

Photo of the Day



Participants perform during Red Bull Neymar Jr's Five Qualifier in the UAE. — Photo taken from www.redbullcontentpool.com

Kuwait's Rashidi wins gold at shooting world cup

LONATO: International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) congratulated Kuwait for the latest achievement of shooter Talal Al-Turki Al-Rashidi, who won the gold medal at the ISSF World Cup Shotgun in Lonato, Italy. Kuwait's delegation said ISSF President Vladimir Lisin and Secretary General Alexandar Ranter congratulated President of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Duaj Al-Otaibi for this important win, which further boosts Kuwait's shooting status.

The ISSF officials mentioned Kuwait's qualifying for the Tokyo Olympics with four shooters - Abdulrahman Al-Faihan, Talal Al-Turki, Saud Habib and Mansour Al-Rashidi. Meanwhile, Italian Shooting Federation President Luciano Rossi lauded Kuwait's shooting school and outstanding performances.

Turki was proud with this success and thanked those caring for the sport of shooting in Kuwait. He appreciated the support of Public Authority for Sports Director General Humoud Fulaiteh and all those who support the sport. — KUNA



LONATO: Talal Al-Rashidi (left) receives his gold medal. — KUNA

Fury-Joshua in jeopardy over Wilder rematch order: Reports

LOS ANGELES: Tyson Fury's heavyweight unification fight with Anthony Joshua could be put on hold after an independent arbitrator ruled that the WBC heavyweight champion must face former champion Deontay Wilder in a rematch.

Retired judge Daniel Weinstein upheld a claim lodged by Wilder that Fury must face him in a third fight by September 15 following their February 2020 title battle. While the arbitrator's ruling is not a formal court order, it would be deemed enforceable by courts if Wilder and Fury are unable to reach agree-

ment. Fury's promoter Frank Warren told the BBC yesterday he hoped Wilder would, for a lucrative fee, agree to step aside and allow the bout to go ahead.

"Until we can reach an accommodation with Deontay Wilder's people, I can't say that (Fury's fight with Joshua) will definitely happen," said Warren. "But we are working hard to get that over the line. We were talking last night and hopefully we can do that. If not then Tyson, if he wishes, will go to the fight with Wilder. They're the only two options."

Anthony Joshua's promoter Eddie Hearn was left

fuming by the latest glitch, blaming Fury's camp for being complacent over the arbitration hearing. "We can't wait around," Hearn said on his company Matchroom's social media channels. "We had a deal in place with Tyson Fury and we were told the arbitration wouldn't be an issue, that we could move on with this fight. They were wrong and that's on them, that's their responsibility and their problem. We hope they can solve that problem, but we have to look after ourselves and Anthony Joshua. We have to maintain the position of unified world champion, and those talks will continue and we want to be in a position by the end of this week to know, are we fighting Tyson Fury or are we moving forward with another option."

Monday's ruling comes just a day after Fury announced he had agreed to fight Joshua in Saudi Arabia on August 14 where the WBC, WBA, IBF and WBO heavyweight belts will be up for grabs. "Massive announcement FURY VS JOSHUA IS ON AUGUST 14 in The kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The worlds (sic) biggest sporting event all eyes on us," Fury wrote on Twitter, describing the bout as "100 percent on".

Weinstein's ruling on Monday did not grant Wilder any monetary damages and also said an extension to the September 15 deadline was permissible if both the Wilder and Fury camps could reach agreement.

Wilder's camp had argued their fighter had a contractual right to a third fight with Fury. But after delays caused by the coronavirus pandemic led to last July's contest being postponed, Wilder's team sought to move the bout to 2021. Fury refused the 2021 date and said he would move on which prompted the mediation.

Neither Fury nor Wilder have fought since clashing in Las Vegas in February last year, where Fury outclassed the previously unbeaten American to win via a seventh-round technical knockout. The two fighters had previously clashed at the Staples Center in Los Angeles in 2018, battling to an epic draw after Fury survived a 12th round knockdown. — AFP



LAS VEGAS: In this file photo Tyson Fury punches Deontay Wilder during their Heavyweight bout for Wilder's WBC and Fury's lineal heavyweight title on February 22, 2020 at MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada. — AFP

Tokyo doctors association calls for Olympics cancellation

TOKYO: A Japanese doctors' group has urged the cancellation of the Olympics, even as Games organizers reported a surplus of applications from medics to volunteer at the virus-postponed event. With less than 10 weeks until the Tokyo Games begin and as Japan battles a surge in infections, public opinion remains strongly opposed to the event going ahead this summer.

But Olympic officials say it can be safely held with COVID-19 countermeasures and point to successful test events, including some featuring overseas athletes. An association of around 6,000 doctors working in Tokyo said they were "struggling with the fourth wave" of virus cases, calling it the largest so far.

"Cancelling an event that has the potential to increase the number of infections and deaths is the right choice," the group said in a statement on Monday. It urged the government and Games organiz-

ers to consult the International Olympic Committee with the aim of cancelling the event.

The statement came after a separate union of Japanese hospital doctors warned last week that holding the 2020 Games safely was "impossible". Japan's virus outbreak has been relatively small, with around



TOKYO: A woman takes part in a protest against the hosting of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games in front of the Japan Olympic Museum in the headquarters building of the Japanese Olympic Committee in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

11,500 deaths, but its vaccine rollout is moving slowly and the latest spike in cases has medics warning of shortages and burnout.

The government on Friday expanded a virus state of emergency that will be in force until the end of May, less than two months before the Games open on July 23. Tokyo 2020 organizers said yesterday that nearly double the required number of certified sports medics had applied to volunteer at competition venues and in the athletes' village.

Controversy had previously surrounded the organizers' request for the services of 500 nurses, which sparked accusations of diverting crucial medical resources. More than 80 percent of people in Japan want the Tokyo Olympics to be cancelled or postponed again, according to the latest poll by the Asahi Shimbun daily.

At a shooting test event yesterday, top Games official Yasuo Mori said the knowledge gained at such rehearsals would be used to update virus rulebooks for athletes and other participants. "Throughout the test events, only a few people tested positive for the virus, and we were able to go through procedures at the airport smoothly," he said. "However... there were a relatively smaller number of people than will be at the Olympics, so we will have to discuss how we manage the Olympics in the summer." — AFP

News in brief

Cantona into HOF

LONDON: Manchester United legend Eric Cantona says he is "proud" but "not surprised" to be inducted into the English Premier League Hall of Fame. The 54-year-old former France international joins Alan Shearer and fellow Frenchman Thierry Henry in being named. Cantona, who began his career in England at Leeds, scored 70 goals in 156 Premier League appearances and won four titles in five seasons for Manchester United. He was also instrumental in Leeds winning the last ever First Division title in 1991/92. — AFP

Kroos ruled out

MADRID: Real Madrid's German midfielder Toni Kroos has tested positive for COVID-19, which rules him out of the decisive final league game of the season this weekend. Real are second in La Liga, two points behind city rivals Atletico Madrid with a single game against Villarreal on Saturday remaining. Kroos had been self-isolating after being in contact with someone with the virus but has now tested positive himself. — AFP

River Plate in trouble

BUENOS AIRES: Argentine club River Plate reported six more COVID-19 cases among players and staff on Monday, leaving the club struggling to raise a side for this week's Copa Libertadores group clash with Colombia's Sante Fe. The new cases came after 15 players tested positive for COVID-19 ahead of Sunday's Argentinian League Cup game with arch-rivals Boca Juniors, won by Boca on penalties after a 1-1 draw. The outbreak means River coach Marcelo Gallardo currently has only 10 fit players — and no goalkeeper — available for the Libertadores game in Buenos Aires. — AFP

Kuwaiti for FINA seat

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Hussain Al-Musallam looks set to become the new chief of swimming's world governing body FINA, after his only challenger pulled out of upcoming elections for the top spot. The withdrawal of Italy's Paolo Barello, who declared his support for Musallam, the Asian Swimming Federation's candidate, means the Kuwaiti sexagenarian is almost certain to claim the FINA top seat, he said on Monday. FINA's elections take place next month. — KUNA

Arrests over burglary

VERSAILLES: Four suspects were arrested yesterday as part of the investigation into the burglary at the home of Paris Saint-Germain defender Marquinhos in March, the Versailles prosecutor's office said. The four suspects in custody, aged 17, 20, 28 and 29, were arrested in Paris and its suburbs, the prosecutor's office told AFP. The burglary occurred on March 14, while PSG were losing to Nantes at the Parc des Princes in Ligue 1. A gang broke into the PSG captain's home in the Yvelines, west of Paris, while members of his family were there. — AFP