

Haryana and Railway pugilists dominate quarter final show at the National Boxing Championships

Assam's Lovlina Borgohain had a close call against Delhi's Anjali

Vijayanagara, Jan. 5

As many as nine pugilists from Haryana stormed into the semifinals, ensuring themselves medals at the JSW Sports presents 3rd Elite Women's National Boxing Championships at the Inspire Institute of Sport here yesterday.

They were closely followed by the Railways as eight of their boxers made it to the medal round while All India Police (AIP), had seven of their players with Chandigarh and Punjab, having two pugilists each entering the semifinals in all the 10 categories with other state players just filling the vacant slots.

All top boxers, including world championships participants and medalists—Lovlina Borgohain, Pinki Rani Jangra, Simranjit Kaur, Manisha Moun, Seema Poonia—all won their bouts, mostly with RSC verdicts as there were 13 of the contests in the two rings were stopped by the referee, fearing injury to the opponents of these fancied boxers.

But in the opening bout of the day on Ring 1, S.



Kalaivani of Tamil Nadu surprised AIP's K. Bina Devi in 48 kg, receiving a 4:1 verdict in her favour to take on Haryana's Sanju, who beat Anchu Sabu of Kerala on points (5:0). In fact, it was Sanju who paved the way for her state mates to follow suit, showing excellent temperament and maturity.

In between, Rajni Singh of Uttar Pradesh, in a close bout, won a split verdict (3:2) against Swasti Arya of Rajasthan to send her packing. Later on experienced Pinki Rani

pounded Chandigarh's Gargi to win 5:0 in 51kg and other Haryana boxers that moved up included World Championship quarter finalist, Manisha Moun (54), Neeraj (60), Nisha (69) Nupur (75), Pooja Rani (81) and Anupama (+81).

Not to be outdone, the Railway boxers, too, had their place under the sun, entering the medal rounds convincingly. The process began with Pooja Tokas in 48 kg and it was carried on by Meenakshi (51), Siksha

(54), Sonia Lather (57), Pwila Basumatry (64), Pooja (69), Neetu (75), Bhagwati Kachari (81) and Seema Poonia (+81).

While much anticipation was there from World Championship Bronze Medalist, Lovlina Borgohain; she won a close bout against Delhi's Anjali (3:2), thanks to the latter who produced some breathtaking combination punches to keep her better known rival at bay as the world championship bronze medal winner would have found it to her chagrin. In fact, the second round

entirely belonged to the Delhi pugilist who failed to make any impression in the first but continued really well in the third as well. However, what worked in favour of the Assamese boxer was her first-round blows, particularly the lefts and a few straights which she was able to land on Anjali.

Even AIP's E. Meemthoi Devi struggled against a determined Sohini from Chandigarh before overcoming her, especially in the third round, to win a 3:2 decision in her favour. Aaveet Kaur of Chandigarh did herself a good turn with a nice come back in the third round to win another split verdict in her favour against Manu Badhan of Punjab. The Punjab pugilist was good in patches and that must have been her undoing. Kavita Chahal of AIP in +82 kg category, beat the stuffing out of her Kerala rival Anaswara P.M. to win on points (5:0) while Basanti Chanu (64), Sandhyarani Devi (57) and Preeti Beniwal (60), Nikhat Zareen (51kg) too made the medal grade.

Ethnic Rakhine rebels kill 13 Myanmar police officers

Source Asia Times Rakhine, Jan 5



Ethnic Rakhine rebels killed 13 Myanmar police officers Friday in a coordinated attack on the country's Independence Day, according to the army.

Rakhine state has seen a surge in violence in recent weeks between the Arakan Army (AA) rebels — who are demanding greater autonomy for their Buddhist ethnic group — and security forces, displacing thousands. It has added a fresh layer of complexity and danger to the violence in an area already scored by deep ethnic and religious enmity, which saw hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims forced over the border by a brutal army crackdown in 2017.

Around 350 Arakan Army fighters descended on four police stations in northern Rakhine state early on Friday, "killing 13 police and wounding nine others," according to a statement released late Friday by the army chief's office.

The militants seized dozens of weapons and a quantity of ammunition

before army reinforcements retaliated with two attack helicopters and infantry columns, added the statement, which was shared on a Russian social networking site. "Strong action will be taken against the AA insurgents by security forces as they are making things more unstable and complicated in Rakhine," it said.

In a Facebook post late Friday, the AA said three of its fighters "had been killed and some were injured" by Myanmar forces.

Myanmar marked its Independence Day on Friday — a highly-symbolic celebration of freedom from British colonial rule in 1948. But the country has since

been fragmented by endless ethnic conflicts in its borderlands.

The AA told AFP that it had carried out the raids, blaming the military for using the police stations as a base from which to fire heavy artillery. "The army brought the police into the war two weeks ago," AA spokesman Khine Thukha said by phone, adding that the group had been under fire the whole day from army helicopters.

The AA later said "14 prisoners of war" taken in the clashes had been freed.

The UN's humanitarian agency said Thursday it was concerned for the estimated 2,500 people currently displaced, many of whom are sheltering in local monasteries.

Sabarimala row: Kannur spirals into familiar violence, houses of CPM, BJP leaders attacked

Agency Kochi Jan 5,

The general animosity between the cadres of the BJP/RSS and the ruling CPM in Kerala, intensified by the ongoing protests around the subject of entry of menstruating women into the Sabarimala temple, has spiralled into familiar violence in Kannur yet

again. Advertising The northern Kerala district, over the last two days, saw orchestrated attacks on houses of leaders of both parties, creating major law and order problems for the state police.

Late Friday night, at around 9:50 pm, crude bombs were thrown by unidentified assailants at

the home of CPM's Thalassery MLA AN Shamsier, police said. A case was registered at the New Mahe Police Station under Sections 3 and 5 of the Explosive Substances Act and an investigation is underway, a police official said. The CPM leader was not present at his home when the incident occurred.

To prevent the violence from escalating, the state DGP Lokanath Behra has stepped up security especially in Kannur, Kozhikode districts where the recent shutdown invoked by the Sabarimala Karma Samithi, an RSS-backed outfit, had led to a series of violence and subsequent arrests. Till Friday evening, a total of 1718 people were arrested across the state for their involvement in the shutdown and an additional 1,009 people were taken into preventive custody. A total of 1,018 police cases have been registered. The 'Operation Broken Window' of the state police, to find those behind the violence, has been stepped up to bring peace and order in the state, the police chief said.

The complaints do not mention any specific persons behind the violence, police said, but it's generally understood that the hands of workers of either parties or criminal gangs affiliated to them are behind the attack. Retaliatory attacks are a familiar occurrence in Kannur, which has become infamous in the last three decades for the string of political murders between the Left and Right groups. Thalassery, which falls on the southern coastal border of Kannur district, is known to be a stronghold of the ruling CPM but has in recent times, developed certain pockets falling under the sway of the RSS.

Joint team apprehends UG

IT News Imphal, Jan. 5

In a major breakthrough, Keithelmanbi Battalion and Noney Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South), along with a team of Keithelmanbi Police Station apprehended a self styled Lieutenant Colonel of ZUF from Nanching village on 4th December 2019. The individual confessed that he is an active cadre of ZUF and joined the outfit in August 2011. The individual has



been involved in a number of extrajudicial activities in the area of Noney District. The

apprehended individual was handed over to Patsoi Police Station for further legal action.

Illegal sand mining: CBI conducts searches in UP, Delhi

Agency New Delhi Jan 5,

The Central Bureau of Investigation on Saturday carried out searches at 12 locations in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi in connection with illegal sand mining case, officials said. The

residences of senior officers, including IAS officer B Chandrakala, who is famous on social media for her anti-corruption crusade, were also raided in connection with the case, they said. The searches were spread across multiple

districts including Jalaun, Hamirpur, Lucknow and also in the national capital, they added.

The agency had taken up the case on the instructions of Allahabad High Court. More details are awaited.

The attacks signify a new direction in Kannur district, with simmering tension over the Sabarimala row turning into violence between the two parties. The BJP/RSS and the Sabarimala outfits pleading allegiance to them marks Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan as a 'traitor' and a 'modern-day Aurangzeb' who's out to 'destroy Hindu traditions' by forcibly making young women enter Sabarimala. On the other hand, the chief minister and leaders of the ruling CPM have repeatedly cited the September 28 verdict of the Supreme Court that has paved the way for the entry of women of all ages.

UP policeman who shouted 'thain thain' to scare criminals injured in encounter

Agency New Delhi Jan 5,

An Uttar Pradesh policeman, who recently made headlines by shouting 'thain thain' to scare criminals during an encounter, got injured during an exchange of fire on Friday, reported ANI. Sub-inspector Manoj Kumar sustained bullet injuries in his hand and has been admitted to a hospital. The encounter took place in Asmoli police limits on Friday between the police, a wanted

criminal and his accomplice. One of the miscreants also sustained injuries in the encounter and has been admitted to a hospital, said Sambhal SP Yamuna Prasad adding that the other one managed to flee. Police personnel shouts 'thain thain' to scare criminals during an encounter in Sambhal after his revolver got jammed. ASP says, 'words like 'maaro & ghero' are said to create mental pressure on criminals. Cartridges

being stuck in revolver is a technical fault'. ANI reported that two bike-borne miscreants fired at police during which Manoj got injured. Around three months ago, the video of Kumar mimicking the sound of gunfire amused people as he was heard shouting "thain thain" to scare criminals after his pistol got jammed. The Sambhal sub-inspector (S-I) shot to fame when the video went viral.

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4677 PMBJP Kendras functional in 35 States/UTs of the country by end of year 2018

PIB New Delhi, Jan 5

Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways, Shipping and Chemicals and Fertilizers, Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya, while giving a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha today, stated that as on 31.12.2018, 4677 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana' (PMBJP) Kendras are functional in 35 States/UTs of the country. Shri Mandaviya informed that unbranded generic medicines worth Rs. 417 crores (MRP) have been sold through PMBJP Kendras from inception of the scheme till the end of December 2018. This sale is roughly equivalent to sale of Rs. 2085 crores of the branded medicines.

Thus, PMBJP has resulted in the saving of approximately Rs. 1668 crores to the citizens of country. PMBJP was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India with an objective of making available quality generic medicines at affordable prices to all. Under this scheme, unbranded generic medicines of good quality are made available through outlets called PMBJP Kendras. In order to ensure quality of medicines sold through PMBJP Kendras, the medicines are procured only from WHO-GMP certified manufacturers, the Minister stated. The product basket of the scheme covers more

than 800 medicines and 154 surgicals & consumables covering all 23 major therapeutic groups such as Anti-infectives, Antidiabetics, Cardiovasculars, Anticancers, Gastro-intestinal medicines, etc. The Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of a medicine sold through PMBJP outlets is fixed in such a way that it is at least 50% below the average MRP of corresponding top three brands of that medicine. The Minister stated that in some cases, the MRP is fixed at such a low rate that it is 90% below the MRP of corresponding branded medicines. Thus, quality generic medicines are made available to people of the country at a much cheaper rate viz-a-viz the prevalent market rate of branded medicines.