

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.



The Panghal file

- Hails from Rohtak district of Haryana
- Employed with the Indian Army
- Current Asian Games and Asian championship gold medalist
- Defeated 49kg Olympic champion Hasانبay Dusmatov twice
- First Indian men's boxer to go beyond a World Championships bronze medal

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 top-seeded 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 semifinals.

Past Indian medal-winner 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 later.

"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.



Manish Kaushik. •PTI

Praneeth exits

CHINA OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANGZHOU

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 Myanmar 5-4.

Amees in final

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

Titans, Pirates in thrilling tie



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

PKL

NANDAKUMAR MARAR
PUNE

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 indoor 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 raids).

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

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 Rajnish 10, Vishal Bharadwaj 4, Abozar Mighani 3) tied with Patna Pirates 42 (Pardeep Narwal 17, Jan Kun Lee, Hadi Ostorak 5); Purneri Paltan 42 (Pankaj Mohite 17, Sagar Krishna 7, Surjeet Singh 6) bt Bengaluru Bulls 38 (Rohit Kumar 14, Pawan Sehrawat 12).

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
NEW DELHI

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

- 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" in the pending 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-

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. The court further noted

that the disqualifications laid down in Clause 14 of the new BCCI Constitution would be confined to office-bearers alone.

The court allowed the 21-day notice period for holding elections to be "relaxed" on the discretion of the amicus curiae.

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.

Sathiyani's run ends in quarterfinals

TABLE TENNIS

SPORTS BUREAU
YOGYAKARTA (INDONESIA)

G. Sathiyani'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. 4 11-7, 11-5, 8-11, 11-8 in the men's singles

quarterfinals.

Meanwhile, Ayhika Mukherjee lost to World No. 2 Ding Ning of China 11-5, 11-13, 11-4, 11-9 in the women's pre-quarterfinals.

The results:

Men: Quarterfinals: G. Sathiyani lost to Lin Gaoyuan (Chn) 11-7, 11-5, 8-11, 11-8. **Pre-quarterfinals:** Sathiyani bt An Ji Song (DPR) 11-7, 11-8, 11-6. **Round of**

Ning (Chn) 11-5, 11-13, 11-4, 11-9.

Round of 32: Ayhika bt Batbayar 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.

Women: Pre-quarterfinals: Ayhika Mukherjee lost to Ding

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 Mongolia'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



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 and then took the lead with

a flurry of moves to eventually nail a narrow 8-7 win.

Later, Ravi Dahiya claimed a bronze on his debut World Championships

KPL team owner under the scanner

BENGALURU: Following allegations of impropriety in the TNPL, the Karnataka Premier League (KPL) too has come under the scanner after a team owner was questioned by the city police here on Friday. Ali Asfak Thara, owner of Belagavi Panthers, was quizzed in connection with an investigation into suspected betting and match-fixing. "The Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) will assist the police and co-operate with them fully in the matter," said a KSCA official.

Masakadza ends on a high

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, Mpofo 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).

Europe in lead after singles matches

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

LAVIER CUP

REUTERS
GENEVA

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-year-old 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 match-

points 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, 10-7].



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