

# England sets sights on a historic double

Australia seeks to end an 18-year Ashes drought in Edgbaston as well as Old Blighty



**THE DATES**

<b>August 1 to 5,</b> EDGBASTON (Birmingham)	<b>August 22 to 26,</b> LEEDS (Headingley)
<b>August 14 to 18,</b> LORD'S	<b>September 4 to 8,</b> OLD TRAFFORD (Manchester)
	<b>September 12 to 16,</b> THE OVAL

## The battle begins

As yet another chapter of the Ashes unfolds at Edgbaston on Thursday, a look at how the previous ones have panned out

OVERALL	IN ENGLAND	EDGBASTON
Australia: <b>144</b>	Australia: <b>49</b>	Australia: <b>3</b>
England: <b>108</b>	England: <b>51</b>	England: <b>6</b>
Drawn: <b>94</b>	Drawn: <b>66</b>	Drawn: <b>5</b>

### TOP BATTERS

	I	Runs	HS	Avg	100s/50s
Don Bradman (Aus)	63	5,028	334	89.78	19/12
Jack Hobbs (Eng)	71	3,636	187	54.26	12/15
Allan Border (Aus)	82	3,548	200*	56.81	8/21

### TOP BOWLERS

	I	W	BBI	Avg	5W/10W
Shane Warne (Aus)	72	195	8/71	23.25	11/4
Dennis Lillee (Aus)	57	167	7/89	21.00	11/4
Glenn McGrath (Aus)	60	157	8/38	20.92	10/0

### THE SQUADS (with shirt numbers):



Joe Root (**66**), Moeen Ali (**18**), James Anderson (**9**), Jofra Archer (**22**), Jonny Bairstow (**51**), Stuart Broad (**8**), Rory Burns (**27**), Jos Buttler (**63**), Sam Curran (**58**), Joe Denly (**24**), Jason Roy (**20**), Ben Stokes (**55**), Olly Stone (**26**) and Chris Woakes (**19**)



Tim Paine (**7**), Cameron Bancroft (**43**), Pat Cummins (**30**), Marcus Harris (**14**), Josh Hazlewood (**38**), Travis Head (**62**), Usman Khawaja (**1**), Marnus Labuschagne (**33**), Mitchell Marsh (**8**), Nathan Lyon (**67**), Michael Neser (**18**), James Pattinson (**19**), Peter Siddle (**10**), Steve Smith (**49**), Mitchell Starc (**56**), Matthew Wade (**13**) and David Warner (**31**)

### AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE BIRMINGHAM

England returns to 'Fortress Edgbaston' for the first Test against Australia on Thursday looking to round off an already memorable season by completing a World Cup and Ashes double.

There's arguably more at stake for both sides than the series result.

For England, a home season billed as the most important in a generation started brilliantly with its impressive run to a first men's World Cup title.

For Australia, an Ashes series win under the dignified leadership of Tim Paine would help draw a line under the ball-tampering scandal in South Africa that led to long bans for former captain Steve Smith, David Warner and Cameron Bancroft.

All three batsmen are likely to feature at Edgbaston, with Bancroft set to hear the same booing that greeted Smith and Warner during the World Cup. Australia has not won an Ashes in England for 18 years, with its batsmen struggling against the heavily stitched Dukes ball on pitches that offer seam movement.

Yet the first Test will be Australia's opening First Class match of the tour, although the likes of Bancroft,

who has been captaining English county side Durham, has recent experience of local conditions.

The way an England side featuring several World Cup stars was dismissed for just 85 by Ireland at Lord's last week before winning the first Test between the countries tells its own story of ongoing top-order woes.

England captain Joe Root plans to move back to No. 3 to help shore up a top-order featuring novice Surrey openers Rory Burns and Jason Roy.

### Archer dropped

James Anderson, England's all-time leading Test wicket-taker, returns to the side following a calf injury and will team up again with regular new-ball partner Stuart Broad. Jofra Archer, who has been struggling with a side injury, however, will have to wait for his Ashes debut.

Australia, meanwhile, is poised to put its faith in a rapid four-man attack featuring James Pattinson and Pat Cummins.

Australia has not won at Edgbaston in any format since 2001, a run that includes its recent World Cup semifinal loss to England.

England, by contrast, has won its last 11 internationals at the raucous ground.

## Laker's feat is 63 years old

On July 31, 1956, he became the first bowler to take 10 wickets in an innings



**Dream spell:** Jim Laker is presented with the two balls with which he took nine and 10 wickets in a Test against Australia at Old Trafford. ■DENNIS OULDS/ GETTY IMAGES

### ANI NEW DELHI

It has been 63 years since Jim Laker's feat of becoming the first bowler to take all 10 wickets in a single Test innings against Australia.

"#OnThisDay in 1956, Jim Laker became the first bowler to pick 10 wickets in a Test innings. He picked up a total of 19 wickets in that Test against Australia. Do you remember which other bowler has picked up 10 wickets in an innings?" ICC tweeted on Wednesday.

In 1956, Laker returned figures of 10 for 53 in the second innings of the Ashes Test against Australia. In the

first inning of the same match, he bagged nine wickets giving away just 37 runs.

Due to his remarkable performance, England defeated Australia in the match by an innings and 170 runs.

In his 46 Tests, Laker claimed 193 wickets at 21.24 with a best of 10 for 53.

Laker also featured in 450 First Class matches and took 1,944 wickets.

In the history of Test cricket, Indian leg-spinner Anil Kumble is the second bowler to take all 10 wickets in a Test inning – 10 for 74. Kumble completed his feat against Pakistan here in 1999.

## Sri Lanka makes it 3-0

### AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE COLOMBO

Sri Lanka defeated Bangladesh by 122 runs in the third and final ODI to win the three-match series 3-0 at the R. Premadasa Stadium on Wednesday. **The scores:** Sri Lanka 294 for eight in 50 overs (Dimuth Karunaratne 46, Kusal Perera 42, Kusal Mendis 54, Angelo Mathews 87) bt Bangladesh 172 in 36 overs (Soumya Sarkar 69, Taijul Islam 39 n.o.).

## West Indies-A begins well

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA PORT OF SPAIN

West Indies-A made a promising start against India-A in the second unofficial Test with openers Kraigg Brathwaite and Montcin Hodge taking their team to 71 for no loss at lunch on Wednesday. Brathwaite was batting on 29 off 95 balls and Hodge on 38 off 91 in the morning session which comprised 31 overs.

## Malcolm Nash passes away

Became famous after Sobers hit him for six sixes in an over

### AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LONDON

Malcolm Nash, the Glamorgan bowler who entered cricket folklore when Garfield Sobers struck him for six sixes in an over, has died at the age of 74.

Nash's name was forever linked with that of Sobers after the West Indies star went on the attack during a County Championship match between Glamorgan and Nottinghamshire at Swansea in 1968.

It was the first time any batsman had hit six sixes in an over in first-class cricket.

The first five balls were dispatched cleanly by the West Indian and the sixth was carried over the ropes by a fielder.

Nash, a left-armer, took 993 first-class wickets in a 17-year career between 1966 and 1983, while also scoring 7,129 runs and holding 148 catches.

Nash died in hospital in



Malcolm Nash. ■COURTESY: GLAMORGAN CC

London after being taken ill at a function at Lord's Cricket Ground on Tuesday.

## Shaw suspension should ring an alarm bell

The punishment meted out to Prithvi is harsh, says Vengsarkar

### S. DINAKAR CHENNAI

Prithvi Shaw's suspension for consuming a substance banned by WADA should serve as a warning for other emerging cricketers.

The youngster with loads of talent committed several breaches while drinking what he claims to be a cough syrup, one that contained Terbutaline.

Now Terbutaline, prohibited in and out of competition, is known to increase muscle strength and enhance endurance.

Cricketers, particularly those who have been at the NCA or with the India under-19, 'A' and the senior team, have attended classes and sessions that specifically deal with the dangers of using banned substances. Shaw has been a part of all three sides.

### Clear protocol

And there is a clear protocol to be followed. When cricketers, especially those who have represented India recently, take a new medicine,



Prithvi Shaw. ■GETTY IMAGES

they are supposed to get the approval of Dr. Abhijit Salve of the BCCI or physio Patrick Farhat, or NCA physio Aashish Kaushik.

These men, who have a complete understanding of the subject, can guide the cricketers. Shaw did not consult them, nor, at the very



Dilip Vengsarkar. ■PTI

least, the Mumbai Ranji team doctor.

But then, Shaw is a 19-year-old top-order batsman with enormous potential and made such a dazzling start to his international career against the West Indies last year.

Then fitness concerns

**From now on he (Prithvi Shaw) will be very careful, even when he orders a bowl of soup**

### DILIP VENGSAKAR Former Indian captain

proved a roadblock and now comes the latest setback. Things are going wrong for this prodigy from Mumbai.

When *The Hindu* asked Indian batting great Dilip Vengsarkar for his opinion, he said, "You know, he comes from a very humble background. Prithvi lost his mother and his father used to lead a hand-to-mouth existence."

### Limited knowledge

Vengsarkar added, "Prithvi's knowledge about things other than cricket is limited. He wouldn't have thought of a banned substance when he purchased the cough syrup at night from the pharmacy. From now on he will be very careful, even when he orders a bowl of soup!"

Vengsarkar observed, "I think the punishment meted

out to Prithvi is harsh. The suspension should have been for a lesser period because I genuinely believe it was an innocent mistake. And he is a player with so much potential."

The former Indian captain said, "He cannot play cricket before mid-November and faces a tough period ahead."

### Need for a mentor

What Shaw needs now is a mentor, someone who can guide him through the difficult phase and Vengsarkar would only be too happy to take up the responsibility.

Shaw needs to stay strong and focused, banish the demon of self-doubts. Ability, he has in plenty.

His suspension ends on November 15 but Shaw is unlikely to be drafted into the Indian team immediately since he would have to prove his form and match fitness in domestic cricket.

But then, light often emerges from darkness. Shaw could come out of the ordeal stronger and wiser. He has to keep the faith.

## Vintage Sharath helps Lions pip Goa

Madhurika clinches the decisive game for the Chennai side

### UTT

### RAKESH RAO NEW DELHI

Just when it mattered, Sharath Kamal shifted gears to produce some vintage stuff in singles and mixed doubles. Claiming the 'golden point' that decided both these rubbers, Sharath contributed four points in Chennai Lions' thrilling 8-7 triumph over Goa Challengers in the Ultimate Table Tennis league here on Wednesday.

The battle between these teams, expected to go deep into the 18-day competition, was decided in the final game. Madhurika lost the first two games of the final singles to Archana Kamath and that left the score locked at 7-7. The Thane girl eventually clinched the final game and proved the tie-winner for her team.

"We, at Chennai Lions, believe that Goa is one of the most complete teams in the fray. So it feels great to take eight points off them," said Sharath after leading the way for Chennai.

### Going by rankings

The strategy of the teams to field their overseas players in



**Swinging it:** Sharath's wins in singles and mixed doubles tilted the scales in Chennai Lions' favour. ■COURTESY UTT

search of early leads did not quite work this day. It pretty much went as per the world rankings in the first two singles and the score was 3-3.

World No. 8 Cheng I-Ching put Goa ahead by beating the 26th-ranked Petrisa Solja 2-1, a score that Chennai's Taigo Apolonia, ranked 52, needed to stop Alvaro Robles. Both these matches produced some thrills, but the higher-ranked player eventually prevailed.

The mixed doubles saw Amalraj and I-Ching take the

lead, but Sharath and Petrisa were not to be denied. They clinched the next two games, the decider on golden point to put Lions ahead for the first time.

Amalraj raced away with the first game against Sharath before the latter regained his touch in the second in a contest marked by long rallies and deft touches from both players. It was Sharath who had the last laugh after tossing away four match-points from 6-10.

Archana almost altered

the script, winning two games and making it 7-7. But Madhurika held her nerve as the Lions had the last roar.

### The results:

**Chennai Lions bt Goa Challengers 8-7** (Petrisa Solja lost to Cheng I-Ching 10-11, 2-11, 11-6; Tiago Apolonia bt Alvaro Robles 11-5, 2-11, 11-7; Sharath Kamal & Petrisa bt A. Amalraj & Ching I-Ching 9-11, 11-6, 11-10; Sharath bt Amalraj 2-11, 11-9, 11-10; Madhurika Patkar lost to Archana Kamath 9-11, 10-11, 11-8).

**Thursday's fixture:** RP-SG Mavericks (Kolkata) v U Mumbai (7 p.m.).

### PKL

### NANDAKUMAR MARAR MUMBAI

Ajinkya Pawar's stretch, turn, leap away to safety, touching two rivals in his range were on view for Jaipur Pink Panthers in the seventh Pro Kabaddi League tie against Haryana Steelers.

Teammate and ace raider Deepak Hooda (14 points from 23 raids) had laid the stage for a commanding 37-21 victory over Haryana Steelers. Defenders Sandeep Dhull (six tackle points), Vishal Mane (four tackle points) played their roles to perfection.

### Early action

Panthers' defence got into action early into the match, left-corner Sandeep Dhull quelled Naveen, with teammates quickly rushing across the mat to keep the raider from escaping.

Steelers' right-corner defender Sunil displayed sharp instincts while facing Deepak Hooda, keeping away from his range and dipping under to grab the reputed raider's ankle.

Raiders opted for caution, seeing the catchers' early form. Hooda got a toe tucked down the middle for Panth-



**All-out aggression:** Haryana Steelers' defence faced constant pressure from Jaipur Pink Panthers raiders. ■COURTESY PKL

ers, though big-made Naveen could not escape from an ankle-hold by Dhull on a do-or-die raid and found himself shoved out of the arena. Sachin Narwal's acrobatic leap over catchers did not work on another raid.

### Double strike

Steelers' attempt to pull level fell away after Hooda sent out rival captain Dharmaraj Cheralathan and Vikas Kale in one stroke.

The Panthers ace appeared to have been trapped near the centreline, but review supported the umpire's decision about the raider touching the line before getting pulled back into the Steelers' half.

The five-point lead at the break earned by Panthers got boosted by an all-out on Steelers, taking the lead to 17-8. Down to four players at one stage, Sunil displayed the grit to force out raider Sa-

chin Narwal on the sidelines on his own.

Naveen did his bit, a flying kick connecting with Dhull at left-corner, but the match was firmly in Panthers' grasp.

**The results:** Jaipur Pink Panthers 37 (Deepak Hooda 14, Sandeep Dhull 6) bt Haryana Steelers 21 (Vinay 6, Sunil 6).

UP Yoddha 27 (Monu Goyat 6, Sumit 6) bt U Mumbai 23 (Rohit Balian 6, Surinder Singh 4). **Thursday's match:** Gujarat Fortunegiants v Dabang Delhi.





Partners in pursuit: Archana Kamath playing well helps in bringing out the best in him, says G. Sathiyen. ■ FILE PHOTO: BISWARANJAN ROUT

# Sathiyen-Archana duo eyes Olympic berth

‘Though it is not easy to make the grade for Tokyo, we will give it a shot’

## TABLE TENNIS

RAKESH RAO  
NEW DELHI

Things are looking bright for G. Sathiyen. Moving with the current, this hardworking engineer from Chennai is keen to build on the reputation of being the first Indian to breach the top-25 rankings bracket.

With precisely 51 weeks left for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo, the 24th-ranked is not only looking to grab a place in the singles draw of 64, but also ready to make a serious bid, with Archana Kamath, for a slot in the 16-pair draw in mixed doubles.

Since there is a cap of one pair per country, Sathiyen and Archana will be competing with the reigning Asian

Games bronze medallists Sharath Kamal and Manika Batra.

“Right now, Archana and I are ranked 31 (as per Olympic rankings for July) whereas Sharath and Manika are 19th. Should we break into the top-20 of the World rankings before the qualification cycle ends (in April next year), we have a great chance,” said Sathiyen, who along with Archana, recently claimed the Commonwealth gold mixed doubles.

“Archana is playing unbelievably well in mixed doubles. That also helps in bringing out the best in me. Though it is not easy to make the grade for Tokyo, we will give it a shot in the right earnest,” assures the ONGC employee.

So far, only Germany has booked its berth in the mixed doubles after gaining the lone spot on offer in the European Games in June. Japan, as a host is assured of an entry. Other 14 places will be accounted as follows: Four from the 2019 World Tour Grand Finals, two each from 2020 World Tour German Open and 2020 World Tour Qatar Open, and one each from the qualification events of North America, Africa, Asia, Latin America, Oceania and the 2020 Japan Open.

Going forward, Sathiyen said, “In the upcoming World Tour events, we plan to take our rankings higher. We need to train harder and look to work on areas that need attention.”

Looking back at his recent four-medal haul, comprising two gold and two silver medals, from the Commonwealth championship in Cuttack, Sathiyen said, “I am pleased with the overall performance but it could have been better. Playing so many back-to-back matches in one week probably took its toll towards the business end (in singles and doubles).

### Pat for Harmeet

Sathiyen, while regretting the loss of the singles title to Harmeet Desai by letting go of a 6-3 lead in the decider, hailed the eventual champion. “He played as though he had nothing to lose. I panicked and paid the price. But credit to Harmeet for dealing so well with the pressure.”

## Harmanpreet up for the challenge

Captaincy came as surprise, says the drag-flicker

## HOCKEY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BENGALURU

The captaincy announcement came as a surprise to him but India drag-flicker Harmanpreet Singh said on Wednesday he is up for the challenge in the upcoming Olympic Test event.

In the absence of regular skipper Manpreet Singh, who has been rested along with a few senior players, Harmanpreet will wear the captain's armband in the Test event involving India, Malaysia, New Zealand and hosts Japan.

The tournament starts on August 17.

“When I was told that I would be leading the team, it was a pleasant surprise. It is an honour and big responsibility. I am excited and looking forward to the challenge,” said Harmanpreet, who was part of India's Junior World Cup winning side in 2016.

Harmanpreet was one of the youngest in the Indian team that played at the 2016 Rio Olympics, a place he secured after a memorable



Harmanpreet Singh. ■ FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

outing in the FIH Champions Trophy in London only months before the sporting extravaganza.

### Rising star

India won a historic silver medal at the 2016 FIH Champions Trophy, and Harmanpreet was adjudged the Rising Player of the Tournament.

“When I look back, I feel fortunate to have come into

the Indian team at a time when there were stalwarts from whom I could learn a lot.

“Players like Sardar Singh and V.R. Raghunath had a positive impact during my nascent days in the senior team and their guidance helped me soak up the pressure of international hockey,” he said.

Talking about the upcoming tournament, Harmanpreet said he is eyeing nothing less than the top spot in his maiden assignment as skipper.

“Malaysia, Japan and New Zealand are good teams to play against and see where we stand as a unit ahead of the Olympic Qualifiers. Malaysia recently beat Germany in a match and Japan too are doing well while New Zealand is coming into the event with good exposure from the FIH Pro League,” he said.

“In the absence of senior players who are rested, it is important we step up our game. We are well-prepared. We will be playing every match with the intent to win.”

## Rajput applies for head coach's job

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

Former manager Lalchand Rajput has thrown his hat in the ring for the job of the Indian cricket team's head coach.

Rajput is currently the coach of Zimbabwe team but has shown his interest in the India job after the ICC has suspended Zimbabwe Cricket for government interference.

It has been learnt that Rajput, who was manager of the Indian team that lifted the inaugural T20 World Cup in South Africa in 2007, has sent his application to the BCCI before the stipulated deadline from Dubai airport,



Lalchand Rajput. ■ FILE PHOTO: K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

while he was on his way to Canada.

The BCCI had invited applications for positions of head coach, batting coach, bowling coach and fielding

coach and had set July 30 as the deadline.

The former Mumbai opener, who also played for India, has also coached Afghanistan and domestic side Assam apart from a team in the T20 Mumbai League for two years.

A source close to Rajput said if he is not considered for the head coach's position, Rajput has requested the BCCI to consider him for the batting coach.

Current coach Ravi Shastri has already got a 45-day extension along with other members of the support staff till India's upcoming tour of the West Indies.

## ‘BCCI has done a fantastic work on anti-doping’

Players should take blame, says former BCCI official Shetty

G. VISWANATH  
MUMBAI

Ratnakar Shetty, former BCCI General Manager, Game Development, waxed eloquent about the efficient way the BCCI has been planning and implementing its anti-doping programmes.

Surprised by the young and promising cricketer Prithvi Shaw caught in the doping net, Shetty said: “The BCCI is doing fantastic work in so far as putting in place anti-doping programmes are concerned. If there is one thing that the BCCI has done correctly, it's on the anti-doping aspect.

“The BCCI can be proud of this fact, thanks to Dr. Vece Paes. He was very particular on this serious issue. I am very firm and clear that no cricketer who plays for India, India-A, Under -19, women's teams and in the domestic tournaments can claim excuse, other than his own mistake.”

### Pocket diary

It's been ten years since the ICC started the anti-doping activities and the BCCI too

has followed suit, positioning educational programs for the teams that play in domestic tournaments.

“A pocket diary is given to each and every player who plays in the BCCI tournaments, seniors, juniors and women and the girls.

The WADA announces a fresh list of prohibited substances every January.

It keeps on changing. Once the WADA publishes the list, the anti-doping department of the BCCI brings out a pocket diary and it is sent to all the associations for distribution to its players and physios.”

According to Shetty, the pocket diary gives all information on anti-doping.

“The diary has the prohibited list. The BCCI has also set up a 24x7 hotline. There is also an educational programme conducted for every team of every State. It's compulsory.

“The BCCI has all also put the anti-doping information on its website. If people feel that there is lack of education, I disagree with that. The BCCI has been proactive



Ratnakar Shetty. ■ PTI

on anti-doping for seven, eight years,” revealed Shetty.

### Pleased with outcome

Shetty is pleased with the outcome of dope tests done on Indian players since 2010.

“I will say that no current Indian player since 2010, when the ICC started dope tests, has ever been charged. There was an occasion when the WADA believed that certain substances dissolve in

## Will go with an open mind: Gaekwad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA

The Kapil Dev-led Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) tasked to appoint new head coach will not be prejudiced, former India coach and member of the panel Aunshuman Gaekwad said on Wednesday.

“There's no question of what Kohli says or anybody says,” Gaekwad told PTI.

He said the three committee members are awaiting the BCCI guidelines as they are yet to discuss the matter among themselves.

water and hence certain things did not appear in urine samples.

“So in 2017 the ICC introduced blood tests. But no Indian cricketer has given adverse results which actually reflects on the BCCI's educational programmes and mechanisms.

“The Indian team physio has also taken lot of effort. And there is a reporting system. The Indian players will always ask the physio about a particular drug.”

Referring to the cough syrup that Shaw consumed which had Terbutaline, Shetty explained: “There are two types of cough syrups. One contains the banned substance which is not supposed to be consumed and the other doesn't. It's the player's responsibility to ensure that he is consuming the right syrup. The player knows everything. Today every State team has a qualified physio; he's part of the educational programme and he is trained. And all the States cooperate with anti-doping programmes.”

## SPSN's Olympics bonanza

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Sony Pictures Sports Network (SPSN), the official broadcaster of Olympic Games 2020, will start an on-air campaign, *Hum Honge Kamyab*.

It includes India-centric content featuring Indian athletes and Olympic disciplines. The film showcases aspiring athletes in training, inspired by their real-life heroes and past Olympians.

With less than a year to go for the multi-games global event in Tokyo, a specially customised line-up of programmes will also be aired on Sony Ten 1 channels every Friday night at 8 p.m., including India-specific series under ‘*Hum Honge Kamyab*’ and non-India content under ‘The Olympic Dream’, according to a media release.

The on-air campaign will have a section ‘Land of Legends’, highlighting stories of India's medal-winning hockey teams. Another episode ‘Can't Stay Down’ focuses on India's wrestling akharas, ‘Foul Play: Dutee’ features the story of Dutee Chand's trials with gender-testing policies.

‘Shakti: India's Super Women’ focuses on female sportspersons Dipa Karmakar, Deepika Kumari, Sakshi Malik and Sandhya Shetty who have overcome obstacles to achieve their sporting dreams.

The non-Indian content includes sections like ‘Unforgettable Olympic Moments’, ‘Olympics on the Record’, Olympic documentaries from Five Rings Films.

The network will also launch an Olympic Channel section on its app, featuring 50+ original series and more than 10 films, themed on the Olympic Games performers and achievements.



TV PICKS

**The Ashes:** 1st Test, Sony Six (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.  
**UTT:** Star Sports 1 & Star Sports Select 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.  
**PKL:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.  
**TNPL:** Star Sports 3 (SD & HD), 7.15 p.m.

IN BRIEF



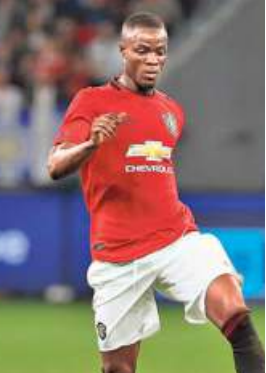
World Cup winning coach Jill Ellis to step down

WASHINGTON  
Jill Ellis, who coached the United States to a second consecutive Women's World Cup title earlier this month, will step down after her team's US Victory Tour in early October, US Soccer announced on Tuesday. Ellis, who was appointed to the job in May 2014 after Tom Sermanni was removed a month earlier, has compiled an overall record of 102-7 with 18 drawn ahead of her farewell tour with the US squad. **AFP**



Janette Brittin gets honour at The Oval

OVAL  
The Oval cricket ground on Wednesday named a room in the member's pavilion after Janette Brittin, a woman cricketer from England. It is the first time an English ground has named a facility after a woman cricketer to honour her contribution to both Surrey and England cricket. A veteran of 27 Tests and 63 ODIs, Brittin is Surrey's all-time leading female batsman and played a vital role in developing women's cricket in the county. **ANI**



Baily set for long lay-off after knee surgery

LONDON  
Manchester United defender Eric Bailly will be out until the end of the year after suffering a knee injury, manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said on Tuesday. Bailly, 25, hurt his knee in last Thursday's 2-1 win against Tottenham Hotspur in the International Champions Cup (ICC) and had successful surgery on Tuesday. **REUTERS**

CAB gives voting rights to internationals

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

The Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) has agreed in principle to give voting rights to former internationals.

Following a Special General Meeting (SGM) of the CAB here on Wednesday, CAB president Sourav Ganguly said, "We will give them voting rights if the court does not change the verdict. After this we will be fully Lodha (Committee recommendation) compliant."

At present, CAB has 121 members with voting rights. At least 15 cricketers from the State have played at the international level.

The CAB will wait for the Supreme Court hearing on August 8 before changing its constitution to incorporate the new provision, as per the decision taken at the AGM.

"After the amendment we will appoint an electoral officer. We will proceed with the AGM after August 8," Ganguly said.

Satwiksairaj and Ashwini cause a flutter

The duo stuns Olympic silver medallists Soon and Ying; Saina returns in style; Srikanth made to sweat

THAILAND OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BANGKOK

India's mixed doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa on Wednesday recorded one of the biggest wins of their career, stunning Olympic silver medallists Chan Peng Soon and Goh Liu Ying in the first round of Thailand Open.

The unseeded Indian pair battled for one hour and two minutes to get past the fifth seeded Malaysian pair of Soon and Ying 21-18, 18-21, 21-17.

In women's singles, star shuttler Saina Nehwal returned to the court in style, registering a 21-17, 21-19 win over local hope Phittayaporn Chaiwan.

Five Indian men through

It was good news for Indians in the men's singles event too as K. Srikanth, H.S. Prannoy, P. Kashyap, B. Sai Praneeth and Shubhanker Dey progressed to the next round.

Fifth seed Srikanth was made to toil hard for one hour and seven minutes by Chinese qualifier Ren Peng Bo before winning 21-13, 17-21, 21-19.

Prannoy defeated Hong Kong's Wong Wing Ki Vincent of 21-16, 22-20, while Kashyap came from a game down to beat Israel's Misha Zilberman 18-21, 21-8, 21-14.



Smashing away: Ashwini Ponnappa and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy recorded one of the biggest wins of their career. ■ FILE PHOTO

Lady luck smiled on Subhankar Dey as he was handed a walkover by top seed and World No. 1 Kento Momota of Japan.

In the second round, Subhankar faces compatriot Sai Praneeth who rallied from a game down to beat Kantaphon Wangcharoen of Thailand 17-21, 21-17 21-15.

However, it was curtains for the Verma brothers, Sourabh and Sameer. Sourabh fought hard for 64 minutes against seventh seed Kanta Tsuneyama of Japan before going down 21-23 21-19 5-21 in his opening match.

Sameer squandered a first game advantage to lose 23-21, 11-21, 5-21 to Lee Zii Jia of

Malaysia.

The results (first round):

**Men:** K. Srikanth bt Ren Peng Bo (Chn) 21-13, 17-21, 21-19; H.S. Prannoy bt Wong Wing Ki Vincent (Hkg) 21-16, 22-20; P. Kashyap bt Misha Zilberman 18-21, 21-8, 21-14; Sai Praneeth bt Kantaphon Wangcharoen (Tha) 17-21, 21-17, 21-15; Kanta Tsuneyama (Jpn) bt Sourabh Verma 23-21, 19-21, 21-5; Zii Jia (Mas)

bt Sameer Verma 21-23, 21-11, 21-5; Subhankar Dey w.o. Kento Momota.

**Women:** Saina Nehwal bt Phittayaporn Chaiwan (Tha) 21-17, 21-19; Chen Xiao Xin (Chn) bt Sai Uttejitha Rao Chukka 21-17, 21-7.

**Mixed doubles:** Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Ashwini Ponnappa bt Chan Peng Soon & Goh Liu Ying (Mas) 21-18, 18-21, 21-17.

Gujrathi wins Biel tourney

P.K. AJITH KUMAR KOZHIKODE

It is not every day that you would find an Indian player other than Viswanathan Anand making a final, winning move in a prestigious chess tournament. So what Vidity Gujrathi has achieved in the Swiss town of Biel on Tuesday is creditable.

Even more creditable is the way the 24-year-old from Nashik won the Biel International Chess Festival. Not merely did he clinch the title with a round to spare, but he finished with a 3-0 demolition of Iran's promising teenager Parham Maghsoodloo in the final round – when he could have opted to play it easy.

And Gujrathi won the tournament in a demanding format that combined all the three formats of chess – classical, rapid and blitz.

"This could be a turning point for him," Grandmas-



Vidity Gujrathi ■ SIMON BOHNENBLUST / BIEL CHESS FESTIVAL

ter Abhijit Kunte, who has worked with him on several occasions, told *The Hindu* over phone from Pune. "The way he played at Biel was remarkable. I have always believed that he had the potential to reach the World's Top 10."

"Vidity has age on his side, though to score Elo points after crossing 2700 is never easy," said Kunte.

It's Lady Legend vs. Accolade

BENGALURU: Stablemates Lady Legend and Accolade may fight out the finish of the Bangalore City Sprint Championship Gold Cup (1,200m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Thursday (Aug 1).

False rails (width about 8.5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

**1. AUGUST PLATE** (1,100m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2-30 p.m.: 1. Altair (4) Irvan 56, 2. Caesars Palace (8) Mark 56, 3. Country's Jewel (3) R. Shelar 56, 4. Knotty Oak (5) Antony 56, 5. Siroco (2) Dhebe 56, 6. Donna Bella (1) Suraj 54.5, 7. Sandarina (7) Arshad 54.5 and 8. Will To Win (6) Zervan 54.5.

**1. KNOTTY OAK,** 2. WILL TO WIN, 3. DONNA BELLA

**2. COMMANCHE PLATE** (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 00 to 20, 5-y-o & over, 3-00: 1. Barog (6) Irvan 60, 2. Noble Splendor (1) Nazerul 59.5, 3. All Said And Done (9) Adarsh 56.5, 4. Winx (4) T.S. Jodha 56.5, 5. Purity (10) Antony 56, 6. String Of Pearls (5) Rayan 54.5, 7. Aafrikaan (8) Kiran Rai 53.5, 8. Racy Princess (7) A. Merchant 53, 9. Zedclass (3) Jagadeesh 52.5 and 10. Proudwith (2) Indrajeet Singh 52.

**1. BAROG, 2. PURITY, 3. WINX**

**3. LT. COL. GAUNT MEMORIAL TROPHY** (1,600m), rated 45 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 3-30: 1. Dr Logan

(6) Srinath 60, 2. Star Cracker (3) T.S. Jodha 59, 3. Gypsy (5) Suraj 57.5, 4. Striking Grey (8) Darshan 56.5, 5. Good Time Indeed (4) Trevor 56, 6. Super Smart (1) Chetan G 55.5, 7. Standout (12) Antony 54.5, 8. Starry Wind (9) Irvan 54, 9. Aaron The Baron (7) Sandesh 53, 10. Masada (11) Arshad 53, 11. Torsoro (2) R. Manish 53 and Wild Wild Angels (10) Dhebe 53.

**1. STRIKING GREY,** 2. STAR CRACKER, 3. DR LOGAN

**4. BANGALORE CITY SPRINT CHAMPIONSHIP GOLD CUP** (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, (Terms), 4-00: 1. Accolade (4) Suraj 60, 2. Dream Catcher (1) John 60, 3. Smile Stone (3) Arshad 60, 4. Southpaw (2) Srinath 60, 5. Star Baron (5) A. Imran 60, 6. Subah Ka Tara (7) Zervan 60 and 7. Lady Legend (6) Trevor 58.5.

**1. LADY LEGEND, 2. ACCOLADE,** 3. DREAM CATCHER

**5. KARNATAKA SUB-AREA CUP** (1,400m), rated 60 & above, 4-30: 1. Merlot (5) John 60, 2. Buscadero (6) Vinod Shinde 57.5, 3. Haedi's Folly (8) Irvan 57.5, 4. Into The Groove (3) Suraj 57.5, 5. Shesmyscript (10) Trevor 57.5, 6. Castaway (2) Zervan 56.5, 7. Rum Runner (4) B. Harish 56, 8. Regal Music (1) Vaibhav 55.5, 9. Fire Glow (7) T.S. Jodha 55, 10. Snowdon (11) Sandesh 55 and 11. Spirit-ous (9) Antony 54.5.

**1. SNOWDON, 2. SPIRITOUS,** 3. SHESMYSRIPT

**6. KUNIGAL STUD PLATE** (1,400m), rated 30 to 50, 4-y-o & over, 5-00: 1. Star Man (9) Trevor 60, 2. Colonel Harty (4) Rajesh K 58, 3. Kerazano (1) Sandesh 58, 4. Venus Bay (3) Antony 58, 5. Game Changer (5) Chetan G 57.5, 6. Bold Move (7) S. Shareef 57, 7. Amazing Skill (6) Mark 56.5, 8. Black Whizz (8) T.S. Jodha 56, 9. Bernardini (2) Suraj 53.5, 10. Incitatus (11) Kiran Rai 53.5 and 11. Scarlet Princess (10) M. Kumar 53.5.

**1. KERAZANO, 2. BERNARDINI,** 3. COLONEL HARTY

**7. COMMANCHE PLATE** (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 00 to 20, 5-y-o & over, 5-30: 1. Only Prince (6) R. Ravi 60, 2. First Step (9) John 59.5, 3. Indian Brahms (2) T.S. Jodha 59.5, 4. Above The Rest (4) Chetan G 59, 5. All By Myself (1) M. Naveen 58.5, 6. Bravado (5) A. Merchant 58.5, 7. Savisa (8) Vinod Shinde 58, 8. Able Master (7) Darshan 57, 9. Good Word (10) S. Shareef 55.5 and 10. Seaborn (3) Rayan 55.

**1. ABOVE THE REST,** 2. ALL BY MYSELF, 3. FIRST STEP  
Day's best: SNOWDON  
Double: LADY LEGEND – KERAZANO  
Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (1): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

'Never asked umpire to cancel four off overthrow'

I went straight to Tom Latham and said 'Mate, I am so sorry': Ben Stokes



Ben Stokes. ■ AFP

CRICKET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LONDON

With his "hand on heart", England's World Cup hero Ben Stokes says he never asked the umpires to cancel the four runs off an overthrow during the epic final against New Zealand.

One of the biggest turning points of the July 14 final was the overthrow on the fourth ball of the final over bowled by Trent Boult.

In a bid to complete his second run, a diving

Stokes, his bat outstretched, accidentally deflected the ball coming from the deep mid-wicket region to the third man boundary.

"I saw all of that. I was thinking to myself, did I say that? But hand on heart, I did not go up to the umpires and say something like that to the umpires," Stokes said in the latest episode of BBC podcast *'Tuffers and Vaughan'*

Apologies

Stokes, who remained not out on 84 at the end of reg-

ulation play before swinging his bat again in the Super Over, said he apologised to New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson and wicketkeeper Tom Latham as the ball rolled past the boundary.

"I went straight to Tom Latham and said 'Mate, I am so sorry', looked over to Kane (Williamson) and said 'I'm sorry'," he said.

Stokes' England teammate James Anderson had earlier claimed that the all-rounder had asked for the four overthrow runs to be cancelled.



The star: Thomas Muller fired in two goals for Bayern Munich against Fenerbahce. ■ REUTERS

against a Turkish side that finished its game against the host in disarray.

For Spurs, Harry Kane scored the only goal of the game with a deft finish after pouncing on a disastrous pass by Marcello, who was trying to prevent a throw in, after 22 minutes.

In the late game, Bayern scored five in the first half with two goals from Thomas Muller and one each from Renato Sanches, Leon Goertzka and Kingsley Coman.

Fenerbahce's German international attacker Max Kruse scored a late consolation goal.

The red and gold brigade's remarkable journey

Kapil to be honoured with Bharat Gaurav

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA KOLKATA

In a city used to political rallies and processions, a sea of humanity descended on Kumartuli Park in north Kolkata last Sunday to celebrate something the metropolis is equally passionate about – football.

It was at this park that East Bengal, the iconic football club, began its journey, playing its first match soon after its formation in 1920. The venue was awash in red and gold as thousands of East Bengal fans (approximately 60,000, according to the club), across generations, came together to witness the beginning of their club's centenary celebrations.

The occasion marked a spectacular prelude to East Bengal's efforts to immortalise its entry into the select club of centuries which includes celebrated rivals Mohun Bagan and Mohammedan Sporting.

The list

East Bengal will officially kick off the centenary celebrations on its Foundation Day on Thursday with a glittering ceremony at the Netaji Indoor Stadium.

At the function, the club will award India's first World Cup-winning captain Kapil Dev with its highest honour, Bharat Gaurav. Kapil is no stranger to football as he had donned the club's colours in an exhibition match against Mohun Bagan in 1992.

Stalwarts like Manoranjan Bhattacharya and Bhaskar Ganguly will be honoured with lifetime achievement awards.

Special awards

There will also be special awards for two iconic names – Bhaichung Bhutia and P.K. Banerjee – who contributed to the club's growth as player and coach respectively.

The function will also felicitate the family members of three founder-members – Suresh Chowdhury, Sailesh Bose and Ramesh Chandra (Nasha) Sen.

Three former secretaries – Jyotish Chandra Guha, Nripen Das and Dipak (Pal-tu) Das – will also be ho-



Kapil. ■ FILE PHOTO

noured posthumously.

The decision of Quess Corp, the club's present investor, to delink itself after the current season cast a shadow over the celebrations as many of the current players and coach, Alejandro Menendez, were absent.

This, however, did not dampen the atmosphere as a large number of legendary names from the past joined the multitude of supporters in a colourful procession that concluded at the club's present address opposite the Eden Gardens after covering a six-km distance.

There was a carnival atmosphere as supporters waved the club flag, marching alongside tableaux depicting its history.

Bhowmick's wish

"Let us hope that East Bengal wins the I-League this time and make the centenary celebrations more memorable," said Subhash Bhowmick, the man who, as coach, helped the club win the ASEAN Club Championship in 2003.

Bhutia, named the "biggest find of the century" by the club, and legendary forward Sukumar Samajpatti wished the club a great future.

"East Bengal has remained one of the biggest names in Indian football ever since its inception.

"That it is now completing a century with the same intensity makes its achievement unique," Samajpatti said.

Elizabeth reigns in rifle 3-position

Bests a top-class field that included Tejaswini and Anjali

SHOOTING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

It was like old times for Elizabeth Susan Koshy. The 25-year-old Kerala girl gained plenty of confidence by winning the women's rifle 3-position gold, in a top class field, in the 12th Sardar Sajjan Singh Sethi Masters shooting championship at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, on Wednesday.

With the final staged at the final hall, instead of the 50-metre range, the atmosphere added to the aspirations of Elizabeth who remembered that she had won the gold in 2017.

"Honestly I was not thinking about winning. In the last year and a half I have been struggling with my shooting. Coach Stanislaw Lapidus was the backbone to my shooting. After he left Indian shooting, I lacked the guidance.

"Of course, I have worked with many other coaches. I was not getting the feel in my shooting. However, I told myself that it would not be an excuse," said Elizabeth, after receiving a congratulatory hug and peck from her mother Sosa.

After qualifying in the sixth place, with a modest score of 1161, Elizabeth was in a different zone in the final. She was in the third



Crack shots: The rifle 3-position gold champion Elizabeth Susan Koshy, centre, along with Tejaswini Sawant, left, and K.C. Hema. ■ KAMESH SRINIVASAN

place after 15 shots in kneeling with 152.1, on par with Anjali Bhagwat, and 1.6 point behind leader Lajja Gauswami.

After 15 more shots in prone, Elizabeth was firmly in the lead ahead of Tejaswini Sawant, Anjum Moudgil and Lajja. Elizabeth enhanced the lead in the standing position to triumph with a 4.5 point margin over Tejaswini, while K.C. Hema sneaked to the bronze, after having qualified in the eighth place. "Hard work has paid. I guess, I still have the national record in final. Today, I did not have the feel, but forgot about everything else and focused on my technique. The shots went very well. I think, God was pulling the trigger," said Elizabeth with a smile.

**The results: Men: 25m standard pistol:** 1. Gurpreet Singh 577, 2. Vijayveer Sidhu 576, 3. Adarsh Singh 574. **Juniors:** 1. Vijayveer 576, 2. Adarsh 574, 3. Anish Bhanwala 573.

**50m rifle prone:** 1. Tarun Yadav 622.6, 2. Sanjeev Rajput 619.6, 3. Sateyndra Singh 618.2. **Juniors:** 1. Abid Ali Khan 620.5, 2. Gohil Harsharjinhij 617.4, 3. Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar 614.7.

**Women: 50m Rifle 3-position:** 1. Elizabeth Susan Koshy 460.1 (1161), 2. Tejaswini Sawant 455.6 (1161), 3. K.C. Hema 444.5 (1158). **Juniors:** 1. Ayushi Podder 444.9 (1147), 2. Prashidhi 444.4 (1148), 3. Shirin Godara 432.3 (1135).

**Mixed air pistol:** 1. Air India (Annu Raj Singh, Deepak Sharma) 17 (385, 572), 2. ONGC (Shweta Singh, Amanpreet Singh) 5 (386, 580), 3. Railways (Ruchita Vinerkar, Hemendra Singh) 17 (384, 568).