

## TV PICKS

**NBA:** Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m.  
**T10 League:** Sony Ten 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 5.30 p.m.  
**Euro 2020 Qualifiers:** Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Thursday)  
**New Zealand vs England:** First Test, day one, Star Sports Select 1 (SD & HD), 3.30 a.m. (Thursday)  
**Australia vs Pakistan:** First Test, day one, Sony Six (SD & HD), 5.30 a.m. (Thursday)

## IN BRIEF



## Harden, Westbrook shine to extend Rockets' winning streak

**LOS ANGELES**  
 James Harden scored 36 points and Russell Westbrook bagged a triple double as the Houston Rockets extended their red-hot winning streak to eight games with a 132-108 rout of the Portland Trail Blazers on Monday.

**The results:** New York Knicks 123 bt Cleveland Cavaliers 105; Indiana Pacers 115 bt Brooklyn Nets 86; Toronto Raptors 132 bt Charlotte Hornets 96; Milwaukee Bucks 115 bt Chicago Bulls 101; Houston Rockets 132 bt Portland Trail Blazers 108; Dallas Mavericks 117 bt San Antonio Spurs 110; Boston Celtics 99 bt Phoenix Suns 85; Minnesota Timberwolves 112 bt Utah Jazz 102; Los Angeles Clippers 90 bt Oklahoma City Thunder 88.

## ISL: Chennaiyin, JFC fixture rescheduled

**JAMSHEDPUR**  
 The Indian Super League (ISL) fixture between Jamshedpur FC and Chennaiyin FC has been moved to December 9 with a 7.30 p.m. kick-off time. The tie was originally scheduled on Dec. 6 at the J.R.D. Tata Sports Complex, here. The rescheduling, the press release said, is done in conjunction with the city authorities and administration in view of the Jharkhand State Assembly Phase 2 polling on Dec. 7.



## Bangladesh's Shahadat banned for assault

**DHAKA**  
 The Bangladesh Cricket Board on Tuesday banned former national team fast bowler Shahadat Hossain for five years, two of them suspended, after he assaulted teammate Arafat Sunny Jr. in a National Cricket League match on Sunday. Shahadat, who admitted a charge of "physical assault", was also fined 300,000 taka (\$3,540), the board said.

## Sasi Kumar crashes out

**MAIA (PORTUGAL)**  
 Daniel Masur of Germany ousted Sasi Kumar Mukund 6-3, 6-0 in the first round of the €46,600 Challenger tennis tournament here on Tuesday.



## Luis Enrique to return as Spain's coach

**MADRID**  
 Luis Enrique will return as coach of Spain and replace Robert Moreno ahead of Euro 2020, the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) confirmed on Tuesday. Moreno took charge in June after Luis Enrique had resigned to take care of his daughter Xana, who died in August of bone cancer.

## Rashford puts tough start behind him

**LONDON**  
 With nine goals in his last 10 games for Manchester United and England forward Marcus Rashford says he has put a tough start to the season behind him and is feeling confident once more. "It has been a tough period and now I'm getting consistent games. When you're in the team it's important to come up with the goods and once you start that it becomes second nature," he said.

## Italy signs off with a perfect record

Scores nine against Armenia; Spain blanks Romania, Denmark and Switzerland qualify

## EURO QUALIFIERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
 PARIS

Denmark and Switzerland secured spots at Euro 2020 at the expense of the Republic of Ireland on Monday as Roberto Mancini's Italy completed a perfect qualifying campaign by scoring nine.

Ireland needed to beat Denmark in Dublin to clinch qualification for next year's 24-team European Championship finals, but Matt Doherty's late header was only enough to earn Mick McCarthy's men a 1-1 draw at the Aviva Stadium.

Switzerland secured top spot with a 6-1 away win against minnow Gibraltar as Cedric Itten scored twice. Skipper and Arsenal outcast Granit Zhaka netted its final goal.

Italy had already wrapped up qualification from Group J but saved its best for last,



Opening salvo: Martin Braithwaite shoots to score Denmark's goal against Ireland • AFP

making it 10 wins from 10 by hammering Armenia 9-1 in Palermo with seven different scorers.

Ciro Immobile and Nicolò Zaniolo both scored braces, while Nicolò Barella and Alessio Romagnoli found the net

before Chelsea midfielder Jorginho converted a penalty.

Riccardo Orsolini came off the bench to score on his Italy debut and Federico Chiesa finished off the scoring after Edgar Babayan had pulled one back for Armenia.

Meanwhile, Group F winner Spain rounded out its qualifying campaign with a 5-0 destruction of Romania in Madrid

Gerard Moreno scored twice after midfielder Fabian Ruiz opened the scoring.

## Astha makes a splash, rewrites 100m butterfly mark

## SCHOOL SWIMMING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
 NEW DELHI

Astha Choudhary of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan set a new meet mark in the heats and broke it in the finals of the under-17 girls' 100-metre butterfly event on the third day of the 65th National School Games at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Swimming Pool on Wednesday.

Astha clocked 1 minute 4.57 seconds to beat Nilabja Ghosh of West Bengal for the 100-metre butterfly gold.

Prachi Tokas of Delhi continued with her record breaking performance by winning the 400-metre freestyle in the under-19 girls' section with a new

meet mark of 4 minutes 33.18 seconds. She beat Bhavika Dagar of Tamil Nadu who was more than two seconds behind her.

Aneesh Gowda, Aanya Wala, Kiara Bangera, Tanmay Das, Nina Venkatesh and Ridhima Veerender Kumar were the others to set new marks.

**The results:**  
**Men: Under-19: 50m backstroke:** 1. K. Mohith Kumar 27.58; 2. Gourav Chavan 28.99; 3. Prashanna Khedekar 29.17.  
**100m butterfly:** 1. C.J. Sanjay 57.33; 2. P.A. Prasadha Krishna 57.77; 3. Swapnil Chakraborty 58.88.

**Women: Under-19: 50m backstroke:** 1. Soubhrita Mondal 32.11; 2. Bhavjot Kaur 32.57; 3. Jispa Doshi 32.66.  
**100m butterfly:** 1. Shristi Upadhaya 1:07.69; 2. Sucheta-

na Chakraborty 1:08.91; 3. Priyanga Pugazharasu 1:09.03.

**4 x 100m freestyle:** 1. Tamil Nadu 4:16.15; 2. Karnataka 4:23.03; 3. Maharashtra 4:24.76.

**Boys: Under-17: 50m backstroke:** 1. Tanmay Das 27.44 (NMR); 2. Vedant Bapna 27.97; 3. V. Vinayak 28.13.

**100m butterfly:** 1. Aryan Panchal 57.16; 2. Harsh Saroha 57.21; 3. Divyanshi Arora 58.94.

**Under-14: 50m backstroke:** 1. Md. Rehan Mirza 30.63; 2. Aryaman Jain 30.67; 3. Abeer Singh Mehta 31.21.

**100m butterfly:** 1. Yug Chelani 1:02.27; 2. Atharva Pradeep Jangar 1:03.31; 3. Parambrata Biswas 1:04.15.

**200m medley:** 1. Yug Chelani 2:19.74; 2. Vidith Shankar 2:23.64; 3. Sanskar Bhuyan 2:25.30.

**Girls: Under-17: 50m backstroke:** 1. Nina Venkatesh 31.20

(NMR); 2. Palak Kalpesh Dhami 33.05; 3. Tanusmita Das 33.06.

**100m butterfly:** 1. Ashtha Choudhury 1:04.57 (NMR); 2. Nilabja Ghosh 1:06.87; 3. Sanjiti Saha 1:07.78.

**4 x 100m freestyle:** 1. International Board Schools 4:11.40; 2. Council for the Indian School 4:16.85; 3. Maharashtra 4:17.00.

**Under-14: 50m backstroke:** 1. Ridhima Veerendra Kumar 32.03; 2. Rajoshri Routh 33.09; 3. Essha Chattopadhyay 33.21.

**100m butterfly:** 1. Kiara Bangera 1:07.62 (NMR); 2. Dhara Patel 1:07.97; 3. Subharanshini Priyadarshini 1:11.07.

**200m medley:** 1. Anushka Patil 2:36.32; 2. Sanjana Prabhu-gaonker 2:38.46; 3. Lavleen Das 2:40.14.

**4 x 100m freestyle:** 1. Maharashtra 4:22.96; 2. Council for the Indian School 4:24.77; 3. Assam 4:29.21.

## FMSCI bans its chief from officiating

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
 NEW DELHI

National motorsports federation FMSCI has banned its own president J. Prithiviraj from officiating in the wake of the organisational blunder that led to death of three, including a minor, during the ill-fated Rally of Jodhpur.

While Prithiviraj will continue to be president of the FMSCI, he won't be allowed to officiate in national championships for three years.

The five-member FMSCI panel recommended a three-year ban on Prithiviraj, the event's clerk of the course (COC).

## Legal options explored against Ombudsman's action

I am not happy with the way he has handled his power, says Manchanda

VIJAY LOKAPALLY  
 NEW DELHI

In a show of strength, nine members of the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) Apex Council, asserted their power to run cricket affairs at the Ferozeshah Kotla. "We have assembled to make our point that we are not being heard," said Ravinder Manchanda, leading the campaign against DDCA president Rajat Sharma.

Manchanda spoke to the media in his capacity as a member of the DDCA Advisory Committee. "I am not an Apex Council member but I have spent many years at the DDCA and am well versed with cricket administration. Rajat Sharma is a friend but here I am not happy with the way he has handled his power at the DDCA," said Manchanda, whose younger brother, Rajan, is the joint-secretary in the current set up.

"Rajat Sharma resigned from his position and it is deemed to be accepted by the Apex Council in accordance with the rules of the association," insisted Ravinder Manchanda. The grouse of the Apex Council members was not against Rajat Sharma as much as the "functioning" of the DDCA Ombudsman Justice (Retd.) Badar Durrez Ahmed.

## Seeking audience

Former First Class cricketer and Director (Cricket) Sanjay Bhardwaj alleged the Ombudsman had not responded to their complaints.

"You can see we are in majority now. We seek audience with the Ombudsman," said Bhardwaj.

According to Ravinder Manchanda, there was no transparency in the DDCA functioning. "The Ombudsman has clearly exceeded his brief and we are seeking legal options to challenge him. No one has a clue as to how the DDCA is being run today," he charged.

The suspended secretary of the DDCA, Vinod Tihara, was invited by those addressing the media. "My suspension is not legal and I have already challenged it," he claimed.

## Corrupt practices

The nine members of the Apex Council claimed corrupt practices in team selections.

"Delhi has performed poorly this season because of faulty team compositions and we are going to correct that by having a new Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) who will appoint fresh selectors," said Rajan Manchanda.

Those who attended the meeting, called without the sanction of Rajat Sharma, were Rakesh Bansal, Rajan Manchanda, Vinod Tihara, Apoorv Jain, Sanjay Bhardwaj, Renu Khanna, Nitin Gupta, Shiv Nandan Sharma and Alok Mittal.

Justice Ahmed, in his order on November 17, put Rajat Sharma's resignation in "abeyance" and asked CEO Ravikant Chopra, CFO P.C. Vaish and GM (Cricket Operations) Manvi Dhodhi to discharge their duties in the "interest of the game". Rajat Sharma assumed charge on Monday.

Justice Ahmed has fixed November 27 to hear the matter.

## Rajput misses the final

## SHOOTING WC

SPORTS BUREAU  
 PUTIAN (CHINA)

Sanjeev Rajput shot 1153 but missed the final in men's rifle 3-position event by one point in the shooting World Cup Finals here on Tuesday.

Olympian Sanjeev, who had narrowly missed gold in the last World Cup in Rio after qualifying with a national record 1181, shot 384 in kneeling, 388 in prone and 381 in the standing positions.

The other Indian in the field, Akhil Sheoran, who had won gold in the World Cup in Guadalajara, Mexico, last year, could muster only 1147 and placed 13th.

In women's rifle 3-position event, Anjum Moudgil also scored only 1147 for the

13th spot, following 377 in kneeling, 390 in prone and 380 in the standing positions.

It will be the 25-metre events, the rapid fire for men, and sports pistol for women, on Wednesday. Asian Games gold medalist Rahi Sarnobat will be competing in sports pistol along with Manu Bhaker, while it will be Anish Bhanwala in the men's rapid fire.

**The results:**  
**50m rifle 3-position: Men:** 1. Filip Nepejchal (Cze) 462.9 (WRJ) 1160; 2. Milenko Sebic (Srb) 461.5 (1165); 3. Sergey Kamenskiy (Rus) 449.8 (1165); 9. Sanjeev Rajput 1153; 13. Akhil Sheoran 1147.

**Women:** 1. Seonaid McIntosh (GBR) 462.1 (1171); 2. Pei Ruijiao (Chn) 457.4 (1158); 3. Nina Christen (Sui) 449.1 (1166); 13. Anjum Moudgil 1147.

## Pakistan seeks elusive win on Aussie soil

## PAKISTAN IN AUS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
 BRISBANE

Pakistan head into the opening Test in Brisbane on Thursday seeking a rare win on Australian soil, and could unleash a 16-year-old debutant in a teenage pace attack against seasoned stars Steve Smith and David Warner.

Pakistan has drawn a series in Australia, but has never won one, and last tasted a Test victory at Sydney in 1995.

A handful of players, including new skipper Azhar Ali, Babar Azam and the in-form Asad Shafiq, were part of their last tour in 2016/17 when they crashed 3-0, but are better for it, said then-captain and now head coach Misbah-ul-Haq.

How the bowlers fare will be key on a Gabba wicket traditionally seen as a pace-man's paradise.

Australia boasts the experienced Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Ha-

zelwood, however James Pattinson will be missing after being suspended this week for player abuse.

Pakistan may unveil teenage quick Naseem Shah, 16, for his debut as part of a young attack boasting 19-year-olds Shaheen Afridi and Musa Khan, alongside the impressive Muhammad Abbas and veteran Imran Khan senior.

## The squads (from):

**Australia:** Tim Paine (Capt.), Cameron Bancroft, Joe Burns, Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Michael Neser, James Pattinson, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Matthew Wade and David Warner.

**Pakistan:** Azhar Ali (Capt.), Abid Ali, Asad Shafiq, Babar Azam, Haris Sohail, Imam-ul-Haq, Imran Khan senior, Iftikhar Ahmed, Kashid Bhatti, Mohammad Abbas, Mohammad Rizwan, Nussa Khan, Naseem Shah, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shan Masood and Yasir Shah.

## Messi is Argentina's saviour

REUTERS  
 TEL AVIV

Argentina's Lionel Messi scored an added-time penalty to salvage a 2-2 draw with Uruguay as it twice came from behind in an entertaining friendly match in Israel on Monday. **The result:** Argentina 2 (Aguero 63, Messi 90+2) drew with Uruguay 2 (Cavani 34, Suarez 68).

## Riya advances

## ITF WOMEN'S

SPORTS BUREAU  
 BHOPAL

Former National champion Riya Bhatia saved a bunch of match-points to beat eighth seed Valeriya Strakhova of Ukraine 1-6, 7-6(12), 6-3 in the first round of the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament on Tuesday.

**The results: Singles (first round):** Sarah-Rebecca Sekulic (Ger) bt Jacqueline Cabaj Awad (Swe) 6-4, 6-4; Eri Hozumi (Jpn) bt Dan Ni Wang (Chn) 6-1, 6-1; Hiroko Kuwata (Jpn) bt Gozal Ainitdinova (Kaz) 6-0, 6-2; Riya Bhatia bt Valeriya Strakhova (Ukr) 1-6, 7-6(12), 6-3; Diana Marcinkevica (Lat) bt Rashi Malviya 6-0, 6-2; Karman Kaur Thandi bt Snehal Mane 6-1, 6-1.

**Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Emily Webley-Smith (GBR) & Rutuja Bhosale bt Vlada Katic (Isr) & Prarthana Thombare 6-2, 6-4; Jennifer Luikham & Mihika Yadav bt Humera Shaik & Sara Yadav 7-5, 4-6, [10-6]; Melanie Klaffner (Aut) & Sarah-Rebecca Sekulic (Ger) bt Sravya Shivani Chilakalapudi & Snehall Mane 6-2, 6-2; Sarah Pang (Sgp) & Arthi Muniyan bt Shrivalli Rashmikaa Bhamidipaty & Avika Sagwal 6-2, 6-2; Jacqueline Cabaj Awad (Swe) & Nudnida Luangnam (Tha) bt Petia Arshinkova & Gergana Topalova (Bul) 7-6(4), 6-4; Punnin Kovapitukted (Tha) & Maria Timofeeva (Rus) bt Berfuu Cengiz (Tur) & Freya Christie (GBR) 4-6, 7-5, [10-6].