TV PICKS

NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 a.m. Pakistan vs Sri Lanka: 1st Test, Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 10.30 a.m.

Australia vs New Zealand: 1st Test, Sony Six (SD & HD), **BWF World Tour Finals:**

Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 10.30 a.m. India vs West Indies: 1st ODI, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD),

1.30 p.m. Serie A: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 5 p.m., 7.30 p.m. & 1 a.m. (Monday)

Premier League: SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m. & 9.30 p.m. ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

Bundesliga: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 10 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Monday).

IN BRIEF



Lakers end Heat's

LOS ANGELES Anthony Davis scored a game-high 33 points and delivered a pep talk to LeBron James as the Los Angeles Lakers handed the Miami Heat their first loss at home with a 113-110 victory on Friday. James scored 28 points, 12 assists and nine rebounds and leading scorer Davis also had 10 rebounds for the Lakers, who extended their winning streak to six

The results: Houston 130 bt Orlando 107; Philadelphia 116 bt New Orleans 109; Lakers 113 bt Miami 110; Indiana 110 bt Atlanta 100; Charlotte 83 bt Chicago 73: Milwaukee 127 bt Memphis 114; Utah 114 bt Golden State 106; Clippers 124 bt Minnesota 117: New York 103 bt Sacremento 101.

Olympic legend Peter Snell dead

Three-time Olympic champion and World mile record-holder Peter Snell has died in Dallas. He was 80. Snell, who is regarded as one of the greatest middledistance runners, won the 800m at the 1960 Rome Olympics and the 800-1.500 double at the 1964 Tokyo Games. He was the first man since 1920 to win the 800 and 1,500 at the same Olympics. No male athlete has done so since. Snell also won two CWG gold medals in the $880\ yards$ and mile at

KAMESH SRINIVASAN

They wield two different rac-

quets, but when it comes to

taking Indian sport forward

through the initiatives of In-

dian Oil, badminton cham-

pion Manjusha Kanwar and

tennis ace Rushmi Chakra-

mi have had impressive in-

ternational careers. They un-

derstand sports and thus

help their organisation coor-

dinate well with the massive

talent pool, and also provide

support to prominent stars.

Both Manjusha and Rush-

varthi work in sync.

Lara weighs in for blind cricket

Lauds the initiative for providing a platform for disabled women

VIJAY LOKAPALLY

West Indian great Brian Lara has lent support to cricket for the blind by associating himself with the cause ahead of the Blind Cricket Nationals for women, sponsored by the Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled.

In an effort to promote equality and parity, Cricket Association for Blind in India (CABI) has taken the initiative to organise this tournament, to be held in the T20 format from December 16-19.

With India's marquee woman cricketer Smriti Mandchampioning the cause, CABI hopes to nurture the dreams and aspirations of talented women's cricketers and mould them into role models for the future. CABI is also looking for

support from BCCI and recently met Board president Sourav Ganguly. "Sourav is very inclusive and I am sure he will support blind cricket," Lara said.

"Disability should not be



For a worthy cause: Brian Lara with cricketers at the launch of the Blind Cricket Nationals for women on Saturday. • RAKESH RAO

done throughout my career.

will feel some sort of injus-

tice. I would be like I wasn't

given a fair share. But I'll

come to terms with it. And

I'd want to do the same

things that I have done, as

school, want to learn. Want

to be educated, want to have

a job. I would want to have

"I would want to go to

opposed to what I say.

"But if I was, I suppose I

considered a hindrance to achieving one's goals," said

"I thoroughly appreciate this fantastic initiative taken by CABI and Samarthanam Trust and I am convinced that if such strong stakeholders come together around the world, there is no reason why blind cricket will not see a growth world over. Such competitions will also provide a platform for talented and empower women them."

On blind cricket, Lara ad-

ded, "I'm not blind. And I'm recreation. I feel very proud very grateful and blessed to and humbled to be in their presence. I feel this is have all my faculties to be able to do the things that I've wonderful."

> Seven teams representing the Delhi, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha and West Bengal will fight it out in the league stages over the first two days spread over three venues in Siri Fort Sports Complex. DDA Sports Complex in Saand Jamia University.

The final will be played at the Siri Fort Sports Complex.

Young chalks up victory

MRF CHALLENGE

SPORTS BUREAU SAKHIR (BAHRAIN)

Dylan Young of Australia showcased his vast experience to chalk up a fluent win in the final race of the second round of the MRF Challenge, a support-event for the FIA World Endurance Championship, at the Bahrain International Circuit, here on Saturday.

Young, 30, while scoring his second win in the championship following his success in the first round at Dubai last month, ended the Bent Viscaal-David Schumacher domination.

The results notwithstanding, championship leader

Michelangelo Amendola of Belgium, who had won three of the five races in Dubai, maintained his top position.

He took his tally to 143 points, followed by Young (127) and Joshua Mason (Britain, 115). The title will be decided in Chennai, which will host the final round at the MMRT from Feb. 14-16 next year with a six-race card. The results:

Race 2: 1. David Schumacher (Ger, 20:24.266s); 2. Bent Viscaal (Ned, 20:25.968); 3. Dylan Young (Aus, 20:25.994). Race 3: 1. Viscaal (20:16.541); 2. Schumacher (20:17.306); 3. Yuven Sundaramoorthy (USA,

20:23.243). Race 4: 1. Young (20:27.236); Manaf Hijjawi (Jor, 20:28.071); 3. Schumacher (20:29.810)



On the podium: Dylan Young, centre, flanked by Manaf Hijjawi, left, and David Schumacher. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Schiavone defeats cancer



Schiavone. • GETTY IMAGES ROME AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE Former French Open

champion Francesca Schiavone said on Friday she had defeated cancer, defiantly telling fans: "I'm still breathing". The 39-yearold, who became the first Italian woman to win a Grand Slam title with victory at Roland Garros in 2010, revealed her diagnosis in a short video on her Instagram account. "A cancer had been diagnosed to me. I fought a tough battle and now I have won this fight. And now I am back in action," she said. AFP

Crespi takes EB to the top

I-LEAGUE

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Marti Crespi netted a goal a minute from time to help East Bengal beat TRAU FC 2-1 in an I-League fixture Saturday. The victory took the red-and-gold brigade to eight points and top of the standings after four rounds.

The hosts went ahead in the first half through Marcos de la Espada, but the strike was neutralised by Deepak

Devrani who found the target during injury-time in the opening period.

Riding on the confidence of its 4-1 win away at Neroca, East Bengal began strongly. The host missed Spanish attacker Jaime Santos, who was suspended. He was replaced by Ronaldo Oliveira.

Samad Ali Mallick made a move for East Bengal in the eighth minute, but his attempt, from the top of the box, went off the crosspiece. Samad turned provider 10 minutes later, his floater into the TRAU box helping Espada nod home. East Bengal failed to hold on to its advantage for long as TRAU defender Deepak scored the equaliser in the first minute of added time.

East Bengal struggled to break through TRAU defence after the break. It finally found a way, in the 89th, when defender Crespi provided the perfect finish.

The result: East Bengal 2 (Marcos de la Espada 17, Marti Crespi 89) bt TRAU FC 1 (Deepak

Altered course will challenge the best

TSK 25K

Y.B. SARANGI

An altered course will challenge some of the best long distance runners from across the world and India in the sixth edition of the Tata Steel Kolkata 25K here on Sunday.

A 9km stretch, including a significant hill and a flyover, has been altered to make the route a one-way path. The change will help participants get a clear course and drastically reduced traffic.

Double World marathon

champion and Olympic silver medallist Abel Kirui from Keformer Olympic 10.000m bronze medallist Tariku Bekele of Ethiopia and former World cross country silver medal winner Leonard Barosoton of Kenya will be part of the international men's field in the IAAF Silver Label event, which offers a total prize money of

Tariku, who is targeting 2:02 in marathon, has taken inputs from his brother and 2017 champion Kenenisa Bekele and will use this race as

\$100,000.

training for big marathons. For runners like 10,000m

specialist Barosoton of Kenya and 3000m steeplechaser American Stanley Kebenei, it will be a test ahead of stiffer road races

Debele and Matanga in top shape

Among women, promising Ethiopian marathon runner Birke Debele and Tanzanian long distance specialist Failuna Matanga, who placed third two years ago with 1:26:11, are in top shape to give their best.

place finisher Tejitu Daba, who has switched from Ethiopia to Bahrain, and Ethiopian Guteni Shone, who ended inside top three in two marathons this year, will be among the top contenders. Delhi half-marathon podi-

Sydney marathon third

um finishers Srinu Bugatha and Harshad Mhatre among men and local girl Shyamali Singh and Priti Lamba among women will try to claim top positions in the Indian category.

The race has attracted an overall 15.445 entries.

AICF ignores Ministry suggestion

CHESS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Ignoring the Sports Ministry's suggestion that its urgent General Body Meeting be cancelled, the All India Chess Federation (AICF) went ahead with the meeting here on Saturday.

In one of the important decisions taken at the meeting, called by president P.R. Venketrama Raja, the AICF

Two women and one goal

decided to advance the organisational elections to February 10, from May/June,

It was also decided not to discuss the charges of forgery and financial irregularities during the National subjunior tournament against the Bengal Chess Association. This was done so that the issue could be taken up in the presence of the Sports Ministry's observer at the

SAF Games in 2004 in Isla-

mabad, I thought it was im-

portant to give a junior

player a chance in the team.

I was posted as coordinator

in the Northern region, and

have now moved to the cor-

porate office," said Man-

jusha, who had won the

Rushmi has an impressive

record of having won 40-odd

singles and doubles titles on

the international circuit, and

competed in the London

Olympics with Sania Mirza.

With Sania, Rushmi had also

Games

Commonwealth

bronze in 1998.

It was also decided to form a four-member committee, comprising AICF secretary Bharat Singh Chautreasurer Kishor Bandekar, Madhya Pradesh secretary Kapil Saxena and FIDE Zone 3.7 president Ravindra Dongre, to assist the president in the election process on February 10.

It is learnt that representatives of 17 associations participated in Saturday's meet-

won the bronze in the Com-

monwealth Games in Delhi

"I feel tremendous satis-

faction when young athletes

capitalise on the support

and grow into champions,

joining the organisation full-

time to further pursue their

Manjusha and Rushmi

have a common goal: to see

Indian Oil step up its support

for Indian sport and take it to

a different level. They have

done their bit to drive Indian

sports, powered by Indian

sport," said Manjusha.

BENGALURU: Prasanna Kumar trained War Hammer (Suraj Narredu up) won the Bangalore 2000 Guineas, the chief event of the races held here on Saturday (Dec. 14). The winner is owned by Dr. C.A. Prashanth, Mr. Gautam

Basapa, Mr. Manjunath B.S. and Mr. Apana Subaiya P. Suraj, who kept War Hammer a handy close last position till the home stretch, started manoeuvring his mount in the last 300m from outside and overtook the ance near 100m and justified the favourite tag to win comfortably. THE RESULTS:

GULBARGA PLATE (1,100m), rated 00 to 20: DEBONAIR (A. Imran) 1, Kanthaka (Rajesh K) 2, Air Force Our (Darshan) 3 and Love Music (S. Shareef) 4. 2-3/4, 2-3/4 and 2-1/2. 1m 08.42s. ₹15 (w), 12, 11 and 18 (p), SHP: 27, THP: 39, FP: 37, Q: 29, Trinella: 175 and 113, Exacta: 264 and 86. Favourite: Debonair. Owner: Mr. Dayanand Kachuwah. Trainer: Faraz Arshad.

MEKEDATU PLATE (2,000m), rated 60 & above: COSMOS (Suraj) 1, Velocidad (Srinath) 2, Corybantic (I. Chisty) 3 and Indian Pharaoh (David Allan) 4. 5-3/4, 4 and 3/4, 2m 05,50s, ₹13 (w). 10 and 15 (p), SHP: 21, THP: 50, FP: 19, Q: 25, Trinella: 174 and 151, Exacta: 268 and 95. Favourite: Cosmos. Owners: Mr. Rienzie M.K. Edwards & Mrs. P.P.M. Edwards. Trainer: Darius Byramji.

) S.V. SUBRAMANIAM MEMORIAL **3** TROPHY (1,200m), rated 45 to 65: KVASIR (J.H. Arul) 1, Akita Pro (S. Shareef) 2, Silver Dew (Darshan) 3 and Spanish Beauty (S. John) 4. 1, Shd and 2. 1m 13.32s. ₹232 (w), 36, 16 and 29 (p), SHP: 57, THP: 57, FP: 2,046, Q: 624,



Share of glory: BTC chairman D. Vinod Sivappa, third from left, along with owners of The Bangalore 2000 Guineas-winning horse War Hammer, from left, Dr. C.A. Prashanth, Gayathri Basapa, Gautam Basapa, P.A. Nanjappa, Apana Subaiya P and Manjunath B.S. and jockey Suraj Narredu, third from right. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Trinella: 10,726 and 6,895, Exacta: 95,818 and 20,532. Favourite: Roma Victor. Owners: Mr. Rajan Aggarwal & Mr. Gautam Aggarwal. Trainer: Pradeep

AIR FORCE CUP (1,600m), Trated 30 to 50, 4-y-o & over: THREE WISHES (Donoghue) 1, Marco Polo (Srinath) 2, Casey (Antony) 3 and Spirit Bruce (R. Manish) 4. 2, 3/4 and 3-3/4. Im 39 53s ₹26 (w) 15 10 and 31 (p) 39.52s. ₹26 (w), 15, 10 and 31 (p). SHP: 32, THP: 65, FP: 76, Q: 38, Trinella: 500 and 256, Exacta: 3,305 and 1,175. Favourite: Marco Polo. Owners: Mr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chattinad Charitable Trust rep. by. Mr. A.C. Muthiah. Trainer: S. Ganapathy.

5 BANGALORE 2000 GUINEAS (1,600m), 3-y-o only, (Terms):

WAR HAMMER (AIR SUPPORT-SO-VIET LAKE) SURAJ 1, NORTHERN ALLIANCE (Gusto-Al-

SOUTHERN RULER (Saamidd-

lonia) David Allan 2.

Farha) Donoghue 3 and ON THE TROT (Win Legend-Windunderherwings) S. John 4. 1-3/4, 3/4 and 4-1/4. Im 39.35s. ₹12 (w), 11 and 11 (p), SHP: 16, THP: 14, FP: 16, Q: 11, Trinella: 16 and 10. Favourite: War Hammer, Owners: Dr. C.A. Prashanth, Mr. Gautam Basana, Mr. Maniunath B.S. and Mr. Apana Subaiya P. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

KENTUCKY STAKES (1,200m), 6 maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): AACHEN (C. Umesh) 1, Cavaliere (S. John) 2, Musterion (Donoghue) 3 and Asgardia (Suraj) 4. Hd, 1/2 and snk. Im 13.66s. ₹107 (w), 31, 13 and 21 (p), SHP: 38, THP: 46, FP:

542, O: 209, Trinella: 1.044 and 575, Exacta: 14,008 and 2,668. Fa vourite: Cavaliere, Owner: Mr. Arun Alagappan. Trainer: Irfan

7 KRISHNA RAJA SAGARA PLATE (1,400m), rated 15 to 35, 4-y-o & over: ALEEF (A. Vishwanath) 1, Back Of Beyond (Md. Asif Khan) 2, Honey Trap (S. John) 3 and Adios (B. Harish) 4. Not run: Zala Princess. 3/4, 2-1/2 and 2-1/2. 1m 27.83s. ₹163 (w), 27, 32 and 16 (p), SHP: 96, THP: 48, FP: 1,166, Q: 1,083, Trinella: 6,443 and 2,259, Exacta: 1,25,600. Favourite Honey Trap. Owner: Mr. A. Wajid.

Jackpot: ₹6,19,801 (one tkts); Runner up: 15,625 (17 tkts); Treble (i): 1,080 (15 tkts); (ii): 9,626 (four

Trainer: Mahmood Khan.

Aayushi and Vikrant strike gold

Rushmi and Manjusha.

"I joined IOCL in 1993. I

had the freedom to pursue

sports for 10 years. After the

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Aayushi Gupta and Vikrant Sharma paced themselves through two spells of qualification to eventually strike gold for Uttar Pradesh in mixed air rifle in the 63rd National shooting championship on Saturday.

The Uttar Pradesh team outplayed the Army duo of Harshita Dahiya and Pankaj Kumar 18-6 for the gold, after having qualified in the second place for the gold match, 0.3 point behind the Army team.

Interestingly, in the first qualification stage, the Uttar Pradesh team was in seventh place among eight teams that made the cut.

The Haryana pair of Arshdeep Singh and Vinita Bhardwaj, which had topped the first stage with 626.1 ahead of Mehuli Ghosh and Srinjoy Datta, did not

complete the second stage, Arshdeep's malfunctioned.

Mehuli and Srinjoy, who missed the chance to fight for gold by 0.2 point to the eventual champions, finished third as they beat Chandigarh's Disha Jadhav and Gagandeep Singh 17-13.

In the youth mixed air rifle, it was a similar story as Haryana, which qualified in the eighth place in the first stage, went on to beat Himachal team of Zeena Khitta and Surya Pratap Singh Banshtu 16-12 for the gold.

Maharashtra's Janhavi Khanvilkar and Rudrankksh Patil which won the youth bronze, had won the junior gold by beating Mehuli Ghosh and Srinjoy Datta

The results: 50m rifle prone: Men: 1. Om Pakash Choudhary 622.8; 2. Akhil Sheoran 621.9; 3. Niraj Kumar 620.2.

Juniors: 1. Niraj Kumar 620.2; 2. Fateh Singh Dhillon 618.4; 3. Surya Pratap Singh Banshtu 618.1.

Mixed air rifle: 1. Uttar Pradesh (Aayushi Gupta, Vikrant Sharma) 16 (4185.8; 622.1); 2. Army (Harshita Dahiya, Pankaj Kumar) 8 (416.1; 623.3); 3. West Bengal (Mehuli Ghosh, Srinjoy Datta) 17 (415.6; 623.8); 4. Chandigarh Jadhav, Gagandeep Singh) 13 (414.5; 622.4).

Juniors: 1. Maharashtra (Janhavi Khanvilkar, Rudrankksh Patil) 17 (417.4; 621.2); 2. West Bengal (Mehuli Ghosh, Srinjoy Datta) 13 (418.7; 621.8); 3. Rajasthan (Manini Kaushik; Divyansh Singh Panwar) 17 (416.0; 626.4); 4. Karnataka (Natasha Jhaveri, T.R. Srijay) 15 (415.6; 622.3).

Youth: 1. Haryana (Ramita, sidharth Gaur) 16 (415.0; 616.5); 2. Himachal Pradesh (Zeena Khitta, Surya Pratap Singh Banshtu) 12 (418.1; 622.1); 3. Maharashtra (Janhavi khanvilkar, Rudrankksh Patil) 16 (412.1; 616.9); 4. Uttar Pradesh (Vidisha Saxena, Vidit Jain) 8 (414.3; 618.9).

Perera joins Kapil in the lead



Consistent: Mithun Perera was on a roll, sinking two 15footers and a 10-footer on the back nine. • RAJEEV BHATT

Y.B. SARANGI

An excellent back nine helped Sri Lankan Mithun Perera card a five-under 67 to be tied at the top on 208 with Kapil Kumar after the third round of the ICC RCGC Open at the Royal Calcutta Golf Club course on Saturday.

A PGTI regular, Perera has now carded three consecutive under-par rounds. He started on a bright note, grabbing birdies on the first and fifth holes before bogeying the seventh and eighth.

Accompanied by the caddie, Saltu, who had assisted him when he won the East India Amateur title in 2007, the 32-year-old sank 15-footers on the 10th and 14th and a 10-footer on the 17th.

"I feel good about my game. My putting was good,"

Kapil, who stayed on top

led Perera by two shots before dropping one each on the 17th and 18th. The Delhi golfer, who managed four birdies and as many bogeys, was again troubled by his below-par chipping.

for the third successive day,

Sanjeev Kumar and Abhinav Lohan, who carded an identical 67, jumped to third and tied-fourth respectively. Local lad Sunit Chowrasia was the other one in fourth.

Shamim Khan scored the best round, a six-under 66, to be at joint-sixth.

Leading scores (third round): 208: Mithun Perera (71, 70, 67) and Kapil Kumar (68, 68, 72); 210: Sanjeev Kumar (75, 68, 67); 212: Abhinav Lohan (75, 70, 67) and Sunit Chowrasia (70, 72, 70); 213: Anil Mane (69, 68, 76) and Shamim Khan (74, 73, 66); 214: R. Mari Muthu (70, 72, 72), Mohammad Saniu (70, 71, 73) and M. Dharma (73,

65, 76).

Internationals stay ahead

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

A gutsy comeback from Marc Leishman and Abraham Ancer gave Ernie Els' Internationals a massive confidence boost at the Presidents Cup on Saturday as Tiger Woods' USA stormed into contention.

The pair was five down against Justin Thomas and Rickie Fowler after 10 holes in the foursomes, but fought back to halve the tie on the 18th.

Woods' team won the foursomes 3-1 after losing the morning fourballs 2.5-1.5 to leave the contest on a knife-edge ahead of Sunday's 12 singles. Internationals leads 10-8, with Woods calling the day "a win" for USA.

The result: Internationals 10 leads USA 8.

A ND-NDE