"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

# Sports Nation

# **World Boxing C'ships**

# Jaismine, Minakshi Clinch gold medals

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

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

**World Wrestling:** 

Deepak, Vikash,

Amit bow out

Aman disqualified;

ZAGREB (CROATIA): In-

dia's campaign at the World

Wrestling Championships

suffered a huge setback on

pics bronze medallist Aman

Sehrawat was disqualified

for failing to make weight

and Deepak Punia bowed

out along with two others,

57kg men's freestyle, was

weight during the official

weigh-in and was forced to

withdraw before taking the

The 2019 world champi-

onship medallist Deepak,

competing in non-Olympic

92kg weight category, began

with a commanding 6-1 vic-

tory over Austria's Benjamin

Geril but lost the next bout

3-4 to Azerbaijan's Osman

Nurmagomedov.

mat, ending his challenge

without a bout.

found to be 1.7kg over-

Aman, competing in the

Sunday after Paris Olym-



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

matches. I just concentrated on my strategy and

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)

# 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 wellserved 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.

In the finals, Atiqa kept it clean and within track limits to cross the chequered flag before anyone else. The win created history by becoming 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.

History made as 10-yr-old

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

Indian Atiqa wins UAE race 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 pro-

## **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.

INDIAN racing's 10-year-old

prodigy Atiqa Mir on Sunday

the first woman in UAE kart-

ing to win a race in the Mini-

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

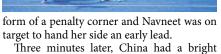
max category.

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

chance to draw level when they earned backto-back penalty corners, but the Indians de-

fended brilliantly.



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

# 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 Nor-

way came away second with two golds in their kitty, of the 10 available.

spot, while Peng topped with a superlative 637.4.

The Chinese began the

Early on Sunday morning, Meghana shot a solid 632.7 in the second qualification rally to claim the seventh

24-shot final with a perfect

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.

10.9 as Meghana lay at the bottom of the eight-woman

field after the first series of

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

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)



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. (PT

onwards, two hours before

the start of the exam.



### Over 2 lakh likely to appear for teacher recruitment tests in Bengal across the state, they said. non-teaching staffers lost measures, every candidate

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 governmentaided schools, officials said.

The School Level Selection Test (SLST) will be conducted at 478 centres

On September 7, 3.19 lakh candidates had anpeared for the first phase of the tests for the recruitment of assistant teachers for classes 9 and 10 at 636

These exams are being conducted by the West Bengal School Service Commission after around 26,000 school teachers and

centres, the officials said.

their jobs as per the direcwhich stated that their recruitment process held in 2016 was "tainted and vitiated".

The West Bengal School Service Commission (WB-SSC) has introduced certain unique identification security features on each question paper to monitor

'Hindi should be language of

The apex court had dithat 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.

always speak to children in

the child's future, as many

ists 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.

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 depart-

He further said that Prime

psychologists and education-

"This is very important for

their mother tongues.

In view of security

## **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

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



# **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.

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)

## science, judiciary, and police' 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 many others accepted Hindi Bharatiya Rajbhasha Samand promoted it. Gujarat, melan, Shah said Indians must where Gujarati and Hindi preserve their languages and have coexisted, is an excellent make them "immortal", urging example of the development of

parents to speak to children in both languages," he said. their mother tongue. The Union minister said, "There is no conflict be-"Hindi is not just a spoken tween Hindi and other Indian language or a language of administration. Hindi should languages. Learned men like Dayanand Saraswati, Maalso be the language of science, technology, justice and police. When all these works hatma Gandhi, KM Munshi,

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 edge to every home, and that knowledge has reached every person through our local languages."

Hindi has taken this knowl-He said parents must

ment), which will promote Hindi and other languages. "For this, we are using science and technology a lot,"

he said. PTD

# 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.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and

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.