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Sports Nation

"I m so happy with this win. Dubai Kartdrome is where I started karting so this track will always remain close to my heart. I got limited running in preparation for this race, but nonetheless I was still able to be on pace. Big thanks to my sponsors AKCEL Academy for all their support,"
- Atiqa Mir, Indian racing's 10-year-old prodigy

World Boxing C'ships

Jaismine, Minakshi Clinch gold medals

Liverpool

JAISMINE Lamboria and Minakshi Hooda cemented their place in Indian boxing history here, clinching World Championship titles with gritty wins as the country capped off its best-ever campaign in the women's section on foreign soil.

Jaismine outclassed Paris Olympics silver medallist Julia Szeremeta of Poland in the 57kg summit clash late on Saturday night, prevailing 4-1 on the judges' scorecards (30-27, 29-28, 30-27, 28-29, 29-28) to end her stupendous campaign with a golden flourish.

"I have no words to describe how I am feeling," Jaismine told PTI.

"I had got out in the quarterfinals in the previous two Worlds, but I got the boost from the World Cup win and I decided I want to win one-sided matches. I just concentrated on my strategy and game."

Debutant Minakshi followed suit a day later on Sunday, out-punching Paris Olympics bronze medallist Nazym Kyzaibay of Kazakhstan by the same margin in the 48kg final to exact revenge for her World Cup loss in July.

Adding to the glory were Nupur Sheoran (80+kg) and the seasoned Pooja Rani (80kg), who signed off with silver and bronze medals respectively, in non-Olympic weight categories.

India thus ended with a haul of four medals, the best-ever in an overseas edition. With their victories, Jaismine and Minakshi joined an illustrious list of Indian world champions featuring six-time winner Mary Kom, two-time champion Nikhat Zareen, Sarita Devi, Jenny RL, Lekha KC, Nitu Ghanghas, Lovlina Borgohain and Saweety Boora.

Nupur walked away with silver after a narrow 2-3 defeat to Poland's technically astute Agata Kaczmarska. Pooja signed off with a bronze medal after going down to local favourite Emily Asquith by a 1-4 split verdict in the 80kg semifinals. (PTI)

INDIA SIGN OFF WITH 4 MEDALS

History made as 10-yr-old Indian Atiqa wins UAE race

Dubai

INDIAN racing's 10-year-old prodigy Atiqa Mir on Sunday created history by becoming the first woman in UAE karting to win a race in the Minimax category.

In a competitive field of 14 drivers including seasoned European race winners, Atiqa was the lone female but that was hardly a factor as she completed a commanding victory from pole position in the prestigious DAMC Championship opener at the Dubai Kartdrome.

In the finals, Atiqa kept it clean and within track limits to cross the chequered flag before anyone else. The win makes her the first ever female to take a pole and a final win in the MiniMax category, marking a perfect start to her Middle Eastern Karting leg.

Recognising her rare talent, Formula 1 had signed her for its F1 Academy DYD program earlier this year, another first for an Indian driver.

"Im so happy with this win. Dubai Kartdrome is where I started karting so this track will always remain close to my heart. I got limited running in preparation for this race, but nonetheless I was still able to be on pace. Big thanks to my sponsors AKCEL Academy for all their support," said Atiqa.

Fresh off a successful European season, Atiqa was in Dubai for a quick stop and will head to Slovakia next for Champions of the Future Academy Round 4 where she drives for the F1 DYD program. (PTI)

World Wrestling: Aman disqualified; Deepak, Vikash, Amit bow out

ZAGREB (CROATIA): India's campaign at the World Wrestling Championships suffered a huge setback on Sunday after Paris Olympics bronze medallist Aman Sehrawat was disqualified for failing to make weight and Deepak Punia bowed out along with two others, here.

Aman, competing in the 57kg men's freestyle, was found to be 1.7kg overweight during the official weigh-in and was forced to withdraw before taking the mat, ending his challenge without a bout.

The 2019 world championship medallist Deepak, competing in non-Olympic 92kg weight category, began with a commanding 6-1 victory over Austria's Benjamin Geril but lost the next bout 3-4 to Azerbaijan's Osman Nurmagomedov.

Meghana wins maiden ISSF WC medal, India end fifth

Ningbo (China)

INDIA'S Meghana Sajjanar clinched her first-ever World Cup medal, a bronze in the women's 10m air rifle, as the country finished fifth in the season-ending ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol.

In her first World Cup final in eight years, Meghana shot 230.0 to secure bronze behind Norwegian Jeanette Hegg Duestad, who won silver. The event was dominated by China's rising star Peng Xinlu, who shattered the world record with a score of 255.3, bettering compatriot Wang Zifei's 254.8.

On Saturday, Esha Singh gave India their first gold medal of the event in the women's 10m air pistol.

China topped the tally with three golds, while Norway came away second with two golds in their kitty, of the 10 available.

Early on Sunday morning, Meghana shot a solid 632.7 in the second qualification rally to claim the seventh spot, while Peng topped with a superlative 637.4.

The Chinese began the 24-shot final with a perfect 10.9 as Meghana lay at the bottom of the eight-woman field after the first series of five single shots.

A strong second series of 52.3 moved her up to sixth and over the next 10 single shots, the experienced Indian shot nothing less than 10.2, including a crucial 10.9 for her 12th, to ensure her first ever medal at this level.

Among other Indian contenders on the day, Paris bronze medalist Swapnil Kusale, shot a steady 587 to finish 21st overall and 19th among medal contenders. Babu Singh Panwar was further back with a score of 583.

In the women's air rifle, Olympian Ramita Jindal shot 629.8 to finish 22nd overall and 16th among contenders, while Kashika Pradhan shot 626.6. (PTI)

Australia beat India by 8 wkts in first Women's ODI

MULLANPUR (PUNJAB): Opener Phoebe Litchfield and Beth Mooney struck excellent half-centuries in a dominant batting display as Australia beat India by eight wickets in the first Women's ODI of the three-match series here on Sunday.

Batting first, India posted a competitive 281 for seven but Australia rode on Litchfield's 80-ball 88 and Mooney's unbeaten 74-ball 77 to complete the task in 44.1 overs on a day when the Indians left a lot to be desired with their ground fielding and catching.

Annabel Sutherland chipped in with an unbeaten 54 in 51 balls.

Earlier, India were well-served by half-centuries from Pratika Rawal (64 off 96 balls), Smriti Mandhana (58 off 63), and Harleen Deol (54 off 57) after skipper Harmanpreet Kaur opted to bat in her 150th match in this format.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY ASIA CUP

India lose final 1-4 to China, miss out on direct WC berth

HANGZHOU (CHINA): The Indian women's hockey team faltered when it mattered the most, losing 1-4 to China in the final of Asia Cup to miss out on direct qualification for next year's World Cup, here on Sunday.

India drew the first blood through a penalty corner conversion by Navneet Kaur in the very first minute itself before China came into their own, scoring through Zixia Ou (21st minute), Hong Li (41st), Meirong Zou (51st) and Jiaqi Zhong (53rd) to win their third title in tournament and secure their passage to the 2026 World Cup, to be held in Belgium and Netherlands.

India got their first scoring chance within 39 seconds of the start of the match in the form of a penalty corner and Navneet was on target to hand her side an early lead.

Three minutes later, China had a bright chance to draw level when they earned back-to-back penalty corners, but the Indians defended brilliantly.

China had earlier won the Asia Cup in 1989 in Hong Kong and 2009 in Bangkok.

Over 2 lakh likely to appear for teacher recruitment tests in Bengal

Kolkata

AROUND 2.46 lakh candidates are expected to appear for SSC exams on Sunday for the recruitment of assistant teachers for classes 11 and 12 in the West Bengal government-aided schools, officials said.

The School Level Selection Test (SLST) will be conducted at 478 centres across the state, they said.

On September 7, 3.19 lakh candidates had appeared for the first phase of the tests for the recruitment of assistant teachers for classes 9 and 10 at 636 centres, the officials said.

These exams are being conducted by the West Bengal School Service Commission after around 26,000 school teachers and non-teaching staffers lost their jobs as per the direction of the Supreme Court, which stated that their recruitment process held in 2016 was "tainted and vitiated".

The West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) has introduced certain unique identification security features on each question paper to monitor candidates.

The apex court had directed the WBSSC to ensure that teachers who cleared the 2016 exams through unscrupulous means are not allowed to appear in the fresh recruitment process.

Subsequently, the names of 1,806 such 'tainted' teachers were announced by the WBSSC.

In view of security measures, every candidate has been asked to turn up at the centres from 10 am onwards, two hours before the start of the exam.

No electronic devices or mobile phones have been allowed, WBSSC Chairman Siddhartha Majumdar said. Venue supervisors and even SSC officials are also not being allowed inside the exam halls with phones. (PTI)

'Hindi should be language of science, judiciary, and police'

Gandhinagar

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said there was no conflict between Hindi and other Indian languages, and stressed that it should not just serve as a spoken tongue but must also become a language of science, technology, the judiciary, and police.

Addressing the inaugural session of the 5th Akhil Bharatiya Rajbhasha Sammelan, Shah said Indians must preserve their languages and make them "immortal", urging parents to speak to children in their mother tongue.

"There is no conflict between Hindi and other Indian languages. Learned men like Dayanand Saraswati, Mahatma Gandhi, KM Munshi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and many others accepted Hindi and promoted it. Gujarat, where Gujarati and Hindi have coexisted, is an excellent example of the development of both languages," he said.

The Union minister said, "Hindi is not just a spoken language or a language of administration. Hindi should also be the language of science, technology, justice and police. When all these works are done in Indian languages, then the connection with the public is automatically established."

Shah said that while Sanskrit has given us "the Ganga of knowledge, and Hindi has taken this knowledge to every home, and that knowledge has reached every person through our local languages."

He said parents must always speak to children in their mother tongues.

"This is very important for the child's future, as many psychologists and educationists have confirmed that a child thinks in his mother tongue. ... As soon as you impose a language other than the mother tongue on a child, 25 to 30 per cent of his mind's capacity will be spent in translating it," Shah said.

He further said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has worked to strengthen local languages through various types of technology, and the Home Ministry has created Bhartiya Bhasha Anubhag (Indian languages department), which will promote Hindi and other languages.

"For this, we are using science and technology a lot," he said. PTI)

Ukrainian drones strike one of Russia's top oil refineries

MOSCOW: Ukrainian drones overnight struck one of Russia's largest oil refineries, sparking a fire, according to Russian officials and Ukraine's military.

The strike on the Kirishi refinery, in Russia's northwestern Leningrad region, follows weeks of Ukrainian attacks on Russian oil infrastructure that Kyiv says fuels Moscow's war effort. The facility produces close to 17.7 million metric tonnes per year, or 355,000 barrels per day, of crude.

According to Ukraine's General Staff, explosions and a fire were reported at the site. It posted a photo appearing to show a blaze and clouds of smoke against a night sky.

Regional Gov. Alexander Drozdenko said three drones were downed overnight in the Kirishi area, with falling debris sparking a fire at the facility. He said no one was injured, and the blaze was put out. Russian officials did not immediately commented on the consequences of the strike.

Pahalgam victim's daughter calls for India-Pak match boycott

Pune

ASAVARI Jagdale, whose father Santosh Jagdale was one of the 26 people who lost their lives in the Pahalgam terror attack, called for the boycott of the India-Pakistan Asia Cup cricket match scheduled to be held in Dubai on Sunday.

India and Pakistan will face off on Sunday evening in what will be the first match between the traditional rivals since the escalation of the border conflict in May, when India struck terror infrastructure in the neighbouring country following the Pahalgam attack on April 22.

According to the government's new sports policy, India will not play bilateral contests against Pakistan, but will continue to face them in multilateral tournaments such as the ongoing Asia Cup and ICC events.

Talking to PTI, Asavari said, "I feel that today's match should not take place. Just over five months ago, the Pahalgam attack claimed 26 lives. And after all this, if the BCCI still thinks that they should go ahead with the match, then it is wrong."

Asavari was at Baisaran Valley with her parents when terrorists gunned down her father and their family friend, Kaustubh Ganbote.

She said that allowing the match would amount to playing with the emotions of the victims' families.

"I feel deep shame for those who are ready to play, those who organise the game, and those who will cheer this evening, forgetting the Pahalgam attack, the sacrifices of soldiers, and countless such attacks over the years," she said. (PTI)

SENA (UBT) STAGES PROTESTS

MUMBAI: The Shiv Sena (UBT) members on Sunday raised slogans and even destroyed a television set as part of their protests in different parts of Maharashtra against the India-Pakistan Asia Cup cricket match scheduled in Dubai. On Saturday, Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray said the cricket match between India and Pakistan in Dubai is an insult to national sentiments. The former state chief minister had also appealed to people not to watch the match and said his party's women workers will collect sindoor (vermilion) and send it to the Prime Minister's Office. Following his opposition to the match, the Sena (UBT) on Sunday organised 'Majha Kunku Majha Desh' campaign in Mumbai. "We will send these items (sindoor and other items used by a married woman) through official means, through post, not only from Mumbai, but from across Maharashtra to the PM's Office," Sena (UBT) leader and former Mumbai mayor Kishori Pednekar told reporters.

2 new security camps set up in Naxal-hit Bijapur

RAIPUR: Two new CRPF camps have been set up at strategically important locations in Chhattisgarh's Naxalite-hit Bijapur district to address the security vacuum and facilitate development works, police said on Sunday. With this, 36 security camps have been set up in the district since January 2024.

During this period, 193 Maoists have been neutralised, 496 surrendered, and 900 were arrested, Bijapur Superintendent of Police Jitendra Kumar Yadav told PTI. The setting up of camps is aimed at providing basic facilities and security to villagers under the Chhattisgarh government's "Niyad Nella Nar" (your good village) scheme, he said. While one 'Surakhsa evam Jan Suvidha Camp' (security and public facility camp) was established in Ullur village by district police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on September 9, another one was set up in Chillamarka village on September 11, both located under Bhopalpatnam police station limits, he said.