

# SPORTS

## sports

### Heroin killed British rugby players in Sri Lanka: court

Colombo, Sri Lanka

Two English amateur rugby players had taken heroin just before their deaths while in Sri Lanka, a court was told Friday as it ordered the arrest of those responsible for selling the narcotics.

Concluding inquests into the deaths, Colombo Fort magistrate Lanka Jayaratne ruled that Thomas Howard, 25, died from heroin poisoning while Tom Baty, 26, overdosed.

# The biggest Volleyball show

19th Asian Men's U20 Championship begins today at Isa Sports City in Riffa



Officials during a technical meeting and coaches' Press conference held yesterday

### Germany team doctor quits following WC flop

Berlin, Germany

Germany's long-serving team doctor Hans-Wilhelm Mueller-Wohlfahrt quit yesterday after 23 years in the job. Known fondly as 'Mull', the doctor is the first member of back-room staff to quit following the 2014 WC winners' shock exit.

### Nibali in hospital after collision

L'Alpe d'Huez, France

Former champion Vincenzo Nibali was doubtful for the remainder of the Tour de France after a collision, allegedly with a police motorbike, on Alpe d'Huez left him nursing a "suspected broken vertebra". Nibali was chasing Frenchman Romain Bardet when he suddenly came crashing down four kilometres before the summit of the climb.

● 24 nations from across the continent are competing in the event

● Matches begin at 11.30am and continue until the evening

● Games will be played simultaneously in two arenas at Isa Sports City

● Entrance for spectators is free and all are welcome

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The stage is set for one of the biggest volleyball competitions in the world, the 19th Asian Men's U20 Championship, which gets underway today at Isa Sports City in Riffa.

An impressive field of 24 nations from across the continent are competing in the event, which is scheduled to go on for the entire week.

The tournament has been organised by the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) in cooperation with the Bahrain Volleyball

## Battle is wide open, says Iran coach

Iran head coach Behrouz Ataie said that the battle for the title is wide open. Their junior national volleyball team are one of the pre-tournament favourites, having won the silver medals in the previous continental competition in 2016 and then being crowned champions in the FIVB Boys' U19 World Championship last year, in a tournament also held in Bahrain.

But as this year's Asian showcase, Ataie prefers not to live by the favourites tag, even with nine players returning from the squad that won the 2017 world title.

"The thing about Asia is there are many tough teams, even from the small countries, and then we have the big teams like Japan and Korea, and some Arab teams, who are always fighting at the top," Ataie said today.

"Our main goal in this competition is to finish in the top two and qualify for the FIVB Men's U21 World Champion-

ship next year, that is what we are thinking about."

This tournament marks only the second time this year that more than 16 nations are taking part in an AVC event, and it will also be the first time a new competition format, proposed by the AVC, is set to be used.

"It's great to see 24 teams here competing in this championship," said Australia head coach Marty Collins. "It really shows the wide region we are playing in."

### Mixed opinions

There were mixed opinions, however, with the new format for the championship. One of the coaches said he was in favour of the change, explaining that it gave teams more of a chance of qualifying past the first round. Others, like Ataie, however, were not as enthusiastic for the new format, as it segregated the strong teams from the weaker ones, and he expects it to be altered once again in the near future.

### Preliminary Round

#### Division One:

Pool A1 : China, Iran and South Korea

Pool B1 : Japan, Thailand and Turkmenistan

Pool C1 : Sri Lanka, Kazakhstan and Australia

Pool D1 : Bahrain, Iraq and Qatar

Pool D2 : Macau, Maldives and Malaysia

Pool D3 : Uzbekistan and Malaysia

Pool D4 : China Taipei, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia

Pool D5 : Hong Kong, Jordan and the UAE

Pool D6 : India, New Zealand and

Uzbekistan

Pool D7 : Macau, Maldives and Malaysia

Pool D8 : China Taipei, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia

Pool D9 : Hong Kong, Jordan and the UAE

Pool D10 : India, New Zealand and

Uzbekistan

Pool D11 : Macau, Maldives and Malaysia

Pool D12 : China Taipei, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia

Pool D13 : Hong Kong, Jordan and the UAE

Pool D14 : India, New Zealand and

Uzbekistan

Pool D15 : Macau, Maldives and Malaysia

Pool D16 : China Taipei, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia

Pool D17 : Hong Kong, Jordan and the UAE

Pool D18 : India, New Zealand and

Uzbekistan

Pool D19 : Macau, Maldives and Malaysia

Pool D20 : China Taipei, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia

Pool D21 : Hong Kong, Jordan and the UAE

Pool D22 : India, New Zealand and

Uzbekistan

Pool D23 : Macau, Maldives and Malaysia

Pool D24 : China Taipei, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia

Pool D25 : Hong Kong, Jordan and the UAE

Pool D26 : India, New Zealand and

Uzbekistan

Pool D27 : Macau, Maldives and Malaysia

Pool D28 : China Taipei, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia

Pool D29 : Hong Kong, Jordan and the UAE

Pool D30 : India, New Zealand and

Uzbekistan

Pool D31 : Macau, Maldives and Malaysia

Pool D32 : China Taipei, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia

Pool D33 : Hong Kong, Jordan and the UAE

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Pool D40 : China Taipei, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia

Pool D41 : Hong Kong, Jordan and the UAE

Pool D42 : India, New Zealand and

Uzbekistan

Pool D43 : Macau, Maldives and Malaysia

Pool D44 : China Taipei, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia

Pool D45 : Hong Kong, Jordan and the UAE

Pool D46 : India, New Zealand and

Uzbekistan

Pool D47 : Macau, Maldives and Malaysia

Pool D48 : China Taipei, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia

Pool D49 : Hong Kong, Jordan and the UAE

Pool D50 : India, New Zealand and

Uzbekistan

Pool D51 : Macau, Maldives and Malaysia

Pool D52 : China Taipei, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia

Pool D53 : Hong Kong, Jordan and the UAE

Pool D54 : India, New Zealand and

Uzbekistan

# Philippines to create history at Brave 14 in Morocco

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Jeremy Pacatiw has signed the contract to compete at Brave 14 hosted in Omnisports indoor club of Tangier, Morocco on 18th August 2018. Pacatiw who trains at Team Lakay will become the first fighter from the Philippines to compete at an event by the global promotion hosted in the continent of Africa. Brave 14 has materialised as an initiative under His Highness Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa of Bahrain and under the patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco.

Pacatiw will face Keith Lee from the United States of America. Born in Detroit, Michigan, United States, Lee had an undefeated amateur career prior making his 5 fight professional career. Keith Lee is the brother of the high profile UFC fighter, Kevin Lee. Pacatiw will be competing in a top priority bout to bounce back from the



Jeremy Pacatiw

losses suffered in his career. Currently, Jeremy Pacatiw is the fighter from the Philippines with the most number of appearances at Brave Combat Federation.

Pacatiw had suffered recent losses

after making a statement by defeating two of the top talent from India and Brazil where he gains wins over Chaitanya Gavali and Diego Coleta. Pacatiw fights in the bantamweight division which is dominated by the champion, Stephen Loman from Team Lakay, Philippines.

"The bout will be highly competitive and will showcase two of the most promising talent with contrasting styles. Athletes from the Philippines have displayed heart, commitment and skills which make them integral when Brave Combat Federation takes over the responsibility to bring the first-ever global mixed martial arts event to the continent of Africa. This is also an opportunity to give a platform for athletes to showcase their skills around the world and to bring the martial arts community spread around the world closer", said Mohammed Shahid, President of Brave Combat Federation.

## AC Milan back in Europa League

Lausanne, Switzerland

The world's top sports court on Friday overturned a European ban imposed on AC Milan for violating UEFA's financial fair play rules, calling the punishment "not proportionate."

UEFA banned Milan from playing

in next season's Europa League citing the club's failure to meet the "break-even requirement," which bars clubs from taking on debt to fund daily operations. But the Court of Arbitration for Sport ruled that "some important elements have not been properly assessed," by UEFA judges.

