

TV PICKS

NBA: Sony Six (SD & HD), 7.30 a.m.
Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9 a.m.
Vijay Merchant Trophy: Star Sports 3, 9.15 a.m.
Big Bash League: Sony Six (SD & HD), 1.40 p.m.
Big Bout League: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7 p.m.
Bundesliga: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 11 p.m. onwards & SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 1 a.m. (Wed)

IN BRIEF



Seventh straight win for LA Lakers

LOS ANGELES
LeBron James scored 32 points as the Los Angeles Lakers won its seventh straight game with a 101-96 victory over the Atlanta Hawks on Sunday. James made 12 of 21 from the field, and added 13 rebounds, seven assists and three blocks to help the Lakers extend their road winning streak to 14 games. The Lakers also got 27 points and 13 rebounds from Anthony Davis, who picked up his 12th double-double.
The results: Pelicans 119 lost to Magic 130, Pacers 107 bt Hornets 85, Hawks 96 lost to Lakers 101, Nets 109 bt 76ers 89, Nuggets 111 bt Knicks 105, Warriors 79 lost to Kings 100. AFP



Stokes is BBC Sports Personality of the Year

LONDON All-rounder Ben Stokes has been named BBC Sports Personality of the Year. Stokes became the first cricketer since Andrew Flintoff in 2005 to win the prize. Stokes was presented with his award by the Princess Royal and former Manchester United and Scotland footballer Denis Law. In a public vote, Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton finished second while sprinter Dina Asher-Smith was third. IANS

DDCA appoints three-member CAC

IAN S NEW DELHI

The Delhi & Districts Cricket Association (DDCA) on Monday appointed Robin Singh Jr, Parwinder Awana and Sumil Narwal in a new Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) for the 2019-20 season.

“We are happy to announce the constitution of the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) for the domestic season 2019-20,” the DDCA said in a statement.

The committee will be responsible for picking various selection panels as well as the coaching staff of the State teams.

BFC-NEUFC match to be played behind closed doors

ISL

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

Wednesday’s ISL clash between Bengaluru FC and Northeast United in Guwahati will be played behind closed doors, the league has announced. The decision comes after days of protests and unrest in the region.

“The decision has been taken by Football Sports Development Limited after due consultation and guidance from the city authorities,” an ISL statement read. “The League holds safety of fans, players and staff of paramount importance.”

Kerala aims for a win against Bengal

The host will once again relay on spin-friendly conditions

M.R. PRAVEEN CHANDRAN THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

After failing to seize full points against Delhi in the season opener, host Kerala will be looking to maximize the home advantage when it meets Bengal in the Elite Group A & B match at the KCA-St.Xavier’s College ground on Tuesday.

Taming Bengal in its own den at Eden Gardens last year was the high point of Kerala’s campaign last season. If it was pace which brought the downfall of Bengal last year, this match could turn out to be a different challenge for the visiting bat with Kerala opting for red soil wickets for all its home matches. However, the host failed to bowl out Delhi twice on a slow turning track last week.

Kerala will not change its gameplan too much against



Big boost: The return of Sanju Samson will bolster the Kerala team. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bengal and will rely on its spinners again to deliver the goods. The host will be bolstered by the return of Sanju Samson and it will present some headache for captain Sachin Baby to pick up the final eleven.

Sachin Baby kept the

cards close to his chest and said the final call would be made in the morning. However, Sanju’s return may mean either Mohammed Azharuddeen or Vishnu Vinod will face the axe. Spinners Jajaj Saxena, K. Monish and Si-jomon Joseph will shoulder

the responsibility in the spin bowling department.

Baby happy
Sachin Baby was happy with the way he battled against Delhi and backed his side to pull off a win against Bengal. “We played well against Del-

MOCA retains 4x4 Fury crown

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA DAMBUK (ARUNACHAL PRADESH)

Manabhum Off-Roaders Club of Arunachal (MOCA) showed great tactical acumen and driving skills to successfully defend its JK Tyre Orange 4x4 Fury title here on Sunday.

Kerala’s 4x4 Beats and Delhi’s NIOC finished second and third while favourite Bengaluru’s BODA took the fourth spot.

The MOCA team, which was led by drivers Aditya Mei and Chow Ujjal Namshum, and guided by co-drivers Chow Sujewan Choutang and Chow Ing-peng Mein, finished with a total time of 6h 47m 50s to win for the second time on home turf.

The 4x4 Beats, powered by Athul Thomas (co-driver Siraj) and Muhammed Shefin (Kalam Kuttu), also came out all guns blazing, but eventually had to settle for the runner-up spot in 7:30.12.

The NIOC 1 team of Pradeep Kumar and Harinder Singh, co-driven by Gajender Singh and Harmanpreet Singh Gill, battled their way to the third position in a time of 8:25.26.

Gonzalez’s brace seals it for Mohun Bagan

I-LEAGUE

Y.B. SARANGI KALYANI

Fran Gonzalez’s second consecutive brace propelled Mohun Bagan to a 2-1 win over Gokulam Kerala FC in a closely-fought I-League match at the Kalyani Stadium here on Monday.

Bagan’s second successive victory, the first ever over the Kerala side, took it from fifth to second place.

In the eventful match – which recorded plenty of bookings including home captain Gurjinder Singh’s red card in closing moments because of two yellows – Bagan showed better coordination to sustain pressure early on the visiting defenders.

Gokulam goalkeeper Ubaid C.K. stayed busy and his team was lucky not to concede a penalty in the 21st minute when V.P. Suhair was felled inside the box.

However, Ubaid’s foul on Ashutosh Mehta in the next minute fetched Bagan a pe-



Hero: Fran Gonzalez’s second consecutive brace propelled Mohun Bagan to a win over Gokulam Kerala. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

nalty. Gonzalez converted it to put the host ahead.

As Gokulam intensified attack, the match saw tussles between players of both sides. Naocha Singh earned a yellow card following his duel with defender Ashutosh yards away from the Bagan post. Another tussle saw Ashutosh receiving a yellow at the opposite end.

Gokulam unleashed some aerial balls to penetrate the Bagan defence. The visitors’

SECOND ROUND SCHEDULE

Group A
Andhra v Delhi (Ongole), Kerala v Bengal (Thiruvananthapuram), Punjab v Hyderabad (Patiala), Vidarbha v Rajasthan (Nagpur).



Group B
Karnataka v Uttar Pradesh (Hubballi), Madhya Pradesh v Baroda (Indore), Railways v Saurashtra (Visakhapatnam), Tamil Nadu v Himachal (Natham).

Group C
Assam v Jharkhand (Ranchi), Chhattisgarh v Uttarakhand (Raipur), Haryana v Tripura (Lahli), Maharashtra v Jammu & Kashmir (Pune), Odisha v Services (Cuttack).

Plate
Arunachal Pradesh v Mizoram (Puducherry), Chandigarh v Bihar (Chandigarh), Goa v Meghalaya (Porvorim), Manipur v Nagaland (Kolkata), Pondicherry v Sikkim (Puducherry).

Karnataka, Delhi and Maharashtra post wins

SPORTS BUREAU NEW DELHI

Delhi registered a nine-wicket victory over West Bengal in the opening match of the Samarathanam women’s National T20 tournament for the blind on Monday.

Karnataka, too, opened its campaign in style, recording a seven-wicket win over Jharkhand.

In the other match of the day, Maharashtra defeated Kerala by eight wickets.

The scores:
West Bengal 32 in 10.5 overs (Namita 2/3, Raksha 2/8) lost to Delhi 34/1 in 5.2 overs; Kerala 92/7 in 20 overs lost to Maharashtra 93/2 in 10.4 overs; Jharkhand 156/6 in 20 overs (Geeta Mahto 50) lost to Karnataka 157/3 in 16.4 overs (Varsha 32 n.o.).

It’s Liverpool vs Atletico

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE NYON

Holder Liverpool will return to the scene of last season’s Champions League triumph after it was drawn against Atletico Madrid in the last 16 of the competition on Monday.

Jurgen Klopp’s side will travel to the Wanda Metropolitano, where Liverpool lifted the trophy in June, for the first leg of its tie against three-time runner-up Atletico.

“The task is going to be difficult because we have an opponent that are the reign-

ing champions,” said Atletico director Clemente Villaverde.

“They are the champions, they have all the assets to be called the best team in Europe.

“We will have to use all our hard work and our experience. We know they are not going to make it easy.”

Pep Guardiola’s Manchester City, which is trying to win a first Champions League crown, will meet record 13-time European champion Real Madrid for a place in the quarterfinals.

Champions League Round of 16 draw					
1st leg: Feb 18/19, 25/26			2nd leg: Mar 10/11, 17/18		
	Dortmund GER Last season Winner 1997	W0-D2-L0 Last season Best finish*	Paris St-Germain FRA Last 16 Semi-final 1995		
	Real Madrid ESP Last 16 13-time winner	W2-D2-L0	Manchester City ENG Quarter-final Semi-final 2016		
	Atalanta ITA Did not play Debut	First meeting	Valencia ESP Group stage Winner 2000, 2001		
	Atletico Madrid ESP Last 16 Final 1974, 2014, 2016	W1-D2-L1	Liverpool ENG Winner 6-time winner		
	Chelsea ENG Did not play Winner 2012	W1-D2-L1	Bayern Munich GER Last 16 5-time winner		
	Olympique Lyon FRA Last 16 Semi-final 2010	W0-D1-L3	Juventus ITA Quarter-final Winner 1985, 1996		
	Tottenham ENG Final Final 2019	First meeting	Leipzig GER Did not play Group stage 2017		
	Napoli ITA Group stage Last 16, 2012, 2017	First meeting	Barcelona ESP Semi-final 5-time winner		
QUARTER-FINALS			CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL		
SEMI-FINALS			May 30, Istanbul, Turkey		
APR 28/29, MAY 5/6					
Source: UEFA, Gracenote					
*Prior to 2019/20 season					
© GRAPHIC NEWS					

Vijays Singham pulls off spectacular win

HYDERABAD: Laxman Singh trained-Vijays Singham (Srinath astride) won the Golconda 2000 Guineas, the second Classic of the season held here on Monday (Dec. 16). The winner is owned by M/s. Vijay Rac. & Farms P. L. rep. by M/s. Vijay Kumar Gupta & Susheel Kumar Gupta & M/s Poonawalla Rac. Brdg. P. Ltd. rep. by Mr. Z.S. Poonawalla & Mrs. Behroze Z. Poonawalla. The son of Leitir Mor-Zarandja, who was racing last till the final turn, improved gradually and came with a terrific turn of foot and collared his rival Consigliori in the last 30m to register his first Classic win.

1 PALAMPET PLATE (1,400m), maiden 2-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms): COASTAL CRUISE (Dashrath Singh) 1, Lightning Power (Akshay Kumar) 2, Mark My Day (Nakhat Singh) 3 and Just Incredible (B.R. Kumar) 4. 1-1/2, 1/2 and 3-3/4. Im, 28.54s. ₹8 (w), 5, 5 and 9 (p), SHP: 10, FP: 14, Q: 3, Tla: 98. Favourite: Coastal Cruise. Owners: M/s. P. Ranga Raju, Eswarachandana Raja Gopal Tripathi & G. Raghunandan Chary. Trainer: D. Netto.

2 R.W.L.C. PLATE (1,400m), 3-y-o & over rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III); CITY OF BLOSSOM (Rohit Kumar) 1, Red Snaper (Jitendra Singh) 2, Green Turf (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Jo Malone (Abhay Singh) 4. 3-3/4, 1 and 6-1/2. Im, 26s. ₹9 (w), 6, 9 and 6 (p), SHP: 29, FP: 51, Q: 37, Tla: 106. Favourite: City of Blossom. Owners: M/s. K. Thiruvivan Reddy & K. Vivek Reddy. Trainer: Satyanarayana.

3 SILKY BABY PLATE (DIV. I), (1,100m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III); INCREDULOUS (Akshay Kumar) 1, Troubadour (Dashrath Singh) 2, Bedazzled (Kuldeep Singh) 3 and Monte Rei (A. Imran) 4. 2-1/2, 3-1/4 and 3/4. Im, 6.49s. ₹10 (w), 6, 8 and 17 (p), SHP: 18, FP: 39, Q: 31, Tla: 616. Favourite: Incredible. Owners: M/s. C. Nanda Kumar, Rahul Rachappalli, Madharup Sudhir & Raouf Ali Khan. Trainer: D. Netto.

4 POCHARAM PLATE (1,200m), 4-5-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III); GOLDEN HOPE (Akshay Kumar) 1, Human Touch (Srinath) 2, Patron Saint (Jitendra Singh) 3 and Tammana (Dashrath Singh) 4. 1-1/4, nk and 1-1/2. Im, 13.76s. ₹27 (w), 12, 10 and 12 (p), SHP: 20, FP: 91, Q: 40, Tla: 468. Favourite: Human Touch. Owners: M/s. Mo-



Rewarding success: HRC chairman R. Surender Reddy, left, with Mukesh Pitti of Vijay Racing & Farms Private Limited, trainer Laxman Singh and jockey Y.S. Srinath after awarding the prizes for the Golconda 2000 Guineas won by Vijays Singham. ■K.V.S. GIRI

ammed Rasheed Ali Khan, Aziz Ahmed Khan, K. Mallikarjuna Rao & Mirza Ayub Baig. Trainer: Faisal Hassan.

5 TARAMATI CUP (1,600m), 4-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II); EGYPTIAN PRINCE (Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Guiding Force (Akshay Kumar) 2, Lockhart (Ashhad Asbar) 3 and N R I Heights (Abhay Singh) 4. 3, hd and 6-1/2. Im, 38.61s. ₹28 (w), 8, 8 and 15 (p), SHP: 19, FP: 119, Q: 58, Tla: 832. Favourite: Destined Dynamite. Owner: Mr. Ahmed Alam Khan. Trainer: Deshmukh.

6 BAKRANANGAL PLATE (1,600m), 4-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III); STORMY (Afroz Khan) 1, Vashishta (B.R. Kumar) 2, Solo Winner (Nakhat Singh) 3 and Tiger Of The Sea (Surya Prakash) 4. Hd, 3/4 and 3/4. Im, 40.50s. ₹163 (w), 28, 21 and 11 (p), SHP: 48, FP: 2,643, Q: 1,390, Tla: 46,427. Favourite: Tiger Of The Sea. Owner: Col. S.B. Nair. Trainer: M.F. Alikhan.

7 GOLCONDA 2000 GUINEAS (1,600m), 3-y-o ONLY (TERMS): VIJAYS SINGHAM (LEITIR MOR-ZARANDJA) SRINATH 1, CONSIGLIORI (Air Support-Caprese) David Allan 2, VICTORY PARADE (Top Class-Harmonia) A. Imran 3 and MAJESTIC WARRIOR (Leitir Mor-One Magic Moment) Dashrath Singh 4. Nk, 3-1/4 and 1. Im, 37.54s. ₹38 (w), 14 and 6 (p), SHP: 13, FP: 110, Q: 53, Tla: 639.

Favourite: My Journey. Owners: M/s. Vijay Rac. & Farms P. L. rep. by M/s. Vijay Kumar Gupta & Susheel Kumar Gupta & M/s Poonawalla Rac. Brdg. P. Ltd. rep. by Mr. Z.S. Poonawalla & Mrs. Behroze Z. Poonawalla. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

8 TELANGANA AND ANDHRA SUB AREA CUP (1,100m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II); HER LEGACY (David Allan) 1, Yours Forever (Surya Prakash) 2, Celeritas (Afroz Khan) 3 and Strategist (Akshay Kumar) 4. Nk, 1 and 3/4. Im, 5.44s. ₹10 (w), 6, 9 and 17 (p), SHP: 26, FP: 41, Q: 29, Tla: 452. Favourite: Her Legacy. Owners: M/s. Sanjay R. Goyani & S. Prasad Raju. Trainer: Prasad Raju.

9 SILKY BABY PLATE (DIV. II), (1,100m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III); MYSTERY (David Allan) 1, Aristocrats Charm (Surya Prakash) 2, Bar Et Law (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Sea Castle (Aneel) 4. 2-3/4, nk and 3/4. Im, 5.85s. ₹10 (w), 6, 10 and 8 (p), SHP: 26, FP: 47, Q: 36, Tla: 103. Favourite: Mystery. Owners: M/s. Niraj Tyagi & Vikas Sachdeva. Trainer: Prasad Raju.

Jkt (i): ₹1,705 (92 kts.). Runner-up: 76 (877 kts.). Jkt (ii): 1.16, 271 (eight kts.). Runner-up: 20,981 (19 kts.). Mini Jkt.: 1,076 (38 kts.). Tr (i): 45 (571 kts.). (ii): 43,872 (one kts.). (iii): 302 (518 kts.).

BADMINTON

SPORTS BUREAU NEW DELHI

Himanshu Saroha (Delhi Audit) and Lalita Dahiya (Ministry of Finance) won a double each in the inter-Ministry badminton tournament, organised by the Central Civil Services Cultural and Sports Board, at the AIIMS Gymkhana. The two were also adjudged the best players of the tournament.

The results: Men: Final: Himanshu Saroha bt Sachin Rawat 21-18, ret'd.; **Third place:** Amit Sharma bt Keshav Sharma 21-18, 21-15. **Doubles: Final:** Himanshu & Tushar Sharma bt

Amit Sharma & Siddarth Nandal 18-21, 21-16, 21-19; **Third place:** Keshav Sharma & Amarjeet bt HM Ningappa & Arvind Rawat 21-15, 21-15.

Women: Final: Lalita Dahiya bt Seshadri Sanyal 21-16, 21-19; **Third place:** Swati Sharma bt Sheetal Kargeti 21-19, 20-22, 21-18.

Doubles: Final: Lalita & Seshadri bt Sheetal Kargeti & Swati Sharma 14-21, 21-14, 21-14; **Third place:** Ruchika Patwal & Madhu Gyanchandani bt Pratibha & Versha Kohli 21-15, 21-18.

Mixed doubles: Final: Tushar Sharma & Sheetal Kargeti bt Amit Sharma & Swati Sharma 18-21, 21-16, 22-20; **Third place:** Keshav Sharma & Seshadri Sanyal bt Siddarth Nandal &

Lalita Dahiya 21-18, 21-19.

Veterans doubles: Final: Rajeesh Sharma & Pankaj Pandey bt Amarjeet & S.C. Tewari 21-12, 21-15; **Third place:** Ravi Kumar & P. Subramanian w.o. A.K. Jain & Dr. N.K. Gupta.

Veteran women: Final: Madhu Gyanchandani w.o. Priya Nalgundwar; **Third place:** Pratibha Shukla w.o. Sarita Kumari.

Doubles: Final: Priya & Madhu bt Pratibha & Versha 21-18, 21-19; **Third place:** Meenakshi Dutt & Neeraj w.o. Sarita Kumari & Renuka.

Mixed veteran doubles: Final: Gulshan Sharma & Madhu Gyanchandani bt Ravi Kumar & Meenakshi Dutt 21-18, 21-16; **Third place:** Amarjeet & Versha Kohli bt Rupinder Kumar & Renuka 21-18, 21-14.

Rohana keen to defend crown

Veer Ahlawat could be among the leading contenders

BENGALURU OPEN GOLF

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

Anura Rohana has a special place in his heart for the Karnataka Golf Association course. The Sri Lankan has won two titles here, and returns to the venue this week hoping for an upturn in fortunes as the Bengaluru Open golf championship, the penultimate event of the 2019 PGTI season, gets under way here on Tuesday.

“My friends M. Dharma and C. Muniyappa (both players’ home course is the KGA) were joking that I was coming back to my home course. I like it here. I made seven birdies in my practice round today. I hope I can do well this week,” he said here on Monday.

Difficult season

Rohana has endured a difficult season, failing to make the top 10 in any of his 13 tournaments, and missing



Who’ll take it? Rahil Gangjee, left, and Anura Rohana pose with the winner’s trophy ahead of the Bengaluru Open golf championship. ■SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA

the cut on five occasions. A return to the Bengaluru Open, where he is the defending champion, could spark a turnaround. “I’m getting old now,” he laughed.

“Compatriot) Mithun Per-

era won last week (at the RCGC Open in Kolkata). I want to try and win this week.”

With Rashid Khan and S. Chikkarangappa, one and two on the PGTI Order of

Merit, away on the Asian Tour, there seem to be no overwhelming favourites for the title. Veer Ahlawat, who won the Indian Oil Servo Masters in Digboi last month, could be among the leading contenders, as could Mukesh Kumar and hometown hopeful Dharma.

Tricky lines

Rahil Gangjee, who also calls this city home now, felt reading the greens would not be easy this week. “You’ve got to figure out your lines. You think it’s easy but it’s not. The lines are tricky. They’ve cut the greens and so the lines have changed. The home advantage has been reduced a little,” he said.

Rohana agreed with that assessment. “The ball is rolling nicely on the greens but it’s very difficult to find the right line,” he said. The 46-year-old will hope he can adapt quickly when he tees off on Tuesday.