

Golden double for India in kabaddi

NAGOYA, Sept 26 (PTI)

INDIA'S Kabaddi players, both men and women, maintained their vice-like grip on the Asian Games gold, while a historic marathon silver by Sawan Barwal was the high point of the country's erratic track-and-field campaign on Saturday with shooters enduring another mixed outing here.

Another mild disappointment was two-time defending champion Tajinderpal Singh Toor's silver in men's shot put with a season's best throw of 20.64m which was nowhere close to his personal best of 21.77m.

Prachi bagged the women's 400m bronze to ensure that a medal trickled in from the track as well. Indians did not finish

Toor, Barwal, women's rifle 3P team secure silver; Prachi, Joshna-Velavan bag bronze



Indian women's (L) and men's kabaddi teams pose for photographs after winning gold medals in the ongoing 20th Asian Games, in Tokai City, Japan, on Saturday. (Pics: PTI)

inside top three in men's 400m and women's 1500m events.

India's overall tally increased to 30 with four gold, 12 silver and 14 bronze medals.

The day was off to a brilliant

start when Barwal ran a stunning race to hand India an unexpected silver, shattering his own national record in the process here.

The 28-year-old Armyman

from Himachal Pradesh's Mandi clocked 2 hours, 11 minutes and 37 seconds to complete the distance of 42.195km and finish behind Japan's Ichitaka Yamashita (2:10:49).

China's Peiyu Feng was third with 2:12:13.

His path-breaking silver is the first marathon medal for India in the Asian Games after the bronze won by Hosur

Kukkappa Seetharan in the 1982 edition in New Delhi.

Barwal is also the fourth Indian marathon runner to have ever won a medal in the Asian Games. Chhota Singh and Surat Singh Mathur had won a gold and bronze respectively in the inaugural Asian Games in 1951 in New Delhi.

Soon after, India's kabaddi dominance was reaffirmed despite a tough challenge mounted by Iran in both the men's and women's finals. While the Indian men rallied to prevail 40-34, the women clinched it 37-34 after a few anxious moments. It was the ninth overall gold for the men and fourth for women.

At the shooting range, the Indian trio of Tilottama Sen, (Contd on page 5)

World leaders demand UNSC reform

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 26 (IANS)

AGROWING group of world leaders has used the UN General Assembly to demand an overhaul of the Security Council, arguing that a power structure created in 1945 no longer represents the world it is expected to protect.

Calls during the annual debate ranged from expanding permanent and non-permanent membership to giving Africa permanent representation with the privileges held by existing permanent members. African leaders made the most forceful case, while Japan and several smaller states also sought urgent change.

Kenyan President William Ruto said the imbalance between the General Assembly and the Council had become impossible to defend.

"Every nation is sovereign and



equal under the Charter. Yet on the gravest questions of war and peace, five nations possess a permanent power that the other 188 do not," Ruto said. "The equality proclaimed in this Assembly ends at the doors of the Security Council."

Ruto noted that Africa has 54 UN member states but no per-

manent voice on the body primarily responsible for international peace and security. He said reform negotiations had continued for 17 years without producing a result.

"We should not accept that reform is impossible because it is difficult," he said.

Sierra Leone, which coordi-

nates the African Union Committee of Ten on Council reform, pressed the continent's common position. It called for at least two permanent seats with all the rights of existing permanent members, including the veto if it is retained, and five non-permanent seats.

"The Security Council still reflects the world of 1945. Africa, home to more than 1.6 billion people and the subject of much of the Council's work, still has no Permanent Seat," Sierra Leonean President Julius Maada Bio said.

Nigerian Vice President Kashim Shettima made a similar demand.

"The reform of this institution must begin with the reconstitution of the Security Council, for the world of 2026 cannot remain captive to the distribution of power in 1945," Shettima said.

"Africa cannot continue to fill

the Council's agenda while remaining absent from its permanent membership," he said.

South African Minister Ronald Lamola said meaningful reform of global governance must begin

with the Council. He noted that African conflicts accounted for much of the body's work while the continent remained excluded from permanent membership.

India calls for greater Global South voice at UNSC

NEW YORK, Sept 26 (ANI)

INDIA called for greater voice and representation for developing countries and stressed the need for urgent UN Security Council reform as Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri delivered India's national statement at the 50th Annual Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 during the 81st session of the UN General Assembly in New York.



Foreign Secretary Vikram

INDIA-US YUDH ABHYAS 2026

SkyStriker loitering munition EXECUTES PRECISION STRIKE

NEW DELHI, Sept 26 (ANI)

THE SkyStriker loitering munition successfully executed a precision strike at the Mahajan Field Firing Range during Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2026, the Indian Army said on Saturday.

In a video shared by the Army on X, the loitering munition was seen detecting, engaging and accurately striking designated targets in a realistic operational environment. The engagement showcased the growing role of indigenous defence technology, precision effects and unmanned systems in contemporary warfare, the Army said.

According to the Ministry of Defence, the exercise is aimed at enhancing the joint military capability of both armies for employment of Integrated Battle Groups in mountainous and

semi-mountainous terrain, with emphasis on infantry-dominated operations. It will strengthen interoperability, facilitate exchanges of best operational practices and strengthen joint planning and execution.

Technology infusion is a key focus area. The training includes the employment of drones and autonomous systems for surveillance and reconnaissance as well as the demonstration of contemporary weapon systems.

This comes as armies adapt to drone-enabled battlefields and increasingly complex multi-domain kinetic operations, it added. The exercise provides an opportunity for both Armies to share tactics, techniques and procedures, and enhance their ability to undertake coordinated military ops across varied terrain and operational environment.

Trump rejects Iran's 7-day proposal for ceasefire

Likely to resume bombing after midterms

WASHINGTON, Sept 26 (IANS)

US President Donald Trump has reportedly rejected Iran's proposal for a seven-day ceasefire and is likely to resume bombing Tehran after the November midterm elections in the US.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported that Trump had rejected the proposal, citing US officials familiar with the matter.

Trump, who has vowed that Iran will never acquire a nuclear bomb, was sceptical that Tehran would meet his demands and considers a renewed bombing campaign likely, according to the report. He also posted an image on his Truth Social platform showing a map with the Strait of Hormuz circled and labelled

"Trump Strait."

Tehran had proposed reopening the strategic Strait of Hormuz and ending the fighting, which began on February 28 when the US and Israel conducted joint strikes on Iran. The proposal would take effect within seven days if Washington agreed to Iran's demands.

"Iran has conveyed to the United States, through Qatar, a concrete seven-day plan. If the necessary conditions are met, the strait can be reopened, and normal maritime passage restored within seven days," Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told reporters at the UN on Friday.

"The choice now rests with the US. Iran does not accept coercion, threats, or intimidation, and Iran will not surrender its sovereign rights under pressure," he said. "I can tell you if there is seriousness in the US side to come to a deal and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, everything is now prepared," he added.

KILLINGS, IMPRISONMENT, FORCED DISAPPEARANCES IN BALOCHISTAN

Baloch, Pashtun activists protest outside UN complex

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 26 (IANS)

BALOCH and Pashtun activists held protests outside the UN complex against killings, imprisonment and forced disappearances of their people while Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was speaking at the General Assembly.

In separate protests on Friday, the supporters of the Baloch National Movement (BNM) and the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) demanded an end to attacks on and the suppression of Balochis and Pashtuns.

Sharif, meanwhile, was sanctimoniously flinging allegations against other countries.

The BNM's protest in New York coincided with its three-day conference in Geneva on the "human rights situation in Balochistan, enforced disappearances, extra-judicial killings, collective punishment, restrictions on political freedoms". The BNM also held a rally in Geneva, according to its website. The BNM on Friday took out a protest rally in Geneva during the 63rd Session of the UN Human Rights Council, drawing

the attention of the international community to the escalating human rights abuses committed by Pakistani authorities in Balochistan.

During the demonstration, the protesters carried placards that read:

"They were civilians, not targets; UN act now to end collective punishment in Balochistan", "End Enforced Disappearance", "Balochistan was occupied by Pakistan".

According to the BNM, a photo exhibition and protest were also held at the Broken Chair monument in Geneva, where participants raised international awareness about the worsening human rights situation in Balochistan. The PTM representing Pashtuns, who straddle the arbitrary Durand Line separating Afghanistan and Pakistan, said in a resolution read at their protest, they were "deeply concerned by credible allegations of extra-judicial killings, enforced disappearances" and the scattering of unexploded ordnance in their areas. It also condemned the Pakistani attacks both by land and by air into Pashtun areas inside Afghanistan.

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