

ASIA CUP

Sri Lanka seal Super 4 spot with win over Afghanistan

ABUDHABI: Sri Lanka stormed into the Super 4 stage of the Asia Cup after defeating Afghanistan by six wickets in a must-win Group B clash at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium on Thursday. Chasing 170, Sri Lanka reached 171/4, with Kusal Mendis anchoring the chase with an unbeaten 74, supported by Kamindu Mendis, who remained not out on 26.

Earlier, Afghanistan's innings was rescued by veteran all-rounder Mohammad Nabi, who produced a stunning late assault. Coming in at 120/7 after 18 overs, Nabi hammered 60 off just 22 balls, including five sixes, powering Afghanistan to 169/8. His 46-run spree in the last two overs, including 32 runs in the final over against Dunith Wellalage, gave Afghanistan hope.

Nuwan Thushara starred with the ball for Sri Lanka, taking 4-18 in a fiery powerplay spell that reduced Afghanistan to 45/3.

Sri Lanka's fielding also shone, with Kusal Perera's relay catch and Dushmantha Chameera's acrobatic effort standing out. Despite Nabi's fireworks and Rashid Khan's 24-run cameo, Sri Lanka held their nerve. Kusal Mendis led the chase calmly, ensuring Sri Lanka secured their place in the Super 4s with a composed victory.

Brief Scores: Sri Lanka 171/4 (Kusal Mendis 74*, Kamindu Mendis 26*; Azmatullah Omarzai 1/10) beat **Afghanistan 169/8** (Mohammad Nabi 60, Rashid Khan 24; Nuwan Thushara 4/18) by six wickets

India to take on Oman

ABU DHABI: Like a tiger prowling in the twilight, India will take guard against Oman in the last Group-A encounter of the Asia Cup T20 at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium today (Sept, 19) with the Super Four ticket already snug in their pocket.

The defending champions have stormed through the group stage like a monsoon sweeping across the plains — first drenching the UAE in runs, then thundering past Pakistan with seven wickets to spare. Now they stand on the cusp of a perfect three-out-of-three, eager to sharpen their claws before the sterner battles ahead.

At the top of the order, young Abhishek Sharma has been batting like a blazing comet, giving India rocket fuel in the powerplay. Shubman Gill's willow has been the steady rudder steering the ship, while captain Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma have painted the middle overs with strokes as bright as festival lights.

Behind them lurk Sanju Samson, Shivam Dube, Hardik Pandya and Axar Patel — a bench so deep it could touch the Arabian Sea. On the bowling front, Kuldeep Yadav has spun webs of deceit, Varun Chakaravarthy has bowled with a magician's poise, and Jasprit Bumrah remains the thunderbolt in India's armoury.

Oman, already eliminated after two heavy defeats, will stride in as underdogs with a heart full of hope. Skipper Jatinder Singh, if he can rediscover his touch, could provide

the spark, while Aamir Kaleem and Shah Faisal must punch above their weight to keep their side afloat.

The Sheikh Zayed pitch promises an even contest between bat and ball — good for stroke-makers early on, with turn waiting for the spinners as the game matures. The weather will be hot and humid, but with no rain on the horizon, cricket should reign supreme under the Abu Dhabi lights.

If India bat first, they will aim to set a mountain in the 190-200 range; Oman would count 150 as a treasure if they get to lay down a target. Toss-wise, India's chasing instincts may see them bowl first, while Oman could prefer to bat and put runs in the vault.

AFC Champions League

FC Goa suffer defeat

NEW DELHI/GOA: FC Goa put up a spirited display but were eventually beaten 0-2 by Iraq's Al Zawraa SC in their AFC Champions League Two 2025-26 Group D tie at the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Goa.

In a statement, All India Football Federation (AIFF) said, "FC Goa fought hard, but ultimately suffered a 0-2 defeat at the hands of Iraq's Al Zawraa SC in their AFC Champions League Two 2025-26 Group D tie at the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Goa, on Wednesday, September 17, 2025."

AIFF noted, "A lapse in concentration early on nearly cost FC Goa as Mahdi Humaidan intercepted a back pass and surged into the box before crossing for Mohammed Qasim, who saw his thunderous effort crash against the bar."

HI prepares to celebrate greatest milestone

NEW DELHI: Calling for Pan-India celebrations to mark the centenary of Indian hockey- a journey which began in 1925 when the first national sports body was formed, Hockey India has launched the 50-day countdown which will culminate into special celebrations on November 7.

While the actual details of the celebrations will be revealed in due course, Hockey India delved into the sport's incredible history underlined by the eight Olympic Gold medals - maximum won by any country in the sport till date and also the maximum number of medals in any discipline won by India at the Olympics.

Speaking about the significance of hockey contribution that outlined the country's immense potential on a global stage even before Independence, Gurbux Singh.- the oldest living legend of the sport who has won Olympic Gold for India in 1964 Tokyo Olympics expressed,

"The first hockey tournament held in India was the Beighton Cup in 1895. The National Hockey Association was formed in 1925 and India won the Olympic Gold in 1928, only in three years of forming the body. From then on, India won gold in 1932, 1936 and if the Games was held in 1940 and 1944 if not for WWII, we would have won two more gold medals. It was the Dhyanchand era and we totally dominated the world."Gurbux also pointed out that Britain didn't field a hockey team until 1948 for the fear of, 'losing to India'.

Nair rift triggered Karnataka exit: Uthappa

BENGALURU: Karun Nair's misunderstanding over a media remark was one of the key turning points in Robin Uthappa's exit from the Karnataka Ranji Trophy set-up, the former India batsman has revealed, linking the episode to deeper issues of domestic politics and communication gaps inside the dressing room.

Speaking on a cricket podcast First Umpire, Uthappa said the trouble began during the 2016-17 season, after he and Nair struck match-winning centuries for Karnataka in a Ranji Trophy match.

Soon after the win, a casual interview he gave about Test selections was "twisted" and presented to Nair as if Uthappa had questioned his right to a Test cap. "Karun, who was like a younger brother,

believed it and distanced himself from me without checking," Uthappa recalled.

The former India opener said he had only voiced general frustration that Test caps were being "given away too easily" at the time, while he was struggling to break into the longest format despite strong domestic scores. "I was going through a difficult phase and wanted the selectors to value performances," he said.

Uthappa explained that, before the interview incident, he had spoken up over a Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) directive limiting the weight of kit bags players could carry on team trips. "Some boys came to me saying they would have to pay extra if their kit was heavier. I

felt it was petty and disrespectful towards professional cricketers, who had won titles for the state," he said, adding that his strong stance might have upset officials.

According to Uthappa, a meeting was later held in Bengaluru where he was accused of "creating divisions" in the side. "I told them if anyone thought I was breaking the team, they should raise their hand and I would quit immediately. Nobody raised a hand, but I knew then there was an organised attack because I had become the players' voice," he said.

Reflecting on his time with Karnataka, Uthappa said he had helped transform a "toxic" culture in the mid-2000s into one focused on winning championships.

Neeraj misses podium at Tokyo javelin final

TOKYO: India's star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra had an unexpectedly disappointing outing at the World Athletics Championships 2025, finishing eighth in the men's final here on Thursday. His compatriot Sachin Yadav came close to a historic podium finish, securing fourth place with a personal best.

Neeraj, who had entered the competition as the reigning world champion and two-time Olympic medallist, recorded his best throw of 84.03m on his second attempt. However, he could not maintain his momentum and failed to make it to the final round, finishing outside the top six in the crucial fifth round.

This performance marked the first time since Tokyo 2020 that Neeraj did not finish among the

top two in an international competition, ending a remarkable streak of podium finishes.

Sachin Yadav provided a bright spot for India with a stunning personal best throw of 86.27m in the opening round. Despite his impressive effort, he narrowly missed out on a medal, finishing just shy of the podium. Pakistan's Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem also struggled in Tokyo, ending his campaign in 10th place with a best throw of 82.75m, failing to progress to the penultimate round.

The gold medal went to Trinidad and Tobago's Keshorn Walcott, who threw 88.16m to claim the top spot. Grenada's Anderson Peters secured silver with 87.38m, while the USA's Curtis Thompson rounded out the podium with a throw of 86.67m.

Milano Cortina 2026

85% stadiums ready: IOC

GENEVA: Eighty five percent of venues for the Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics and Paralympics are ready, said the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Coordination Commission. "Some 85 percent of the venues already exist. If we want to be precise on the numbers, these Games are also creating an impact - five million euros in contracts have supported social and micro enterprises so far," said Kristin Kloster, Chair of the Coordination Commission, at a press conference in Milan after the Commission finished its sixth and final visit on Wednesday.

The Winter Olympics will take place from February 6 to 22, 2026, followed by the Paralympics from March 6 to 15, with

events spread across Milan, Cortina, Valtellina, the Fiemme valleys, and Verona. Kloster added, "The excitement is building and the work so far gives us so much to be proud of. The sliding center in Cortina has surpassed expectations. The Milan Olympic Village is structurally ready, and over 800,000 tickets sold show national and global anticipation."

The organizing committee released more tickets for the Opening Ceremony at Milan's San Siro Stadium on Tuesday, and a new official website was launched Wednesday. In November, the Olympic flame will be lit in Greece, followed by the start of the torch relay in December.

"The focus for the next month will be on building awareness, engaging fans

and promoting key milestones and events leading up to the Games," Kloster said. "We are now entering a critical phase of operational readiness, with test events and simulations scheduled to ensure smooth Games-time operations. The complexity of integration across regions, teams and partners is immense, and teamwork will make the true difference."

Giovanni Malago, President of the Milano Cortina 2026 Organizing Committee, promised that all stadiums would be ready before the Games begin and that more tickets would be released next month.

The concepts for the Opening Ceremony will be revealed on October 7, while official Olympic posters will be released on October 28.

India eyes 5 MT Green Hydrogen by 2030

BENGALURU: India is making a decisive push towards a sustainable energy future, setting ambitious targets for green hydrogen production and climate action.

Speaking to media, Pradeep Kumar Pandey of the Combustion Institute Indian Section outlined plans to produce five million tons of green hydrogen by 2030 and achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2070, in line with the country's commitments under the Paris Agreement.

He said the two-day National Workshop on Hydrogen serves as a platform to unite industry, academia, and research institutions and is expected to play a pivotal role in shaping India's hydrogen roadmap. Pandey,

also a key organizer, said the event is designed to "bring together leading minds from across sectors to deliberate on the future of fuel, identify gaps in research and industrial practice, and create a cohesive approach for the nation." Over the course of the workshop, participants will include major industrial players such as Ashok Leyland, Volvo, Caterpillar, and Honeywell, alongside leading academic researchers and scientists.

A central figure at the workshop is Dr Saswat, chairman of the Combustion Fuel Indian Section at IIT Chennai and a member of the International Organization of Combustion Science, headquartered in Pittsburgh, USA.

Google introduces Agent Payments Protocol (AP2)

NEW DELHI: Google introduced 'Agent Payments Protocol (AP2)' to securely initiate and transact agent-led payments across platforms, said an official statement.

The Agent Payments Protocol (AP2) is an open protocol developed with leading payments and technology companies. This supports different payments—from credit and debit cards to stablecoins and real-time bank transfers.

It will allow a consistent, secure, and scalable experience for users and merchants, while also providing financial institutions with the clarity they need to effectively manage risk. 'AP2' builds trust by using Mandates—tamper-proof, cryptographically-signed digital contracts that serve as verifiable proof of a user's instructions.

Atlanta Electricals' IPO to open on Sept 22

MUMBAI: Atlanta Electricals Limited is set to open its Initial Public Offer (IPO) of equity shares on Monday, September 22, 2025. The total offer size of the IPO is up to Rs. 6,873 million (Rs. 687 crore), comprising a fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs. 4,000 million (Rs. 400 crore) and an offer for sale (OFS) of Rs. 2,873 million (Rs. 287 crore) by existing shareholders. Each share has a face value of Rs. 2, with the price band set between Rs. 718 and Rs. 754 per equity share.

The Anchor Investor Bidding Date is scheduled for today, September 19, 2025, and the IPO will close on Wednesday, September 24, 2025. Investors can bid for a minimum of 19 equity shares and in multiples of 19 shares thereafter. The net proceeds from the fresh issue are proposed to be used for repayment or prepayment of certain outstanding borrowings, estimated at Rs. 791.2 million (Rs. 79 crore), funding working capital requirements of the company, estimated at Rs. 2,100 million (Rs. 210 crore), and the balance for general corporate purposes.

Taneira launches its festive collection

NASHIK: Taneira, the women's ethnic wear brand from the House of Tata, launches its festive collection Miara: Crafted by Hand, Rooted in Purity. Handcrafted for today's woman, the range fuses contemporary designs with traditional crafts, bringing a distinct design language that sets it apart. Featuring various silks and cottons across diverse weaving traditions, Miara is designed to elevate every celebratory moment, whether chosen as a personal indulgence

or a cherished gift.

Adding to the celebratory spirit, Taneira's latest campaign 'The Gift of Pure Love' celebrates the saree as a timeless gesture of love during the festive season. The campaign is the brand's take on the joy of gifting, reminding us that to gift a Taneira saree is to honor love with something as rare and invaluable as the emotion itself. In the end, purity is the truest measure of love. Because 'Pure love isn't just seen, it's felt'.

Sarveshwar Foods closes rights issue

JAMMU: Sarveshwar Foods Limited has announced the successful closure of its Rights Issue of 24,99,10,469 fully paid-up equity shares, aggregating Rs 149.95 crore at an issue price of Rs 6 per share, which includes a share premium of Rs 5 per share. The issue, offered on a rights basis to eligible equity shareholders, closed on September 16, 2025, and was oversubscribed by 1.35 times.

The Rights Issue was launched on September 2, 2025, and ran until September 16, 2025, with shareholders entitled to 12 Rights Equity Shares for every 47 fully paid-up shares held as of the record date, August 22, 2025. The payment for the issue was fully payable at the time of application.

The allotment and listing formalities of the new shares on the BSE and NSE are expected to be completed on September 17 and September 19, 2025, respectively.

Commenting on the milestone, **Rohit Gupta, Chairman of Sarveshwar Foods Limited**, said:

OSH India 2025 Occupational safety is a moral responsibility: Sawant

MUMBAI: Informa Markets in India successfully commenced the 13th edition of OSH India Expo-South Asia's largest occupational safety and health event — at the Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai. Running from 16th to 18th September 2025, the event has brought together over 170 exhibitors representing 300+ leading brands and 1,500+ products from 13 countries, attracting 9,000+ visitors, 150+ delegates, and more than 50 speakers. The Expo was inaugurated in the presence of eminent dignitaries, including chief guest Dr. Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister of Goa and Executive Member, The National Integrated Medical Association (NIMA) India.

Speaking at the event Dr. Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister of Goa, said "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has introduced key reforms such as the OSH Code 2020, Shram Suvidha Portal, and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, which are driving compliance and improving worker welfare."

In Goa, we are committed to this vision through initiatives including factory health camps, worker safety training and digital reforms. A culture of safety is essential for sustainable growth. Let us work together to build a safer, stronger India aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047."