

NATIONAL BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Panghal, Thapa sail into semifinals

PTI ■ SHILLONG

World Championships runner-up Amit Panghal (51kg) and 2021 Asian Champion Sanjeet (92kg) continued their impressive run as 12 SSCB boxers secured semifinal spots at the Men's National Boxing Championships here on Thursday.

India need more people to take up sport for bigger Olympic success: Bindra

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Abhinav Bindra reckons that investing in just elite athletes will not make India a sporting superpower and if the country aspires to take its medals tally to double digits in the Olympics, more people need to enter the playing arenas and sport should not be looked at from the narrow prism of high performance.

India's top athletes have been receiving tremendous financial support from the government and corporate houses, of late, and the results have only got better as elite athletes get to train abroad and they now work with best support staff.

Bindra said the investment in just top level athletes will not suffice. "If you want to get to 50 (Olympic medals), it is not just going to be pumping money into the elite (athletes). It is only going to be a very small percentage of your population that is going to get involved in sports, so you need more people to play," Bindra said during the

ably in a unanimous decision against Mohammad Aarif of Jammu and Kashmir. He will next face Ankit of RSPB in the semifinals. Up against 2018 Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Naman Tanwar of RSPB, Sanjeet was at the top of his game as he controlled the bout and played from a distance, landing hard punches throughout to register a win with a unanimous decision in the 92kg quarter-final. Sanjeet will take on All India Police's (AIP) Vicky in the semifinals.



The other 10 SSCB boxers who qualified for the semifinals include Barun Singh (48kg), Pawan (54kg), Sachin (57kg), Akash (60kg), Vanshaj (63.5kg), Rajat (67kg), Akash (71kg), Deepak (75kg), Lakshya (80kg), Jugnoo (86kg).

Thapa showcased his skill set and power packed punches to secure a commanding 5-0 victory over Shashank Pradhan of Delhi to set up a clash against Harivansh Tawari of Maharashtra. Commonwealth Games silver medallist Sagar (92+kg), who represents RSPB, was up against Navjot Singh of Chandigarh. He started the bout with an aggressive approach and landed a flurry of hard hitting punches in the first round itself that led to the referee stopping the contest. He will fight it out against Vishal Kumar of Delhi.

India start with 12-0 thrashing of Canada in FIH Women's Junior World Cup

PTI ■ SANTIAGO (CHILE)

The Indian team made a resounding start to its FIH Women's Junior Hockey World Cup campaign by securing a commanding 12-0 victory over Canada here.

Annu (4th, 6th, 39th minute), Dipi Monika Toppo (21st), Mumtaz Khan (26th, 41st, 54th, 60th), Deepika Soreng (34th, 50th, 54th), and Neelam (45th) were the goal scorers for India on Wednesday.

India began the match with an attacking approach, and swiftly secured an early advantage as Annu scored two early goals through penalty corners. Despite taking a two-goal lead, India persisted with their aggressive style, maintaining pressure on Canada. However, they were

unable to find more goals in the opening quarter as it ended 2-0 in their favour. The momentum from the first quarter was carried into the second by India, who continued their dominance. They maintained possession, consistently penetrating the circle, resulting in Dipi Monika Toppo and Mumtaz Khan netting a field goal each, further extending India's lead.

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SYED MODI INTERNATIONAL

Priyanshu lone Indian in men singles quarters

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Priyanshu Rajawat was the lone Indian shuttler to qualify for the quarterfinals in men's singles, while Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand made the cut in women's doubles at the Syed Modi International badminton tournament here on Thursday.

now clash against Indonesian qualifier Alwi Farhan. Commonweath Games bronze medallists Treasa and Gayatri, seeded fourth, defeated compatriots Dhanyaa Nandakumar and Ridhi Kaur Toor 21-9 21-5 and are set to face another Indian pair next.

minute, the rest of the shuttlers, apart from Priyanshu, cut a sorry figure after failing to cross the second round of the Super 300 tournament.

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