# Panghal on threshold of glory

Becomes the first Indian men's pugilist to enter final; Kaushik loses to Cruz



Packing a punch: Amit Panghal pipped Kazakhstan's Saken Bibossinov in a tight contest. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

#### **BOXING WORLDS**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA EKATERINBURG (RUSSIA)

Asian champion Amit Panghal (52kg) on Friday became the first Indian to make the final of the World men's boxing championship while Manish Kaushik (63kg) signed off with a bronze.

Second seed Panghal prevailed 3-2 against Kazakhstan's Saken Bibossinov in the semifinals, but Commonwealth Games silver-medallist Kaushik lost 5-0 to topseeded Cuban Andy Gomez Cruz, a gold-medallist from the previous edition besides being the Pan-American Games champion.

**Final opponent** On Saturday, Panghal will

take on Uzbekistan's Shakhobidin Zoirov, the reigning Olympic champion.

Panghal's rise has been nothing short of spectacular in Indian boxing ever since he claimed a 49kg category bronze in the 2017 Asian Championships.

India had never won more than one bronze in a single edition of the World Championships but Panghal and Manish Kaushik (63kg) changed that by making the

Past Indian medal-winners at the Worlds are Vijender Singh (2009), Vikas Krishan (2011), Shiva Thapa (2015) and Gaurav Bidhuri (2017).

"I am going to push hard for a gold," Panghal said la-

"I gave it my all, but I guess there are a few things lacking in my game, which I will try to improve on. I will work harder and deliver better results in coming tournaments," Kaushik said



The Panghal file

■ Hails from Rohtak

district of Haryana ■ Employed with the Indian Army

■ Current Asian Games and Asian championship gold medallist

■ Defeated 49kg Olympic champion Hasanboy Dusmatov twice

First Indian men's boxer to go beyond a World Championships bronze medal



Manish Kaushik. • PTI

## Priyank Panchal brightens a dull day

India-A wins series as match meanders to a draw

#### **SA-A IN INDIA**

ASHWIN ACHAL

MYSURU Priyank Panchal (109, 192b) shone bright on the last day of the second and final 'Test between India-A and South Africa-A, at SDNR Wadeyar Stadium here on Friday.

With the match heading for a certain draw, the players shook hands and walked off the field at the stroke of tea.

Panchal put on a show, blasting nine fours and four sixes during the course of his four-hour stay at the crease. He was confident against Test spinner Dane Piedt, lofting him cleanly for two straight sixes.

#### Lovely cover drive

The 29-year-old brought up his hundred with a lovely cover-driven boundary off Piedt. Panchal's visit came to an end when he was caught and bowled by left-arm spinner Senuran Muthusamy.

Abhimanyu Easwaran (37, 93b, 3x4) fell to Piedt, attempting a cut too close to the body. Shubman Gill was sent back for zero, chipping one from Piedt straight to short mid-on.

Karun Nair, who scored 78 in the first essay, was once again in fine form. The Karnataka batsman cruised to an unbeaten 99-ball 51.

#### **Intensity declines**

The intensity in the action sharply declined when parttime spinners Aiden Markram and Khaya Zondo came on. It was only a matter of

tours have been scheduled. time before play would be Every senior India tour is

Making a statement: Panchal put on a show, blasting nine fours and four sixes.

ries for the home team, having won both the one-day and 'Test' outings (4-1 and India-A head coach and

It has been a successful se-

■ G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

called off.

former Saurashtra cricketer Sitanshu Kotak stated, "Given the hugely skilled players we have in our squad, we did expect to do well in this series. "Credit to (BCCI general

manager) Saba Karim, (National Cricket Academy head) Rahul Dravid and the BCCI for the way these 'A'

preceded by an India-A tour, which is great for the players to get valuable match practice.

"For example, in this match, we lost the toss and were put in to bat. The conditions heavily favoured the pacers, but our top-four did very well to play out the danger. If this same situation happens in an international match, our guys will be well

The scores: India-A — 1st innings: 417. South Africa-A — 1st innings:

prepared for it."

India A - 2nd innings: Priyank Panchal c&b Muthusamy 109, Abhimanyu Easwaran b Piedt 37, Shubman Gill c Muthusamy b Piedt O, Karun Nair (not out) 51, Wriddhiman Saha (not out) 1; Extras (b-2, lb-2): 4. Total (for three wkts. decl. in 70 overs): 202.

Fall of wickets: 1-94, 2-94,

South Africa-A bowling: Philander 7-3-6-0, Ngidi 7-2-16-0, Piedt 21-1-88-2, Muthusamy 19-4-46-1, Sipamla 5-2-9-0, Markram 10-2-27-0, Zondo Man-of-the-Match:

**KPL** team

owner under

BENGALURU: Following alle-

gations of impropriety in

the TNPL, the Karnataka

Premier League (KPL) too

ner after a team owner was

questioned by the city pol-

ice here on Friday. Ali As-

fak Thara, owner of Belaga-

vi Panthers, was quizzed in

connection with an investi-

gation into suspected bet-

will assist the police and

co-operate with them fully

in the matter," said a KSCA

"The Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA)

ting and match-fixing.

has come under the scan-

the scanner

### Praneeth exits

### **CHINA OPEN**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

B. Sai Praneeth lost 21-16, 6-21, 16-21 to World No. 9 Anthony Sinisuka Ginting in the quarterfinals to draw curtains on India's campaign at the China Open World Tour Super 1000 badminton tournament here on Friday.

### Rawat stuns Advani, makes final

SPORTS BUREAU MANDALAY (MYANMAR)

India's Laxman Rawat made the final of the World 6-Red championship surprising tournament favourite Pankaj Advani 5-4 in the semifinals on Friday. Rawat won 8-77, 40-2, 21-34, 24-28, 73 (73)-8, 47-14, 44-0, 27-39, 36-26.

He will take on Muhammad of Pakistan, who got past Thet Min Lin of Myan-

#### Amee in final

In the women's final, former Asian champion Amee Kamani will take on Nutcharat Wongharuthai of Thailand for the title. In the semifinal, Amee knocked out Ng On Yee of Hong Kong 4-1. Nutcharat got past Yulu Bai of China 4-3.

## Titans, Pirates in thrilling tie



perv customer: Pardeep Narwal's speedy bursts and agility left fans roaring in delight. • COURTESY PKL

#### PKL

NANDAKUMAR MARAR

Raiders of Pardeep Narwal's calibre and Siddharth Desai's size drive fans into raptures, but catchers blessed with craft and courage like Vishal Bharadwaj, Neeraj, Abozar Mighani, Hadi Ostorak can also be a handful.

This contest of offence and defence between Telugu Titans and Patna Pirates ended in a thrill-a-minute tie at 42-42 in the ProKabaddi League at the Balewadi in-

door complex on Friday. Narwal turned, leaped and tumbled in a zone of his own, taking out four, three and two defenders, driving Pirates on with 17 points (19 raids). Desai dominated in a

top-score of 12 points (15

Vishal (four) and Abozar (three) caught the Pirates' raiding sensation thrice in the second half to move Titans from deficit to equal terms at 40-all.

Hadi made his mark at vital stages (five).

The Pirates ace set the stage for a nail-biting second session with a sensational show in the rival half.

The results: Telugu Titans 42 (Siddharth Desai Rainish 10. Vishal Bharadwai 4. Abozar Mighani 3) tied with Patna Pirates 42 (Pardeep Narwal 17, Jan Kun Lee, Hadi Ostorak 5); Puneri Paltan 42 (Pankai Mohite 17, Sagar Krishna 7, Surjeet Singh 6) bt Bengaluru Bulls 38 (Rohit Kumar 14, Pawan Sehra-

## SC allows TNCA to conduct elections

Says the result of the polls would be 'subject to the order passed by the court'

#### **BCCI AFFAIRS**

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The Supreme Court, on Friday, allowed the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) to conduct elections even as the Committee of Administrators (CoA) for the BCCI complained that the association is unwilling to comply with or ratify the terms of the new BCCI Constitution as ordered by the apex court.

They can do whatever they want to... point is they are indeed holding elections. We can undo the results (of the polls) or even send it to the civil court," Justice S.A. Bobde, heading the Bench comprising L. Nageswara Rao, orally observed.

Later, the court permitted the TNCA, represented by

TABLE TENNIS

G. Sathiyan's superb run in

the ITTF-ATTU Asian table

tennis championships here

on Friday came to an end

when he went down fighting

to Lin Gaoyuan of China, the

World No. 411-7, 11-5, 8-11, 11-8

SPORTS BUREAU

YOGYAKARTA (INDONESIA)

Amicus curiae P.S. Narasimha submitted that only three member associations have not complied with the new Constitution, and TNCA is one of them

senior advocate Kapil Sibal, to conduct the elections. It added that the result of the polls would be "subject to the order passed by the court' applications.

#### **CoA's contention**

The CoA, represented by senior advocate Parag Tripathi, complained to the Bench that TNCA has "consistently refused to abide by the Supreme Court order (of August 9, 2018 which final-

Sathiyan's run ends in quarterfinals

Meanwhile, Ayhika Muk-

heriee lost to World No. 2

Ding Ning of China 11-5, 11-13,

11-4, 11-9 in the women's pre-

Men: Quarterfinals: G. Sathiyan

lost to Lin Gaoyuan (Chn) 11-7,

11-5, 8-11, 11-8. Pre-quarterfi-

nals: Sathiyan bt An Ji Song

(DPR) 11-7, 11-8, 11-6. Round of

quarterfinals.

The results:

ised the new BCCI Constitution). They have consistently said 'we will go our way".

Amicus curiae and senior advocate P.S. Narasimha submitted that only three member associations have not complied with the new Constitution, and TNCA is one of them.

"They must comply with the Constitution," Mr. Narasimha stressed.

Justice Bobde, in the order, recorded that all member associations should comply and register their respective constitutions in accordance with the direction of the Supreme Court judgement of August 9, 2018.

The Bench ordered all the member associations to comply with the BCCI Constitution.

32: Sathiyan bt Noshad Alami-

yan (IRI) 8-11, 11-7, 11-6, 11-5; A.

Amalraj lost to Chen Chien-An

(Tpe) 11-6, 11-6, 11-8; Manav

Thakkar lost to Cheg-Ting Liao

Doubles: Quarterfinals: Sha-

rath Kamal & Sathiyan lost to

Jingkun Liang & Lin Gaoyuan

(CHn) 11-6, 10-12, 11-7, 8-11,

Women: Pre-quarterfinals: Ay-

hika Mukherjee lost to Ding

(Tpe) 11-9, 11-6, 11-3.

The court further noted

down in Clause 14 of the new BCCI Constitution would be confined to office-bearers alone. The court allowed the 21-

that the disqualifications laid

day notice period for holding elections to be "relaxed" on the discretion of the ami-

In this regard, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies would comply with the instructions of the amicus curiae.

On August 8 last year, a three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court had finalised the new Constitution for Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) while rejecting the 'one-State one-vote' recommendation of Justice R.M. Lodha Committee and altering the cooling-off period for cricket bosses.

Ning (Chn) 11-5, 11-13, 11-4,

Round of 32: Ayhika bt Bat-

bayar Doljinzuu (MGL) 11-6,

11-7, 11-3; Archana Kamath lost

to Feng Tianwei (Sin) 11-9, 11-9.

9-11, 11-4; Manika Batra lost to

Kasumi Ishikawa (Jpn) 11-9,

11-8, 11-4; Sutirtha Mukherjee

lost to Jihee Jeon (Kor) 14-12,

12-10, 9-11, 11-5; Madhurika

Patkar lost to Hitomi Sato (Jpn)

11-6, 11-9, 11-4.

### Masakadza ends on a high

official.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE CHITTAGONG

Hamilton Masakadza struck a blazing 71 (42b, 4x4, 5x6) in his farewell match to lead Zimbabwe to a seven-wicket win over Afghanistan in their last match of the T20 tri-series

on Friday. The scores: Afghanistan 155 for eight in 20 overs (Gurbaz 61, Zazai 31, Mpofu four for 30, Mutombodzi two for 18) lost to Zimbabwe 156 for three in 19.3 overs (Masakadza 71, Chakabva 39, Mujeeb two for 38).

### the men's singles Europe in lead after singles matches

Thiem, Tsitsipas deliver for the host while Sock pulls off an easy win for World

### LAVER CUP

REUTERS

Dominic Thiem and Stefanos Tsitsipas won three-setters for Team Europe to give it a 2-1 lead over Team World on the first day of the Laver Cup here on Friday.

Europe struck first as Austrian Thiem beat Canada's Denis Shapovalov 6-4, 5-7, 13-11, saving three match-points in the super tie-break.

Thiem, ranked fifth in the world, needed only one break of serve to take the opening set, but the 20-yearold Shapovalov fought back to break twice in the second set to tie the game at one set apiece. The young Canadian led 9-7 in the tie-break before squandering his matchpoints as Thiem clawed his way back to win the contest on his second match-point.

"It's a really special thing with the tie-break in the third," Thiem said. "It creates lots of close moments and match-points on either side. It's also a little bit of luck at the end."

In the second singles, American Sock prevailed in straight sets over Italian Fabio Fognini, winning 6-1, 7-6 (3). Stefanos Tsitsipas put Europe ahead again with a 6-2, 1-6, 10-7 verdict over Taylor Fritz.

The results: Europe leads World 2-1 [Dominic Thiem bt Denis Shapovalov 6-4, 5-7, 13-11: Fabio Fognini lost to Jack Sock 6-1. 7-6(3): Stefanos Tsitsipas bt Taylor Fritz 6-2, 1-6,



**Great escape:** Dominic Thiem staved off three match points to best Team World's Denis Shapovalov and put Team Europe ahead in the Laver Cup. ■ GETTY IMAGES

## Bajrang and Dahiya bag bronze

Sushil's return after eight years lasts six minutes; Sumit also bows out

#### WRESTLING WORLDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NUR-SULTAN (KAZAKHSTAN Shrugging off his controversial semifinal defeat, Bajrang Punia held off a spirited challenge from Mongloia's Tulga Tumur Ochir to bag his third World Championship medal, winning a

bronze, here on Friday. Bajrang posted an 8-7 win over Ochir, the under-23 Asian champion.

#### **Under pressure**

Ochir put Bajrang under a lot of pressure, pushing the Indian off the mat to take the lead. He locked Bajrang's arms to prevent attacks and then effected a four-point throw to lead 6-0.

Bajrang got on board with and then took the lead with



Beating the odds: Bajrang Punia and Ravi Dahiya fought hard against tough opponents for their medals. •PTI

a counter and true to his style made a superb comeback in the second period. He first erased the deficit

a flurry of moves to eventually nail a narrow 8-7 win. Later, Ravi Dahiya claimed a bronze on his debut World Championships

stunning Asian champion Reza Atri Nagarchi of Iran. Dahiya defeated his fancied rival 6-3 in the bronze medal bout of the men's 57kg freestyle category. Earlier, veteran Sushil Ku-

mar's return to the World

Championships after eight

years lasted just six minutes

as he lost his opening bout to Khadzhimurad Gadzhiyev of Azerbaijan. The Indian had raced to a 9-4 lead but conceded seven points in a row to lose his

74kg qualification round bout 11-9. In the other category which offered Olympic qualification, Sumit Malik lost his 125kg first round bout 2-0 to

Hungary's Daniel Ligeti, who later lost in the quarterfinals.

