

## Sports

# Amir's eighth International Shooting Grand Prix concludes

Kuwait tops medal table with 4 gold, two silver and three bronze



Osaimi, Otaibi, Luciano Rossi with the winners.



Kuwait winning team on the podium.

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Eighth International Shooting Grand Prix concluded on Thursday with the skeet event, as Kuwait shooters dominated the qualifying rounds with five out of six entering the medals rounds. The final round saw Bahrain's Tammam Al-Awatt exiting first leaving the five Kuwaitis competing against each other, with Abdelaziz Al-Faihan exiting in fifth place then Faisal Theyab in fourth competition for the medals was tough before Mansour Al-Rashidi scoring a total of 52 targets, followed by Abdallah Al-Torqi who hit 47 targets and Saud Habib hitting 39 targets.

As for the women's competitions Eman Al-Shammaa won the gold medal followed by Qatar's Sarah Mohammad and the bronze medal went to Kazakhstan's Olga Panarina.

With the result, Kuwait tops the medals table with 4 gold, two silver and three bronze. Kuwait was followed by Serbia which secured four gold and two silver, Saudi Arabia with one gold and one silver, Oman also with one gold and one silver, Italy with one silver and one bronze, Armenia one silver, Bulgaria, Egypt, Bahrain and Qatar one bronze each. The closing ceremony was attended by President of Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations, President of Italian Shooting Federation Luciano Rossi, Secretary General of Arab and Kuwait

Shooting Federations and other dignitaries.

Secretary General of Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations Obaid Al-Osaimi appreciated the unlimited support HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Kuwait shooting and the tournaments that are hosted by Kuwait, as this plays the major role in the achievements and successes that are being achieved. Al-Osaimi conveyed thanks on behalf of the Chairman and Board Members to HH the Amir, HH the Crown Prince for supporting Kuwait shooting which had Kuwait flag flying high in all international arenas.

Al-Osaimi pointed to the success of HH the Amir 8th tournament, adding that all participating countries lauded the tournament's success, which increases Kuwait Shooting Federations responsibility in the tournaments to be organized later.

Al-Osaimi also lauded the achievements of Kuwait shooters in the tournament which means the sport is moving on the right path, to reach and make more achievements in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

Kuwait Shooting Sport Club Treasurer Essa Butaiban said HH the Amir Grand Prix achieved the success that was hoped for. He said Kuwait Shooting Federation always aim at being successful all the time, while having Kuwait shooters always at the ready through organizing and participating in major tournaments, which previously led to winning world championships and Olympic medals.

All participating countries lauded tournament's success

## Scott, Thomas lead at rain-hit Riviera

**LOS ANGELES:** Australia's Adam Scott and American Justin Thomas topped the leaderboard at 10-under par on Friday when darkness halted play in the second round of the weather-disrupted Genesis Open.

Scott and Thomas both posted five-under par 66s on Friday, and each was five-under for the second round when darkness fell on another rainy day at Riviera Country Club, where organizers were scrambling to get the tournament back on track for today's finish after a seven-hour weather delay on Thursday.

Tournament host Tiger Woods made little headway on the marathon day, struggling with the putter in a one-under first round and still one-under, tied for 55th, through 12 holes of the second.

"It was a tough day," Woods said. "I'm stiff right now. It got pretty chilly towards the end, the ball wasn't going very far." Woods strung together four birdies in a row in the middle of his first round, but his troubles on the greens kept him from building any momentum.

"I putted awful today," said Woods, whose 44-foot eagle putt at his 10th

hole in the second round was an anomaly on a day when he hit 17 of 18 greens in regulation in the first round but had four three-putt bogeys.

No sooner had the eagle enlivened his round than he had two straight bogeys before play ended. "I didn't hit it that bad, felt like I controlled it well enough and just a terrible day on the greens," he said.

Despite the long day in tough conditions, Woods noted that plenty of players—more than 70—were under par. "You have to go get it, and JT did it and I just wasn't able to do it," Woods said, lauding playing partner Thomas.

"He made tough conditions look easy," Woods said. Thomas totalled 14 birdies in his day's 30 holes—seven in the first round and seven through 12 holes in the second. "I'm just proud of myself the way I fought out there today," he said.

Thomas and Scott were one stroke clear of J.B. Holmes, who led after a first-round 63 highlighted by a hole in one at the par-three sixth. "It was awesome to see that," Holmes said of the ace, which landed past the hole and spun back some 20 feet. "I wanted to get it past the hole because I knew how much they were coming back. Hit it exactly how I wanted it and it went in." At nine-under with nine to play, Holmes was two strokes in front of Luke List, who was seven under with three to play, and American Jordan Spieth—who was seven-under and due to tee off in the second round on Saturday along with



PACIFIC PALISADES: Adam Scott of Australia hits a chip on the 12th hole during the second round of the Genesis Open at Riviera Country Club on Friday in Pacific Palisades, California. —AFP

half the field.

Spieth added two more birdies to a bogey-free 64 as he played the last six holes of his first round on Friday morning before having the afternoon off. Scott, no stranger to disruptive weather at Riviera where he won the title in a 2005 edition shortened to 36 holes, said maintaining momentum amid the starts

and stops was tricky.

He played 25 holes without a bogey before dropping a shot at his eighth hole of the second round—the 17th, but fired back-to-back birdies before play was halted. "I just got the momentum going and I kept it going," Scott said. "I wasn't really in much trouble, but I up-and-downed it when I had to." —AFP

## Swede Langfors grabs lead at European Tour's World Super 6

**PERTH:** Little-known Swede Per Langfors hit a stunning 64 to be the outright leader after 54 holes at the European Tour's World Super 6 in Perth yesterday. Langfors, playing in only his fifth event at his level,

compiled the round of the day, sinking seven birdies and an eagle, offset by a bogey on the 13th.

He was 10 under for the tournament which under its innovative rules has seen three days of stroke play, cutting the field, with only the top 24 players qualifying for today. They will now go head-to-head in six hole knockout matchplay to decide a winner at the Lake Karrinyup Country Club. A bonus for the top eight on the leaderboard was a bye into the second round on day four.

That means the remaining 16 players are split into eight matches, with half of them getting knocked out of the tournament in the first round. The winners are then paired against the eight players who enjoyed a bye.

"It feels really good, I'm excited for the matchplay," said Langfors, who played for four years on the Nordic

League in Sweden before coming through qualifying to make his European Tour debut last year.

"It's so fun, I mean I'm just enjoying every second of it." He topped Ireland's Paul Dunne, Norway's Kristoffer Reitan and Australian Brad Kennedy by a stroke, with a group of four players including Belgian World Cup winner Thomas Pieters a shot further back.

Like Langfors, Reitan was a big mover, carding a seven-under-par 65, while Dunne stroked a 66. "The main goal today was just get into the matchplay, so it was nice to have done that," said Dunne, who won the British Masters in 2017.

"I like the idea of the format. It's intense, which is good. I think I will be mentally sharp right from the get-go in the morning and just try and make as many putts as I can." —AFP

## Penalty tries save Crusaders as Foley miss costs Waratahs

**WELLINGTON:** The Canterbury Crusaders needed two penalty tries to launch their Super Rugby title defence with victory over the Blues yesterday, while Bernard Foley missed a last gasp penalty as the Waratahs fell to the Hurricanes.

The Blues, on home ground in Auckland, were twice forced into crucial errors during the tense encounter when their forwards were under pressure on their own line as they succumbed 24-22.

Debutant Harry Plummer missed chances to level or snatch victory for the Blues just before full-time when a conversion and penalty both went wide.

"We just had a little bit of luck there at the end, which you need sometimes," said relieved Crusaders skipper Matt Todd. "Both teams scored good tries when they got down in the opposition ends. So we just had to make sure we were the last one's to get points."

Canterbury led 12-3 at the break before an explosive second-half start saw the Blues score twice for a 17-12 lead. But they could not maintain the momentum. "We weren't clinical enough in certain areas," said a frustrated Blues captain Patrick Tuipulotu. "When we took our shot we came off second best."

The Blues, looking a much more polished outfit after their second-last finish last season, dominated possession in the first half. But even without senior All Blacks Kieran Read, Sam Whitelock and Codie Taylor, the Crusaders broke ahead early with two tries.

The first to right wing Manasa Mataele from a Bryn Hall cross kick and the second was a penalty try when the Blues collapsed a lineup drive. The Blues opened the second half with Akira Ioane finishing off a 60-metre counter-attack for their opening try. Ofa Tu'ungafasi crashed over minutes later in a wake-up call for the Crusaders.

A George Bridge break sent Mataele over for his second try and then a monster Crusaders scrum forced the home side to concede a second penalty try before replacement Blues scrum-half Augustine Pulu narrowed the gap.

In Sydney, the gutsy Hurricanes edged past the Wallaby-laden Waratahs 20-19. Foley overtook Matt Burke's all-time 959-point scoring record for the New South Wales team, but ended up the villain by missing a crucial penalty two minutes from time that would have won the game.

"We came up against a tough team," said Hurricanes skipper TJ Perenara. "But we were down the end of the field for a large part of that second half and we applied pressure and that's what got us there in the end." —AFP