

Short Takes

Shiva finishes 36th at Winter Olympics

Pyeongchang (South Korea), Feb 10 : India's Shiva Keshavan finished at the 36th position in the men's luge competition at the 2018 Winter Olympics here on Saturday.

Shiva registered 50.578 seconds in the Men's Singles Run 1 which saw a total of 40 competitors in action.

He was 2.926 seconds behind David Gleirscher of Austria who took the top spot with 47.652 seconds.

Germany took the next two spots with Felix Loch and Johannes Ludwig finishing second and third respectively.

While Loch registered a time of 47.674 seconds, Ludwig came in at 47.764 seconds.

Roman Repilov of Russia, who is competing as an independent athlete under the International Olympic Committee (IOC) flag, was fourth with 47.776 seconds.

Delhi bring midfielder Arana on loan from FC Goa

New Delhi, Feb 10 : Delhi Dynamos on Saturday completed Spanish midfielder Manuel Arana from FC Goa on a loan deal till the end of the Indian Super League (ISL) football season.

Arana who primarily operates from the right-wing position will add more steel to the Dynamos side when going forward.

The 33-year old Arana made 10 appearances for FC Goa in the ISL this season, scoring thrice and assisting on two occasions.

The winger was also on target when Goa beat Delhi 5-1 earlier in the season.

A product of the Real Betis youth system, Arana made his professional debut with Spanish side CD Castellon. He then went onto represent the likes of Rayo Vallecano, Mallorca, Racing and Recreativo -- racking up more than 200 appearances and 40 goals to his name.

The winger has also plied his trade in the A-League and the Asian Champions League with Australian side Brisbane Roar.

The club meanwhile has parted ways with forward Guyon Fernandez. The 31-year-old Dutch attacker made 10 appearances for the club and scored crucial late goals against Chennaiyin FC and Bengaluru F. C.

Ex-Kiwi skipper Bevan Congdon passes away

Auckland, Feb 10 : Former New Zealand skipper Bevan Congdon passed away on Saturday, one day short of his 80th birthday after a long bout of illness.

Congdon, who led New Zealand to their first Test win over Australia, skippered the side on 17 occasions.

Congdon made his New Zealand debut in 1965 and played 61 Tests in a career spanning 13 years.

Batting mostly at No. 3, he scored 3,448 runs at an average of 32.22, and scored seven hundreds including two in back-to-back innings in England in 1973.

He is survived by his wife Shirley, his daughters Ali and Sandy, and grandchildren Matthew, Joshua, Lily and Reeves.

IOC hails two Koreas' handshakes at opening ceremony as 'historic moment'

Pyeongchang (South Korea), Feb 10 : The International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Saturday said that representatives of the two Koreas shaking hands at the opening ceremony of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics was a "historic moment."

South Korean President Moon Jae-in was spotted shaking hands with Kim Yo-jong, younger sister of the North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, and Kim Yong-nam, North Korea's ceremonial head of state, after he arrived in the VIP sitting area at the Olympic Stadium in PyeongChang, 180 kilometers east of Seoul, for the opening ceremony of the 23rd Winter Games on Friday, reports Yonhap news agency.

"It was a historic moment," IOC spokesman Mark Adams said during a press conference in PyeongChang. "The Olympic Games are about sports, but yesterday was a great symbol and great indications of maybe how things can be."

The IOC has been working to arrange North Korea's participation in the PyeongChang Olympics, the first Winter Games in South Korea. The IOC also allowed the South and the North to have a joint march at the opening ceremony under the Korean Unification Flag.

Although Adams emphasised the Olympic Games are not for politics, he said the opening ceremony for the PyeongChang 2018 had symbolic moments, adding that the ceremony itself was "spectacular" to watch.

"I don't think the Olympic Games, or the IOC, or the Olympic Movement would think they can solve the problems of the world in an opening ceremony," he said.

"But the Olympic Games are symbol of how things might be in the world if people who compete can get together and build bridges together. So, it was a great moment," he added.

I-League: Draw with Aizawl jolts Neroca's title hopes

Imphal, Feb 10 : Debutants Neroca FC squandered an opportunity to provisionally go top of the table as they were held to an entertaining 0-0 draw by defending champions Aizawl FC in an I-League encounter at the Khuman Lampak Main Stadium here on Saturday.

In front of 20,345 vociferous spectators, the home team were guilty of wasting a flurry of chances on either side of half-time as they had to be content with one point which meant they remained second in the points table with 28 points from 15 games.

Neroca's hopes of winning the I-League also suffered a jolt as they only have three more matches to go, including a difficult away fixture against East Bengal.

Surprise league leaders Minerva Punjab FC have played a game less and are one point ahead of Neroca. Aizawl, sixth in the points table, now have 17 points from 13 games.

The hosts made three changes from their previous game as Dhyanraj Singh, Aryn Glen Williams and Pritam Singh made way for Govin Singh Moirangthem, Nedo Turkovic and Yunnam Gopi Singh respectively.

As for the visitors, Japanese Yugo Kobayashi's exclusion was surprising and hinted at coach Paulo Menezes taking a defensive approach.

Injured C. Lalrosanga and Albert Zohmingmawia also did not take part with Lalhathanga Khawhring,



David Lalrinmuana and Shylo Mamsawmtluanga slotted in. Neroca dominated proceedings in the opening exchanges. Their coach Gift Raikhan wanted to exploit Aizawl's weakness at the back with only one recognised centre back, Masih Saighani, starting for the defending champions.

Saighani arrived this morning after getting the Protected Area Permit (PAP) required for Afghan nationals to enter the state of Manipur, on Friday evening.

The 31-year old centre back showed signs of weariness early on, when in the seventh minute, Felix Chidi robbed him of the ball near the penalty box and set up U-22 player Yunnam Gopi Singh who failed to get a touch on the ball with visiting goalkeeper Avilash Paul collecting it. Chidi then found space

between two defenders outside the box but his left-footed attempt went wide of the target.

Aizawl struggled to string together cohesive moves with only their Romanian recruit Andrei Ionescu doing all the spadework.

In the 24th minute, coach Raikhan replaced Govin Singh with Ashok Singh.

Two minutes later, Saran Singh's free kick for the hosts found Nedo Turkovic but the Bosnian striker failed to connect.

Aizawl's best chance of the half fell to Leonce Dodoz but the Ivorian striker headed wide from David Lalrinmuana's corner.

In the first half added time, Neroca should have taken the lead but Turkovic inexplicably poked wide after Subhash Singh did ever so well to cross for the Romanian.

At halftime, both teams

were locked 0-0. In the 54th minute, Australian playmaker Aryn Williams came in for Turkovic.

It took an hour for the next good move to take place after the break. Chidi took a swipe from distance after Aizawl's makeshift defenders failed to clear the ball, with the Nigerian's effort missing the target by a whisker.

Seven minutes later, Neroca players claimed a penalty when Dodoz got his hand to an aerial ball inside the box but referee Tanmoy Dhar waved play on.

Aizawl tried to catch Neroca off guard on the counter in the 73rd minute and Dodoz put the ball in the back of the net but was adjudged offside.

Chidi spurned a gilt-edged opportunity when Aizawl keeper Avilash saved well from a one on one situation.

Tax issues could bar India from hosting 2021 Champions Trophy, 2023 World Cup



Dubai, Feb 10 : The Indian government's stance of not approving a tax exemption to the International Cricket Council (ICC) could possibly see India losing out on hosting two of the biggest global tournaments - the 2021 Champions Trophy and the 2023 World Cup -- in the next five years.

The ICC board during its meeting here on Friday expressed concern, fearing revenue loss of at least \$100 million, and therefore directed its management to look out for alternative venues, beginning with the Champions Trophy, if the issue is not resolved.

"The Board expressed their concern around the absence of a tax exemption from the Indian Government for ICC events held in India despite ongoing efforts from both the ICC and BCCI to secure the exemption which is standard practice for major sporting events around the world," the ICC said in a media release, after the board meeting in Dubai on Friday.

"The Board agreed that ICC management, supported by the BCCI will continue the dialogue with the Indian Government but in the meantime directed ICC management to explore

alternative host countries in a similar time zone for the ICC Champions Trophy 2021," the release added.

The ICC board meeting which was also attended by BCCI acting secretary Amitabh Choudhary has been stung by the experiences of the 2016 World T20 (hosted by India), for which tax exemption has not yet been approved, due to which the ICC has suffered a revenue shortfall of \$20-30 million.

Two years on, and despite constant reminders by the ICC and the BCCI, the Indian government has not changed its stand on provid-

ing exemptions.

Despite the BCCI's attempts at facilitation, the ICC board remains wary of exposing itself to what some officials calculate could be losses of \$100-125 million if the Indian government fails to provide a tax exemption for the Champions Trophy and the 2023 World Cup.

Toyota enters the Indian B-High segment with its world-class sedan - Yaris

New Delhi, Feb 10 : Toyota Kirloskar Motor today added to the excitement of Auto Expo 2018 with the unveiling of Yaris - one of the most anticipated launch this year. With Yaris the leading auto manufacturer marks its entry into the highly competitive B-segment in India. Built on Toyota's renowned philosophy of QDR (Quality, Durability & Reliability) this world class sedan is as advanced as it is luxurious. Under the Development concept of "the New Value Pioneer" Yaris offers distinctive design, spaciousness, quality and comfort comparable to higher class vehicles.

Yaris, named after the Greek goddess Charis who embodies Beauty and Elegance, dons a premium fascia. The model has gained international reputation for its five distinctive attributes - advanced and emotional design, expansive comfort, superior ride quality and quietness, dynamic efficiency and class-leading safety and technology.

Sharing his thoughts on how Toyota is ushering in a new motoring experience in the nation, Mr. Takamoto Suzuki - Chief Engineer, Toyota Motor Corporation said, "We are delighted to mark Toyota's entry in the B-high segment in India with the Yaris - "The New Value Pioneer". We see Yaris as a model that will introduce new customers to brand Toyota in

US, South Korea to resume military exercises

Seoul, Feb 10 : South Korea is set to resume joint military exercises with the US involving tens of thousands of troops from both sides after the Winter Olympics, an official said on Friday.

The US and South Korea agreed to put the annual military drills on hold after Pyongyang and Seoul held talks earlier in January for the first time in two years, CNN reported.

"Though it is too early to disclose the exact date and size of the planned joint exercises, they will be carried out after the Olympics," said Choi Hyun-soo, a spokeswoman for South Korea's Defence Ministry.

The exercises, code-named Key Resolve and Foal Eagle, are carried out annually in March and April usually drawing a fierce response from the North Korean regime.

During last year's drills, Pyongyang launched multiple missile tests and held a massive artillery exercise at the end of April.

The 2018 Winter Olympics close at the end of February while the Winter Paralympics wrap up with a closing ceremony on March 18.

A separate South Korean Defence Military official told CNN the joint exercis-

es would not be scaled back despite the unusual delay.

"The Key Resolve and Foal Eagle exercises will not be downsized nor exercises be merged into one," he said.

An estimated 3,600 additional US service members were deployed to join the 28,000 US troops already based in South Korea during last year's drills, which included ground, air, naval and special operations field exercises.

The US and South Korea maintain that the annual exercises, which have been carried out regularly for nearly 40 years, are strictly "defensive and non-provocative".

The announcement came during a thaw in relations between the two Koreas, who will march together under a unified flag at the Winter Olympics opening ceremony in Pyeongchang, South Korea, on February 9.

The diplomatic breakthrough followed face-to-face meetings between representatives from North and South Korea at the heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone on January 9.

The North Korean state media hailed the talks as "brilliant" for "national reunification".

I League winners to pocket a prize money of Rs 1 crore

New Delhi, Feb 10 : The I League champions of the upcoming 2016 edition will get a winners cheque of Rs 1 crore (INR 10 million), which will be a significant hike from the previous seasons, a decision that was taken at I-League committee meeting at AIFF headquarters, here today.

The I League will start on January 9 and end in May, 2016.

Last season's I-League champions Mohun Bagan pocketed Rs 70 lakh (INR 7 million) which means that there will be a straight-away increase of Rs 30

lakh. The second placed team will get INR 6 million (Rs 60 lakh) and team placed third will get INR 4 million (Rs 40 lakh) respectively.

Fourth placed team will take home INR 2.5 million while winners of each match will get an additional prize money of Rs 50,000.

Subsidies will also be increased keeping the clubs' interest in mind.

Travel subsidy will be raised to INR 4.5 million and match-day subsidy will be increased to INR 1 Lakh which will see a rise of INR 30,000 from last season.

Goldstone Infratech completes 1,00,000 km run on its 100% electric buses on Indian roads

Guwahati, Feb 10 : Goldstone Infratech Limited (GIL), manufacturing 100 per cent electric buses and listed on Indian stock exchanges, today announced the completion of 1,00,000 km run on its fully Electric Buses in India.

The Company has completed 50,000 kms of commercial run on Indian roads - in Mumbai and Himachal - and additional 50,000 kms under trial run in various cities including Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Goa, Rajkot, Chandigarh and Delhi.

With this announcement, GIL becomes the first Company to have achieved this milestone - of crossing

1,00,000 km run for Electric buses - in the country.

As per estimates, every 10,000 km run of electric vehicles reduces 10.2 tonne of tail-pipe carbon (CO2) emission in the environment, in addition to substantial saving of Rs 19 per km (on net basis) in fuel cost.

"We are delighted to complete this milestone and would like to thank the State Governments in adopting this clean new energy, 100% electric buses in their fleet. We see a lot of excitement among state governments to embrace electrical buses for public transportation and are confident of crossing the next 1,00,000-km milestone with-

in the first few months of 2018", said Mr. N K Rawal, MD, GIL.

GIL is the first Company to have bagged orders of 31 buses and successfully delivered 100 per cent Electric buses to two state transport units (STUs) - Himachal Roadways and Transport Corporation (HRTC) and BrihanMumbai Electricity Supply and Transport Undertaking (BEST)

The Company has successfully completed over 22,000 km commercial run in the Himachal sector - including the Manali-Rohtangpass route at an altitude of 13000 ft which is the steepest gradient for any electrical bus to

operate in the World - and 28,000 km run on busy local routes in Mumbai.

"GIL's fully Electric buses are successfully plying commercially on the Himachal Roadway's route of Manali-Rohtangpass and on busy local routes by BEST. Company has also completed trials of its electrical buses in various states including Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Rajkot and Chandigarh and we are keen to serve in the fleets of State Transport Units and participate in the Smart Cities program announced by the government", said Mr. Rawal.

The Company has two range of buses - eBuzz K7 (9

mtr) and eBuzz K9 (12 mtr) - and is adding a range of other buses in its portfolio basis customer requirements. All GIL buses are manufactured in India in technical collaboration with BYD of China.

BYD is the World's largest electrical vehicle manufacturer and has a large range of Electrical buses, cars and trucks that are successfully operating in many countries across the globe.

GIL buses are 100% electrical, zero emission, capable of seating 31 passengers in eBuzzK7 and 39 passengers in eBuzzK9 and covers up to 250 km @70 kmph on a single complete charge that takes about 4 hours.