

TV PICKS

Euro qualifiers: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 p.m.
Denmark Open badminton: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 12.30 p.m. Star Sports 3, 6 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Kosgei breaks World record at Chicago Marathon
CHICAGO
Kenya's Brigid Kosgei set a new World record by winning the elite women's group at the Chicago Marathon on Sunday, with a time of 2 hours 14 minutes and four seconds. Kosgei's time was more than a minute faster than the all-time record of 2:15:25 set by Paula Radcliffe in the 2003. Lawrence Cherono, also from Kenya, won the men's race in 2:05:45s. IANS



Federer says he will compete at Tokyo Olympics
PARIS
Roger Federer announced on Monday he will compete at next year's Tokyo Olympics in a bid to win the men's singles gold medal, the only major prize he has yet to obtain. "I've been debating with my team for a few weeks now, months actually, what I should do in the summer time (of 2020) after Wimbledon and before the US Open," he said at a promotional event. "At the end of the day my heart decided to play the Olympic Games again." AFP

Double for Modern School, Barakhamba Road
NEW DELHI: Modern School, Barakhamba Road won both the senior and sub-junior boys titles, beating Montfort School in both the finals of the 30th Hansraj Prabhakar inter-school basketball tournament at the Oxford Senior Secondary School, Vikaspuri, on Monday. Modern won the senior boys final 67-49 with Amit top-scoring with 35 points. It was a lot better fight from Montfort in the sub-junior section as Modern prevailed 45-42, with Yash emerging the top-scorer with 28 points.
The results (finals):
Boys, seniors: Modern, Barakhamba Road 67 (Amit 35, Thianga 17) bt Montfort 49 (Bryant 17, Samyak 14).
Sub-juniors: Modern, Barakhamba Road 45 (Yash 28, Karan 10) bt Montfort 42 (Abhishek 17, Sahil 10).

Poland, Russia make the grade

Germany and the Netherlands inch ahead

EURO QUALIFIERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE PARIS

Poland and Russia secured their places at Euro 2020 on Sunday with victories over North Macedonia and Cyprus respectively, while Germany and the Netherlands boosted their hopes of reaching the finals.

Russia eased to a 5-0 thrashing of 10-man Cyprus, with Poland joining it, Belgium and Italy in qualifying this week by seeing off North Macedonia 2-0.

Stanislav Cherchesov's Russia, which reached the World Cup quarterfinals on home soil last year, only had to avoid defeat in Nicosia to follow Belgium in qualifying from Group I.

Russia will attempt to overtake Belgium, which beat Kazakhstan 2-0 earlier on Sunday, at the summit when it hosts the world's number one side on November 16.

Poland went into its game against North Macedonia knowing victory would punch its ticket for the Euros.

It was forced to be patient by the visitor, which could qualify through the playoffs after winning its Nations League group if it fails to do so automatically.



Two-goal hero: Cheryshev's brace was the highlight of Russia's big win over Cyprus. *AFP

Poland remains three points clear of Austria, which won 1-0 in Slovenia, at the top of Group G, with North Macedonia and Slovenia five points further adrift.

Ronald Koeman's the Netherlands remained at the top of Group C ahead of Germany on head-to-head record with a nervy 2-1 win over Belarus in Minsk.

The Dutch lead third-placed Northern Ireland by three points after beating Michael O'Neill's side 3-1 on Thursday.

"We have to do better than we did in the second half,

although in the end we had things under control," Dutch captain Virgil van Dijk told television channel NOS.

"We are now very close to qualifying for the finals, and ultimately that's what counts."

Victory in Belfast over the Northern Irish next month would secure the Oranje a first appearance at a major tournament since finishing third at the 2014 World Cup.

Germany eased to a 3-0 victory in Estonia despite seeing Emre Can sent off in the 14th minute.

The results: Group C: Belarus 1

(Dragun 54) lost to the Netherlands 2 (Wijnaldum 32, 41); Estonia 0 lost to Germany 3 (Gundogan 51, 57, Werner 71).

Group E: Hungary 1 (Korhut 10) bt Azerbaijan 0; Wales 1 (Bale 45+3) drew with Croatia 1 (Vlasic 9).

Group G: Slovenia 0 lost to Austria 1 (Posch 21); Poland 2 (Frankowski 74, Milik 80) bt North Macedonia 0.

Group I: Kazakhstan 0 lost to Belgium 2 (Batshuayi 21, Meunier 53); Cyprus 0 lost to Russia 5 (Cheryshev 9, 90+2, Ozdoev 23, Dzyuba 79, Golovin 89); Scotland 6 (McGinn 12, 27, 45+1, Shankland 65, Findlay 67, Armstrong 87) bt San Marino 0.

Players and the guiding light

TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN NEW DELHI

It was not just the assembly of the best players across age groups, but also the best coaches during the fortnight of the Fenesta National tennis championships.

"The girls have a good chance at the international level if they move well," said Davis Cup coach Zeeshan Ali, pleased to see his ward Reshma Maruri give a good account of herself against Pari Singh in the under-16 final.

Two coaches – Jignesh Raval and Shrimal Bhatt – have come together and brought the expertise of former top-100 player Alexander Waske from Germany to their Altevoll Academy in Ahmedabad. From their stable, Madhwin Kamath and Vaidehi Chaudhari drew attention with their spectacular all-round game.

While Madhwin won the under-18 boys' title, Vaidehi lost the women's semifinals to eventual champion Sowjanya Baviseti.

Coach Sajid Lodi, who had guided Mahak Jain to back-to-back women's titles



Joining forces: Shrimal Bhatt and Jignesh Raval who have set up a world-class centre in Ahmedabad. *KAMESH SRINIVASAN

over the last two years, had another champion from his centre in Indore – Shrivalli Bhamidipaty – who won the under-18 girls' crown.

Watching the explosive Karan Singh, winner of the under-16 boys' title, former National champion Ashutosh Singh, who coaches along with his sister Shalini Thakur Chawla at the DLTA, was impressed by the talent of the Haryana boy.

Karan has been groomed by his father on the clay

courts of Karnal. However, he demonstrated such an all-round game, with a blend of power and touch, that he is certain to have a sparkling career.

Both Yuvan Nandal, in the semifinal, and Udit Gogoi (final) had match points against Karan in the under-16 event, but the tall and strong lad played better when it mattered most.

Some of the best under-14 talent like Yuvan Nandal and Agriya Yadav visit Strphen

Koon in Thailand for training, and Ashutosh felt it was the right choice as it would bring discipline to their game and approach.

Udit Gogoi, who made the final of the under-18 and under-16 events, was literally a gymnast on the court. He battled with great courage despite his short stature. He is now with coach Aditya Sachdeva, who has groomed some of the best talent, including Yuki Bhambri.

Jagmeet Kaur, trained by coach Sumit Rana for the last few years, sprang a surprise on the rest in the women's event before she lost in the semifinals to four-time National champion Prerna Bhambri.

Clark pleased

Coach Todd Clark, who has been guiding a string of juniors, including Zeel Desai at the Ahmedabad Racquets Academy, was pleased by the fight shown by Sam Chawla and Dhruv Tangri.

"We have a simple rule. Turn up, work hard and listen," said Clark, the Aussie who had earlier worked at the Harvest Tennis Academy in Ludhiana for five years.

Vijay Hazare Trophy scores

ELITE:

Group A (Bengaluru): Goa 154/9 in 28 overs (Vaibhav Govekar 50, C.M. Gautam 46, Jaydev Unadkat 3/28) lost to Saurashtra 157/5 in 26.5 overs (Samarth Vyas 34, Prerak Mankad 41 n.o.). Match reduced to 28 overs after wet outfield delayed the start.

■ Kerala 199 in 48.4 overs (Robin Uthappa 43, M.D. Nidheesh 40, Dhawal Kulkarni 3/54, Shardul Thakur 3/40) lost to Mumbai 202/2 in 38.2 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 122, Aditya Tare 67).

■ Chhattisgarh 171/5 in 23 overs (Ashutosh Singh 66, Shashank Singh 31 n.o.) bt Hyderabad 147 in 19.5 overs (Tilak Varma 41, B. Sandeep 39, Veer Pratap Singh 4/23). Match reduced to 23 overs after wet outfield delayed the start.

Group B (Vadodara): Uttar Pradesh 211 in 49 overs (Priyam Garg 120, Yash Thakur 3/41, Akshay Karnewar 3/38) bt Vidarbha 102 in 31.3 overs (Saurabh Kumar 6/25).

■ Delhi 220/8 in 50 overs (Dhruv Shorey 46, Nitish Rana 39, Himmat Singh 33, Lalit Yadav 54 n.o., Siddharth Kaul 5/48) bt Punjab 215/9 in 50 overs (Abhishek Sharma 36, Anmolpreet Singh 73, Sharad Lumba 40).

■ Himachal 161 in 44 overs (Prashant Chopra 40, Nikhil Gangta 46 n.o., Rishi Dhawan 31, Bhargav Bhatt 3/24, Ninad Rathva 3/33) lost to Baroda 165/8 in 34.5 overs (Swapnil Singh 66 n.o., Deepak Hooda 32, Ankush Bedi 3/43).

Group C (Jaipur): Bengal 223 in 49.1 overs (Shreevats Goswami 56, Abhishek Raman 42, Shahbaz Ahmed 30, Himanshu Sangwan 3/49) tied with Railways 223 in 50 overs (Mrunal Devdhar 47, Pratham Singh 91, Sayan Ghosh 3/61).

■ Bihar 267/7 in 50 overs (Babul Kumar 66, Shasheem Rathour 71, MD Rahmatullah 63, Diwesh Pathania 3/63) lost to Services 269/5 in 48.4 overs (Ravi Chauhan 86, Rajat Paliwal 69 n.o.).

■ Jammu & Kashmir 279/8 in 50 overs (Ahmed Banday 40, Shubham Khajuria 66, Parvez Rasool 49, Abdul Samad 68) lost to Gujarat 282/2 in 37.3 overs (Parthiv Patel 63, Priyank Panchal 135 n.o., Bhargav Merai 70 n.o.).

Plate (Dehradun): Manipur 109 in 30.1 overs (Priyot Singh 44 n.o., Vinay Kumar 4/21, Sagar Udeshi 3/26) lost to Pondicherry 115/1 in 16.1 overs (K.B. Arun Karthick 67 n.o.).

■ Meghalaya 100 in 34.5 overs (Dwaraka Ravi Teja 51 n.o., Arup Das 3/15, Roshan Alam 4/25) lost to Assam 104/4 in 17.4 overs (Sibsankar Roy 69 n.o., Abhay Negi 3/39).

■ Chandigarh 220 in 49.4 overs (Jaskarandeep Singh 34, Bipul Sharma 49, Ankit Kaushik 55, Tahmeed Rahman 3/28, Imliwati Lemtur 3/52) lost to Nagaland 222/9 in 48.4 overs (Aosashi Longchar 76, Shrikant Mundhe 45, Shresth Nirmohi 5/37).

TUESDAY'S MATCH (9 A.M. START) **Group B (Vadodara):** Baroda vs Vidarbha

A thrilling tie in a near-empty stadium

Railways, after being on track in the chase, flounders under pressure against Bengal

HAZARE TROPHY

P.K. AJITH KUMAR JAIPUR

Except for the parents of a Bengal cricketer and a few organisers, the Sawai Mansingh Stadium was empty on Monday.

That was a pity as the Vijay Hazare Trophy match between Bengal and Railways produced a tie, and it ended with the last ball.

Pan (28) and Ritwik Roy Choudhary (26) put on 45 for the fifth wicket. But for that partnership, Bengal would have been in deeper trouble, after losing three wickets while adding 16 runs.

Sharp fielding

Wicketkeeper and opener Shreevats Goswami (56, 75b, 5x4, 1x6) and Abhishek Raman (42, 37b) put on 75 for the second wicket after their captain Abhimanyu Easwaran was run out by a sharp piece of fielding from counterpart Arindam Ghosh.

Though Shahbaz Ahmed hung around for a while and made 30, it was a disappointing effort from the Bengal batsmen, who seemed far better at finding the fielders than the gaps. There was a period when not a single boundary was scored for 14 overs. Railways, it has to be mentioned, fielded rather well.

A target of 224 shouldn't have been difficult on a track that had no demons. When



Fighting knock: Opener Shreevats Goswami top-scored for Bengal with a half-century. *FILE PHOTO

openers Mrunal Devdhar (47, 52b) and Pratham Singh (91, 131b, 9x4, 1x6) stitched together a partnership of 82, scoring ahead of the asking rate, Railways seemed well on track for its third win in the tournament.

Before long, however, a flurry of wickets and a dip in the run-rate, due to a tidy spell of left-arm spin from Shahbaz, saw the Railways chase floundering under pressure. The Bengal men, sensing a chance out of almost nowhere, were now catching and fielding with vigour.

Nervous tail

Railways was still better placed though, needing just 19 from the last four overs

with four wickets intact, but a nervous tail failed to wag. It required just one from the final ball of the match, bowled by seamer Ashoke Dinda.

The last man, T. Pradeep hit it in the air straight to mid-off, where substitute Anustump Majumdar dropped the catch. But, he recovered it in time and threw the ball back to run Pradeep out. Such a dramatic finish surely deserved a better audience.

The scores: Bengal 223 in 49.1 overs (Shreevats Goswami 56, Abhishek Raman 42, Shahbaz Ahmed 30, Himangshu Sangwan 3/49) tied with Railways 223 in 50 overs (Mrunal Devdhar 47, Pratham Singh 91, Sayan Ghosh 3/61).

Karthikeyan, Aravindh will be keen to make amends

Praggnanandhaa is expected to perform more freely

WORLD JR CHESS

RAKESH RAO NEW DELHI

After R. Praggnanandhaa showed the way in winning the World under-18 title last week in Mumbai, the pressure of expectations shifts to his training partners M. Karthikeyan and Aravindh Chithambaram in the World junior chess championship beginning here on Tuesday.

Karthikeyan and Aravindh will be keen to make amends for their disappointing performances in the last edition. Karthikeyan, seeded four, came 14th while Aravindh, seeded 10th, ended up 15th. In contrast, exceeding all expectations, 23rd seed Abhimanyu Puranik finished runner-up!

With Karthikeyan and Aravindh, seeded second and third, having to deal with added pressure, 14-year-old Praggnanandhaa is expected to perform more freely. But his sister, R. Vaishali, will be the one feeling the heat as she carries the Indian medal hopes in the girls' section.

The fourth seed heads the home brigade that includes Divya Deshmukh, Rakshit

Ravi and Vantika Agarwal – all medalists in the World Youth championship in Mumbai on Saturday.

In all, the two sections have attracted 189 entries from 51 countries. India has fielded 63 players – the quota of one-third of participants allowed for the host.

The field is headed by Iranian Amin Tabatabaei, rated 2642, ranked third in his country. In fact, provisionally, Iran named its top two players – Alireza Firouzja (2702) and the defending World junior champion Parham Maghsoodloo (2664) – for this championship, thereby providing the top three seeds in the open section.

But Firouzja withdrew after an impressive World Cup and Maghsoodloo chose to play in the ongoing Grand Swiss. But Tabatabaei's presence gives Iran reasons to be optimistic of keeping the title.

India awaits the coronation of its fourth champion in each section. In the open section, Viswanathan Anand (1987), P. Hari Krishna (2004) and Abhijeet Gupta (2008) emerged champions. Among the girls, K. Humpy (2001), D. Harika (2008) and

Soumya Swaminathan (2009) have tasted success. Somehow, on seven occasions when India hosted the event – the last time in 2016 – the home-grown talents fell short of winning the title.

Vaishali, the only Woman Grandmaster in both sections, could find the going tough since her rating of 2385 is way below China's Zhu Jiner (2507), Greece's Stavroula Tsolakidou (2431), Bulgaria's Nurgyl Salimova (2415) and the recently-crowned two-time World under-18 champion Russia's Polina Shuvalova (2412).

Better chances

In comparison, the duo of Karthikeyan and Aravindh have better prospects. Karthikeyan, a two-time National champion, was the surprise runner-up in this year's cash-rich Gibraltar Masters after beating top-seeded Frenchman Maxime Vachier Lagrave. He surely knows how to deal with pressure.

Aravindh, the only Indian to hold the National titles in classical, rapid and blitz at the same time, is looking for his 'breakthrough' moment in an international event.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BENGALURU

Double Asian Games silver medalist Fouaad Mirza bagged the top honours at the CCI3*S, an Olympic qualifying event, at Strzegom, Poland.

Fouaad is currently the highest ranked individual in Group G for Asia-Pacific Zone with 34 points on one horse Fernhill Facetime, 30 points on the second horse Touchingwood and at present qualifying his third horse, Dajara.

"I am very excited about our new horse Dajara, which has immense potential for success at the Olympics. Through the event CCI3*S,



Great going: Fouaad Mirza is currently the highest ranked individual in Group G for Asia-Pacific Zone with 34 points on one horse, 30 points on the second and at present qualifying his third horse. *FILE PHOTO

we were able to level up the horse rider combination to 4* and building up my points to qualify for the Olympics," Fouaad said on Sunday.

Fouaad started the week with a solid dressage score of 26.8 which placed him second with a very close score to Germany's Antonia Baumgart, who was one penalty better at 25.8.

This was followed by the showjumping event where Fouaad maintained the second position with a clear round.

He finished the deciding cross-country round in four seconds over time, leading him to the gold in the Strzegom CCI3*S in Poland.

Mankading and deja vu

P.K. AJITH KUMAR JAIPUR

One of the biggest talking points of the 2019 IPL was R. Ashwin 'Mankading' Jos Buttler in the match between Kings XI Punjab and Rajasthan Royals. Nearly seven months later, at the same venue – Sawai Mansingh Stadium – there was a similar incident.

Railways left-arm spinner Harsh Tyagi, seeing non-striker Agniv Pan out of the crease, knocked the bails off in the 36th over of the Bengal innings during their Hazare Trophy match on Monday.

The Bengal camp was taken aback and the support staff did react when Tyagi, who was batting at No. 8 during Railways' chase, was dismissed.

After the match which ended in a tie, Bengal coach Arun Lal minced no words. "It is bad for cricket and the reputation of (Indian) Railways as an organisation," the former India opener told *The Hindu*. Railways coach Yusuf Ali Khan said he, too, disapproved of it. "It is not good for cricket," he said.

Isabella takes the honours

HYDERABAD: Laxman Singh-trained Isabella (Neeraj astride) took the honours in the Melbourne Racing Club Trophy, the feature event of the races held here on Monday (Oct. 14), with a course record time of 1m, 23.84s. The winner is the property of M/s. Pwalla Rac. & Br.P.Ltd. rep. by Mr. Z.S. Poonawalla & Ms. S.Z. Poonawalla & M/s. Vijay Rac. & Farms P.Ltd. rep. by M/s. Vijay Kumar Gupta & Sushel Kumar Gupta. Jockey Suraj Narreddu scored a treble on the day.

1 STAR OF STARS PLATE (Div. I, (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): VIJAYS SINGHAM (Suraj Narreddu) 1, Reno Star (Akashay Kumar) 2, Wah Ms Zara (R. Ajinkya) 3 and Angel Tesoro (B.R. Kumar) 4. 1, 5-3/4, 3-1/4. Im, 11.36s. ₹ 6 (w), 5, 6 and 5 (p), SHP: 9, FP: 9, Q: 6, Tla: 9. Favourite: Vijays Singham. Owners: M/s. Vijay Racing & Farms Pvt.Ltd. rep. by Mr. Vijay Kumar Gupta & Sushel Kumar Gupta. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

2 S. RANGARAJAN MEMORIAL PLATE (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): LIGHTNING FIN (Rafique Sk.) 1, Rapid Fire (Abhay Singh) 2, Zamora (Ashhad Asbar) 3 and Shivalik Valley (Khurshad Alam) 4. 1/4, 1-1/2 and 1-1/4. Im, 11.55s. ₹ 232 (w), 29, 7 and 6 (p), SHP: 27, FP: 3,494, Q: 1,086, Tla: 9,926. Favourite: Agni. Owners: M/s. Rajesh Sanghani, Atul Bhanu Sanghani & Narender Surana. Trainer: D. Netto.

3 STAR OF STARS PLATE (Div. II), (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. II): STRATEGIST (Suraj Narreddu) 1, Aliliston (Rohit Kumar) 2, Top Saga (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Kimberly Cruise (Kiran Naidu) 4. 3-1/2, 3/4 and 1-1/4. Im, 12.82s. ₹ 7 (w), 5, 7 and 6 (p), SHP: 21, FP: 30, Q: 24, Tla: 70. Favourite: Starategist. Owner: Col.S.B. Nair. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

4 GOLCONDA PLATE (1,600m), 5-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): ACTUALLY (Suray

Prakash) 1, Avantika (Irvan Singh) 2, Treasure Striker (Ashhad Asbar) 3 and Seven Eleven (Suraj Narreddu) 4. 1-1/4, 1/2 and hd. Im, 39.99s. ₹ 60 (w), 15, 9 and 8 (p), SHP: 27, FP: 249, Q: 135, Tla: 1,410. Favourite: N R 1 Symbol. Owner: Mr. M. Satyanarayana. Trainer: Deshmukh.

5 STARS OF STARS PLATE (Div. I, (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): KIONIA (Akshay Kumar) 1, Silver Set (Suraj Narreddu) 2, Dimension (Rohit Kumar) 3 and Bar Et Law (Abhay Singh) 4. 1-3/4, 2-3/4 and 1-1/4. Im, 12.95s. ₹ 15 (w), 8, 5 and 5 (p), SHP: 16, FP: 32, Q: 20, Tla: 64. Favourite: Blue Empress. Owners: M/s. Meka Yugandhar, Derrick J. Rego & M. Rama Krishna Reddy. Trainer: L.D.Silva.

6 MELBOURNE RACING CLUB TROPHY (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, (Cat. D, (Terms): ISABELLA: (Neeraj) 1, Phenomenal Cruise (Suraj Narreddu) 2, Highly Acclaimed (Surya Prakash) 3 and Starlight (Kuldeep Singh) 4. 2, 1 and 5-1/4. Im, 23.84s. (record time). ₹ 8 (w), 7 and 8 (p), SHP: 12, FP: 18, Q: 11, Tla: 60. Favourite: Isabella. Owners: M/s. Pwalla Rac. & Br.P.Ltd. rep. by Mr. Z.S. Poonawalla & Ms. S.Z. Poonawalla & M/s. Vijay Rac. & Farms P.Ltd. rep. by M/s. Vijay Kumar Gupta & Sushel Kumar Gupta. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

7 PRINCE REGENT PLATE (1,400m), 5-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. II): SARVATRA (Suraj Narreddu) 1, Om My Way (Nakhat Singh) 2, Freedom Fire (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Patron Saint (Jitendra Singh) 4. 4-1/4, 1-3/4 and 2-3/4. 1m26.66s. ₹ 13 (w), 7, 8 and 7 (p), SHP: 26, FP: 61, Q: 38, Tla: 105. Favourite: Sarvatra. Owners: Col. S.B. Nair. & Mr. Rahul Nair. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

Jackpot: ₹ 815 (654 tkts), Runner up: 97 (2,341 tkts), Mini Jkt: 1,039 (62 tkts), Tr (0): 4,356 (12 tkts), (ii): 91 (1,086 tkts).