

shorttakes

India win six gold on Day 2 to dominate Taiwan Open athletics

TAIPEI CITY: The Indian contingent won as many as six gold medals, including double podium finishes in women's 800m final and long jump competition, on the second and final day of Taiwan Open international athletics championship, here, on Sunday. Three-time national champion Vithya Ramraj, Rohit Yadav, Pooja, Krishan Kumar and Annu Rani won the gold medal in their respective events in an impressive outing by the Indian contingent. Also winning gold was the team of Santosh T, Vishal TK, Dharamveer Chaudhary and Manu TS, the quartet finishing on top of the podium in the men's 4x400m event with a championship record of 3:05.58s to sign off the country's successful campaign on a positive note. Yashas Palaksha rallied to win silver in the men's 400m hurdles with a personal best timing of 42.22s. Vithya clocked 56.53s to strike gold in the women's 400m hurdles event. Rohit could not breach the 75m mark in the men's javelin throw competition but a best throw of 74.42m was enough for him to claim gold in the event. Pooja won the women's 800m final with a championship record time of 2:02.79s to edge past compatriot Twinkle Chaudhary, who clocked 2:06.96s to clinch silver. Krishan Kumar then came back from behind to win the top prize in the men's 800m final with a time of 1:48.46s, which is also a new championship record. In the women's javelin final later in the day, Annu Rani struck gold after she threw the spear at a distance of 56.82m. In the women's long jump event, India's Shaili Singh (6.41m) and Ancy Sojan (6.39m) then won the silver and bronze medals respectively, finishing behind Australia's Delta Arndtovski (6.49m), who won the gold medal.

Indian junior women's hockey team beats Belgium 3-2

ANTWERP (Belgium): The Indian junior women's hockey team made a positive start to its tour of Europe with a 3-2 win over hosts Belgium, here, on Sunday. India opened the scoring through Geeta Yadav (11th minute). However, in the second quarter, Belgium equalised through Marie Goenns (25th). Soon Belgium took the lead as Louise van Hecke (34th) found the back of the net. India made a valiant comeback and levelled the scores through Sonam (40th). The visitors continued to attack, and the tactic paid off as they won a penalty corner soon, which was converted by Lalthantluangi (45th). India will again play Belgium on June 10 in the second game of their European tour.

Mbappé steers France to 2-0 win over Germany in Nations League

MUNICH: Kylian Mbappé led France to Nations League consolation before Spain and Portugal play the final on Sunday. The Real Madrid star scored one goal and set up the other as France defeated host nation Germany 2-0 in the third-place decider. Aurélien Tchouaméni set up club teammate Mbappé to score just before the break after Germany had dominated the first half, and Mbappé set up substitute Michael Olise to seal the result in the 84th after a much-improved second-half performance from the visitors. France coach Didier Deschamps had made his lack of enthusiasm for the game clear the day before, noting his team had little to gain from playing it, and it was apparent which side was more motivated in front of the Stuttgart fans. Germany missed a host of chances then had Deniz Undav's equaliser ruled out for a foul by Niclas Füllkrug in the buildup. France was without injured Paris Saint-Germain star Ousmane Dembélé.

Kusale, Elavenil back in side to lead India in Munich World Cup

MUNICH: Paris Olympics bronze medalist Swapnil Kusale will lead the Indian squad along with comeback shooter Elavenil Valarivan at the season's third ISSF World Cup which will feature of a galaxy of international stars, beginning here from Tuesday. Kusale fought his way back to the men's 50m rifle 3 positions (3P) event on the back of a good show on the domestic circuit. Two-time Olympian Elavenil will be seen in international action for the first time since Paris, although she did make the trip to Buenos Aires and Lima as an RPO (Ranking Points Only) shooter. Reigning Asian Games champion Palak in the women's air pistol also makes it back to the team. There will be a few World Cup debuts like newly-crowned women's air rifle national champion Ananya Naidu. There will be two new faces in the men's air pistol -- Aditya Malra and Nishant Rawat. A total of 695 athletes, including Olympic and World champions and legends of the sport from 78 countries, will participate in the World Cup.

Salman Ali Agha in line to become all-format Pakistan captain

KARACHI: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is expected to make some sweeping changes in its national team set-up with Salman Ali Agha in line to become all-format captain, replacing Shan Masood as the skipper of the Test side. Besides the change in captaincy, the board will also be announcing the formation of an "observatory" committee after Eid holidays, a concept meant to keep a close watch on cricket developments including in the national team and forward recommendations to the board's chairman. A source in the Board said that former captain Sarfaraz Ahmed and ex-pacer Sikander Bakht had been called to Lahore for a meeting. "The two were informed about the decision to form the observatory committee and offered positions on it," the source said. "Some other players will also be on this committee." He said PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi, after discussions with his close aides including new white ball head coach Mike Hesson, is also considering redefining the role of the national selection committee.

Will visa delays, border fears keep international fans away from the Club World Cup in the US?

NEW YORK: As the United States readies for the FIFA Club World Cup, concern over such things as international travel, fan safety and even economic uncertainty threaten to diminish enthusiasm for the tournament. The United States will see the arrival of 32 professional club teams from around the globe to 11 cities for the tournament. There's a \$1 billion prize pool. The Club World Cup is considered in many ways to be a dress rehearsal for the big event, the 2026 World Cup to be hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico. But there seems to be little buzz for the Club World Cup at home or abroad. The expansion of the field from seven to 32 teams has diminished the exclusivity of the event, and ticket sales appear slow. At the same time, the tournament is being played amid reports of foreign tourists being detained and visa processing delays. Chaotic U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement activities and President Donald Trump's travel bans aren't exactly reassuring international fans, either. Wary travellers, visa woes Trump's policies appear to have already impacted travelers. The National Travel and Tourism Office released data showing visitors to the U.S. from foreign countries fell 9.7% in March compared to the same month last year.

Carlos Alcaraz is clay king

Saves three match points to beat Sinner and clinch French Open title



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz holds the trophy after winning the men's singles final match against Italy's Janik Sinner on Day 15 of the French Open tennis tournament on Court Philippe-Chatrier at the Roland-Garros Complex in Paris on Sunday

Granollers, Zeballos win first Grand Slam doubles title

AFP, PARIS: Spain's Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos of Argentina won their first Grand Slam men's doubles title on Saturday after edging British duo Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski in three sets. Granollers, 39, and Zeballos, 40, had lost three previous major finals together but finally secured their first victory with a 6-0, 6-7

(5/7), 7-5 win.

Granollers had finished on the losing side in each of his previous five doubles finals, including at Roland Garros in 2014 with former partner Marc Lopez.

Salisbury fell short in his bid for a fifth Grand Slam triumph in men's doubles after winning four times with Rajeev Ram. Skupski won at Wimbledon in 2023.



Winners Spain's Marcel Granollers and Argentina's Horacio Zeballos celebrate with the trophy after the men's doubles final match of the French Tennis Open against Britain's Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski at the Roland-Garros Stadium in Paris

Italian duo Errani, Paolini win women's doubles crown

AP, PARIS: Olympic gold medalists Sara Errani and Jasmine Paolini won the French Open women's doubles title for the first time.

The second-seeded Italian pair, runners-up at Roland-Garros last year, beat Anna Danilina and Aleksandra Krunic 6-4, 2-6, 6-1 on Sunday.

It was Errani's second French Open doubles

title, and her sixth at a major tournament. The 38-year-old previously formed a highly successful partnership with Roberta Vinci, also winning trophies at the U.S. Open, Wimbledon and Australian Open.

Errani won two titles in Paris this year, also claiming the mixed doubles title with Andrea Vavassori.



Winners Italy's Jasmine Paolini (left) and Sara Errani celebrate with the trophy after the women's doubles final match of the French Tennis Open against Kazakhstan Anna Danilina and Serbia's Aleksandra Krunic at the Roland-Garros Stadium in Paris, on Sunday

Abhimanyu, Rahul extend India A's lead

PTI, NORTHAMPTON (England): KL Rahul followed up his first-innings hundred with another half-century to prepare in earnest for the upcoming Test series, while Abhimanyu Easwaran pressed his case with an 80-run knock as India A stretched their overall lead to 184 in the second unofficial Test against England Lions here on Sunday.

India A ended the third day's play at 163/4 after Rahul (51 off 64 balls) and

Easwaran shared 88 runs for the second wicket.

Earlier, left-arm pacer Khaleel Ahmed produced a penetrating spell of seam bowling to return figures of 4/70, as India A bowled out England Lions for 327 in the second session to secure a first-innings lead of 21 runs.

In reply, India A once again lost Yashasvi Jaiswal (5) early, but Rahul picked up from where he left off in the first essay. His fluent knock was studded with nine boundaries.

Eyeing a maiden Test call-up, Abhimanyu looked solid en route to his second fifty of the tour, which included nine hits to the fence.

Abhimanyu, however, fell short of a century as he edged an outswinger from Chris Woakes (2/31) to second slip shortly after a bad light interruption. At stumps on the penultimate day, Dhruv Jurel (6) and Nitish Kumar Reddy (1) were at the crease. England's George Hill provided the early breakthrough with

the left-handed Jaiswal getting out to a tentative poke to the keeper, his second straight low score after his 17 in the first innings.

Rahul and Abhimanyu then steadied the innings with a confident stand.

The skipper was particularly commanding with his drives and showed good judgement in leaving balls that climbed on length.

Brief scores: India A: 348 and 163/4 in 33 overs (KL Rahul 51, Abhimanyu Easwaran 80) vs England Lions 327 in 89 overs (Emilio Gay 71, Tom Haines 54, Jordan Cox 45, Josh Tongue 36 not out; Khaleel Ahmed 4/70, Anshul Kamboj 2/56, Tushar Deshpande 2/62).

Italy fires coach Spalletti

AP, ROME: The fear that four-time champion Italy will fail to qualify for a third straight World Cup has cost coach Luciano Spalletti his job.

Spalletti announced Sunday that he is being fired and will leave after Monday's World Cup qualifier against Moldova. The move comes two days after Italy lost 3-0 at Norway in its opening qualifier.

"Last night I had a conversation with the president (Italian soccer federation president Gabriele Gravina) and he told me that I would be fired," Spalletti said in a pre-match news conference at Italy's training center.

"I didn't have any intention on (leaving) and I would have preferred to stay on. But it's a sacking and I realise that."



Claudio Ranieri, who just concluded a successful season at Roma but had said he was retiring from coaching, is reportedly the federation's top choice to replace Spalletti.

But the federation did not immediately name a replacement and after the Moldova game, Italy doesn't play again until September.

Spalletti was hired in August 2023 when Roberto Mancini unexpectedly left

to take over Saudi Arabia's national team. Spalletti was given a three-year contract through the 2026 World Cup.

Spalletti's first major tournament ended with a disappointing 2-0 loss to Switzerland in the round of 16 of last year's European Championship.

Then Italy was eliminated from the Nations League quarter-finals after conceding an embarrassing goal to Germany earlier this year which meant that the Azzurri entered a five-team World Cup qualifying group featuring Erling Haaland's Norway instead of a four-team group in which the highest-ranked nation is Slovakia. Winning the group is the only way to ensure direct qualification to next year's tournament in North America.

Neymar tests positive for Covid

AGENCIES, BRAZILIA: Brazil forward Neymar has been sidelined after testing positive for COVID-19, his club Santos said in a statement as quoted by Brazilian media. The 33-year-old began showing symptoms on Thursday and was immediately removed from team activities.

Medical tests later confirmed the viral infection, the Brazil Serie A side said. The club did not disclose how long Neymar will be out of action and did not



immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment. Neymar is already ruled out of Thursday's league match at Fortaleza

through suspension.

The Fortaleza match will be Santos' last outing before the Brazilian league pauses for the June 14-July 13 Club World Cup in the United States. The former Barcelona forward's future at Santos remains undecided, with his contract set to expire on June 30.

Limited by injury, he has made 12 appearances for Santos across all competitions this season, contributing three goals and three assists.

India face Netherlands today

PTI, AMSTELVEEN: The Indian men's hockey team will have to shed the habit of conceding late goals if it wishes to bounce back against The Netherlands and stay in contention for top spot in the FIH Pro League, here, Monday.

India have dropped to the fourth position in the Pro League standings after the 1-2 loss against Netherlands on Saturday.

HOCKEY

Netherlands are atop the leader-board with 17 points from nine games, followed by England (16 points from eight games), Belgium (16 points from eight games) and India (15 points from nine games).

The European leg of the Pro League holds greater significance for India. A top-place finish will help India directly qualify for next year's World Cup to be co-hosted by Belgium and Netherlands.

If they fail, India will have another chance through the Asia Cup to be held in Rajgir, Bihar from September 5 to 14 this year.

Gill-led India begin training in England

PTI, LONDON: India hit the ground running with a high-intensity training session at Lord's, ahead of the five-match series against England beginning June 20 at Leeds.

The pace quartet of Jasprit Bumrah, Prasad Krishna, Mohammed Siraj and Arshdeep Singh, alongside new captain Shubman Gill, Rishabh Pant and all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja trained under head coach Gautam Gambhir.

Gill was made India's 37th Test captain. He is leading a relatively young side eyeing their first Test series win in England since 2007. The series begins at Headingley followed by Tests at Edgbaston, Lord's, Old Trafford and The Oval.



Alcaraz becomes the third youngest man to win five Grand Slams -- after Bjorn Borg and compatriot Rafael Nadal -- following an incredible duel between the two stars of a new generation. Sinner fell agonisingly short of a third successive Grand Slam crown after last year's US Open title and back-to-back Australian Open triumphs.

He suffered his fifth straight loss to Alcaraz in what was their first meeting in a Grand Slam final -- and the first championship match at a major between two men born in the 2000s. Alcaraz leads 8-5 overall having also beaten Sinner to win in Rome, where the Italian returned to competition after a three-month doping ban.

LAST SHOW AT PANJIM TOMORROW 10TH JUNE 3.30 P.M. KALA ACADEMY A/C HALL PANJIM 19th JUNE - 3.30 P.M. PAI HALL MARGAO TICKETS OF 27th MAY SHOW IS VALID FOR THIS SHOW

TOMORROW AT KALA ACADEMY, PANAJI AT 7:30PM BOLLWOOD SENSATION - VARSHA USGAONKER, BOLLWOOD STAR - DHIRUV SINCRO LEGENDARY MUSIC DIRECTOR - JOAQUIM D'SOUSA, MARATHI ACTRESS - PRAJAKTA KAVALEKAR DUBAI TRIO - Anthony De Nuven, JOSE & EDWIN MARIANO FERNANDES PRESENTS HIS NEW TIATR DEVACHEM NAVN JIETAM HANU WRI. & DIR. BY: MARIANO FERNANDES PLATILDA PRINCE JACOB MAGGIE COMEDIAN BRYAN CONCEICAO Anil Prajakta Meenaxi Symphonia Avers JOSE Anthony De Nuven Edwin Da Costa Marcus Xavier Tony SEMY SAVIO THEODOR JOAQUIM MARTINHO NEVIL TRIAN GRAND RELEASE IN GOA 13TH JUNE - RAVINDRA BHAVAN, MARGAO - 3:30 PM 15TH JUNE - RAVINDRA BHAVAN, VASCO - 3:30 PM 22ND JUNE - RAVINDRA BHAVAN, SANVORDEM - 3:30 PM