

TV PICKS

NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 a.m.
ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
UEFA Champions League: Sony Ten 1, Sony Ten 2, Sony Ten 3, Sony Six & Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 11.30 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Thursday).

IN BRIEF



Nadal to take part in ATP Finals

MADRID World No. 1 Rafael Nadal, recovering from injury, confirmed on Tuesday he will compete at the season-ending ATP Tour Finals in London from November 10 to 17. "Yesterday (Monday) I had an MRI in Majorca and despite a slight strain to the left abdominal muscle I will go to London," tweeted Nadal, forced out of last week's Paris Masters because of the same injury. "Thursday or Friday I will start hitting services. The idea is to play the ATP Finals. Thanks for your support."



Devin Booker leads Suns to victory

NEW YORK Phoenix's Devin Booker scored 40 points to lead the Suns over visiting Philadelphia 114-109 on Monday, delivering the first loss of the season to the last unbeaten team. Spanish guard Ricky Rubio added 21 points and 10 assists for the Suns while Phoenix poured in 23 points off 20 Philadelphia turnovers.
The results: Washington Wizards 115 bt Detroit Pistons 99; Brooklyn Nets 135 bt New Orleans Pelicans 125; Houston Rockets 107 bt Memphis Grizzlies 100; Milwaukee Bucks 134 bt Minnesota Timberwolves 106; Phoenix Suns 114 bt Philadelphia 76ers 109; Golden State Warriors 127 bt Portland Trail Blazers 118. AGENCIES



1948 Olympics cycling champ Dupont dead

PARIS French cyclist Jacques Dupont, who won a gold medal at the 1948 Olympic Games in London, has died at the age of 91, his family announced. Dupont, who was born and died in the village of Lezat sur Leze in the southwest of France, achieved his gold medal at the Herne Hill Velodrome on August 11, 1948. Dupont eclipsed the field in the 1000 metre time trial, beating Belgian Pierre Nihant by one second. The Briton Tommy Godwin took the bronze. AFP

Caprari nets late winner

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE MILAN

Claudio Ranieri got his first win as Sampdoria coach on Monday after a last-gasp Gianluca Caprari header sealed a 1-0 victory over fellow Serie A struggler SPAL.

Manolo Gabbiadini had a goal ruled out for offside early in the second half, but substitute Caprari finally connected with a Fabio Depaoli cross in the 91st minute to score his first goal this season and snatch the three points.
The result: Serie A: SPAL 0 lost to Sampdoria 1 (Caprari 90+1).

Deepak wins Olympic quota

Manu Bhaker takes gold with a record to boot

ASIAN SHOOTING

SPORTS BUREAU QATAR

Asian Games silver medalist Deepak Kumar made it a memorable 32nd birthday for himself, by clinching India's tenth Olympic quota in shooting for Tokyo 2020, with a bronze medal in men's air rifle in the Asian championship here on Tuesday.

Deepak qualified in the third place with a score of 626.8 behind the Chinese who had already won the quota, and finished the best among the ones aspiring to seal the final Olympic quota.

Gold for Manu

Manu Bhaker shot a junior World record of 244.3 to beat Wang Qian of China by 1.5 point, in women's air pistol.

The duo of Manisha Keer and Vivaan Kapoor won the junior mixed trap gold.

In men's 25-metre rapid fire pistol, in which four Olympic quotas are available, Anish Bhanwala shot 288 in the first stage, to be sixth.

There were three Chinese ahead of him, and China has already won two Olympic

quota. A Korean and a Japanese are also ahead of Anish. Bhavesh Shekhawat (287) and Adarsh Singh (285) also followed Anish, and everyone stands a chance if they shoot well in the second stage.

The results: Men: 10m air rifle: 1. Liu Yukun (Chn) 250.5 (629.0); 2. Yu Haonan (Chn) 249.1 (626.4); 3. Deepak Kumar 227.8 (626.8); 14. Kiran Jadhav 623.7; 30. Yash Vardhan 619.1. MQS: Divyansh Singh Panwar 626.8; Sanjeev Rajput 626.5. **Team:** 1. China 1881.9; 2. Korea 1877.9; 3. Iran 1872.6; 5. India 1869.6.

Women: 10m air rifle: 1. Yang Qian (Chn) 251.6 (628.6); 2. Tessa Neo (Sgp) 251.4 (627.9); 3. Jung Eunhee (Kor) 228.9 (632.2); 5. Elavenil Valarivan 187.1 (629.0); 9. Anjum Moudgil 627.6; 12. Apurvi Chandela 626.6. MQS: Mehuli Ghosh 628.6. **Team:** 1. Korea 1891.7; 2. India 1883.2; 3. Iran 1877.6.

10m air pistol: 1. Manu Bhaker 244.3 (WRJ) 584 WRJ; 2. Wang Qian (Chn) 242.8 (583); 3. Jiang Ranxin (Chn) 220.2 (576); 6. Yashaswini Singh Deswal 157.4 (578); 20. Annu Raj Singh 569. **Team:** 1. Korea 1736; 2. China 1733; 3. India 1731.

Mixed trap juniors: 1. India (Manisha Keer, Vivaan Kapoor) 34 (138); 2. China 29 (139); 3. China-A 31 (132); 4. Lebanon 30 (133); 5. India-A (Preeti Rajak, Bhowneesh Mendiratta) 128.



Deepak Kumar... birthday gift. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Maradona plays down health concerns

IANS BUENOS AIRES

Football legend Diego Maradona has played down fresh concerns about his health, insisting that he is well and relishing his role as head coach of Argentine club Gimnasia.

Instagram post

Maradona's youngest daughter, Gianinna, raised fears about the 59-year-old's health when she posted on Instagram "they are killing him on the inside without him noticing", reports Xinhua news agency.

The message, which included a call to "pray" for the 1986 World Cup winner, was seemingly a reference to media criticism of Maradona's work with Gimnasia as the club battles to avoid relegation from Argentina's

top division.

Maradona responded with his own Instagram post hours later. "I'm not dying at all," the former Boca Juniors, Barcelona and Napoli star said in a video published on the social media platform.

"I sleep peacefully because I am working.

"I don't know what Gianinna meant. I know that as one gets older people care more about what you will leave behind than about what you are doing.

"I am very healthy," added the former No. 10, before vowing to pledge his wealth to charity in his will.

Widely regarded as one of the best footballers ever, Maradona has suffered from a series of health issues since ending his playing career in 1997.

Taiwan shuttler treads coachless path to Olympic glory

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE TAIPEI

Chou Tien-chen is taking the unusual step of gearing up for the 2020 Olympics without a coach, with his long-time physio and confidante shepherding him towards Tokyo gold.

The soft-spoken and boyish 29-year-old, known for pointing to heaven to thank God at the end of a match, parted ways with his trainer early this year.

Since then, the World No. 2 has been on a hot streak, winning the men's singles at July's Indonesia Open to claim his first title in a Super 1000 level event.

Homework

"I do a lot of homework a coach does before a game and spend more time analysing opponents and what I should do under what circumstances," he told AFP at a recent practice session in



Road less travelled: Competing without a personal coach is almost unheard of among top players from the sport's traditional Asian powerhouses, but Chou Tien-chen is taking the unusual step. *AFP

Taipei.

Cheering him on from the sidelines has been physiotherapist Victoria Kao, who has shouldered some of the traditional roles of a coach by acting as Chou's mentor,

Ramkumar loses early

SPORTS BUREAU KOBE (JAPAN)

Ramkumar Ramanathan lost 6-4, 6-1 to Junpei Yamashita of Japan, after a bye in the first round, in the \$54,160 Challenger tennis tournament on Tuesday.

Sasi Kumar Mukund got into the \$114,800 Challenger in Bratislava as an alternate, but was beaten 6-1, 6-2 in the first round.

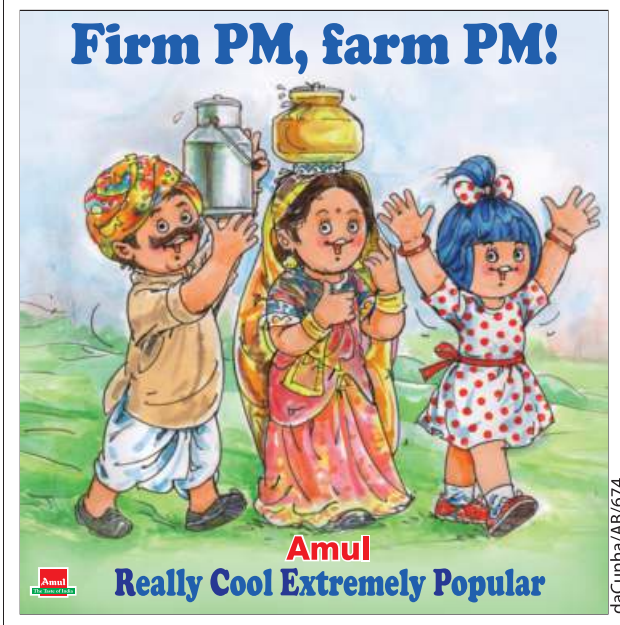
Other results: \$54,160 Challenger, Kobe: First round: Patrik Niklas-Salminen (Fin) bt Arjun Kadhe 7-6(8), 6-3.

Doubles: Enrique Lopez Perez (Esp) & Kadhe w/o Brydan Klein (GBR) & Goncalo Oliveira (Por).

\$15,000 ITF men, Meshref: Doubles (first round): Daisuke Sumizawa (Jpn) & Kunal Anand bt Worovin Kumithonkittikul & Chanchai Sookton-Eng (Tha) 7-5, 6-1.

\$25,000 ITF women, Hua Hin, Thailand: Doubles (first round): Tamachan Momkoonthod & Wwatsachol Sawatdee (Tha) bt Abigail Tere-Apisah (Png) & Prarthana Thombare 2-6, 6-4, [10-7]; Georgia Andreea Craciun (Rou) & Eva Guerrero Alvarez (Esp) bt Nikita Uberoi (US) & Ashmitha Easwaramurthi 6-2, 7-5.

\$15,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: Doubles (first round): Iana Tishchenko (Mda) & Camilla Zanolini (Ita) bt Mey Ayari (Tun) & Humera Shaik 6-3, 7-5.



Neymar escapes with warning over fan slap

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE BOBIGNY (FRANCE)

Neymar will escape prosecution for an altercation with an opposition supporter after Paris Saint-Germain's surprise defeat in the French Cup final in April, sources said. Prosecutors have decided the Brazilian star will receive a written warning and no further action will be taken.

A 29-year-old Rennes fan who had been filming Ney-

mar as he climbed the stairs to collect his loser's medal appeared to cajole the disconsolate player after the French league champion was defeated in a penalty shootout.

Neymar stopped, used his hand to lower the phone and then tapped the fan on the chin.

"I shouldn't have done it but sometimes it's hard to remain calm," Neymar said on Instagram at the time.

ning form.

"I will pour cold water on him and tell him it's just one victory, it's over and you need to calm down," she says.

Embrace your dreams

"But when there are setbacks I will tell him it's okay — embrace your dreams and persist — to try to lift him up emotionally."

Competing in professional badminton without a personal coach is almost unheard of among top players from the sport's traditional Asian powerhouses.

Chou still has access to the Taiwanese coaching team, and regularly consults experts including a retired physics professor on improving his form.

But his decision to take tactical matters into his own hands, with Kao's support, has earned him a series of wins on this year's tour.

Rachna rewrites 800m meet mark

Parvej secures 800m and Reshma 3km with records

NATL. JR. ATHLETICS

SPORTS BUREAU GUNTUR

Rachna of Haryana marked her shift from the single-lapper to the 800m in style, setting a new meet record by clocking 2:06.12, eclipsing Kerala's Tintu Luka's mark of 2:07.48 (set in 2008 in Mysuru) in the 35th National junior athletic championship at here on Tuesday.

Rachna could have taken a crack at Tintu's National under-20 record also (2:05.21, also set in 2008) but the Haryana girl had to be content with lowering the meet mark.

Two National marks were rewritten in the under-16 age-group.

Haryana's Parvej Khan secured the boys' 800m record, while Uttarkhand's Reshma Patel achieved the feat in the girls' 3km category.

The results (all finals):

Boys: Under-20: 800m: 1. Ankit (Har) 1:51.32, 2. Gurkomal S. Gill (Pun) 1:51.62, 3. Pushpendra Singh (Del) 1:51.88.

Javelin: 1. Rohit Yadav (UP) 78.68m, 2. Yashvir Singh (Har) 74.49m, 3. Nandkishor Singh (AFI) 68.53m.

Under-18: 800m: 1. G. Prakash Balu (Mah) 1:53.10, 2. Pradeep Senthilkumar (TN) 1:53.66, 3. Mathesh Babu (TN) 1:53.72.

Long jump: 1. Jeswin Aldrin (TN) 7.44m, 2. Asadullah Mujahith (TN) 7.06m, 3. Bhupendra Singh (Har) 7.02m.

Hammer: 1. Mohammed Sadab (AFI-SSCB) 61.26m, 2. Paras Deswal (Del) 59.67m, 3. Neeraj (Har) 56.14m.

Under-16: 800m: 1. Parvej



Pulling ahead: Rachna of Haryana leads the pack in the under-20 category 800m en route to victory. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Khan (Har) 1:54.78 - NNR & NRM, Old: 1:55.70, Biren Gogoi, Cuttack, 1991), 2. Shyam Milan Bind (MP) 1:55.33, 3. Suraj Yadav (Utk) 1:55.71.

Javelin: 1. Raj Kumar Gupta (Bih) 59.34m, 2. Aveshesh Singh (Raj) 59.15m, 3. Joydeb Roy (WB) 55.81m.

High jump: 1. Sandeep Kumar (UP) 1.92m, 2. Deepanshu (Har) 1.89, 3. B. Bharath Raj (Ker) 1.89m.

Long jump: 1. Sohail Akhtar (AFI-SSCB) 6.91m, 2. Sandeep Singh (MP) 6.79m, 3. Rajat (UP) 6.72m.

Under-14: 600m: 1. B. Vinod Kumar (TS) 1:25.28, 2. Jigar Chauhan (Guj) 1:25.46, 3. Amit Singh (WB) 1:26.22.

Triathlon: 1. Rajendra Sidhu (Odi) 1923 pts (100m: 11.92; LJ: 6.04; SP: 10.70), 2. P. Vishnu (TN) 1849, 3. Pavan Kumar Panggi (Mah) 1829.

Girls: Under-20: 800m: 1. Rachna (Har) 2:06.12 - NMR, OMR 2:07.48, Tintu Luka, Mysore, 2008), 2. Rakhi (Kar)

(UP)14.23m.

Heptathlon: 1. Pavithra Venkatesh (TN) 4674 pts (100MH: 15.32; HJ: 1.54; SP: 10.11; 200m: 26.55; LJ: 5.30; JT: 30.61; 800m: 2:22.49), 2. S. Deepika (TN) 4621, 3. Pooja (Har) 4540.

Under-16: 800m: 1. Laxita Vinod Sandilea (Guj) 2:13.82, 2. Urvasi (Har) 2:14.66, 3. Stuti Parag Adenwala (Mah) 2:15.24.

3km: 1. Reshma Patel (Utk) 14:14.83 - NNR & NMR, OR 14:28.10, A. Kumari, Muzzafarpur, 1990), 2. Rachana (Haryana) 14:49.08, 3. Vaishnavi Negi (Utk) 15:08.06.

Pentathlon: 1. Sabita Toppo (Odi) 3331 pts, 2. B. Unnathi Aiyappa (Kar) 3272, 3. Snehamol Geroge (Ker) 3216.

Under-14: 600m: 1. Ashikiran Barla (Jha) 1:33.78, 2. Tanvi Malik (UP) 1:35.18, 3. Priyanka Madivalappa Olekar (Kar) 1:36.68.

Triathlon: 1. Pavana Nagaraj (Kar) 1961 pts, 2. Priya (Har) 1942, 3. K. Gayatri Nagendra (Mah) 1890.

Shot put: 1. Kavita Kumari (Raj) 14.43m, 2. Jasmine Kaur (AFI-Pun)14.30m, 3. Sanya Yadav

(UP)14.23m.

Heptathlon: 1. Pavithra Venkatesh (TN) 4674 pts (100MH: 15.32; HJ: 1.54; SP: 10.11; 200m: 26.55; LJ: 5.30; JT: 30.61; 800m: 2:22.49), 2. S. Deepika (TN) 4621, 3. Pooja (Har) 4540.

Under-16: 800m: 1. Laxita Vinod Sandilea (Guj) 2:13.82, 2. Urvasi (Har) 2:14.66, 3. Stuti Parag Adenwala (Mah) 2:15.24.

3km: 1. Reshma Patel (Utk) 14:14.83 - NNR & NMR, OR 14:28.10, A. Kumari, Muzzafarpur, 1990), 2. Rachana (Haryana) 14:49.08, 3. Vaishnavi Negi (Utk) 15:08.06.

Pentathlon: 1. Sabita Toppo (Odi) 3331 pts, 2. B. Unnathi Aiyappa (Kar) 3272, 3. Snehamol Geroge (Ker) 3216.

Under-14: 600m: 1. Ashikiran Barla (Jha) 1:33.78, 2. Tanvi Malik (UP) 1:35.18, 3. Priyanka Madivalappa Olekar (Kar) 1:36.68.

Triathlon: 1. Pavana Nagaraj (Kar) 1961 pts, 2. Priya (Har) 1942, 3. K. Gayatri Nagendra (Mah) 1890.

Shot put: 1. Kavita Kumari (Raj) 14.43m, 2. Jasmine Kaur (AFI-Pun)14.30m, 3. Sanya Yadav