#### Bavuma serves notice of his skills; bad light brings early end to day's proceedings

### SA IN INDIA

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM VIZIANAGARAM

Aiden Markram made the most of the chance to bat to score his second century on this tour (100 retired hurt) and take South Africa to 199 for four at close of the second day's play against Board President's XI at the Dr. PVG Raju Sports Complex here on

Bad light stopped play immediately after captain Faf du Plessis was trapped leg before by left-arm spinner Dharmendrasinh Jadeja, 90 minutes before the scheduled close of play.

#### **Delayed start**

After a wet outfield delayed the start, action finally began just after noon and opener Markram was off the blocks in a hurry, dispatching fast bowler Umesh Yadav for three fours in his second

Relishing the ball coming on to him, the in-form opener was more comfortable and confident than a hesitant Dean Elgar.

Umesh's new-ball partner Shardul Thakur was more impressive, making the bat-



In good nick: Aiden Markram notched up his second century on this tour, coming up with a calculated assault. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

smen hurry onto the backfoot with a far more accurate

However, it was Umesh who provided the first breakthrough, squaring up southpaw Elgar and forcing him to snick to gully.

It was interesting to see captain Rohit Sharma check with Umesh whether he was happy with the slip cordon and the bowler responded in

Though Theunis de Bruyn was trapped in front by pacer Ishan Porel and Jadeja struck with his second ball to have shuffle, Markram and Temba Bavuma served a reminder of their potential to counter the Indian bowlers in conditions alien to them and also on a very hot and humid day. Bavuma showed his ability

Zubayr Hamza lbw on the

to adjust to the pace and bounce of the pitch with his confident back-foot play.

Markram, meanwhile, was confidence personified, not hesitating to use his feet against the spinners. He was especially harsh on Jadeja carting him for a couple of sixes over long-on. He also managed to pick the gaps on the offside off the pacers with superb timing.

The scores: South Africa - 1st innings: Aiden Markram (retd. hurt) 100, Dean Elgar c Panchal b Umesh 6, Theunis de Bruyn lbw b Porel 6, Zubayr Hamza lbw b Jadeia 22, Temba Bavuma (batting) 55, Faf du Plessis lbw b Jadeja 9; Extras (lb-1): 1. Total (for four wkts. in 50 overs): 199.

Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-33, 3-

**Board President's XI bowling:** Umesh Yadav 7-0-31-1, Shardul Thakur 10-3-34-0, Ishan Porel 6-1-11-1, Avesh Khan 10-1-44-0, Jalaj Saxena 7-1-26-0, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 10-1-

## Azharuddin is HCA president

Leads his team to a clean sweep in the elections

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT VIZIANAGARAM

Former India captain Mohammad Azharuddin was not only elected president of Hyderabad Cricket Association on Friday but also led his team to a clean sweep in the elections held at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Hyderabad on Friday.

Azhar polled 147 votes compared to his nearest rival Prakash Chand Jain's 73.

A delighted Azhar, in a chat with The Hindu, said: "I sincerely thank all those who supported me and also my panel members in this election. They have done their job and the onus is on us to implement each and every promise we made before the election."

#### **Top priority**

"My top priority is to improve cricket and the welfare of the players. As a player I am aware what exactly the players look for from the Association and I promise them that I will not disappoint them," Azhar

"Yes, this huge win is a big responsibility on me and I make it clear that I will take everyone with me, as the intention of the majority of the members is to revive the old fiefdom of a few. I assure glory of Hyderabad cricket," everyone that a new phase of cricket administration will "I promise that we will be ushered in in HCA," Az-

New innings: A victorious Mohammad Azharuddin after the

The HCA office-bearers:

har concluded.

President: Mohd Azharuddin: Vice-president: K. John Manoj; Secretary: R. Vijayanand; Jointsecretary: Naresh Sharma; Treasurer: Surinder Kumar Agarwal; Councillor: P. Anurad-

### **Karachi's** return as ODI host delayed

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The opening day-night international between Pakistan and Sri Lanka was washed out without a ball being bowled due to heavy rain on Friday, depriving Karachi of hosting its first ODI in 10 years.

Umpires called off the match as there were pools of water around the outfield with the pitch and adjoining area covered.

The remaining two ODIs will be played in Karachi Sunday Wednesday.

A tropical depression in the Arabian sea, around which Karachi is situated, has caused intermittent rains for the last five days.

## Women's squads retained for West Indies tour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Indian women's team selectors on Friday named unchanged squads for the ODI and T20 series in the West Indies beginning November 1 in Antigua.

Only Sushma Verma has been added to the 16-member ODI squad for the threematch series. India had picked a 15-member squad for the home ODI series against South Africa beginning in Vadodara on Octob-

The same T20 side that is hosting South Africa at the moment will take on the West Indies in the fivematch series beginning November 9 in St. Lucia.

Fifteen-year-old Shafali Verma has retained her place in the T20 side. She had failed to open her account in the series opener against South Africa.

The squads:

ODIs: Mithali Raj (Captain), Harmanpreet Kaur (vice-captain), Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma, Punam Raut, D Hemalatha, Jhulan Goswami, Shikha Pandey, Mansi Joshi, Poonam Yadav, Ekta Bisht, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Taniya (wicket-keeper), Priya Punia, and Sushma Verma. T20Is: Harmanpreet Kaur

(Captain), Smriti Mandhana (vice-captain), Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Harleen Deol, Deepti Sharma, Taniya Bhatia (wicket-keeper), Poonam Yadav, Radha Yadav, Veda Krishnamurthy, Anuja Patil, Shikha Pandey, Pooja Vastrakar, Mansi Joshi, and Arundhati Reddy.



Moving ahead: M.P. Jabir finishes third in the 400m hurdles heat, won by Norway's Kartsen Warholm, to progress to the semifinals to be held on Saturday. ■REUTERS

## Jabir in 400m hurdles semifinals

not be confined to mere pro-

mising but will deliver the

goods. You will all see the

change in how the HCA will

be run in the coming days. I

have always believed that a

cricket association has to be

run in a professional man-

ner and not like a personal

Dharun misses out; Sreeshankar flops in long jump

STAN RAYAN

Asian bronze medallist M.P. Jabir qualified for the men's 400m hurdles semifinals, finishing third in his heat in 49.62s, at the World athletics championships in Doha on

However, A. Dharun, returning from a long injury break, was sixth in his heat in 50.55s and failed to make it.

Meanwhile, a few days ago, Romanian Bedros Bedrosian had predicted a 7.70m for long jumper M. Sreeshankar in the Worlds and the Indian National record holder (with 8.20m) was a shade behind that as he

failed to qualify for the final. The 20-year-old had a best

of 7.62m in the second of his three-jump qualification series, after opening with 7.52, and failed to make the qualification standard of 8.15m. He finished 12th in his group and 22nd overall.

"I felt weak, my body was not reacting well. There were also problems with my approach, my rhythm was bad, I didn't know what I was doing," Sreeshankar told The *Hindu* from the Qatari Capital.

Bedrosian felt that Sreeshankar should have been sent for stronger meets prior to the Worlds. "He lacks experience. And the headwinds were a big problem for Sreeshankar today since he has a 67kg body," said the national coach for long jumpers who has taken a long break, from Romania. Only one jumper, Cuban

world leader Juan Miguel Echevarria, made the automatic qualification mark with 8.40m. Next best was Olympic champion Jeff Henderson with 8.12.

With just one jumper making the qualification cut, the best 12 were picked for the fi-

### Indians in action today

■ Women's 100m, heats (Dutee Chand, 7 p.m.)

■ Men's 400m hurdles, semifinals (M.P. Jabir, 8.35

4x400m mixed relay, semifinal (10.30 p.m.)

# Bulls snap winless streak

Surmount U Mumba's challenge



Surging ahead: Star raider Pawan Sehrawat top scored for Bengaluru Bulls. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

#### PKL

UTHRA GANESAN

Bengaluru Bulls broke its winless streak and moved up to fourth spot with a 35-33 win against U Mumba on Friday but not before the latter took the fight to the defending ProKabaddi League champion.

From being 12 points down in the 29th minute and Bengaluru's star raider Pawan Sehrawat picking up points at will, Mumba almost clawed back, thwarted only by the clock running

Both teams though remain in the top-six and en route to the playoffs.

An all out with 16 seconds to go in the first half - Sehrawat claiming a three-pointer - cost Mumba dear and with the score at 11-17, the former winner kept playing chase thereafter.

The six-point margin remained constant before a two-pointer by Banty set the ball rolling for a second Mumba all out in the 26th minute and increasing the gap to 12 points.

From 19-31, however, Mumba began chipping away. Abhishek Singh was the star, coming away with a point in each of his four

Surinder Singh stepped up in the defence to keep Mumba in the hunt. Six minutes later, Bengaluru was all out and the lead down to four points at 28-32. It was further reduced to two points with two minutes to go and remained there despite Mumba's best attempts.

The final match saw 11thplaced Telugu Titans, led by spirited Siddharth Desai, spoil home side Jaipur Pink Panthers' party with a 51-31 win. The result ruined Panthers' chances of entering the top-five.

The scores: Bengaluru Bulls 35 (Pawan Sehrawat 11, Banty 6, Saurabh Nandal 5) bt U Mumba 33 (Abhishek Singh 10, Athul MS 9, Sandeep Narwal 4).

Telugu Titans 51 (Siddharth Desai 22, Rajnish 11, Farhad Milaghardan 4) bt Jaipur Pink Panthers 31 (Deepak Hooda 12, Nilesh Salunke 5, Deepak Nar-

# India ends up with the wooden spoon

Relegated from Division-A after loss to the Philippines

#### **ASIA CUP**

ASHWIN ACHAL

India suffered relegation from the elite Division-A of the FIBA Women's Asia Cup basketball tournament, after a 92-78 loss to the Philippines in the 7th-place playoff here on Friday.

The wooden spoon finish also meant that India will not feature in the FIBA Pre-Qualifying Olympic tournament.

The home team needed to win this playoff to retain its elite Division-A spot, but found the speedy Filipinos too hot to handle. Point guard Marizze Andrea (8 assists) ran circles around the Indians, and regularly found her open teammates in the

Shooting guards Anna Castillo (15 points), skipper Janine Pontejos (18 points) and Ria Nabalan (13 points) were deadly from beyond the arc, helping the visitor sink 13 three-pointers.

India did cut the lead to just one point in the third quarter, but could do little once the Philippines shooters got into the groove. Shireen Limaye (23 points) was once again India's top performer.

#### **Big disparity** Overall, the tournament ex-

posed the gulf in quality between India and the top continental nations. Speed, physical play, set plays, shooting efficiency - India was not an equal terms in

any department of the game. This disparity was highlighted in the big group stage defeats to Japan, Chinese Taipei and Korea.

India entered the mustwin match against Philippines with a slight size advantage, but even that was nullified as the gritty Filipinos comfortably won the rebound battle 51-39.

Australia and Korea sealed semifinal berths with victories over Chinese Taipei and New Zealand.

The results: Quarterfinals: Korea 58 (Yuh An Youm 10, Leeseul Kang 13, Hyeyoon Bae 13) bt New Zealand 52 (Penina Davidson 12); Australia 90 (Bec Allen 15, Ezi Magbegor 13, Cayla George 12, Steph Talbot 11, Sara Blicavs 10) bt Chinese Taipei 51 (Wei Chen 11, Ling Huang 11). 7th place playoff match: Philippines 92 (Ana Alicia Castillo 15, Janine Pontejos 18, Ria Joy

(P.U. Naveenatha 15, Shireen Limaye 23, H.M. Bhandavya 12, Jeena Skaria 10) Semifinal line-up (Saturday): Japan v Australia; China v Ko-

Nabalan 13, Kelli Hayes 11,

Gemma Miranda 11) bt India 78

We lacked aggression and mentality. The moment we trail, we lose focus



Lone bright spot: Shireen Limaye, right, in action in the relegation match against the Philippines. • K. MURALI KUMAR

# Three more gold for India

Host finishes with a record haul of 52 medals

N. SUDARSHAN BENGALURU

India finished with a record tally of 52 medals (15 golds, 19 silvers, 18 bronzes), 12 better than the previous best at Tashkent, 2017, as the swimming competitions at 10th Asian Age Group championship drew to a close at the Padukone-Dravid Centre for the Sports Excellence here

on Friday. Srihari Nataraj (200m backstroke, 2:04.25), Virdhawal Khade (50m butterfly, 24.22) and the men's 4x200m relay team (7:41.06) swelled India's gold tally on the final day, while S. Siva finished a creditable second to Srihari and Maana Patel secured the silver in 200m backstroke.

The day also saw Divya Satija set a new National record in 50m butterfly, the only Indian best timing in the Open category at this competition. With a swim of 28.27, she erased her own mark of 28.33 set at the senior Nationals earlier this month.

"All my focus was on this meet as this was my first international competition," Divya said later. "I was very excited and gave my best shot. I wasn't nervous. I wanted to know what it felt like to be representing India. I still have a lot to improve. If I can get better on my starts, I can go

National Coach Pradeep Kumar termed the overall performance as satisfactory despite no swimmer reaching the Olympic A-mark. "It was always going to be

tough as the senior Nationals was very close," he said. "We didn't have much time. We are focusing on a few meets



Double joy: Divya Satija set a new National mark on her way to a bronze medal in the 50m butterfly event. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

in Doha and Singapore. In those, we expect them to peak.'

He singled out the junior swimmers for praise, despite Shoan Ganguly being the lone gold medallist and India not winning a single medal in Group II girls category.

He admitted that the gulf

between India and Asian powerhouses like Thailand, China and Japan was signifibut remained cant. optimistic. "For many of them, it was the first international event,"

he stated. "It was great exposure. They swam some great races. There was tough competition in those groups. We got about 25 personal bests from those age groups. That's a great sign of improvement."

The results: Men: 200m backstroke: 200m: 1. Srihari Nataraj 2:04.25s, 2. S. Siva 2:05.23, 3. Lau Shiu Yue (Hkg) 2:07.68; 200m breaststroke: 1. Denis Petrashov (Kyz) 2:13.81, 2. Ketin Nuttapong (Tha) 2:14.31, 3. Al Wir Amro Basil Issa (Jor) 2:17.20; 50m butterfly: 1. Virdhawal Khade 24.22, 2. Kham Abdul Razzaq (Kuw) 24.64, 3. Mehdi Ansari (Irn) 24.77; 4x200m freestyle: 1. India 7:41.06, 2. Thailand 7:49.94, 3. Chinese Taipei 8:05.95

Women: 200m backstroke: 1 Yamsuan Fonpray (Tha) 2:20.69, 2. Maana Patel 2:22.87, 3. Soubrity Mondal 2:23.99; 200m breaststroke: 1. Pawapotako Phiangkhwan (Tha) 2:34.27, 2. Vu Thi Phuong Anh (Vie) 2:34.86, 3. Lam Hiu Wai (Hkg) 2:38.84; **50m butterfly:** 1. Srisa Ard Jenjira (Tha) 27.18, 2. Khader Baqlah Talita (Jor) 28.22, 3. Divya Satija 28.27 (NR; OR: Divya Satija, 28.33, 2019); 4x200m freestyle: 1. Thailand

3. India 9:15.87. 4x100 mixed medley: 1. Thailand 4:01.22, 2. India 4:04.15, 3.

8:36.16, 2. Hong Kong 9:06.45,

Hong Kong 4:07.21. Other Indian medallists: Group I boys: 200m breaststroke: 3. Swadesh Mondal 2:23.43; Group II boys: 100m backstroke: 3. Sahil Laskar 1:01.46; 4x100m mixed medley: 3.

Best Swimmers: Open: Men: Kushagra Rawat (5 golds); Women: Junkrajang Natthanan (Tha) (5 gold, 1 bronze).

Group 1: Boys: Cheuk Ming Ho (Hkg) (4 gold, 2 bronze); Girls: Lyu Dongze (Chn) (2 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze). Group 2: Boys: Okadome Yomato (Jpn) (3 gold); Girls: Fujinawa Yuka (Jpn), Sasaki Miri (Jpn), Lau Ping Yi Audrey (Hkg) (3 gold).