

TV PICKS

Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 7.15 p.m. & 9.40 p.m. SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 9.50 p.m.
Bundesliga: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 7.40 p.m.
Serie A: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 5 p.m. & 7.30 p.m. Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m. & 10.30 p.m.
FIFA U-17 WC: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 4.30 a.m.
NBA: Sony Ten 1 & 3 (SD & HD), 7.30 a.m.
Rugby WC: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 2.10 p.m.
Australia vs Sri Lanka: 1st T20I, Sony Six (SD & HD), 9 a.m.
Mexican GP: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Monday)
French Open badminton: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 5.30 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.15 p.m.
T20I Qualifiers: Star Sports 3, 11.20 a.m., 3.30 p.m. & 8.45 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Lakers bounce back with win over Jazz

LOS ANGELES
LeBron James and Los Angeles Lakers, which lost its season-opener on Tuesday to cross-town rivals Clippers, bounced back with a 95-86 victory over Utah Jazz. James scored 32 points with 10 assists and seven rebounds and Anthony Davis 21 with seven rebounds.
The results: LA Lakers 95 bt Utah Jazz 86; Brooklyn Nets 113 bt New York Knicks 109; Sacramento Kings 112 lost to Portland Trail Blazers 122; Denver Nuggets 108 bt Phoenix Suns 107; Memphis Grizzlies 102 lost to Chicago Bulls 110; New Orleans Pelicans 116 to Dallas Mavericks 123; Oklahoma City Thunder 85 lost to Washington Wizards 97; Boston Celtics 112 bt Toronto Raptors 106; Charlotte Hornets 99 lost to Minnesota Timberwolves 121. **AFP**

Vishnu loses doubles semifinals

LIUZHOU (CHINA)
Vishnu Vardhan in partnership with Toshihide Matsui of Japan was beaten 6-4, 3-6, 10-7 by Mikhail Elgin and Denis Istomin in the doubles semifinals of the \$54,160 Challenger tennis tournament in Liuzhou, China, on Saturday.
Vishnu and partner collected 29 ATP points and \$1,080.
The results: \$54,160 Challenger, Liuzhou, China Doubles (semifinals): Mikhail Elgin (Rus) & Denis Istomin bt Toshihide Matsui (Jpn) & Vishnu Vardhan 6-4, 3-6, [10-7].

That’s My Magic runs with a good chance

HYDERABAD: That’s My Magic runs with a good chance in the Raja R.J.K. Ranga Rao, Zamindar Of Chiklavaram Memorial Cup (1,600m), the main event of the races to be held here on Sunday (Oct. 27).
1. MAHABURNAGAR PLATE (Div. II), (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, (which have not won a race since July 1st 2019), rated up to 25 (Cat. III), 1.40 p.m.: 1. Country’s Gift (5) Suraj Narredu 61.5, 2. Let It Be Me (1) R. Ajinkya 61.5, 3. Snow Castle (7) B.R. Kumar 61.5, 4. Best Friend (3) Jitendra Singh 60.5, 5. Light Music (9) Nakhat Singh 60.5, 6. Shivalik Sand (2) Khurshad Alam 59, 7. Blazing Speed (4) Irvan Singh 56.5, 8. All Star General (6) Akshay Kumar 55.5 and 9. Golden Adara (8) Afrooz Khan 53.
2. COUNTRY’S GIFT, 2. LET IT BE ME, 3. ALL STAR GENERAL
3. SMT. C. MOHANA KUMARI SATYANARAYANA MEMORIAL CUP (Div. II), (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.10:

England dethrones New Zealand

George Ford leads the way as All Blacks’ eight-year reign ends

RUGBY WC

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
YOKOHAMA

Fly-half George Ford led the way as England ended New Zealand’s eight-year reign as champion with a superb 19-7 World Cup semifinal win here on Saturday.

Ford, restored at 10 by coach Eddie Jones, had to take over goal-kicking duties from injured England captain Owen Farrell but landed four penalty attempts after Manu Tuilagi stunned the All Blacks with an early try.

First in 12 years

This was just England’s eighth win in 42 Tests against New Zealand and meant the All Blacks had lost their first World Cup match since a shock 2007 quarterfinal defeat by France.

England, World champion in 2003 when it beat an Australia side coached by Jones in the final, will now face the winner of Sunday’s match between South Africa and Wales.

England led 10-0 at the break thanks to Tuilagi’s converted try and the first of Ford’s penalties after a superb forward effort led by



Pinpoint precision: George Ford was spot on with his penalty kicks as England booked its final berth. **• GETTY IMAGES**

locks Courtney Lawes and Maro Itoje saw it dominate territory and possession.

Another Ford penalty early in the second half made it 13-0 but the All Blacks eventually broke a defence coached by former New Zealand boss John Mitchell in the 57th minute, when Ardie Savea crashed over for a converted try.

But Sam Underhill’s tackle on the recalled Scott Barrett led to a simple penalty in front of the posts that Ford duly kicked.

Before kick-off England, unusually, lined up in an inverted ‘V’ formation, crossing the half-way line as the All Blacks performed their traditional pre-match haka.

And there were fewer

than two minutes on the clock when England scored a brilliant team try.

Full-back Elliot Daly made a fine break down the right that was carried on by wing Anthony Watson before the ball was worked across field, with hooker Jamie George charging forward.

Ford then found prop Kyle Sinckler and he in turn re-

leased Lawes, who took the ball to the All Blacks’ line.

From the ensuing ruck, powerhouse centre Tuilagi – one of England’s try-scorers when it last beat the All Blacks seven years ago – forced his way between guard props Joe Moody and Nepo Laulala for a fine try.

Farrell converted and England led 7-0.

Popular Rally postponed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

Kerala’s Popular Rally, a round of the FMSCI’s Indian National Rally Championship which was scheduled to be held from November 1 to 3, has been postponed.

A PIL was filed in the Kerala High Court recently asking for the event to be banned following the death of three people in an accident involving star driver Gaurav Gill during the National championship’s third round in Jodhpur in September.

“The High Court quashed the PIL but directed us to get the permission to run the rally from the State Sports Minister. We will be doing that,” said an official of Southern Adventures and Motorsports, the organiser of the event, on Saturday evening.

“The promoter, the organisers and the FMSCI (national body) are working together on this.”

The rally is now likely to be held in December.

Tour de France dreams driving Froome recovery

CYCLING

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
SAITAMA, JAPAN

Still limping heavily, Chris Froome is fighting back from less than zero, he told AFP on Saturday, in what he describes as an unprecedented bid to win another Tour de France in 2020.

Froome, the winner of four Tour de France titles, fractured a thigh, elbow and vertebrae in a high speed crash in June. On Sunday he plans to make a statement of intent.

On Sunday Froome will race in an exhibition-style team time-trial for Ineos at Saitama, Japan.

That race is a curtain-raiser for the marquee event, a criterium, too demanding and risky for the recuperating Froome. On Friday, he also rode part of July’s Tokyo Games road race route.

“The accident has certainly changed me, given me a new start,” said a determined looking Froome.

“It’s like starting from ze-

Smith ‘can’t wait’ to play again in Australia

SYDNEY
Star batsman Steve Smith will take the field for the first time at home in an Australian jersey since the end of his one year ban when Australia faces Sri Lanka in the three-match T20I series starting on Sunday.

It will also be the first time in three years that Smith will be playing a T20 international for Australia.

“It should be good, I can’t wait to play. It’s a great honour to be back playing here in Australia, I’m excited,” Smith was quoted as saying by the International Cricket Council (ICC) website.

Smith is widely considered the best batsman in the world in Test cricket and he justified the tag by smashing a whopping 774



Steve Smith. **• REUTERS**

runs in the Ashes in August-September.

However, he has had frugal returns in his T20 career for Australia, scoring just 431 runs in 30 matches at 21.55. Smith, however, said that there could be more continuity in the team with the T20 World Cup approaching.

Otamendi delivers for Rajnigandha Achievers

NEW DELHI
Daiel Otamendi scored four goals in powering Rajnigandha Achievers to a 5-3 victory over Jindal Panther in the final of the Bhopal Pataudi Cup 8-goal polo tournament at the Jai-

pur Polo ground here on Saturday.

The results (final): Rajnigandha Achievers 5 (Daniel Otamendi 4, Kuldeep Singh) bt Jindal Panther 3 (Simran Shergill 2, Naveen Jindal).



Chris Froome. **• AFP**

ro again, below zero if you like, that’s what it feels like,” he said, his voice wavering slightly.

“But it’s completely changed my motivation, given me a challenge I’ve never had before. This could be perceived as an incredibly difficult and negative situation, but I’ve tried to turn that around to try and achieve something unprecedented.”

Froome will be 35 years old when the Tour embarks from Nice next June. With three other Grand Tour winners on the Ineos roster, he knows the size of the chal-

lenge ahead, not least building up the strength in his injured leg.

“I’ve got to get the legs back to 50-50 (instead of 65-35 strength balance),” says the Africa-born Briton, clearly dragging his right leg as he walks.

“I’ve still got more surgery (in December) to remove a big metal plate and about six screws. It’s quite tender, the muscle and soft tissue that’s being impacted by this metal plate on my hip,” he says.

‘Get back’

Before the accident, Froome made no secret of his ambition to equal the five Tours de France won by Eddy Merckx, Jacques Anquetil, Bernard Hinault and Miguel Indurain, but is now focussed just on starting another one.

“The Tour de France is the driving force, the big prize for me is to try and get back to the Tour de France, it’s still too early to say if it’s doable.

Hope Vijender wins a World title: Fury

BOXING

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

Celebrated British professional boxer Tyson Fury wants to see Indian icon Vijender Singh achieve bigger glory by winning a World title some day.

Fury, who is set to fight Braun Strowman in a WWE fight in Saudi Arabia on October 31, wished Vijender, a former World and Olympic medalist, well in his professional career.

“It (boxing) is very big in India. You have a great boxer in Vijender Singh and I hope he can go on to win the World title,” said Fury, addressing an international media conference call.

Asked whether he would like to fight in India, Fury said, “I would love to come to India and fight. Hopefully, it will happen in the near future.”

Fury – who won the unified and lineal heavyweight titles by defeating Wladimir Klitschko in 2015 – said the turmoil in the amateur body, International Boxing Association (AIBA), might impact professional boxing as well.

“If there is no amateur boxing, there are no professionals. I don’t know many



Tyson Fury. **• REUTERS**

I would love to come to India and fight. Hopefully, it will happen in the near future.

people who just turned professionals without being amateurs.

“It could have a big impact on the professional sport. It could be taking away champions of the future,” he said.

Fury, unbeaten in 30 fights over 11 years in professional boxing, said the International Olympic Committee suspending AIBA from the Tokyo Olympics was not great news for amateur boxing.

“It is very important that amateur boxing continues so we can have professional champions of the future.”

Boxer Deepak gets silver

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WUHAN (CHINA)

Indian pugilist Deepak won a silver while tennis player N. Sriram Balaji claimed a bronze medal in their respective events at the ongoing seventh Military World Games here on Saturday.

Deepak had to settle for the silver in the men’s light fly weight (46-49kg) category after losing 0-5 to gold medalist Zhussupov Temirtas of Kazakhstan in the final.

Balaji added to India’s tally by outclassing Uzbekistan’s Fomin Sergey 6-2, 6-3 in the men’s singles bronze medal contest.

Jinson Johnson finished fifth in the men’s 1500m final with a timing of 3:49.34s.

Ranjeet triumphs

JAIPUR
Former National champion V.M. Ranjeet outplayed Ankit Chopra 6-1, 6-0 in the final of the ₹100,000 AITA men’s ranking tennis tournament, on Friday.
The results (finals): Singles: V.M. Ranjeet bt Ankit Chopra 6-1, 6-0.
Doubles: Himanshu Mor & Ek-lavya Singh bt Abhishek Gaur & Amit Bzad 6-4, 6-4.