

India begin women's U-19 WC title defence with 9-wicket win over West Indies



AGENCY
KUALA LUMPUR: Indian bowlers shot a clueless West Indies batters out for a measly 44 to set up a commanding nine-wicket win to begin their title defence on a resounding note in the women's U-19 World Cup here on Sunday.

Left-arm spinners Parunika Sisodia (3/7) and Aayushi Shukla (2/6) as well as pacer VJ Joshitha (2/6) toyed with the West Indies batters to bowl the Caribbeans out in just 13.2 overs in the Group A match at Bayemas Oval.

Kenika Cassar top-scored for the West Indies with a 29-ball 15 while opener Asabi Callender contributed 12. All the other West Indies batters could score in single digit figures with five of them getting out without opening account.

SCOREBOARD	
West Indies Women Under-19s	
Asabi Callender run out (Prasad/Yadav)	12
Samara Ramnath (c) lbw b Joshitha	03
Naijanni Cumberbatch c Chalke b Joshitha	00
Jahzara Claxton c Ahire b Aayushi Shukla	00
Brianna Harricharan lbw b Sisodia	00
Kenika Cassar b Sisodia	15
Abigail Bryce run out (Aayushi Shukla/Kamalini)	01
Amiah Gilbert run out (Mithila)	01
Amrita Ramtahal not out	04
Kristen Sutherland † b Aayushi Shukla	00
Selena Ross c & b Sisodia	00
Extras	08
Total	44/10
India Women Under-19s	
Gongadi Trisha c & b Claxton	04
G Kamalini † not out	16
Sanika Chalke not out	18
Extras	09
Total	47/1

India chased down the target of 45 in just 4.2 overs, reaching 47 for 1 with opener Trisha G getting out for 4 on the second ball off Jahzara Claxton.

Wicketkeeper-batter G Kamalini (16 not out off 13 balls) and Sanika Chalke (18 not out off 11 balls) took India home for an easy win.

India play hosts Malaysia in their next group match here on Tuesday. Sri Lanka is the other team in Group A.

The top three teams from each of the four groups will progress to the Super Six stage, with the three teams from Group A and Group D combining to form one Super Six group and similarly with the top three teams of Group B and Group C in the other group.

The teams will also carry forward their points and net run rates and will play the two sides who were not in their group in the first stage and who finished at a different position from them.

As an example, if India finish second in Group A, then they will play the winner and the third-place team of Group D.

The top two teams from each Super Six group will progress to the semi-finals. The final will be played here on February 2.

J&K team shines at opening ceremony of 69th Junior National Ball Badminton C'ship

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The J&K Junior boys and girls team made a remarkable impression at the opening ceremony of the 69th Junior National Badminton Championship 2024-25.

Their talent, dedication, and sportsmanship were praised, earning special recognition from the Maharashtra Government for their potential in the championship.

This event highlights the growing prominence of ball badminton in Jammu and Kashmir, fueled by the continuing efforts of the J&K Ball Badminton Association in nurturing young talent and promoting the sport



across the region.

The ceremony was graced by Chief Guest Charan Singh Thakur, MLA Maharashtra, along with distinguished guests such as Atul Ingle, Joint Secretary of BBFI, Gouri Shankar, Joint Secretary of BBFI, Showkat Mansoori, Joint Secretary of BBFI, Naresh Chandrakar, Chairman of the Tournament Committee, BBFI, and Lakshmi Kant Sharma, Member of the Tournament Committee, BBFI.

The J&K team's participation and recognition at this prestigious event reflect their hard work and perseverance, making the region proud. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the team and wish them continued success throughout the championship.

GDC Bishnah conducts 6-Kilometres Cross Country Run



GDC Bishnah faculty and students at a programme.

STATE TIMES NEWS
BISHNAH: Government Degree College (GDC) Bishnah in collaboration with the All India Human Rights Association, observed National Youth Day 2025 under the theme 'Youth for sustainable future shaping the nation with resilience and responsibility'.

This year's theme aligns with the ideals of Swami Vivekananda, and our aim is to disseminate his inspiring ideas and ideology among the youth.

In this event, Principal Dr. Shailu Sanyal was the Chief Guest and Anju Bhan Koul, Advisor of All Human Right Association was the Guest of Honour.

The cross-country event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students of Dogra Law College, GDC R.S. Pura, GDC Vijaypur, and Higher Secondary School,

Bishnah (boys and girls).

The event commenced from the main entrance of GDC Bishnah, covering the area of Bana Chak, and concluded at the same point. The entire event lasted approximately for one hour. Following the race, a prize distribution ceremony was held.

Principal of the college delivered a formal address, extending appreciation to all participants.

In girls category, Mehvish of Rajouri bagged first, Roshan Bibi secured second and Sonia Thakral of GDC Bishnah won third place in the tournament.

In boys, Salman and Govind of Higher Secondary Bishnah bagged first and second place respectively and third position was won by Rahul Kumar of GDC R.S. Pura and the rest of the participants got certificate of participation.

Vote of thanks was presented to dignitaries, participants and media persons. The event was organized by NSS wing of the college.

Kho Kho World Cup: Indian women's team crowned champion



STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Indian women's team emerged champion in the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup with a dominant 78-40 victory in the summit clash against Nepal here on Sunday.

On a memorable night at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium here, India produced a masterclass of speed, strategy and skill, dishing out a clinical show.

A brisk start marked Turn 1 as the Indian attackers took charge of the proceedings. Three batches in the Nepal women were out by simple touches on 7 occasions, putting 14 points to India's kitty.

Skipper Priyanka Ingle was in the best form with multiple touch points to her

name, as the hosts started off in an excellent manner. This was enough to take the Women in Blue to 34 points and preventing a single Dream Run for the Nepal team.

Manmati Dhami got Vaishnavi Pawar, and B Samjhana eliminated Priyanka Ingle but B Chaitra took India's first batch of Turn 2 into the Dream Run.

It wasn't for long, though, as Dipa completed the ALL OUT just moments later. This got the side back into the game but they only managed to score 24 points at the end of Turn 2, with an 11-point deficit at half time.

India were once again the dominant force in Turn 3, never allowing the Nepal defenders to settle in their stride.

BK Dipa was a regular for Nepal but it went in vain throughout, ensuring that the Indians edged closer to the trophy.

Chaitra was the orchestrator of the Dream Run for India, taking the score to a massive 78 points in Turn 4. Their batch went on for a massive 5 minutes and 14 seconds, closing out the game for India and confirming them as the first-ever champions of the Kho Kho World Cup.

India's path to glory had included commanding victories over South Korea, Iran and Malaysia in the group stages, followed by triumph against Bangladesh in the quarter-finals and a masterful win over South Africa in the semi-finals.

Kirti Pal Sharma promotes sports, youth engagement at Poonch



Kirti Pal Sharma being honoured at a programme.

STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: Kirti Pal Sharma, the State President of the J&K Handball Association and son of Yashpal Sharma, recently encouraged young people to actively participate in sports during an event at the Sports Stadium in Poonch.

This initiative, supported by the District Administration of Poonch, is aimed at fostering sports and physical activity among the youth in the region.

The growing emphasis on sports in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly handball, is evident through events like the Khelo India Handball Championship and the

District Handball Championship being organized in the region.

These efforts are playing a crucial role in making sports more accessible and promoting a healthy, active lifestyle among the youth.

By encouraging participation in sports, Kirti Pal Sharma and the J&K Handball Association are helping to instill values of teamwork, discipline, and physical fitness in young people. Their commitment to supporting sports in the region is contributing to the overall development of youth in Jammu and Kashmir, fostering a generation that values both personal well-being and community engagement.

Bangladesh court issues arrest warrant against former skipper Shakib Al Hasan

STATE TIMES NEWS
DHAKA: A Dhaka court, on Sunday, issued an arrest warrant against Bangladesh all-rounder and former Awami League MP Shakib Al Hasan over two bounced bank cheques.

Shakib hasn't returned to Bangladesh fearing threat to his life after deposed PM Sheikh Hasina was forced to flee the country due to civil unrest last year.

"Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Ziadur Rahman issued the arrest warrant asking police submit a report on the execution of the order on March 24," a court official told reporters.

He said the warrant was issued as Hasan, also the chairman of an agriculture farm, failed to appear in the court as ordered earlier over a case related to bounced cheques.

Another identical warrant was issued against managing director of the farm Gazi Shahagir Hossain as well as since he too did not respond to the summons.

Shakib, Bangladesh's greatest ever cricketer played his last Test match against India in Kanpur late last year. Champions Trophy in Dubai is supposed to be his last appearance in Bangladesh colours.

Currently he is banned from bowling in all forms of cricket due to suspect action.

The cricketer, who now lives in the United States, was elected as an MP on Awami League ticket during the January 7, 2024 elections.

A case was filed against the cricketer by International Finance Investment and Commerce (IFIC) Bank.

The IFIC Bank earlier in October last year issued a legal notice over the bounced cheques in a subsequent development filed the case on December 24 against the cricketer-turned-businessman and three other officials of his company.

Two of the farm officials duly surrendered before the court today and pleaded for bail, which the court granted after a hearing.

Shakib, the former captain of the Bangladesh national cricket team established a crab farm named Shakib Al Hasan Agro Farm in southwestern Satkhira in 2016. The company has reportedly been inactive since 2021.

Footballer Arun enters coaching profession

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Former India football player, Arun Malhotra of J&K has entered the world of coaching by achieving the significant milestone completing the important Asian Football Confederation (AFC) B-Diploma in Coaching conducted by All India Football Federation (AIFF) at Ahmedabad in Gujarat.

The course was organized by ARA FC in Ahmedabad and was conducted by reputed instructor Shakti



Chauhan, a Pro License holder and former Indian Women's U-16 National Team coach in two sessions

held in September and December last.

Meanwhile, Arun expressed his gratitude for the invaluable learning experience and expressed his passion for football development. Arun extended special thanks to ONGC, his home UT of J&K and AIFF for the support and granting him the opportunity to pursue higher-level coaching programs. Their encouragement, he said, has been instrumental in helping him take this important step in his coaching journey.

J&K top fencer gets coaching job in Italy

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Tariq Hussain, former India Foil Fencer and holder of a NIS Certificate Course in Fencing Coaching and Sports Psychology, has been appointed as trainer at Academy D'Armi 'Agesilao Greco' in Caltagirone, Catania, Italy.

As per a handout issued here today, senior fencer, Tariq trained as a young fencer at



J&K Sports Council Fencing training centre, MA Stadium,

here. Tariq is also an active Coach and Referee of the Jammu and Kashmir Fencing Association (JKFA).

Important to mention here that J&K has produced talented fencers over the years. And, now these senior fencers are turning professional coaches after completing their training at National Institute of Sports (NIS) Patiala.

Bindu Rajput qualifies PhD



STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Bindu Rajput, daughter of Wakeel Singh Narwal and Prem Lata and wife of Ankit Damarl, resident of Sunder Bani (Kangri) has been declared qualified for the award of Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in History by the University of Jammu.

She worked on the topic 'Taxation Policies of the Sultans of Delhi (1206-1526)' under the supervision of Prof Jigar Mohammed.

Bopanna-Shuai enter mixed doubles quarterfinals of Australian Open

STATE TIMES NEWS
MELBOURNE: Veteran Indian tennis player Rohan Bopanna and his Chinese partner Zhang Shuai entered the quarterfinals of the mixed doubles event at the Australian Open after they got a walkover in a second round match here on Sunday.

Bopanna and Shuai were up against fourth seeds Taylor Townsend of the United States and Hugo Nys of Monaco but the Indian-Chinese pair moved to the last eight round without taking the court.

Bopanna and Shuai will next play the winner of the match between Hungary's

Timea Babos and El Salvador's Marcelo Arevalo, and the Australian combination of Olivia Gadecki and John Peers.

The Indo-Chinese pair had earlier defeated Kristina Mladenovic of France and Ivan Dodic of Croatia 6-4 6-4 in its opening match.

Gukesh turns the tables on Anish Giri in Tata Steel opener

STATE TIMES NEWS
WIJK AAN ZEE: World Champion D Gukesh got lucky and came back from a tough position to beat Anish Giri of Holland in the first round of the Tata Steel Masters now underway here.

Receiving his Khel Ratna on Friday and then taking a flight to Amsterdam, Gukesh reached here barely hours before the start of the first round. That probably had its toll on the young Indian but he got into top gear when it mattered the most. The game was almost looking lost when Gukesh found moves that left Giri with some difficult choices and the Dutchman found all but the final winning move.

It was an eventful first round with three decisive games and making the most of his white pieces was P Harikrishna who crashed through the defenses of compatriot world number four Arjun Erigaisi.

Leon Luke Mendonca let a nearly won position slip out of hand as he made several errors



that gave German Vincent Keymer a winning start while R Praggnanandhaa put up a stiff resistance against Nodirbek Abdusattorov to draw eventually.

The other games of the first round also ended in draws. Defending champion Wei Yi of China played a draw with top seed Fabiano Caruana of United States, Max Warnerdam of Holland shared the point with Alexey Sarana of Serbia while another Dutchman Jorden van Foreest drew with Vladimir Fedoseev of Slovenia.

In the challengers' section R Vaishali got off to a winning start against World's youngest

the game, Gukesh was on three occasions left with barely a few seconds on his clock but hung in there. After 33 moves Gukesh was hopelessly lost but Giri blundered two moves later to hand the full point on a platter: Gukesh won in 42 moves.

Harikrishna was surprised as Arjun went for the Sicilian Dragon as black but found his way once Arjun decided to part with his queen for two rooks. The technicalities remained but that is Harikrishna's forte and he did not disappoint his fans. The game lasted 63 moves.

Leon Luke Mendonca almost outplayed Vincent Keymer and had an extra pawn as white out of a King pawn game. However, in a bizarre turn of events, Mendonca first let his advantage slip and finally a blackout happened for the Indian as he walked in to a checkmate web.

Vaishali was at the top of her game against 11-years old Oro Faustino who played white. In the middle game Vaishali gave a piece for three pawns and did not look back.