





Gymnastics championships conclude, winners given medals



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, DEC 29

District Jammu Gymnastics championships for Boys & Girls finished today at Gymnastics Academy , M A Stadium, Jammu in Artistic Gymnastic, Rhythmic & Aerobic Gymnastics.

Federation Traders warehouse nehru market jammu who was the Chief guest on the occasion distribution the prizes to the position holders & praised the organisers for organising this championship in a wonderful

manner. Around 150 Gymnasts in different age groups participated in this championship & displayed their skills to achieve medals . In two days championships, various events were held & the re-

sults are as under: **Artistic Gymnastics Under 8 Boys** Zorawar- 1st Position Mahir- 2nd Position Ibadat- 3rd Position

Divyanshi- 1st Position Nivanshi- 2nd Position Giya Iqbal Singh Sethi-3rd Position

Under 10 Boys Ashiswa Proch- 1st Position

Rohinya Proch- 2nd Position

Avikam and Advier Gill-3rd Position

Under 10 Girls

Meera-1st Position Shivanya- 2nd Position Harshita And Ekam Bajwra-3rd Position

Floor Exercise Under 12 Boys Trishisva- 1st Position

Position Partik- 3rd Position Vault Veerbhadra Chib- 1st

Veerbhadra Chib- 2nd

Position Partik- 2nd Position Trishisva- 3rd Position **Artistic Gymnastics**

-Floor Exercise Anubhooti- 1st position Shivanshi- 2nd position Ridha Malik- 3rd posi-

Under 12 Girls

Manya-1st position

tionAliya-3rd position **Under-14 Boys**

-Floor exercise Kavva-1st position Lakshay Mehra-2nd po-

Krishna Mehra-3rd position

-Vault Kavya-1st position Krishna Mehra-2nd po-

Lakshay Mehra-3rd po-

Under 14 Girls

-Floor Exercise Rivka-1st position Sadhya-2nd position Tayleen-3rd position -Beam

Rivka-1st position Somya-2nd position Sadhya- 3rd position

The team was also selected to represent J&K Contingent for participation in the National Aerobic Gymnastic Championships next month.

The competitions were officiated Kamal Manvinder Singh, Singh, Honey Mehra, Seema Mehra, Parul Mehra & Sahil Sahi under the overall supervision of Shivanshi-2nd posi- S P.Singh. The prominent

who were present were Baljinder pal Singh, Divisional Sports Officer J&K Sports Council, Anil Khajuria, Tejinder Singh office bearers of Gymnastic association of J&K.

The Championships was conducted by GAJK in collaboration with J&K Sports Council.

Er. Kiran Wattal, Vice President of Gymnastics Federation of India (GFI) and President of the Gymnastics Association of J&K, expressed gratitude to Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for his unwavering support for sports development in J&K. Wattal highlighted how the improved sports infrastructure under the administration's patronage has enabled athletes to achieve remarkable success, both nationally and internationally. He also acknowledged the timely support from the Commissioner/Secretary YS&S and the Secretary of the Sports Council, which has been crucial for pro-

moting gymnastics in the

Shopian's Nehal Zubair Strikes Silver at Junior World Pencak Silat Championship

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, DEC 29

Nehal Zubair, a rising Shopian, Jammu and Kashmir, has brought glory to India by winning a silver medal at the prestigious 5th Junior World Pencak Silat Championship 2024, held at the ADNEC Centre in Abu Dhabi from December 18

Competing against the world's top young ath-letes, Nehal's extraordinary performance showcased her dedication, skill, and determination, solidifying her position as one of India's brightest prospects in the sport of Pencak Silat.

This silver medal marks a landmark achievement for Indian Pencak Silat, highlighting the growing prominence of the sport in the country. Nehal's exceptional journey from Shopian to the global stage is a testament to her relentless hard work and the support she has received along the way.

Expressing his pride, Mohammad Iqbal, coach of the Indian Pencak Silat Federation, said: "Nehal's silver medal is a momen-



sports. Her dedication and passion for Pencak Silat are truly commendable. This achievement will inspire many young athletes to take up the sport and aim for excellence."

The championship drew participants from around the globe, making Nehal's victory even more significant. Her achievement has been widely celebrated across India, with top officials and sports adher success.

Shri Sarmad Hafeez. Secretary to the Government for Youth Services and Sports, J&K, congratulated Nehal, saying: "This is a proud moment not just for Shopian or Jammu and Kashmir, but for the entire nation. Nehal's accomplishment will inspire countless young athletes to dream big and work hard to achieve their

Ms. Nuzhat Gul, Secre-

Council, also extended her heartfelt congratulations and reiterated the council's commitment to supporting young athletes in the region.

The J&K Sports Council played a vital role in sponsoring the Indian team's participation in the championship, enabling athletes like Nehal to compete on a global platform. Their support underscores the importance of nurturing young talent and providing them with opportunities to excel in international arenas.

Nehal Zubair's achievement is a beacon of hope and inspiration for young athletes across the country. Her success in Abu Dhabi is not only a personal milestone but also a moment of pride for the nation. As Pencak Silat continues to gain recognition in India, Nehal's journey serves as a powerful example of what can be accomplished with hard work and determination.

As she returns home with her silver medal, Nehal carries the hopes and dreams of a new generation of Indian athletes eager to follow in her foot-

Lakshya Sen finishes 3rd at King Cup **International Badminton Open**

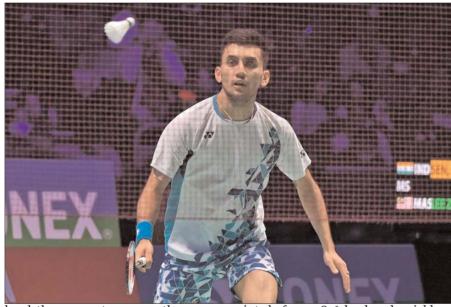
SHENZHEN

(CHINA), DEC 29: India's Lakshya Sen delivered a dominant performance, outplaying rising French star Alex Lanier in third at the inaugural King Cup International Badminton Open here on Sun-

The 23-year-old from Almora defeated Lanier 21-17 21-11, securing a prize purse of around Rs 36 lakh.

Lakshya had earlier lost in the semifinals to reigning world junior champion Hu Zhe'an of China, going down 19-21 19-21 in a closely contested match on Saturday.

In the third place playoff, Lakshya started strong, taking a 6-1 lead, but Lanier fought back to



level the score at 10-10, eventually gaining a onepoint advantage at the interval. However, Lakshya regained control to move ahead 18-15 and grabbed three game points before sealing the opening game when Lanier went wide.

After the break, Lakshya continued with the momentum, establishing an

8-6 lead and quickly extending it to 15-8. He gained nine match points and wrapped up the victory when Lanier sent a

Reddy's hundred reception is something I never heard: CA CEO Hockley

DEC 29: The collective roar of Indian fans after Nitish Kumar Reddy's maiden hundred is something that he has never heard at the MCG, said Cricket Australia's (CA) outgoing CEO Nick Hockley on Sunday. He said that the reception validated the decision to add a Test to the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

The CA's decision to increase the number of Tests for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy from four to five has proved to be a masterstroke as crowd attendance and viewership records are set to surpass the hallowed Ashes

"I want to say thank you to everyone who turned up, the atmosphere last night when Nitish Kumar Reddy scored his hundred, the roar of the crowd was nothing that I have ever heard," Hockley told PTI in an exclusive interaction

The record total attendance (over five days) for a Boxing Day Test till

date is 271,865 against England back in 2013 and the fourth Test involving India has already witnessed a footfall of 255,462 spectators.

With two more days left, CA is expecting the attendance to go well past 300,000.

"Absolutely thrilled with the number of fans that have come round from all over India. It's been an absolutely incredible atmosphere as we got over a quarter million people over the gates and that's too on days one, two and three," Hockley said.

"This Border-Gavaskar Trophy has had the biggest Boxing Day crowd ever passing the Ashes and the series is so delicately poised now, it is living up to every hype.'

Hockley, who has had a good working relationship with the BCCI, said it was a no-brainer that the four-Test series between India and Australia transformed into a fivematch rubber, considering its massive following.

"I think it speaks about the relations between India and Australia and fans are always excited to see these two teams. The five-Test series is what the fans deserve, players deserve. This series is likely to be alive going into Sydnev.

"We haven't had a full fifth day as we have had some unfinished business. I thank and am very grateful to the BCCI to have agreed to play a five-Test series. Hope it continues for the rest of the time.

Days 1, 2 and 3 in Sydney all but sold out

There is forecast of rain during the New Year's Test in Sydney but even then the Indian diaspora will throng to the grounds with very limited tickets still left for the first three days. "Sydney will be very, very full. I

think there are only very few tickets left for days one, two and three. We encourage people to quickly get their tickets if they want to come on Day

Bandipora boxing meet concludes

Sports & Allied News JAMMU, Dec 29:

Bandipora District Boxing Championship concluded with valedictory function held at Multipurpose Indoor Sports Hall Shadipora, Bandipora in Kashmir.

Dr Aga Syed Mubarak Hussain of Department of Health was chief guest, who in the presence of distinguished gathering presents medals among those medal winner boxers.

The championship was officiated by the technical



Arsh Muhammad and Ir- Council and Ghulam Mofan. The event held under hammad Lone. In Sub juthe supervision of Farooq nior girls 46 kg event, given away bronze.

penal including Suhaib, Ahmad Khan of J&K Sports Shazia Akhtar clinched

gold while silver went to Saima and Ayat and Sehra

South Africa seals place in World Test Championship final with a tense 2-wicket win against Pakistan

AFRICA) DEC 29: South Africa tailenders Kagiso Rabada and Marco Jansen hung in against relentless fast bowler Mohammad Abbas for a tense two-wicket win in the first test on Sunday and sealed the Proteas' place in next year's World Test Championship final.

Jansen (16 not out) overshadowed Abbas' brilliant figures of 6-54 with a square driven boundary against the fast bowler as South Africa reached 150-8 just after lunch on Day 4 and escaped with a close win in the two-match series.

Abbas, making a comeback after more than three years in the test wilderness, had knocked back South Africa's tricky chase of 148 runs in a marathon 13-over spell before lunch on Day 4 as the home team limped to 99-8, losing four wickets for three runs.

in South Africa in almost

However, Rabada changed gears in an unbroken 51-run stand with Jansen and made an unbeaten 31 off 26 balls with five fours to seal a memorable victory and denied Pakistan its first test win



South Africa started this WTC cycle with a loss against New Zealand, but since then the Proteas drew 1-1 in India and then went on to West Indies, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka to stay on top of the table.

India, Australia and Sri Lanka are the other teams still in contention for next June's WTC final against South Africa at Lord's.

Captain Temba Bavuma (40) and Aiden Markram (37) had thwarted Abbas for an hour after South Africa resumed at a wobbly 27-3, still needing 121 for victory.

Bavuma's controversial dismissal punctuated a South Africa collapse in the latter half of first session with Abbas grabbing three off his six balls in a

collapse. Bavuma, who made 40, surprisingly didn't request a television review when replays suggested that Abbas' ball had brushed the batter's pocket and didn't make contact with the inside edge of the bat but the South African skipper walked back to the dressing room. Abbas bowled an unchanged marathon spell of 13 overs, but had to wait as Markram and Bavuma saw off eight overs from the fast bowlers.

Resuming at 27-3, Bavuma and Markram showed plenty of patience against Abbas' probing line and length before the fast bowler finally got the breakthrough after the first drinks break.

Abbas was rewarded for

his brilliant seam bowling when he beat the outside edge of Markram's bat and knocked back the off stump.

Bavuma survived a couple of close chances when he successfully overturned an on-field lbw decision against him early in the day and Naseem Shah couldn't hold onto a sharp catch at fine leg as he overstepped the boundary cushion while grabbing the ball over his head.

South Africa had controlled the game at 96-4 before Bavuma's dismissal saw Abbas finding the outside edges of David Bedingham (14) and Corbin Bosch's (o) bat off successive deliveries and in between Kyle Verreynne dragged Naseem Shah's delivery back onto his stumps.