

sportspopup

Chess Olympiad: Indian men outwit Hungary B; women go past Switzerland
BUDAPEST (Hungary): India men dropped their first point, but carried enough steam to beat Hungary 'B' 3.5-0.5 to maintain a clean slate in the ongoing 45th Chess Olympiad here. In the open section, the hero for the Indian men was Arjun Erigaise who played a brilliant attacking game against Peter Prohazska and ended with a checkmate after a queen sacrifice. However, Vidit Gujrathi had to settle for a quick draw against Papp Gabor and it was the first time an Indian men's player failed to notch a win in this event. But D Gukesh outclassed Adam Kozak, while R. Praggnanandhaa made most of his chances in the endgame as Tamas Banusz was gradually outplayed. Indian Results: Round 3: Women: Alexandra Kosteniuk beat D Harika; R Vaishali beat Ghazal Hakimifard; Sofia Hryzlova lost to Diviya Deshmukh; Vantika Agrawal beat Mariia Manko. Men: D Gukesh beat Adam Kozak; Tamas Banusz lost to R Praggnanandhaa; Arjun Erigaise beat Peter Prohazska; Papp Gabor drew with Vidit Gujrathi.

HI names 33-member core probable group for national women's coaching camp
BENGALURU: Hockey India on Saturday announced a 33-member Indian women's hockey team for the national coaching camp to be held from September 15 to October 9. The camp will take place at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) facility in Bengaluru, marking the start of the team's preparation for the women's Asian Champions Trophy scheduled to be played at the newly-constructed Rajgir Stadium in Bihar from November 11 to 20. The players for camp, Goalkeepers: Savita, Bichu Devi Khariabam, Bansari Solanki, Madhuri Kindo. Defenders: Nikki Pradhan, Uditia , Ishika Chaudhary, Monika, Ropni Kumari, Mahima Choudhary, Jyoti Chhattri, Preeti. Midfielders: Salima Tete, Marina Lalramnghaki, Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Neha, Jyoti, Edula Jyoti, Baljeet Kaur, Manisha Chauhan, Akshata Abaso Dhekale, Ajmina Kujur. Forwards: Sunelita Toppo, Murtaz Khan, Lalremsiami, Sangita Kumari, Deepika, Sharmila Devi, Namneet Kaur, Deepika Soreng, Preeti Dubey, Vandana Katariya, Rutuja Dadaso Pisal.

Former No. 1 Naomi announces split from coach Wim Fissette
LONDON: Former world No. 1 Naomi Osaka has announced that she's no longer working with coach Wim Fissette. Osaka had expressed frustration with her recent results after a second-round exit at the U.S. Open just over two weeks ago. The 26-year-old Osaka won two of her four Grand Slam titles while working with the Belgian coach. Those were the 2020 U.S. Open and the 2021 Australian Open. It's the second time Osaka and Fissette have parted ways. On her Instagram story late Friday, the Japanese player wrote: "4 years, 2 Slams and a whole lot of memories. Thanks Wim for being a great coach and an even greater person, wishing you all the best."

Leclerc qualifies on pole for Azerbaijan GP; title challenger Norris 17th
BAKU (Azerbaijan): Charles Leclerc qualified on pole position for the Azerbaijan Grand Prix on Saturday as Max Verstappen was sixth and Lando Norris only 17th in a session that could have a big impact on the title race. Ferrari's Leclerc, who won the last race in Italy, was fastest by .321 seconds from McLaren's Oscar Piastri, with the second Ferrari of Carlos Sainz Jr. in third. Norris was on what seemed to be a lap fast enough to progress from the first part of qualifying as one of the top 15. But he told broadcaster Sky that "I had to lift" — slow down — because of a yellow flag that was apparently for Esteban Ocon's slow-moving Alpine. Norris' time from his first lap missed the 15th-place cutoff by .157 of a second. Norris is second in the standings, 62 points behind Verstappen with eight rounds of the championship remaining. Albon's teammate Franco Colapinto, qualified ninth and British teen Oliver Bearman, was 11th after recovering from a crash in third practice.

Harmanpreet's brace hands India 2-1 win over Pakistan

India will take on Korea in the semi-final, while Pakistan will face China



India's players celebrate a goal against Pakistan in the Hero Asian Champions Trophy in Hulunbuir, China, on Saturday

PTI, HULUNBUIR (China): Skipper Harmanpreet Singh continued his golden run of form that he has been carrying since Paris Olympics, converting two penalty corners to become the chief architect of India's narrow 2-1 victory over arch-rivals Pakistan in their final league match of the Hero Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament, here, on Saturday.

It was India's fifth consecutive win in the six-team round-robin competition.

ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY

Pakistan took the lead through Ahmad Nadeem (8th minute) before Harmanpreet (13th, 19th) converted two penalty corners to fashion India's victory over familiar foes. It was Pakistan's first loss in this tournament. Both India and Pakistan have already qualified for

the semi-finals. The victory also enabled India to maintain their supremacy over Pakistan since 2016. In their previous meeting at the Hangzhou Asian Games last year, India thrashed Pakistan 10-2. A few months before that, the Indians beat Pakistan 4-0 during the Chennai edition of the ACT. At the Asia Cup in Jakarta (2022), a relatively young Indian side held Pakistan to a 1-1 draw while at the 2021 ACT in Dhaka, India defeated Pakistan 4-3 to clinch the bronze medal. In other matches of the day, Malaysia and Korea played out a 3-3 draw, while hosts China beat Japan 2-0. Paris Olympic bronze medallist and clear favourites, India will take on Korea in the semi-final, while Pakistan will face China.

Tilak Varma, Pratham tons guide India A to total command

PTI, ANANTAPUR: Tilak Varma and Pratham made smooth hundreds to drive India A to a commanding position against India D after the third day of their Duleep Trophy match, here, on Saturday. Varma did no harm to his ambitions of keeping himself visible in the India scheme of things with an unbeaten 111 (193 balls, 9x4), while Pratham made an impressive 122 (189 balls, 12x4, 1x6) as India A declared their second innings closed at 380 for three. It gave them an overall lead of 487, and India D

have chiselled off 62 from the target of 488 for the loss of Atharva Taide. Ricky Bhui (44) and Yash Dubey (15) were at the crease for India D. Pratham, who resumed from the overnight 59, continued to play fluently and reached his 100 in 149 balls in the first session itself. But the 32-year-old Railways batter fell to left-arm spinner Saurabh Kumar close to the end of the opening session. Pratham added 104 runs for the second wicket with Varma. However, Varma, who was

once rated by Rohit Sharma as India's next all-format player, held his end up well remaining unbeaten on 60, having brought up his fifty a bit earlier off 96 balls. India A took lunch at a solid 260 for two after starting the day from 115 for one. Brief scores: India A: 290 all out and 380 for 3 declared in 98 overs (Pratham Singh 122, Tilak Varma 111 not out, Shashwat Rawat 64 not out) vs India D: 183 all out and 62/1 in 19 overs (Ricky Bhui batting 44).

Despite Easwaran's unbeaten 143, India B trail India C by 216 runs and require 66 more runs to avoid a follow-on with just three wickets in hand.

DULEEP TROPHY

PTI, ANANTAPUR (Andhra Pradesh): India B opener Abhimanyu Easwaran continued to bat confidently as he scored a defiant century to guide his team to 309 for 7 against India C, which still looked in control to enforce a follow-on in their Duleep Trophy match, here, on Saturday. Despite Easwaran's unbeaten 143, India B trail India C by 216 runs and require 66 more runs to avoid a follow-on with just three wickets in hand.

If I need to play domestic cricket to test fitness I will: Shami

PTI, KOLKATA: India pacer Mohammed Shami wants to ensure 100 per cent fitness post ankle surgery rehabilitation and, if need be, he will play domestic cricket without setting a timeline on his much-anticipated international return. Shami last played in the 2023 ODI World Cup final and has since been sidelined by injury for which he underwent surgery earlier this year. Speaking at the Cricket Association of Bengal's (CAB) annual awards ceremony, where he was felicitated for his stellar performances, Shami expressed his desire to be in top shape before returning to the field. "Koshish jaldi hi kar raha hoon kyun ke main janta hoon kaafi time ho gaya hai team se bahar rehte hue (I am working hard to make a comeback soon because I know I have been out of action for quite some time). However, I want to ensure there is no discomfort when I return. I've to work on my fitness, so that there is no discomfort," Shami told reporters. "The stronger I return, the better it is for me. I don't want to rush and risk getting injured again, be it against Bangladesh, New Zealand or the Australia series. I've already started bowling, but I won't take

any chances until I am 100% fit." PTI had reported last month that Shami, who is undergoing rehabilitation, is likely to make a comeback to competitive cricket for his domestic side Bengal in the Ranji Trophy, and a potential international appearance later in one of the Test matches against New Zealand. It is understood that Shami will play either one or two of Bengal's opening Ranji matches against UP (October 11) and Bihar (October 18).



The 34-year-old hinted at the possibility of playing domestic matches before making his international return. "If I need to play domestic cricket to test my fitness, I will. What matters most is that I am fully ready for whatever comes next, regardless of the opposition or format," Shami added. Shami is expected to be a key figure in India's preparations for the upcoming five-Test Border-Gavaskar Trophy against Australia. Asked about the much-anticipated series, Shami said, "Favoursites toh hum hi hai, chinta unhe honi chahiye (We are the favourites, they should be worried)." The CAB also recognised Shami's long association with Bengal cricket despite being born in Uttar Pradesh.

Easwaran stands firm for India B even as Kamboj's five-for wreaks havoc

India C had scored a mammoth 525 in their first innings with Ishan Kishan scoring a century. The Day 3 of the tie belonged to the India B skipper, who scored a patient 262-ball 143 amid a procession of wickets with India C pacer Anshul Kamboj's five-wicket haul (5/66 in 23.5 overs) bringing Easwaran's team on its knees. Undaunted by the fall of wickets at the other end, Bengal batter Easwaran kept frustrating the India C bowlers, though he still has

work to do on Sunday to avoid a follow-on. Commencing the day at 124 for no loss with Easwaran (overnight 51 not out) and Narayan Jagadeesan (overnight 67 not out) holding fort, India B were rattled quite early when Kamboj struck in only the fourth over of the morning session. Brief score: India C: 525 all in 124.1 overs vs India B: 309 for 7 in 101 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran batting 143, Narayan Jagadeesan 70; Anshul Kamboj 5/66).

INDIA TO LOOK FOR THE BIG WTC POINTS AGAINST BANGLADESH

G Viswanath

The two-Test series against Bangladesh, following their impressive 2-0 sweep of the recent series in Pakistan, has the potential to engage the ardent fans of the game of cricket at home in India and across the border on the Eastern flank. Bangladesh's recent success, a significant milestone in their cricketing journey, has certainly made their rivals sit up and take notice, sparking intrigue and anticipation for the upcoming series. The Najmul Hossain Shanto-led team's aim will be to sustain its ability to compete against a team that's hard to beat at home. Bangladesh has not won a Test match in India. The series is part of the World Test Championship programme. Once again, a disappointing aspect of the tour is that the rubber is being set to two Tests, quite a contrast to the three-test home series to follow against New Zealand. There was a lot of hue and cry after the two-Test series in South Africa when India, after being drubbed in the first Test in Centurion, bounced back to score a win in the second Test in Cape Town. The series from September 19, in Chennai, to November 5, in Mumbai, will focus attention on the Indian team and some players who are striving to secure their place in the team for the upcoming five-Test series in Australia from November 22, in Perth. Under the leadership of Rohit Sharma, India is determined to win the series and maintain its leading position on the World Test Championship (WCT) table. With a track record of winning five out of nine Tests, India currently leads the table with 74 points, instilling hope and optimism among the fans. India and Bangladesh have only played three Tests in India since February 2017, and on both occasions - with Virat Kohli as captain - the home team scored handsome wins by 208 runs in Hyderabad and by an innings

in Indore and Kolkata. Since the 2019 home series, the composition of the Indian team has changed, with Mayank Agarwal, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, and Wriddhiman Saha fading away and bright young stars namely Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubhman Gill coming into the picture and showing their mettle to establish permanency. Sharma and Kohli have held on, along with all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja. Sharma played the pivotal role, scoring 400 runs in the five-Test series against England. His partner at the top, Jaiswal, blazed away to glory, amassing 712 runs with two double centuries. Gill made a weighty 452. In the absence of Kohli - for personal reasons - the selection committee blooded Sarfaraz Khan, Rajat Patidar and Dhruv Jurel, and except for Patidar, almost everyone given the break impressed with the bat. In the same series, India played without Shreyas Iyer and K S Bharat after the second Test in Visakhapatnam. K L Rahul and Jadeja were out of the team after the first Test in Hyderabad because of injuries, but they have returned to the ranks after a long break in Test cricket. India discovered its new talent flourish against England and the selectors have retained them - including fast bowler Akash Deep - for the first Test against Bangladesh. With Mohammed Shami ruled out after the World Cup final in Ahmedabad, India's bowlers looked confused against the aggressive 'Bazball' style of batting, but recovered in remarkable fashion after the first Test loss in Hyderabad. The versatile fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah was the game changer, taking 19 wickets, and the three spinners - Ravichandran Ashwin, Kuldeep Yadav, and Jadeja accounted for 64 wickets. Another significant development has been Rishabh Pant's return after 22 months of rehabilitation following a car crash-related injury. With Kohli,

Rahul, and Pant back, skipper Sharma and new Head Coach Gautam Gambhir have a task to pick the playing XI, especially the batting department. Spin will drive the Indian team's attack and one can expect Ashwin and Yadav to take two spots with Jadeja taking the all-rounder's slot in the lower middle order. With Gambhir leading the support staff, the focus will be on him, too, and also on the bowling coach, South African Morne Morkel, who was the bowling coach of the Pakistan team after 2018. Gambhir has already started working with the Indian team from the white ball series in Sri Lanka. The series from September 19, in Chennai, to November 5, in Mumbai, will focus attention on the Indian team and some players who are striving to secure their place in the team for the upcoming five-Test series in Australia from November 22, in Perth. Under the leadership of Rohit Sharma, India is determined to win the series and maintain its leading position on the World Test Championship (WCT) table. With a track record of winning five out of nine Tests, India currently leads the table with 74 points, instilling hope and optimism among the fans

months. Should the pitch at Chepauk offer turn, the likes of Miraz, Hasan will pose questions to India's strong batting depth. The two-Test series against Bangladesh can potentially engage the ardent fan of the game at home and across the border on the Eastern flank. A series between the two countries can never equal the intensity and buzz around an India-Pakistan series, but as a team, especially after their 2-0sweep of the series in Pakistan, Bangladesh has made rivals sit and watch. The admirable displays by the team has triggered sufficient already across the country. Once again, a disappointing aspect is the rubber being set to two Tests, quite a contrast to the three Test home series to follow against New Zealand. There is a lot of hue and cry after the two Test series in South Africa when India after being drubbed in the first Test in Centurion, bounced back to score a win in the second Test in Cape Town. The two Test series from September 29 in Chennai to November 5 in Mumbai will rivet attention on the team and some players who will try to firm up their place in the team for the five Test series in Australia from November 22, in Perth. India - to be led by Rohit Sharma - would aim to win the series in order to maintain its leading position on the

World Test Championship (WCT) table. After playing nine Tests and winning five, India is on top of the table with 74 points. India and Bangladesh have only played three Tests in India since February 2017 and on both occasions - with Virat Kohli as captain - the home team scored handsome wins by 208 runs in Hyderabad and by an innings in Indore and Kolkata. The composition of the Indian team, since the home series of 2019 has changed with Mayank Agarwal, Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane, and Wriddhiman Saha fading away and bright young stars such as Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubhman Gill coming into the picture and showing their mettle to establish permanency. Sharmas and Kohli have held on along with all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja. Sharma played the pivotal role scoring 400 runs. His partner at the top, Jaiswal, blazed away to glory amassing 712 runs with two double centuries. Gill made a weighty 452. In the absence of Kohli - for personal reasons - the selection committee blooded Sarfaraz Khan, Rajat Patidar, Dhruv Jurel and except for Patidar, almost everyone given the break impressed with the bat. In the same series, India played without Shreyas Iyer and K S Bharat after the second Test in Visakhapatnam. K L Rahul and Jadeja were out of the team after the first Test in Hyderabad because of injuries and have returned to the ranks after a long break in Test cricket. India discovered new talent flourish against England and the selectors have retained them - including fast bowler Akash Deep - for the first Test against Bangladesh. With Mohammed Shami ruled out after the World Cup final in Ahmedabad, India's bowlers looked confused against the aggressive 'Bazball' style of batting, but recovered in remarkable fashion after the first Test loss in Hyderabad. The versatile fast bowler Jasprit

Bumrah was the game changer taking 19 wickets and the three spinners - Ravichandran Ashwin, Kuldeep Yadav and Jadeja accounted for 64 wickets. Another significant happening has been the return of Rishabh Pant after 22 months after a long rehabilitation following a car crash related injury. With the return of Kohli, Rahul and Pant, skipper Sharma and new Head Coach Gautam Gambhir have a task in hand to pick the playing XI, especially the batting department. Spin will drive the Indian team's attack and one can expect Ashwin and Yadav to take two spots and with Jadeja taking the all-rounder's slot in the lower middle order. With Gambhir leading the support staff, the focus will be on him too and also the bowling coach, South African Morne Morkel who was the bowling coach of the Pakistan team after 2018. Gambhir has already started working with the Indian team from white ball series in Sri Lanka. He a tough cookie always, Gambhir succeeds Rahul Dravid at the helm of the coaching staff. Bangladesh gave an inspiring display against Pakistan with the seasoned campaigner Mushfiqur Rahim and Litton Fas showing the way with the bat and Mehidy Hasan Miraz excelling with the ball, bowling off breaks and showing prowess with the bat. India's batters, on most occasions struggled against England's off-spinner Shoaib Bashir, left-arm spinner Tom Hartley and leg spinner Rehan Ahmed, who took 50 wickets in the first quarter of this year and Australia's off-spinners Nathan Lyon and Todd Murphy and left-arm spinner Matthew Kuhnemann, who took 45 wickets in the first quarter of 2023, in all 95 wickets given to the visiting team's spinners in a span of 14 months. Should the pitch at Chepauk offer turn, the likes of off-spinner Miraz and left-arm spinner Hasan will pose questions to India's strong batting depth.