

India needs a win to seal semifinal spot

Bangladesh yearns for a victory to keep its almost improbable last-four hopes alive

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
BIRMINGHAM

Virat Kohli's men had a smooth World Cup campaign until they found their first hurdle in England. In a game that the host dominated at Edgbaston here on Sunday, India stumbled. But it is time to move on as Tuesday's match against Bangladesh awaits the Men in Blue.

The neighbours will clash on the same pitch that yielded a weekend run-fest of 643, a number further embellished by centuries from Jonny Bairstow and Rohit Sharma. The venue with its short square boundaries can



High hopes: Hardik Pandya has the ability to swing games with his explosive batting. • AP

punish bowlers when they err in their radars and the rival attacks will be wary of muscular batting like the kind England displayed.

Despite an acutely slow start and a relative crawl in the slog against Eoin Morgan's men, India has a strong set of willow-wielders. Rohit and Kohli are in sublime form while K.L. Rahul suffered his lone failure during Sunday's joust. The middle-order of Rishabh Pant, Hardik Pandya, M.S. Dhoni and Kedar Jadhav needs to maximise the fine work from the men atop the batting tree.

Early days for Pant

The quartet have had their stints in the middle but in all the runs they collectively made ranging from veteran Dhoni to rookie Pant, who just played a lone contest, it is obvious that the trait of explosive batting largely vests with Pandya. May be Pant could move into that zone but these are still early days for him in cricket's showpiece event.

The youngster was a bundle of nerves in his initial stint against England, sprinting for non-existent runs, diving to save himself and then emerging dishevelled

from the turf. The left-hander showed he can hold his own on the global stage. His ability was never in doubt but Pant needs to reiterate

The Indian attack had a lukewarm show in the skirmish involving England though Mohammed Shami scalped five and Jasprit Bum-

rah had a splendid economy rate of 4.40. However, spinners Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav went for 160 runs in their combined 20 overs. Kohli might be tempted to drop one among them and either field Bhuvneshwar Kumar or Ravindra Jadeja. Both have adequate batting credentials and that is deemed a bonus as the current Indian tail is the kind that lizards shed at the first

hint of trouble. Batting coach Sanjay Bangar conceded that the bottom-half's fragility has constricted the way the central-core performs. Still, for all these minor quibbles, India will step in as the favourite against Mashrafe Mortaza's men, who in a classic case of sibling rivalry, would love to stun their big brother. They have done that in the past, be it the 2007 World Cup in the West Indies

Where they stand

Team	Mat	Won	Lost	NR	PTS	NRR
Australia (Q)	8	7	1	0	14	1.000
India	7	5	1	1	11	0.854
New Zealand	8	5	2	1	11	0.572
England	8	5	3	0	10	1.000
Pakistan	8	4	3	1	9	-0.792
Sri Lanka (E)	8	3	3	2	8	-0.934
Bangladesh	7	3	3	1	7	-0.133
South Africa (E)	8	2	5	1	5	-0.080
West Indies (E)	8	1	6	1	3	-0.335
Afghanistan (E)	8	0	8	0	0	-1.418

*till the Sri Lanka-West Indies match on July 1; Q: Qualified E: Eliminated

THE FACE-OFF					
India vs Bangladesh					
EDGBASTON					
HEAD-TO-HEAD					
	MATCHES	IND	BAN	TIED	NR
Overall	35	29	5	0	1
World Cup	3	2	1	0	0

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & SELECT 1 (SD & HD), 3 P.M.

that he has the temperament to prosper when the fires rage around him.

rah had a splendid economy rate of 4.40. However, spinners Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav went for 160 runs in their combined 20 overs. Kohli might be tempted to drop one among them and either field Bhuvneshwar Kumar or Ravindra Jadeja. Both have adequate batting credentials and that is deemed a bonus as the current Indian tail is the kind that lizards shed at the first

'We are happy with Dhoni's intent'

Bangar says the veteran has delivered in five out of the seven games

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BIRMINGHAM

The Men in Blue's final stretch in the World Cup's league phase has raised queries about their middle-order's lack of punch when it comes to hastening the run-rate.

Ahead of Tuesday's game against Bangladesh, batting coach Sanjay Bangar said that the playing eleven's composition is flexible keeping in mind the nature of the opponent and the surface on offer. Excerpts.

The neighbour's challenge: We are playing (Bangladesh) on the same track (that was used against England) and we know the wicket and the dimensions well. We also have to assess from the bowling perspective on how to improve. In the last six to seven overs, we gave plenty of runs, whether that's an area where the game slipped, we need to look. We will assess the things that went wrong and correct those.

Rishabh Pant's role: The team management felt the absence of a left-hander after Shikhar (Dhawan) got injured. It was a play to use the right-left combination in the middle overs to upset England's bowling plans. Because of that Adil Rashid couldn't bowl the number of overs he would have usually bowled.



On the job: India's batting coach Sanjay Bangar gives valuable tips to Kedar Jadhav. • AP

Sluggish climax: I don't think so, because if you look at the way England bowled towards the end, the (ground) dimensions were used well. It created difficult angles for our batters to hit, especially with the type of balls they were bowling – slower bouncers, into the wicket deliveries and slower balls. In last few overs, the difference between runs required and balls left were too much. Had we tried bigger shots earlier, we might have ended a few runs short. It also helps the net run-rate a bit with the extra runs.

Spinners' nightmare: It was one of their off-days. But they have been doing really well for us and we need to continue to back them. In the next few games, they will

have a crucial role. **Dhoni the finisher:** Five out of seven games he has done the job. Against South Africa he stitched a partnership with Rohit (Sharma). After that he did what was required of him against Australia. In Manchester, on a difficult track (against the West Indies) he got a vital 56. Here also he was striking the ball well (against England). I am surprised that this question comes up but we are happy with his intent.

Extra seamer: We are open to all combinations where three seamers can play with Hardik (Pandya). We are also looking at (Ravindra) Jadeja coming in. Bhuvneshwar (Kumar) is also available for selection and everybody is in the mix.

It's not going to be easy, says Mortaza

'Shakib has been our best performer'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BIRMINGHAM

Mashrafe Mortaza harbours hopes of a semifinal berth for his men. The Bangladesh captain is aware that the circumstances are difficult especially with a strong rival like India lined up for Tuesday's World Cup game but is keen that his team plays hard. Mortaza spoke to reporters at Edgbaston here on Monday afternoon. Excerpts.

The India game: If we can manage to win, that will be great. India is a very strong side and it's not going to be easy but we have to play hard.

Good thing is that we are still in the tournament, may

be, may be not, but let's see. **Countering spin:** If we look at their stats in last few years, both Indian spinners have done well. We just can't think that what England did (hammering the spinners), we will do the same and get success. We will stick to our plans and our batting has been good through the tournament. We will play it our way. **Shakib's brilliance:** Shakib (Al Hasan) has been doing whatever he can do, be it batting, fielding or bowling. He has been our best performer in this World Cup. We still have two matches left and hopefully he will keep doing whatever he has done so far and finish on a good note.



Vital cog: Bangladesh will hope Shakib Al Hasan's form with both bat and ball continues in the game against India. • AP

Vijay Shankar has to return home

Injures toe in the nets; ICC okays team management's plea for Mayank as replacement

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
BIRMINGHAM

India's list of the walking wounded got one more addition as allrounder Vijay Shankar was ruled out of the World Cup, following a toe injury he suffered in the lead-up to the England game at Edgbaston on Sunday.

On Monday morning, Indian team media manager Moulin Parikh texted a message to cricket correspondents, which stated the nature of the wound and added that the ICC's permission was sought to seek Mayank Agarwal as replacement. Later in the afternoon, cricket's governing body approved India's request.

Fracture

Parikh wrote: "Vijay Shankar sustained a non-displaced fracture of the left big toe, which will require a minimum of three weeks to heal. The injury rules him out of the ongoing World Cup. The Indian team management has requested the ICC to consider Mayank Agarwal as his replacement."

There was much speculation at the toss on Sunday when Virat Kohli revealed that Rishabh Pant would play and mentioned about Shankar having a toe niggle. There was more clarity after the match concluded with England's triumph as Rohit Sharma mentioned that the Tamil Nadu player was struck on his toes by Jasprit Bumrah at practice.

Incidentally, Shankar had sustained a similar injury earlier in the tournament but without the fracture, and the perpetrator was Bumrah. However, the niggle did not affect Shankar, who played the contests fea-



Vijay Shankar. • AFP



Mayank Agarwal. • FILE PHOTO

What you see him bowling in the match, he bowls exactly like that to us in the nets. He doesn't care who is standing in front of him.

— KOHLI ON BUMRAH

turing Pakistan, Afghanistan and the West Indies, and against whom he scored 15 n.o., 29 and 14 respectively. He also got a crucial two for 22 in the face-off involving Pakistan at Manchester's Old Trafford.

Shankar had stepped into the playing eleven after a left-thumb fracture sidelined Shikhar Dhawan. Subsequently the opener was ruled out and Pant was flown in. Now it is Shankar's turn to be present in the orthopaedician's consulting room.

Bumrah is known to test batsmen at the nets and Kohli had said: "What you see him bowling in the match, he bowls exactly like that to us in the nets. He doesn't care who is standing in front of him. He will bounce, he will try to get people bowled, he will york with the

new ball and that's the reason for his consistency. In those 15 minutes you have to make sure that you are on top of your game otherwise there can be trouble."

Back then, the spearhead too was asked about his methods at training and Bumrah replied: "We don't obviously want to injure the batsman. But when we play in the nets, nobody tells the batsman not to hit. He hits you as well. It's unfortunate that he got hit, but he is okay."

Not so lucky

Looks like, the second time around, Shankar wasn't so lucky. He will get on the return flight to Chennai while Karnataka player Agarwal could become a back-up opener or whatever slot the team-management pencils him in.

For now K.L. Rahul will partner Rohit atop the batting tree and Pant is bound to get more fixtures at number four. But there is a perplexing issue as Ambati Rayudu, who was in the original list of standbys, continues to be overlooked by the think-tank.

Dhoni is being wasted at No. 5

Mohammed Shami picked his first five-wicket haul in ODIs in the match against England, but he conceded quite a few runs at the death. He has been exceptional with the new ball and has got the old one to reverse.

But I would like to see him use more variations while operating in the end overs. He's bowling fast and that's the addition India would love. An excellent seam position makes it hard to score runs off him with the new ball.

There's talk about India lacking punch in the middle-order. To be honest, I feel



Mike Hesson
SELECT DUGOUT CORNER

M.S. Dhoni is being wasted at No. 5. He's at that stage of his career where instead of playing him at the position where he used to be exceptional at one point, he should be pushed to No. 4 where he can

bide time before upping the ante.

Rahul has to step up Mayank Agarwal will replace Vijay Shankar who has been ruled out with a toe injury, but I don't see him playing against Bangladesh. India will stick to the same line-up.

I would like K.L. Rahul to take some initiative initially, just to take the pressure off Rohit Sharma during the PowerPlay. Rahul certainly has got the ability.

(Tune in to Select Dugout on Star Sports Select 1 on India matchdays and Sundays)

Lanka beats WI in high-scoring game

SHAYAN ACHARYA
CHESTER-LE-STREET

Two youngsters, two centuries and a close finish! That's how the inconsequential league fixture panned out at the picturesque Riverside on Monday, with Sri Lanka's 21-year-old Avishka Fernando and West Indies' 23-year-old Nicholas Pooran dishing out magnificent tons before the Islanders won the high-scoring thriller by 23 runs.

Put in, Sri Lanka posted a mammoth 338 for six, riding on Fernando's 104. In reply, Pooran's clinical 118 gave the West Indies a fighting chance before it was restricted to 315 for nine.

After the team had slid to 71 for three, Pooran revived the innings. The aggressive



On fire: Fernando played the West Indies bowlers. • AFP

Pooran put together two partnerships – 54 with Carlos Brathwaite and 83 with Fabien Allen.

The team remained on course till the 47th over before Angelo Mathews, who

last bowled in December 2017, dismissed Pooran who struck 11 boundaries and four sixes.

Earlier, Fernando made 104 off 103 balls with nine fours and two sixes.

SCOREBOARD SRI LANKA VS WEST INDIES

SRI LANKA
Dimuth Karunaratne c Hope b Holder 32 (48b, 4x4), Kusal Perera run out 64 (51b, 8x4), Avishka Fernando c Allen b Cottrell 104 (103b, 9x4, 2x6), Kusal Mendis c b Allen 39 (41b, 4x4), Angelo Mathews b Holder 26 (20b, 2x4, 1x6), Lahiru Thirimanne (not out) 45 (33b, 4x4), Isuru Udana c Holder b Thomas 3 (6b), Dhananjaya de Silva (not out) 6 (3b, 1x4); Extras (b-4, lb-5, w-5, nb-5): 19; Total (for six wickets in 50 overs): 338.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-93 (Karunaratne, 15.2 overs), 2-104 (Perera, 18.1), 3-189 (Mendis, 31.5), 4-247 (Mathews, 39.1), 5-314

(Fernando, 47.2), 6-327 (Udana, 48.6).

WEST INDIES BOWLING

Cottrell 10-0-69-1, Thomas 10-1-58-1, Gabriel 5-0-46-0, Holder 10-0-59-2, Brathwaite 7-0-53-0, Allen 8-0-44-1.

WEST INDIES

Chris Gayle c Vandersay b Rajitha 35 (48b, 1x4, 2x6), Sunil Ambris c K Perera b Malinga 5 (6b, 1x4), Shai Hope b Malinga 5 (11b, 1x4), Shimron Hetmyer run out 29 (38b, 2x4), Nicholas Pooran c K Perera b Mathews 118 (103b, 11x4, 4x6), Jason Holder c sub b Vandersay 26 (26b, 4x4), Carlos Brathwaite run out 8 (15b, 1x4), Fabian Allen run out 51 (32b, 6x4, 1x6), Sheldon Cottrell (not out) 7

(10b), Oshane Thomas lbw b Malinga 1 (6b), Shannon Gabriel (not out) 3 (7b); Extras (b-3, lb-2, nb-2, w-20): 27; Total (for nine wickets in 50 overs): 315.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-12 (Ambris, 2.2 overs), 2-22 (Hope, 4.6), 3-71 (Gayle, 15.2), 4-84 (Hetmyer, 17.5), 5-145 (Holder, 28.2), 6-199 (Brathwaite, 34.3), 7-282 (Allen, 44.1), 8-308 (Pooran, 47.1), 9-311 (Thomas, 48.3).

SRI LANKA BOWLING

Malinga 10-0-55-3, de Silva 10-0-49-0, Udana 10-0-67-0, Rajitha 10-0-76-1, Vandersay 7-0-50-1, Karunaratne 1-0-7-0, Mathews 2-0-6-1.

Toss: WI. **MoM:** Fernando. Sri Lanka won by 23 runs.

TV PICKS

ICC World Cup: Star Sports 1, 2 & Select 1 (SD & HD), 3 p.m.
Wimbledon: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 5.30 p.m.
FIFA Women's World Cup: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

IN BRIEF



Sania as an expert on Star Sports and Hotstar
HYDERABAD
Six-time Grand Slam winner Sania Mirza will be an expert on Match Point for Wimbledon tennis championships on Star Sports Select and Hotstar. "It feels good to be sharing my views with millions of tennis lovers about a game that has been my life," Sania said in a statement here on Monday.

Vaibhav wins WBC Asia welterweight title
PATTAYA
Indian pro boxer Vaibhav Yadav became the WBC Asia silver welterweight champion after defeating Fahpetch Singmanassak here, Vaibhav, a cousin of CWG gold-medallist Vikas Krishan, clinched a third-round knockout over the Thai in the bout conducted by the Asian Boxing Council and approved by the World Boxing Council. PTJ



Aditi ends T-18 for her best 2019 finish
ROGERS (USA)
Aditi Ashok completed a bogey-free week with a final round of three-under 68 to finish tied 18th, with 12-under 201, for her best finish this season, at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship here. She was six shots behind Korea's Sung Hyun Park, who won her second LPGA Tour victory of the season and seventh overall. The win also made Park the new No.1 PTJ



Sairaj Bahutule named Gujarat coach
VADODARA
Former India leg-spinner Sairaj Bahutule, 46, has been roped in as the coach of the Gujarat team for the forthcoming season, according to the Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA) vice president Parimal Nathwani. Mumbai-born Bahutule, who played two Tests and 8 ODIs for India, took 630 wickets in 188 First Class games. PTJ

Gauff takes out her idol Venus; Osaka also ousted

Djokovic and Wawrinka begin with straight-set wins; Raonic too good for Prajnesh



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LONDON

Cori Gauff, at 15, the youngest ever qualifier for the Wimbledon singles, pulled off a major shock on Monday, beating one of her idols, five-time champion Venus Williams 6-4, 6-4 in their first round clash.

The American – who was not even born when Venus had won her first two Wimbledon singles titles – showed not an ounce of fear on Court One, making light of the 24 years age difference.

"I don't really know how to feel," said the 313-ranked Gauff, who sunk into her chair and cried in the aftermath of her victory. "This was definitely the first time I ever cried after a match, winning!"

Earlier, Naomi Osaka's bid to win a third Grand Slam title came to a premature end when she lost to Kazakh Yulia Putintseva, 7-6(4), 6-2.

The 21-year-old Japanese said she had felt a weight lifted from her after losing her

No.1 World ranking but it did not show against a talented opponent on Centre Court.

Goran's help

Defending champion Novak Djokovic got his campaign for a fifth title off to a winning start with newly-hired coaching team recruit, and 2001 winner, Goran Ivanisevic helping steer the ship.

Chasing a fifth title at the All England Club, the Serb saw off 35-year-old Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany 6-3, 7-5, 6-3. But he had to recover from early breaks in both of the first two sets against a player who beat him at Indian Wells this year, as well as a nasty fall on the Centre Court grass.

If his victory was routine, there was nothing predictable about the Serb's surprise decision to bring Ivanisevic into his inner sanctum over the weekend. Djokovic said that he and Ivanisevic have been long-time friends.

Prajnesh Gunneswaran's campaign was cut short in the opening day itself as the Indian was taken out by 15th seed Milos Raonic, the Canadian winning 7-6(1), 6-2, 6-2

Fourth seed Kevin Anderson, runner-up to Djokovic in 2018, eased into the second round beating Pierre-Hugues Herbert of France 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.



What a start! Cori Gauff is overcome with emotion after her incredible win. - REUTERS

Outside of Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Djokovic, Stan Wawrinka is the only other multiple Grand Slam champion in the draw. The Swiss took out Belgian qualifier Ruben Bemelmans 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 in quick time.

In the women's event, third seed Karolina Pliskova made it through, beating China's Zhu Lin 6-2, 7-6(4).

out 10th seeded Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus 6-2, 6-4 in just 70 minutes.

Former French Open champion Simona Halep overcame an injury scare to make the second round with a 6-4, 7-5 win over Aliaksandra Sasnovich.

IMPORTANT RESULTS

Men: 1-Novak Djokovic (Serb) bt Philipp Kohlschreiber (Ger) 6-3, 7-5, 6-3; 19-Felix Auger-Aliassime (Can) bt Vasek Pospisil (Can) 5-7, 6-2, 6-4, 6-3; 10-Karen Khachanov (Rus) bt Soonwoo Kwon (Kor) 7-6(6), 6-4, 4-6, 7-5; 4-Kevin Anderson (RSA) bt Pierre-Hugues Herbert (Fra) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; 22-Stan Wawrinka (Sui) bt Ruben Bemelmans (Bel) 6-3, 6-2, 6-2; 23-Roberto Bautista Agut (Esp) bt Peter Gojowczyk (Ger) 6-3, 6-2, 6-3.

Jiri Vesely (Cze) bt 6-Alexander Zverev (Ger) 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 7-5; Thomas Fabbiano (Ita) bt 6-Stefanos Tsitsipas (Gre) 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, 6-7(8), 6-3; 15-Milos Raonic (Can) bt Prajnesh Gunneswaran (Ind) 7-6(1), 6-4, 6-2; 11-Daniil Medvedev (Rus) bt Paolo Lorenzi (Ita) 6-3, 7-6(2), 7-6(2); Ugo Humbert (Fra) bt 16-Gael Monfils (Fra) 6-7(6), 3-6, 6-4, 7-5, 3-0 ret.; 28-Benoit Paire (Fra) bt Juan Ignacio Londero (Arg) 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 7-6(4); 21-David Goffin (Bel) bt Bradley Klahn (USA) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4; 30-Kyle Edmund (GBR) bt Jaime Munar (Esp) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4; Hubert Hurkacz (Pol) 32-

Meanwhile, a long-standing tradition has been dispensed with at this year's event. Umpires will no longer be using women's marital status at the end of each game and match. "Game, Miss..." or "Game, set and match, Mrs..." have been a traditional part of

Dusan Lajovic (Srb) 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Women: 8-Elina Svitolina (Ukr) bt Daria Gavrilova (Aus) 7-5, 6-0; 31-Maria Sakkari (Gre) bt Bernarda Pera (ITA) 7-6(4), 6-3; 17-Madison Keys (USA) bt Luksika Kumkhum (Tha) 6-3, 6-2; 27-Sofia Kenin (USA) bt Astra Sharma (Aus) 6-4, 6-2; 24-Petra Martic (Cro) bt Jennifer Brady (USA) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; 3-Karolina Pliskova (Cze) bt Zhu Lin (Chn) 6-2, 7-6(4); 12-Anastasija Sevastova (Lat) bt Kristie Ahn (USA) 6-3, 6-4; 20-Anett Kontaveit (Est) bt Shelby Rogers (USA) 6-0, 3-6, 6-4; 7-Simona Halep (Rom) bt Aliaksandra Sasnovich (Blr) 6-4, 7-5; Magdalena Rybarikova (Svk) bt 10-Aryna Sabalenka (Blr) 6-2, 6-4.

Cori Gauff (USA) bt Venus Williams (USA) 6-4, 6-4; Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan (Kaz) bt 2-Naomi Osaka (Jpn) 7-6(4), 6-2; 14-Caroline Wozniacki (Den) bt Sara Sorribes Tormo (Esp) 5-4 ret.; 28-Hsieh Su-wei (Tpe) bt Jelena Ostapenko (Lat) 6-2, 6-2; Ajla Tomljanovic (Aus) bt 29-Daria Kasatkina (Rus) 6-3, 6-1.

the Wimbledon soundscape stretching back decades. Prefixes will continue to be used for code violations, medical announcements and player challenges. The women's honours board is staying the same. Prefixes do not appear on the scoreboard.

Semenya underlines her class

Says will not defend the 800m World title if testosterone rules affect her participation

ATHLETICS

REUTERS STANFORD

Caster Semenya charged to the fastest 800m ever run in the United States at the Prefontaine Classic on Sunday as the South African continued to challenge new IAAF testosterone rules that could affect her career.

The double Olympic champion triumphantly finished the two-lap race in one minute, 55.70 seconds on a sunny afternoon at Stanford University. She held the previous U.S. best of 1:55.92, set last year in Eugene, Oregon.

American record holder Aje Wilson came second in 1:58.36 as Semenya won her 31st consecutive final at the distance. She last lost an 800 metres final in Berlin on Sept. 6, 2015.

Later, Semenya said on Sunday she would not defend her World title in Doha next September if she could not run in the 800m because of new testosterone regulations imposed by the sport's governing body.

"If I am not running 800 metres, I'm not running in the World Championships," said the 28-year-old South African. "No 1,500 (metres), nothing. I am just going to



Brooking no challenge: Caster Semenya cantered to victory in the 800m in the Prefontaine Classic on Sunday. - AFP

take a vacation, and then come (back to competing) next year."

Next three Olympics

But Semenya, who is challenging International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) testosterone rules that could affect her career, is looking towards the next three Olympics.

"I expect to be in Tokyo, Paris and Los Angeles," she said.

The results (winners only): Men: 100m: Christian Coleman (USA) 9.81s; **400m:** Michael

Norman (USA) 44.62; **110m hurdles:** Orlando Ortega (Esp) 13.24; **400m hurdles:** Benjamin Rai (USA) 47.16; **Shot put:** Darlan Romani (Bra) 22.61m; **Pole vault:** Armand Duplantis (Swe) 5.93.

Women: 100m: Marie-Josee Ta Lou (CIV) 11.02s; **200m:** Blessing Okagbare 22.05; **800m:** Caster Semenya (RSA) 1:55.70; **1500m:** 1. Faith Chepngetich Kiipyegon (Ken) 3:59.04; **3000m:** Sifan Hassan (Ned) 8:18.49; **3000m steeplechase:** Beatrice Chepkoech Sionik (Ken) 8:55.58; **High jump:** Mariya Kuchina (Rus) 2.04m; **Shot put:** Gong Lijiao (Chn) 19.79.

Jayachandra holds top seed Aronyak

NATL. U-17 CHESS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOCHI

Tamil Nadu's 12th-seeded Jayachandra Srinivas forced West Bengal's top-seeded Aronyak Ghosh to a draw in the third round of the 30th National under-17 open chess championship here on Monday.

Minor upset

There was a minor upset with Tamil Nadu's M. Mohammed Anees, seeded 20th, defeating seventh-seeded State-mate Ayushh

Ravikumar. The top-board game in the girls' section between Delhi's second-seeded Shanya Mishra and Tamil Nadu's B. Kiruthika, the No. 15, also ended in a draw.

Meanwhile, Telangana's Sneha Bharathakoti (26) and Tamil Nadu's S. Srimozhi (19) created a ripple with wins over higher-ranked Diya Chowdhury (5) and Nitya Laheri (6).

The results (third round): Open: Jayachandra Srinivas Vellanki (TN, 2.5) drew with Aronyak Ghosh (WB, 2.5); Neelash Saha (WB, 3) bt Arjun Gup-

ta (Del, 2); J.J. Nawin (TN, 2.5) drew with Vatsal Singhania (Jha, 2.5); Utsab Chatterjee (WB, 3) bt M. Shyam Kumar (TN, 2); R. Sibi Visal (TN, 3) bt Hari R. Chandran (Ker, 2); M. Mohamed Anees (TN, 3) bt Ayushh Ravikumar (TN, 2); Rakshith Srinivasan (Kar, 2) lost to Avishkar Wankhede (Mah, 3).

Girls: Shanya Mishra (Del, 2.5) drew with B. Kiruthika (TN, 2.5); Garima Gaurav (Bih, 2) lost to L. Jyotsna (TN, 3); Sneha Bharathakoti (Tel, 3) bt Diya Chowdhury (WB, 2); Nitya Laheri (Guj, 2) lost to S. Srimozhi (TN, 3); Saina Salonika (Odi, 2.5) bt S. Swara Lakshmi Nair (Kar, 2).

Anand draws yet again

SPORTS BUREAU ZAGREB

Viswanathan Anand was involved in his fourth successive draw, this time a 43-move deadlock with Frenchman Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, in the fifth round of the Croatia Grand Chess Tour on Sunday.

Important results (fifth round): Viswanathan Anand (2) drew with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 2.5); Hikaru Nakamura (USA, 2) drew with Ian Nepomniachtchi (Rus, 4); Sergey Karjakin (Rus, 2.5) drew with Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 3); Fabiano Caruana (USA, 2.5) drew with Wesley So (USA, 3); Anish Giri (Ned, 1.5) lost to Ding Liren (Chn, 2.5).

SJFI honour for Padukone

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The annual general meeting of the Sports Journalists Federation of India (SJFI) in Ahmedabad on Sunday decided to confer its highest honour – the SJFI Medal – to badminton stalwart Prakash Padukone.

Padukone was chosen for the honour for his wholesome contribution to sport and for record-breaking reign in the National and international scene.

Besides, the meeting also decided to jointly award Pankaj Advani (billiards and snooker) and Bajrang Punia (wrestling) with the SJFI



Prakash Padukone. FILE PHOTO: SUDHAKARA JAIN

Sportsperson of the Year 2019, Saurabh Choudhary (shooting) as the Emerging Talent of Year 2019 and the Vidarbha cricket team as the Team of the Year 2019.

Rahane scores half-century

TAUNTON: Ajinkya Rahane scored a patient 55 off 112 balls and stitched together a 101-run stand for the third wicket with Sam Northeast as Hampshire reached 249 for five at tea on day two in reply to Somerset's massive 408 in the County Championship Division One. Hampshire was struggling at 37 for two when Rahane came in. He was out, caught off left-arm spinner Jack Leach after lunch.

R. Ashwin scalped Tom Westley (42) for Nottinghamshire in its match against Kent. Notts was earlier all out for 213.

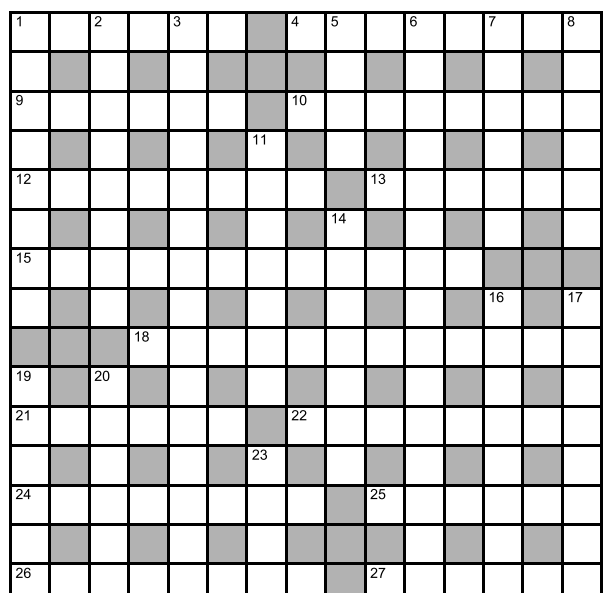
Ferrari not to appeal

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE SPIELBERG

Ferrari decided not to appeal the decision to uphold Max Verstappen as winner of Sunday's Austrian Grand Prix in the best interests of Formula One, said team boss Mattia Binotto.

Ferrari believed the decision to confirm Red Bull's victory, after examination of Verstappen's wheel-banging passing move on Charles Leclerc was wrong, but they respected the stewards' decision.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12667



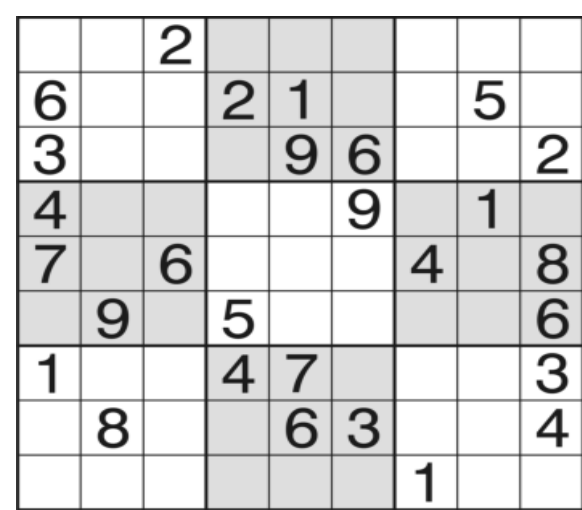
ACROSS

- Regular chit chat, deal with the insect (6)
- Extremely courteous – visitor takes its place (8)
- Gets scared to criticize old bureaucracy (6)
- Climber working in Oracle (8)
- What Sam perhaps stole before comes to boil (8)

(set by Arden)

- Some of the foreign items will catch fire (6)
- Medication, not an alternative for a clean up (15)
- Alienation of aliens in a movie (12)
- Supported by not company voucher (4)
- To avoid issues at the beginning, chill out in nature regularly (5,7)
- Glistening tents set up with plants (8,7)
- It makes you throw up – throw up the thing in church (6)
- Herb's tense, standby (6)
- Starts with annual vacation and the aftermath – recent movie (6)
- Business contract about casual labour evokes scorn (8)
- Clue, goes in through Great Britain (7)
- Train in fact is sabotaged (8)
- Foreign character will ignore China in short (7)
- Extremely formal examination of flowers (6)
- Boat's tidy, guaranty from the centre (8)
- Free to pick a bone, perhaps overconfident (8)
- Hire land for electronic bulletin board (6)
- Open and stop the investigators (6)
- Face up to bully, pick-me-up (3,2,3)
- In December, Gazprom raised some capital... (6)
- Figure assumed correct, not even something real (8)
- ... still one keeps a look out for this (4)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 12666									Solution to yesterday's Sudoku								
M	A	R	M	O	S	E	T		2	4	5	7	6	9	3	8	1
O			O	T	E		B	A	1	3	6	4	8	2	7	9	5
B	U	D	D	H	A		N	E	W								
D	A	E	T	E	A	L	L	I	7	9	8	1	5	3	4	2	6
I	N	T	E	R	J	E	C	T	4	6	7	9	1	5	2	3	8
A	I	N	M			C	S	S	8	2	1	3	4	6	5	7	9
L	A	C	K			C	E	N	S	O	R	S	H	I	P		
L	I	N	H	A	L	P	A	T	I	O	N						
N	I	A	A			W	S	T	R	O							
G	A	U	S			C	A	R	M	E	L	I	T	E			
C	T	M	A			O	N										
O	V	E	R	A	L	L	O	U	T	S	E	T					
D	U					V	M			R	P						
E	A	R	N			E	S	A	V	I	S	T					

FAITH

Liberation made easy

Among the Supreme One's many avatars, the Varaha avatar is particularly important, said M.A. Venkatakrishtan in a discourse. Bhu Devi asks Varaha to suggest some easy way for atmas to be liberated. Varaha says that a person must think of Him when he is healthy in mind and body. If such a person is unable to think of Him when he is on his deathbed, then that does not mean that the Lord will not grant him liberation. The Lord will think of the person's devotion and will grant him moksha.

The Lord pointing to such an easy route for us is significant. One can resort to one of the three yogas spoken of in the Bhagavad Gita. But there are many hurdles that we will have to surmount. One may resort to bhakti yoga, and may focus on Him throughout one's life. But the last thoughts of a person must be of the Lord for bhakti yoga to have its effect of achieving liberation for the jivatma. If a person's last thoughts are not of Him, then an entire life spent in bhakti will still not get him the desired result, namely moksha. This difficulty is avoided if we surrender to Him when we are strong and healthy. So, thinking of Him when the end is near is not necessary.

But then it may be argued that if this is the case, then it goes against the Sastras which say that "thought" is necessary at the end of one's life. That it is not so is explained by Acharyas. They point out that the Lord in the Varaha avatars promises that He will think of a person's devotion to Him. So thought is not absent. The only difference is that instead of the jivatma doing the thinking, it is the Paramatma who does the thinking! It is because Varaha revealed such an easy way to attain moksha that He is known krtAnta krt – the One who gave us a valuable krtAnta (siddhanta).