

Hardik Pandya rested for full West Indies tour

Pant is first-choice keeper for all three formats; Saha will be the second gloveman in Tests while Bharat misses out

INDIA SQUADS

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

Bengal wicket-keeper Wriddhiman Saha has been preferred over Andhra's promising K.S. Bharat for the two-Test series against the West Indies starting August 3.

M.S.K. Prasad, chairman, BCCI's senior National selection committee, said here on Sunday that the 34-year-old Saha (32 Tests, 1164 runs, 3x100s, 75 catches, 10 stumpings) had gone out of the team only because he was injured during the Cape Town Test against South Africa in January 2018.

Elaborating on the Test series team selection, Prasad said: "Bharat was very close to getting selected, but we have an unwritten norm that when an established cricketer gets injured and stages a comeback, an opportunity should be given to him. That's the reason we have given an opportunity to Saha."

Stellar performances

"But with the stellar performances that Bharat has given for India-A in the last year, with three centuries and 50 dismissals which is fantastic, we will be looking at (Rishabh) Pant, Saha and Bharat for Test cricket for some time."

"The discussion of who will play the Test series is there, but Pant has not done anything wrong for his non-inclusion in the playing XI."

"Pant is going to play all formats and so we have to see his workload management," said Prasad after his committee chose three teams for the Twenty20, ODI and Test series.

While Virat Kohli, Rohit



The right mix: The 16-member Indian squad for the tour of the West Indies. •PTI

Sharma, K.L. Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja and Pant feature in all three teams, a notable name missing from the full tour is all-rounder Hardik Pandya, who played nine matches in the recently concluded World Cup, scored 226 runs and took 10 wickets.

Pandya was rested for the full tour of Australia last

year after he had hurt his lower back during the Asia Cup in the UAE. Without naming the nature of the physical impairment, Prasad said Pandya has been put through a programme.

Bumrah for Tests

Fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah has been rested from the limited-overs series and will

join the team for the Tests.

Prasad also pointed out that all-rounder Vijay Shankar is under rehab for his toe injury and Prithvi Shaw is recovering from a hip-related injury he suffered during the Mumbai Premier League.

The squads for the three-match T20I and ODI series were selected on the basis of

Who's in, who's out

THE SQUADS

T20IS: Virat Kohli (Capt.), Rohit Sharma (vice-capt.), Shikhar Dhawan, K.L. Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Rishabh Pant (wk), Krunal Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Rahul Chahar, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Khaleel Ahmed, Deepak Chahar and Navdeep Saini

ODIS: Virat Kohli (Capt.), Rohit Sharma (vice-capt.), Shikhar Dhawan, K.L. Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Rishabh Pant (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kedar Jadhav, Mohammed Shami, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Khaleel Ahmed and Navdeep Saini

TESTS: Virat Kohli (Capt.), Ajinkya Rahane (vice-capt.), Mayank Agarwal, K.L. Rahul, Cheteshwar Pujara, Hanuma Vihari, Rohit Sharma, Rishabh Pant (wk), Wriddhiman Saha (wk), R. Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami, Jasprit Bumrah and Umesh Yadav

• Pant will don the big gloves in all three formats

• Rohit and the fit-again Saha back in the Test fold

• Bumrah, rested for the limited-overs leg, will fly out for the Test series

• Karthik has been dropped from ODIs; Shreyas and Pandey get an opportunity

• Deepak Chahar, Washington and Khaleel back in the T20 mix

• Dhawan returns, will play in T20Is and ODIs

• Saini has been included for both limited-overs series

• Rahul Chahar picked for T20Is

• Vihari, Shreyas, Pandey, Krunal, Deepak and Rahul Chahar, Khaleel, Saini and Washington are currently in the Caribbean with the India-A squad

• Dhoni opts out of the tour, plans to spend two months with his army regiment

THE SCHEDULE

T20IS

August 3, Fort Lauderdale (Florida, USA)

August 4, Fort Lauderdale (Florida, USA)

August 6, Guyana

ALL MATCHES START AT 8 P.M. IST

ODIS

August 8, Guyana

August 11, Trinidad

August 14, Trinidad

ALL MATCHES START AT 7 P.M. IST

TESTS

August 22 to 26, Antigua, 7 P.M.

August 30 to September 3, Jamaica, 8 P.M.

No bias or favouritism in Rayudu's exclusion for World Cup: Prasad

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

At the outset, the chairman of the senior national selection committee M.S.K. Prasad made it clear that he will first field questions relating to the teams selected for the West Indies tour before giving any clarifications on the so-called selection anomalies for the ICC World Cup.

Enjoys the tweet

Prasad, 44, introduced an element of wit when questions were directed him about the non-inclusion of Ambati Rayudu for the World Cup. He had ascribed Vijay Shankar's selection because of the three-dimensional quality (batting, bowling and fielding) and hence was chosen ahead of Rayudu.

Presumably responding to Prasad's statement, a normally reticent Rayudu sprang a surprise via his Twitter handle saying: "Ordered 3D glasses to watch World Cup." Subsequently, after Mayank Agarwal replaced Vijay Shankar in the team, Rayudu announced his retirement.

On Sunday, Prasad was asked if Rayudu's witty tweet came in the way of his selection midway through

the World Cup. He was a standby.

Without pausing, Prasad said: "Frankly speaking that was a lovely tweet. I really enjoyed it. Seriously, it was a very timely one and very sarcastic. I enjoyed it."

Sharing his thoughts on the replacements (Rishabh Pant for Shikhar Dhawan and Mayank Agarwal for Vijay Shankar) effected during the World Cup, Prasad first regretted not communicating the same to the media through a BCCI press release.

Emotions

Prasad further explained: "First of all, just as the emotions that would have gone through any player, the same emotions has gone through the selection committee too. When we pick any player and he does well we feel so happy for him."

"Similarly, when somebody out of emotion goes out in this way, the selection committee members also feel for it. But having said that, the decision that was taken was completely devoid of any bias or favouritism. How much Rayudu was emotional, we were also emotional. We, as ex-cricketers, also felt for him."



No hidden agenda: M.S.K. Prasad says that the selectors try to do a fair job while picking the national team. •VIVEK BENDRE

'An error of judgement'

I don't regret the decision: Dharmasena

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO

It indeed was a judgement error to award six runs to England from an overthrow in the World Cup final, admitted umpire Kumar Dharmasena. The Sri Lankan, however, said he will never "regret" the decision.

"It's easy for people to comment after seeing TV replays," Dharmasena told *Sunday Times*.

"I agree that there was a judgement error when I see it on TV replays now. But we did not have the luxury of TV replays at the ground and I will never regret the decision I made."

"Besides, the ICC praised me for the decision I made



Kumar Dharmasena. •AFP

at that time."

Replays showed that Adil Rashid and Ben Stokes had not completed the second run when Martin Guptill released the ball from the deep.

The 48-year-old added that according to the law, there was no provision to consult the third umpire on the incident.

Jaiswal and bowlers do it for India u-19

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WORCESTER

Opener Yashasvi Jaiswal's 78 (115b, 9x4) and a superb display by the bowlers helped the Indian colts beat England by five wickets in the tri-series opener here on Sunday.

The pace-spin duo of Kartik Tyagi (three for 35) and Ravi Bishnoi (three for 40) restricted England to 204. Jaiswal then anchored the chase.

The scores: England under-19 204 in 46.3 overs (Kartik Tyagi three for 35, Ravi Bishnoi three for 40) lost to India under-19 205 for five in 39.2 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 78, Divyansh Saxena 43, Priyam Garg 38).

Shane Lowry wins his maiden Major in style



REUTERS
PORTRUSH

Irishman Shane Lowry won the British Open by six strokes amid emotional scenes at Royal Portrush on Sunday.

Fervently cheered on for every shot by the sellout crowd, the 32-year-old from Clara was never seriously troubled in the final round as he carded a one-over 72 in strong winds and intermittent rain which buffeted the late starters.

"My mum and dad, they sacrificed for me when I was



Sealed with a kiss: Shane Lowry took home the famed Claret Jug with a dominant display at Royal Portrush. •REUTERS

younger and I'm so happy I can hand them this trophy tonight," said Lowry as he clutched the Claret Jug, his

voice cracking with emotion. He finished at 15-under 269. Englishman Tommy Fleetwood, the only player to ap-

ply any semblance of pressure on Lowry, shot a 74 for second place.

Lowry started the day with a four-shot lead and must have been most grateful for the margin, which afforded him the luxury of being able to do a few shots without doing too much damage.

He needed to avoid any big numbers on his card and duly did so, making nothing worse than bogey.

Victory march

Even three straight bogeys around the turn hardly dented his lead, and a sixth-century birdie at the 15th hole that extended his margin to six strokes, allowed him to almost enjoy a processional victory march in the final three holes.

He became the second player from the south of the border, after Padraig Harrington in 2007 and 2008, to lift the Claret Jug.

Birthday to remember

Meanwhile, India's Shubhankar Sharma was serenaded with a chorus of "happy birthday" by the spectators at the 18th green, before proceeding to pour in a 45-foot birdie putt.

The 23-year-old finished the tournament with an excellent three-under-par 68 to end at three-over for the championship. He finished Tied-51.

The top five: 1. Shane Lowry (+1 in final round, -15), 2. Tommy Fleetwood (+3, -9), 3. Tony Finau (E, -7), 4. Brooks Koepka (+3, -6) & Lee Westwood (+2, -6).

Thalavas have 'Titans' measure

Fortunegiants score remarkable win over Bulls

PKL

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Rahul Chaudhari brushed aside any sentiments of having played six seasons for Telugu Titans, as he guided Tamil Thalavas to a 39-26 win late on Sunday night in a Vivo ProKabaddi League Season 7 league match.

Rahul scored a Super 10 to finish with 13 points and dominated proceedings in the company of an equally brilliant raider Ajay Thakur at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium.

For a second consecutive match, the much-awaited show from Titans' star raider Siddharth Desai was never really on. He was effectively countered by defender Manjeet Chhillar, who also completed 200 tackle points overall in the PKL. He also scored a High 5 to the dismay of Titans' fans.

Thalavas scored two all-outs in the first-half and one more in the second even as many local fans displayed placards asking Rahul to return to Titans.



Trapped: Titans' Rakesh finds no escape route past a determined Thalavas defence. •K.V.S. GIRI

Earlier, Gujarat Fortunegiants scored a remarkable 42-24 win over defending champion Bengaluru Bulls. At half-time, Gujarat led 21-10. It was a revenge victory for sorts for Fortunegiants that lost to Bulls in last season's final.

In the first-half Gujarat showed all-round superiority as it picked up points both in raids and tackles (it in fact had more points in tackles).

Fortunegiants also scored two all-outs in the first session itself and Bulls' star raiders Pawan Sehrawat and Rohit Kumar were not given

any kind of freedom in its territory. With Sachin, Rohit Gulia and G.B. More being dominant in attack, it was obvious that Bulls were under pressure. If Bulls hoped for a change of fortune in the second-half - like in last season's final - it was misplaced as Sehrawat got 'out' seven times.

The results: Tamil Thalavas bt Telugu Titans 39-26; Gujarat Fortunegiants bt Bengaluru Bulls 42-24.

Monday's matches: U Mumba vs Jaipur Pink Panthers (7.30 p.m.); Haryana Steelers vs Puneri Paltan (8.30 p.m.).

Sindhu falters at the final hurdle

INDONESIAN OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAKARTA

P.V. Sindhu's hopes of breaking a seven-month title drought came crashing down as the Indian lost in straight games to Akane Yamaguchi in the final of the Indonesia Open BWF Tour Super 1000 tournament here on Sunday.

Seven months after becoming the first Indian to win the season-ending BWF World Tour Finals in December, Olympic silver medalist



So near yet so far... P.V. Sindhu's seven-month title drought continues after Akane Yamaguchi trumped the Indian. •AFP

Sindhu had an opportunity to finally lay her hands on another crown only to squander, losing 15-21, 16-21 to the Japanese in a lop-sided summit clash that lasted 51 minutes here.

Sindhu failed to match the brilliance of the 22-year-old, whom she had beaten in the last four meetings.

This was Sindhu's fifth loss to Yamaguchi in 15 meetings. The last time the Indian lost to the Japanese was in the semifinals of the All England Championship last year.

Golden moment for Sathiyar-Archana

The 17-year-old Pang stuns Sharath in the quarterfinals

C'WEALTH TT

AMOL KARHADKAR
CUTTACK

G. Sathiyar and Archana Kamath made it a golden day for India by clinching the mixed doubles crown, but it was the 17-year-old Pang Yu En Koen of Singapore who stole the show by stunning second seed and favourite A. Sharath Kamal in a sensational quarterfinal of the 21st Commonwealth table tennis championship on Sunday.

Pang, a promising paddler from Singapore, had entered the main draw through a tough qualification group.

Battling on

His opponent Sharath, who lost in the mixed doubles semifinals with partner Sreeja Akula, was grappling with a severe backache.

However, the World No. 32 left the near-packed stadium and also Pang, ranked 376th, spellbound with an incredible string of winners in the fourth game to race ahead 3-1. The young Singaporean fought back, forcing Sharath to commit unforced



Dazzling duo: Archana Kamath and G. Sathiyar, the mixed doubles winners. •BISWARANJAN ROUIT

errors. In the deciding game, Sharath's experience came to the fore and he had three match-points while serving at 10-7.

However, the Indian missed his serve, sparking off a five-point run for Pang and culminating in one of the biggest wins of his career.

Pang will meet Harmeet Desai in the singles semifinal on Monday.

The results: Mixed doubles: Final: G. Sathiyar & Archana Kamath bt Pang Yu En Koen & Goi Rui Xuan (Sgp) 11-1, 11-7, 11-4; **Semifinals:** Sathiyar & Kamath bt Harmeet Desai & Aihika Mukherjee 11-2, 11-2, 11-9.

Pang & Goi bt A. Sharath Kamal & Sreeja Akula 13-11, 8-11, 6-11 11-8, 11-4.

Singles: Quarterfinals: Men: G. Sathiyar bt Bode Abiodun (Ngr) 11-7, 11-8, 11-8, 11-6; Thomas Jarvis (Eng) bt Sanil Shetty 11-5, 11-8, 8-11, 13-11, 12-10; Harmeet Desai bt Sushmit Sriman 11-4, 11-8, 6-11, 17-15, 11-8; Pang Yu En Koen (Sgp) bt A. Sharath Kamal 7-11, 9-11, 11-8, 4-11, 11-9, 11-7, 12-10.

Women: Ho Tin-Tin (Eng) bt Archana Kamath 11-9, 7-11, 11-5, 11-3, 11-6; Aihika Mukherjee bt Mousumi Paul 11-6, 11-6, 11-2, 11-8; Sreeja Akula bt Sutirtha Mukherjee 11-5, 11-6, 11-9, 17-19, 6-11, 17-15; Madhurika Patkar bt Krittiwika Sinha 11-4, 9-11, 11-8, 12-10, 11-8.

TV PICKS

Commonwealth TT: DD Sports, 10 a.m.
PKL: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Another title for Manny Pacquiao

LAS VEGAS
Manny Pacquiao (right, in pic) beat defending champion Keith Thurman on a split points decision on Saturday to take the WBA welterweight super championship at the end of an electrifying fight here on Saturday. Pacquiao, who is the only man in boxing history to hold world titles in eight different divisions, is now 62-7-2 with 39 knockouts, while Thurman falls to 29-1 (22 KOs). REUTERS



Caleb Plant successfully defends IBF crown

LAS VEGAS
Caleb Plant of the United States made a successful first defence of his IBF super-middleweight crown on Saturday, scoring a third round knockout over previously undefeated challenger Mike Lee. Plant, 27, dominated Lee from the opening bell, wrapping up victory after sending his opponent to the canvas twice in the third. It was a polished performance from Plant, who won the IBF crown with an upset win over Jose Uzcategui in Los Angeles in January. AFP

Controversy marks Sun Yang's record 400m freestyle triumph

Silver medallist Mack Horton refuses to join the Chinese on the podium

WORLD SWIMMING

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GWANGJU (KOREA)

China's Sun Yang captured a record fourth 400m freestyle World title in an acrimonious final on Sunday, before Britain's Adam Peaty produced an eye-popping World breaststroke record.

Sun pumped his fists and let out a visceral roar after a pulsating race brimming with bad vibes and capped by rival Mack Horton's refusal to join the Chinese giant on the podium after the medal ceremony in Gwangju.

"Not everyone likes me - I don't care," growled Sun when asked about Horton's snub. "It's OK if you don't respect me personally, but at the victory ceremony - which is a sincere occasion - you should show respect to my country."

The controversial triple Olympic gold medallist slapped the water in delight, pointing to his flag-waving Chinese fans as he savoured an emotional victory over Australian Horton and his 10th World championship gold medal.

The defending champion clocked three minutes, 42.44 seconds with Horton taking silver in 3:43.17 and Italian Gabriele Detti bronze in 3:43.23 in a repeat of the 2017 podium in Budapest.

The bad blood between



Making a statement: Sun Yang, centre, and Gabriele Detti pose for the lensmen even as Mack Horton stands away in protest after the medal ceremony. • AP

him and Horton continued with the Australian refusing to take part in the traditional photo after the playing of the Chinese national anthem.

Peaty's World record

Peaty smashed his own 100m breaststroke World record, the Olympic champion storming home to win his semifinal in a time of 56.88 seconds - becoming the first swimmer to break the 57-second barrier and eclipsing his previous mark by more than two tenths.

After the tension of Sun's gold medal - the first of the

eight-day pool competition - Aussie teenager Ariarne Titmus stunned American great Katie Ledecky to win the women's 400m freestyle final.

The three-time champion looked in complete control until she faded coming off the final turn, allowing Titmus to storm past her to bag her first World title.

Caeleb Dressel, who swept seven medals at the 2017 world championships, led the American men's 4x100m freestyle team to gold in a meet record of 3:09.06, retaining their title by almost a second from

Russia in silver.

Cate Campbell anchored Australia to gold in the women's 4x100m free in the evening's final race.

The results:
Men: 400m freestyle: 1. Sun Yang (Chn) 3:42.44s, 2. Mack Horton (Aus) 3:43.17, 3. Gabriele Detti (Ita) 3:43.23.
4x100m freestyle relay: 1. USA 3:09.06, 2. Russia 3:09.97, Australia 3:11.22.

Women: 400m freestyle: 1. Ariarne Titmus (AUS) 3:58.76, 2. Katie Ledecky (USA) 3:59.97, 3. Leah Smith 4:01.29.
4x100m freestyle relay: 1. Australia 3:30.21, 2. USA 3:31.02, 3. Canada 3:31.78.

Bhakti and Vantika share lead

Mary Ann suffers shock loss to Srishti

NATIONAL CHESS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KARAIKUDI

Former Asian champion and second seed Bhakti Kulkarni (Air India) and Delhi's young gun Vantika Agrawal share the lead with four points apiece after the fourth round of the 46th National women's chess championship at the Chettinad PS here on Sunday.

Both Bhakti and Vantika were in a punishing mood right through. Playing the black side of the Gioco Piano opening, Bhakti planned it well by tactically shutting down the space for five-time national champion Bhagyashree Thipsay (Maharashtra) to develop the pieces. It worked as she gained a double-pawn advantage and, with it, sealed the game in 44 moves.

Vantika, on the other hand, playing with the dark pieces in a Rossolimo variation of the Sicilian Defence, used her pair of bishops quite smartly against P.V. Nandhidhaa's pair of knights in the middle game to collect a full point after 41 moves.

The third day saw some upsets as well with three-time national champion WGM Mary Ann Gomes (PSPB) going down in a rather shocking manner to Srishti Pandey (Maharashtra). Mrudul Dehankar from the same State surprised her higher-ranked opponent M.



Bhakti Kulkarni.
• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mahalakshmi of Railways.

Important results (fourth round, TN unless specified): Bhagyashree Thipsay (Mah) 3 lost to Bhakti Kulkarni (AI) 4; P.V. Nandhidhaa 2 lost to Vantika Agrawal (Del) 4.

Soumya Swaminathan (PSPB) 3.5 bt Nityata Jain (MP) 3; Divya Deshmukh (Mah) 3 drew with S. Meenakshi (AI) 3; S. Vijayalakshmi (AI) 3.5 bt Harshita Guddanti (AP) 2.5.

M. Mahalakshmi (Rlys) 2.5 lost to Mrudul Dehankar (Mah) 3.5; Nandhini Saripalli (Goa) 3 drew with Michelle Catherine 3; Nisha Mohota (PSPB) 3 drew with Kiran Manisha Mohanty (LIC) 3.

Aarthie Ramaswamy (AI) 3.5 bt K. Priyanka (2.5); Swati Ghate (LIC) 3 bt L. Jyothsa 2.5; Sriya Seshadri 3 bt Dhanya Patel (Guj) 2; Srishti Pandey (Mah) 3 bt Mary Ann Gomes (PSPB) 2; Priyanka Nutakki (AP) 3 bt Potturi Supreetha (AP) 2.

Neha Singh (Bih) 2 lost to Pratyusha Bodda (AP) 3; Smarak Mohanty (Odisha) 2 lost to Isha Sharma (Kar) 3.

Eight-wicket win for Indian blind team

ANI
JAMAICA

The Indian blind cricket team registered a big eight-wicket win over Jamaica at the Melbourne Cricket Oval in Kingston on Saturday. Chasing 118 for victory, Sunil Ramesh's unbeaten 90 helped India easily chase down the target and gain a 1-0 lead in the three-match ODI series. Earlier, Jamaica was all out for 117.

Nikhat Zareen advances



Nikhat Zareen
PHOTO: PRESS TRUST OF INDIA, NEW DELHI

Former junior world champion Nikhat Zareen (51kg) on Sunday advanced to the second round of the Thailand Open International boxing tournament with a comfortable opening win in Bangkok.

The boxer from Hyderabad prevailed 5-0 over New Zealand's Tasmyn Benny in the first round of the tournament.

Sohil completes a double

Ishaan notches maiden win in Touring class

MOTORSPORTS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Bengaluru schoolboy Sohil Shah completed a fine double in the premier MRF F1600 category as the third round of the MRF MMSC-FMSCI National car racing championships drew to a close at the MMRT, here on Sunday.

Elsewhere, VW Motorsport's Ishaan Dodhiwala from Hyderabad notched his maiden win in the Touring cars class after his teammate Karthik Tharani was disqualified for a couple of infringements and subsequently banned for one race, while Bengaluru's Rithvik Thomas (Race Concepts) chalked up his third win of the season in the Super Stock category.

Other winners of the day were Viswas Vijayaraj (DTS Racing) in the Formula LGB 1300 race and Mumbai's Saurav Bandyopadhyay who took the honours in the Volkswagen Ameo Class.

The saloon car race was fiery with Tharani being disqualified for his violations. The Stewards subsequently slapped a one-race ban which will take effect for the next round of the championship scheduled for August 16-18. Consequent to the dis-



One for the album: Nayan Chatterjee, left, Sohil Shah and Vishnu Prasad, right, proudly display their trophy.

qualification, teammate Dodhiwala was declared winner followed by Nikanth Ram (ARKA Motorsports) and Arjun Balu (Race Concepts).

The results (Provisional - all 8 laps unless mentioned):
MRF F1600 (Race-3): 1. Sohil Shah (Bengaluru) (13mins, 28.46secs); 2. A Bala Prasath (Coimbatore) (13:34.321); 3. Manav Sharma (Faridabad) (13:34.945).

Race-4: 1. Sohil Shah (13:25.572); 2. Nayan Chatterjee (Mumbai) (13:27.330); 3. Vishnu Prasad (Chennai) (13:30.166).

Touring Cars (Race-2): 1. Ishaan Dodhiwala (VW, Hyderabad) (15:41.905); 2. Nikanth Ram (Arka Motorsports, Coimbatore) (15:42.130); 3. Arjun Balu (Race Concepts, Coimbatore) (15:51.488).

Super Stock (Race-2): 1. Rithvik Thomas (Race Concepts) (16:27.646); 2. RP Rajarajan (Performance Racing) (16:28.805); 3. R Rajashekar (Race Concepts) (16:41.742).

Formula LGB 1300 (Race-2, 7 laps): 1. Viswas Vijayaraj (DTS Racing) (17:43.357); 2. Sohil Shah (M Sport) (17:43.957); 3. Ashwin Datta (Momentum Motorsports) (17:46.458).

Volkswagen Ameo Class (Race-2): 1. Saurav Bandyopadhyay (Mumbai) (15:49.972); 2. Pratik Sonawane (Pune) (15:52.896); 3. Avik Anwar (Bangladesh) (15:53.007).

Formula 4 SEA (Race-3, 11 laps): 1. Lucca Allen (Ireland) (21:16.050); 2. Shihab Al Habsi (Oman) (21:16.480); 3. Muizz Musyaffa (Malaysia) (21:19.262).
Race-4 (13 laps): 1. Allen (21:29.615); 2. Al Habsi (21:31.570); 3. Elias Sappanen (Finland) (21:34.061).

Night race definitely on

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Confirming that night races, the first in India, at the MMRT circuit here were definitely on, Vicky Chandhok, the Chairman of the MRF MMSC FMSCI National car racing championships and vice-president of MMSC, said the club has earmarked funds to install floodlights at the FIA certified Grade 2 track.

Speaking to the media here on Sunday on the sidelines of the third round of the National car racing championship, Chandhok said: "A very professional lighting expert has given us a quote of ₹16 crores to do up the lights just like the Singapore circuit. But we are going for a low lighting just like they have at Le Mans. We are planning to install basic lighting that can help the Marshals and Officials see the incidents on track so that they make sure that 'no one is injured'. Safety is one aspect which I and everyone at the Club, are very particular."

To this end, the MMSC has scheduled a "test run" on August 7 between 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. to evaluate the possibility of full-fledged night races in the near future, he said.

India in quarterfinals despite loss

BADMINTON

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India set up a quarterfinal clash with Indonesia despite losing its last group match to Korea at the Badminton Asia Junior Championships 2019 (Mixed Team Event) in Suzhou, China on Sunday.

Maisnam Meiraba's great effort was the silver lining of the day for the Indian contingent in its 1-4 loss but by finishing second to Korea in Group C, India made it to the last-eight.

On the first day of the continental event, India blanked both Mongolia and Macau

China by an identical score of 5-0.

Manipur's Meiraba had been in sterling form of late and he even won his first international tournament at the White Night Russian Junior International earlier this month.

Meiraba refused to give up and fought for 1 hour 32 minutes to subdue Korea's Hyeon Seung Park.

While that was the solitary win of the day for Team India, there were encouraging performances from others. The doubles teams, especially, stood out for their gutsy displays in a losing cause.

The mixed doubles pair of Dingku Singh Konthoujam and Ritika Thaker fought for 56 minutes before going down 21-19, 12-21, 12-21 to Dong Ju Ki and Eun Ji Lee.

Goa's Tanisha Crasto and Kerala's Treesa Jolly were equally impressive in their 16-21, 21-16, 12-21 girls' doubles loss to Young Bin Ji and Eun Ji Lee.

The boys' doubles combine of Ishaan Bhatnagar and Vishnu Vardhan Goud Panjala found Korea's Dong Ju Ki and Joon Young Kim too strong in their 17-21, 15-21 defeat. In girls' singles, Malvika Bansod suffered a 10-21, 8-21 defeat to Ga Lam Kim.

Nagal qualifies for Hamburg ATP-500

SPORTS BUREAU
HAMBURG

Sumit Nagal defeated Alejandro Davidovich Fokina of Spain 6-3, 7-5 in the second and final round to make the main draw of the €1,855,490 ATP-500 tennis tournament on Sunday.
The results: €1,855,490 ATP-500, Hamburg, Germany: Qualifying singles (second and final round): Sumit Nagal bt Alejandro Davidovich 6-3, 7-5; **First round:** Nagal bt Sebastian Ofner (Aut) 7-5, 6-2.

Simon Yates wins final Pyrenean stage

Thibaut Pinot further impresses; Alaphilippe still ahead

TOUR DE FRANCE

ASSOCIATED PRESS
FOX

Simon Yates of Britain posted a second stage win with a solo raid during the last Pyrenean trek of the Tour de France as Frenchman Thibaut Pinot gained more time on his rivals in the fight for the yellow jersey with a ferocious attack in the final climb on Sunday.

Yates triumphed at the summit of the Prat d'Albis in Stage 15, three days after his first stage victory in the southwestern mountain range. Pinot crossed the finish line in second place, 33 seconds behind Yates, and moved to fourth overall.

Julian Alaphilippe was isolated without a single teammate to help him in the 12-kilometre final climb and cracked but managed to salvage his yellow jersey.

Defending champion Ge-

rard Thomas remained second in the general classification.

On the attack

Yates, the Vuelta defending champion, made his decisive move about 9km from the line. Racing behind, Pinot attacked a reduced group of overall contenders to drop both Thomas and Alaphilippe.

Thomas did not panic and rode at his pace until he accelerated within 1.5km to cut the overall gap on Alaphilippe from 2 minutes, 2 seconds to 1:35.

Alaphilippe was so exhausted after his effort up the hill, where he grimaced through the rain, that he had to grip a roadside barrier afterward while he caught his breath.

"If I crack I hope he'll carry the torch for the French," Alaphilippe said about Pinot.



Ahead of the pack: Julian Alaphilippe, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, leads a peloton in the 15th stage on Sunday. • REUTERS

Well Connected pulls off a narrow win in Kingfisher Ultra Derby Bangalore

BENGALURU: S. Padmanabhan-trained Well Connected (David Allan) won the Kingfisher Ultra Derby Bangalore, the stellar attraction of the races held here on Sunday (July 21). The winner is owned by Mr. Rishad, Mr. P.J. Vazifdar & Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd. rep. by Mrs. Behrose Z. Poonawalla, Mr. Yohan Z. Poonawalla & Mrs. Michelle Y. Poonawalla.



Proud moment: V. Harimohan Naidu (BTC chairman), right, with S. Padmanabhan (trainer), Gurpreet Singh (vice president (marketing) UB), David Allan (jockey), Zavaray Poonawalla (owner/breeder), Simone Poonawalla (breeder), co-owners Delna Poonawalla, Behroze Poonawalla, P.J. Vazifdar, and Sherna Vazifdar (all owners) after Well Connected won the Kingfisher Ultra Derby Bangalore on Sunday. • K. MURALI KUMAR

26.30s. ₹21 (w), 12, 14 and 12 (p), SHP: 34, THP: 47, FP: 88, Q: 65, Trinella: 130 and 45, Exacta: 363 and 238. Favourite: Electra. Owners: Mr. P.J. Vazifdar, Mrs. P.J. Vazifdar, Mr. M. Rishad and Mr. Kersi H. Vachha. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

3 KOLKATA CUP (2,000m), rated 30 to 50, 4y-o & over: IXCURUS (Trevor) 2, Electra (Suraj) 3 and Duxton (Overbrook) 4. SHP: 37, FP: 18, Q: 13, Trinella: 80 and 59, Exacta: 257 and 99. Favourite: Constanza. Owners: United Racing & Bloodstock Breeders Ltd, Mrs. Rina Mahindra & Mr. Marhand Singh Mahindra. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

1 INDIAN PATTERN COMMITTEE CUP (1,200m), rated 15 to 35: CONSTANZA (Trevor) 1, Kimera (Srinath) 2, Habanero (Noornabi) 3 and Aqua Blessing (Chetan K) 4. 3-1/4, 3-1/4 and 2-1/4. Im, 13.64s. ₹14 (w), 11, 10 and 20 (p), SHP: 17, THP: 37, FP: 18, Q: 13, Trinella: 80 and 59, Exacta: 257 and 99. Favourite: Constanza. Owners: United Racing & Bloodstock Breeders Ltd, Mrs. Rina Mahindra & Mr. Marhand Singh Mahindra. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

2 HYDERABAD CUP (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 15 to 35: CRACK OF DAWN (Sandesh) 1, Misterion (Trevor) 2, Electra (Suraj) 3 and Duxton (Overbrook) 4. SHP: 37, FP: 18, Q: 13, Trinella: 80 and 59, Exacta: 257 and 99. Favourite: Constanza. Owners: United Racing & Bloodstock Breeders Ltd, Mrs. Rina Mahindra & Mr. Marhand Singh Mahindra. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

hoy and Mr. Mrs. Z.K. Dhunjibhoy. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

5 MYSTICAL MILLION (1,600m), maiden 3y-o. (Terms): SPEAKING OF STARS (Zervan) 1, North Winds (Yash) 2, Mighty Red (Darshan) 3 and Hokkaido (Dhebe) 4. Not run: Prayer: 1-1/4, 4-1/4 and 1-3/4. Im, 38.80s. ₹60 (w), 17, 17 and 36 (p), SHP: 42, THP: 101, FP: 411, Q: 189, Trinella: 9,604 and 5,488, Exacta: 25,198 and 6,749. Favourite: Nicollini. Owner: Mrs. Ameeta Mehra. Trainer: Darius.

6 B.T.C. ANNIVERSARY CUP (1,400m), 4y-o & over. (Terms): KNOTTY ASH (Anthony) 1, Prevallent Force (Zervan) 2, Automate. (P.S. Chouhan) 3 and Lady Legend (Trevor) 4. 2-1/4, 3-1/2 and 1-3/4. Im, 24.59s. ₹61 (w), 18, 20 and 69 (p), SHP: 61, THP: 119, FP: 355, Q: 241, Trinella: 10,160 and 5,322, Exacta: 64,772 and 55,519. Favourite: Corfe Castle. Owners: Mr. K. Kamesh & Mr. K. Manoj Kumar. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

7 KINGFISHER ULTRA DERBY BANGALORE (2,000m), 3y-o ONLY, (TERMS): WELL CONNECTED (ARAZAN-GUEST CONNECTIONS) DAVID ALLAN 1, Impavid (Air Support-Polenta) Sandesh 2, Knight Templar (Multidimensional-Grand Madam) Zervan 3 and Southern Ruler (Saamid-Parha) Bhawani Singh 4. Lnk, 1-1/4 and 4-1/2, 2m, 05.88s. ₹23 (w), 13, 13 and 28 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 55, FP: 38, Q: 21

Trinella: 178 and 167, Exacta: 1,935 and 1,392. Favourite: Well Connected. Owners: Mr. M. Rishad, Mr. P.J. Vazifdar & Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt Ltd rep. by Mrs. Behrose Z. Poonawalla, Mr. Yohan Z. Poonawalla & Mrs. Michelle Y. Poonawalla. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

8 ADMIRAL HENRY JOHN ROUS TROPHY (1,200m), rated 75 & over: SAINT PETERSBURG (Trevor) 1, Courage (Suraj) 2, Star Carnation (Bhavani Singh) 3 and Aeloir (Neera) 4. 1, 1 and Shd. Im, 13.55s. ₹26 (w), 14, 17 and 45 (p), SHP: 40, THP: 79, FP: 78, Q: 32, Trinella: 585 and 562, Exacta: 2,472 and 1,059. Favourite: Saint Petersburg. Owners: United Racing & Bloodstock Breeders Ltd & Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

9 HYDERABAD CUP (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 15 to 35: FINE FRIENDLY (Vaibhav) 3 and Eco Friendly (Irvan) 4. 1-1/2, 5-1/4 and 3-1/4. Im, 29.45s. ₹69 (w), 20, 15 and 134 (p), SHP: 39, THP: 273, FP: 335, Q: 134, Trinella: 26,059 and 8,376, Exacta: 1,94,891 (covered over). Favourite: Stroke Of Genius. Owners: Mr. Vetrri Velan. B & M. Sathish Kumar Joghee. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

Jackpot: ₹59,633 (22 tkts) Runner up: 1,008 (158 tkts); Treble (t): 157 (425 tkts); (ii): 2,678 (12 tkts); (iii): 1,013 (51 tkts).

IN BRIEF



Bayern Munich spoils Hazard's Real debut

LOS ANGELES
Bayern Munich spoiled Eden Hazard's Real Madrid debut, downing the Spanish giant 3-1 in a friendly in Houston on Saturday despite goalkeeper Sven Ulreich's sending off. Corentin Tolisso, Robert Lewandowski and Serge Gnabry had given Bundesliga champions Bayern a comfortable 3-0 lead before recent Real Madrid signing Rodrygo grabbed a consolation goal with a brilliant free kick. That followed Ulreich's departure in the 81st for a foul on Brazilian teen Rodrygo outside the area. AFP

Russian boxer has brain surgery after loss in ring

Russian boxer Maxim Dadashev was in hospital in suburban Washington on Saturday after emergency brain surgery in the wake of a punishing loss in the ring, US media reported. Dadashev's fight against Puerto Rico's Subriel Matias was stopped by cornerman James "Buddy" McGirt at the end of the 11th round on Friday night. Dadashev was unable to walk to the dressing room after the bout and was immediately hospitalised. Doctors operated to relieve pressure from swelling on his brain. AFP

Tapper — making the most of her disadvantage

The Australian is the most sought-after athlete in the Commonwealth tournament

C'WEALTH TT

AMOL KARHADKAR
CUTTACK

Despite the rich tradition of Olympics and Paralympics, only 15 athletes have represented their respective countries in both the quadrennial extravaganzas featuring able-bodied and physically challenged sportspeople, respectively. One of those 15 — Australia's ever-smiling paddler Melissa Tapper — competed in the 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship here over the last week.

She may not have been able to win a medal but Tapper was one of the most sought-after athletes by Oriyas during the tournament. Born with brachial plexus — which means the nerves between her right neck and shoulder were torn apart — Tapper is used to getting attention whenever she competes in able-bodied tournaments.

Discouraged

While the left-handed paddler admits that at times she has been discouraged from participating in these tournaments, she explains the advantages of participating in both.

"Occasionally, people have come and told me to focus on para games but I be-



Gritty: Born with brachial plexus — which means the nerves between her right neck and shoulder were torn apart — Melissa Tapper is used to getting attention whenever she competes in able-bodied tournaments. • BISWARANJAN ROU

nefit from playing in both. My class in para is the least amount of disability," Tapper says. "Playing in able-bodied competitions, I keep getting better in my game while playing in para-competitions

helps in reaching finals and gaining confidence, which translates during able-bodied competitions. I need to be smart in choosing which to play and when."

So has she been ever

sledged for the physical challenge by any of her competitors on the international circuit?

"Most athletes don't treat me differently, at least not to my face," she says with a

smile, and adds, "They understand I'm here on my own merit and have come here to play and compete. It is difficult to serve (with her right-arm being much shorter than the left).

Playing in able-bodied competitions, I keep getting better in my game while playing in para-competitions helps in reaching finals and gaining confidence

"I have tried to practice and make it as close to legal one as possible. Nobody has objected, maybe an umpire but not players."

Perfect partner

Besides playing table tennis, Tapper works as an exercise expert and occasionally dons the hat of a motivational speaker.

But whenever she feels let down with her performance in the arena, she turns to husband Simon Gerada, himself an Olympian table tennis player.

"It's very big help to have your partner in the same sport. He came up through the ranks, is an Olympian and has represented the country in the Commonwealth Games.

"He understands what I'm feeling, what I go through, big part in helping me grow as an athlete, helping me motivate me and helps me find solutions. He is the driving force in helping me achieve my goals."

Zimbabwe pulls out of Bangladesh triangular series

IANIS
HARARE

Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC), which has been suspended by the International Cricket Council (ICC), has announced that the national team will not travel to Bangladesh for the triangular series including Afghanistan in September.

ZC in a statement on Saturday notified its inability to stage domestic competitions or fulfil the obligations of the Future Tours Programme after ICC's suspension which also saw the freezing of funds for the cricket board.

Bearing the brunt

"In all this, players and staff are bearing the brunt of the standoff and they might be forced to go for months or forever without their salaries and match fees," the statement said.

"We would like to see our teams playing again as soon as possible and the ZC board is ready to cooperate with the SRC and other stakeholders to get Zimbabwe back to operating within the confines of the ICC statutes again," the statement added.

Rashid mentally ready to lead Afghanistan

'We have to be fully fit and well-prepared'

CRICKET

ANI
LONDON

Rashid Khan, the newly appointed Afghanistan captain, said he was mentally ready for the position, adding that when it comes to national duties one has to be ready to lead.

Rashid, who was given the duties to lead the team in the shortest format earlier, was named to helm Afghanistan across all three formats. He replaced Gulbadin Naib, who was appointed as ODI captain just before the World Cup.

"I wasn't quite surprised. I was already the vice-captain, which means you are the upcoming captain. Mentally, I was ready for it. Yes, it happened very quickly, but when it comes to the national team, when it comes to the country, you always have to be ready to lead. I'll try my



Rashid Khan.

• FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

best to lead as well as possible," ESPNcricinfo quoted Rashid, as saying.

"From here, we have to take steps. We have seen the World Cup, we have seen the oppositions and what should be the proper preparation for them, and we have to be very strong mentally. We have to be fully fit for such competitions and we have to

be well-prepared. We are not playing with Associate teams right now, we are playing with the Full Members, so we have to be well-planned and prepared."

The 20-year-old said that Afghanistan is talented and skilled but needs to improve in fitness. Rashid added that cricketers coming into the national team need to work on their mental aspect, believe in oneself and work hard.

"The most important thing is fitness, we have to be very fit. These are the things we need to improve on in upcoming years to be a better side, a side that can beat any team. We have the talent, we have the skills. We just need to bring improvement in that," he said.

"You need to have worked on your skills, not that when you come to the national side you start working on it. Once you come to the na-

tional side, you have to work on the mental aspect (more). And being a youngster, you should always believe in yourself and work hard. Then you can achieve anything," he remarked.

The next World Cup 2023 will be hosted in India, while the ICC T20 World Cup 2020 will take place in Australia. Rashid stressed that his team needs to learn how to play against big teams.

"That (2023 World Cup) is something that is a very big challenge for us. As I said, we have the skills and talent, but we need to improve. We need to know how to play against the big teams and what should be the proper preparation against them. As we saw, we were struggling in this World Cup. (But) I think the 2023 World Cup, it's a little bit far. The focus and target right now is the T20 World Cup in Australia," he said.

Mardini — a refugee swimmer rising up fast

She's representing FINA's independent athletes team

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GWANGJU (SOUTH KOREA)

Syrian refugee Yusra Mardini, who almost drowned at sea fleeing her war-torn country four years ago, heaved a deep sigh after failing to set a personal best at the World swimming championships on Sunday.

Representing FINA's independent athletes team, the 21-year-old looked up at the giant scoreboard and winced at her time of 1min 8.79sec in the 100 metres butterfly heats in South Korea.

"I'm not very happy actually," Mardini told AFP. "I had some problems with my shoulder but I'm back in training. I still have the 100m freestyle and I'm looking forward to that."

Mardini's time was more than 12 seconds slower than that of reigning champion Sarah Sjostrom and 47th overall, but she has come a long way since risking her



Fighter to the core: Yusra Mardini, 18, said representing millions of displaced people around the world makes her proud. • REUTERS

life crossing from Izmir in Turkey to the Greek island of Lesbos in the summer of 2015.

Thirty minutes into that treacherous journey, the motor on their dinghy cut out and the tiny vessel, carrying 20 people rather than the six or seven it was de-

signed for, threatened to capsiz.

As the only people who could swim, Mardini and her sister Sarah jumped into the water to push and pull the stricken dinghy for over three hours until they finally reached the shore.

"I arrived in Greece in on-

ly jeans and a T-shirt," said Mardini, who also swims in the 100m freestyle later this week. "Even my shoes were gone."

Mardini famously competed at the Rio Olympics a year later under the refugee flag.

Rocket strikes

"In the beginning I refused to be in a refugee team because I was afraid people would think I got the chance because of my story," said Mardini, who now lives with her family in Berlin.

"I wanted to earn it. But then I realised I had a big opportunity to represent those people — so I took the chance and I never regretted it," she added.

"Rio was amazing. It was really exciting to see the reaction of people to the team. Now I'm representing millions of displaced people around the world and it really makes me proud."

Teen star Ingebrigtsen fires a warning



Fast and furious: Jakob Ingebrigtsen, left, seen with brother Filip, set a new Norwegian national record in the 5000m at the London Anniversary Games on Saturday. • AP

ATHLETICS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Teen track sensation Jakob Ingebrigtsen fired a warning to his older rivals after setting a new Norwegian national record in the 5000m at the London Anniversary Games on Saturday.

In a thrilling battle at the Diamond League event, Ethiopia's Hagos Gebrhiwet held off a charging Ingebrigtsen during the final lap to squeeze home by just 0.17sec.

Ingebrigtsen, who won European gold over 1500m and 5000m last year, ran 13:02.03 — a new national record.

Gebrhiwet, who has run the third-fastest time so far this year over the distance, admitted he had been

pushed hard by the confident 18-year-old.

"I'm in my own bubble before the race and also in the race," said Ingebrigtsen.

"I don't consider anyone better than me until it's proven.

Great race

"I wanted to run faster. It's a great race for me and also to be able to compete against the very best. (Hagos) is a fast guy and really experienced but I'm new to the game at this level. Hopefully I'll be running even faster in the future." When it was put to him that many athletes already felt beaten when they lined up against the powerful Africans, he said: "That's the stupidest thing I've ever heard.... If you want to be the best you have to consider yourself the best."

Gebrhiwet, who has run the third-fastest time so far this year over the distance, admitted he had been

Harry Kane hits staggering winner

Injury time strike from centre circle sinks Juventus

FOOTBALL

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SINGAPORE

Harry Kane scored a stunning 93rd minute winner from the halfway line as Tottenham Hotspur edged Juventus 3-2 in an entertaining pre-season friendly in Singapore on Sunday.

The England captain latched onto Lucas Moura's short pass and launched a first-time shot high over a scrambling substitute Wojciech Szczesny in the Juventus goal as Spurs rallied past new manager Maurizio Sarri's Italian champions in front of a delighted National Stadium crowd.

"It's probably one of the best goals of my career. I noticed the keeper was often off his line and thought if I get a chance to shoot I will, and it just went in," Kane said in a post-match interview.

Struggling to adapt

A youthful Spurs dominated the first half as Juventus struggled to adapt to its new manager's "Sarri-ball" tactic of playing out from the back with short, quick passes.

Instead of moving the ball forward, Juventus often found themselves defending desperately after being caught in possession as Spurs pressed high up the



Mobbed: Tottenham's player converge on Harry Kane after his wonder goal sealed a win. • REUTERS

pitch. The Premier League side went on to take a deserved lead on the half-hour mark.

Son Heung-min started the move by holding up play and feeding Troy Parrott for a clear run at Gianluigi Buffon in the Juventus goal, with the 17-year-old forward's low strike parried by the keeper straight into the path of an unmarked Erik Lamela for a routine tap-in.

Juventus had more success after the break when it increased its tempo and went more direct, and half-time substitute Gonzalo Higuain levelled the score in the 56th minute with a drilled strike after exchanging passes with Federico Bernardeschi.

Buoyed by the equaliser, Juventus was soon ahead

when Ronaldo arrived late to drive home Mattia De Sciglio's cutback four minutes later, leaving to rapturous applause by an adoring crowd when he was substituted immediately after scoring.

Spurs were level five minutes later, however, when Champions League semi-final hero Lucas fired home record signing Tanguy Ndombele's low cross, the French midfielder finding the Brazilier with his first touch after coming on as a substitute.

Kane and Higuain both squandered good chances to score winning goals in the final 10 minutes before the England striker prevented the contest going to a penalty shootout with the most brilliant of strikes

'I started crying with joy'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MADRID

Antoine Griezmann admitted on Sunday that he was moved to tears of happiness when his big-money move to Barcelona finally came through after a controversial exit from former club Atletico Madrid.

The World Cup winner is in Tokyo with Barca ahead of a clash with Chelsea on Tuesday after the La Liga giant shelled out €120 million to match his release clause amid a blistering row between the player and the two clubs.

"I called my father and I started crying with joy be-



Antoine Griezmann. • AP

cause the transfer was all done, it all was over," Griezmann said in an interview with sports daily *Marca*. "I was with my friends, with my wife, with my children and it was an incredible moment," he added.

Nketiah strikes in Arsenal's win

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Youngster Edward Nketiah made it three goals in two matches Saturday with a brace that boosted Arsenal to a 3-0 win over Fiorentina in a pre-season friendly in North Carolina.

The 20-year-old striker scored with goals in the 15th and 66th minutes. Joseph Willock added an exclamation point with a goal to make it 3-0 in the 89th.

Fiorentina could have made things more difficult for the Gunners but for a series of missed chances in the first half and solid work by Emi Martinez in the Arsenal



In striking form: Eddie Nketiah of Arsenal, right, scored for Arsenal goals in the 15th and 66th minutes. • AFP

goal.

The victory in sweltering heat before a crowd of 34,902 at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte made it

three wins in three for Arsenal in a tour that began with unsettled captain Laurent Koscielny refusing to make the trip to force a transfer.