

# India Women take on NZ in WWC semifinal decider

Navi Mumbai, (UNI)  
 India Women and New Zealand Women lock horns in a high-stakes ICC Women's World Cup 2025 clash at the Dr DY Patil Sports Academy in what could well decide a semifinal spot here tomorrow. Both teams are tied on four points, but India have the edge with a net run rate of 0.526, compared to New Zealand's -0.245. A win for either side could tilt the pool standings dramatically. India Women enter the contest on a rollercoaster ride. After a bright start with convincing wins over Sri Lanka and Pakistan, they suffered narrow defeats in three matches, including a heartbreaker against England where Smriti Mandhana's 88 and Harmanpreet Kaur's 70 almost carried



them home. Bowling star Deepti Sharma has been the shining light, claiming 13 wickets in

five innings at an average of 19.69, providing India with vital breakthroughs in the middle overs.

New Zealand, meanwhile, have been inconsistent, registering just one win along-side two losses and two no-

results, hampered by rain interruptions. Captain Sophie Devine has been exceptional with the bat, scoring 260 runs at an average of 86.66, including a commanding century, while Lea Tahuhu has led the bowling with nine wickets at 12.33. Jess Kerr's consistency with both the ball and in the field will be key if the Kiwis are to challenge India on home soil. In recent history, India hold a 3-2 advantage over New Zealand in their last five encounters, a small psychological edge heading into this pivotal game. The pitch is expected to favour batswomen early, with spinners likely to come into play later in the day. Afternoon showers are possible, adding an element of uncertainty that could influence the game dramatically.

# India seek series lifeline in Adelaide ODI



Adelaide, (UNI)  
 It is time for India to buckle up. It's Adelaide, it's Australia, and it's a visiting team staring down the barrel after that shambles in Perth — seven wickets down, barely 136 runs on the board, and the innings wrapped up in under 30 overs. Few teams win much cricket like that. Now, the task is to dust off the disappointment and return stronger in the second ODI at the Adelaide Oval here tomorrow. The series stands delicately poised but firmly tilted in Australia's favour after a commanding win in the opener. Skipper Mitchell Marsh led from the front, while the pace duo of Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc made early inroads that India never quite recovered from. For the visitors, the equation is simple: the top order — Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, and Shubman Gill — must deliver to keep the series alive. Their col-

lective form holds the key to India's revival on a surface expected to offer early movement before easing into good batting conditions under lights. Starc's new-ball battle with Rohit promises to be the early highlight, as the left-arm pacer looks to exploit Adelaide's swing-friendly air. Kohli's return to white-ball cricket after a long break adds further intrigue, while Gill's composure will be vital in stabilising the innings. Australia, winners in five of their last seven ODIs at the Adelaide Oval, are expected to enter unchanged. Their balance, depth, and home advantage provide a clear edge. India, however, may bring in spinner Kuldeep Yadav to add variation, with Mohammed Siraj and Arshdeep Singh continuing as the new-ball pair. With four of the last five ODIs at Adelaide won by teams chasing, the toss could prove decisive.



# French Open 2025: Lakshya Sen exits early, mixed doubles pair advances

New Delhi/Cesson-Sevigne, (UNI)  
 India's Lakshya Sen faced a disappointing first-round exit at the French Open 2025 badminton tournament, losing in straight games to Ireland's Nhat Nguyen at the Glaz Arena in Cesson-Sevigne on Tuesday. According to the Olympics.com website, competing at the Glaz Arena in Cesson-Sevigne against world No. 29 Irish shuttler, Lakshya Sen, 16th in the badminton rankings, lost 21-7, 21-16 in 43 minutes. Nguyen began aggressively, racing to a 5-1 lead with four consecutive points. Sen trailed 11-6 at the mid-game interval but could add only one more point as the Irishman closed out the opening game with ease. The second game unfolded in a similar manner. Nguyen took an early 6-1 lead before Sen briefly fought back to 7-5. However, another four point burst saw Nguyen pull clear again and take an 11-7 lead at the break. The Indian badminton player tried to stay in touch in the latter half but Nguyen's early advantage proved decisive. This was the fourth meeting between the two badminton players and Nguyen's first win over Sen. The result also marked Sen's 11th first-round defeat of the BWF World Tour 2025 season from 17 events, the website noted. However, Lakshya Sen made the final at the Hong Kong Open last month and his recent run to the Denmark Open quarter-finals included wins over Nguyen and world No. 2 Anders Antonson. Meanwhile, India's mixed doubles pair, Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Gadde defeated Ukraine's Oleksii Titov and Yevheniia Kantemyr 21-12, 21-19 in their mixed doubles round of 32 clash. The Indian pair will take on world No. 6 French pair of Thom Gicquel-Delphine Delrue in pre-quarterfinals on Thursday.

# Pak's Noman Ali nears top spot in ICC Test Bowling Rankings

New Delhi/Dubai (UNI)  
 Pakistan's Norman Ali has made a massive leap in the latest ICC Men's Test Bowler Rankings following his match winning performance in the side's 93 run victory over South Africa in Lahore. According to the International Cricket Council (ICC), Pakistan spinner Noman Ali has reached a new career-high rating and closed in on the No.1 spot currently occupied by Jasprit Bumrah after making big gains on the latest ICC Men's Test Bowler Rankings. The left arm spinner, who picked up a 10-wicket haul during Pakistan's 93-run triumph over South Africa in Lahore recently and moved up four places to second overall on the list for Test bowlers as a result. Norman now has a total of 853 rating

points and trails Bumrah by just 29 points at the head of the rankings for Test bowlers. His teammate Shaheen Afridi also made significant progress, moving up three places to 19th on the same list for Test bowlers following his four-wicket haul in the second innings of that same match. Pakistan's batters too saw upward movement in the updated rankings. Mohammad Rizwan (up four spots to 16th), Babar Azam (up two runs to 22nd) and Salman Agha (up eight places to 30th) following their strong performance against Proteas. England's veteran Joe Root continues to lead the Test batting rankings. For the Proteas, Ryan Rickelton's first innings 71 in the first Test against Pakistan has moved him into the top 50 batters list for the first time, while Tony de Zorzi's century helped him up to 54th spot.

# FIH opens bidding process for 2027 & 2029 FIH Hockey Junior World Cups

Lausanne (Switzerland), (UNI)  
 The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has officially opened the bidding process for hosting the upcoming editions of the FIH Hockey Men's and Women's Junior World Cups in 2027 and 2029. A key milestone in the development pathway of hockey's future stars, the FIH Hockey Junior World Cups provide young athletes with the opportunity to make their mark on the international stage. These prestigious events bring together the best under-21 talent from around the world, showcasing the next generation of global hockey excellence. Two time slots are reserved in the international calendar for these events: 1-31 July 2027 / 2029 & 1-21 December 2027 / 2029, according to the International Hockey Federation. National Associations interested in hosting are invited to submit their bids



by completing the official bidding application form: FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup 2027/2029 Bid Form FIH Hockey Women's Junior World Cup 2027/2029 Bid Form The bid manual, hosting obligations, and event manual are available for download on the FIH website to as-

sis interested hosts in preparing their submissions. The Letter of Interest and Bid Questionnaire for the 2027 event must be submitted by December 1 2025. Once submitted, FIH will share the hosting agreement with the applicant National Associations. For the 2029 editions, the Letter of Interest should be returned by mid-2026. Hosting the FIH Hockey Junior World Cups offers a unique opportunity for National Associations to contribute to the growth of the sport and inspire the next generation of hockey players worldwide. Beyond the competition itself, the event serves as a powerful platform to engage local communities, boost national visibility, and strengthen hockey's development legacy across all levels — from grassroots to elite. By bringing the world's brightest young talents together, host nations not only celebrate the spirit of hockey but also help shape its global future.

# Dudu goal earns Atletico Mineiro vital away draw

Quito (Ecuador), (UNI)  
 Substitute Dudu struck late as Brazil's Atletico Mineiro salvaged a 1-1 away draw with Ecuadorian side Independiente del Valle in the first leg of their Copa Sudamericana semifinal on Tuesday. Junior Sornoza converted an early penalty for the hosts after Patrick Mercado was brought down by Ruan Tresoldi. Dudu, who replaced Bernard in the 62nd minute, equalized in stoppage time by tapping home from close range after a slick exchange with Hulk. "We've got a tough game ahead of us but we'll have the advantage of playing at home and I hope our fans come to support us," Dudu said after



the match. "Our goal is to reach the final and finish the year by winning the trophy," the 33-year-old former Brazil international said. The return leg will be played in Belo Horizonte next Tuesday with the winner on aggregate advancing to the final in Asuncion, Paraguay, on November 22.

# Ponting predicts Australia's tough selection calls for Ashes

Sydney, (UNI)  
 ICC Hall of Famer Ricky Ponting has revealed the tough selection calls Australia must make for the upcoming Ashes series and what England needs to do well to ensure they are competitive. The focus of the cricket world will be on Australia from November 21 for the five-match Ashes series between the arch-rivals that will play a major role in shaping the ICC World Test Championship standings for the ongoing cycle. While Australia will enter the series as favourites based purely on the fact they haven't lost a series on home soil since 2011 and have held on to the Ashes urn since 2018, England will travel Down Under full of confidence after they were able to draw the most recent series against the Aussies at home in 2023. Ponting spoke in depth about the Ashes with host Sanjana Ganesan on the most recent episode of The ICC Review and the Australian great



dissected a number of tough selection calls his former side must make ahead of the first Test in Perth.

Much of the pre-series chat in Australia surrounds the top of the hosts' batting order and whether young gun Sam Konstas will retain his place in the XI despite an inconsistent start to his international career. Ponting believes the toughest decision selectors face is whether to stick with Konstas, or recall experienced right-hander Marnus Labuschagne and partner him with Usman Khawaja at the top of Australia's batting order. "We are in a really interesting little phase right now with the talk about the selections for this first Test match because it was well planned by Cricket Australia to have four Sheffield Shield games leading into the first Test," Ponting began. "Two of those games have been played already. Some guys have been standouts, other guys that are in the reckoning haven't really taken their opportunity to the maximum just yet," he said.

# Madara reprimanded for breaching ICC Code of Conduct

Dubai, (UNI)  
 Sri Lanka player Malki Madara has been reprimanded for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup league match against Bangladesh in Navi Mumbai on Monday. Madara was found to have breached Article 2.5 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batter upon his/her dismissal during an International Match." In addition to this, one



demerit point has been added to Madara's disciplinary record, for whom it was the first offence in a 24-month period. The incident occurred in the 11th over of Bangladesh's

innings, when Madara, after dismissing Fargana Hoque, celebrated excessively in close proximity to the batter, which could have provoked an aggressive response from the batter. Madara admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by Shandre Fritz of the Emirates ICC International Panel of Match Referees, so there was no need for a formal hearing. On-field umpires Candace la Borde and Sarah Dambanevana, third umpire Lauren Agenbag and fourth umpire Claire Polosak levelled the charge. 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 demerit points, according to an ICC media statement.

# Bayern Munich extends Vincent Kompany's contract until 2029



Berlin, (UNI)  
 Bayern Munich has confirmed the contract extension of head coach Vincent Kompany, securing his services until June 2029. The announcement comes after the club's 2-1 victory over Borussia Dortmund in 'Der Klassiker' and just one day before its UEFA Champions League encounter with Club Brugge on Tuesday. The 39-year-old Belgian, who joined Bayern in the summer of 2024 after leaving English side Burnley, has enjoyed a remarkable

start to life in Munich. In his first season, he guided the Bavarians back to Bundesliga glory, reclaiming the title from Bayer Leverkusen and adding the Franz Beckenbauer Supercup earlier this year. His leadership has since driven Bayern to its best-ever start to a season, winning all twelve of its competitive fixtures so far and setting a new club record. "I'm deeply grateful and honoured for the trust Bayern have placed in me," Kompany said following the announcement. "It feels like I have been here much longer than a year. From the very beginning, I have felt at home at this club. We have started a wonderful journey together, and I am determined to keep working hard with my players to achieve even more success." Bayern president Herbert Hainer described the new deal as "a strong signal of continuity and stability," emphasizing that Kompany has earned immense respect from the players, club leadership and fans alike.