

GAME NOTE Bullets sent to Greek federation chief was 'terrorist attack'

ATHENS, DEC 30 /--/ The Greek Football Federation on Friday said the sending of a three-page threatening letter accompanied by a bullet to its president was an "attempted terrorist attack". The registered package, which contained the letter and a 9mm bullet, was sent to Vangelis Grammenos at his Athens office on Thursday. The package was opened by his assistants as he was not at his office at the time. The Greek Football Federation condemns in its most unequivocal, unambiguous and unmistakable manner way, yesterday's attempted terrorist attack on President Grammenos, "the federation said in a statement. The statement added that the newly elected administration of the Federation "was intimidated" and said that "complete redevelopment, which may upset some, will be completed" within the Greek game. Greek anti-blackmail and anti-terrorist units are investigating the contents of the letter and the bullet in order to find the culprits. Greek media reported that the letter was signed by "the president of a major team". Other reports noted that Grammenos has been threatened in the past for his relations with certain clubs and with the current national government. The government has introduced legislation to clean up Greek football, which has been plagued by accusations of match-fixing and violence.

MCA adopts Lodha panel reforms

PUNE, DEC 30 /--/ The Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA) adopted the recommendations of the Justice RM Lodha committee at its Special General Body Meeting held here on Friday. MCA President Abhay Apte told PTI, "The MCA has unanimously agreed to implement the Lodha Committee reforms and to take further orders that the (Supreme) court may pass in this regard". "Members were completely unanimous on this issue and I am very happy that members have considered association above their personal interest," added Apte. Earlier this month, the Managing Committee of MCA had agreed to adopt these recommendations. It is learnt that former BCCI secretary Ajay Shirke, who was sacked by the Supreme Court, also attended this meeting. A senior MCA official said Shirke is a member and thus can come for the meeting in that capacity and was accordingly there. The Supreme Court had asked state cricket associations to implement the reforms suggested by the Justice Lodha committee.

India rises, Kohli rises higher; run-machine rules 2017

NEW DELHI, DEC 30 /--/ The eyes of the world turned to India but cricket's habitual record-breaker, Virat Kohli, remained the cynosure of her eyes as his exploits, bit by bit, put in shade the frenzy around the FIFA U-17 World Cup and feasts in other big-ticket sporting events.

Run-machine Kohli was at the forefront of a spectacular streak of wins that further enhanced his aura of invincibility, while providing succor from administrative wrangling that reared its head sporadically. Looking back, the Indians had rubbed their hands in delight at the variety of marquee events at home the sporting calendar of 2017 offered, and they now look forward, with optimism and anticipation, to a challenging 2018. Fans rejoiced at the victory of PV Sindhu, and the ones by her rapidly rising fellow shuttlers led by Kidambi Srikanth, the men and women's hockey teams continental triumphs, and not to forget the maiden Ranji Trophy for Indian footballers in a global meet. Many enjoyed the successful return of two-armed ace medalist Sushil Kumar to wrestling after a three-year hiatus, a rare World Championship gold medal by Mirabai Chanu in weightlifting, the comeback of the great MC Mary Kom that culminated in an Asian Championship gold, and last but not the least cueist Pankaj Advani's unprecedented 16th title at the big stage. Boxer Gaurav Bidhuri's bronze at the World Championship also



stood out simply for the fact that he wasn't even there in the original squad. And as if giving a perfect sign off the year, Viswanathan Anand quite literally turned back to clock to claim the rapid world title to make up for several disappointments of the recent past. Another heartwarming takeaway from this year was the women's cricket team's gutsy World Cup campaign, during which it managed to step out the shadows of their male counterparts and claim their own moment under the spotlight. Mithali Raj and Co. finished runners-up but the lion-hearted campaign has a sit up and take note of the other cricket team. However, nothing or no one could come close to the pedestal on which the men's cricket team reigned. The global sporting fraternity had its eyes trained on India, which successfully hosted its first-ever FIFA meet besides playing host to big ticket events in hockey, boxing, badminton and shooting. But by the time the year drew to a close, the

Indians were basking in glory of the cricket team that had taken a special liking to rewriting the record books. Around the same time, the eyes of those chronicling the achievements of the men who juggle white flannels and blue jerseys, turned prying. Innumerable stories, in fact, dominated headlines thereafter, was the wedding of Virat Kohli, the chief architect of India's success story in recent years, with an acclaimed actor. Innumerable stories, on numerous occasions, flew thick and fast about how, when and where the power couple was tying the nuptial knot. It is not for nothing that Kohli enjoys such unparalleled superstardom, for he bettered, in fact, battered, a plethora of records through the year. He ended up hitting four double tons, a record that also helped him surpass the great Don Bradman and Brian Lara as captain of the Indian team. (6). Kohli's vice-captain in limited overs format, Rohit Sharma, meanwhile became



the first batsman to score an ODI double century on an astonishing three occasions. With his unbeaten 208. Even as the team scaled new heights on the field, the reported down of coach Anil Kumble following steeped differences with Kohli could not be averted, despite nine consecutive victories engineered by the duo. Ravi Shastri was reinstated at the helm by the Cricket in Advisory Committee (CAC), comprising Sourav Ganguly, VVS Laxman and Sachin Tendulkar. Off the field, the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA) comprising Vinod Rai, Vikram Limaye, Ramachandra Guha (both had quit) and Diana Edulji, entrusted with ensuring the implementation of Lodha Panel recommendations, the failure of which led to the removal of Anurag Thakur and Ajay Shirke as BCCI president and secretary, respectively. While the loyalists remained loyal to the unofficial national sport,

there were legions that thronged the football stadiums across the six venues, where the stars of tomorrow displayed their skills during the FIFA under-17 World Cup. After months of training and exposure tours to different parts of the world, players representing India's U17 team were ready to show the world they belonged. In their first outing against USA, they got a taste of what top-notch football means, raised hopes of something special with a spirited performance against Colombia, only to be blown away by Ghana in their last appearance. On expected lines, India were out early, but the crowds still flocked to the stadiums for the remainder of what was a draw for Australia in the Indian football. The jury is still out on that one. Badminton grabbed the failure of which led to the removal of Anurag Thakur and Ajay Shirke as BCCI president and secretary, respectively. While the loyalists remained loyal to the unofficial national sport, and bronze respectively.

Meanwhile, Kidambi Srikanth, the likes of H S Prannoy and the likes of B Sai Praneeth burst out of the shadows of the two leading ladies, winning at will big matches against big names. By becoming the only Indian to win four Super Series events in a calendar year and only the fourth male shuttler to achieve the feat, Srikanth announced himself to the world in style. The hockey team impressed and capped it by winning a bronze in the HWL final in Bhubaneswar. The men also won the Asia Cup gold for the first time in a decade, while the women's team emerged Asian champions. On the tennis court, Rohan Bopanna claimed the French Open mixed doubles title with Canadian Gabriela Dabrowski. But there was hardly any player on the horizon who could stake claim to be India's challenger in the highly competitive singles arena, whether men or women. Shooting did not quite set the stage ablaze either but the emergence of young talent such as Elavesh Valavaran, Mehuli Ghosh, Shapath Bharadwaj, Anish Bhanalia held out hope for better times. The steady progress by Jitu Rai -- India's best bet in Olympics after the retirement of Abhinav Bindra -- Gagan Narang, Ravi Kumar and Ankur Mittal in seniors also bode well for the sport. (PTI)

Last-gasp goal helps Neroca hold East Bengal 1-1

IMPHAL, DEC 30 /--/ Neroca FC scored a last-gasp goal through Nedo Turkovic of Bosnia-Herzegovina to hold heavyweights East Bengal 1-1 and jump to the third spot in the I-League table here today. Katsumi Yusa gave the visitors the lead in the 12th minute and the Kolkata side was on the verge of sealing a victory by Turkovic struck the equaliser in the 89th minute to the wild cheers of home supporters at the Khamam Lampak Stadium here. Despite the draw, East Bengal are on top of the league table with 14 points from seven matches while I-League newcomers Neroca are on third with 11 points from six games. Both teams started on a cautious note and put in more effort to win the tie. East Bengal took the lead from the spadework of Willis Plaza who went through the right side of the box and a defence-splitting pass to



Japanese midfielder Katsumi, who volleyed it home to silence the 28,000 strong home crowd. The first half belonged to East Bengal, who outplayed the home side by adopting an aggressive approach. Though Neroca FC had a few good chances, they were found wanting to convert into a goal. Finally, the moment of madness came for the Neroca striker, Nedo Turkovic found a ball near left area of the 18-yard box and volleyed it past Luis Kattani to send the crowd into a delirium. (PTI)

looking more hungry for the equaliser and the Orange outfit kept the Red and Golds defenders on their toes throughout. Neroca had a chance in the 60th minute when a corner kick from Saran Singh was well-timed by Fabien Vorbe at the goalmouth but a actually he found wanting to convert into a goal. Finally, the moment of madness came for the Neroca striker, Nedo Turkovic found a ball near left area of the 18-yard box and volleyed it past Luis Kattani to send the crowd into a delirium. (PTI)

FIR against wrestler Sushil Kumar, supporters for brawl

NEW DELHI, DEC 30 /--/ Olympic medalist Sushil Kumar was on Saturday booked by the Delhi Police in connection with his supporters clashing with those of rival wrestler Parveen Rana at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium here, police said. Kumar and his supporters were booked under IPC section 341 (wrongful restraint) and 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), the latter attracting an imprisonment of up to one year or a monetary fine of up to 1,000 or both, police officials said. The supporters of the two wrestlers engaged in an ugly clash on Friday and Rana to blows during the selection trial for the Gold Coast Games, to be held in April next year. Kumar had performed well but things took an ugly turn when Rana, after losing to the former in the semifinal bout, claimed that the decorated wrestler's supporters beat him and his elder brother "for daring to take his opponent's side. This triggered a clash between the followers of the two which was even captured on camera, leading to the police today registering a case against Kumar and his supporters, police officials said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Mandeep Singh Randhawa confirmed that an FIR has been lodged but the reason behind the brawl was being probed. He said the police have not received any complaint against Rana or his followers from Kumar or his camp. Kumar had Friday claimed that he was bitten by Rana during the bout. "... he bit me but no problem, it might be his tactics to stop me. From my perspective, this is a part of sports," Sushil had told reporters after the bouts. "Whatever happened during the match, I don't remember. It was mutual respect after the fight ended," he added. Nationally, the 34-year-old Kumar had beaten Rana in the Commonwealth Championships final in South Africa a few weeks back. Also, Rana was among the three wrestlers who gave a walkover to Kumar in the 22nd hour of the National Championships last month owing to the "respect" they had for the veteran. Rana Friday alleged that Kumar's supporters gave death threats to him and dared him to fight with Rana in the upcoming Pro Wrestling League. (PTI)

Smith century secures Ashes Test draw with England

MELBOURNE, DEC 30 /--/ Steve Smith scored his 23rd Test century to bat out a draw for Australia in the fourth Ashes Test and deny England their first win of the series in Melbourne on Saturday. The Australia skipper stonewalled the English bowling attack to remain unconquered on 102 for his third century of the series when the Test was called a draw late on the final day. Smith joined the legendary Don Bradman as the only batsman to score centuries in four consecutive Melbourne Tests. He also joined Ricky Ponting as the only batsman in Test history to have made six centuries in a calendar year on multiple occasions. Australia only lost two wickets on the fifth day but coasted through after lunch to finish on 263 for four with Mitchell Marsh not out on 29. The hosts have already clinched the Ashes with an unassailable 3-0 lead in the series ahead of the fifth and final Test in Sydney next week. It was the second drawn Boxing Day Test in 20 years, although there was criticism of the lifeless nature of the helplessly Cricket Ground drop-in pitch. Smith and Marsh comfortably batted through after lunch to ensure England were unable to go for the win after leading by 164 runs on the first innings, following a record-breaking unbeaten 244 from opener Alastair Cook.



Another raise of the bat for Steven Smith... another hundred with great circumspection to keep England at bay, batting for 301 minutes and 227 balls in his slowest Test innings. His dismissal also ended a 107-run stand with Smith, which helped Australia wipe out the innings deficit. There was some rare excitement in the final over before lunch when Marsh edged Stuart Broad to wicketkeeper Jonny Bairstow, who took a splendid catch. Cook was named man-of-the-match after carrying his bat in England's first innings. It was the highest score by a batsman carrying his bat in Test history, bettering New Zealand's Glenn Turner's 223 not out against the West Indies in Kingston in 1972. The last Englishman to carry his bat through a Test innings was Mike Atherton with 94 against New Zealand in 1997. Cook also surpassed the highest score by a visiting batsman in a Test match at the famous MCG, bettering the 208 by West Indian great Viv Richards in 1984. There was a total attendance of 262,616 fans over the five days. (AFP)

Seasoned Wasim Jaffer steadies Vidarbha after Delhi's 295

INDORE, DEC 30 /--/ Wasim Jaffer brought into play his years of experience as he guided Vidarbha to 206/4 with an unbeaten half-century after s e a m e r R a j n e s h G u r b a n i s c e y t h e d Delhi's lower-order for a rare hat-trick in a Ranji Trophy final here on Saturday. At stumps on the second day, Jaffer was batting on 61 off 120 balls and Akshay Wakare was yet to open his account, as Vidarbha trailed by 171 runs. How Delhi bowlers perform during the first hour on the third day would well prove to be decisive in the final result of the match. Resuming at 271/6, in-form seamer Gurbani rocked seven-time winners Delhi by removing three batsmen in as many balls in the second morning. The first time the Holkar Stadium also included centurion Dhruv Shorey, making Gurbani only the second man to claim a hat-trick in the Ranji Trophy's premier domestic competition. Tamil Nadu's B Kalyanasundaram was the first, achieving the feat against Mumbai in 1972/73. On 125 over for Delhi, he faced his innings with 21 boundaries before his team was all out for 285. Delhi

lost their last four wickets for only five runs. A day after a rather subdued outing, Gurbani found his mojo back as the 24-year-old ripped through the shaky defence of Vikas Mishra, Navdeep Saini and Shorey off successive deliveries before knocking over Kulwant Khejroliya to cut short Delhi's innings. What made the feat more commendable was that Gurbani, bowling the hat-trick ball, was up against a batsman who was nearing 150. Having found the fence on 21 runs, the 31-year-old was on a roll for his first session of day two. Shorey was stumped when Gurbani got one to jag back from a shorter length and knock off the off-stump. Gurbani delivered three more scorches on either side of Shorey's dismissal, all resulting in the stumps getting knocked over. Trouble came again when Gurbani bowled prodigiously cut back and remove an unmoved Mishra's off-stump with the fifth ball of the 101st over. Saini, who got stuck to the crease, quickly went back to the dressing room as his stump was also sent flying by another sharp in-cutter. Vidarbha began their innings in earnest and to lunch without suffering any damage while scoring 45 runs. This season's most prolific opening duo of skipper Faiz Fazaal (67) and Sanjay Romani (31) started the second session from where they had left, adding another 51 runs, before Akash Sudan sent Ramaswamy's two scorches to the crease from Apoorv Wankhede. That brought Jaffer in the middle but, playing in only his

second first-class game, Sudan dealt Vidarbha a body blow when the medium pacer had Fazaal caught behind after the batsman prodded casually to a delivery that was moving away. He faced 101 balls scoring 10 boundaries. Prior to that, an unmoved Fazaal continued playing his shots and brought up his fifty with a paddle-sweep boundary off left-arm spinner Mishra. Fazaal, the first-time finalist leading scorer in the season, drove with panache and employed the shots square off the wicket effectively two wickets in the bag. Rishabh Pant brought back his best shot, Saini, into the attack and it paid dividends. Veteran Ganesh Satish (12), coming off a crucial second-innings half-century in the semi-final against Karnataka, did not last long and was trapped in front of the wicket by Saini, a reward for consistently running in hard and pitching tighter. Jaffer looked solid in the middle and Delhi could not dislodge the seasoned campaigner as an eventful day's play came to an end. Before that, he entertained the sparse weekend crowd with a few delightful shots - a superb drive past the mid-on, a punch through the hands and a cover drive that lazy elegance written all over it. Eight-time Ranji Trophy winner with Mumbai, Jaffer used his wrists to flick Mishra and then glanced him to the third-man fence for another boundary. Delhi kept pressing and were rewarded when left-arm seamer Kulwant Khejroliya induced an error from Apoorv Wankhede for Pant to complete a comfortable catch at the flag end.

ABRIDGE TENDER NOTICE
On behalf of the Principal Secretary, Gorkhland Territorial Administration, Darjeeling, Tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer, Education Department Engineering Cell, GTA, Lewis Jubilee Complex, Darjeeling for the various works from the bonafide and working contractors vide NIT No 01 of 2017-18/EE/EDEC/GTA/(Off-Line) and NIT No. 01 of 2017-18/e-TEN/EE/EDEC/GTA/(On-Line). For details of off-line tenders, please contact to the office of the under-signed during office hours and for on-line tenders visit to the government e-portal [HTTP://www.wb.tender.com](http://www.wb.tender.com) from 20.12.2017. Memo no 98/11-4/EE/EDEC/GTA/2017-18 Dated 19.12.2017
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Executive Engineer
Education Department Engineering Cell
Gorkhland Territorial Administration.