



Salman, the ageless superstar Sunday Herald



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Farm protest rages across India Spotlight, P7

Favourites India take on Pak in big clash today

Sidney Kiran

LONDON: The Champions Trophy cricket final here between arch rivals India and Pakistan is sure to bring the two countries to a standstill on Sunday.

It is a match made in heaven. An India-Pakistan cricket contest is big enough, but a final as big as this one will be watched even more fervently in the sub-continent.

Ever since India and Pakistan crashed out in the group stage of the 2007 World Cup, robbing the world of a potential Super 8 Stage clash, conscious decision has been made by the ICC to try and slot the two arch-rivals in the same group in global events.

Prior to this Champions Trophy, both India and Pakistan were pitted together in the same group in three events — 2013 Champions Trophy, 2015 World Cup and 2016 World T20.

When the draw for this event was made, the fixture that garnered the most attention was between India and Pakistan, even putting the England vs Australia or Australia vs New Zealand contests to shade.

How the finalists stack up

Pakistan

STRENGTHS Pakistan has always been a conveyor belt of exciting young fast bowlers and they've been in excellent form this tournament. Pakistan have also been on song since their loss to India in the group opener and they can very dangerous.

WEAKNESS Pakistan, perhaps due to pressure heaped on them whenever they play India, have come undone in big matches. The majority of the team has not played against India and it remains to be seen how they handle the pressure of a final.

KEY PLAYER Hasan Ali: The pacer has the uncanny knack of picking wickets in the middle overs, and with 10 sticks he is the leading wicket-taker in the tournament so far.

India

STRENGTHS Their all-round ability. The top-order -- comprising Shikhar Dhawan, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli -- has been in roaring form while bowlers Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja have been on the mark as well.

WEAKNESS A bad day in the office. Although they lost to Sri Lanka, it was after the batsmen had amassed 321. The middle-order hasn't been tested that much although the experience of Yuvraj Singh and M S Dhoni is there.

KEY PLAYER Virat Kohli: Kohli is a proven big-match player and the chance to join the leagues of Saurav Ganguly and M S Dhoni as Champions Trophy-winning captains should egg him on.

Head-to-head:

India won: 52
Pakistan won: 72
NR: 4

CT record (won)

India: 2
Pakistan: 2

Sarfaraz Ahmed

Virat Kohli

Pitch: A fresh pitch will be used for the final and is prepared in favour of the batsmen.

Weather: Largely sunny with a maximum of 29°C. A slight chance of isolated shower.

START 3.00PM

Little did ICC imagine that they would be gifted with an India-Pakistan final, a battle that is still the biggest in cricket despite the one-sided nature of the contests in favour of India in recent times.

The buzz for the final has

been immense in England, too, where there is a large population from both the nations.

Tickets have been sold out much in advance with some fans selling them in the black market for astronomical prices.

India, pre-tournament

favourites, have been in sensational form and would be looking to create history by becoming the first team to win three Champions Trophy titles.

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Inaugural Namma Metro ride to south Bengaluru a sweep of lovely landscapes

Sampige Rd to Yelachenahalli via City Market, Jayanagar

Meghana Choukkar

BENGALURU, DHNS: As President Pranab Mukherjee waved a green flag on Saturday evening, a Metro train decked with flowers rumbled out from the Sampige Road station.

It was a remote flag-off, with Mukherjee doing the honours from the Vidhana Soudha, but one Bengaluru had looked forward to for years.

The train glided into the underground tunnel leading to the Kempegowda station, and sped past the Chickpet and K R Market stations. Passengers were now under the Bengaluru the great visionary Kempegowda had founded and built in 1537.

Turn towards Lalbagh

Within minutes, as the train emerged from the tunnel, passengers were treated to a view of the sprawling National College grounds.

Excited citizens in Basavanagudi, one of Bengaluru's oldest neighbourhoods, waved as they



Metro enters Yelachenahalli in south Bengaluru after the flagging off ceremony on Saturday. DH PHOTO KISHOR KUMAR BOLAR

saw the train entering the National College station.

The track curved to the left near the college. As the train gained speed, the West Gate of Lalbagh came into view. That is one of the many Bengaluru landmarks the Metro now connects.

Passengers got a refreshing

eye-level view of green treetops at the famous botanical garden. The train turned towards Jayanagar, one of the city's best-planned neighbourhoods. The view got better here: trees line both sides of the track.

The train continued past familiar landmarks like the Banashankari temple, reaching

Engineer injured

Minutes before President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated Namma Metro's green line on Saturday, a 30-year-old engineer was seriously injured when he was inspecting escalators at the Chickpet Metro station, reports DHNS from Bengaluru.

the terminal at Yelachenahalli just as the sun set.

Proud employees

It was a proud moment for the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. Many employees and government officials were on the train. Citizens can ride it from 4 pm on Sunday.

"We have been waiting for this moment and I am happy to serve the public. From tomorrow, the ridership is going to increase to five lakh and we are ready with a renewed spirit," said Sathyanarayana, security officer of the green line.

Another security supervisor said he had been working late-night shifts with the Metro staff to make sure the stations were ready in time. "I never imagined I would see the Metro in Bengaluru in my lifetime. But now I work for it and I am thrilled," he said.

VCs to double up as teachers

Asha Krishnaswamy

BENGALURU, DHNS: The higher education department for vice-chancellors and registrars of state universities to teach for specified hours in a month.

A notification, issued recently, has stipulated that a vice-chancellor (VC) has to teach at least eight hours in a month. Registrar (Administration) and registrar (Evaluation) must teach at least 16 hours in a month. Until now there was no such rule.

A vice-chancellor serves as an executive and academic head. His/her responsibility is to administer the university and be accountable to the university council and the chancellor, under the norms.

The government often appoints officials, in particular KAS officers, as registrars.

New rules

- VCs must now teach 16 hours a month, and registrars 14 hours
- Students benefit from elders' wisdom: govt
- First of its kind rule, says dissenting former VC
- Subject experts, not minister, must set norms, says Kannada varsity VC

Rarely academicians are appointed. The proposed Karnataka State Universities Act clearly states that only officials should be appointed as registrars.

The notification (ED 333/18/1/2017) has said, "It has been decided to utilise the teaching experience of senior professors who are in admin-

istrative posts. This is done for the good of students."

The department has also recalled how 2,000 years ago Nalanda, Takshashila, Vallabhi universities and later Banaras University, had attracted students and produced scholars. It is essential to continue the tradition. It is important to utilise the knowledge and expertise of senior professors for the good of students, it added.

Mandatory

It is mandatory that in a week, assistant professors have to teach for 16 hours and associate professors for 14 hours. There are examples of how VCs had made time to teach, the notification said.

Enquiries made by DH with a cross-section of universities revealed that not many VCs and registrars have begun engaging students in classrooms. » VCs, Page 10

Civilian killed in Darjeeling violence

DARJEELING/KOLKATA: On the boil for the past 10 days over a separate state demand, Darjeeling on Saturday witnessed widespread clashes between Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) activists and the police in which one person was killed and 35 security personnel were injured, including an IRB officer seriously.

The GJM workers hurled petrol bombs, stones and bottles at the police at several places which led the security forces to lob tear gas shells and resort to baton-charge to disperse the mobs, a police officer said.

Army contingents were deployed to control the situation and they staged flag marches in several areas, including Darjeeling and Kurseong, where the indefinite shutdown



Soldiers patrol near a burning vehicle after clashes with supporters of the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha group in Darjeeling on Saturday. AFP

to press for a separate Gorkhaland entered the third day. An army officer said six columns (around 250 person-

nel) continued to be deployed in the district and the situation in Kalimpong was tense. » Darjeeling, Page 10

Japan pushes for B'lu-Chennai high-speed rail

BENGALURU, DHNS: Japan has reiterated its keenness to take up the high-speed train project between Bengaluru and Chennai.

Japan's Ambassador to India Kenji Hiramatsu, who met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday, stated that Japan was keen to expand the high-speed rail network in India.

Hiramatsu was in Bengaluru to participate in the launch of the Green Line of Namma Metro. According to officials in the chief minister's secretariat, Hiramatsu explained to Siddaramaiah that Japan has decades of expertise in developing and running high-speed rail networks. Japan uses the Shinkansen bullet train technology which is proposed to be utilised for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed train.

Srikanth downs World No.1, enters final



Srikanth Kidambi of India returns a shot against Son Wanhoo of South Korea during men's singles semi-final match at the Indonesia Open tournament in Jakarta on Saturday. AFP

Pragya Tiwari

NEW DELHI: After four successive defeats to Son Wan Ho, K Srikanth finally found a way to beat the world no 1 Korean and attributed it to his consistency during the crucial points.

The Andhra shuttler defeated San 21-15, 14-21, 24-22 to set up a summit clash at the Indonesia Super Series Premier with Kazumasa Sakai of Japan, who defeated another Indian shuttler H S Prannoy.

"All my previous matches with him were long and very close," Srikanth, who reached

his fourth Super Series final, told DH. "Even the one today was exhausting but this time I managed to be consistent during the important points, and it worked for me. It was a great relief to break the deadlock. I am thrilled to make back-to-back finals of a Super Series. I feel I am now handling the drift and conditions better. My focus now is only on the finals tomorrow (Sunday)."

Srikanth had also reached the finals of the Singapore Super Series, where he lost to compatriot Sai Praneeht. The 24-year-old, who had won two

Super Series titles in 2014 and 2015, said he was excited about the final against unseeded Japanese Kazumasa Sakai.

"I want to win another title but I am not desperate. He has been playing some good badminton, I haven't played him before. It should be a good match," said Srikanth.

"My main focus is Word Championships and I feel confident going into it following these performances. I don't want to focus too much on rankings, but if I play like this consistently, I can be no 1," he added.
DH News Service

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