

GAME NOTES

Shahzar, Pooja win gold at Commonwealth Shooting Championship

BRISBANE, NOV 1 /- Indian pistol shooters on Wednesday pulled off a clean sweep in the 10m air pistol event at the Commonwealth Shooting Championship with Shahzar Rizvi, Omkar Singh and Hui Rui winning gold, silver and bronze medals respectively in the 10m women's air rifle event. Pooja Ghatkar bagged a gold while her countrymate Anjum Moudgil won the silver medal. The bronze in this event went to Martina Lindsay Veloso of Singapore. India had a productive second day at the range winning as many as five medals, including two gold, two silver and one bronze medal. (PTI)

State TV gets exclusive all-media rights for next 2 FIFA WCs

BEIJING, NOV 1 /- FIFA has awarded China's state-run CCTV all media rights for the period between 2018 and 2022 in the Chinese mainland, the broadcaster announced here today. According to the agreement, the China Central Television (CCTV) now owns the exclusive media rights to all FIFA events over the next five years, including the 2018 World Cup in Russia and 2022 World Cup in Qatar. The 2019 Women's World Cup in France and the 2021 Confederations Cup in the state-run Xinhua news agency reported. The CCTV had begun to broadcast the FIFA World Cup since 1978. "The partnership shows our support for FIFA as well as our efforts to help raise the level of Chinese soccer," its deputy editor-in-chief Peng Jianmin said. Chinese mainland excludes Hong Kong and Macao, which are specially-administered provinces. (PTI)

GFF's para shooter Swaroop Uthankar to represent India

NEW DELHI, NOV 1 /- Gun for Glory shooting academy's Swaroop Manohar Uthankar has been selected in an 11-member squad to represent India at the IPC Shooting World Cup in Bangkok from November 5. The Kolhapur-based para shooter came into the reckoning for his gold medal-winning performances at the recent nationals and his fine showing earlier in the KSS Competitions conducted by the Paralympic Committee of India. Swaroop, who trains under the head coach of GFC Anton Belak in Project Leap will participate in the 10m Air Rifle Standing and Prone Competitions. A confident of a good showing, especially as he has been training with the best equipment and the guidance of the some of the best coaches.

Wide Gap: Manipur bowled 94 wides, Nagaland 42 at BCCI meet

NEW DELHI, NOV 1 /- An astounding 136 wide balls were bowled during a BCCI U-19 women's one-day match between Nagaland and Manipur being played at Dikanhevi today. The match, which is a part of the inaugural NE-Bihar U-19 one-day competition being organised by the cricket board, saw Manipur bowled 94 wide balls while Nagaland were a shade better with 42. Nagaland even won the match by 117 runs to log four points, but it was learnt that girls from both the northeastern states were at times not even able to land the ball on the 22-yard square. Sample this: Nagaland were out for 215 in 38 overs and as per the scorecard available on BCCI website, Mushkan (54) and Pori (24) were the only two batswomen, who managed to score in double digits. But Manipur bowled 94 wide deliveries, which meant nearly 15.4 extra overs. Despite the bowling side's profligacy, Nagaland women lasted 38 overs, and had a decent score to look forward to. In reply, Manipur were all out for 98 in 27.3 overs with Nagaland bowling seven extra overs (42 wides). In Manipur innings, there were two players who got into double figures. Seterni (17) and Ronibala Thokhom (24) crossed the 10-run mark while Pori of Nagaland got five wickets for 10 runs. The match was being played at the Nehru Stadium in Jealgora. Dhanbad. The Committee of Administrators (COA) wants to integrate northeastern states into the BCCI set-up but the match was an example that aspiring cricketers from the region need top quality coaching facility from the cricket board. "There is always a beginning. As the teams from NE states will play more matches, they will certainly get better. The idea was a one-day league between NE states is to give the exposure to competitive cricket. With state of the art coaching, one can only get better," Naba Bhattacharjee, the Meghalaya CA top boss and the convener of NE states in BCCI told PTI today. However, a few BCCI officials, who were present during the match, conceded that it's not about the wide balls bowled but the "wide gap" that exists, which needs to be bridged. (PTI)

Sindhu, Saina, Srikanth in action in Badminton Sr Nationals

NAGPUR, NOV 1 /- Almost all the top Indian shuttlers, including K Srikanth, P V Sindhu and Saina Nehwal, will be seen in action in the seven-day Senior National Badminton Championship which begins here tomorrow. Besides Olympic medalists Sindhu and Saina, the championship will see the in-form Srikanth who is in red-hot form after becoming the first Indian and fourth in the world to win four Super Series titles in a calendar. No doubt, Srikanth will be the favourite to win the title in the men's singles. In the women's singles, Saina and Sindhu may clash in some stages, which will be a rare occasion for the badminton fans to relish. Other top Indian shuttlers who will be taking part in the championships include H S Prannoy, Ajay Jayaram, Sai Praneeb B, Sameer Verma, Sourabh Verma, Parupalli Kashyap and Danial Farid in men's singles and Rituparna Das and Anura Prabhudesai in women's singles. Over 400 players from 24 states and 2 union territories will take part in the event. Srikanth, Prannoy, Jayaram, Sai Praneeb, Verma brothers, Kashyap and Farid have been given direct entry to the quarterfinals in men's singles.



Similarly, Sindhu, Saina, Rituparna and Anura will start the tournament from the quarterfinals in women's singles. In men's doubles, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy/Chirag Shetty, Manu Attri/Reddy B, Arjun M R/Ramchandran Shlok and the top pair from the latest BAI rankings have been handed a direct entry to the quarterfinals. In women's doubles, Ashwini Ponnappa/Reddy N Sikki, Sanjana Santosh/Arathi Sara Sunil, Jakkampudi Meghana/S

Ram Poorvisha and a top pair from latest BAI rankings will start the tournament from the quarterfinals. In mixed doubles, Prannav Jerry Chopra/Reddy N Sikki, Reddy B Sumeeth/Ashwini Ponnappa, top and second ranked pair from the latest BAI rankings have been handed a direct entry to the quarterfinals. The 82nd edition, which will continue till November 9 at the Maharashtra Sports Complex at Mankapur here, is being held under the aegis of Badminton Association

of India and Maharashtra Badminton Association. There will be five events -- men's and women's singles, men's and women's doubles and mixed doubles and team championship -- in the tournament. The total prize money for the event is Rs 60 lakh -- the highest ever in the history of the Senior Nationals. The winner in men's and women's singles as well as the doubles pairs will receive Rs 2 lakhs each while corresponding runners-up will get Rs 1.5 lakh. (PTI)

Atletico facing early exit after Qarabag draw

MADRID, NOV 1 /- Atletico Madrid were left staring at an embarrassing early Champions League exit in the face of being held 1-1 at home by 10-man Azerbaijan champions Qarabag on Tuesday. The 2014 and 2016 finalists now need to beat Roma and Chelsea in their last two Group C games and hope other results go in their favour after a sorry return of three points from their opening four games. "We have to try to beat Roma and then destiny will decide if we deserve to continue or are eliminated," said Atletico boss Diego Simeone. Once again Simeone's men were made to pay for their profligacy in front of goal after Michel headed the visitors into the lead five minutes before half-time.

Thomas Partey's stunning drive from outside the box levelled 11 minutes into the second period and Qarabag had to survive for half an hour a man down after Pedro Henrique saw red. But Diego Godin, Filipe Luis and Nicolas Gaitan fluffed their lines with big chances to leave Atletico on the edge of the European abyss. "We're calling for a reward to not concede goals and score the few chances we had. That has turned completely around," said Atletico captain Gabi. The Spanish side have now won just once in their last eight games as their debut season at the Wanda Metropolitano stadium ended in a disaster. Atletico's major problem in recent months has been finding the net and their lack of cutting edge was demonstrated as they had most attempts on goal of any side in the Champions League this season but few whistles from a solitary goal. "We have problem with scoring goals and we have to keep insisting to overcome this unfavourable moment," added Simeone. The hosts had started on the front foot as Antoine Griezmann's right-footed volley for the reward of the area forced Ibrahimovic into a smart save. However, despite the vast disparity in budgets between the sides, it was the visitors who looked the more composed side in possession as the first half wore on, leaving whistles from the frustrated home crowd. "We all know the quality Atletico have and I want to thank my players," said proud Qarabag coach Gurban Garubanov. "It is the first time we are participating in a competition of this level and we need the experience of these matches." Simeone was infuriated when Jakub Rzesniewski was only shown a yellow card for hauling down Gameiro on the edge of the box 10 minutes before half-time. And the Argentine had even more to be concerned about five minutes later when Michel met Donald Guerrero's corner flush to send a header into the top corner despite Jan Oblak's best efforts. Of the 10 goals Atletico have conceded this season, seven have now come from set pieces as a former strength of Simeone's teams has quickly become an alarming weakness. Buoyed by a half-time dressing down from their coach, Atletico again started the second period at a higher tempo and Gameiro somehow fired a free-kick after Sergio Parkey's initial effort straight back into the heart of the area. Moments later Atletico could have found themselves 2-0 behind but for a brilliant goal line clearance from Stefan Savic. That proved to be the final set piece as Partey swept Griezmann's layoff into the top corner on 56 minutes. Qarabag were then reduced to 10 men just before the hour mark when Henrique was shown a straight red for a dangerous high challenge on Godin. The Uruguayan defender's eventual 90 minutes continued as he then saw a powerful header cleared off the line. Filipe Luis had the best chance to leave the 10 men without a reward when he stabbed wide when clean through. And Savic saved Qarabag again in the dying seconds with a brilliant block from Gaitan, while Atletico were also reduced to 10 men when Savic was shown a second yellow.

PCB eyeing series against South Africa, Bangladesh

KARACHI, Nov 1 /- After successfully hosting Sri Lanka for a T20 International, the PCB is targeting home series against South Africa and Bangladesh next year, said chairman Najam Sethi. Sethi said the regulatory board decision by Sri Lanka to come and play a T20 match in Lahore last Sunday, he felt that South Africa or Bangladesh could be convinced to come and play in the country. "It is a gradual process. We need to get the national cricket boards to come to Pakistan sometime in 2018 to play a short bilateral series. We have Ireland and Afghanistan, who are ready to come over. But we also want South Africa or Bangladesh in Pakistan next year," said Sethi. Sethi said that the biggest challenge now for the PCB was to hold matches at other venues apart from Lahore. Pakistan on Sunday hosted Sri Lanka eight years and seven months after their team bus was attacked in Lahore by militants. In September, Pakistan also hosted the World XI backed by the ICC for three T20 Internationals in Lahore and the security arrangements were praised by all. Asked if he felt that Australia and New Zealand would play against Pakistan in the UAE next winter could be convinced to come and play a game or two in Pakistan like Sri Lanka did, Sethi said realistically he thought South Africa and Bangladesh need to be convinced.



The Kotla faithful rally behind the hometown hero

PCB wants life ban on Khalid Latif

KARACHI, NOV 1 /- The Pakistan Cricket Board has filed an appeal seeking a life ban on disgraced national team batsman Khalid Latif, who was banned for five years and fined one million rupees for spot fixing. PCB's legal advisor, Tafazzul Rizvi, said they had filed an appeal with the independent adjudicator seeking a life ban on Latif. "We are not satisfied with the five-year ban and volume of fine. Our policy is clear that we have zero tolerance for players found guilty of corruption," he said. "We don't want to see players who are found guilty on all the KSS Competitions under the anti-corruption code to play again. We want to make an example for others." Latif and batsman Sharjeel Khan were both found guilty by a three-member anti-corruption tribunal for spot fixing and other breaches under the anti-corruption code. The duo were sent back from Dubai in February after meeting a suspected bookmaker and allegedly agreeing to spot fix for him. The tribunal banned Sharjeel for five years, suspended Latif for three and ordered a life ban on him. Latif's case, the tribunal, headed by a former Lahore High Court judge, didn't show any relaxation at all. While the tribunal found Sharjeel and Latif guilty on all counts of charges brought against them by the PCB, in Latif's case, he was found guilty of one additional charge, which was that he had instigated his team-mate to indulge in spot fixing.

Kohli is a superstar, Indian bowling best ever: Rathour

KOLKATA, NOV 1 /- The immense desire to succeed coupled with his hard work has been crucial in the rise of India skipper Virat Kohli as a cricketing superstar, reckons former national selector Vikram Rathour. "He's a great player. He has been extremely hungry and hardworking and I think all this combination is paying off now. He always wanted to be a superstar. He already is now the former North Zone selector said here today. Kohli became the fastest batsman to score 9,000 runs in ODIs during the series-deciding third game against New Zealand in Kanpur on October 29. In his 202nd match Kohli became the 19th batsman to breach the 9,000-run mark, making him the fastest to get there surpassing AB de Villiers as he also moved back to the top of ICC rankings. "He works very very hard. He always had the ability and all this combination is doing great wonders for him and he's doing great for the country. Rathour further said India finally boasts of a complete bowling attack with spinners and pacers complementing each

other. "Maybe this is the best ever bowling attack. Maybe this is the most balanced attack, there's nothing short. In past you would have good spinners but not seamers or good seamers but not spinners, the former India and Punjab opener said. "This looks to me a complete attack. They should not be worrying too much about any surface they play on or against any opponent they face. They have all their bases covered. The Himachal Pradesh director of cricket is here as the coach of his team as they take on Bengal in a group D Ranji fixture, beginning tomorrow. "It will be a battle between Bengal bowlers and Himachal batsmen." The 48-year-old said. Bengal bowlers, especially Ashok Dinda and Mohammed Shami have been in superb form with 18 wickets in their huge win over Chhattisgarh in the last match. "A lot to play for. It's always a challenge playing Bengal in Bengal. It will be a good game for sure. With Shami, Dinda and Saha, it will be a good test for our team. It will be virtually their bowling versus our batting, he concluded. (PTI)

PSG, Bayern reach last 16 as Man Utd edge closer

PARIS, NOV 1 /- Layvin Kurzawa scored an unlikely hat-trick as Saint-Germain powered into the last 16 of the Champions League on Tuesday with a 5-0 rout of Anderlecht, while Bayern Munich joined them in the knockout stage. Marco Verratti curled in a terrific opening goal -- his first in Europe since September 2014 -- on the half-hour at the Parc des Princes, with Brazilian superstar Neymar firing in a second before the break. The world's most expensive player was involved in PSG's third goal as well, as his free-kick was tipped in with pace with France international Kurzawa forcing in the rebound. The left-back then headed in another from Dani Alves cross and completed an improbable treble with an angled drive as PSG increased their goals haul to 17 -- with one conceded -- in four Group B matches. "The hat-trick is thanks to my teammates. I am delighted and the goals give me confidence," Kurzawa told ESPN Sports. The French giants top their section with a maximum 12

points, with Bundesliga leaders Bayern progressing alongside them following a 2-1 victory away to Celtic. Kingsley Coman pounced on hesitant Celtic defending to latch onto a long clearance upfield from goalkeeper Sven Ulreich and round Craig Gordon to slot into an empty net on 22 minutes. Callum McGregor slotted in a second-half equaliser, but Javi Martinez's brave towering header -- which left the Spaniard in a second-half injury case, the tribunal, headed by a former Lahore High Court judge, didn't show any relaxation at all. While the tribunal found Sharjeel and Latif guilty on all counts of charges brought against them by the PCB, in Latif's case, he was found guilty of one additional charge, which was that he had instigated his team-mate to indulge in spot fixing.

minute lead. The 18-year-old, at fault for the 1-0 defeat in Lisbon, atoned for that error by saving an Anthony Martial penalty, but Sviril was helpless when Nemanja Matijic's low drive cannoned off the post before hitting him on the arm and squirming over the line. Daley Blind wrapped up victory from the penalty spot on 76 minutes after a foul on Marcus Rashford. "We must get that point from the two remaining matches," United manager Mourinho told BT Sport. "I am more than happy." CSKA Moscow reignited their campaign with a 2-1 victory in the second half of the BT Sport. Luca Zuffi's brilliant job put Basel in front, but CSKA levelled through Alan Dzogev in the second half. BT Sport's Wernblom steered in the winner to leave the Russians level on six points with their Swiss hosts. Lionel Messi's free-kick was frustrated in a goal-less stalemate with Olympiakos in Greece, while Juventus salvaged a 1-1 draw at home in Lisbon after Gonzalo Higuain levelled late on following Bruno Cesar's opener. Barcelona with 10

points, three ahead of last year's runners-up Juve, with Sporting on four. Chelsea squandered a chance to secure a berth in the knockout stages as Stephan El Shaarawy inspired Roma to a 3-0 success over the Premier League champions in Italy. El Shaarawy drilled Roma ahead after just 40 seconds in the first half, before Ronaldo onto an Edin Dzeko knock-down to slam home from the edge of the area. The Italy striker netted a second on 36 minutes with Diego Perotti rifling in a third from 25 yards as Roma replaced Chelsea at the top of the Group B. Atletico Madrid -- finalists twice in the past four seasons -- are heading for elimination following a 1-1 draw at home to Qarabag. Journeyman Spaniard in the past four seasons -- are Azerbaijan champions in front from a corner, and while Ghana midfielder Thomas Partey hammered a 1-1 draw at home to Simeone's side must now beat both Chelsea and Roma and hope other results work in their favour. (AFP)

Sri Lanka handed Mathews boost ahead of India tour

COLOMBO, NOV 1 /- All-rounder Angelo Mathews has been declared fit and available for Sri Lanka's tour of India later this month as the islanders strive to end their limited-overs woes against their formidable neighbours. Former captain Mathews missed the two-Test series against Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates with a calf injury, the latest setback in the injury-plagued career of the 30-year-old. "Angelo and Kusal Janith Perera have both recovered and they will be back in the squad," said executive Ashley De Silva was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo. "Asela Gunaratne is fit as well," he added. Sri Lanka registered a rare Test series victory in the UAE but have lost their last 16 limited-overs matches, including one-day and Twenty20 whitewashes at the hands of India and Pakistan.