

25 Red Sox, Phillies cap 4-game sweeps; Nationals beat Reds



26 Pom-pom girls and the kiss cams: Badminton gets edgy to win fans



27 Bangladesh seal T20 series with 19-run victory over West Indies



World champ Kolesnichenko wins technical solo

Ukraine's Kolodiy and Lyskun take first Euro diving gold



GLASGOW: Silver medalist Ukraine's Yelyzaveta Yakhno (left), Gold medalist Russia's Svetlana Kolesnichenko (center) and Bronze medalist Italy's Linda Cerruti pose on the podium during the medal ceremony for the solo technical routine final at the Scotstoun Sports Campus during the 2018 European Championships in Glasgow yesterday. — AFP

GLASGOW: Svetlana Kolesnichenko, the new standard bearer for artistic aquatics, added another European Championships gold to her huge collection of international medals when she took the synchronized swimming solo technical title yesterday. In a Russian team that dominates the sport, the 24-year-old Kolesnichenko has become its most celebrated figure with one Olympic and 13 world titles to her name.

Yet it is only in the past year having taken up the solo events and won four titles at the 2017 world championships that the athlete from Gatchina, near St Petersburg, has really flourished. Performing to Edvard Grieg's Peer Gynt, Kolesnichenko was not quite at her very best but still dominated, her mark of 93.4816 putting her more than two points clear of Ukrainian silver medallist Yelyzaveta Yakhno (91.3517).

Italy's Linda Cerruti (90.2282) took the bronze as

Kolesnichenko celebrated her sixth European title, and the second in Glasgow following her victory in the duet technical with Varvara Subbotina. "I will work harder in the next year to improve. I'm getting stronger," said Kolesnichenko, who has the chance to collect another two golds on the final day of competition today. Kolesnichenko has certainly come a long way from the six-year-old girl who was taken to a synchronized swimming club because her mother thought she was too fat, only for the coach to originally refuse to take her on.

Russia underlined their dominance by later winning the gold in the technical team final, with Ukraine again having to settle for silver and Italy the bronze. The winning performance, which earned an impressive total of 94.6000, was so good that it even caused a ripple of amazement within the Russian squad. "Tatiana

Pokrovskaja (the team coach) smiled—and that is amazing," explained one member of the winning team, Mariia Shurochkina. "She told us we were amazing. It feels like a happy new year because one time in a year she says, 'OK, that was very good.'"

First Euro diving gold

Meanwhile, Ukrainian Sofiiia Lyskun demonstrated notable composure at 16 to pull off a winning final dive under pressure, enabling the teenager and partner Oleg Kolodiy to celebrate victory in the mixed team final at the European Championships yesterday. The action at the inaugural multi-event Championships moved from Glasgow to the Royal Commonwealth Pool in Edinburgh where the first of 13 diving finals was being staged and Lyskun provided a memorable opening.

The youngster demonstrated her appetite for big meet competition when, aged 15, winning bronze at the 10 meters platform synchro event at last year's European Championships in Kiev. Yet this was pressure of a different order when she was forced to produce a fine final dive to allow her and 25-year-old maths graduate Kolodiy to snatch the gold medal from Germany's Lou Massenber and Maria Kurjo.

The youngster's difficult dive—a back two-and-a-half somersaults and one-and-a-half twists in pike from the 10 meter board was so well executed that she earned the highest final round mark of any diver. It gave the Ukrainian pair a winning total of 355.90 to the German duo's 352.60, while the Russian team of Evgenii Kuznetsov and Luliia Timoshina were left to curse two poor final dives that turned a likely gold into bronze. —Agencies

England cricketer Stokes lost control in a street brawl

BRISTOL: England cricketer Ben Stokes lost his self-control and knocked two men unconscious in a street fight last September, a court heard yesterday as his trial for affray began. Stokes, acting in "revenge, retaliation or punishment", was involved in a "sustained episode of significant violence", prosecutor Nicholas Corsellis told a jury at Bristol Crown Court in southwest England. Stokes, 27, who starred on Saturday as England beat India at Edgbaston, is being tried alongside 27-year-old Ryan Ali and Ryan Hale, 28. They each deny the charge of affray. They had all

been drinking inside a Bristol nightclub. The fight took place outside after 2:00 am on September 25 last year, the prosecutor said.

They were all involved in threatening and/or using unlawful violence towards each other, it is alleged. Corsellis said only the defendants knew how the fracas began and it could have been stopped very quickly. "During the incident, Mr Stokes lost his control and started to attack with revenge, retaliation or punishment in mind. Well beyond acting in self defense or defense of another," he said. "He knocked Mr Hale unconscious and then - after time to pause for thought, to calm — he did exactly the same to Mr Ali. "Mr Ali received significant injuries included a fractured eye socket and required hospital treatment."

'Onlookers shocked'

Wearing a blue suit and red tie, Stokes sat in the far left of the dock, Hale in the middle and Ali on the far right. "This was not a trivial moment of unpleasantness. It was a sustained episode of significant violence that left onlookers shocked at what

was taking place," Corsellis said. "A bottle was used at the beginning by Mr Ali and a broken street sign brought into the fray towards the end by Mr Hale." The prosecutor said the three defendants were all young men of promise. "Ben Stokes, is a professional cricket player who has reached the top of his profession and represented his country," Corsellis said.

"Equally, Mr Ali has worked for the emergency services and Mr Hale has served his country in the armed forces. "It almost goes without saying, but past success, fame or good deeds does not absolve you from your duty - and the law - to behave yourself." Stokes missed the Ashes series against Australia after being suspended from playing for England. Without him, England lost the series 4-0. He has since played in the Test series against New Zealand and Pakistan. He starred in England's first Test victory over India last week. The trial is expected to last between five and seven days. The second Test between England and India, at Lord's in London, starts on Thursday.— AFP



BRISTOL: Clare Stokes (left), wife of England cricketer Ben Stokes, sorts out her husband's collar as they return to Bristol Crown Court yesterday after the court broke for lunch. — AFP