



GOLF
**Jay Shah visits DDCA prez
Rohan Jaitley to pay
tribute to Late Arun Jaitley**



NEW DELHI: Jay Shah, Chairperson of the International Cricket Council (ICC), visited Rohan Jaitley, President of the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA), at his home on Sunday to pay homage to the late Arun Jaitley on the eve of his 7th death anniversary. The visit by Jay Shah is a gesture of respect, remembrance and gratitude to a visionary leader, statesman and true inspiration. It is a remembrance of late Arun Jaitley's legacy and following his vision. Arun Jaitley, who held portfolios like Commerce and Industry in various Bharatiya Janata Party governments at the Centre between 1999 and 2019.

US OPEN
**Roger Federer to
compete in exhibition
event against Roddick**



NEW DELHI: The 20-time Grand Slam winner Roger Federer will be competing in a one-night exhibition event at the US Open on Wednesday. Five-time champion in New York, Federer, will be competing against 2003 champion Andy Roddick, the US Open organisers confirmed. The Federer vs Roddick battle will be a one-set clash as Flushing Meadows will see more legends competing in the one-night event. Federer will partner four-time US Open champion John McEnroe for a doubles battle against Roddick.

FIH Hockey WC: India face must-win Argentina clash with semis hopes hanging by a thread



AMSTELVEEN

India's hopes of reaching the semi-finals of the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026 are hanging by a thread, with the Harmanpreet Singh-led side needing a big win against Argentina and favourable results in the other Pool E match to stay alive in the tournament.

India suffered a 1-3 defeat against defending champions and hosts the Netherlands in their opening match of the second stage, leaving them without a point and at the bottom of Pool E with a goal difference of -4.

The final round of Pool E matches on Monday will see India take on Argentina at the Wagener Stadium, while England face the Netherlands. The Netherlands currently lead the pool with six points, while England and Argentina have three points each. India therefore need to beat Argentina convincingly and hope England lose to the Netherlands to have any chance of finishing among the top two and progressing to the semifinals.

A three-goal victory would take India to three points and improve their goal difference to -1, while Argentina's would fall to -3. In that scenario, England would also need to lose by at least two goals to the Netherlands, taking their goal difference to -2 and allowing India to move ahead of both Argentina and England.

India have another possible route if they can produce an even bigger victory. A four-goal win over Argentina would mean any defeat for England against the Netherlands would be enough to take India through. However, England cannot draw, as a point would take them to four points and put them beyond India's reach.

The permutations underline the difficult task facing India, but the team will need to concentrate on controlling what is within its hands, starting with finding greater consistency in attack.

Captain Harmanpreet has been among India's leading performers, scoring six goals and sharing the tournament's top-scorer spot with Argentina's Tomas Domene. However, India have struggled to find the target consistently from open play, increasing their dependence on penalty corners. Among the forwards, Abhishek has scored twice and Dilpreet Singh once, making them the only Indian forwards to have scored in the team's four matches so far.

India head coach Craig Fulton acknowledged the situation but insisted his team still has a chance to remain in the semifinal race.

"We have a lifeline to stay in the fight to reach the semifinals. It is quite clear what we have to do. We need the goals, but at the same time we still need to manage our own game and maintain our structure," Fulton said. Against Argentina, India will need greater movement in the final third, improved finishing and a more clinical approach in front of goal. With their World Cup campaign at stake, the Indian side will have little choice but to attack with intent while maintaining the defensive structure required to keep their slim hopes alive.



An Se Young beats Yamaguchi to claim women's singles crown

NEW DELHI



An Se Young returned to the summit of women's badminton with a statement victory, defeating defending champion Akane Yamaguchi 21-17, 21-14 to claim her second BWF World Championships title in New Delhi on Sunday. The world No. 1 produced a composed display in a final played at relentless speed, absorbing Yamaguchi's attacking bursts before taking control at crucial moments. The Japanese star, ranked No. 2, repeatedly threatened to turn the contest around, but An's consistency and ability to finish points under pressure proved decisive.

The opening game remained finely balanced, with neither player able to establish a significant advantage. Yamaguchi moved 16-15 ahead after An had led 15-12, but the Olympic champion responded immediately. Four consecutive points, combining precise winners with errors from Yamaguchi, handed An the first game.

Yamaguchi again started strongly in the second, moving 4-2 ahead, but An quickly shifted the momentum. She moved in front at 7-6 and then created a four-point cushion at 11-7. Yamaguchi briefly reduced the deficit, but An refused to allow another comeback.

A 16-11 lead put An firmly in command. At 17-13, she produced one of the points of the match, winning a long exchange before finishing with a deli-

cate drop that sent Yamaguchi sprawling. Three more points followed, sealing the championship in straight games.

The triumph completes a remarkable return to the top for An, who won her maiden world title in Copenhagen in 2023 before becoming Olympic champion in Paris the following year. She took bronze at last year's World Championships in Paris.

An also extended her winning streak against Yamaguchi to six matches, improving her overall record against the Japanese to 20-15. She completed her six-match campaign in New Delhi without dropping a game, reclaiming the crown she had lost last year.

Yamaguchi, a three-time world champion, had been seeking an unprecedented fourth women's singles title but was denied by An's controlled finish. The victory also keeps An as the only South Korean singles player, male or female, to have won a world title.

Golden belief: Lanier, Gicquel-Delrue lead historic French blitz at BWF World Championships

NEW DELHI

Before the New Delhi World Championships 2026, France had only ever won two bronze medals in the entire history of the tournament. On Sunday, they added two gold medals to their kitty, completely rewriting their future.

At just 21 years old, Alex Lanier has made history in New Delhi, defeating Kodai Naraoka 21-11, 21-11 to become the first Frenchman to win the men's singles title in the BWF World Championships. The victory gives France its second gold medal of the 2026 World Championships, following the historic mixed doubles triumph of Thom Gicquel and Delphine Delrue, who became the first French pair to win a World Championships medal.

For Thom and Delphine, it is a remarkable step up from last year's World Championships in France, where the pair took bronze. Twelve months later, they have gone all the



way to gold. Their victory also ended a 17-year wait for a European pair to win the mixed doubles World Championships.

In just one week, French badminton went from being an underdog to sitting on top of the world. For national singles coach Kestutis Navickas, this success wasn't magic; it was a change in mindset and the belief that the French shuttlers are no less than others.

When asked about the mental changes with the players that led to

two gold medals this year, Navickas replied to IANS: "The belief."

He continued, "The belief that we belong here and the belief that we can do it... With Alex, we won tournaments already. Thom and Delphine, they won tournaments already. So why not? Why are we worse? We are not worse."

The players already knew how to win on the regular tour, but conquering the World Championships required matching the top Asian powers in confidence.

The coaching team focused on building momentum, sharpening their skills, and teaching the players to trust that they truly belonged on the biggest stage. "I believe it's a belief in the whole country, in the whole badminton society now," Navickas said. "There is a belief that we can win." When asked how his team will be welcomed on returning as world champions, Navickas stayed humble: "I don't know. We never became champions. Maybe they will surprise us."

Chess: India's GM Pranesh M wins Kanizsa Open title in Hungary

MUMBAI

India's 19-year-old Grandmaster Pranesh M emerged as the champion in the prestigious Kanizsa Open 2026 in Nagykanizsa, Hungary, securing the Group A title with a superb performance.

In the ninth and final round of the tournament on Sunday, Pranesh defeated Vadim Petrovsky of Germany with white pieces. Pranesh has a rating of 2673 and is ranked 44th in the latest FIDE Rankings of August 2026.

Pranesh, who hails from Karakudi in Tamil Nadu, finished with seven points from nine rounds, sharing the top spot with three other players. He claimed the title on a better tiebreak with Or Bronstein of Israel, Andrei Volokitin of Ukraine, and India's Karthik Venkataraman, finishing second to fourth in that order.

Formula 1: Norris wins dramatic Dutch GP after Verstappen crashes out early

ZANDVOORT (NETHERLANDS)

McLaren driver Lando Norris claimed his second consecutive victory of the season, finishing ahead of Kimi Antonelli and George Russell in an eventful Dutch Grand Prix at Circuit Zandvoort in North Holland, the Netherlands, on Sunday.

The Briton's victory came after home favourite Max Verstappen suffered a dramatic crash that resulted in the race being red-flagged. After Norris initially led away from pole position at the start, the race was halted just one lap later when Verstappen lost the rear of his Red Bull and hit the wall heavily. The Dutchman was reported to be okay later.

When the action resumed, Antonelli made a flying start to overtake Norris and from there stretched out a lead. But as the race entered its final third, Norris made ground and regained the position from the Mercedes driver Antonelli.

A late Virtual Safety Car - called due to Esteban Ocon's Haas stopping out on track - resulted in several drivers pitting, including Antonelli, setting up for a potential chase to the end as both Norris and George Russell in front of him had not stopped for fresh tyres.

While the Silver Arrows inverted their cars to release Antonelli into second, Norris proved unbeatable at the front and crossed the line with an 11.536s margin over the championship leader. Russell, meanwhile, just sealed the final spot on the podium in third, having fended off the chasing Ferraris to the very end.

The result means Italian An-



tonelli maintained his top position in the Drivers' Standings with 242 points, with Mercedes teammate Russell second with 183 points. Lando Norris is placed fourth with 159 points.

Lewis Hamilton and Charles Leclerc had to settle for fourth and fifth respectively in the Dutch Grand Prix, with McLaren's Oscar Piastri claiming sixth. Liam Lawson placed seventh as the sole Red Bull to finish, the New Zealander keeping the position despite a 10-second time penalty for a yellow flag infringement.

Off the back of scoring his first points of the season in Hungary, Audi's Nico Hulkenberg added to his tally in eighth while Fernando Alonso grabbed a valuable P9 for Aston Martin and Pierre Gasly rounded out the top 10 for Alpine.

Racing Bulls stand-in Yuki Tsunoda missed out in 11th, ahead of the other VCARB machine of Arvid Lindblad and Gabriel Bortoletto in the Audi. Alpine's Franco Colapinto took P14, while Cadillac's Sergio Perez

and Carlos Sainz in the Williams completed the classification.

The other Williams, Alex Albon, retired towards the end of the event, joining Cadillac's Valtteri Bottas, Aston Martin's Lance Stroll, the Haas pair of Ocon and Ollie Bearman and local hero Verstappen in the list of non-finishers from the race. The big incident at the start of the race was Verstappen making a dramatic exit.

After completing the formation lap behind the Safety Car, the cars lined up for the start - and when the five lights went out, Norris held the lead, but Antonelli made a better launch than Russell, the Italian taking P2 into the first corner.

Leclerc, meanwhile, moved ahead of Piastri into fourth, while the Red Bulls of Verstappen and Lawson engaged in some wheel-to-wheel racing. The action dramatically came to a halt one lap later, however, when Verstappen dipped a wheel across the white line on the main straight before losing the rear and hitting the wall heavily.

Bhatia T-15 and set for Tour Championship as Rai, Theegala set to exit

ST. LOUIS

Akshay Bhatia stayed in the Top-15 after a steady even-par 70 in the third round of the BMW Championship, while fellow Hero-supported Sahithi Theegala and Aaron Rai are sure to exit the FedEx Cup Play-offs.

Bhatia, who made two birdies and two bogeys at Bellerive Country Club, is tied 15th on the leaderboard and projected to remain 15th in the FedExCup standings. Only the top 30 after the BMW Championship will advance to the season-ending



TOUR Championship in Atlanta.

Rai carded a four-under 67 to move to tied 23rd, but is projected to drop to 39th in the FedExCup standings. Theegala shot a three-under 68 and is tied 45th,

with his projected standing at 49th. Both have almost no chance to break into the top 30. Bhatia is currently the only one of the three projected to make it through to Atlanta.

At the top of the leaderboard, Wyndham Clark recovered spectacularly from an opening-hole double bogey to take a commanding five-shot lead into the final round.

The defending U.S. Open champion responded to his early setback with five birdies and an eagle during an eight-hole stretch, closing with a five-under 65. He is now in position

to claim his third victory of the season. Clark had been bogey-free over the opening 36 holes before trouble struck on the first. His tee shot found thick rough, his second also missed the fairway, and he subsequently came up short of the green before missing a seven-foot putt for double bogey.

He quickly turned things around, however, making birdie on the seventh before producing the highlight of his round at the par-five eighth, where he hit a five-wood to 12 feet and converted for eagle.

Khalid Al Zarooni elected as ACC's Vice-President, ACB added to body's full member board

NEW DELHI

UAE's Emirates Cricket Board President Khalid Al Zarooni was unanimously elected as the Vice-President of the Asian Cricket Council during its annual general meeting, the ACC confirmed on Sunday. The continental body also approved the addition of the Afghanistan Cricket Board to its full member board.

The meeting was held on Saturday as the ACC sat in for discussions related to "key governance matters, including elections to the ACC Executive Board, the rotation policy of the ACC Presidency, and the formation of various ACC committees".

The body also confirmed the election of representatives of the non-Test-playing countries and associate members to the ACC Executive Board for 2026-2028. It confirmed the appointment of Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Saoud Al Thani, Qatar Cricket Association President, and Mahmood Gaz-



navi, Singapore Cricket Association President, from the non-Test-playing nations. The ACC also brought in Mohamed Faisal from the Cricket Board of Maldives and Mohammad Mansoor from Bahrain Cricket Federation to share the term in office on the Executive Board.

Meanwhile, the ACC members ap-

proved the addition of the ACB to the "roster of Full Member Boards that may assume the Presidency of the Asian Cricket Council". India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh currently rotate the Presidency of ACC.

It also confirmed the formation of ACC committees, which will "support the Council's governance, adminis-

tration, cricket development, competitions, finance, and other key areas." ACC President Mohsin Naqvi welcomed the decisions in the meeting. "Cricket in Asia has always been more than a game - it is a shared language that connects nations, cultures and generations. The decisions taken at this Annual General Meeting reflect the maturity of our governance and our collective resolve to build institutions that will serve the sport long after we have left these positions," he said in the statement.

"I congratulate our newly elected Vice President and Executive Board Members, and I thank every Member Board for the spirit of unity and cooperation that continues to define this Council. Our responsibility now is to carry this vision forward with humility, discipline and an unwavering commitment to the game - for the players of today, and for the generations of Asian cricketers yet to come," Naqvi added.