

World Boxing

Pooja Rani, Jaismine Lamboria assure India of two more medals

LIVERPOOL: Two-time Asian champion Pooja Rani and World Boxing Cup Astana gold medalist Jaismine Lamboria registered contrasting wins to assure two more medals for India in the World Boxing Championships here.

Pooja Rani got the better of Poland’s Emilia Koterska 3:2 in the women’s 80kg quarterfinals, while Jaismine dominated Under-22 Asian champion Mamajonova Khumora-bonu of Uzbekistan 5:0 to reach the Women’s 57kg semi-final.

India has fielded a 20-member contingent at the

inaugural World Championships being held under the aegis of the World Boxing – a recently formed international governing body for boxing and is hoping for a good showing in both men and women events.

World Boxing Cup Astana gold medalist Nupur was the first Indian to be assured of a medal when she reached the women’s 80 kg quarterfinals on Wednesday.

Two more Indian boxes — Meenakshi (women’s 48kg) and Jadumani Singh Mandengbam (men’s 50kg) — are a win away from assuring them-

selves a medal and will be playing their quarterfinals today, September 12.

In a keenly-contested women’s 80kg bout, Pooja Rani banked on her experience to tackle the speed and energy of her much-younger opponent. The Polish boxer was slightly ahead in the contest after the opening round but Pooja Rani dominated the second to take control and then maintained a cautious game plan to assure herself a semifinal berth.

In the women’s 57kg contest, Jaismine did not allow the Uzbek boxer to settle down in the first round itself and maintained

that advantage through out the three rounds.

However, it was end of the road for former world champion Nikhat Zareen and World Boxing Cup silver medalist Abhinash Jamwal. Facing two-time Olympic silver medalist Cakiroglu Buse Naz of Turkey in the women’s 51kg quarterfinals, Nikhat fought valiantly in all three rounds but the judges gave the Turk the advantage.

Later, Jamwal went down 1:4 against Paris Olympics bronze medalist Guruli Lasha of Georgia in the men’s 65kg quarterfinals.

Air rifle

Sollazzo sets new world record

NEW DELHI: Italy’s Danilo Sollazzo, who finished second behind India’s Rudranksh Patil in the Cairo World Championship in 2022 and was fifth in the Paris Olympics last year, shattered the men’s 10m air rifle finals world record on competition day three of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle/Pistol stage in Ningbo, China.

Indian shooters meanwhile, despite some solid performances, were still searching for a first final appearance at the Ningbo World Cup.

Bangladesh outclass Hong Kong

ABU DHABI: Bangladesh registered a commanding seven-wicket win over Hong Kong in their Asia Cup Group B clash at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium on Thursday. Chasing a modest target of 144, Bangladesh cruised to 144/3 in 17.4 overs. Litton Das top-scored with a fluent 59, while Towhid Hridoy remained unbeaten on 35.

Earlier, put in to bat, Hong Kong managed 143/7 in their 20 overs. Nizakat Khan (42 off 40) and Zeeshan Ali (30 off 34) held the innings together with a 41-run stand for the third wicket, while skipper Yasim Murtaza provided some late momentum with a brisk 28 from 19 balls. But regular strikes in the death overs restricted them short of a big finish.

Bangladesh bowlers kept control throughout, with

Tanzim Hasan Sakib, Rishad Hossain and Taskin Ahmed picking two wickets each. Taskin removed Anshuman Rath early via a successful review, before Tanzim’s yorker sent Babar Hayat packing. Murtaza and Nizakat tried to revive the innings, but both fell as Hong Kong stumbled late.

In reply, Bangladesh never looked in trouble. Litton anchored the chase with a 39-ball 59, striking boundaries with ease, while Hridoy ensured the finish with his steady knock. The result gave Bangladesh a comfortable start in their Asia Cup campaign.

Brief Scores: Bangladesh 144/3 (Litton Das 59, Towhid Hridoy 35*; Ateeq Iqbal 2/14) **beat Hong Kong 143/7** (Nizakat Khan 42, Zeeshan Ali 30; Tanzim Hasan Sakib 2/21) by seven wickets

SC refuses to halt India-Pak match

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday declined to urgently list a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking cancellation of the India–Pakistan T20 cricket match scheduled to be played in Dubai on September 14 as part of the Asia Cup.

The matter was mentioned before a Bench comprising Justice J.K. Maheshwari and Justice Vijay Bishnoi by counsel for the petitioners, who sought listing on Friday in view of the match being scheduled for Sunday.

“The match is on Sunday. Please list it tomorrow,” the petitioners’ lawyer submitted.

Responding firmly, the Bench remarked, “The match must go on.”

Historic all-female match official panel revealed

DUBAI: The ICC have revealed that the upcoming ICC women’s cricket World Cup will feature an all-female Emirates ICC Panel of Match Officials group for the first time in the tournament’s history. While three recent events - the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham and the two most recent ICC women’s T20 World Cups - have featured all-female match official panels, this is the first time in the history of the Women’s World Cup the feat will be achieved.

The group of 14 umpires includes the trio of Claire Polosak, Jacqueline Williams and Sue Redfern that will be appearing at their third women’s World Cup, while Lauren Agenbag and Kim Cotton will be

at their second World Cup after they were the officiating umpires when Australia won their unprecedented seventh title in New Zealand in 2022.

The match referee panel of four includes Trudy Anderson, Shandr  Fritz, GS Lakshmi, and Mich l Pereira, who will all bring varying levels of experience in the role to the 13th edition of the Women’s World Cup that will be held in India and Sri Lanka from September 30.

ICC Chairman Jay Shah believes the all-female panel is an historic moment for women’s cricket and thinks it will help lead to many more success stories around the world in the future, according to an ICC media statement.

Puneri Paltan beat UP Yoddhas

VIZAG: Puneri Paltan had a brilliant day at the office as they thumped UP Yoddhas 43-32 at the Vishwanadh Sports Club on Wednesday night. The win was powered by Super 10s from Aditya Shinde and Pankaj Mohite, while Gaurav Khatri chipped in with a solid High Five. For the Yoddhas, Gagan Gowda stood out once again with yet another Super 10.

Puneri Paltan opened the match on a positive note with a successful raid from Aslam Inamdar to claim the first point. However, UP Yoddhas immediately responded through Guman Singh to level the score at 1-1.

Women’s T20 WC for blind India announces 16-member squad

BENGALURU: Cricket takes a giant leap towards inclusion this November 11–25, when India hosts the historic first-ever Women’s T20 World Cup Cricket for the Blind.

The tournament will feature teams from Australia, England, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and the USA.

Matches will be played in New Delhi and Bengaluru. Kathmandu was originally identified as the third host city, with fixtures involving Pakistan scheduled there; however, due to the current situation in Nepal, an alternate venue is being considered.

The World Cup will

comprise 21 league matches, two semi-finals, and one final. After a nation-wide talent hunt of 56 players, followed by rigorous training and selection camps, the final 16-member Indian Women’s Team for the Blind has been announced, ready to showcase their talent, resilience, and fighting spirit on the world stage.

Squad List: B1 Category: Simu Das (Delhi), P. KarunaKumari (Andhra Pradesh), AnuKumari (Bihar), Jamuna Rani Tudu (Odisha), Kavya V (Karnataka) B2 Category: Anekha Devi (Delhi), Basanti-Hansdah (Odisha), SimranjeetKour (Rajasthan), SunitaSarathe (Madhya Pradesh), ParbatiMarndi

(Odisha) B3 Category: Deepika T C (Karnataka – Captain), Phula Soren (Odisha), Ganga S Kadam (Maharashtra – Vice Captain), Kavya N R (Karnataka), Sushma Patel (Madhya Pradesh), DurgaYevle (Madhya Pradesh).

The captain and vice-captain were chosen for their exemplary past performances and leadership qualities.

The Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI), the cricketing arm of Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, is the proud organiser of this landmark World Cup, reflecting India’s leadership in creating equitable platforms for athletes with disabilities, especially women.

India listed among highest-margin wins

DUBAI: India showed one of the most dominant performances in T20I history by defeating the UAE with 93 balls to spare in their 2025 Asia Cup clash.

The victory ranks among the highest-margin wins in terms of balls remaining by a Full Member side, underlining India’s commanding presence in the shortest format.

The record is only surpassed by England’s 101-ball triumph over Oman in North Sound, 2024. Other notable large-margin victories include Sri Lanka’s 90-ball win against the Netherlands (Chattogram, 2014) and Zimbabwe’s 90-ball triumph over Mozambique (Nairobi, 2024).

India’s previous best was an 81-ball win against Scotland in Dubai, 2021.

The comprehensive victory was bolstered by explosive batting at the start, with Abhishek Sharma joining an elite list of Indian batsmen, alongside Rohit Sharma, Yashasvi Jaiswal, and Sanju Samson, to hit a six off the first ball of a T20I innings.

India reached a total of 60 in just 4.3 overs, making it one of the fewest-ball completed innings by a Full Member side. Comparable performances include 93 balls by Netherlands vs Sri Lanka (Chattogram, 2014), 99 balls by Oman vs England (North Sound, 2024), and 103 balls by Netherlands vs Sri Lanka (Sharjah, 2021).

India, ADB sign USD 126.4 mn loan agreement

NEW DELHI: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India yesterday signed a USD 126.42 million loan agreement to promote rural development through sustainable and climate-resilient tourism in the Tehri Lake region of Uttarakhand, said an official statement.

According to the official statement, the signatories to the Sustainable, Inclusive and Climate-Resilient Tourism Development at Tehri Lake Area Project were Juhli Mukherjee, joint secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, and Kai Wei Yeo, Officer-in-Charge, India Resident Mission for ADB.

After signing the loan agreement, Mukherjee said, “The ADB loan supports the Government of Uttarakhand’s policy to

position the state as a diversified, all-weather tourism destination, with Tehri Lake identified as a priority area for development.”

The project targets the Tehri Garhwal district, one of Uttarakhand’s most climate-vulnerable and economically disadvantaged regions. It aims to benefit over 87,000 residents and 2.7 million annual visitors through improved tourism planning, upgraded infrastructure, enhanced sanitation and waste management, and disaster preparedness, says the official statement.

Kai Wei Yeo, Officer-in-Charge, India Resident Mission for ADB, said, “The project showcases a model for sustainable tourism anchored around a hydropower lake by adopting a multisector approach to generate jobs, diversify income, and build climate

resilience.”

Key interventions include institutional strengthening, climate-resilient infrastructure, nature-based solutions to mitigate landslide and flood risks, and inclusive tourism services led by women, youth, and the private sector.

Notable features include a livelihood matching grant program to support tourism led by women, youth and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, universal access design including for persons with disability, and a women-led disaster risk management initiatives led by pilot villages. Asian Development Bank (ADB), founded in 1966, is a leading multilateral development bank supporting inclusive, resilient, and sustainable growth across Asian and the Pacific.

Euro Pratik Sales IPO to open on Sept 16

MUMBAI: Euro Pratik Sales Limited has set the price band for its upcoming initial public offering (IPO) at Rs. 235 to Rs. 247 per equity share of face value of Re. 1. The issue will open for subscription on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, and close on Thursday, September 18, 2025. Investors can bid for a minimum of 60 equity shares and in multiples of 60 thereafter.

The IPO, entirely an offer for sale worth up to Rs. 451.32 crore by the promoter and promoter group selling shareholders, also includes a reservation for eligible employees.

Founded in January 2010 and headquartered in Mumbai, Euro Pratik Sales Limited follows an asset-light model with a strong focus on product design and development. As of March 31, 2025, the company had a portfolio of more than 3,000 designs across 30 product categories and launched

113 catalogues over the past four years, establishing itself as a fast-fashion brand in the wall d cor industry. Its products are distributed across 116 cities in India.

Financially, Euro Pratik Sales reported revenue from operations of Rs. 284.23 crore in FY25, up 28.20% from Rs. 221.70 crore in FY24. Profit after tax rose 21.51% to Rs. 76.44 crore in FY25 compared to Rs. 62.91 crore in the previous year.

The IPO will be managed through the book-building process, with not more than 50% reserved for qualified institutional buyers, at least 15% for non-institutional investors, and at least 35% for retail investors. Axis Capital Limited and DAM Capital Advisors Limited are the book-running lead managers, while MUFG Intime India Private Limited (formerly Link Intime India Private Limited) is the registrar to the issue.

Reliance launches ten-point relief plan

BENGALURU: Reliance Industries Limited has launched a comprehensive relief operation to aid communities affected by severe flooding in Punjab, rolling out a ten-point humanitarian plan. The initiative, led by Reliance Foundation, Vantara, Reliance Retail, and Jio, aims to reach over 10,000 families in the worst-hit areas, including Amritsar and Sultanpur Lodhi.

Anant Ambani, Director, Reliance Industries Limited, said, “Our heart goes out to the people of Punjab in this hour of suffering. The entire Reliance family is standing with them — providing food, water, shelter kits, and care for both people and animals. We are committed to walk alongside Punjab through this difficult time.” Under the plan, dry ration kits have been dis-

tributed to the most-affected families, while vouchers have been provided for vulnerable households, including those led by single women and the elderly. Community kitchens are being supported with food supplies, and portable water filters have been deployed in waterlogged areas to ensure safe drinking water.

Emergency shelter kits, including tarpaulins, groundsheets, mosquito nets, ropes, and bedding, have been provided to protect displaced families. Health awareness sessions are being conducted, water sources disinfected, and sanitation kits distributed to curb post-flood disease outbreaks. Livestock in severe distress due to waterlogging is receiving urgent attention, with veterinary camps set up to provide medicines, vaccines, and

fodder. Displaced animals are being rescued and treated, and deceased animals are being handled with dignified scientific cremation in coordination with local authorities to prevent disease outbreaks.

Reliance teams are working round-the-clock with district administrations, panchayats, and the Animal Husbandry Department to deliver life-saving support while planning medium-term recovery actions. The Jio team has restored network connectivity across flood-affected areas to ensure seamless communication. Reliance Retail, in coordination with Reliance Foundation, has dispatched dry-ration and sanitation kits containing 21 essential items to support the nutrition and hygiene of affected communities.

Cupid Ltd to acquire strategic stake in Mansam

MUMBAI: Cupid Limited (BSE: 530843, NSE: CUPID) has signed a term sheet to acquire a strategic stake in Mansam, a Saudi Arabian luxury fragrance brand. The investment will be made through a fund structure managed by GII Investment Management Limited.

The move strengthens Cupid Limited’s strategy of expanding its global footprint while tapping into high-growth, consumer-driven markets. It also marks a milestone in the company’s transition from a healthcare-focused enterprise to a

diversified global brand, aligned with evolving lifestyle and luxury consumption trends across fast-growing regions.

Established in 2022, Mansam has quickly positioned itself as a premium fragrance house in Saudi Arabia. Blending authentic Arabian heritage with modern sophistication, the brand offers a portfolio that celebrates regional culture and craftsmanship while catering to global standards of luxury. Mansam aims to capture both domestic and international markets with its unique positioning.

ALUMEX India exhibition begins

NEW DELHI: ALUMEX India 2025, a four-day exhibition organised by Aluminium Extrusion Manufacturers Association of India (ALEMAI) began. This event brings together more than 200 visitors and an expected 25,000 business visitors from across the aluminium value chain.

Speaking on the inauguration, Om Birla, Lok Sabha Speaker, said, “This event showcases the strength of the Indian aluminium extrusion industry. India, with its vast population, thriving cottage industries, entrepreneurial spirit, and innovation capacity, is emerging as a global force.”

“Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are moving

towards self-reliance while also promoting the vision of Make in India across the world,” Birla added.

This four-day exhibition will highlight the opportunities, challenges, and future roadmap for India’s aluminium extrusion industry. Despite an installed capacity of 3 billion tonnes per annum, domestic output is 1.2 million tonnes, while the rest is imported largely due to price differences.

“The exhibition will be rebranded as Aluminium Bharat. It will not be limited to the aluminium extrusion segment alone and will include all segments and products, ranging from rolled products and wire rods to auto castings. ALUMEX India will continue as

a dedicated segment for the extrusion industry, but Aluminium Bharat will bring the entire aluminium ecosystem on the same platform, and highlight India’s key role in this vital sector,” said Jitendra Chopra, president of ALEMAI.

The opening day of ALUMEX India 2025 featured a keynote sessions on global trends in extrusion technology, demand drivers across industries, and evolving applications in transport, construction, energy, and consumer goods.

Aniruddha Kulkarni, Chief Strategy Officer at Hindalco Industries, said, “The aluminium industry needs a rationalisation of import duties and stronger standards to ensure fair com-

petition. Going forward, the sector must focus on three key elements. The first is product quality to meet global benchmarks, second, circularity, to deliver on sustainability, and third, digitalisation, to drive efficiency and competitiveness.”

Rajiv Kumar, CEO of Vedanta, highlighted the economic significance of aluminium industry and said, “The aluminium sector contributes nearly 2% to India’s GDP. It is lightweight, versatile, and infinitely recyclable with applications ranging from transportation and construction to defence, packaging, and renewable energy. Aluminium is central to India’s net zero aspirations and global competitiveness.

IREDA raises Rs 453 cr via perpetual bonds

NEW DELHI: Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) has raised Rs 453 crores at 7.70 pc per annum through its second use of Perpetual Bonds, marking a significant step in strengthening its capital base for financing green energy projects, an official statement said yesterday.

“The issue drew strong investor interest, with total bids worth Rs 1343 crores against the base size of Rs 100 crore and a Green Shoe option of Rs 400 crore. This resulted in oversubscription by 2.69 times, reflecting growing confidence in IREDA’s role as a leading financier of India’s renewable energy sector,” an of-

ficial statement said.

Commenting on fund raising, Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman and Managing Director of IREDA, said, “These bonds will strengthen our Tier-1 Capital and help scale up renewable energy financing, accelerating India’s transition to a greener and more sustainable future. I sincerely thank all the investors for their overwhelming response and continued trust in IREDA, which motivates us to deliver even greater value to the renewable energy ecosystem and the nation.”

Perpetual Bonds carry unique features, including no maturity or redemption, and are callable only at the company’s option.