

shorttakes

Indian men's hockey teams suffers 7th defeat on trot, loses 3-6 to Belgium
ANTWERP (Belgium): India's free fall in the European leg of the men's Pro League hockey continued as they lost 3-6 to Belgium -- their seventh defeat on the trot -- in their penultimate round match here on Saturday. Arthur van Doren scored in the first minute off a penalty corner to put world number three Belgium in the lead before Alexander Hendrickx made it 2-0 in the 28th minute off another PC conversion. Dilpreet Singh struck in the 36th minute -- also from a penalty corner -- to reduce the margin and Mandeep Singh restored parity in the 38th minute with a field goal. But, Indian defence crumbled in the fourth and final quarter as Belgium pumped in goals through Roman Duvekot (49th), Thibeau Stockbroekx (53rd) and van Doren (54th) -- all field strikes -- to take 5-2 lead. Amit Rohidas pulled one back for India in the 56th minute -- off a PC -- but Belgium added another goal in the 59th minute through Tom Boon to emerge 6-3 winners. India's dream of booking a direct ticket to next year's World Cup has been crushed after the winless campaign in the European leg so far. India sit eighth in the nine-team standings with 15 points, having managed just five wins against 10 losses. India play the same opponents again on Sunday in their final round fixture.

Shoddy Indian women lose 1-5 against Belgium in FIH Pro League
ANTWERP (Belgium): The Indian women's hockey team's nightmarish run in the FIH Pro League extended with a 1-5 defeat against Belgium, here, on Saturday. It was team's fifth consecutive defeat in a row at the the European leg of the tournament having lost two matches each to Australia and Argentina in London. India took the lead through Deepika (6th minute) before Belgium turned things around after half time, pumping in five goals through Hélène Brasseur (37th, 55th), Lucie Breyné (41st), Ambre Ballenghien (54th) and Charlotte Englebort (58th). The Indian women will again take on Belgium in return leg match on Sunday.

Bangladesh draw first Test with Sri Lanka after rain hampers play
GALLE (Sri Lanka): The first Test between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka fizzled out into a damp draw on Saturday, with rain robbing the match in Galle of a proper climax. Sri Lanka were set a tall order of 296 in 37 overs and were tottering at 72-4 when stumps were drawn 9.5 overs into the final hour, with both captains shaking hands and accepting no result was possible. The day belonged to Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto, who scored centuries in both innings. Shanto made an unbeaten 125 in the second innings after posting 148 in his first dig. It was the second time he had achieved the feat, scoring two centuries in a match against Afghanistan in 2023. The second Test will be played in Colombo next week. Brief scores: Bangladesh first innings: 495 all out (Mushfiqur Rahim 163, Najmul Hossain Shanto 148, Litton Das 90, Asitha Fernando 4-86). Sri Lanka first innings: 485 all out (Pathum Nissanka 187, Kamindu Mendis 87, Dinesh Chandimal 54; Nayeem Hasan 5-121). Bangladesh second innings: 285 for six declared (Najmul Hossain Shanto 125 not out, Shadman Islam 76; Tharindu Rathnayake 3-102).

England defy Bumrah, Pant magic through Pope's ton

Pope (100 batting), Brook (0) were at crease when the stumps were drawn with England whittling down India's lead to 262 after the visitors made 471 in their first innings

PTI, LEEDS: Jasprit Bumrah displayed his spine-tingling genius after Rishabh Pant unfurled an audacious hundred, but England batters, led by centurion Ollie Pope, produced their own parade to reach 209 for three at the end of the second day of the first Test, here, on Saturday.

1ST TEST: ENGLAND VS INDIA

Pope (100 batting) and Harry Brook (0) were at crease when the stumps were drawn with England whittling down India's lead to 262 after the visitors made 471 in their first innings.

Brook would certainly thank his stars as a pull off Bumrah, which was caught by Mohammed Siraj, was adjudged no-ball in the last over of the day.

It was a sliver of example how the Indian pacer tormented the hosts' batters.

England did not quite solve the Bumrah puzzle but they showed enough spunk to bat through the storm. Pope can be a lovely batter to watch in full flow, but here the Surrey man sussed up the conditions and the general quality of the attack to a nicety to tweak his batting.

Once he survived a massive shout for leg-before-perpetuated by Mohammed Siraj, relying mainly on his bottom hand to collect runs with cuts and dabs through point, gully regions.

Pope came to the middle when Bumrah was bowling in a charged atmosphere after he consumed opener Zak Crawley (4) in the first over itself with a peach in a wonderful exhibition of fast bowling.

Crawley never looked settled, producing edges in his first three balls, and the fourth one proved lethal. The delivery took the outside edge of the right-hander's bat, grazed on his thigh pad and eventually nestled in Karun Nair's hands at

first slip. Pope's partner Ben Duckett (62 off 94 balls), with whom he added 122 runs for the second wicket, had big slices of fortunes too.

He was dropped on 15 by Ravindra Jadeja at backward point off Bumrah, but the England batters were good enough to put those thorny moments behind them to cash in on the profligacy of Bumrah's colleagues in the pace department.

Siraj and Prasidh Krishna, a hard length bowler, were eager to discover the mandatory fuller length in England, but they overreached in their effort, often giving ample space and width for batters to make some risk-free runs.

SCOREBOARD

India: Yashasvi Jaiswal b Stokes 101, KL Rahul c Root b Carse 42, Sai Sudharsan c Smith b Stokes 0, *Shubman Gill c Tongue b Bashir 147, Rishabh Pant lbw b Tongue 134, Karun Nair c Pope b Stokes 0, Ravindra Jadeja b Tongue 11, Shardul Thakur c Smith b Stokes 1, Jasprit Bumrah c Brook b Tongue 0, Mohammed Siraj not out 3, Prasidh Krishna b Tongue 1. **Extras:** 31. **Total:** 471-10. **Fall of wickets:** 91-1, 92-2, 221-3, 430-4, 447-5, 453-6, 454-7, 458-8, 469-9, 471-10. **Bowling:** Chris Woakes 24-4-103-0, Brydon Carse 22-5-96-1, Josh Tongue 20-0-86-4, *Ben Stokes 20-2-66-4, Shoab Bashir 27-6-100-1. **England:** Zak Crawley c Nair b Bumrah 4, Ben Duckett b Bumrah 62, Ollie Pope not out 100, Joe Root c Nair b Bumrah 28, Harry Brook not out 0. **Extras:** 15. **Total:** 209-3. **Fall of wickets:** 4-1, 126-2, 206-3. **Bowling:** Jasprit Bumrah 13-3-48-3, Mohammed Siraj 14-0-50-0, Prasidh Krishna 10-0-56-0, Ravindra Jadeja 9-2-25-0, Shardul Thakur 3-0-23-0.

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Chopra beats Weber to win first Diamond League title

PTI, PARIS: Olympic medal-winning Indian javelin throw superstar Neeraj Chopra clinched his first Diamond League title in two years, upstaging German rival Julian Weber without having to hit the 90m mark in a strong field here.

The 27-year-old Chopra won the title late on Friday night with his first round throw of 88.16m in a star-studded field, which featured five from the coveted 90m club. His second throw measured 85.10m and he then fouled his next three attempts before recording 82.89m in his sixth

and final effort. Weber was second with his opening throw of 87.88m, while Luiz Mauricio Da Silva of Brazil was third with his third round attempt of 86.62m.

"I am happy with my throw...My run-up was really fast today. I can't control my speed, but I'm happy with the result and with the first position," the Haryana-lad, who has a gold and silver in back-to-back Olympics, told the broadcaster.

Chopra had won his last DL title in Lausanne in June 2023 with a throw of 87.66m. After that, he

finished second in six DL meetings.

This was his first win in the Paris leg of the prestigious series. He last competed in the Paris DL in 2017 as a junior world champion and finished fifth with a throw of 84.67m.

"I will compete in Ostrava (Golden Spike athletic meet) after four days on the 24th of June. So I need some recovery," he said of his upcoming schedule which also includes the inaugural Neeraj Chopra Classic in Bengaluru on July 5 -- a World Athletics category A event which he is hosting.

Flamengo floor Chelsea, Bayern Munich edge out Boca Juniors

AFP, PHILADELPHIA (United States): Flamengo produced a brilliant second-half fightback to beat Chelsea 3-1 at the Club World Cup on Friday and qualify for the last 16, while Bayern Munich joined them in reaching the knockout phase with a

batting win over Boca Juniors.

In Philadelphia, Pedro Neto gave Chelsea an early lead but Flamengo, roared on by their frenzied supporters who made up the majority of the 54,019 crowd, did not deserve to be behind and

came roaring back in the second half. Bruno Henrique scored twice to help Flamengo 2-1.

CLUB WORLD CUP RESULTS
Benfica 6 (Di Maria 45+8-pen, 90+8-pen, Pavlidis 53, Sanches 63, Barreiro 76, 78) Auckland City 0, Bayern Munich 2 (Kane 18, Olise 84) Boca Juniors 1 (Merentiel 66), Chelsea 1 (Neto 13) Flamengo 3 (Bruno Henrique 62, Danilo 65, Wallace Yan 83), Los Angeles FC 0 Esperance Tunis 1 (Belaili 70)

que came off the bench in the 56th minute and quickly equalised before setting up former Real Madrid, Manchester City and Juventus defender Danilo to make it 2-1. Chelsea were stunned, and their hopes of pulling level again were effectively

destroyed when substitute Nicolas Jackson was sent off in the 68th minute for a dangerous tackle on Ayrton Lucas. Wallace Yan then sealed the victory for the Rio de Janeiro club, the Brazilian league leaders, when he made it 3-1 late on.

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