

Silverware for Indian team in Asian Snooker C'ship

NEW DELHI, May 31: Before the Indian trio of Brijesh Damani, Alok Kumar and Manan Chandra had set foot in the Qatari capital for the inaugural Asian Snooker Championship, they had made a promise to themselves that nothing short of silverware would suffice. On a balmy evening in Doha yesterday, they fulfilled the promise when they triumphed 3-0 over Iran in the summit clash to win the USD 4,500 prize money tourney. "It's just an amazing feeling to win the tournament where all the Asian countries participated. A total of 14 entries were there from Asia. It was a tough competition especially because of its shorter format. There was a lot of pressure on us throughout the tournament but we held our nerves," Alok Kumar told from Doha after the final. "Our first match in the tournament was very close against Saudi Arabia where we were 0-2 down against them. We won that match and since then, there was no look-

ing back. Manan played really well and Brijesh complimented him with his precise play. It was a team effort and we are happy to have won it," he said. The Indian cueists were in red-hot form right from the start and topped their group with three wins from as many games. After the group stages, India were the only team to remain undefeated. Pakistan, China and Thailand finished on top of their respective groups but suffered a defeat each. India had little obstruction in clinching gold as they had outplayed Qatar 3-1 in the quarter-finals, beat Afghanistan 3-1 in the semi-finals before registering a clean sweep against Iran scoring 61-49 (Single against Amir Sarkhoshi); 58-16 (Single against Ehsan Heydarinezhad); and 63-55 (double against Amir and Ehsan), last night. Talking about the final, Alok said it was not as easy for the Indians as the scoreline suggests. "Manan had a close first game where he just managed to brush

aside the challenge of his opponent. Though Brijesh won the second game comfortably 58-16 but he gave away some easy chances to his rival to score points. We then won the doubles 63-55. We won on the pink ball. It was an interesting final," said Alok, the senior most member of the side said. (PTI)

Champions Trophy unveiled by Suniel Shetty

MUMBAI, May 31: The ICC Champions Trophy, to be handed over to the winners of the June 6-23 tournament in England, was today unveiled at gaming centre Smaaash. Actor Suniel Shetty and cricket commentator Harsha Bhogle unveiled the silverware. India and South Africa kick off the contest on June 6 at the Sophia Gardens at Cardiff, Wales in a Group B match. Also in the same group are the West Indies and Pakistan. Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Sri Lanka form Group A. The top two teams from each group would progress to the semi-finals scheduled on June 19 and 20 at the Kennington Oval and Sophia Gardens respectively with the winners advancing to the June 23 final to be played at Edgbaston. (PTI)

Sania crashes out in first round of mixed doubles

PARIS, May 31: India's Sania Mirza and her Swedish partner Robert Lindstedt today crashed out in the first round of the mixed doubles event, suffering a shocking straight-set defeat at the hands of Cara Black and Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi here. The top seeded Indo-Swede combination were no match for their unseeded opponents, losing 2-6 3-6 in little less than an hour. Black and Qureshi will now face the winner of the match between Sorana Cirstea of Romania and David Marrero and Su-Wei Hsieh of Taipei and Denmark's Frederik Nielsen. Sania, however, will partner American Bethanie Mattek-Sands in the women's doubles event where they have been seeded seventh. The Indo-American pair will face French duo of Alize Cornet and Virginie Razzano in the first round. (PTI)



Sector Commander Rashtriya Rifles Mahore presenting trophy to winners on Friday.

Mahore Premier League concludes

Excelsior Sports Correspondent MAHORE, May 31: With the idea of promoting sports and spirit of sportsmanship amongst the youth of the remote areas, an Intra Tehsil T-20 Cricket Tournament 'Mahore Premier League' was organised at Sungri by Rashtriya Rifles Battalion Bagga, under aegis of Rashtriya Rifles Sector at Mahore, here. Twelve teams from various villages of Mahore, Gool and Samote participated in the tournament. The Sector Commander of Rashtriya Rifles Sector at

Mahore handed over the trophy to the winning team and also gave away individual prizes. While addressing a huge gathering of spectators he said that sports play an important role in shaping the personality of the youth. He emphasized that the purpose of such tournaments is not only to encourage the local youth for national and international events but also to harmonize the relation between the Army and the local populace. The local populace lauded the initiative undertaken by the Army to promote cricket amongst the youth.

Don't understand why players indulge in corruption: Afridi

KARACHI, May 31: The IPL spot-fixing scandal has left Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi "sad" and he cannot understand why some players are lured into corrupt practices despite earning good money. "I just don't understand why these players have to resort to illegal means to earn money when there is already good money to be earned by playing cricket honestly and with 100 per cent commitment and dedi-

cation," Afridi told a news channel. The former captain said he was saddened by the recent IPL spot-fixing controversy which led to the arrest of three players. "It is sad to see fellow players come to this stage that they are sent to jails. Because there is so much cricket these days everywhere they are so many professional T20 cricket leagues which pay good money to players," he noted. (PTI)



Students of BSF School Paloura who excelled in Squay and Judo Tournament, organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports at Indoor Complex, MA Stadium, recently. Those who bagged gold in Squay Under-14 boys included Nishant, Sahil Rao, and Om Batori, while in Under-14 girls Anika claimed gold. The silver medals went to Reshav, Manu and Saksham. In Judo Under-17, the gold medals were bagged by Bhupesh Singh, Sagar Singh, Rambabu and Divya Kumari, while the silver went to Vikram.



Students of Sushila Narendrajit Singh Vidya Mandir High School, Sushel Nagar, Talab Tillo, Jammu who won gold medals in the Inter-School Yoga Championship, organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports at Indoor Complex in MA Stadium, recently. The gold medal winners included Muskan Saini, Tina Saini, Anushka Koul, Sumit Dubey, Simran Bhat, Pallavi Sharma and Muskan Rajput.

Jammu boys Shubam, Rohit to leave for India U-19 Camp tomorrow

Excelsior Sports Correspondent JAMMU, May 31: Two young cricketers from Jammu and Kashmir, both hailing from Jammu including stylish right-handed opening batsman Shubam Khajuria and rhythmic right-arm speedster Rohit Sharma will leave for National Cricket Academy (NCA) Bangalore on June 2, 2013, to attend the India Under-19 boys coaching/conditioning camp beginning at the venue from the same date. Both the youngsters are among the 28 probables selected for India Under-19 boys cricket camp last month for their fabulous showing in the BCCI's Cooch Behar Under-19 Cricket Tournament during the season. The 15-member Under-19

Indian team for the Australian tour to commence from June 30, 2013 in Darwin will be selected from these probables soon. It will be triangular series between India, Australia and New Zealand. It may be recalled that Shubam had scored 3 centuries and 4 half-centuries in the Cooch Behar Trophy last season, while Rohit had a big haul of 30 odd wickets during the Tournament. Both the cricketers are well prepared for the camp as the duo has prepared themselves almost to a perfection during a month-long net/training session at GGM Science College Hostel Ground, Jammu in accordance with the guidelines served by the National Cricket Academy well in time.

Royal CC registers huge win in Gufran T20

Excelsior Sports Correspondent DODA, May 31: Royal Cricket Club (RCC) today registered a huge win by 117 runs over BCC Assesi in the ongoing All India 9th Gufran Memorial T20 Cricket Championship, organized by Young Star Cricket Club Doda at Sports Stadium, here. Earlier, batting first after winning the toss, RCC scored a mammoth total of 208 runs for the loss of five wickets in the stipulated 20 overs. Nadeem was the top scorer with 71 runs, while Javed contributed well made 60 runs to the total. For BCC Assesi, Mudassar and Younis bagged 2 and 1 wicket respectively. In reply, BCC Assesi could not chase the target and scored just 91 runs in 20 overs, thus lost the match by a big margin of 117 runs. Imran was the top scorer from BCC Assesi, who made 32 runs followed by Mudassar who contributed 16 runs for his team. For RCC, Sushil, Javed and Nadeem shared one wicket each. Nadeem of Royal Cricket Club was declared as man of the match for his splendid show.

Anju adjudged best speaker

Excelsior Correspondent RAMNAGAR, May 31: Anju Devi student of 10th Class was adjudged best speaker in the symposium organized on the occasion on the topic "World No Tobacco Day" at Government High School, Kulwanta 19 km away from tehsil headquarters Ramnagar here today. The symposium was organized by the Department of Drug and Food Control Organization Udhampur in collaboration with Information Department Udhampur under the overall supervision of Assistant Controller Drug, Munish Gupta. Headmaster of the host school, Jagan Nath was the chief guest on the occasion. In all 10 students participated in the symposium in which Akshita Thakur of 8th class secured 2nd position while 3rd position was clinched by Urvasi Thakur of 10th class besides Balbir Singh and Miss Neelam Devi of 10th class received consolation prizes. Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest threw light on the topic and highlighted the hazards of smoking and advised the students to remain away from this killing menace besides he also urged the students to make wide awareness in society. The Headmaster of the host institution requested the departments to organize such more programme for the general awareness. Pritam Singh Pathania, Daulat Raj and Raj Kumar acted as judges while Mohinder Kumar conducted the proceedings of the programme.

Selection trials for J&K Corporate Premier League on June 4

Excelsior Sports Correspondent JAMMU, May 31: To pick 45 cricketers from Jammu province for the forthcoming Jammu and Kashmir Corporate Premier League (J&K CPL), the one-day selection trials will be held on June 4, 2013 at MA Stadium, here. According to a handout issued here by former Ranji trophy player, Abdul Qyoom, the organizing secretary of the mega event, the trials will begin at 10 am sharp and will conclude at 6 pm on June 4, under the 3-member selection committee, which includes former cricketers of repute and the players will have to report to Rajesh Dhar, joint secretary of the League. "A pool of 90 players, with 45 from each province will be chosen for the bid. We have already arranged trials in the Valley for picking 45 players," informed Qyoom. The 10 Corporates who will be sponsoring the teams include Kanwal Group of Companies, with the team name as Kanwal Tigers, Simula Group of Companies (Simula Bulls), Tramboo Cement Industries (TCI Cheetahs), Ahad Hotel and

JKBA selection trials from June 3

Excelsior Sports Correspondent SRINAGAR, May 31: The Jammu and Kashmir Baseball Association (JKBA) is going to organize 3-days 'open selection trials', in boys and girls category from Monday, June 3, 2013 here. The trials are being held in preparation for the forthcoming '9th North Zone Senior Baseball Championship', to be held in J&K for the first time. According to general secretary of JKBA, Fida Hussain Fidvi, the trials will commence from June 3 and conclude on June 5 and will be followed by 21 days coaching camp for both boys and girls from June 6 to June 30, 2013. "Selection-trails-cum-coaching camp will be held under the supervision of Jammu and Kashmir State Sports Council at S P Higher Secondary School, Srinagar" informed Fidvi. The Association has advised the boys to contact the concerned coach Gulzar Ahmad at the S P Higher Secondary School while as the girls have been asked to approach the concerned coach J S Mehta at Women's College, here.

Certificates, medals distributed among winners

Excelsior Sports Correspondent JAMMU, May 31: The Department of Youth Services and Sports, District Office Jammu distributed certificates and medals among the winners of the recently held Inter-School Tournament in the disciplines of yoga, gymnastics, taekwondo, judo, fencing and squash, here today. Tirath Ram, District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Jammu was the chief guest on the occasion, while Guldeep Kumar Gupta, joint secretary Kabbadi Federation of India and Satish Gupta, manager Indoor Complex MA Stadium were present on the occasion. Over 100 players, who claimed gold, silver and bronze medals during the said tournament were felicitated on the occasion by the chief guest and other dignitaries.

JCC trounces Gorkha Club in Salute & Tribute T20

Excelsior Sports Correspondent JAMMU, May 31: Jammu Cricket Club (JCC) drubs Gorkha Cricket Club by 26 runs today in "Salute & Tribute to the Players" Cricket Tournament which is being organized by Parade Sports Association at Parade Ground, here. Earlier, batting first, Jammu Cricket Club scored 140 runs for the loss of 6 wickets in allotted 20 overs. Vishavjeet Singh scored unbeaten 42 runs off 31 balls with the help of 5 boundaries and one six, while Deepak Dogra contributed 39 runs off 34 balls with four boundaries and Jaswinder Singh chipped in with 23 runs, studded with 3 boundaries and one six. For Gorkha Club, Pankaj took 2 wickets while Anil, Sagar and Kunal shared one wicket each. In reply, Gorkha Cricket Club bumbled out for 116 runs in 18.1 overs. Kunal was the top scorer with 21 runs in 13 balls with 2 boundaries and

India need to forget spot-fixing saga, focus on adaptation

BIRMINGHAM, May 31: Indian cricketers face the daunting twin tasks of leaving behind the IPL spot-fixing scam and adapting to the tough conditions here as they begin their preparations for the ICC Champions Trophy with a warm-up game against Sri Lanka tomorrow. Some on-field action will help divert the attention from the scandal, which has tarnished the reputation of Indian cricket. The conditions favour India's fast bowlers but they need to sort out their line and length. India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni has already said that they will follow a five-bowler strategy. India's success would hinge on how well the pacers exploit the conditions and there are a lot of expectations from the young Bhuvaneshwar Kumar who can swing the ball both ways. Bhuvaneshwar has impressed in the limited opportunities he has got, especially against Pakistan in a home ODI series. Conditions would be ideal for his style of bowling and he would look to cement his place in the side with some solid performances. Umesh Yadav, who has returned to the fold after recovering from an injury, could not get a better opportunity to force his way back in the side as the pitches in England will assist him. Ishant Sharma also looks in good touch after being instrumental in his IPL side Sunrisers Hyderabad's stupendous show. (PTI)

Inter-State Athletic C'ships from June 4

CHENNAI, May 31: The 63rd National Inter-State Athletics Championship will be held here from June 4 to 7 with the event to be funded by Tamil Nadu government. Announcing this at a press conference here today, Tamil Nadu State Athletics Association President W I Davaram top athletes barring Vikas Gowda, would be competing in the championship which will also select Indian athletes for the Asian Championship in Pune next month and World Championships in Moscow in August. He said over 1000 athletes

I just want respect as an ex-volleyball player: Arunima

RANCHI, May 31: Former national level volleyball player, Arunima Sinha who recently became the first woman amputee to conquer Mt. Everest, today choose to ignore the Volleyball Federation of India's indifference towards her, saying she just wanted "respect". "Ask the Federation... Just want respect as an ex-volleyball player," Arunima said. The Volleyball Federation of India had reportedly denied compensation to Arunima after she was thrown off a moving train two years ago near Bareilly. It also refused to acknowledge her existence despite her achieving the world record feat. On whether she would consider making a comeback to the Indian volleyball team, Arunima said, "I have not played since the accident occurred (in April 2011)... Wait and watch." The young mountaineer credited Bachendri Pal, Chief, Tata Steel Adventure Foundation and the first woman to scale the peak for her feat. (PTI)



S K Chaudhary, Sports Officer of Andaman & Nicobar, Ex SDM of Orrisa, Guinness book record holder showcases his stunts, like pulling truck with his hair, lifting 20 Kgs weight with his teeth at BSF Campus, Humhama in Srinagar on Friday. -Excelsior/Amin War

English county cricketers under ICC scanner

LONDON, May 31: More than 20 English county cricketers and two umpires are being questioned by anti-corruption detectives as part of the ICC's match-fixing investigation. The ICC is speaking to players who were involved in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), which featured cricketers from around the world. Ravi Bopara, Owais Shah, Kabir Ali, Phil Mustard and Dimitri Mascarenhas are among the players who have either been or will be interviewed by the England and Wales Cricket Board's anti-corruption unit, which is working in conjunction with the ICC, according to a 'Daily Telegraph' report.



Eleven players from Jammu and Kashmir who have been selected in Indian jump rope team after successful participation in South Asian Jump Rope Championship held at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi, recently. These players include Irshad Ahmed, Arun Sharma, Sandeep Sharma, Akash Sharma, Jam Roudh Singh, Mavinder Singh, Opinder Singh, Jagpreet Singh, Parsandeep Singh, Harsimran Kour and Parabjot Kour.