

**Corporate houses urged to back budding sporting talents**

**KOLKATA, JAN 11 /-/-** Union Steel Minister Chaudhary Birender Singh today said corporate houses should extend support to budding sporting talents in the country. Singh said this during a felicitation ceremony of Steel Authority of India Ltd-run SAIL Football Academy cadets, who recently won the 58th International Subroto Cup Football Championship 2017. "Promotion of sports and nurturing talents should be encouraged, and more organisations should come forward to support budding players and help India gain sporting glory," a SAIL release said, quoting Singh. The 16 members of SAIL Football Academy in Bokaro represented Jharkhand State U-17 (boys) in the Subroto Cup tournament held during September 2017. The minister announced a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh for the team and presented sportswear to each cadet. "These talented boys have proved that with proper facilities and support, our sports persons can be world beaters," Singh said here. (PTI)

**Cameron White returns to Australia ODI team for England**

**MELBOURNE, JAN 11 /-/-** Cricket Australia said Thursday that veteran batsman Cameron White will replace the injured Chris Lynn in Australia's one-day international team for a five-match series against England. The 34-year-old White has not represented Australia in any format since 2015. The right-hander has been in strong Twenty20 form with 285 runs at an average of 14.25 and a strike-rate of 115.85 for the Melbourne Renegades in the current Big Bash League. While he plays predominantly as an opener domestically, Whites is expected to fill the vacant No. 4 position in the batting order. Lynn has a calf injury. Australia plays England on Sunday at the Melbourne Cricket Ground to open the series. (AP)

**BCCI should support cricket in Olympics: MCC Committee**

**MELBOURNE, JAN 11 /-/-** The prestigious MCC World Cricket Committee today strongly urged the BCCI to support cricket's inclusion in the Olympics. The World Cricket committee, comprising legends such as Ricky Ponting, Kumar Sangakkara along with current Bangladesh superstar Shakib Al Hasan believe that the richest cricket board should not act as a barrier in getting the sport inducted in the quadrennial extravaganza. "The game's application to become an Olympic sport is gathering momentum and that the only remaining barrier is India's reluctance to proceed," an MCC release stated. "The committee has long been a supporter of Twenty20 cricket being included in the Olympic Games, believing it the single biggest step the game could take to unlock worldwide government funding and aid its global development," it further stated. The MCC wants cricket to be included in the Paris edition of 2024 and if not then at least in the 2028 Los Angeles edition. "For men's and women's cricket to thrive in future generations, new countries must be introduced to the sport, playing cricket in the Olympics is the best way to achieve this objective. "With plans for the 2024 Paris Games well advanced, the committee urges India to unite with the rest of the world game and lobby the International Olympic Committee for the inclusion of Twenty20 cricket in the Olympic Games, ideally in Paris but if not at Los Angeles in 2028," the committee said. The committee, during its meeting, also discussed how a proper wage structure, together with the provision of more longer-term national central contracts,



would entice more players to commit to international cricket, rather than opting out to play in domestic T20 leagues. "There is concern that players in the poorer or developing nations are not being paid sufficiently, and there needs to be transparency and accountability of where ICC funds are being spent by some member boards," it said. Shakib Al Hasan, the first player from Bangladesh to sit on the group, and who was attending his first meeting, addressed the World Cricket committee by giving his view on a range of issues affecting the modern player. Shakib's experiences contrasted with those of Jonny Bairstow, who spoke to the committee at the July 2017 meeting, and highlighted that the choices facing a modern professional vary greatly from country to country. Shakib described how his greatest honour is representing his country, but the financial incentives do not match those available in global domestic T20 tournaments. He was concerned that many younger players, who don't share his view of wishing to play Test cricket for a long period, will prefer the shorter format of the game that is more readily available and offers more financial security than playing longer-form cricket. It is a hard choice for players in some countries to make, and the committee feels it has created an imbalance in the international game. (PTI)

**Law panel may recommend bringing BCCI under RTI**

**NEW DELHI, JAN 11 /-/-** The Law Commission is mulling bringing the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) under the ambit of RTI to allow people to seek information about the functioning of the sports body. According to a 'working paper' of the panel circulated to its members, the BCCI gets a lot of government grants, including tax exemptions, and offered subsidised rates to buy lands for stadiums. The BCCI got tax exemptions worth of Rs 2,100 crore in a ten-year period ending 2007. The report has not yet been finalised and no final view has been taken, but the working paper mentions all the details including court verdicts which suggest that the body should come under the ambit of the information law, a senior functionary of the panel said here. In July, 2016, the Supreme Court had asked the commission to recommend whether the cricket board can be brought under the Right to Information Act.

**If one failure dents confidence, don't deserve to play: Bumrah**



India cricket players warm up ahead of their match — Reuters

**CENTURION, JAN 11 /-/-** India couldn't have hoped for a worst start to a long South African sojourn but pacer Jasprit Bumrah today asserted that if one debacle dents the team's confidence then it "does not deserve" to play Test cricket. South Africa outplayed India by 72 runs inside four days in the opening Test in Cape Town to claim a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. The second Test is scheduled to start here on Saturday. "Confidence is not dented after one match. If it happens, then you don't deserve to play. Learn from the mistake you made and go forward. There is not a single cricketer who has not made a mistake," asserted Bumrah, who took four wickets in the match. "It was a first good Test and a good learning experience for me because I have never played over here in South Africa. So I had a lot of things to learn from it. Now it is time to move forward and focus on the second Test," Bumrah said on Thursday. Bumrah said he would rather pick the positives, including

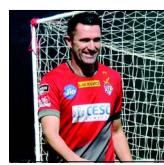
getting A B de Villiers as his first Test wicket. "It was not a dream debut. I was happy with whatever I learnt from that match. As a bowler you look to get the first wicket early and I got A B de Villiers. It was a happy moment, and from there on, we took a lot more wickets. As a bowler, my motto is not to get too excited and not to get too down after every match. I want to take confidence in the next match," he added. Bumrah had a mixed first outing at Newlands. He was taken for runs in the first innings at a time when India needed to keep South Africa quiet, but roared back to form in the second innings and triggered the hosts' 8-66 collapse on day four. He outlined the differentiation in his performance was down to understanding the nature of the pitches here. "It's always challenging whenever you come to a new country. The wickets are different and the weather is different. So it's always good to face new challenges. As you play more and more, you get

to know a lot about the wickets. "You get a fair idea about where to bowl and what kind of lines to bowl. It's been good so far. I am still learning and hopefully in the further matches, I will be able to do better," said Bumrah. Bumrah said he prefers to not have any notions about the surfaces he bowls on, he also acknowledged that Indian bowlers erred in reading the bounce in the first innings, so (on day four) we were trying to create pressure from both ends and focus on our lengths which were wrong in the first innings. "We just tried to correct them and not overdo things because over here when there is help from the wicket, you try to do extra but that won't help. So we were just trying to be disciplined and stick to basics," he said. When asked about the moment he was made aware of his Test debut, Bumrah said, "There was general discussion that I would

play the match. So I started talking to our bowling coach what kind of things I should do, what kind of wickets are over here and what should I expect." The Gujarat pacer said he was not nervous when his debut cap was handed to him. "It's not like I was playing a first First-Class game in my life. I have played a lot of four-day games. So my basic plan was to go inside, get a feel of the wicket and make changes accordingly." Bumrah has spent a lot of time with bowling coach Bharat Arun even in the junior days and he highlighted the inputs he has received. "He has seen me since the time I walked in as an Under-15 boy at the NCA where he was the coach. He knows me and gives me good advice. He knows my bowling and as a player it is good to have a coach who knows my strengths and weakness," he said. The second Test begins at Supersport Park on Saturday. Smarting from their loss, the Indian team held a full-fledged practice session here on Thursday, lasting just under four hours. (PTI)

**Robbie Keane has not travelled with us: ATK**

**GUWAHATI, JAN 11 /-/-** ATK's marquee signing Irishman Robbie Keane has not travelled with the team to play against North East United FC due to a knock he picked up during their previous game against Bengaluru FC, the football team's assistant coach Basisto Roy said. "We have one injury concern. Robbie is not travelling with the team. He picked up a knock against Bengaluru and we decided to rest him. We cannot risk having him for



one game but we want him fit for nine games." Roy told reporters on the eve of the game at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium. Keane played full 90 minutes against BFC but failed to inspire the side to a win as they lost 0-1. Recently, the Tottenham Hotspur legend was linked to a move back to boyhood club Wolverhampton Wanderers but it has been given to understand that he did not take the offer. Keane has so far scored twice in four

games for ATK in the Indian Super League (ISL) after returning from an Achilles problem which kept him out of action till December. ATK are languishing at eighth in the points table with just nine points in their bag from eight matches. Meanwhile, coach Roy confirmed that Indian U-17 World Cup star Komal Thatal is practicing with the team. "Komal Thatal is practicing with us. We don't know when he can play."

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