

Sport News

### Three Indian boxers enter quarters of Thailand International Tournament

Agency  
Bangkok, July 23,

Asian Championships silver-medallist Deepak Singh was among the three Indian boxers to enter the quarterfinals of the Thailand International Tournament in Bangkok on Monday.

Former India Open gold-medallist Manisha Moun and Ashish Kumar were the other Indians to enter the quarterfinals. Deepak put up a dominating performance in 49 Kilogram category to defeat Morocco's Said Mortaji 5-0 to be just one step away from a medal. Manisha stormed into the

quarterfinal after out-punching Thailand's Sajeewani Srimali by 5-0 in 57 Kilogram category. In 75 Kilogram category, Ashish, on the other hand, had to toil a bit before securing a 4-1 verdict over another local favourite Aphisit Kanankhokhruea.

### Table Tennis: India tops medal tally with seven gold at Commonwealth C'ships

Agency  
Cuttack, July 23,

In Table Tennis, hosts India completed a clean sweep, claiming all the seven gold medals at the 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships, which concluded yesterday in Cuttack.

Harmeet Desai and Ayhika Mukherjee won the men's and women's singles titles Yesterday. Harmeet defeated favourite G. Sathiyani 4-3 in a hard-fought final to claim the men's singles title. Earlier yesterday, Anthony Amalraj and Manav Thakkar claimed the men's doubles

gold by stunning top seeds Sathiyani and Sharath Kamal 3-1. In women singles, Ayhika won her maiden gold in the championships, thrashing former national champion Madurika Patkar 4-0. Pooja Sahasrabudhe and Krittwika Sinha Roy defeated compatriots Sreeja

Akula and Mousumi Paul 3-1 to claim the women's doubles crown. Indian paddlers topped the medals tally with seven gold, five silver and three bronze. England won two silver and three bronze medals. Singapore got 6 bronze medals while Malaysia and Nigeria got 1 bronze each.

## National News

### Day After Lok Sabha Passes Amendments, Sonia Gandhi Says RTI Act on Brink of Extinction

Agency  
New Delhi, July 23,

UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday said the Centre is hell-bent on subverting the RTI Act which now stands on the "brink of extinction", a day after Lok Sabha passed amendments to the Act amid strong opposition protests. In a statement, she said it is clear that the present central government sees the RTI Act as a "nuisance" and wants to destroy the status and independence of the Central Information Commission. "It is a matter of utmost concern that the central government is hell-bent on completely subverting the historic Right to Information Act, 2005. This law, prepared after widespread consultations and unanimously passed by Parliament, now stands at the



brink of extinction," she said in a statement. Gandhi said, "Over the past decade and more, 60 lakh of our countrymen and women have used RTI and helped usher in a new culture of transparency and accountability administration at all levels". The foundations of our democracy have, as a result, been strengthened immeasurably, she said.

The weaker sections of our society have benefited greatly by the proactive use of RTI by activists and others. "It is clear that the present central government sees the RTI Act as a nuisance and wants to destroy the status and independence of the Central Information Commission which was put on par with the Central Election Commission and the Central

Vigilance Commission. "The central government may use its legislative majority to achieve its aims but in the process it would be disempowering each and every citizen of our country," she said in her statement. Lok Sabha on Monday passed the bill amending the Right to Information Act, amid objections by the Opposition which alleged that it was an attempt to undermine the law and make the transparency panel a "toothless tiger". The Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019, seeks to give the government powers to fix salaries, tenures and other terms and conditions of employment of information commissioners. Rejecting the opposition's charge that the Bill will weaken the RTI Act, the government said it was fully committed to transparency and autonomy of the institution.

## News from South East Asia

### Rescued human trafficking victims in Thailand nears record high

Courtesy - Thomson Reuters Foundation  
Bangkok, July 23,

The number of human trafficking victims rescued in Thailand is set to hit a record high this year, according to government data, with demand for cheap labor in neighboring Malaysia causing a jump in the illegal trade. Thai police have rescued 974 trafficking victims—mostly from Myanmar—for the year to date, compared to 622 for the whole of last year and a previous annual high of 982 in 2015, according to data released last week by the Thai government's anti-trafficking division. Thailand has come under scrutiny in recent years for slavery and trafficking, especially in its seafood and sex industries. The U.S. State Department this year in its human trafficking report kept Thailand on a watchlist and criticized the Southeast Asian country for not doing enough to tackle the problem. "There's a high possibility that figures this year will reach a record high, with many victims telling us they were planning to work in Malaysia," said

Police Colonel Mana Kleebattabudh, deputy commander at the anti-trafficking division. There are about 4.9 million migrants in Thailand, making up more than 10 percent of the country's workforce, according to the UN. Most are from poorer neighboring countries including Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. Kleebattabudh said most of the rescued trafficking victims were recruited by middleman and agencies for 20,000-30,000 baht (\$650-\$975) to work in factories in Malaysia. Many were rescued while being transported towards the southern Thai border with Malaysia. "What we find is these people are being kept in bad conditions in forests and shacks far from communities, which shows the bad intentions of those bringing them," Kleebattabudh told the Thomson Reuters Foundation on Friday. "More importantly, the victims don't see themselves as being deceived and often endure the hardship in order to get to their destination." Kleebattabudh said the spike in arrests could lead to an increase in smugglers and

traffickers using alternative sea routes instead, which lowers the risk of being caught by authorities and is cheaper. The most recent case by sea was on June 11, when a fishing boat carrying at least 70 Rohingya Muslims was found stranded on the southern island of Koh Lipe, said Kleebattabudh. The boat had come from Bangladesh and had been at sea for two to three days before running out of oil and being swept away to the island, where two speedboats picked up some of the people, leaving 71 on the beach, he said. "They slept on plastic sheets next to each other like animals. This is inhumane," he said of the cramped conditions. Adisorn Kerdmongkol, a coordinator at the Migrant Working Group, a network of non-governmental organizations working on migrant workers' rights, questioned whether all those rescued by Thai police were trafficking victims or being smuggled. Unlike trafficking, which is control over another person for the purpose of exploitation, smuggling is merely illegal entry into another country.

### Karnataka Speaker displeased with near empty treasury benches as floor test looms ahead

Agency  
Bengaluru, July 23,

Karnataka Speaker K R Ramesh Kumar on Tuesday expressed displeasure over near empty treasury benches as the House took up the debate on Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy's motion of confidence for the fourth day running. The treasury benches were occupied only by a couple of legislators when the House, which is expected to complete the trust vote process by Tuesday, met in the morning after a prolonged drama that lasted almost till midnight on Monday. "Should this be the fate of the speaker or the assembly," Kumar asked minister Priyank Kharge. "You will lose credibility, leave alone strength," he told him. The absence of legislators from the coalition gave the BJP enough ammunition. BJP leader B S Yeddyurappa said the government had exposed itself and asked where the ruling coalition MLAs were. "In spite of not having the numbers, you are continuing shamelessly. You should be ashamed," he told the treasury benches. His colleague, senior BJP leader Jagadish Shettar, added that Kumaraswamy was said to be in his chamber clearing the files at the last minute

instead of being in the House. "People are disgusted. You are a black mark on the assembly. You have taken the House lightly," he said. K S Eshwarappa, also of the BJP, said the "MLAs are as good as their chief minister", and added that he suspected "this is nothing but delaying tactics." His colleague Basavaraj Bommai dubbed it a "zero government". The speaker made it clear Monday night before adjourning the House that voting on the confidence motion would be completed by 6 pm on Tuesday and would not be deferred under any circumstances. The ruling JD(S)-Congress coalition members had forced the speaker to adjourn the House, despite repeated reminders by him that they had given a commitment to complete the trust vote process on Monday itself. As the House debated the motion amid noisy scenes, the Congress made its intentions clear right from the beginning, saying that voting should be deferred as the apex court was hearing the pleas by two Independent MLAs on the issue of the trust vote. The Supreme Court is hearing Tuesday a fresh plea of two Independent Karnataka MLAs, seeking holding of the floor test "forthwith" in the

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state Assembly on the trust motion. The MLAs who withdrew support to the ruling coalition had sought a direction to the Kumaraswamy government to conduct the floor test on or before 5 pm on Monday. The ruling coalition defied the two deadlines set by Governor Vajubhai Vala — to complete the process by 1.30 pm on Friday and later by the end of the day. The proceedings were adjourned till Monday after the speaker extracted a commitment from the government that the process would be completed by Monday itself. While 16 MLAs — 13 from the JD(S) — have resigned, independent MLAs R Shankar and H Nagesh have

withdrawn their support to the coalition government, pushing the government to the precipice. One Congress member, Ramalinga Reddy, retracted from his decision to resign, saying he would support the government. The ruling combine's strength is 117 — Congress 78, JD(S) 37, BSP 1 and nominated 1, besides the speaker. With the support of two independents, the BJP has 107 MLAs in the 225-member House, including the nominated MLA and speaker. If the resignations of the 15 MLAs (12 from Congress and three from JD-S) are accepted or if they stay away, the ruling coalition's tally will plummet to 101, reducing the government to a minority.

### Internet blackout in Myanmar's Rakhine enters fifth week

Agency  
Rakhine, July 23,

A sweeping internet shutdown in Myanmar's conflict-hit Rakhine state went into its fifth week Monday as residents called on the government to end an information blackout that rights groups say could provide cover for rights abuses. Mobile phone operators suspended internet data on June 21 in eight townships across northern Rakhine and one in neighbouring Chin state — where soldiers are fighting ethnic Rakhine rebels known as the Arakan Army (AA) who want greater autonomy. Authorities say the internet was being used to coordinate operations while rights groups allege the blackout permits troops to act with impunity. But it has also disrupted daily life and sown fear among residents struggling to receive news on everything from flooding updates to ongoing skirmishes. "It's like an information blackout," Saw Oo from Mrauk-U township told AFP,

adding that people were unable to share details on weather conditions during the rainy season. Maungdaw township resident Hla Hla said it was also considered risky to use sim cards from neighbouring Bangladesh as it could lead to arrest. "We are really afraid of getting caught," she said. In recent months the military has cut off whole villages as it tries to flush out AA members and sympathisers. NGO Fortify Rights said the internet shutdown was one of the world's longest ever and was affecting an estimated

one million civilians. "Even if it were intended to target militants, it's egregiously disproportionate," the group said in a statement. But Myo Swe, director general of Myanmar's post and telecommunications department, defended the shutdown in the name of "public interest". "We still do not know when it (internet access) will be resumed," he said. According to state media the AA fired two rockets at navy boats anchored off of northern Rakhine on Saturday. There were no casualties.

### Admit Card, Mark Sheet, and Registration Certificate lost

I have Lost my Admit Card, Mark Sheet, registration certificate lost, of Class XII (COHSEM) bearing Roll no. 11738 of 2012 on the way between Lalabung Makhongto Uripok on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at around 9:30am. Finder are requested to handover the same to the undersigned.  
Sd/-  
Puyam Chanu Linthoi  
D/O Puyam Tomcha Meetei  
Lalabung Makhong Takhellambam Leikai