

SA clinches nail-biting one-run victory over Nepal

Kingstown, (UNI)

In a heart-stopping finish, Nepal came agonisingly close to a historic victory, falling just one run short as South Africa edged them out in a thrilling T20 World Cup encounter.

South Africa's triumph was orchestrated by Tabraiz Shamsi's crucial double-wicket over and Ottneil Baartman's composed final deliveries, complemented by a stroke of luck on the very last ball.

Chasing a modest target of 115 set by South Africa, Nepal seemed poised for a win with 18 runs needed from the last 18 balls, thanks to the steady batting of 23-year-old Aasif Sheikh. However, Shamsi shifted the momentum by claiming two vital wickets in a single over, leaving

Nepal's lower order with 16 runs to chase from the final 12 balls.

Sompal Kami and Gulshan Jha nearly steered Nepal to victory, needing just 2 runs off the last 2 balls. Baartman bowled two short deliveries that Jha couldn't connect with. On the final ball, a ricochet off Jha led to a run-out,



leaving Nepal just one run short and bringing their T20 World Cup campaign to a heartbreaking end.

South Africa's innings began slowly, with the team scoring 38/1 in the first six overs and losing Quinton de Kock early. The Nepalese spinners, led by Sandeep Lamichhane, further restricted South Africa to 42/2 during the middle phase.

Despite these challenges, South Africa managed 35 runs in the final overs, finishing at 115/7, with Reeza Hendricks top-scoring with 43. Kushal Bhurtel and Dipendra Singh were standout bowlers for Nepal, taking 4/19 and 3/21 respectively.

Nepal's chase started cautiously, scoring 32/0 in the first six overs without losing any wickets. Aasif and Anil Sah's partnership kept Nepal in contention, bringing the score to 82/2 after 13 overs.

Despite their determined effort, Nepal's lower order struggled to maintain the scoring rate. Shamsi's double-wicket over and Baartman's tight final deliveries ensured

South Africa's narrow victory. Shamsi was the key performer for South Africa, taking 4 wickets for 19 runs, while Hendricks contributed 43 runs. For Nepal, Aasif top-scored with 42 runs, while Kushal Bhurtel and Dipendra Singh excelled with the ball. South Africa will now head to Antigua to face co-hosts USA on June 19 in the Super-8s.

Nepal will have one last opportunity to secure a win in the World Cup when they play against Bangladesh on June 17. Brief Scores South Africa: 115/7 in 20 overs (Reeza Hendricks 43; Kushal Bhurtel 4-19, Dipendra Singh 3-21) Nepal: 114/7 in 20 overs (Aasif Sheikh 42; Tabraiz Shamsi 4-19).



Sarthak Chavan leads 1-2 finish for TVS Racing, Bros KY Ahamed, Abdul Basim notch victories

Chennai, (UNI)

Two sets of siblings from Chennai hogged the limelight by winning four of the nine races on Saturday at the Madras International Circuit to light up the first round of the MRF MMSC-FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship 2024. The 15-year-old Dave twins, Rakshith and Rakshitha took the honours in the Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup (NSF 250R) and the National Championship Girls (Stock 165cc) races. It was a maiden win for both of them, in their respective categories. Two other siblings, 28-year-old KY Ahamed (Pro-Stock 165cc Open) and his 17-year-old brother Abdul Basim (Novice 165cc), also won a race apiece to set off celebrations in both families. Elsewhere, Sarthak Chavan, the 17-year-old from Pune, led a 1-2 finish for TVS Racing along with Bengaluru's Chiranth Vishwanath, also 17, in the premier Pro-Stock 301-400cc category. The race was cut to four laps from scheduled six after a red flag stoppage following a Turn-3 crash (riders ok) and Sarthak, starting from pole, virtually destroyed the field on restart. Chiranth came in second, ahead

of Hyderabad's Sairahil Pillarisetty (Gusto Racing). Sarthak, however, had a disastrous outing in the Pro-Stock 165cc Open race as he crashed when in the lead. On his exit, Sathak's two TVS Racing team-mates, KY Ahamed and multiple National champion Jagan Kumar, were involved in a tight finish. Ahamed pipped his mentor Jagan in a photo-finish with another TVS Racing ace, Deepak Ravikumar, who had started the race from the pit lane, completing the podium. Chiranth, who was running second, also crashed, but resumed to finish fourth. Also finishing on top step of the podium was Chennai's Kaushik Subbiah Ganesan (RACR Castrol Power1 Ultimate) who won as he pleased in the Novice 301-400cc class that gained National championship status from this season. Earlier, pole-sitter Abdul Basim, held off a strong challenge from Mysuru's Tasmai Cariappa (Motul Sparks Racing) who led briefly in the penultimate lap but conceded the advantage. Basim went on to win with Tasmai and Coimbatore's Abhinav G (Chandra LGE Racing) finishing second and third, respectively.

Hockey India mourns demise of veteran sports journalist Harpal Singh Bedi



New Delhi, (UNI)

Hockey India mourned the death of veteran sports journalist Harpal Singh Bedi who passed away here on Saturday. Bedi was 72. With over three decades in the profession, Harpal Singh Bedi had covered eight Olympic Games and nine Asian Games among several other major international sports events.

He also covered all three editions of the prestigious FIH Men's Hockey World Cup held in India. Bedi covered the quadrennial event in New Delhi in 2010, in Bhubaneswar in 2018 and the most recent one held in Bhubaneswar-Rourkela in 2023. Mourning his demise, Hockey India President Dr Dilip Tirkey said, "Harpal Singh Bedi was a huge supporter of Indian hockey. He was immensely respected by the hockey fraternity too.

During my days as a player, we would exchange many

thoughts, ideas and emotions about the sport and how we can improve the game further to bring more laurels to the country." "I remember him attending our training sessions whenever we were in Delhi. He was very passionate about the sport and his work.

On behalf of Hockey India, I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family and the sports journalists' community," he said. Hockey India Secretary General Bhola Nath Singh also expressed his condolences.

"I am deeply shocked by the passing of Harpal Singh Bedi, a very respected sports journalist and a big supporter of Indian Hockey.

This is a sad day for the sports journalists' fraternity in India and I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family and friends, Hockey India shares their grief," he added.

Maha: Kesari Amruta Pujari selected for senior Asian wrestling competition

Kolhapur, (UNI)

District woman wrestler Maharashtra Kesari winner Amruta Shashikant Pujari has been selected for the senior Asian wrestling competition, which will be held from June 22 to 30 in Jordan.

In a statement, Amruta, a player of the Sadashivrao Mandlik National Sai Wrestling Complex in Murgud of Kagal tehsil of this district, was the only woman wrestler selected for the Indian wrestling team from the state.

In a selection test held in Delhi, Amruta was selected in the 72



kg group and defeated national and international woman wrestlers from Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

Badminton: India's thrilling run at Australian Open ends

Sydney, (UNI)

India's exhilarating journey at the Australian Open 2024 badminton tournament came to a close as HS Prannoy bowed out in the men's singles quarterfinals on Friday. World No. 10 Prannoy faced a tough battle against Japan's Kodai Naraoka, ranked sixth globally, in a gripping 61-minute match at the Quaycentre.

Naraoka emerged victorious with scores of 21-19, 21-13. Prannoy, who captured a bronze medal at last year's world championships, started the match on the backfoot but managed to stay within a point at the mid-game interval. However, after the break, Naraoka surged ahead with a six-point streak. Despite Prannoy's valiant effort to level the score at 19-all, Naraoka held his nerve to clinch the first game.



The second game saw extended rallies, with Prannoy taking an early 3-0 lead. Yet, inconsistency plagued him, and he struggled to

match Naraoka's speed and precision. This defeat marks Prannoy's sixth loss in seven encounters

against Naraoka, with his sole victory coming at the Indonesia Open last year. Earlier in the BWF Super 500 tournament, Prannoy showcased his skill by defeating world No. 53 Misha Zilberman of Israel in the round of 16, reaching his first quarterfinal since the India Open in January. In the women's singles, eighth-seeded Aakarshi Kashyap was bested by third-seeded Pai Yu-Po of Chinese Taipei, losing 21-17, 21-12. In the mixed doubles event, B Sumeeth Reddy and N Sikki Reddy were overpowered by the world No. 5 duo, Jiang Zhen Bang and Wei Ya Xin of China, with scores of 21-12, 21-14. The Indian badminton contingent now sets its sights on the US Open BWF Super 300 tournament, which begins on June 25. The team is eager to bounce back and showcase their talent on the international stage once again.

BUSINESS

CEAT collaborates with Kalki 2898 AD

New Delhi: CEAT Specialty has announced an exciting partnership with the much anticipated film Kalki 2898 AD, starring Prabhas, to develop and launch state-of-the-art tyres for Bujji, the robotic vehicle featured in the movie. This collaboration highlights CEAT's cutting-edge technology and reinforces its commitment to driving the future of mobility. Kalki 2898 AD, directed by Nag Ashwin, is set in a futuristic world where advanced technology and artificial intelligence shape daily life. The film features an impressive cast, including Prabhas, Deepika Padukone, Amitabh Bachchan, and Kamal Haasan. Bujji, the AI-driven car in the film, represents the pinnacle of futuristic



design and innovation, requiring tyres as advanced and visionary as the vehicle itself. Designed by Hollywood's Haisu Wang, who also designed vehicles for Black Panther, Bujji represents a leap into the future of automotive design and technology. The filmmakers

wanted a moving car that brought Wang's design to life, and CEAT Specialty rose to the challenge, creating state-of-the-art tyres that complement this groundbreaking vehicle. Amit Tolani, Chief Executive of CEAT Specialty, shared his thoughts on this

transformative project: "Collaborating on Bujji for Kalki 2898 AD was an incredible opportunity for us. It allowed us to push our boundaries and explore new technologies and materials."

Dyutiman Chatterjee, Head of R&D at CEAT Specialty, added, "Creating tyres for Bujji was an inspiring and demanding task. It provided us with a unique platform to test new technologies and materials, pushing the boundaries of what is possible in tyre design."

CEAT Specialty is already renowned for its engineering prowess in developing best-in-class OTR tyres, and this project challenged us to elevate our standards even further."

Kotak Life Insurance launches Kotak Gen2Gen Protect

Mumbai: Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company Ltd ("Kotak Life") on Saturday announced the launch of its new protection plan Kotak Gen2Gen Protect. This product offers an industry-first feature with an option of covering two generations with one plan, thus passing on the legacy of protection. Coming with a 100% guaranteed return of premium benefit on survival, Kotak Gen2Gen Protect offers a flexibility of transferring the complete risk cover to the child, when the parent (primary life insured) turns sixty or sixty-five years of age. Additionally, this risk cover stays on with the child till the age of sixty.

The product also offers comprehensive coverage through in-built wellness benefits and riders such as Accidental Death Benefit, Permanent Disability Benefit and Critical Illness Plus. For women policyholders, Kotak Gen2Gen



Protect offers an additional 5% death benefit. Mahesh Balasubramanian, MD of Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company Limited, said, "As an organisation, our unwavering dedication is to innovate and curate products that exceed our customers' expectations. Kotak Gen2Gen Protect is a product through which our customers can secure two generations with a single term plan. The essence of this product comes from the importance we Indians place on family, tradition and legacy. Passing on values, knowledge and teachings to the

next generation is deeply ingrained in our Indian culture. Here is a product which understands the essence of these values. I am sure innovative products like Kotak Gen2Gen Protect will expand the protection category and will contribute in a significant way to IRDAI's vision of 'Insurance for All' by 2047."

About Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company Ltd, Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company Limited (Kotak Life) is a 100% owned subsidiary of Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (Kotak). Kotak Life provides world-class insurance products with high customer empathy. Its product suite leverages the combined prowess of protection and long term savings. Kotak Life is one of the fastest growing insurance companies in India with 292 branches across the country and has covered more than 5 crore active lives as on 31st March 2024.

India's exports estimated to grow at 10.25 percent despite geopolitical headwinds

New Delhi, (UNI)

India's total exports are estimated to be at USD 68.29 billion in May 2024, registering a growth of 10.25 percent over May 2023, according to figures released by the Government on Friday.

India's total exports (Merchandise and Services combined) for May 2024 are estimated at USD 68.29 Billion, registering a positive growth of 10.25 percent vis-à-vis May 2023. Total imports (Merchandise and Services combined) for May 2024 are estimated at USD 79.20 Billion, registering a positive growth of 7.95 percent vis-à-vis May 2023.

The Merchandise exports during April-May 2024 were USD 73.12 Billion as compared to USD 69.57 Billion during April-May 2023, the official statement by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said adding the Merchandise imports during April-

May 2024 were USD 116.01 Billion compared to USD 106.54 Billion during April-May 2023. The Merchandise trade deficit during April-May 2024 widened to USD 42.89 Billion compared to USD 36.97 Billion during April-May 2023.

On the Services front, the estimated value of services exported for May 2024 is USD 30.16 Billion as compared to USD 26.99 Billion in May 2023.

The estimated value of services imports for May 2024 is USD 17.28 Billion as compared to USD 15.88 Billion in May 2023. The estimated value of service exports during April-May 2024 is USD 60.49 Billion as compared to USD 52.77 Billion in April-May 2023, the Ministry said adding the estimated value of service imports during April-May 2024 is USD 33.91 Billion as compared to USD 29.84 Billion in April-May 2023.

Repeal of Art 370 spurs Rs 81k cr investment proposals in J&K: Hina Bhat



Jammu, (UNI)

With the Introduction of New Industrial Development Scheme and post abrogation of Article 370, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has received investment proposals worth Rs 81 thousand crores, stated Chairperson J&K Khadi and Village industry Board Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat. Without giving the breakup of the Rs 81 thousand crores of investment proposals Dr Bhat, however, added that J&K had received pri-

vate investments to the tune of Rs 14,000 crore only since independence. The observations were made by Dr Bhat at the Third Naredco Mahi convention on Friday in the national capital while speaking on the overall investment scenario of J&K pointing out that the abrogation of Article 370 opened a new chapter for Jammu and Kashmir. "The reason stands on the cusp of a transformative era, with vast potential for real estate development. By leveraging the opportunities presented, adopting sustainable practices and ensuring inclusive growth, we can build a prosperous and vibrant Jammu & Kashmir. The journey ahead promises not only economic growth but also a brighter future for the people of this beautiful region," stated Dr Bhat in a statement issued here. She said, "18 thousand kanals (2250 Acres) of land, as against a total 39022 kanals (4844 Acres) sought for setting up key units, has already been allotted across both Jammu and Kashmir divisions."

SiCSem to establish SiC process fabrication & ATMP plant in Odisha

Bhubaneswar, (UNI)

SiCSem Private Limited is contemplating to establish a SiC process fabrication and ATMP plant in Odisha.

Estimated to cost Rs.45 crore, this project would bring in the know-how of high volume production of 150 mm and 200 mm SiC wafers.

The SiCSem Private Limited and the Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar (IIT) Bhubaneswar have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to collaborate on research in the field of Compound Semiconductors. IIT, Bhubaneswar sources said the first project to be car-

ried out as part of this agreement would indigenize Silicon Carbide (SiC) crystal growth at IIT Bhubaneswar.

This will help India to become self-sufficient in power semiconductor devices for advanced technologies such as electric vehicles (EVs), fast chargers, green energy, PV inverters, motor controls, and beyond 5G communication. Director of IIT Bhubaneswar and an expert in semiconductor devices, Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar, said this collaboration will promote innovation and self-reliance in SiC crystal growth, and represents a major industry-academia partnership for IIT Bhubaneswar.