

Asia Cup Final: Sri Lanka's Cup of glory as Pakistan get vanquished

■ **AGENCY**
DUBAI: Sri Lanka, a country picking up pieces after the death of democracy while facing enormous financial turbulence, found 11 worthy heroes on a cricket pitch as Dasun Shanaka's unheralded bunch crushed Pakistan by 23 runs to win their sixth Asia Cup title here on Sunday.

It was a victory that was just not about cricket but way beyond that with much deeper historical and political importance. It was one for posterity as Sri Lanka first raised themselves from the dungeons to reach 170 for 6 from a hopeless 58 for 5 because of Bhanuka Rajapaksa's 45-ball-71, easily one of the best knocks under pressure in T20s in recent times. If that wasn't enough, Pakistan, who were cruising along at 93 for 2, were finally bowled out by Pakistan for 147 as pacer Pramod Madushan (4/34 in 4 overs) and leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga (3/27 in 4 overs) ensured that the few thousands of Sri Lankan fans out cheered the 20,000 odd Pakistan fans. The 17th over by



Hasaranga that served as Pakistan's death knell with three wickets falling in quick succession. It was Rajapaksa, who laid the foundation, Madushan, who built the structure and Hasaranga, who gave the finishing touches. Sri Lanka don't have prima donas like the 'Men in Blue' but a team of good cricketers who have understood how to win crunch matches from the dead. The whippy right-arm fast medium Madushan, who got Babar Azam (5) and Fakhar Zaman (0), gave Sri Lanka the upper-hand at the start of the

chase. While Babar was guilty off flicking a wide long hop down leg side straight into short fine leg fielder's hands, Fakhar dragged an angular delivery back onto stumps. Rizwan (55 off 49 balls) as usual played the sheet anchor's role hitting the odd boundaries as Ifthikar Ahmed (32 of 31 balls) started hitting after 10 overs but Madushan coming back for his second spell had him holed out in the deep. If there was one difference between the sides, it was fielding. While Pakistan were poor on the field dropping catches,

Sri Lankans took some smart catches and were outstanding in the deep mid-wicket boundary. At one point, even the spectators got frustrated with Rizwan's push and prod game which is good for totals in the 150 range but not the 170 plus ones. Finally when the pressure went above critical limit, Hasaranga had him caught at deep. It was a good toss to win for Babar as Pakistan pacers started with a bang before Rajapaksa's brilliance ensured a challenging total for the islanders. Rajapaksa's calculated assault at the death saw 50 runs being scored off last 4 overs. Young Naseem Shah (1/40 in 4 overs) and the uber cool Haris Rauf (3/29 in 4 overs) bowled with a lot of pace and fire extracting movement off the track as they broke the backbone of the Lankan batting within the Powerplay overs before Rajapaksa scored one of his finest fifties considering the situation that his team was in.

Rajapaksa and Wanindu Hasaranga (36 off 21 balls) added 58 quick runs after Sri Lanka were left gasping for

breath at 58 for 5.

There was another 54 run stand with Chamika Karunaratne and Sri Lanka did cross the 160-run mark.

Shah, the 19-year-old pace sensation bowled one of the most lethal off-cutters seen in this tournament as it pitched back of length but moved in sharply, giving no time to inform Kusal Mendis (0) to bring his bat down.

While Dhananjaya de Silva (28 off 21 balls) did hit some picturesque cover drives, there was no support literally from the other end.

However Rajapaksa with his all-round strokeplay did give Sri Lankan total lot of respectability. He hit six fours and three sixes and the flick off Naseem for a maximum was a treat for the eyes. Equally good was ramp flick off Naseem that went for four before a slashed six over cover point took Lanka to 170.

When Shadab bowled a googly or Ifthikar managed an off-break, Rajapaksa played some left late cuts as Babar was seen getting a bit restless.

Italian govt, UAE-based PE firm pick up 44pc stake in Titagarh Wagons European arm Firema

■ **AGENCY**
KOLKATA: The Italian government and a UAE-based private equity firm have together picked up almost 44 per cent stake in Titagarh Wagons' fully-owned subsidiary Firema SpA, a top company official said on Sunday.

The company saw a "recapitalisation of Euro 20 million through fresh equity infusion", raising the total capital to Euro 33 million, he said.

Invitalia, the Italian government's investment promotion agency, pumped in Euro 10 million for a 30.30 per cent stake, and the UAE-based PE firm - Hawk Eye DMCC - picked up a 13.64 per cent shareholding for Euro 4.5 million, the company official said.

The rest Euro 5.5 million has been infused by a Titagarh Group company.

The recapitalisation of Euro 20 million provides

a fresh lease of life for the Italian company which will now be able to turn around and tap huge railway opportunities with branding and strategic value addition by Invitalia, Titagarh Wagons Vice Chairman and Managing Director Umesh Chowdhary told PTI.

Italian firm Firema, which is executing railway projects in Europe, was taken over by the Kolkata-based Titagarh Group in 2015.

He said this investment will allow Firema to develop its business.

The recapitalisation will also help the company achieve its target of reaching a monthly production of 20 EMU coaches and become a high-quality manufacturer of train coaches for Europe, Chowdhary said.

With the recapitalisation, the Titagarh

Wagons' stake in Firema SpA reduces to 49.7 per cent and hence, Titagarh Firema SpA ceases to be a subsidiary of the Indian engineering company, the official said.

Another Titagarh promoters' company Shivalik Mercantile would hold a 6.36 per cent stake in the Italian firm, he said.

Thus, the group's shareholding in Titagarh Firema SpA would be over 56 per cent.

The Italian firm had reported a loss of around Euro 9 million in the last fiscal and is expected to be EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation) positive this fiscal, the company official said.

Firema currently has a healthy order book of Euro 500 million euros, which is expected to be executed in the next four-five years, he added.

Mehbooba's daughter advocates dialogue with Pak, Hurriyat

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti's daughter Ittija Mufti on Sunday advocated dialogue with Pakistan and Hurriyat Conference for the permanent resolution of Kashmir issue.

She also suggested opening of Jammu and Kashmir borders and implementation of self-rule to make the region an economic hub and a gateway between central Asia and India.

Narendra Modi who is attending the summit should have organized it in Kashmir.

Open J&K and let it become an economic hub and gateway between central Asia and India, Mufti said, speaking at an conclave here.

She said Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) an amalgam of five mainstream parties including National Conference and PDP fighting for restoration of Article 370- is crucial because the people have pinned their hopes with it.

PAGD has to be more active, more alert and need to work out unity in real sense by leaving aside party interests. You have to look at the large picture. Our special status and identity is under attack and we have to protect it, she said.

Mufti did not agree that PAGD is on ventilator and said pull out 10 lakh forces from J&K, you will see who is on the ventilator.

She also claimed that arm twisting tactics are being used against her family to force them into submission.

When there is a meeting of PAGD, my mother or my grandmother, who is 75 years old, is getting a summons (to present before any agency). My grandmother was also denied passport for the past two years, she said.

She accused the BJP of launching a disinformation campaign in the country by projecting Article 370 as a hurdle in the development and giving rights to women and marginalized sections.

Quoting a survey in 2017, she said J&K human index

More than 25 cheetahs will be brought to Kuno National Park in MP from Africa in future: Union Minister

■ **AGENCY**
SHEOPUR/GWALIOR: More than 25 cheetahs will be brought to Madhya Pradesh's Kuno-Palpur National Park (KNP) from Namibia and South Africa in a phased manner in future, Union minister Bhupender Yadav said on Sunday.

Initially, eight cheetahs will arrive at the KNP on September 17, the Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change said.

Yadav along with MP Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar took stock of the preparations for the event to be held on September 17 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the cheetahs into specially-built enclosures at the KNP in Sheopur district.

Talking to reporters in Gwalior, Yadav said that under the Cheetah Reintroduction Project, more than 25 cheetahs will arrive from Namibia and South Africa in future.

"Initially, eight cheetahs are coming to Kuno Palpur from Namibia, which will be released by the prime minister," he said.

Meanwhile, Chouhan announced that the villages located in the KNP, from where people were shifted, will be given the status of "revenue villages".

Bringing cheetahs from another conti-

nent to the KNP under the reintroduction project is the biggest event in wildlife history of this century, Chouhan said.

Cheetahs, which became extinct not only from India but also from Asia, will now be resettled here, he said.

The chief minister said the prime minister will release the cheetahs into two enclosures, where the animals will quarantine for some time and later be released in big enclosures.

Meanwhile, talking to reporters in Bhopal, state Congress chief Kamal Nath took a swipe at the event being organised on September 17 and said that according to last year's report, Sheopur was the district with the highest malnutrition in the state.

"About 21,000 malnourished and 5,000 severely malnourished children were found in the district," he said, adding that Sheopur also leads in the nutritious food scam. The former chief minister said that instead of addressing the issue of malnutrition issue, Modi and Chouhan are holding an event there.

"Cheetahs could be released later, but malnutrition should be eradicated first and its scam should be discussed," he said while accusing the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of misleading the people.

Khatana's nomination to RS a 'blatant violation' of Constitution: Congress

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Congress on Sunday questioned the nomination of BJP leader Gulam Ali Khatana to Rajya Sabha and said the move is a "blatant violation" of the constitutional provisions. There is nothing personal against Khatana, but it is the question of the misuse and violation of the Constitution. He does not fulfil the requisite qualification for nomination, as per the Constitution, senior Congress leader and former MLC Ravinder Sharma said in a statement. Sharma said Khatana's only qualification is that he is a BJP worker, for which BJP could have got him elected for Rajya Sabha on party ticket from anywhere in the country.

But misusing the provisions of the Constitution for political interests has become the routine affair of the BJP, he said. He said Congress too gave representation in the Rajya Sabha to the tribal Gujar community by sending former Pradesh Congress Committee president and ex-speaker Choudhary Mohd Aslam in 2005.

In support of his assertions, Sharma said the clause (3) of Article 80 of the Constitution of India lays down the criteria for the nomination of the members of the Rajya Sabha.

The members to be nominated by the President under sub clause (a) of clause (1) shall consist of persons having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of such matters as...Literature, science, art and social service," he said.

He said the clause (1) of Article 80 of the Constitution provides that 12 members shall be nominated by the President in accordance with the provisions of clause (3).

The bare reading of these provisions of the Constitution makes it manifestly clear that the spirit and provisions of the Constitution have been blatantly violated in the nomination of Khatana, whose only qualification is that he is a BJP worker, he said. However, the Congress leader extended congratulations to Khatana on his nomination.

Report to restructure commerce ministry under study; idea is to set up trade promotion body: Goyal

■ **AGENCY**
AYODHYA: An estimated cost of Rs 1,800 crore will be incurred to build the Ram temple in Ayodhya, officials of the trust responsible for the construction of the structure said here on Sunday.

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, formed on the Supreme Court's orders for the construction of the temple in this Hindu holy town in Uttar Pradesh, approved its rules and manual after a marathon meeting here.

At the meeting held at the Faizabad Circuit House, the trust members also unanimously decided to make space for idols of prominent Hindu seers in the temple complex.

The trust has estimated an expenditure of Rs 1,800 crore for the construction of the Ram temple only, based on a report filed by experts.

■ **AGENCY**
LOS ANGELES: The commerce ministry is in the process of studying in greater detail the report on its restructuring and there is a plan to set up a trade promotion body, Union minister Piyush Goyal said on Sunday.

The ministry is working to redesign the Department of Commerce as India is targeting exports of goods and services to USD 2 trillion by 2030.

The restructuring rests on pillars like increasing

India's share in global trade, assuming leadership roles in multilateral organisations, creating 100 Indian brands as global champions, and setting up economic zones in India to strengthen the manufacturing base and attract greater investments.

"We are in the process in the commerce ministry to redesign the structure of the ministry. And one of the ideas before us is to set up a trade promotion body, similar to Invest India, which will promote trade

from India, for India," he told reporters here.

Invest India, under the ministry, is an agency which facilitates investments into the country.

He added that the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), which currently looks after exports, import related issues, will have certain other roles more like a facilitation unit and trade promotion body will focus on promotion.

"Ideally, we would like to pattern it (trade promotion

body) on the lines of Invest India with a flavour of independence, autonomy and like a private sector organisation so that it can genuinely work in close partnership with business and industry worldwide," Goyal said.

Last month the minister released the Department of Commerce Restructuring Dossier in New Delhi.

"We have just received a report suggesting the new form of the ministry. And we now go through the process of studying the report in great detail and coming up with the overall

plan for restructuring and rewriting the way commerce ministry functions," he said.

The 14 volumes of the report has defined the role of each section within the department and lays down the expected outcomes and key performance indicators. When asked about the new foreign trade policy, Goyal said that the ministry is working on the contours of the policy.

The existing policy (2015-20) will end on September 30. The new policy is expected to be released before that.

In the policy, the government announces support measures for both goods and services exporters.

During April-August 2022-23, exports registered a growth of 17.12 per cent to USD 192.59 billion. Imports during the five-month period of this fiscal grew by 45.64 per cent to USD 317.81 billion, according to a preliminary data of the ministry.

Trade deficit widened to USD 125.22 billion in April-August this fiscal as against USD 53.78 billion in the same period last year.

Estimated cost of Rs 1,800 crore to be incurred for construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya: Trust

The trust has also decided to make space for idols of prominent Hindu seers and the main characters from the Ramayana period in the temple complex, he added.

Rai said 14 of the 15 trust members attended the meeting.

Construction committee chairman Nripendra Mishra, trust chairman Mahant Nritya Gopal Das, treasurer Govind Dev Giri, member Udupi Peethadheeshwar Vishwathirtha Prasannaacharya, Dr Anil Mishra, Mahant Dinendra Das, Kameshwar Chaupal and ex-officio member District Magistrate Nitish Kumar were among those who were present physically, while Keshav Parasharan, Yugpurush Parmanand, Vinalendra Mohan Pratap Mishra and ex-officio member state Principal Secretary, Home, Sanjay Kumar participated virtually.

The construction of the temple is expected to be completed by December 2023 and Lord Ram is expected to be seated in the sanctum sanctorum by the Makar Sankranti festival in January 2024, Rai said.

SFIO arrests 'mastermind' behind incorporating shell companies with Chinese links

■ **AGENCY**
NEW DELHI: The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) has arrested an individual who has emerged as the mastermind behind incorporating a large number of shell companies with Chinese links in India and providing dummy directors on their boards.

The arrest comes against the backdrop of the crack-down on Chinese shell companies that are allegedly into "serious financial crimes".

In a statement on Sunday, the corporate affairs ministry said it has arrested one Dortse, who is on the board of Jilian India Ltd, on Saturday.

This follows simultaneous search and seizure operations conducted by the ministry on September 8 in the offices of Jilian Consultants India Private Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Jilian Hong Kong Ltd at Gurgaon, Fininty Pvt Ltd at Bangalore and Husys Consulting Ltd at Hyderabad.

"Dortse is on the Board of Jillian India Ltd and has

clearly emerged as the mastermind of the whole racket of incorporating large number of shell companies with Chinese links in India and providing dummy directors on their boards. The arrested person Dortse had shown himself to be a resident of Mandi in Himachal Pradesh as per the records filed with the Registrar of Companies," the statement said.

According to the ministry, evidence procured during the enquiry by RoC Delhi and the simultaneous search operations clearly pointed to dummy directors being paid by Jilian India Ltd to act as dummies in several shell companies.

"Boxes filled with company seals and digital signatures of dummy directors have been recovered from the site. The Indian employees were in touch with the Chinese counterparts through Chinese instant messaging app Husys Ltd (and were) also found to be acting on behalf of Jilian India Ltd," it added.

Initial observations revealed that Husys Ltd had a pact

with Jilian Hong Kong Ltd. Investigations so far have revealed the possible involvement of these shell companies in serious financial crimes detrimental to the financial security of the country, it added.

The ministry assigned the investigation of Jilian Consultants India Private Limited and 32 other companies to SFIO on September 9.

"Dortse and one Chinese national are the two directors in Jilian Consultants India Private Limited. Based on inputs and the investigations carried out, it was gathered that Dortse had fled from Delhi NCR to a remote place in the state of Bihar and was attempting to escape India through the road route.

"Immediately, a special team was constituted in SFIO which was deputed to the said remote place. In the evening of 10th September 2022, SFIO had arrested Dortse, who was later produced in the jurisdictional court and orders for his transit remand were obtained," the statement said.

Indian Railways revenue up 38 pc to Rs 95,486.58 cr till Aug-end

■ **AGENCY**
NEW DELHI: The overall revenue of Indian Railways at the end of August 2022 was Rs 95,486.58 crore, showing an increase of Rs 26,271.29 crore or 38 per cent over the corresponding period of last year, an official statement said on Sunday.

The revenue from passenger traffic was Rs 25,276.54 crore, an increase of Rs 13,574.44 crore (116 per cent) year-on-year.

Passenger traffic also increased compared to last year in both the segments - reserved and unreserved. The growth from the long distance reserved mail express trains has been sharper than the same in passenger and suburban trains, the Railways said.

The other coaching revenue stood at Rs 2,437.42 crore, higher by Rs 811.82 crore (50 per cent) over the corresponding period of last year.

This is being fuelled by robust growth in the parcel segment of Indian Railways, the statement added.

Goods revenue climbed by Rs 10,780.03 crore (or 20 per cent) to Rs 65,505.02 crore till August-end this year.

This has been achieved through incremental loading of more than 58 MT and 18 per cent growth in the net tonne-kilometers (NTKMs) during the period. Food grains, fertiliser, cement, mineral oil, container traffic and balance other goods segments have been important contributors in this growth, in addition to the coal transportation.

The sundry revenue was Rs 2,267.60 crore, showing an increase of Rs 1105 crore or 95 per cent over the corresponding period of last year, it added.

Railways' total revenue during the entire last fiscal (2021-22) stood at Rs 1,91,278.29 crore.

Booster dose vaccination drive held at Bhagawaan Gopinathji Ashram

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Bhagawaan Gopinathji Trust organized another free booster dose vaccination drive in the premises of the Bhagawaan Gopinathji Ashram, Bohri, Jammu on Sunday.

The vaccination drive was held under the supervision of Dr. Harbaksh Singh, Chief Medical Officer and Dr. Harminder Singh, I/C VCCM, Jammu. Around 300 persons got booster dose vaccination. The Trust would continue to hold/organize such medical camps in future as well.

Tej Krishen Raina, President, Bhagawaan Gopinathji Trust, thanked the volunteers for their selfless services rendered in the camp.

A free medical camp was organized with a view to providing relief to the needy irrespective of cast, creed and colour.

