

TV PICKS

**NBA:** Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 7 a.m.  
**Pakistan vs Sri Lanka:** 2nd Test, Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 10.30 a.m.  
**India vs West Indies:** 3rd ODI, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 1.30 p.m.  
**I-League:** D Sport, 2 p.m.  
**Serie A:** Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 5 p.m., 7.30 p.m., & 1.30 a.m. (Monday)  
**Premier League:** SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m. & 10 p.m.  
**ISL:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.  
**Bundesliga:** SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 8 p.m. & 10 p.m.

IN BRIEF



**Porzingis leads Mavericks' rout of 76ers**  
WASHINGTON  
Injury-hit Dallas, powered by Kristaps Porzingis, routed Philadelphia 76ers 117-98 in the NBA on Friday. Latvian forward Porzingis scored 22 points and grabbed a career-high 18 rebounds.  
**Important results:** Indiana Pacers 119 bt Sacramento Kings 105; Boston Celtics 114 bt Detroit Pistons 93; Toronto Raptors 122 bt Washington Wizards 118. *AFP*

**Railways women begin in style**  
LUDHIANA  
Railways opened its defence of the women's title with a 141-51 victory over Maharashtra in the 70th National basketball championship.  
**The results:** **Men:** Services 82 (Joginder Singh 32, Nikhil Kumar 18) bt Kerala 70 (Sejin Mathew 19, Basil Philip 18, Sugeethnath 11).  
**Women:** Kerala 74 (P.S. Jeena 32, P.G. Anjana 16, Stephy Nixon 13) bt Karnataka 56 (Varsha 18, Vinaya 12).  
Railways 141 (Sruti Aravind 21, Madhu Kumari 15, R. Ramya 14, Poonam Chaturvedi 12) bt Maharashtra 51 (Neha Sahu 14).  
**Shahbaaz & Zayed out**  
DOHA  
India's Shahbaaz Khan and Mousa Shanan Zayed of Qatar lost 7-5, 6-4 to second seeds Daniel Kossek and Maciej Smola of Poland in the doubles quarterfinals of the \$15,000 ITF men's Futures tennis tournament here.

Banthia guides Crusaders home

Supersmashers defeat Avengers in the other match of the day

PRO TENNIS LEAGUE

**KAMESH SRINIVASAN**  
NEW DELHI  
Young Siddhant Banthia was able to establish his strong game against some of the best players in the country as he guided DMG Delhi Crusaders to a 29-25 victory over Haryana Sapphires in the Pro Tennis League here on Saturday.

The 19-year-old Banthia, who has played the junior Grand Slams, impressed with his keen anticipation, quick movement and dynamic volleying as he stood out in two doubles matches that tilted the balance in favour of the Delhi team.

Banthia combined remarkably well with the gutsy Mahak Jain to win the mixed doubles match 6-4 against Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Sowjanya Bavisetti.

**A thriller**  
Later, he combined with Dalwinder Singh to survive a couple of match points against Jeevan and Vijay Sundar Prashanth to clinch a thriller in the tie-break.  
Thereafter, Tushar Jagota and Ajay Malik outplayed Ar-



**That's the way!** Siddhant Banthia and Mahak Jain turned the tide in favour of Delhi Crusaders against Haryana Sapphires. • KAMESH SRINIVASAN

jun Uppal and Garvit Gupta 6-1 to put Delhi in a strong position.  
**Ramkumar in good form**  
In the other match of the day,

wat. Earlier, Daria Mishina of Russia had won her singles in the tie-break against Riya Bhatia, after Ashish Sinha had lost the opening match to Nishant Dabas.  
Mishina also won her mixed doubles 6-1 with Arjun, against Riya and Niki, which paved the way for a comprehensive 29-21 victory for Proveri Supersmashers against ARA Avengers.  
Banthia and Ramkumar were adjudged the 'best players' of the two ties.  
**The results (league): DMG Delhi Crusaders bt Haryana Sapphires 29-25** (Kabir Hans bt Uddayvir Singh 6-3; Mahak Jain lost to Sowjanya Bavisetti 3-6; Mahak & Siddhant Banthia bt Sowjanya & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan 6-4; Dalwinder Singh lost to Vijay Sundar Prashanth 2-6; Dalwinder & Banthia bt Vijay Sundar & Jeevan 6-5(4); Tushar Jagota & Ajay Malik bt Arjun Uppal & Garvit Gupta 6-1).  
**Proveri Supersmashers bt ARA Avengers 29-21** (Ashish Sinha lost to Nishant Dabas 2-6; Daria Mishina bt Riya Bhatia 6-5(5); Mishina & Arjun Kadhe bt Riya Bhatia & Niki Poonacha 6-1; Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Sidharth Rawat 6-0; Ramkumar & Arjun bt Niki & Sidharth 6-3; Ashish Khanna & Karan Srivastav lost to Saurabh Singh & Suvarth Mall 3-6).

Madras HC allows AICF meeting

Court dismisses president Raja's plea

EXCLUSIVE

**RAKESH RAO**  
NEW DELHI  
The Central Council meeting of the crisis-ridden All India Chess Federation (AICF) will be held, as notified, on Sunday after the Madras High Court dismissed a plea from AICF president P.R. Venketrama Raja seeking an ad-interim injunction restraining secretary Bharat Singh Chauhan from convening the meeting.

As things stand, the fourth Central Council meeting of the year, as stipulated by the AICF constitution, will be held at Hotel Bristol at 11 a.m. at Gurugram on Sunday.

The court also dismissed Raja's plea to disallow "such an invalid meeting."

Belatedly filed

It observed that the "contention that the applicant has filed this application belatedly and, in fact, only two days before the meeting is true," and ruled, "In these facts and circumstances, I am of the view that the said meeting may be proceed-

ed."  
Though a setback for Raja, the order also brought some cheer to his camp. The court allowed the meeting on certain conditions. It ruled that, "Agenda item No. 4 namely, the Bengal Chess Association Affairs in respect of which discussions may take place, but no decision should be recorded."  
"As regards all other items on the agenda, the decision or resolutions at such meeting shall not be implemented until further notice."  
The court listed the matter for further hearing on January 3, 2020. In this case, the AICF president has named the secretary as the first respondent and AICF as the second respondent.  
Meanwhile, the Bengal Chess Association matter, pertaining to alleged financial irregularities, forms the agenda of the General Body Meeting scheduled on December 28 in Bhopal.  
It may be recalled that the Urgent General Body Meeting held on December 14 in Chennai, scheduled the election for February 10.

BFI picks Nikhat as fourth boxer for trials

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
CUTTACK  
The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) on Saturday selected Nikhat Zareen as the fourth boxer for the women's 51kg selection trials for the Olympics qualifier.  
There was speculation regarding the selection of the fourth boxer after Nikhat expressed concerns over the process of trials to be held in Delhi on December 27 and 28.  
According to the BFI rules, World championships participant, finalist in National championships and another boxer selected by the selectors and coaches will participate in the trials for each Olympics weight.  
**The boxers for trials:**  
**51kg:** M.C. Mary Kom, Jyoti Gulia, Ritu Grewal and Nikhat Zareen.  
**57kg:** Sonia, Sakshi, Manisha, Sonia Lather.  
**60kg:** L. Sarita Devi, Simranjit Kaur, Pavitra and Sashi Chopra.  
**69kg:** Lovlina Borgohain, Lalita, Meena Rani, Anjali.  
**75kg:** Pooja Rani, Saweety Boora, Nupur, K.A. Indrajya.

Prince Valiant has the edge

**HYDERABAD:** Prince Valiant has an edge over his rivals in the Speaker's Cup (1,600m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Sunday (Dec. 22).  
**1. SOLITAIRE PLATE** (1,200m), maiden 2-y-o colt & geldings only (Cat. II), (Terms), 1.10 p.m.: 1. Chuckit (7) Rafique Sk. 55, 2. Coastal Storm (1) Kuldeep Singh 55, 3. Kapell Bruke (6) Akshay Kumar 55, 4. Lightning Pearl (8) Ajeeth Kumar 55, 5. One For All (2) Ajit Singh 55, 6. Shanu Shanu (4) Aneel 55, 7. Team Player (5) Nakhat Singh 55 and 8. Whiskey Martini (3) Rohit Kumar 55.  
**1. KAPELL BRUKE, 2. LIGHTNING PEARL, 3. TEAM PLAYER**  
**2. OLYMPIC FLAME PLATE** (Div. II), (1,100m), 3-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 1.40: 1. Coconut Coast (2) Surya Prakash 62, 2. Negress Princess (8) Gaddam 62, 3. Vijays Maestro (1) Gopal Singh 62, 4. Ashwa Yudh Vijeta (3) N. Rawal 61.5, 5. Bombastic (7) Kuldeep Singh 60.5, 6. Blazing Speed (6) Rohit Kumar 58, 7. Country's Pet (5) Santosh Raj 58 and 8. Golden Adara (4) Afroz Khan 50.  
**1. COCONUT COAST, 2. BLAZING SPEED, 3. NEGRESS PRINCESS**  
**3. SARDAR MOHAN SINGH BAGGA MEMORIAL CUP** (Div. II), (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 2.15: 1. Midnight Dream (4) Rohit Kumar 60, 2. Galloping Gangster (7) Ashhad Asbar

59, 3. Reno Star (3) Ahshay Kumar 58, 4. Platinum Claasz (1) Aneel 55.5, 5. Flamboyant Lady (2) Nakhat Singh 55, 6. Explosive (5) Jitendra Singh 54.5, 7. Flag Of Honour (8) I. Chisty 54.5 and 8. Rajneeti (6) Irvan Singh 54.5.  
**1. GALLOPING GANGSTER, 2. FLAMBOYANT LADY, 3. MIDNIGHT DREAM**  
**4. SARDAR MOHAN SINGH BAGGA MEMORIAL CUP** (Div. I), (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 2.45: 1. Marinetti (6) Akshay Kumar 60, 2. Miss Marvellous (8) Afroz Khan 58, 3. Blazer (7) Ashhad Asbar 57, 4. Ayur Shakti (2) Irvan Singh 53.5, 5. Sporting Smile (3) Jitendra Singh 53.5, 6. Angel Tesoro (4) B.R. Kumar 52.5, 7. Royal Dynamite (5) Ajit Singh 52.5 and 8. The Special One (1) Abhay Singh 52.  
**1. MARINETTI, 2. MISS MARVELLOUS, 3. AYUR SHAKTI**  
**5. CYNIDY PLATE** (Div. I), (1,600m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.15: 1. Unstoppable (1) Deepak Singh 60, 2. Maxwell (7) Kuldeep Singh 59, 3. Tapatio (3) A.A. Vikrant 58, 4. Sterling King (10) G. Nareesh 57, 5. Original Temptress (9) Koushik 56, 6. Barbosaella (2) Surya Prakash 55.5, 7. Red River (8) Jitendra Singh 54.5, 8. Halo's Princess (4) Gaddam 53.5, 9. Dazzling King (5) Akshay Kumar 53 and 10. Jo Malone (6) Afroz Khan 53.  
**1. BARBOSELLA, 2. UNSTOPPABLE, 3. JO MALONE**

Flying Gill back in charge

Championship leader Shivram suffers a crash in opening stage

POPULAR RALLY

**STAN RAYAN**  
KOTTAYAM  
He had a massive 24-point lead over his nearest challenger and Chetan Shivram could almost feel the national championship trophy that appeared to be his. But the season's overall leader had a horrible day in the 25th Popular Rally, the Champions Yacht Club FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship's final round, on Saturday.  
Shivram, the winner of the last two rounds in Coimbatore and Bengaluru, suffered a massive crash in the opening special stage and could not complete even one of the day's eight stages. But if the season's last four rounds are any indication, Shivram could still walk away with a good finish in the final standings even if he



**Pulling through:** Gill bounced back strongly.

misses the starting line-up on Sunday.  
**Stunning drive**  
Defending national champion Gaurav Gill, who was seventh in the table before this rally – came up with a stunning drive despite losing much time with gearbox problems to race to the lead after the opening day in the two-day rally.  
"We had a major gearbox

issue on the sixth stage. We actually came on neutral all the way down from the mountain and literally pushed the car into the service. The mechanics did an awesome job but the delay for being late out of service brought us a 50-second penalty and we were trailing by 43 seconds over our next driver," said Gill (navigator Musa Sherif), who was driving for Team Mahindra

**Hot contest**  
There was a hot contest between Younus Ilyas (Harish Gowda) and Dr. Bikkur Babu (Milen George) behind Gill and the two took the second and third spots at the end of the opening day.  
Amritrajit Ghosh (Ashwin Naik) dropped out midway with power steering issues.

Krishna comes to ATK's rescue

His equaliser in the final minute breaks Hyderabad hearts



**Drilling home:** Roy Krishna scores ATK's opener. • K.V.S. GIRI

ISL

**V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM**  
HYDERABAD  
Roy Krishna's strike in the 90th minute denied Hyderabad FC full points and helped ATK share the honours after a 2-2 draw in their Hero-ISL contest here on Saturday.  
In the first half, a dominant ATK took the lead in the 15th minute when Krishna converted a spot kick.  
The penalty was strongly disputed by the hosts though the referee decided that the ball had deflected off defender Ashish Rai's hands. However, TV replays suggested that it had gone off the player's chest when he tackled the advancing midfielder Francisco Javier.  
It was ATK which played

better football as the speedy Krishna and forward Jobby Justin worked in tandem on the right flank with solid support from Javier.  
**Bobo strikes**  
However, Hyderabad FC fought back in the 39th minute. Nestor Gordillo, playing his first match of the season after coming back from suspension, was the architect.  
Gordillo's curling left-footer was anticipated well by Bobo, who timed his leap to perfection and beat the two closely marking defenders Salam Singh and captain Pritap Kotla to slot home.  
The goal drew a cheer from the home fans as the teams went into the break 1-1.  
In the 85th minute, Bobo

scored off a header, thanks to a lovely Marcelinho pass from the left-flank to give Hyderabad what looked like a match-winning lead.  
However, New Zealander Krishna showed fine opportunism when he sprinted down the centre and, seeing Hyderabad custodian and captain Kamaljit Singh charge towards him, chipped the ball over.  
It deflected off the horizontal and bounced into the goal much to the delight of ATK fans.  
Unfortunately, all the aggression the home team showed in the second session came to nought due to the enterprising Krishna.  
**The result:**  
Hyderabad FC 2 (Bobo 39 & 85) drew with ATK 2 (Roy Krishna 15-pen & 90).

Jeremy Lalrinnunga on a record-breaking spree

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
DOHA  
Youth Olympic gold medalist lightweightler Jeremy Lalrinnunga went on a record-breaking spree, claiming three world marks in a remarkable performance, on the way to a silver in the men's 67kg category at the 6th Qatar International Cup here.  
In a power-packed performance, the 17-year-old smashed his own Youth World and Asian record in

snatch, clean and jerk and total lift with an effort of 306kg (140 + 166) to win the silver on Friday night.  
This year, Jeremy has broken 27 records, all under his name, combining National and international marks.  
He smashed 12 international records: three youth World, three youth Asian and six Commonwealth records; and 15 National records: five youth National, five junior National and five senior National.



Jeremy Lalrinnunga.  
• FILE PHOTO

Neroca rallies to share honours with Chennai City FC

Khaiminthang and Siaka cancel out Katsumi and Shereef's strikes

I-LEAGUE

**RAYAN ROZARIO**  
COIMBATORE  
Neroca FC held defending champion Chennai City FC to a 2-2 draw in the Hero I-league clash at the Nehru Stadium here on Saturday.  
CCFC coach Akbar Nawas had said the other day that the team needs to attack more and defend better. The absence of key players from Spain did not affect the host's game plan. CCFC enjoyed better ball possession and were on the prowl most of the time.  
**The provider**  
Skipper and Spaniard Roberto Eslava came up with some defence-splitting passes from the back, keeping the Neroca defenders on their

toes. However, the CCFC strikers failed to find the target despite their best efforts.  
When the home team finally managed to find the breakthrough, it went on to score two goals in the space of seven minutes and it was midfielder Katsumi Yusa who put the team ahead in the 25th minute.  
The Japanese star, who played for the visiting side last season, took the Neroca defence by surprise with a brilliant run. However, he was brought down inside the box. The referee quickly pointed to the spot and Katsumi made no mistake.  
**Heading home**  
Striker Mashoor Shereef's superb header made it 2-0 for CCFC in the 32nd minute. It was Jackson Dhas who was

instrumental in the goal, sending a precise cross from the left.  
Just when it looked like the hosts will go into the break with a 2-0 cushion came Neroca's goal through Khaiminthang Lungdim in the dying seconds of injury time.  
The second session followed a similar pattern with CCFC calling the shots initially but Neroca pulling level through Boubacar Siaka's penalty in the 64th minute.  
CCFC could have sealed the match in its favour had substitute Ranjeet Singh not messed up a chance in front of the goalmouth.  
**The result:** Chennai City FC 2 (Katsumi Yusa 25, Mashoor Shereef 32) drew with Neroca FC 2 (Khaiminthang 45+3, Boubacar Siaka 64).



**The architect:** Mashoor Shereef, who was in the thick of things for CCFC, went on to score off a header. • S. SIVA SARAVANAN