in the eighth after Houston tied it.

Evan Gattis reached second on a hard-hit bouncer down the third base line with one out in the inning off Sale, but was sent back to first because it was errantly picked up by a ball girl. After Cameron Maybin entered as a pinch runner for Gattis, George Springer drew a walk off Kimbrel before Reddick's big hit. Pinch hitter Carlos Beltran doubled in a critical two-out insurance run in the ninth. Rafael Devers cut the Astros' deficit to one with an inside-the-park home run, his second of the playoffs, to lead off the Boston ninth against

closer Ken Giles. Giles proceeded to strike out Jackie Bradley Jr. and got Dustin Pedroia to ground out to complete the six-out save.

### CUBS 2, NATIONALS 1

Anthony Rizzo delivered a go-ahead, two-out RBI single in the eighth inning as the Chicago Cubs beat the Washington Nationals 2-1 in Game 3 of the National League Division Series on Monday. The victory gave the defending World Series champions a 2-1 lead in the best-of-five series heading into Game 4 today at Wrigley Field. Rizzo dropped a bloop single into shallow center field off Oliver Perez to score pinch-runner Leonys Martin, who replaced Tommy La Stella after he led off the eighth inning with a walk. Cubs closer Wade Davis preserved the victory with a scoreless ninth inning. Carl Edwards Jr. (1-0) pitched a scoreless eighth for the win. Brandon Kintzler (0-1) took the loss.



**PHOENIX:** Los Angeles Dodgers' Justin Turner (10) is tagged out by Arizona Diamondbacks catcher Chris Iannetta during the ninth inning of game 3 of baseball's National League Division Series against the Arizona Diamondbacks, Monday. —AP

### YANKEES 7, INDIANS 3

Aaron Judge capped a four-run second inning with a two-run double, and New York capitalized on shoddy defense by Cleveland to even the AL Division Series at two games apiece. The decisive Game 5 is Wednesday in Cleveland, where the Indians will be looking to snap a five-game losing streak in elimination games. The

Yankees will look to rally from a 2-0 deficit to win an ALDS for the second time. Yankees starter Luis Severino (1-0) allowed three runs on four hits and a walk in seven innings, pitching most of the night with a sizable lead. After getting one out on Oct. 3 in the AL wild-card game against the Minnesota Twins, he bounced back Monday to strike out nine and throw 113 pitches. — Reuters



Venus Williams

## Venus shakes off rust with cruise against Ozaki

**HONG KONG:** Venus Williams raced through her opening match in the WTA Hong Kong Open yesterday with a 6-2, 6-2 win against Risa Ozaki. The world number five took just 74 minutes to see off Japan's Ozaki in hot and humid conditions in Victoria Park.

It was an ideal way for Williams to shake off any rust in her first match since losing to Sloane Stephens in the US Open semi-final a month ago. Williams punctuated the performance with some trademark power winners and sent down seven aces to overwhelm the world number 95 in just 74 minutes. "Four weeks goes by pretty fast and the first match is never perfect," said Williams, who dropped her own serve twice.

"It was a hard-fought match despite the score and it was a great way to start. I hit a lot of balls and hopefully can play my way into this tournament." Williams, 37 but seemingly ageless, has enjoyed a magnificent season, reaching two Grand Slam finals to qualify for the WTA Tour Finals in Singapore for the first time since 2009. But Williams said

she could not afford to think about the season-ending event in Singapore, which begins in just under two weeks. "It's not here yet. So this tournament is definitely first in my head," she said. "There's a lot of depth in this draw and I'm going to have to work my way through this." The second seed faces another Japanese opponent in Naomi Osaka in the second round. Osaka overcame Chilean qualifier Alexa Guarachi 7-5, 6-4 in their first-round encounter yesterday.

World number 19 Elena Vesnina of Russia became the first seed to crash out when she was stunned 6-3, 6-4 by Thailand's world number 130 Luksika Kumkhum. Kumkhum ousted the fifth seed in just 69 minutes and will face China's Wang Qiang in the second round.

Fourth seed Agnieszka Radwanska swept past local wildcard Zhang Ling 6-1, 6-2 to set up a second-round meeting with former US Open champion Sam Stosur. The Polish world number 18 was below her best, managing to land just 56 percent of first serves, but a double break in each set was enough for her to win in just 69 minutes on her Hong Kong debut.

"I've known Sam for many years, although we didn't play for a while. I think it's going to be a really good match," Radwanska told reporters. Australian seventh seed Daria Gavrilova set up a match against Shelby Rogers of the US in the second round after coming through in straight sets against qualifier Miyu Kato of Japan 6-1, 7-6 (7/4). Sixth seed Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia also progressed safely with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Timea Babos of Hungary and will face American qualifier Jacqueline Cako. — AFP

## Kyrgios walks out on match in Shanghai after losing first set

**SHANGHAI:** A year after being fined for "tanking" a match at the Shanghai Masters, Nick Kyrgios quit another one altogether. The temperamental Australian argued several times with the chair umpire during his first-round match against Steve Johnson yesterday. After losing the tiebreaker 7-6 (5), Kyrgios shook hands with Johnson at the net and then with the chair umpire before packing his bags and walking off court.

Serving at 30-30 in the 12th game of the first set, a forehand by Kyrgios was called out. The Australian challenged the call and it was overruled. Kyrgios then hit two balls in anger and was assessed a code violation warning. At the change of ends in the tiebreaker, Kyrgios was leading 4-2 but was annoyed that fans were being allowed to come into the court. Kyrgios lost the next point and then started to complain and curse, which earned him an audible obscenity code violation. He was docked a point, which made the score 4-4.

When the set was done, so was Kyrgios. He left the court without explanation, avoided a news conference, and took to Twitter to firstly apologize for his actions then give his reasons.

"I've been battling a stomach bug for the past 24 hours and I tried to be ready but I was really struggling on the court today which I think was pretty evident from the first point," he wrote. "My shoulder started to hurt in the practice today which didn't help either and once I lost the first set I was just not strong enough to continue because I've not eaten much the past 24 hours." The ATP said it was investigating. Kyrgios added he would decide today whether to play his scheduled doubles. Last year, Kyrgios was suspended by the men's tour for tanking a match and insulting fans following a second-round loss to German qualifier Mischa Zverev at the Shanghai Masters. Kyrgios gave little effort during the 6-3, 6-1 loss, even patting easy serves over the net and turning away before his oppo-



**BEIJING:** Nick Kyrgios of Australia during his men's singles championship match. — AP

nent's serve crossed the net.

Kyrgios arrived in Shanghai this time after losing the China Open final to Rafael Nadal 6-2, 6-1 on Sunday. Also, John Isner beat Serbian qualifier Dusan Lajovic 4-6, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (6) on a day with temperatures soaring past 32 degrees C (90 degrees F).

"The conditions were brutal," Isner said. "It felt like Atlanta in August. That could've been the hottest match I played all year." American Jack Sock, the 14th seed, retired in his match because of dehydration with Ukrainian qualifier Alexandr Dolgoplov leading 4-6, 6-1, 2-1.

Also, Marin Cilic, a Wimbledon finalist this year, defeated Kyle Edmund of Britain 6-3, 7-6 (5) in the second round. Juan Martin del Potro also made the third round. US Open finalist Kevin Anderson began by defeating Adrian Mannarino 6-3, 6-1, and Ryan Harrison of the US beat local wild card Zhang Ze 6-2, 6-3. — AP