England two wickets away from victory at Lord's

London, (UNI)

England tightened their grip on the third Test at Lord's, reducing a hap-less India to 112 for 8 by lunch on Day 5, as a spirited pace attack spearheaded by Jofra Archer and Chris Woakes left the visitors on the brink of defeat in the race to chase

India, who resumed the day at a precarious 58 for 4, lost key batsman KL Rahul early in the morning session. The righthander, who had held fort with a gritty 39, was trapped lbw by England captain Ben Stokes in the 24th over. A successful review overturned the onfield decision, handing England a crucial break-

through. The collapse continued



with Washington Sundar departing for a duck in the 25th over, caught and bowled spectacularly by Rishabh Pant Archer.

briefly counterattacked with two boundaries, including a ferocious downthe-track drive, but was undone by a peach from

Archer that uprooted his off stump for 9. India's hopes then rested on Ravindra Jadeja and Nitish Kumar Reddy, who

2024.

merit points.

put up a brief resistance. Reddy stroked a confident boundary off Stokes and helped bring up India's 100 in the 32nd over, but the stand was broken at the stroke of lunch by Woakes, who induced an edge to Jamie Smith behind the stumps. Reddy's composed 13 off 53 balls came to an end as England closed in. Earlier, in the first in-

nings, both teams had posted identical scores of 387, with England adding 192 in their second outing. India's target of 193 now seems distant with only two wickets remaining and Jadeja batting on 17. As the hosts eye a 2–1 lead in the series, India face an uphill battle to deny England a famous win at the iconic venue.

point during the second Test against Australia in Adelaide on December 7,

sixth over of England's second innings,

when Siraj, after dismissing opener Ben

Duckett, celebrated excessively at close

cepted the sanction proposed by Richie

Richardson of the Émirates ICC Elite

Panel of Match Referees, so there was

Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid, third umpire Ahsan Raza and fourth umpire

Graham Lloyd levelled the charge.

On-field umpires Paul Reiffel and

Level 1 breaches carry a minimum

penalty of an official reprimand, a

maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a

player's match fee, and one or two de-

Siraj admitted the offence and ac-

proximity to the dismissed batter.

no need for a formal hearing.

Sunday's incident occurred in the

Wimbledon doubles: Mertens & Kudermetova win first major together at SW19

Sports 11



London, (UNI)

Elise Mertens and Veronika Kudermetova fought back to beat Jelena Ostapenko and Hsieh Su-wei in the Wimbledon women's doubles final and win their first

Grand Slam title together. Eighth seeds Mertens and Ku-dermetova beat the Latvian-Taiwanese pairing 3-6 6-2 6-4 on

Centre Court on Sunday. It was a first major title for Russian Kudermetova, who lost to Hsieh and Belgium's Mertens in the women's doubles final at

Wimbledon four years ago.

Mertens, meanwhile, clinched a fifth major women's doubles title and remains only a French Open triumph away from completing the career Slam.

'A few years ago I was playing in the final here against Elise - I lost and it was so painful," Kudermetova said.

"Today I said to myself, 'I really want this'."

Ostapenko - who won the 2017 French Open singles title and Hsieh also lost in the Australian

Open final in January, according to a BBC news.



Interim boxing panel to hold BFI elections by Aug 31

New Delhi,(UNI): The Interim Committee overseeing the administration of boxing in India has reiterated its full commitment to holding the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) elections within the World Boxing-mandated deadline of August 31, asserting that the roadmap for the transition is both transparent and on track.

The assurance follows the recent decision by World Boxing to extend the tenure of the Interim Committee after reviewing its progress and holding detailed discussions with Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President PT Usha in Lausanne.

In a formal communication, the global body acknowledged the committee's "effective functioning" and "noteworthy strides" in restoring transparency, stability, and international credibility to Indian boxing. Col Arun Malik (Retd), Executive Director of BFI and

Member of the Interim Committee, emphasised the panel's unwavering focus on conducting free and fair elections. World Boxing has clearly mandated that the BFI elections be held before August 31, and as the Interim Committee, we are fully committed to delivering free and fair polls within that timeline," he said.

Col Malik also responded to recent developments surrounding the IOA's formation of a three-member fact-finding committee, saying, "While we respect the intent, the process underway is already transparent, accountable, and thoroughly documented. All updates have been formally communicated to both the IOA and the Sports Ministry, leaving little unknown. Our efforts are centered around ensuring a smooth, lawful, and timely transition in the best interest of Indian boxing.

Siraj fined for breaching ICC Code of Conduct

Dubai (UNI)

Fast bowler Mohammad Siraj has been fined 15 per cent of his match fee for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during the fourth day of the third match of their ICC World Test Championship series against England at Lord's yesterday. Siraj was found to have breached Article 2.5 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to support Personnel, which relates to "using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could pro-voke an aggressive reaction from a bat-ter upon his/her dismissal during an International Match."

In addition to this, one demerit point has been added to the disciplinary record of Siraj, for whom it was the second offence in a 24-month period, taking his tally of demerit points in a 24-month period to two.

Siraj received his earlier demerit

Tour de France: Tim Merlier storms to victory on Stage 9

Paris, (UNI)

Tim Merlier (Soudal Quick-Step) secured his second Tour de France win in a week, denying Jonathan Milan (Lidl-Trek) a double of his own, thanks to deft maneuvering and a serious turn of speed inside the final 200m of the stage. As sure as it was to finish in a bunch sprint in Chateauxroux, the scene of three Mark Cavendish victories, it almost didn't. Mathieu van der Poel and his Alpecin-Deceuninck team-mate Jonas Rickaert were the only two rid-ers to leave the confines of the pelo-ton of Kilometre 0. The peioteam-mate ton at Kilometre 0. The pair spent the entire stage out front, until Rickaert faded with 6 km to go, leaving Van der Poel with a lone fight for the stage win. The winner a week ago in Boulogne-sur-Mer was only caught 700m from the line, before the sprinters gathered for their grandstand fin-



ish. With two of the first week sprint stages having seen no early breakaway, it was reasonable to imagine the third might produce the same. It was therefore something of a shock to

see two Alpecin-Deceuninck jersevs emerge, as race director Christian Prudhomme gave the signal to start.

The peloton seemed satisfied to see them fly the nest, and the pair gained two minutes on the field before Jonathan Milan's Lidl-Trek team mates looked to put a lid on their es cape. The early consensus was that with sprinter Kaden Groves behind Van der Poel and Rickaert would cal off their effort at the early intermediate sprint, which came 24 km in. In stead they pressed on, averaging 47 kph for the first hour and a half, their advantage maxing out at non-trivial 5'30, after 65 km.

The second half of the stage saw more commitment to the chase from the peloton. A change of course direction, designed to add the unpredictability of crosswinds, produced natural accelerations as teams fought for position. The gap came down, but it was still over three minutes with 60km to go. Sprint squads were forced to use up team resource that had been reserved for later in the stage.

Saina Nehwal and Parupalli Kashyap call it quits after 7 years of marriage

New Delhi, (UNI)

Shuttlers Saina Nehwal and Parupalli Kashyap, who tied the knot in the year 2018 have officially parted ways.

The news of their separation was confirmed after Saina posted a heartfelt note on her Instagram page, it read: "Life takes us in different directions sometimes. After much thought and consideration, Kashyap Parupalli and I have decided to part ways. We're choosing peace, growth, and healing-- for ourselves and each other. I'm grateful for the memories and wish nothing



this time."

Hyderabad, and later couple, once started dating in 2004. The but the best moving for-ward. Thank you for un-derstanding and respect-ing our privacy during Gopichand Academy in achievements. While palli Kashyap as yet.

Saina made a name for herself by clinching the world no.1 ranking and a bronze medal at the 2012 London Olympics, Paruapalli followed through by winning gold at the 2014 Commonwealth Games and also made it to the BWF top 10 rankings

Saina's historic achievement as the first Indian woman to attain the world no. 1 ranking in Badminton has inspired countless young athletes across the country, also paving the way for future generations to

follow in her footsteps.

China edges United States to conclude VNL preliminaries with fourth straight win three match points before

-Arlington (United States), (UNI)

China claimed another come-from-behind 3-2 victory over the United States on Sunday, closing the women's Volleyball Nations League (VNL) preliminaries with four consecutive wins.

Wu Mengjie led China with 27 points on 26 kills and an ace, while Zhuang Yushan and Gong Xiangyu contributed 18 and 14 points, respectively. The third five-set win in Ar-



"I am pleased with the relington. Earlier in the silience demonstrated by 9-9. After Wang Yuanyuan week, China had also de- our players," said China delivered a key block to feated the Dominican Re-public and Germany in Trailing 5-4 in the the Americans fended off Poland, from July 23 to 27.

5-1 run to level the score at

fifth among the 18 teams in the preliminary round, with nine wins, three losses, and 24 points. They will face Poland, the fourth-place finisher and host of the Finals, in the quarterfinals. The United States, led by Sarah Franklin's 32

Wu's smash and a final point from Zhuang sealed

the win. China finished

points, ended eighth with a 7-5 record. They will take on top-seeded Italy for a spot in the semifi-

Brazil, Japan, Turkey, and Germany also advanced to the Finals,

Sinner beats Alcaraz to win maiden Wimbledon title

London, (UNI)

Italian tennis star Jannik Sinner created history today, defeating defending champion Carlos Alcaraz 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 in a gripping final to clinch his maiden Grand Slam title on grass at the 2025 Wimbledon Championships.

Sinner produced a masterclass of composed and strategic tennis to outlast Alcaraz, who entered the final on a 24-match unbeaten streak and an unblemished 18-0 Wimbledon record since 2022. But the Spaniard's run came to an end on Centre Court, as Sinner broke new ground for Italian tennis.

Alcaraz, who had won the first set 6-4 with dynamic court coverage and a mix of aggressive play, looked poised to continue his dominance. However, Sinner clawed back with poise, levelling broke at 5-4, capturing the set the match with a 6-4 win in the



second set, marked by relentless nal set saw early pressure from baseline rallies and clinical serv-Alcaraz, but Sinner's tactical briling despite nursing a heavily liance and nerve held firm. A key break in the fourth set gave the strapped right arm.

In the third set, both players Italian a 2-1 lead, and he never held serve tightly until Sinner looked back, fending off late resistance to seal the match on his and momentum with it. The fisecond championship point.

River Plate cruises past 10-man Platense in Argentine Primera Division Clausura campaign

Buenos Aires, (UNI)

River Plate began its Argentine Primera Division Clausura campaign with a 3-1 victory over 10-man Platense.

Facundo Colidio gave his side the lead at Monumental Stadium by cutting inside and rifling a 30-yard drive into the far corner on Sunday.

Ronaldo Martinez equalized with a thumping header after Guido Mainero's inswinging cross from the right wing.

Maximiliano Salas restored River's advantage shortly af-ter, sliding home from the edge of the six-yard box following a series of one-touch passes

Platense suffered a further blow in the 75th minute as



Buenos Aires derby.

Marcos Portillo was sent off for a violent challenge on Gonzalo Montiel.

Substitute Miguel Borja put the result beyond doubt in stoppage time, beating the offside trap to run onto Gon-

zalo Martinez's through ball and finishing clinically into the near corner.

trolled two thirds of the total possession but could only manage four shots on target against a Boca side that de-Earlier, Boca Juniors and Argentinos Juniors played out a goalless draw in their fended impressively but created little.

Argentinos Juniors con-

