

Picture perfect role reversal

ALL FOR A GOOD CAUSE From being the most photographed men on the planet, Formula One stars now turn photographers

ht EXCLUSIVE

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NEW DELHI: As the poster boys of the most glamorous sport on the planet, Formula One drivers are among the most photographed people in the world. But, what do you get when the ones being photographed click the camera themselves? A fund-raiser, and all for a good cause.

50 photographs clicked and signed by current F1 drivers and team bosses will be auctioned by UK-based motorsport specialised auction house Coys at an event titled Zoom in London on September 14. The proceeds of event will go to F1's official charity Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH). According to the organisers, all of the 50 photos are expected to sell for four-figures (in pounds) each on average. On the photos that could fetch the highest bids, the organisers said, "The photos taken by the Ferrari, McLaren and Red Bull Racing drivers are sure to be very attractive because these teams are so popular. However, anything connected to Michael Schumacher always sells for top dollar and we know from looking at other auctions that there are some incredibly dedicated fans who follow drivers such as Kamui Kobayashi so this could push up the price of his photo above all the others."

In the collection, 2008 world champion Lewis Hamilton shot a driver's eye view whilst sitting in his car in the pits. "Welcome to my office! I thought it would be nice," was the driver's take on the photograph. The photos also include two-time defending world champion Sebastian Vettel's view of the Alps whilst on a skiing trip and Brazilian driver Bruno Senna's favourite beach. Some of the other pictures are of vineyards, villas, motorbikes and even tractors! Photos of Indian interest include Vijay Mallya's photo of the Force India pits area, Narain Karthikeyan's view of glamorous Monaco and Karun Chandhok's picture of sunset at the Yas Marina track at Abu Dhabi last year.



SEBASTIAN VETTEL
"This is the mountain known as the Red Wall, in Vorarlberg in Austria. I know the area really well. I went on my first skiing trip there with my family and my good friend, Joschi Walch, who ran the hospitality unit when I made my F1 debut and now has a hotel in the area. It really is a home away from home as F1 catering boss Karl-Heinz Zimmermann also has his Alpenblick restaurant nearby."

LEWIS HAMILTON
"Welcome to my office! I thought it would be nice to get a shot of the cockpit of my car. It's always a pretty amazing view; I never get used to being in a F1 car, and I wanted to capture the fact that, while it's very cramped inside the car, there's a lot of action going on all around me. It's more of a second home. The gloves on the wheel are like leaving your boots on the mat - a sign of being at home."



KARUN CHANDHOK
"I took this stunning sunset over Yas Marina following the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix last year."

Ex-F1 driver Zanardi wins Paralympic gold

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LONDON: Former Formula One driver Alessandro Zanardi on Wednesday won again at a motor racing circuit by taking Paralympic gold in the men's individual H4 (hand-cycle) time-trial.

The 45-year-old Italian's time of 24min 50.22sec over the 16km course was good enough to clinch victory from Norbert Mosandl of Germany, who finished 27sec behind, and US rider Oscar Sanchez, who was 45sec back.

Zanardi, a former F1 pilot for Minardi and Lotus who also drove in Indy and touring car races, was critically injured and had to have both legs amputated after a horror smash in 2001. He battled back into sport, even competing in a touring car race at Brands Hatch in a specially-adapted car with hand controls before turning his attention to hand-cycling. Last year, he won the category at the New York Marathon.

His average speed on Wednesday - 38.652 kilometres (24.017 miles) per hour - was considerably less than his previous best at the fabled circuit in the county of Kent, southeast England.

But it was one of the highlights of a day that saw Britain's Sarah Storey clinch her third gold medal of the Games, taking the Paralympic women's individual C5 time-trial title after double success on the



Alessandro Zanardi celebrates after winning gold. AFP PHOTO track.

MA TO MAKE F1 FIRST FOR CHINA
MONZA: Ma Qing Hua will become the first Chinese driver to take part in a Formula One grand prix weekend when he replaces Indian Narain Karthikeyan at the wheel of an HRT in free practice at Monza on Friday.

HRT said on Wednesday the Shanghai-born 24-year-old will take part in the morning session at the Italian GP, the final European round of the season, and then hand the car back to Karthikeyan who will race on Sunday.

SAY CHEESE



Usain Bolt clicks away. GETTY IMAGES

They are both sporting legends. They're not bad with a camera in their hands, either...

BOLT'S PHOTO-FINISH

The way Usain Bolt blitzes his opponents there's little chance of ever using a photo-finish to decide a Bolt race. Our only hope is wordplay. After winning the 200m gold at the London Olympics in style, Bolt borrowed a camera from a Swedish photographer, as he had done after the Rome and Daegu World Championships, and clicked a few souvenir shots.

JUMBO LANDING

Anil Kumble's love for photography took off almost as soon as his cricket career did, dating back to a point-and-shoot camera he was given by his brother when he traveled to Srinagar for an under-17 tourney. As the cricketer in Kumble blossomed, so did the shutterbug. When it was all said and done he retired with 619 Test wickets and a coffee-table book on his dual life as a photographer, Wide Angle.

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RANVEER IS A SALMAN KHAN FAN

Check out today's HT City

IPL-style wrestling league in Jan

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CHANDIGARH: Come October and Indian wrestlers will get a taste of an IPL-style auction. Cashing in on the success of the London Olympics, the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has announced that its much-awaited Indian Wrestling League (IWL) will kick off from January 15 next year.

There will be six franchise-based teams and bouts will be held on a home-and-away basis.

DELHI TO HOST FINAL
The opening fixture will be played in Uttar Pradesh and the final will be hosted in Delhi. There will be 30 league games followed by the semifinals and final.

As reported by HT (on December 27, 2011), each franchise will shell out ₹70 lakh, out of which ₹35 lakh will be distributed among the wrestlers and rest will be used to conduct bouts and cover other expenses.

THREE CATEGORIES
The wrestlers will be graded into three categories - A, B and

SALIENT FEATURES OF IWL

- Total number of teams: 6 (to be franchise based).
- Each franchise will field teams in the men's and women's sections.
- Competition will be held in all seven weight categories.
- There will be five Indian wrestlers and two foreigners in each team (two men, two women).
- Prize money for the team championship is ₹25 lakh, ₹15 lakh and ₹10 lakh, respectively, for the first three teams.
- Each franchise will shell out ₹70 lakh, out of which ₹35 lakh will be distributed among the wrestlers and rest will be used to conduct bouts, etc.



Geeta Phogat. HT FILE PHOTO

Pune or Kolhapur and one from Patna, Varanasi, Bathinda or Jalandhar.

Competition will be held in all seven weight categories of freestyle wrestling in the men and women's section and each team can have four foreigners (two men, two women). The inclusion of two regional players is a must.

MONEY, MONEY

The total prize money is ₹1.1 crore, including ₹25 lakh, ₹15 lakh and ₹10 lakh for the first three positions, respectively. There will also be a prize of ₹5 lakh for individual category winners.

Apart from changing the face of the sport, the IWL will be a boost for women wrestlers, as government sports quotas offer limited job opportunities to them. Also, unlike their male counterparts, there aren't too many tournaments which have money at stake.

"The IWL should raise the standard of women's wrestling and help the girls earn a decent living," said Geeta Phogat, the first Indian woman wrestler to compete in the London Olympics.

C, according to their achievements. There will also be an icon player in each team, for whom no amount has been fixed.

Of the six teams, two will be in Haryana, and Jindal

Industries has already been roped in for the Hisar team. The second team will either be Sonepat or Panipat. The other cities being looked at are Delhi, Nandini Nagar (Gonda, UP),

PAYMENT BLUES FOR WSH'S GURJINDER

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LUCKNOW: In April, drag-flicker Gurjinder Singh was on cloud nine. Reason: he had won a cheque of ₹1 crore for the "most valuable player" of the World Series Hockey (WSH).

Now, Gurjinder's enthusiasm is on the wane as the defender of the Chandigarh Comets is worried about the non-payment of dues. "I have only got assurances from the WSH. Only ₹40 lakh has been paid so far," he told HT after his team, Punjab, crushed Chhattisgarh 7-0 in a league match in junior hockey. Yannick Colaco, COO of Nimbus Sports, which owns WSH, claimed there was no delay in the payment of salaries to contracted players.

"The fixed amount of the prize money was paid to Gurjinder and others, and the remaining amount will reach them in October as per the contract," he said.

Tardy football federation hits India's 2017 U-17 World Cup bid

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NEW DELHI: India stands on the brink of being awarded its biggest ever football tournament, with even Fifa officials clearly stating that the country is the favourite to host the 2017 under-17 World Cup. However, a tardy All India Football Federation (AIFF) has yet to get its bid in place despite assurances that the bid would have been finalised by last April.

AIFF general secretary Kushal Das was quoted in media, even before Fifa president Sepp Blatter's visit in March this year that the bid would be finalised before this summer's annual Fifa Congress in Zurich. However, having long missed that deadline India will now have to get its bid ready before September 26 to give the Fifa executive committee a chance to finalise the bid.

Fifa general secretary Jerome Valcke, here on a four-day visit,

said on the sidelines of a media conference on Wednesday that the world body is eager to use the U-17 finals as a platform to help India 'become a player at the highest level'. He added that, "with the U-17 World Cup, one of aims is to use the tournament to develop football in the country. It's difficult to do so with the Fifa World Cup because of the large sums of money involved, but with the U-17 meet we can help countries get their infrastructure right."

"Fifa believes if there is one country in Asia that we need to focus, it is India. The U-17 World Cup would be a perfect milestone. We would ask the executive committee to let India host the U-17 WC in 2017," said Valcke, all but assuring India the rights if it gets its bid in place.

He added that Fifa will announce the winning bid before the end of the calendar year. If the AIFF gets its papers ready by September 26, it could be up

for discussion at the next Fifa executive committee on September 26-27. Else, the matter will be decided on the sidelines of the World Club Championship in Tokyo in December.

Valcke added that hosting the U-17 World Cup would put India on the football map in the way no other tournament can. "All the countries that play football, will focus on India for this particular event. All the countries will plan, with India in mind."

The Frenchman, who has been the world body's general secretary since 2007, added that Fifa would also help finance a large part of the tournament, except for the money spent on infrastructure and stadium development.

RANKINGS SLIP

Notwithstanding the recent Nehru Cup triumph, India on Wednesday slipped a place down to 169th in FIFA rankings, its worst in recent years.

Jet engines that move India.

It's not often technology inspires art. This Saura artwork depicts how aircraft powered by GE 90-115B jet engines are expanding possibilities for people everyday. Making flying more accessible and connecting them to the world. Just another way GE works to move India. www.ge.com/in

imagination at work