

# Did 'cricketing sense' prevail in World Cup final?

England was awarded an extra run in the last over, which proved crucial in the final analysis

KARTIKEYA DATE

In Sunday's Cricket World Cup final, England's Ben Stokes hit the fourth ball of Trent Boult's final over to deep midwicket. New Zealand's Martin Guptill fielded the ball and threw it to the striker's end, where Stokes was returning for a second run. As Stokes dived to make his ground, the throw hit his outstretched bat and the ball was deflected away to the boundary. The umpires awarded England six runs – two for the shot and four overthrows – and Stokes was back on strike for the next ball.

Under the laws of cricket, the English side should have been awarded five runs, not six, and Stokes should have been at the non-striker's end when the next ball was bowled. Veteran umpire Simon Taufel termed the decision to award England six runs, a move on which there has been much debate over the last two days, a "clear mistake". After all, it occurred in the last over of the World Cup final, which ended in a tie.

According to the 'Laws of Cricket', runs and boundaries are two distinct types of scoring. Runs (Law 18) are based on an action by the batsman. To complete a run, the two batsmen must cross each other and reach the opposite end. Boundaries (Law 19) are based on where (and how) the ball goes. A boundary is scored when the ball crosses the boundary line.



**Contentious:** Ben Stokes offers an apology after the ball sped away to the fence, deflecting off his bat. Experts are of the view that since the batsmen hadn't crossed each other on a second run, it should have been only five runs instead of six. • AP

This distinction is the first of two crucial points to understanding why *that* decision in the final was wrong.

## The 'dead ball law'

Each delivery begins when the bowler starts his run-up and ends when the ball goes dead.

The circumstances under which a delivery is considered complete are specified under the 'dead ball law' (Law 20). When the ball is grounded outside the bound-

dary, the ball is 'dead'. This means that on the given delivery, no further runs or dismissals may be attempted. Let's say a batsman hits a cover drive and the ball begins rolling towards the boundary rope. The batsmen run two. If the ball crosses the line, it is dead – a boundary is declared and the batsman gets four. If the ball gets fielded, the batsman gets two.

The ball is presumed dead once the ball has "finally set-

led" with the wicketkeeper or bowler. The play is evaluated based on how it ends. If the ball reaches the boundary, the team gets four runs, and not four plus the two which the batsman ran. Whatever the batsman ran between the moment the ball was hit and the moment the ball crossed the boundary is set aside.

An overthrow (Law 19.8) is logically identical. If the overthrow goes for a boundary, all action by the bat-

smen between the "instant of the throw" and the moment it crosses the boundary is set aside and a boundary is awarded. Additionally, the runs completed prior to the "instant of the throw" are also awarded.

## The batsmen didn't cross

Video evidence shows that Stokes and Adil Rashid had completed one run and turned for the second when Guptill made the throw. Crucially, the "instant of the

throw" was *before* the two batsmen crossed. Had the throw been made *after* the two batsmen crossed, the correct award would have been six runs. Since they didn't cross, the correct award should have been one-plus-four runs. Further, Rashid should have taken strike the next ball.

It must be noted that this is a very difficult thing for the two on-field umpires to judge, especially when the throw is made from the boundary. It would help if the TV umpire could intervene. But under the terms of the TV umpire's remit, such an intervention is not currently permitted unless it is requested from the field of play.

One widely held misconception is on the deflection off Stokes' bat. Under the Laws, such an accidental deflection is of no significance except when it hits the extra helmets behind the wicket-keeper (and if the ball hits the SpiderCam). After any other deflection, the ball remains in play. If Stokes had been judged to have deliberately made contact with the throw (he didn't), he would have been given out for 'Obstructing the Field'.

The Laws of Cricket are unambiguous. But they have to be understood as a system. Without such an understanding, one law can appear to contradict another. 'Cricketing sense' comes from the system of laws and not from any law in particular.

## Don't add four overthrows, Stokes told umpires

Anderson reveals the all-rounder's conversation with match officials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LONDON

England World Cup hero Ben Stokes asked the umpires to take away the four overthrows that proved decisive during the summit clash win over New Zealand on Sunday, according to his Test teammate James Anderson.

A throw from Black Caps fielder Martin Guptill deflected off Stokes' bat while he was diving to reach his crease to complete the second run and the ball ran off to the boundary in the dying stages of the England run chase. Having taken into account the two completed runs and the resultant boundary from the overthrow, Stokes was awarded six runs, though some experts have opined that he should only have got five, which would have left England a run short of New Zealand's total of 241 for eight.

If Stokes had his way, the match might have never reached a tie and gone to a Super Over, where both teams scored 15 runs and England eventually won the World Cup on boundary count.

Anderson, who will be Stokes' Test teammate for

the upcoming Ashes series against Australia, said that the England all-rounder, who apologised the moment the incident happened by raising his hands, had appealed to the umpires to overturn their decision.

## The etiquette

"The etiquette in cricket is if the ball is thrown at the stumps and it hits you and goes into a gap in the field you don't run. But if it goes to the boundary, in the rules it's four and you can't do anything about it," Anderson told the BBC's Tailenders podcast.

"I think, talking to Michael Vaughan who saw him (Stokes) after the game, Ben Stokes actually went to the umpires and said, 'Can you take that four runs off. We don't want it' But it's in the rules and that's the way it is," added Anderson.

"It's been talked about for a while among the players, potentially that being a dead ball if it does hit the batsman and veer off somewhere."

Stokes said he might have to say sorry "for the rest of my life" for the extra runs which he labelled "fluke".

## Kapil Dev-led panel could pick the coach

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The Kapil Dev-led *ad-hoc* committee could pick the next National team coach but a final decision on the panel formation would be taken only after the next Supreme Court hearing. The application deadline for all the coaching roles is July 30.

The Committee of Administrators (CoA) had asked the court for directions on the continuation of Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) comprising Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly and VVS Laxman.

However, if there is no directive from the court on the CAC, the CoA might be left with no other alternative but task the Kapil Dev-led committee with picking the coach.

The *ad-hoc* body comprising former India captain Kapil, Aunshuman Gaekwad and Shantha Rangaswamy had appointed W.V. Raman as the Indian women's team coach in December.



Kapil Dev. • V.V. KRISHNAN

On Tuesday, the BCCI has invited applications for the men's team support staff, including head coach who will need to be less than 60 years of age with a minimum international experience of two years.

The current support staff, comprising incumbent head coach Ravi Shastri, bowling coach Bharat Arun, batting coach Sanjay Bangar and fielding coach R. Sridhar, were given a 45-day extension following the World Cup, covering the West Indies tour from August 3 to September 3.

## Pandey and Krunal help India-A clinch the series

The visitors take an unassailable 3-0 lead with a thumping win in the third one-dayer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ANTIGUA

Skipper Manish Pandey struck an impressive century while Krunal Pandya took five wickets to guide India-A to a 148-run win over West Indies-A in the third unofficial ODI and take an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match series here.

Opting to bat, India-A put on a big total of 295 for six in its allotted 50 overs and then bowled out the hosts for 147 in 34.2 overs.

Although the visitors lost their opener Anmolpreet Singh for nought, the other opening batsman Shubman Gill (77 off 81 balls) and one-down Shreyas Iyer (47 off 69 balls) shared a valuable 109-run stand for the second wicket.

Thereafter, Pandey continued from where Gill had left, scoring a century off just 87 deliveries. He also ad-



Manish Pandey • FILE PHOTO

ded a solid 110 runs with Hanuma Vihari (29) for the fourth wicket.

Chasing 296 for a win, the home team got off to a decent start with John Campbell (21) and Sunil Ambris (30) putting on 51 runs together for the opening wicket.

## Spinning a web

But soon, Krunal (five for 25) ran through their batting line-up with a fifer to bowl West Indies-A out for below



Krunal Pandya. • FILE PHOTO

150 runs. Lower down the order, Keemo Paul (34) tried to put up some resistance but in the end it was a comfortable victory for the Indians.

The fourth and fifth unofficial ODIs between the two sides will be played at Coolidge on Friday and Sunday.

**The scores:** India-A 295 for six in 50 overs (Shubman Gill 77, Shreyas Iyer 47, Manish Pandey 100) bt West Indies-A 147 in 34.2 overs (Keemo Paul 34, Krunal Pandya five for 25).

## Roy earns Test call-up

Ireland game will help England prepare for the Ashes series

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LONDON

England has give Jason Roy his first Test call-up to face Ireland after the Surrey opener played a key role in his country's historic World Cup triumph, but pace bowler Mark Wood will be sidelined for between four and six weeks.

South Africa-born Roy scored 443 runs in the World Cup, but England's selectors were keen to get him red-ball practice ahead of the Ashes series which starts on August 1 at Edgbaston against Australia.

However, Durham's Wood, who has a left side strain, and Sussex paceman Jofra Archer, suffering from a similar same injury, were not selected for the Ireland clash. **The squad:** Joe Root (Capt.), Moeen Ali, Jimmy Anderson, Jonny Bairstow, Stuart Broad, Rory Burns, Sam Curran, Joe Denly, Lewis Gregory, Jack Leach, Jason Roy, Olly Stone and Chris Woakes.



Jason Roy. • DAVID ROGERS/GETTY IMAGES

## The Ashes schedule

**First Test:** Aug. 1 to 5, Edgbaston (Birmingham)  
**Second Test:** Aug. 14 to 18, Lord's (London)  
**Third Test:** Aug. 22 to 26, Headingley (Leeds)  
**Fourth Test:** Sept. 4 to 8, Old Trafford (Manchester)  
**Fifth Test:** Sept. 12 to 16, The Oval (London)  
*All matches start as 3.30 p.m. (IST)*

## Shastri praises Williamson



Ravi Shastri. • REUTERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

India head coach Ravi Shastri has saluted New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson for showing remarkable composure during his team's heart-breaking loss to England in the World Cup final, where the winner was decided by boundary count rule at Lord's.

"Your composure and dignity viewing the sequence of events was remarkable. Your dignified grace and silence 48 hours since is simply remarkable. We know you have one hand on that WC. You not just Kane. You Kane and Able (sic). God bless," Shastri wrote on his twitter handle.

## India gets relatively easy draw

Coach Stimac, however, terms it a very tough challenge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KUALA LUMPUR

The Indian football team was on Wednesday handed a comparatively easy draw for the 2022 World Cup second round Asian qualifiers, being clubbed with Qatar, Oman, Afghanistan and Bangladesh in Group E.

The 40 Asian countries were divided into eight groups of five teams each in the draw held at the Asian Football Confederation headquarters here. All the teams in each group will play home-and-away round-robin matches starting from September 5.

The eight group winners and four best runners-up will advance to the final round of 2022 World Cup qualifiers and the 2023 AFC Asian Cup Finals.

India head coach Igor Stimac termed the draw "a very tough challenge".

"It will be an enormous challenge for your young team. We have been drawn into a very tough group," Stimac said.

"We need to respect eve-

## India's schedule

**September 5:** vs Oman (H)  
**September 10:** vs Qatar (A)  
**October 15:** vs Bangladesh (H)  
**November 14:** vs Afghanistan (A)  
**November 19:** vs Oman (A)  
**March 26:** vs Qatar (H)  
**June 4:** vs Bangladesh (A)  
**June 9:** vs Afghanistan (H)  
(H): Home; (A): Away

ryone, not only teams from Pot 1, and Pot 2, but even teams from Pot 3, and Pot 4. The Intercontinental Cup showed to all how strange a game of football is. The two teams which are playing the final (Tajikistan, and DPR Korea) are the lowest FIFA ranked teams in the tournament. That shows that everyone can beat everyone," he said.

"I will teach the team to respect the opposition, but when we step on to the pitch, we will do everything to win. We are just at the beginning of our journey. I hope that it will be a long one," he added.



**Think-tank:** Coach Igor Stimac will bank on Sunil Chhetri to lead the way for India. • COURTESY AIFF

## Ewan on top in a frenetic finish

No change in the overall leading positions

## TOUR DE FRANCE

AGENCE FRANCE-FRANCE TOULOUSE

Australian Caleb Ewan picked up his first Tour de France stage win in a mass sprint at Toulouse on Wednesday as Frenchman Julian Alaphilippe kept the overall lead.

With defending champion Geraint Thomas and his Ineos teammate Egan Bernal also finishing in the pack, there was no change in the overall top three after a 167km run from Albi to Toulouse, marked by a fall that forced Nairo Quintana into a successful race to catch up.

Ewan timed his explosive burst to perfection, catching and overtaking Dutch sprinter Dylan Groenewegen right on the line after a long home straight. Elia Viviani was third on a finish designed for the pure sprinters.

## Finally...

"It took me half the Tour de France to get my win, but I got it in the end," said Ewan. "I let him go, caught his



**Pipped at the line:** Caleb Ewan, left, timed an explosive final push to perfection to edge out Dylan Groenewegen. • AFP

wheel and just had him on the line," explained, the stocky 25-year-old.

In his first season with the Lotto-Soudal team, Ewan has now won stages on all three Grand Tours after three wins on the Giro and one on the Vuelta.

It was a narrow win with the photo-finish, which takes thousands of shots a second from both sides at the finish line, showing a marginal victory.

Sprint points leader Peter

sagan of Slovakia kept his green jersey after finishing fourth behind Ewan. "I congratulate him, he's too fast for me on that kind of course, said the 30-year-old Sagan.

Colombian Bernal kept hold of the under-25's white jersey and said Ineos would remain calm in its quest for the yellow jersey.

"We won't be attacking just yet, but I feel good going into the mountains," said Bernal, on his second Tour.

## Inzamam steps down as chief selector

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KARACHI

Pakistan chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq stepped down as the chief selector on Wednesday, but was open to take up any new assignment from the Cricket Board. The chief selector told a press conference in Lahore that he would not seek an extension or renewal of his contract, which expires on July 31.

"After more than three years as chief selector, I have decided not to seek a renewal of my contract," the former skipper said. "With the ICC World Test Championship due to get underway in September, the ICC T20 World Cup in 2020 and the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup in 2023, I believe it is the right time for the Pakistan Cricket Board to appoint a new chief selector," Inzamam said.

# Koepka punts on inside knowledge to land him another Major

Says he has a big advantage as his caddie Elliott is a local and is quite familiar with the course

**THE OPEN**  
148<sup>TH</sup> ROYAL PORTRUSH

REUTERS  
PORTRUSH (NORTHERN IRELAND)

American Brooks Koepka believes he has a "big advantage" in this week's British Open in the form of his local-born caddie who grew up playing on Royal Portrush.

Such is four-time Major winner Koepka's belief that caddie Ricky Elliott can give him valuable "inside info" on the course that he even ignored a practice round invitation from Tiger Woods.

Elliott was a promising young amateur player, winning the Ulster Boys' and Ulster Youths' Championships but struggled when he turned professional and switched to caddying in the U.S. But he remains a well-known figure in Portrush and while he has spent the past six years travelling the world on Koepka's bag, his parents Pat and Martha still live in the town and his brother Peter is the owner of



Ready to fire: Brooks Koepka feels that caddie Ricky Elliott could well prove to be his trump card. • AP

a golf shop in nearby Coleraine.

**68-year gap**  
The Open is being held at Portrush for the second time – 68 years after the only oth-

er occasion the Northern Ireland venue held the Major.

That means few players have the intimate knowledge of the links course that Elliott possesses.

"Luckily my caddie has

played this golf course I can't tell you how many times, so that's a big advantage," Koepka told a news conference on Tuesday.

"Every hole I just step up on, (I say) 'You tell me what

to do, you've played it more than anybody'. So just let him figure it out."

Woods, who has never played Portrush, said he had tried to set up a practice round with Brooks but got

## The Open facts

**Most number of British Open titles:** Harry Vardon (6 times)

**Lowest winning score:** 264 (20-under par) - Henrik Stenson, at Royal Troon, 2016

**Lowest 18-hole score:** 62 - Branden Grace, third round, at Royal Birkdale, 2017

**Largest margin of victory:** 13 strokes - Old Tom Morris, 1862

**Most appearances:** 46 - Gary Player

**Most frequently used venue:** St. Andrews (29)

• The 2019 Open Championship will be held at Royal Portrush Golf Club in Northern Ireland.

• A total of 14 courses have hosted the Open, with 10 currently active

**2019 favourites:** Rory McIlroy, Dustin Johnson, Brooks Koepka, Jon Rahm, Tiger Woods

**Defending champion:** Francesco Molinari



— COMPILED BY ASHWIN ACHAL

nowhere.

"I texted Brooksie, congratulations on another great finish. What he's done in the last four Major championships has been just unbelievable. To be so consistent, so solid," Woods said.

"And I said, 'Hey, dude, do you mind if I tag along and play a practice round?' I've heard nothing," he said with a grin.

Koepka may have won four Majors in the last two years, including a second

straight PGA Championship at Bethpage Black in May, but he said the large crowds at practice have been more focused on his hired help.

"I probably hear more, 'Ricky! Hey, Ricky, whats going on?' than anything. I'm sure he'll have quite a bit of friends and family out. It will be a special week for him, for sure," he said.

**'Nothing cooler'**

It would be even more special if he happened to pick

up the bonus for Koepka's first Open.

"There would be nothing cooler. Put it this way, I don't think when he grew up that he ever thought there would be an Open Championship here. And to top it off, I don't think he ever thought he'd be a part of it," Koepka said.

"And to be caddying and to be able to win one here would be – he'd be a legend, wouldn't he? He already is. But it would be cool to see him win."

## McIlroy and a five-year drought

Irishman hopes the 'home' environment will do the trick

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
PORTRUSH

Rory McIlroy said on Wednesday that he was not feeling extra pressure this week as the British Open returns to Northern Ireland for the first time since 1951, and hoped that the home fans can help him end a five-year Major drought.

The World No. 3 is the bookmakers' favourite to lift the Claret Jug for the second time, on Sunday, despite not having claimed a Major title since the 2014 PGA Championship.

He said in the past he struggled being the focus of attention at the Irish Opens,



Rory McIlroy. • REUTERS

although he did win a tournament in 2016.

"I think it's probably easier this week because it's

such a big tournament," said McIlroy, who opens his title tilt at Royal Portrush on Thursday alongside US Open winner Gary Woodland and England's Paul Casey.

"You've got the best players in the world here, and I don't feel like I'm the centre of attention.

"I'm here to enjoy myself. Hopefully, it doesn't take another 68 years for the tournament to come back here. But at the same time, I mightn't get an opportunity to play an Open Championship here again. I'm really just treating it as a wonderful experience and one that I really want to enjoy.

## Tiger Woods defends his lack of competitive golf

I made a conscious effort to cut back on my schedule, he says ahead of the British Open

REUTERS  
PORTRUSH (NORTHERN IRELAND)

Tiger Woods has shrugged off concerns about his lack of golf heading into this week's British Open, saying he needs to carefully manage the remaining years of his career.

Woods has played only 10 competitive rounds since winning the Masters in April and his last tournament start was at the U.S. Open.

By the time the 43-year-old tees up on Thursday, he will have gone 32 days without playing competitively.

"Last year, I played too much. I played 17 events," Woods told a news conference on Tuesday. "And a lot of it was trying to qualify for certain events.

**Conscious effort**

"So this year I made a conscious effort to cut back on my schedule to make sure that I don't play too much. I want to play here as long as I possibly can. And you have to understand, if I play a lot, I won't be out here that long," the American former world number one said.

"So it's understanding how much I can play, prepping how much I do at home and getting ready. And that's the tricky part is trying to determine how much tourna-



Back on the greens: After a month without playing golf, Tiger Woods practises on the eve of the 148th Open.

• STUART FRANKLIN/GETTY IMAGES

ment play I need to get the feel for the shots and also understanding where my body is," Woods added.

"I'm trying to figure it out and trying to play enough golf to where that I can compete and win events."

Woods said his Masters victory took a lot out of him and he went on a two-week family vacation in Thailand after finishing tied for 21st at the U.S. Open last month. "It's not quite as sharp as I'd like to have it right now," he said. "My touch around the greens is right where I need to have it. I still need to get the ball – the shape of the golf ball a little bit better than I am right now, especially with the weather coming in and the winds are going to be changing.

"I'm going to have to be able to cut the ball, draw the ball, hit at different heights and move it all around."

## I am not finished yet, says Dutee Chand

She is yet to qualify for both this year's Worlds and 2020 Olympics

ATHLETICS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Ace sprinter Dutee Chand on Wednesday declared that she is not finished yet and the gold she won at the World University Games last week would spur her to achieve more despite the negative vibes from some quarters after her recent admission of same-sex relationship.

The 23-year-old Dutee became the first Indian woman track and field athlete to clinch a gold medal in the World Universiade after she won the 100m dash event in Napoli, Italy on July 9.

**Answer to critics**

Dutee said the gold was an answer to her critics, who had written her off after her admission of same-sex relationship.

"Many people have commented in bad languages. They said that Dutee is now focused on her personal life and her athletics career will be over. I wanted to let them know that I am not finished



Prime objective: Dutee Chand wants to keep her feet rooted and focus on the tougher tasks ahead. • PTI

yet," she said in an interview.

"Just like any other human being is concerned about his or her personal life, I also need to think about my personal life. That is why I came out and made everybody know about my relationship (with a girl of her village).

"But that does not mean that I will neglect my athletics career. I have done (admitted the same-sex relationship) what I thought was needed and now I am focusing on my athletics more than even before," she added.

After winning the yellow

metal at the World Universiade, she had also tweeted: "Pull me down, I will come back stronger!"

**Focus on tougher tasks**

Dutee also described her history-scripting gold in the World Universiade as the "highlight" of her career but wants to keep her feet rooted to focus on the "tougher" tasks of qualifying for the World Championships and Olympics.

She is yet to qualify for both the World Championships, to be held in Doha later this year, and next year's Olympics in Tokyo.

Dutee, who holds the 100m national record of 11.24 seconds, will have to be at her best if she is to qualify for the Sept. 27-Oct. 6 World Championships.

"The 100m gold was my first at World level, it is my career highlight so far. But it is a tough road ahead. My target is to qualify for the World Championships and then the Olympics," she said.

"I am overwhelmed by the congratulatory messages from so many people including such important people. But I am not going to be carried away by this (historic 100m gold at World Universiade) and I have to focus on the important events ahead," she said.

The World Championships qualification timing is 11.24, which is higher than the 2017 standard of 11.26, while the Tokyo Olympics 100m qualifying time is 11.15 which is a much tougher task. Dutee ran her season's best of 11.26 during the Asian Championships in Doha in April and she will have to at least repeat it in less than next two months' time.

## Round-robin format will help: Titans coach

Believes it will open up competition

PKL

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM  
HYDERABAD

Titans coach Gholamreza Mazandarani of Iran believes that the round-robin format of the Vivo Pro Kabaddi League this season should make the competition more open and will give equal chances for all teams.

"This is a format which gives a chance for team lagging behind in the early part of the league to come back strongly. However, we are confident of sustaining the momentum right from the word go and determined to win the title this time around," said the Iranian, who guided his national team to gold in the last Asian Games, on the sidelines of a promotional event here on Wednesday.

"We have a very strong balanced side with the likes of Siddharth Desai, Vishal Bharadwaj and having plugged some of the gaps during the preparations



Gholamreza Mazandarani.

should one of the strong contenders," feels the Titans coach who trained U Mumbai last season.

It is also informed that the feared right-corner defender, Aobzhar Mohajir Mighani, will lead Telugu Titans this season.

Telugu Titans team owner Srinivas Sreeramani hopes the sport will get a fillip as the modern, international and competitive face of kabaddi would be on show and which would benefit all stakeholders involved with the game.

## Ramkumar claws back from the brink

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU  
NEWPORT

Qualifier Ramkumar Ramanathan bounced back from a precarious situation to turn the tables on Sergiy Stakhovsky of Ukraine 5-7, 7-6(6), 6-2 to reach the pre-quarterfinals of the \$652,245 ATP tournament on Tuesday.

After losing the first set, the 134th-ranked Ramkumar was down a break in the second before turning the match on his head.

In doubles, Leander Paes, seeded third with Marcus Daniell of New Zealand, won 10-5 in the super tie-break against the Aussies, Max Purcell and Luke Saville, in the pre-quarterfinals.

**The results:**  
\$652,245 ATP tournament, Newport, US: Singles (first round): Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Sergiy Stakhovsky (Ukr) 5-7, 7-6(6), 6-2.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Marcus Daniell (Nzl) & Leander Paes bt Max Purcell & Luke Saville (Aus) 2-6, 6-2, [10-5].

\$135,400 Challenger, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan: Singles (second round): Matteo Viola (Ita) bt Sidharth Rawat 6-1, 2-6, 6-1; Arthur Rinderknech (Fra) bt Sasi Kumar Mukund 7-6(8), 7-6(5).

\$250,000 WTA, Bucharest, Romania: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Irina Bara & Patricia Maria Tig (Rou) bt Cristina Bucsa (Esp) & Prarthana Thombare 6-2, 7-5.

\$250,000 WTA, Lausanne, Switzerland: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Oksana Kalashnikova (Geo) & Ena Shibahara (Jpn) bt Rosalie Van Der Hoek (Ned) & Ankita Raina 3-6, 6-4, [10-6].

\$25,000 ITF men, Gandia, Spain: Singles (first round): Sheil Kotecha (Ken) bt Aryan Goveas 4-6, 7-5, 6-2.

\$25,000 ITF women, Qijing, China: Singles (first round): YeHua Zhou (Chn) bt Ashmitha Easwaramurthi 6-0, 6-1.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Shuyue Ma (Chn) & Alana Parbnaby (Aus) bt Ho Ching Wu (Hkg) & Ashmitha Easwaramurthi 6-4, 6-4.

\$25,000 ITF women, Palmela, Portugal: Singles (first round): Eva Ferrero Alvarez (Esp) bt Sathwika S5ama 6-2, 6-3.

## Anas and Hima run to gold; silver for Nirmal and Vismaya in a weak field



On top: Muhammed Anas had the measure of fellow-Indians in the 400m. • FILE PHOTO

TABOR GP

SPORTS BUREAU  
TABOR (CZECH REPUBLIC)

It was virtually an all-India race as National record holder Muhammed Anas won the men's 400m gold in 45.40s at the Tabor Grand Prix here on Wednesday.

There were three Indians behind him with Nirmal Noah Tom clocking a season-best 45.59s for the silver while K.S. Jeevan and M.P. Jabir took the next two spots.

Britain's Grant Plenderleith was way behind, in

47.51s for the fifth place.

Hima Das (23.25s) and V.K. Vismaya (23.43) clocked their season best as they took the top two spots in the women's 200m.

The field in both the races was such a weak one that it would have been a surprise if the Indians had not won.

**Season-best for Mallick**  
Meanwhile in Finland, National record holder Amiya Kumar Mallick won the men's 100m bronze clocking a season-best 10.55s in the Lapinlahti Grand Prix.

It was the first time Mallick, whose national record 10.26s came in 2016, was going below 11s this year. Malaysian Jonathan Nyepa (10.48s) and Rechmal Miller (10.52) finished ahead of the Indian.

**The results (Indians only):**  
At Tabor: Men's 400m: 1. Muhammed Anas (45.40s), 2. Nirmal Noah Tom (45.59), 3. K.S. Jeevan (46.60), 4. M.P. Jabir (47.16).

Women's 400m: 1. Hima Das (23.25s), 2. V.K. Vismaya (23.43).

At Lapinlahti, Finland: Men's 100m: 3. Amiya Kumar Mallick (10.55s).



Unstoppable: Hima Das again struck it rich by claiming the 200m. • FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

## Atrachali is U Mumba skipper

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

U Mumba, on Wednesday, announced Iranian player Fazel Atrachali as its skipper for Season-7. The franchise also named Sandeep Narwal as the vice-captain.

"I am quite motivated to be selected to lead the U Mumba team. I want to lead the team to victory," Atrachali was quoted as saying in a media release.

TV PICKS

**Indonesia Open:** Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 a.m.  
**The Open golf:** DSPORT, 3.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



**Portrush set for record British Open attendance**

**PORTRUSH**  
The 148th British Open at Royal Portrush is set to become the second-highest attended tournament in history with 237,750 spectators expected across the week, the organisers said on Wednesday. The first Open to be held in Northern Ireland since 1951 will be the best-attended outside of St. Andrews. Despite bracing conditions on Wednesday with strong winds and driving rain, the locals continued to head to the course to watch the final practice day. AFP



**Messi is the face of soccer: Griezmann**

**BARCELONA**  
Barcelona's last signing Antoine Griezmann said his new teammate Lionel Messi is the best footballer in the world and the face of the sport. "For me, he (Messi) is the number one, like LeBron (James) in basketball. They're the ideal," the French international forward said. "Messi is the face of soccer because he has something different that others don't have. We can only see (such talent) every 30 years or so."



**Steve Bruce named Newcastle head coach**

**NEWCASTLE**  
Newcastle United announced on Wednesday that Steve Bruce has been appointed head coach following the departure of Rafael Benitez from the Premier League club. "Newcastle United can now announce that Steve Bruce has been appointed as the club's new head coach," the club said on its website, adding that the former Manchester United player had signed an initial three-year contract. AFP

**Rithvik and Divya triumph**

**CHESS**

**SPORTS BUREAU TIRUCHENGODE**

IM R. Raja Rithvik (Telangana) and WIM Divya Deshmukh (Maharashtra) remained unbeaten throughout and emerged the champions of the National sub-junior (under-15) chess championship here on Wednesday.

**Important results (final round, TN unless specified):**

**Open:** Ajay Karthikeyan 7.5 lost to R. Raja Rithvik (TS) 9.5; Samant Aditya (Mah) 8 lost to Kushagra Mohan (TS) 9; Praloy Sahoo (WB) 7.5 lost to S. Rohith Krishna 8.5; V. Pranav 8.5 bt Sanket Chakravarty (WB) 7.5; Aaryan Varshney (Del) 8.5 bt L. Srihari (Pud) 7.5; Nikhil Magizhnan 7.5 lost to Anadkat Kartavya (Guj) 8.5; M. Pranesh 7.5 drew with V. V. Rindhiya 7 lost to M. Sai Divya (AP) 8; M.K. Poorna Sri 7.5 drew with Arushi Kotwal (J&K) 7.5; Bhagyashree Patil (Mah) 7.5 drew with P. Tarunika 7.5; Nayani-kaa Muralidharan 8 bt Chin-muralidharan (AP) 6.5; C. Tina 7 lost to Dhyana Patel (Guj) 7.5; V. Meenatchi Rajam 7 drew with Chopdekar Gunjal (Goa) 7; K.M. Shrija 7.5 bt Tanvi Vasudev Hadkonkar (Goa) 6.5.

**Girls:** Jain Nityata (MP) 7.5 lost to Divya Deshmukh (Mah) 9.5; Bristy Mukherjee (WB) 8 drew with L. Jyothsna 8.5; Divyabharathi Masanam 7 lost to Mrudul Dehankar (Mah) 9; V. Rindhiya 7 lost to M. Sai Divya (AP) 8; M.K. Poorna Sri 7.5 drew with Arushi Kotwal (J&K) 7.5; Bhagyashree Patil (Mah) 7.5 drew with P. Tarunika 7.5; Nayani-kaa Muralidharan 8 bt Chin-muralidharan (AP) 6.5; C. Tina 7 lost to Dhyana Patel (Guj) 7.5; V. Meenatchi Rajam 7 drew with Chopdekar Gunjal (Goa) 7; K.M. Shrija 7.5 bt Tanvi Vasudev Hadkonkar (Goa) 6.5.

**Dominant show by Indians**

Men and women's teams register thumping wins to top their groups

**C'WEALTH TT**

**AMOL KARHADKAR CUTTACK**

India's men and women registered thumping wins in the preliminary stage to top their respective groups and qualify for the Super Eights in style on the opening day of the 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship.

So dominant were the Indian teams that in 12 matches that the men and women featured over four rubbers in all, the home team paddlers dropped just two games.

**Short work**

Despite playing in a tricky group along with Scotland and the dangerous Singapore, A. Sharath Kamal's troupe made short work of both the teams without much fuss. Only Sharath lost the opening game against Singapore's Zheyu Clarence Chew but made a strong comeback to leave his opponent in awe.

The women, on the other hand, had an easy draw in the first stage. Despite resting Madhurika Patkar in both the ties and key paddler Manika Batra in the second, the women hardly broke any sweat while thrashing Sri Lanka and South Africa with an identical margin of 3-0. Ayhika Mukherjee lost the only game for the Indian women against Sri Lanka's Chama-



**Comeback win:** Sharath Kamal rallied well after losing the first game to douse the challenge of Singapore's Zheyu Clarence Chew. •BISWARANJAN ROUT

mathsara Fernando.

**More players arrive**

Meanwhile, TTFI secretary-general M.P. Singh confirmed that five paddlers from Uganda and three from Guyana will arrive here latest by Friday and participate in the individual events. Both had to withdraw from the team championship since they didn't get the requisite approval from their respective governments.

It will result in the number of participating countries in the event increasing

to 14. "More the merrier," he said.

**Select results: Team championship (preliminary stage):**  
**Women: Group B: India bt Sri Lanka 3-0** (Manika Batra bt Bimandi Bandara 11-5, 11-4, 11-5; Archana Kamath bt Ishara Madurangi 11-5, 11-5, 12-10; Ayhika Mukherjee bt Chamathsara Fernando 11-3, 11-3, 8-11, 11-4).  
**India bt South Africa 3-0** (Archana Kamath bt Danisha Patel 11-6, 11-2, 11-2; Madhurika Patkar bt Palesa Mtshoelibe 11-2, 11-5, 11-3; Sutirtha Mukherjee bt Simeen Mookrey 11-1, 11-4, 11-4).

**Sri Lanka bt South Africa 3-0.**

**Men: Group B: India bt Scotland 3-0** (G. Sathyan bt Niall Cameron 11-4, 11-7, 11-8; A. Sharath Kamal bt Colin Dalgleish 11-2, 11-6, 11-9; Harmeet Desai bt Dylan Curry 11-2, 11-6, 11-1).

**India bt Singapore 3-0** (G. Sathyan bt Yu En Koen Pang 11-7, 11-9, 11-8; A. Sharath Kamal bt Zheyu Clarence Chew 8-11, 11-5, 11-4, 11-9; Harmeet Desai bt Shao Han Josh 11-4, 11-7, 11-6).

**Qualifiers for Super Eights:**  
**Women: Group A:** Singapore, Wales; **Group B:** India, Sri Lanka; **Group C:** Australia, Malaysia; **Group D:** England, Nigeria.

**Trying to maintain balance between career and passion**

Biokineticist Danisha Patel has won five successive national table tennis titles in South Africa

**AMOL KARHADKAR CUTTACK**

Despite being a sporting nation, table tennis is far from popular in South Africa. No wonder then that the rainbow nation's top female paddler is known in her locality in suburban Johannesburg more for her highly specialised profession as a biokineticist than her five successive national championship titles.

But Danisha Patel has no qualms about it.

"Table tennis is way behind in terms of popularity and support in comparison with sports like soccer, rugby and cricket. Things are changing at a slow pace but unfortunately it's still considered a recreational activity more than a competitive sport," reveals the 26-year-old southpaw.

**Recognised domain**

Biokinetics may still be in its nascent stages in terms of awareness in India, but Danisha reveals it is a recognised domain in South Africa.

"There is a lot of awareness about injury management and rehab, which is where biokinetics comes in, so my day is spent in dealing with clients who have suffered general and sports in-



**Love for the sport:** Danisha Patel says table tennis is considered a recreational activity more than a competitive sport in South Africa. •BISWARANJAN ROUT

juries," she says.

Having been working as a professional for five years, Danisha is trying to maintain balance between career and passion. But it's her career option, she says, that helps her emotivated towards pursuing her passion.

"I cannot train much due to my work commitments but I love the sport so much that I manage to train whenever I can. More importantly, since I spend most of the day in the gym, it helps me remain match-fit."

**Relatives in Gujarat**

A member of the vast Indian expat community in South Africa, Danisha has relatives

in Navsari district in Gujarat. While she spent a few days in her ancestral place after competing in the Surat edition of the Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship in 2015, this time around, she is planning to spend four days in Pune along with her childhood friend.

"I like exploring India. I have been to south, and spent a good vacation on the house boats in Kerala. Now I am looking forward to exploring the western part and hopefully I can bump into one of the Bollywood stars, especially my favourite Sidharth Malhotra," she concludes with a wink.

**Amazing Response for feature**

**HYDERABAD:** Amazing Response, who has been well-tuned, is expected to score in the Telangana Cup (1,200m), the main event of the opening day's races to be held here on Thursday (July 18).

**1. WELCOME PLATE (DIV. I),** (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms), 1:30 p.m.: 1. Bar Et Law (6) Koushik 56, 2. Friday Fury (2) Nakhat Singh 56, 3. Linewiler (8) Umesh 56, 4. Ruletheworld (5) Suraj Narredu 56, 5. Aristryy (3) R.N. Darshan 54.5, 6. Giethorn (1) Kiran Naidu 54.5, 7. Kintsugi (4) Kuldeep Singh 54.5, 8. Mahashakti (9) Trevor 54.5 and 9. Star Of Tiara (7) Kunal Bande 54.5.

**1. RULETHEWORLD,** 2. LINEWILER, 3. GIETHORN

**2. RAMAPPA PLATE (1,200m),** 4-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 2:00: 1. Dippy Dip (7) Ajeeth Kumar 60, 2. Agilis (6) Surya Prakash 59.5, 3. Blazing Speed (4) Santosh Raj 59.5, 4. Smarty (2) S.G. Prasad 59, 5. Run Runner (5) Afroz Khan 58.5, 6. Cowboys Delight (9) Jitender Singh 58, 7. Story Teller (1) Nakhat Singh 58, 8. Escalating Striker (8) Umesh 56 and 9. Victoria (3) G. Nareesh 53.

**1. COWBOYS DELIGHT,** 2. STORY TELLER, 3. SMARTY

**3. WELCOME PLATE (DIV. II),** (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms), 2:30: 1. Be-dazzled (5) Deepak Singh 56, 2. Bob Campbell (7) Akshay Kumar 56, 3. Explosive (2) R. Ajinkya 56, 4. Glendane (3) Umesh 56, 5. Mind Reader (6) Nakhat Singh 56, 6. Star Envoiy (1) Kiran Naidu 56, 7. Yours Forever (4) Surya Prakash 56 and 8. Original Temptress (8) S.G. Prasad 54.5.

**1. STAR ENVOY,** 2. YOURS FOREVER, 3. BOB CAMPBELL

**4. S.S. CARDMASTER MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. II),** (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3:05: 1. Rajineet (5) Deep Shanker 60, 2. Star Gazer (7) C.P. Bopanna 60, 3. Blazer (3) Suraj Narredu 58, 4. Treasure Striker (8) Kunal Bunde 58, 5. Royal Green (6) Gaurav Singh 56, 6. Solar Heights (1) Rafique Sk. 55, 7. Platts Tour (4) Ashhad Asbar 54.5, 8. Roll Call (10) G. Nareesh 54 and 10. Et Voicy (2) Ajeeth Kumar 51.5.

**1. ROLL CALL,** 2. BLAZER, 3. ROYAL GREEN

**5. GOLDEN DAGGER PLATE** (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II), 3:35: 1. Ambitious Approach (6) Koushik 62, 2. Exclusiveworthwind (5) Akshay Kumar 62, 3. Classic Remark (1) Gaurav Singh 57, 4. Isabella (10) Suraj Narredu 55, 5. Magical Skill (2) C.P. Bopanna 54, 6. Meritocracy (4) B.R. Kumar 54, 7. Scooby Dooby Doo (8) Ajit Singh 54, 8. Aragonda Princess (9) Gopal Singh 53.5, 9. Southern Crown (3) Harinder Singh 52 and 10. Ashka Ashka Ashka (7) Abhay Singh 50.

**1. EXCLUSIVENORTHWIND,** 2. ISABELLA, 3. CLASSIC REMARK

**6. TELANGANA CUP (1,200m),** 3-y-o & over, rated 75 & above (Cat. I), 4:05: 1. Like Wise (1) Nakhat Singh 60.5, 2. Prospero (2) Gaurav Singh 56.5, 3. That's My Class (4) A.A. Vikrant 54.5, 4. Phenomenal Cruise (5) B. Nikhil 53.5, 5. Amazing Response (7) Akshay Kumar 53, 6. Chase Your Dreams (6) Ashhad Asbar 51.5 and 7. Star-

light (3) P. Sai Kumar 50.

**1. AMAZING RESPONSE,** 2. THAT'S MY CLASS, 3. CHASE YOUR DREAMS

**7. S.S. CARDMASTER MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. I),** (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4:35: 1. Super Dart (7) Deep Shanker 62, 2. Sea Castle (10) Ajeeth Kumar 59, 3. Asteria (2) Umesh 58.5, 4. Hailstorm (8) Santosh Raj 58.5, 5. Pontius Pilate (3) Trevor 56.5, 6. Shandaar (6) Ajit Singh 53.5, 7. N R I Vision (ex: Excellent Hope) (9) Abhay Singh 53.5, 8. News O' Star (1) R.N. Darshan 53.5, 9. Flying Spaghetti (11) Kuldeep Singh 53, 10. Rapid Fire (5) Akshay Kumar 53 and 11. Guiding Force (4) N. Rawal 50.

**1. PONTIUS PILATE,** 2. SUPER DART, 3. RAPID FIRE

**8. LOOK OF EAGLES PLATE** (1,000m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 5:05: 1. Evon Von Brando (2) Surya Prakash 62, 2. Max (10) Umesh 62, 3. Aon Aon (6) Koushik 61, 4. Celceritas (3) Kiran Naidu 60.5, 5. Private Empire (1) S.G. Prasad 60.5, 6. Vijaysingham (11) Suraj Narredu 60.5, 7. Satin Symphony (7) Ashhad Asbar 60, 8. Curcumin (8) Deepak Singh 56.5, 9. London Bridge (9) Santosh Raj 56.5, 10. Ajmal Birju (12) Gopal Singh 54.5, 11. Hurricane (4) Abhay Singh 52.5 and 12. Stormy (5) Afroz Khan 52.5.

**1. VIJAYSINGHAM,** 2. CELERTAS, 3. PRIVATE EMPIRE

Day's best: VIJAYSINGHAM Double: RULETHEWORLD - ROLL CALL Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8; Mini Jkt: 5, 6, 7 & 8; Tr (I): 1, 2 & 3; (II): 3, 4 & 5; (III): 6, 7 & 8; Tla: all races.

**Deepika Kumari bags silver**

**ARCHERY**

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA TOKYO**

India's top-ranked woman archer Deepika Kumari Wednesday clinched a silver medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics test event after losing to 18-year-old Korean An San in straight sets here.

Ranked fourth in the qualification round, Deepika found the going tough against the second seed, who produced fine shooting including a flawless third set to clinch the match 6-0 in her favour.

A double gold medallist at the recently-concluded fourth stage of the World Cup in Berlin, San took the first set narrowly when she pipped the Indian by one point.

The Korean then won the second set 29-25, before three perfect 10s won her the gold.

The Indian women's team is yet to qualify for the next year's Olympics but Deepika said the exposure will help.

This was Deepika's first



**Creditable show:** Deepika found the going tough against the second seed and managed a silver. •FILE PHOTO: BISWARANJAN ROUT

individual final in a world event since she won a gold at the third stage of the World Cup in Salt Lake City in June, 2018.

The silver medal for Deepika will definitely boost the sagging morale of Indian women's archery contingent, who missed the Olympic quota places for Tokyo Games.

In the semifinal, she thrashed China's eighth seed Zheng Yichai 6-0, but Deepika was at her best in the quarterfinal against Italy's Tatiana Andreoli as she

bounce back from a 0-4 deficit to win 6-5 in the tiebreaker.

Earlier, Deepika defeated Lee Shuk Kwan of Hong Kong (6-0) in the first round, before ousting Anastasia Pavlova (6-4) of Ukraine and Sonoda Waka of Japan (6-0).

**Bombayala loses**

Laishram Bombayala Devi lost in the second round to Malaysia's Nur Aliya Gha-par 5-6 in a thrilling tiebreaker that was decided on who shot nearest to the bull's eye.

**Subhankar and Rituparna advance**

**RUSSIA OPEN**

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA VLADIVOSTOK**

Five Indians, including top seed Subhankar Dey and Rituparna Das advanced to the pre-quarterfinals of their respective singles competition at the Russian Open BWF Tour Super 100 tournament on Wednesday.

Subhankar defeated England's Hin Shun Wong 21-10 21-6, Siril Verma saw off local shuttler Sergey Sirant 21-15 12-21 21-11 and Rahul Yadav Chittaboina downed another Russian Anton Ivanov 21-5, 21-9.

In women's singles, Rituparna beat Singapore's Chua Hui Zhen Grace 21-12, 21-8 while Vrushali Gumma-d defeated Russia's Alina Kurguzova 21-8 21-9.

Third seed Thuy Linh Nguyen of Vietnam defeated Riya Mookerjee 21-11, 21-19 while Lakshya Sen gave a walkover to Miha Ivanic of Slovenia.

**A red and gold farewell for Bhaichung Bhutia likely**

The former India captain has expressed a desire for ceremonial send-off

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA**

Former India captain Bhaichung Bhutia is likely to end his club career in East Bengal colours eight years after retiring from international football.

"Bhutia has announced his retirement from international football but not from club football. In the centenary year of East Bengal, he has expressed his desire to play for five minutes and announce his retirement from club football," said EB executive committee member Debabrata Sarkar at a press

conference, to announce a series of programmes in the run-up to the club's centenary celebrations next year, here on Wednesday.

Sarkar, however, added that the final call of fielding Bhutia, for the ceremonial farewell, would be taken by EB coach Alejandro Menendez.

"The coach will decide when and where Bhaichung can play," said Sarkar in the presence of Bhutia.

Bhutia last donned the India colours in the AFC Asian Cup in Qatar in 2011. He could not achieve his goal of

retiring from club football in EB colours in 2015 due to a knee injury.

**Thanking East Bengal**

Thanking EB for spotting him early, Bhutia - who would be honoured with 'Identifying and Nurturing the Icon' award - said, "I came here from Sikkim as a 17-year-old and I cried when I left behind my family. But I got a bigger family here and never became homesick...Other than Mohun Bagan, no other club has made so much contribution to Indian football."

Bhutia said EB's Federation Cup semifinal win (in which he scored a hat-trick) over Mohun Bagan in 1997 and the overwhelming reception on landing here after winning the ASEAN Cup in Indonesia in 2003 were two unforgettable moments of his career for the club.

Two other former India captains, Manoranjan Bhattacharya and Bhaskar Ganguly, also expressed their gratitude to the club.

"My parents brought me to this world, but East Bengal gave me identity," said Bhattacharya.

Ganguly said, "I became the India captain because of my association with East Bengal."

**Awards**

Both will be honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award.

Iconic footballer P.K. Banerjee will be conferred the 'Coach of coaches' award.

Laldanmawia Ralte will get 'Best Footballer of the Year' award.

The highest honour, Bharat Gaurav Award, will be conferred on legendary cricket captain Kapil Dev.

**Durand Cup football is back — bigger and better!**

Oldest tournament in Asia will feature teams from ISL, I-League

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA**

Durand Cup, the oldest football tournament in Asia, is being revived in a big way as teams from the ISL and I-League will compete for the coveted trophy.

The tournament, which witnessed its last edition in New Delhi three years ago, got a lease of life after the West Bengal government ex-

tended its support to the three services - Army, Navy and Air Force - which jointly organise the event.

The 129th edition will have five teams from the ISL - ATK, Jamshedpur FC, FC Goa, Chennaiyin FC and Bengaluru FC - and six from the I-League - defending champion Chennai City FC, East Bengal, Mohun Bagan, Gokulam Kerala FC, Real

Kashmir FC and the newly promoted TRAU FC of Manipur.

**Four Services teams**

The four Services teams - Army Red, Army Green, Indian Air Force and Indian Navy - and another popular Kolkata outfit, Mohammedan Sporting (II Division I-League), complete the line-up.

With the ISL teams yet to

start their pre-season training, the first-team players are likely to stay away.

The tournament, which begins on August 2, will be held on a league-cum-knockout format, with the 16 teams divided into four groups and the group winners progressing to the semifinals.

The semifinals and final will be held on August 20 and 24.

**Joy for Anish Bhanwala**

**JUNIOR WC**

**SPORTS BUREAU SUHL (GERMANY)**

Anish Bhanwala overwhelmed Egor Ismakov of Russia 29-23 to clinch 25-metre rapid fire pistol gold in the Junior World Cup on Wednesday. Bhanwala had earlier topped qualification with 584.

However, the Indian team could not clinch a medal, as the third member Harshwardhan Yadav had pro-

blems in the 4-second series in the second stage. The team, with Adarsh Singh (574) as the second member, missed gold by five points and was fourth.

The second string Indian team of Agneya Kaushik, Rajkanwar Sandhu and Udhayveer Sidhu won bronze, one point ahead of the main team. India stayed on top of the table with eight gold, eight silver and four bronze medals while China was in second place with six gold,

four silver and five bronze.

**The results: Junior men: 25m rapid fire pistol:** 1. Anish Bhanwala 29 (584); 2. Egor Ismakov (Ger) 23 (575); 3. Florian Peter (Ger) 19 (580); 4. Adarsh Singh 17 (574); 6. Agneya Kaushik 9 (575); 11. Rajkanwar Singh Sandhu 571; 26. Udhayveer Sidhu 563; 35. Harshwardhan Yadav 550. **Team:** 1. Germany 1713; 2. China 1710; 3. India-A (Agneya Kaushik, Rajkanwar Singh Sandhu, Udhayveer Sidhu) 1709; 4. India (Anish Bhanwala, Adarsh Singh, Harshwardhan Yadav) 1708.