



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese waving at crowd before the start of the fourth test cricket match between India and Australia, at Narendra Modi stadium in Ahmedabad on Thursday. (UNI)

Modi, Albanese watch India-Australia Test match for half an hour after taking round of sprawling stadium

AHMEDABAD, Mar 9:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese this morning watched the fourth Test between India and Australia at the Narendra Modi stadium here for half an hour after taking a round of the imposing sports arena on a golf cart.

Modi and Albanese handed over Test caps to their respective team captains Rohit Sharma and Steve Smith at the start of the game, which is the fourth of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

The two Prime Ministers watched the match from the President's Box at the world's largest stadium.

The round of the playing turf on a golf cart by the two dignitaries was applauded by thousands of spectators.

Modi and Albanese met players from both sides and stood along side them when the national anthems of India and Australia were sung.

The two PMs also visited

the 'Hall of Fame museum at the Narendra Modi stadium.

The crowd had started assembling from different parts of the state since early morning, most of them carrying the Tricolour and sporting face paint.

Vendors selling India t-shirts and other items for match day soon ran out of stock.

"We came here to watch PM Modi. He is our lucky charm and his presence will turn the tide in the favour of India in this Test match. Modi hai to mumkin hai," a fan said.

"My entire family are fans of cricket. We never miss a match in any stadium in Gujarat. Seeing so many people, I am sure the Indian team will be motivated," said Rakesh Desai, who had travelled with his kin all the way from Surat for the match.

Sources said the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party had arranged a large number of passes for the match and had distributed it to people. Several of them left after spending some time at the stadium.

Albanese arrived here on Wednesday and attended some programmes, while Modi reached the state late last night.

(PTI)

Super Usman guides Australia to comfortable 255/4 on Day 1

AHMEDABAD, Mar 9:

Usman Khawaja combined patience with grit to raise his 14th Test hundred that guided Australia to a comfortable 255 for four as a keen contest between bat and ball marked the opening day of the fourth and final match, here today.

After dominating the batters in the first three matches of the series, the Indian spinners struggled to trouble the Australians with the Motera track, as anticipated, turning out to be a better wicket.

Khawaja, Australia's best batter on the tour, was determination-personified throughout his six-hour stay as he struck 15 boundaries in his unbeaten 104-run knock.

At stumps the Pakistan-born Khawaja had Cameron Green (49) for company.

As a southpaw, neither does Khawaja have the panache of someone like a David Warner nor the brute power of a Matthew Hayden, who was capable of executing slog sweeps fetching deliveries from wide outside the off-stump.

His game maybe pretty low

on aesthetics but is highly impactful as he came across as a batter, who wouldn't try anything which is outside his comfort zone.

Anything pitched on his legs was punished through the leg-side while the occasional cover drive would come out of the closet. Like one off Jadeja in the final session.

Otherwise, it was just playing the ball late and rocking on the back-foot, while whipping Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja through the square-leg or mid-wicket region.

It was only fitting that an on-drive off Mohammed Shami (2/65), brought up what would be one of his most cherished Test hundreds that he celebrated with his now-customary leap in the air.

For someone, who faced racism during his early years, with typical Asian stereotype jibes like "Curry Muncher", life did make Khawaja mentally tough and he has shone through time and again during his second coming -- be it Sydney, Karachi, Rawalpindi, Delhi or now in Ahmedabad.

It did help that there was no devil on the Motera track and with no significant help on offer, India's spin troika of Ashwin

(1/57), Jadeja (1/49) and Axar Patel weren't as effective compared to first three games.

Save Shami's lethal reverse swing to get Peter Handscombe castled, none of the other dismissals came off wicket-taking deliveries and could be attributed to lapse of concentration on part of batters.

It was a track where if one even got deceived in the air, the slowness off the surface ensured that playing on backfoot became second line of defence.

Run scoring wasn't easy but surviving and slowly building an innings wasn't difficult either as Khawaja showed.

Twice Australia lost back-to-back wickets but prior to that and after that, Khawaja remained a constant factor.

He had partnerships of 61 for the opening stand with Travis Head (32), 79 for the third wicket Steve Smith (38) and another 103 for the fifth wicket with Green, who counter-punched towards the end of the day.

The run-rate of 2.83 would show that scoring wasn't very easy, save the first hour when Head hit Umesh Yadav for a flurry of boundaries. (PTI)



Yastika Bhatia playing a shot against Delhi Capitals during a match at Navi-Mumbai on Thursday.

Mumbai Indians claim bragging rights in top of table contest

NAVI MUMBAI, Mar 9:

All-round Mumbai Indians asserted their supremacy in the Women's Premier League with an eight-wicket thrashing of Delhi Capitals in a top of the table clash here today.

Saika Ishaque, Isabelle Wong and Hayley Matthews - each with three wickets apiece - led Mumbai Indians' charge with the ball to bundle out Delhi Capitals for a mere 105 in 18 overs.

With a small target to chase, Mumbai romped home to their third win in a row in 15 overs with captain Harmanpreet Kaur (11 not out) and Nat Sciver-Brunt (23 not out) taking them past the

finish line.

Chasing 106, the opening pair of Yastika Bhatia (41) and Hayley Matthews (32) knocked off 47 runs in the powerplay and shared 65 runs for the first wicket to ensure a big win for their team.

For Delhi, it was their first loss of the inaugural season.

Yastika played her most convincing innings in the tournament so far, with the hard-hitting Matthews also cashing in on the bad deliveries.

Yastika clobbered eight fours to record her highest score in the WPL while Matthews, coming off a match-winning 77 not out, looked unburied in her 31-ball stay with six fours.

After a watchful start, Matthews unleashed three consecutive fours off Shikha Pandey in the fourth over and Yastika joined in soon, smacking Marizanne Kapp for three fours in the next over to keep Mumbai in complete command of the proceedings.

Tara Norris provided some respite for Delhi in the ninth over, pinning Yastika in front of the wickets with the batter also exhausting a DRS appeal.

And when it looked like the pair of Matthews and Nat Sciver-Brunt would take Mumbai to a second consecutive nine-wicket win, Delhi vice-captain Jemimah Rodrigues produced a brilliant athletic catch running in from long off to end the Caribbean batter's stay, off Jess Jonassen.

The first meeting between arguably the two best teams in the WPL turned out to be a damp squib.

It was a day of collective failure with both bat and ball for the Meg Lanning-led Delhi. Lanning's 43 was the highest individual total of the innings while her deputy Rodrigues scored 25.

The uncapped Ishaque continued her stellar run in the tournament while Wong and Matthews also played a crucial role in bringing down the high-flying Delhi Capitals. (PTI)



BJP leaders posing with winners at Jammu on Thursday.

BJP honours 4 specially abled Judokas

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 9: Hailing the laurels brought by four visually impaired Judokas of Jammu and Kashmir is proud.

Sham Lal Sharma, BJP Pradesh Vice President lauded their grit and determination in overcoming hurdles and difficulties to translate their dreams into reality. The outstanding performance of the visually impaired players in the national event will certainly enthuse similarly placed sports persons in various disciplines and encourage them to participate in various competitions in a big way.

Sharma emphasized the crucial need of overall growth of the youngsters, especially those specially abled and said the sports will ensure this aspect of their lives.

Arun Prabhat, President BJYM, while felicitating the young boys, said, "We all must encourage them and urged the Government to provide all support to such budding specially abled sports persons, who not only brought laurels to the UT, but also serve as a source of inspiration for all others."

Rana and Sharma also complimented their coaches for shaping the destiny of Judokas by perfecting their skills in the most professional manner.

Arvind Gupta and Prem Sagar Aziz were present on the occasion.

The 11th Para National Judo Championship was organized by the Indian Blind and Para Judo Association (IBPJA) from March 3 to March 7 at K.D Singh Babu Stadium Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

While Shahid Ali bagged the Gold medal, Sourav Guleria clinched Silver and Tariq Ahmed and Sadam Hussain both won Bronze Medals.

The team of Blind Boys was coached by Chief Judo Coach Suraj Bhan Singh of J&K Sports Council and escorted by Rameshwar Jamwal Judo coach and Ajay Thakur as Team Manager for the championship.

4 JKCA players selected for Nat'l Camp

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 9: Four budding under-19 cricketers of Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) have been selected to participate in the National Camp,

women. "The camps will be conducted under the aegis of Bangalore based National Cricket Academy (NCA) of BCCI at different locations across the country," said Brig. Anil Gupta, Member Administration JKCA.

The players selected from JKCA are promising wicketkeeper-batsman Rydham Sharma from Poonch, talented leg spinner Ritvik Jaitley from Jammu, wicket taking off spinner from Baramulla Ranjot Singh and hard hitting middle order batsman Mousub Bhat from Pulwama.

"It will be a golden chance for the youngsters to learn from the best coaches in the country and further refine and improve their game so that they can showcase their talent at the national level," said Brig. (Retd) Anil Gupta. The sub-committee members have expressed happiness at the selection of these players and advised them to make best use of the golden opportunity provided to them by the BCCI.

The national camp is being organized by BCCI to hone the skills of budding players in junior age groups both in men and

scheduled to be held from April 24 to May 18.

(PTI)

Do's & Dont's for infection prevention & control (Influenza/Viral)

Do's



Wash hands with soap and water
If symptomatic



wear masks & avoid crowded places



take plenty of fluids

avoid touching eyes and nose



cover mouth & nose while sneezing & coughing



take Paracetamol for fever and bodyache

Dont's



Shake hands or use other contact greetings



Spit in public



Take antibiotics or other medicines without consulting a doctor



Eat together sitting close to others

Police Martyrs Tournament Billawar CC to lock horns with Kathua XI in finals

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

KATHUA, Mar 9: Billawar Cricket Club will lock horns with Kathua XI Cricket Club in the summit clash of the ongoing Police

Martyrs T-20 Tournament, organized by J&K Police at DPL Ground, here.

In the semifinal matches which were played today in which Billawar Cricket Club defeated Rising Star Nagri team by 123 runs in first semifinal, while Kathua XI Cricket Club trounced Jogesh Cricket Club by 50 runs in the 2nd semifinal match.

In the first match, Billawar Cricket team won the toss and elected to bat first and scored 176 runs by losing 3 wickets in 20 overs. Akshit Manhas once again was top scorer who scored 64 runs off 34 balls (not out) with the help of the four maximum and four boundaries, while Rohit Sharma

scored 43 runs.

In reply, Rising Star Nagri failed to chase the given target and bundled out at 53 runs in 9.5 overs. Akshit Manhas was declared as man of the match for

his outstanding performance.

In the 2nd match, Jogesh Cricket Club team won the toss and elected to field first. Kathua XI Cricket Club team gave a target of 180 runs on the loss of 5 wickets in the stipulated overs. Kawal Preet Singh scored 87 runs in 57 deliveries, studded with 5 sixes and 9 boundaries.

In reply, Jogesh Cricket Club team scored 131 runs in the stipulated 20 overs by losing 7 wickets and thus lost the match.

Kawal Preet Singh was declared as man of the match for his all-round performance who scored 87 runs and took two wickets.



Players posing for a group photograph along with dignitaries at DPL Kathua on Thursday.



Shooters posing for a group photograph after the event.

MOSAJ wins team gold in Rifle competition

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 9: Mission Olympic Shooting Academy Jammu (MOSAJ) brought laurels to Jammu and Kashmir by winning gold in team event in 011 India Open Competition, organized by National Rifle Association of India (NRAI).

The shooters were Vishal Sharma, Shamsher Singh and Heemanshu Kumar. The competi-

tions were held at Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range Delhi from March 1 to 7.

It is salient to highlight that star shooter Vishal Sharma was selected in top eight shooters and competed with world champions. He got overall 5th rank in the competition, while three of the shooters got training under the guidance of coaches Vishal Mehra and Aman Singh in the Jammu based Academy.

Khardoan lifts Inter-block Traditional Archery Cup

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

KARGIL, Mar 9: Khardoan team lifted the Inter-block Traditional Archery Tournament Cup, here today.

The tournament concluded at Zgang Chiktan in which various teams from the Shakar Chiktan block participated.

Executive Councilor Agriculture, LAHDC, Kargil Mohsin Ali was the chief guest on the occasion. The tournament was organized by Youth Association Zgang which is one of the rarest events in the traditional Archery competition.

EC Mohsin urged the Association to try to revive traditional Archery which will help in the revival of the game as well as also help to attract tourists in the region.

He also gave a cash prize of Rs 10,000 to the organizers and also announced Rs 5 lakh to MS



Rashi Koul, W/o Amit Koul and D/o Indra Koul and Prof PK Koul, R/o Datta Ram Society Sector 18 Rohini Delhi, has been declared qualified for the award of degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Mechanical Engineering by Delhi Technological University, Delhi. She worked on the topic, "Performance, Emission and Combustion studies of a Renewable Diesel in a compression Ignition Engine," under the supervision of Prof. Naveen Kumar and Prof. RC Singh.

After World Cup debacle, India to make fresh start with Pro League

ROURKELA, Mar 9:

India will eye redemption when they take on newly-crowned world champions Germany in their FIH Men's Hockey Pro League fixture here tomorrow.

Led by star drag-flicker Harmanpreet Singh, the Indian team had made a shock last-16 exit in the World Cup held in January.

"Every match at this stage is challenging for us, especially when the oppositions are Australia and Germany," said the India skipper, who is currently one of the three joint top-scorers in the tournament.

"However, it's good for us that we are getting to play such challenging matches as our focus is on Asian Games. So, we will make sure that we improve as a team by playing such games and give our best in the future," Harmanpreet added.

India were at their wasteful best and failed to make use of their most circle entries (155) in the World Cup.

"In the camp (in Bengaluru) we spoke and worked on it. To make sure we have three targets