



DG SAI, Jiji Thomson and Director Teams, Rajinder Singh posing alongwith medalist Pooja and coach Kuldeep.

Pooja's, Handoo's silver in World Games a landmark achievement: SAI, WAI

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 10: Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Wushu Association of India (WAI) described the silver medal by Indian Wushu player, Pooja Kadian, a permanent trainee of National Wushu coach Kuldeep Handoo of J&K in the 9th World Games at Cali in Colombia, recently a landmark achievement.

Wushu Association of India in a statement said that Pooja was the first player from India who had qualified for the prestigious Games, wherein around 140 countries with over 30 sports disciplines took part.

The Director General of Sports Authority of India, Jiji Thomson alongwith Director (Teams), Rajinder Singh while lauding the efforts of the duo have advised them to practice harder in the ongoing National Wushu Coaching Camp at Gulmarg for the better results in the forthcoming 12th World Wushu

Championship at Malaysia from October 28 to November 6, 2013, 3rd Lusofonia Games at Goa (India) from November 6 to November 10, 2013 and 17th Asian Games at Incheon (Korea) in 2014.

Bhupender Singh Bajwa, president WAI and Manish Kacker, general secretary, WAI alongwith S Ovais Ahmed, chairman of WAI and H K Lohia, president of WAIK have also felt satisfied over the performance of the coach-player pair.

It is pertinent to mention here that it is the third medal for India in the World Games so far and Pooja Kadian earlier has secured silver medal in the Junior World Championship at Bali (Indonesia), bronze in the 5th Asian Junior Wushu Championship at Macau, silver in 11th World Wushu Championship at Turkey bronze in the 8th Asian Wushu Championship at Vietnam.

Sindhu settles for bronze medal in World Championship

GUANGZHOU, Aug 10:

India's rising shuttler P V Sindhu today settled for a bronze medal at the World Championships after suffering a straight-game defeat against world number three Ratchanok Intanon in the semifinals of the prestigious event here.

World number 12 Sindhu, playing in her maiden World Championships, had notched up stunning victories against two Chinese players in the run-up to the semifinals but she failed to do it against Ratchanok, going down 10-21 13-21 in a 36-minute women's singles match.

Ratchanok mixed her strokes well and moved smoothly across the court. Sindhu, on the other hand, committed too many unforced errors allowing her opponent to move into the interval at 11-4 in the opening game.

Ratchanok used her deceptive shots to flummox Sindhu, who struggled in anticipation. The Indian failed to gauge the Thai girl's game and also ended up hitting the shuttle wide and not to allow Ratchanok to move to 19-10.

Ratchanok then moved to a 10-point lead with a straight baseline smash and with Sindhu hitting out again, the Thai had the upper-hand after the opening game.

Sindhu struggled with her strokes in the second game too as her returns were buried into the net and she also made some

judgemental errors as Ratchanok opened up a 8-1 lead early on.

A few points at the net saw Sindhu make it 5-10 but another unforced error by the Indian took Ratchanok to 11-5 at the break.

Ratchanok was accurate and played some sensational strokes to leave Sindhu without any answer. Sindhu tried to match Ratchanok in the rallies but the Thai girl was always a step ahead with her wide array of strokes.

Leading 19-12, Ratchanok earned eight match points when Sindhu's shuttle went out again.

Sindhu saved one match point with a smash but Ratchanok soon grabbed the last point with a jump smash which caught Sindhu off-guard.

Ratchanok, 18, is the first shuttler from her country to be assured of a silver at the World Championship.

The Thailand girl won the India Open in New Delhi and also the Thailand Open Grand Prix Gold this year. She is also a three-time world junior championship gold-medallist. She is also a silver-medallist from the 2010 Asian Games here. (PTI)

Desai, Manika, Ankita enter Brazil Open semifinals

NEW DELHI, Aug 10:

Indians continued to impress with three paddlers in both men's and women's categories entering the semifinals of the ITTF World Tour Brazil Open at Santos today.

While Harmeet Desai got the better of Brazilian Thiago Monteiro 4-3 (11-6 8-11 11-9 5-11 9-11 11-8 11-9) in a tough battle to grab a semi-final spot in the men's singles, Manika Batra and Ankita Das made the last four stage in the women's singles.

Anita, who faced compatriot Suthirtha Mukherjee in the quarters, emerged victorious with a 4-2 (8-11 12-10 11-9 7-11 11-3 11-8) scoreline, while Manika registered a comfortable 11-4 11-7 9-11 11-9 11-5 win over Jissica Yamada of Brazil to enter semifinals.

However, Soumyajit Ghosh failed to seal his semifinal spot as he lost to Brazilian Hugo Calderano 3-4 (7-11, 11-9, 10-

12, 11-7, 8-11, 8-11) despite leading 2-1 at one stage.

Ghosh had earlier beaten host paddler Israel Barreto in straight games to move into the quarterfinals.

Earlier, both G Satiyan and Nitin Vasanth Philips had exited in the round of 16, losing to Thiago Monteiro and Cazu Matsumoto, respectively. Kritiwicka Sinha Roy too lost 2-4 to Jessica Yama in a gruelling battle in the pre-quarterfinals.

Desai played exceptionally well to win his pre-quarterfinal and quarterfinal matches, both of which went to the wire. He had outlasted Brazilian Humberto Manhani 4-3 in pre-quarters.

The Indian will now take on local challenger Gustavo Tsuboi in the semifinals.

Manika will take on Elizabeta Samara of Roumania in the semis, while Ankita will meet Brazilian Caroline Kumahara. (PTI)

Williams storms into semis of WTA Rogers Cup

TORONTO, Aug 10:

World No.1 Serena Williams, who is seeking her eighth title of the year, stormed into the semifinals at the WTA Rogers Cup with a crushing straight-set win over Magdalena Rybarikova.

The 31-year-old Williams blitzed the world number 42 Slovak 6-1, 6-1 in a quarter-final match that took just one hour on Friday.

"She had nothing to lose," Williams said of Rybarikova. "I knew I had to play really, really good today."

Williams next faces third-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland on Saturday for a spot in the final.

Radwanska powered her way past Sara Errani of Italy 7-6 (7/1), 7-5 in an earlier quarter-final match.

"She is a great player. She has a great feel for the ball," Williams said of facing Radwanska on Saturday.

It was a powerful display of tennis from the top seed

Williams, who hammered seven aces and broke Rybarikova a half dozen times.

"I'm definitely happier with the return game today," Williams said. "I could still use some improvement. She served pretty well, but I was pretty happy with the results from today."

Williams is 8-0 since her fourth-round loss at Wimbledon to Sabine Lisicki.

"I just felt like I was too tight, and just put a lot of pressure on myself there," she said of the loss at Wimbledon. "I just needed to relax more than anything, which is what I'm doing."

Unseeded Romanian Sorana Cirstea also sent defending champion Petra Kvitova packing Friday in the quarter-finals.

"It might come as a surprise for many people," said Cirstea of her upset win. "It's not really a surprise for me, because I know how hard I have been working for the past couple of weeks. It's nice to see the reward." (AGENCIES)

South Africa beat Australia in 'A' teams tri-series

PRETORIA, Aug 10:

Captain Aaron Finch's 119 went in vain as South Africa 'A' beat Australia 'A' by 19 runs in a round-robin match of the tri-series tournament among 'A' teams here today.

Opener Finch ran out of partners and he was the last man out in Australia 'A's run chase of 253 for a win. His 129-ball innings was studded with 10 fours and four sixes.

Nic Maddinson was the other notable contributor as Australia 'A' were shot out for 233 in 42.2 overs.

For South Africa 'A', Rusty Theron took four wickets for 51 runs while Hardus Viljoen chipped in with three scalps.

Earlier, opting to bat, South Africa 'A' were 252 all out in 47.4 overs. Dean Elgar (52), Dane Vilas (55) and Theron (53) struck a half century each.

Lin through to world final

GUANGZHOU, Aug 10:

Defending world and Olympic champion Lin Dan is through to the final of the badminton world championships in Guangzhou, China after a shaky start against a fired-up underdog.

The 29-year-old Chinese superstar, widely regarded as badminton's best ever player, took on Vietnam's Nguyen Tien Minh, seeded seventh.

Dancing light-footed around the court, the agile Vietnamese player, 30, won applause from the partisan crowd with a cheeky over-the-shoulder return as Lin took his time to find his feet in the first game.

Lin, who is returning to badminton after almost a year on the sidelines to spend time with his family, slipped behind after misjudging Nguyen's early returns. (PTI)

Sudha fails to qualify for final round

MOSCOW, Aug 10:

Asian Games gold medalist Sudha Singh failed to qualify for the women's 3000m steeple chase final round as she finished a disappointing 12th in the heats in the 14th IAAF World Athletics Championships here today.

Sudha clocked 9:51.05, well outside her personal best and national record timing of 9:45.60, which she recorded in June in Chennai.

Interestingly, Sudha was the lone Asian participating in the event and she finished 12th in the 14-athlete field Heat One. Top five in each of the two heats and the next five fastest advanced to the final round. (PTI)

Nadal, Djokovic join Canucks in semis

MONTREAL, Aug 10:

Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal delivered crushing defeats on Friday to set up their 36th career clash in the semi-finals of the Montreal Masters.

Djokovic hammered France's Richard Gasquet 6-1, 6-2 as the top seed motored into final four. Nadal was equally ruthless with Australian qualifier Marinko Matosevic 6-4, 6-2.

Nadal leads his Serbian rival 20-15 in their career series, winning the last two in Monte Carlo and Roma after Djokovic had claimed the previous seven.

Milos Raonic and wildcard Vasek Pospisil set up an all-Canadian semi at the bottom of the draw.

Pospisil, living the dream week of his career, had it easy in his quarter-final as Russian opponent Nikolay Davydenko retired with a respiratory ailment while trailing 3-0. Raonic, over-

came Latvia's Ernests Gulbis 7-6 (7/3), 4-6, 6-4.

Pospisil had reached the quarter-finals with his first top-10 victory, a third-round defeat of Tomas Berdych.

Djokovic, a three-time champion in Canada who is bidding for his third-straight title at the event, won his eighth match out of nine against Gasquet and his sixth in a row in the series.

"Everything was working in my game," said the winner. "It was close to the perfection. In every part of my game I did almost my best."

"From the start I tried to dictate the play on the court and be in control of the rallies. I've done really well. The serve was very efficient, very high percentage of first serves, a lot of aces, a lot of free points."

"That's something that obviously gives you confidence when you're playing at this level." (AGENCIES)

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Table with columns: S. No., Name of Sr. Asstt., Previous place of postings, District, New Place of postings. Lists various government employees and their transfers.