

Ban-affected Moscow blames ‘anti-Russian hysteria’

Action taken against dope offenders: PM Medvedev; Whistleblower welcomes decision but says there’s more to do for WADA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

Russia reeled from a four-year ban from global sports on Monday, with athletes in shock and the government quick to blame “anti-Russian hysteria”.
The head of Russia’s anti-doping agency, meanwhile, said his country had “no chance” of winning an appeal against the ban, which he described as a tragedy for clean athletes.
The World Anti-Doping Agency on Monday banned

Russia from international competitions, including the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. It accused Russia of falsifying laboratory doping data handed over earlier this year to investigators probing claims of widespread doping.
An official linked to WADA said Russia can participate in qualifying for the 2022 World Cup. “Because the qualifiers don’t decide the world champion, Russia can take part. The decision applies to the World Cup tournament be-

cause it decides the world champion,” said Jonathan Taylor, chairman of WADA’s Compliance Review Committee.
Russia can appeal the ban in the Court of Arbitration for Sport, but the head of its RUSADA anti-doping agency, Yuri Ganas, said he doubted it would be successful.
While admitting there have been instances of doping, Russian officials say the country is no worse than any other. Some have accused other countries of pursuing

the ban to remove Russian athletes from competition.
Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said on Monday those involved in doping had already been punished. “This is the continuation of this anti-Russian hysteria that has already become chronic,” said Medvedev.
Political, not sports
“The decision that was taken today was political and not simply about sports,” said the head of Russia’s Biathlon Union, Vladimir Drachev.

The former head of Russia’s anti-doping agency, who fled Moscow after turning whistleblower, welcomed the four-year ban.
“Finally, fraud, lies and falsifications of unspeakable proportions have been punished,” said Grigory Rodchenkov in a statement.
Rodchenkov, who lives in the US under a witness protection programme, however, warned that there is “more to do” for the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). He added that those in-

volved in the doping of athletes “should be punished retroactively.”
■ There is no chance of winning this case in court. This is a tragedy. Clean athletes are seeing their rights limited: Ganas, RUSADA anti-doping agency head
■ The heads of several Russian federations said they were preparing to send athletes to Tokyo Olympics under a neutral flag



Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev. ■ AP

A desperately-needed result for the West Indies

A confident Windies team will take the field at Mumbai’s Wankhede Stadium on Wednesday

WI IN INDIA

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

After winning its second World T20 within four years in 2016, the West Indies’ slide has been spectacular. Almost as spectacular as some of the strokes its fearless batsmen have been producing around the world in franchise cricket.
Being sandwiched between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe, for the 10th place in the ICC rankings, isn’t something the men in maroon may have anticipated when Carlos Brathwaite smashed those four astonishing sixes to win the 2016 World T20 final against England at the Eden Gardens, Kolkata.
Since then, West Indies has played 15 bilateral series and lost nine of them, including the recent one to Afghanistan at Lucknow last month. Pollard’s men were on the verge of losing their 16th. But, after being outplayed in the first of the three-match series against India, they bounced back in style.
One shouldn’t read too much into Sunday night’s eight-wicket victory against India at the Greenfield Stadium here. But for the West Indies, it was a desperately-needed result, given that it has a title to defend at the T20 World Cup scheduled to begin in Australia in 10 months. Sometimes all you need is a commanding win against a quality, confident side, such as Virat Kohli’s, to start dreaming afresh.
It surely will be a confident



Silence, please! Kesrick Williams, after the hammering in the first game, rose to the occasion when it mattered most for Pollard’s West Indies. ■ R. RAGU

Windies team that will take the field at Mumbai’s Wankhede Stadium for the third T20I on Wednesday. For captain Kieron Pollard, it will be a kind of homecoming too, as he returns to Mumbai Indians’ IPL base.
Personal positive
The win against India must be a huge positive personally for the hard-hitting all-rounder.

He loves to be in charge, relishes a chance to take more responsibility and be involved in the game as much as possible. He was handed the West Indies’ limited-overs armband only last September, after the Jason Holder-led team’s poor showing at the 50-over World Cup in England. Pollard hadn’t made it to the squad then.
He could put that disap-

pointment behind him now. He could instead reflect happily on how his teammates, especially those at the top of the order, have responded to the Indian challenge. Like Lendl Simmons, who seems to reserve something special for India.
Three years after knocking India out in the World T20 semifinal in Mumbai with a 51-ball 82 not out, he an-

chored the chase here on Sunday. Explosive fellow opener Evin Lewis, who has two hundreds in T20Is, scored 40 in the first two games here.
Two other left-handers – Shimron Hetmyer and Nicholas Pooran – from whom the West Indies expects a lot in the years to come have also looked good. Wicketkeeper Pooran, returning to the squad after a four-match suspension for ball-tampering, can close out a match in no time, like he did with his cameo at Thiruvananthapuram.
Then there is Brandon King, who has made a promising start to his international career. He didn’t need to bat on Sunday, but was impressive at Hyderabad.
It was only last month that he got his maroon cap, against Afghanistan, after his sensational show in the Caribbean Premier League (CPL); King had set the record for the highest score with his 72-ball 132 not out for Guyana Amazon Warriors against Barbados Tridents a couple of months ago.
Another player to attract a lot of attention at this year’s CPL was Hayden Walsh, who emerged as the leading wicket-taker. The leg-spinner, who played for the United States before being picked by the West Indies, showed what he could do even against an experienced Indian batting line-up.
New players like him offer new hope for the West Indies. It need not be about Chris Gayle and Andre Russell all the time.

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Shivam Dube walking in at No. 3 wasn’t something many people outside the Indian team management expected at the Greenfield Stadium here on Sunday night.
The all-rounder, however, justified the faith in him. His blistering fifty gave the Indian bowlers something to bowl at (though not enough, it would prove).
His maiden international half-century may have been overshadowed by the aggressive West Indies batting later in the night, but it has provided India with another dimension to the team’s composition. He has been a like-for-like replacement for Hardik Pandya, but it won’t hurt the Men in Blue to have another pace-bowling all-rounder in the squad, especially at a time when there is plenty of white-ball cricket.
It was Dube’s big-hitting prowess that landed him a

stunning contract from Royal Challengers Bangalore last year and on Sunday, he proved he could deliver on the biggest of stages. He has been the biggest gain yet for India in the series.
His success also shows the gains you could have when you are ready to experiment and be flexible, though Virat Kohli has stated that he would like to field an eleven that is as close to the one that could play at the T20 World Cup in Australia next year.
Rishabh Pant’s batting in both the games could also please Kohli. As would K.L. Rahul’s 62 in the first match.
What Kohli won’t be pleased with is the way India has fielded. The captain himself and Rahul may have made up for the five dropped catches at Hyderabad, with their century-partnership for the second wicket, but India had to pay for their poor catching in the second match. Two dropped

catches in one Bhuvneshwar Kumar over would prove extremely costly, as both the beneficiaries, Lendl Simmons and Evin Lewis, went on to frustrate the Indian bowlers. Their opening-wicket stand of 73 took their team well on course.
Washington’s woes
One of those catches was dropped by Washington Sundar, who had an even worse game in the field in the Hyderabad match. The off-spinning all-rounder must be desperate to put those nightmares behind him.
It would be unfair to point fingers only at him, though. There is butter on some other fielders’ fingers as well.
Kohli was understandably upset about India’s fielding, but don’t be surprised if his men come up with a much improved display in Mumbai. This is such an excellent fielding side, after all.



Top talent: Shivam Dube gives India more options in team composition. ■ R. RAGU

SC to hear BCCI cases in January

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to list before an appropriate Bench the main BCCI case and connected applications to be heard in January 2020.
A Bench led by Chief Justice S.A. Bobde acceded to an oral request made by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to “list the main matter along with all connected interlocutory applications in the month of January, 2020 before the appropriate Bench”.
The urgent mentioning was made even as BCCI president Sourav Ganguly has decided to approach the apex court for permission to mellow down certain reforms introduced by the Justice R.M. Lodha committee regarding the tenure period of the Board’s office-bearers.
In its last hearing in October, just before the BCCI elections, the court had directed the Vinod Rai-led Committee of Administrators (CoA), appointed by the court to run the Board of Control for Cricket in India, to bow out as soon as the new elected office-bearers took charge of the elite cricket body.
On that day, the Special Bench of Justices Bobde and L. Nageswara Rao had passed a slew of directions to immunise the CoA and its past decisions while administering the Board from future legal hassles.

ICC chairman Manohar not to run for a third term

EXCLUSIVE

G. VISWANATH
AHMEDABAD

The first independent chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC), Shashank Manohar, has told his ICC director colleagues that he will not run for a third two-year term in May 2020.
Manohar, who has been the independent chairman since June 2016, will bring an end to his office at the ICC annual conference at Cape Town in July next year.
Sharing his thoughts with *The Hindu* on Monday, Manohar said: “I am not interested in continuing for another two-year term. Majority of directors have requested me to continue but I have told them that I do not wish to do so.”
Manohar had resigned in March 2017, eight months after taking over, but persuaded by colleagues, he continued. He was re-elected unopposed in June 2018. “I have been the chairman for nearly five years. I am very clear, I do not want to continue from June 2020. My successor will be known next May. He has to be elected in May to take charge after me at the annual conference,” said Manohar.
A quirk of fate paved the way for the Nagpur-based 62-year-old to become the



Shashank Manohar. ■ FILE PHOTO

BCCI president for a second time in November 2015. And, as a result, he became the BCCI nominee in the ICC board, and the chairman from November 2015 to May 2016.
Manohar was elected unopposed as the BCCI president for the second time following the demise of Jagmohan Dalmiya.
The new independent chairman will be elected by the present 15 directors, should there be an election. The past and present directors are eligible to be proposed and seconded to the chairman’s post. Manohar does not have a vote.
The BCCI, under the new dispensation, is yet to inform the ICC about its nominee (director and alternate director) to the ICC board. It has named secretary Jay Shah to the ICC Chief Executive Committee.

Indian boxers punch their way to six gold medals

The country inches closer to achieving the 300 medal mark and top the table once again

SAG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KATHMANDU

India clinched 42 medals, including 27 gold, on the penultimate day of competitions to inch closer to 300-mark and be poised to finish on top for the 13th time on the trot in the South Asian Games.
Indian athletes won 12 silver and 3 bronze to end Day 8 with 294 medals (159 gold, 91 silver and 44 gold) and be far ahead of Sri Lanka (236) and host Nepal (195 medals).

With just a few events – including seven boxing finals – scheduled for the closing day on Tuesday, India is unlikely to cross the 309 total medals it won in the last edition at home in 2016.
India has topped every edition of the Games since inception in 1984.
Boxers gave India the maximum medals on Monday with six gold and one silver.
Ankit Khatana (men’s 75kg), Vinod Tanwar (men’s 49kg), Sachin (men’s 56kg), Gaurav Chauhan (men’s

91kg), Kalaivani Srinivasan (women’s 48kg) and Parveen (women’s 60kg) bagged a gold each while Manish Kaushik (men’s 64kg) settled for silver on the first day of the finals.
On Tuesday, Vikas Krishan (men’s 69kg), Narender (men’s +91kg), Sparsh (men’s 52kg), Varinder (men’s 60kg), Pinki Rani (women’s 51kg), Sonia Lather (women’s 57kg) and Manju Bam-boriya (women’s 64kg) will fight in the finals.
In wrestling, Indians won both the gold medals on off-

er on Monday with Gaurav Baliyan and Anita Sheoran registering comfortable victories in men’s 74kg and women’s 68kg respectively to complete a stupendous show. With the successes on Monday, India made a white-wash with seven gold medals each in men’s and women’s events.
In shooting, India won the air pistol mixed event through the pair of Anuraj Singha and Shrawan Kumar.
Prominent medal-winners:
Boxing: Gold: Ankit Khatana (men’s 75kg), Vinod Tanwar

(men’s 49kg), Sachin (men’s 56kg), Gaurav Chauhan (men’s 91kg), Kalaivani Srinivasan (women’s 48kg) and Parveen (women’s 60kg). **Silver:** Manish Kaushik (men’s 64kg). **Football: Gold:** Women’s team. **Wrestling: Gold:** Gaurav Baliyan (men’s 74kg), Anita Sheoran (women’s 68kg). **Fencing: Gold:** Men’s foil, women’s epee and women’s saber. **Kabaddi: Gold:** Men’s and women’s team. **Basketball 3x3: Gold:** Men’s and women’s team. **Shooting: Gold:** Anuraj Singha & Shrawan Kumar (mixed air pistol).

When the ‘Flying Sikh’ touched down

N. SUDARSHAN
BENGALURU

An opportunity to meet and interact with the legendary Milkha Singh is rare. To have him visit you is rarer. But that’s what a young Indian sport climbing team got on Monday at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium when the ‘Flying Sikh’, in the city for a private visit, made a quick dash to interact with budding athletes.
“It was really unexpected,” said a climber who was preparing for the Asian Youth Championships to be held here from December 12 to 15. “It’s a dream come true for all of us. He wished us good luck for the upcoming competition and coming from a legend like him, it means a lot for us.”
Keerthi Pais, the co-chairman of the Indian Mountai-



One for the album: The legendary Milkha Singh with the Indian sport climbing team in Bengaluru on Monday. ■ N. SUDARSHAN

neering Foundation (IMF), the governing body of sport climbing in India, said that

despite a tight schedule, the 90-year-old was keen to visit the site where he first trained

as 22-year-old in 1951. “He told us four times that he wanted to come,” Pais

said. “He wanted to relive those old memories. It was conveyed to the commissioner of sports that he wanted to visit. We made quick arrangements. It is such an honour for all of us [to have him here] and a great experience for the children.”
A 55-member Russian youth delegation, which was touring the stadium as part of an exchange program between the Indian and Russian governments, was thrilled to meet the Indian great too.
“He told us about his past visits to Russia and about the competitions he has participated in,” said Tatiana Seliverstova, a member of the department of youth affairs in Russia. “It was a chance meeting and we are all thankful to have met such a great man.”