

TV PICKS

NBA: Sony Ten 1, 5.30 a.m. & 8 a.m.
Pakistan vs Sri Lanka: 2nd Test, Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 10.30 a.m.

IN BRIEF



Antetokounmpo marks up another triple double

NEW YORK
Giannis Antetokounmpo delivered his third triple-double of the season to power the NBA-leading Milwaukee Bucks over New York Knicks 123-102 on Saturday. Antetokounmpo had 22 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for the Bucks. **The results:** Utah Jazz 114 bt Charlotte Hornets 107; Brooklyn Nets 122 bt Atlanta Hawks 112; Philadelphia 76ers 125 bt Washington Wizards 108; Chicago Bulls 119 bt Detroit Pistons 107; Milwaukee Bucks 123 bt New York Knicks 102; Memphis Grizzlies 119 bt Sacramento Kings 115; LA Clippers 134 bt San Antonio Spurs 109; Houston Rockets 139 bt Phoenix Suns 125; Portland Trail Blazers 113 bt Minnesota Timberwolves 106. AFP

FC Goa cruises past Odisha, goes top

MARGAO
FC Goa sailed to the top of Indian Super League (ISL) table with a 3-0 win over Odisha FC on Sunday. Ferran Corominas, Goa's talisman, netted a brace and Brandon Fernandes scored his first goal of the season. Goa opened through Corominas strike in the 19th minute. The host struck twice in the second half as Coro completed his brace from a spot-kick in the 89th minute. **The result:** FC Goa 3 (Ferran Corominas 19 & 89, Brandon Fernandes 85) bt Odisha FC 0.



England World Cup winner Peters dead

LONDON
Martin Peters, who scored England's second goal in the 1966 World Cup final against West Germany, has died aged 76 following a long battle against Alzheimer's disease. Peters, whose death was announced by former club West Ham, was part of the Hammers trio of captain Bobby Moore and Geoff Hurst, who scored a hat-trick in a 4-2 victory for England's only World Cup triumph.

Top seed Meiraba triumphs

DHAKA
India's Mainsam Meiraba lived up to his top billing to win the Bangladesh Junior International Series badminton 2019 here on Sunday. Top-seeded Meiraba, who hails from Manipur, beat Ken Yong Ong 21-14, 21-18 in the final lasting 38 minutes. PTI

Two wins for TN men

NATL. BASKETBALL

SPORTS BUREAU

LUDHIANA
Tamil Nadu men won their both matches, against Railways and Kerala, in the 70th National basketball championship at the Guru Nanak Dev Stadium over the weekend. It defeated Railways 87-66 and Kerala 68-39.

In the women's section, Railways recorded its second win, a 100-55 verdict against Telangana, with Shireen Limaye top scoring (22 points). Madhya Pradesh, too, won its games against Tamil Nadu and Punjab.

The results (league):
Men: Uttarakhand 77 (Vishesh Bhriyugavanshi 30, Arjun Singh 15, Murali Krishna 11) bt Delhi 62 (Rachit 19, Sunil 14).

Punjab 106 (Arshpreet Singh 32, Amjot Singh 19) bt Karnataka 66 (Jitendra 12, M. Harish 12).

Tamil Nadu 87 (Munibek 19, P. Jeevanathan 14, Prasanna Venkitesh 10) bt Railways 66

Liverpool adds another trophy to its cabinet

Firmino's goal in extra-time proves decisive against an evenly matched Flamengo

CLUB WORLD CUP

AYON SENGUPTA
DOHA

Liverpool kept its date with destiny, winning a dramatic FIFA Club World Cup final against an evenly matched Flamengo at the cheerful Khalifa International Stadium on Saturday.

See-saw battle

After a see-saw battle between two teams sure of their sporting philosophies, it was Brazilian Roberto Firmino who broke the resolve of his countrymen, scoring the game's solitary goal in the 99th minute.

Fellow Brazilian Alisson Becker had done the initial hard work to keep the European champion alive with some timely saves, thwarting every move of Jorge Jesus' side.

After finally winning the trophy that had eluded the club in 1981, '84 and 2005, Jurgen Klopp, the Liverpool manager, struggled to voice his thoughts.

"It was an incredible per-



On top: Liverpool players are in an upbeat mood after lifting the FIFA Club World Cup trophy. ■ GETTY IMAGES

formance in an incredible game against a great opponent. I saw many sensational performances and the atmosphere was great. We deserved to win tonight as we were the better side, the dominant team," he said.

With the recovered Virgil van Dijk re-commanding his position at the heart of the defence, Liverpool started strongly when the Dutchman essayed a long ball over the high defensive line of the Brazilians.

Firmino, however, fluffed the chance. Mohamed Salah got into the action as he teed it to Naby Keita inside the box, but this chance was also squandered.

Flamengo soon found its footing in the game offering

the English giant its own version of counter press as Bruno Henrique, easily the best man on the pitch for the night, used his strength and speed to constantly harangue the Liverpool defence from the left.

RACING

Exclusive Blue claims the Speaker's Cup

HYDERABAD: Exclusive Blue (Ashhad Asbar up) won the Speaker's Cup, the feature event of the races held here on Sunday (Dec. 22). The winner is owned by Mr. G. Narasa Reddy and trained by Laxman Singh.

1. SOLITAIRE PLATE (1,200m), maiden 2-y-o colts & geldings only (Cat. II), (Terms): **WHISKEY MARTINI** (Akshay Kumar) 1, Kapell Bruke (Akshay Kumar) 2, Team Player (Nakhat Singh) 3 and Chuckit (Rafique Sk.) 4. 1 1/2, 2 and 1/2. Im 13.86s. ₹34 (w), 6, 5 and 7 (p), SHP: 29, FP: 65, Q: 17, Tla: 236. Favourite: Kapell Bruke. Owners: M/s. Chitturi Krishna Kannaiah, Thimmaraja Yelamarthi & Rameshbhai Amrutlal Mehta. Trainer: Satyanarayana.

2. OLYMPIC FLAME PLATE (Div. II), (1,100m), 3-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III): **BLAZING SPEED** (Rohit Kumar) 1, Coconut Coast (Surya Prakash) 2, Ashwa Yudh Vijeta (N. Rawal) 3 and Negress Princess (Gaddam) 4. 2, 1 1/2 and 1 1/4. Im 8.18s. ₹10 (w), 5, 9 and 18 (p), SHP: 20, FP: 39, Q: 21, Tla: 496. Favourite: Blazing Speed. Owner: Dr. G. Lakshmi Prasad. Trainer: S. Sreekanth.

3. SARDAR MOHAN SINGH BAGGA MEMORIAL CUP (Div. II), (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): **GALLOPING GANGSTER** (Ashhad Asbar) 1, Flamboyant Lady (Nakhat Singh) 2, Reno Star (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Midnight Dream (Rohit Kumar) 4. Nk, shd and 6 3/4. Im 24.97s. ₹9 (w), 6, 6 and 5 (p), SHP: 17, FP: 31, Q: 19, Tla: 62. Favourite: Galloping Gangster. Owners: M/s. Veeramachaneni Arjun & Nagendra Prasad Veeramachaneni. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

4. SARDAR MOHAN SINGH BAGGA MEMORIAL CUP (Div. I), (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): **AYUR SHAKTI** (Irvan Singh) 1, Sporting Smile (Jitendra Singh) 2, Marinetti (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Angel Tesoro (B.R. Kumar) 4. 1 1/2, 1 1/2 and hd. Im 25.64s. ₹13 (w), 7, 17 and 5 (p), SHP: 35, FP: 203, Q: 190, Tla: 302. Favourite: Marinetti. Owners: M/s. Premanand Sughandi, G. Raghunandan Chary & Subodh Kumar Ananthula. Trainer: Faisal Hassan.

5. CYNDY PLATE (Div. I), (1,600m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **RED RIVER** (Jitendra Singh), Maxwell (Kuldeep Singh) 2, Jo Malone (Afroz Khan) 3 and

Sterling King (G. Naresh) 4. 2, 3/4 and 2 1/2. Im 40.53s. ₹33 (w), 11, 7 and 9 (p), SHP: 22, FP: 312, Q: 170, Tla: 1,560. Favourite: Barbosella. Owner: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust rep. by Mr. A.C. Muthiah. Trainer: Satheesh.

6. SPEAKER'S CUP (1,600m), 3-y-o & over, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II): **EXCLUSIVE BLUE** (Ashhad Asbar) 1, Prince Valiant (Ajeeth Kumar) 2, Shaquille (A.A. Vikrant) 3 and Nayadeep (Irvan Singh) 4. 3-1/4, 1 and hd. Im 37.36s. ₹30 (w), 7, 7 and 9 (p), SHP: 19, FP: 83, Q: 31, Tla: 1,082. Favourite: Prince Valiant. Owner: Mr. G. Narasa Reddy. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

7. OLYMPIC FLAME PLATE (Div. I), (1,100m), 3-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III): **VALLEE IKON** (A.A. Vikrant) 1, Brave Syera (Jitendra Singh) 2, Yogya (Afroz Khan) 3 and Sun Dancer (Akshay Kumar) 4. 2, shd and 3/4. Im 7.84s. ₹58 (w), 17, 8 and 7 (p), SHP: 20, FP: 536, Q: 252, Tla: 2,260. Favourite: Agilis. Owner: Mr. Tulasi Ram Kaskana. Trainer: Sk. Waseem.

Jkt: ₹36,612 (10 tkts), Runner-up: 1,112 (141 tkts), Mini Jkt: 44,856 (c/o), Tr (0): 86 (609 tkts), (ii): 6,475 (eight tkts)

Beyond Limits may make amends

HYDERABAD: Beyond Limits, a failed favourite, may make amends in the G.V. Rao Memorial Cup (2,000m), the main event of the races to be held here on Monday (Dec. 23).

1. WISFUL THINKING PLATE (1,100m), maiden 2-y-o fillies only (Cat. II), (Terms), 1.10 p.m.: **1. Aintree** (5) Akshay Kumar 53.5, 2. Fleur (3) I. Chisty 53.5, 3. Lombardy (8) Nathan Evans 53.5, 4. Mirana (6) Kuldeep Singh 53.5, 5. New Role (2) C.P. Bopanna 53.5, 6. Royal Romance (4) A.A. Vikrant 53.5, 7. Royal Valentine (1) Nakhat Singh 53.5 and 8. Turf Treasure (7) Ashhad Asbar 53.5.

1. LOMBARDY, 2. AINTREE, 3. FLEUR

2. SANGAM PLATE (1,400m), 5-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 1.40: **1. Silver Dollar** (7) A.A. Vikrant 61, 2. Top Sprint (4) Jitendra Singh 60.5, 3. Royal Dancer (2) Akshay Kumar 60, 4. Ultimate Risk (8) Ajit Singh 58, 5. Recumbentibus (3) Kuldeep Singh 56, 6. Sisco (9) G. Naresh 55, 7. Cowboys Delight (6) R. Ajinkya 54.5, 8. All Star General (5) Irvan Singh 53.5 and 9. Ekam (ex: New Hope) (1) Rafique Sk. 50.

1. ROYAL DANCER, 2. ALL STAR GENERAL, 3. SILVER DOLLAR

3. CYNDY PLATE (Div. II), (1,600m), maiden 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.10: **1. Alliston** (2) Rohit Kumar 60, 2. Gazebo (6) Nakhat Singh 59, 3. Exclusive Art (1) Akshay Kumar 58, 4. Mahashakti (9) Ashhad Asbar 58,

5. Augenstern (3) Irvan Singh 57, 6. Minelli (7) Gopal Singh 56, 7. Royal Girl (5) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 8. Let It Be Me (4) Ajit Singh 53.5 and 9. Blazing Jupiter (8) Kuldeep Singh 53.

1. EXCLUSIVE ART, 2. MAHASHAKTI, 3. GAZEBO

4. STEP ASIDE PLATE (1,800m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.45: **1. Lancashire** (2) Irvan Singh 60, 2. Ashwa Arjun (5) G. Naresh 58, 3. Kesariya Balam (1) Akshay Kumar 56.5, 4. Royal Treat (6) Nakhat Singh 56, 5. Ajmal Birju (3) Gopal Singh 55, 6. Glendale (7) Ashhad Asbar 55 and 7. Symbol Of Star's (4) Rafique Sk. 52.

1. KESARIYA BALAM, 2. AJMAL BIRJU, 3. ASHWA ARJUN

5. STARRY SCENE PLATE (Div. II), (1,200m), 5-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3.15: **1. Scooby Dooby Doo** (7) Akshay Kumar 61, 2. Shandara (3) Surya Prakash 57, 3. Sarvatra (5) Mukesh Kumar 55.5, 4. Prince Caspian (2) Jitendra Singh 55, 5. Top Contender (6) I. Chisty 54, 6. Heaven Can Wait (8) Afroz Khan 53, 7. Gladstone (4) Irvan Singh 51.5 and 8. Gorgeous Lady (1) Rafique Sk. 51.5.

1. TOP CONTENDER, 2. GORGEOUS LADY, 3. SCOOBY DOOBY DOO

6. G.V. RAO MEMORIAL CUP (2,000m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3.45: **1. Pentagon** (1) Abhay Singh 61, 2. On My Way (5) Rafique Sk. 55.5, 3. Charlie Brown (3) Koushik 53, 4. Artystry (6) Irvan Singh 51.5, 5. Beyond Limits (4) Ashhad Asbar 51.5 and

6. Mind Reader (2) Nakhat Singh 50.

1. BEYOND LIMITS, 2. PENTAGON

7. STARRY SCENE PLATE (Div. I), (1,200m), 5-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4.15: **1. Meritocracy** (7) B.R. Kumar 61, 2. Aragona Princess (3) Santosh Raj 59, 3. Marina Del Rey (5) Akshay Kumar 56, 4. Digger (8) Mukesh Kumar 55, 5. Ashka Ashka Ashka (2) Ajeeth Kumar 54.5, 6. Vancouever (4) A.A. Vikrant 54, 7. Royal Green (6) Irvan Singh 53 and 8. New State (1) Afroz Khan 51.5.

1. MARINA DEL REY, 2. ASHKA ASHKA ASHKA, 3. VANCOUVER

8. HARIDUW PLATE (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 4.45: **1. Sublime** (5) Gaddam 60, 2. Mr. Shanghai (6) Rohit Kumar 59.5, 3. Handsome Duo (4) Ajeeth Kumar 59, 4. His Excellency (3) Surya Prakash 57.5, 5. Wings Of Eagles (1) Deepak Singh 57.5, 6. Best Friend (9) Jitendra Singh 57, 7. Darshish (11) Abhay Singh 57, 9. Latest News (10) Rafique Sk. 54, 10. Moka (7) Ajit Singh 53.5, 10. Tammanna (2) Uday Kiran 53.5 and 11. Khan Sahib (8) B.R. Kumar 52.5.

1. HANDSOME DUO, 2. SUBLIME, 3. BEST FRIEND

Day's best: **KESARIYA BALAM**
Double: **EXCLUSIVE ART - HANDSOME DUO**

Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8; Mini Jkt: 5, 6, 7 & 8; Tr (0): 1, 2 & 3; (ii): 3, 4 & 5; (iii): 6, 7 & 8; Tla: all races.

Shivram claims maiden National title

STAN RAYAN
KOTTAYAM

When he crashed and went off the road a few minutes after the start of the 25th Popular Rally here on Saturday, Chetan Shivram thought his stunning run in the Champions Yacht Club FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship was over.

The 41-year-old came to Kottayam as the National championship's overall leader, surprisingly in an INRC-3 car – a lower-power vehicle compared to the INRC cars – but the crash gave others behind him, like Younus Ilyas and Bikku Babu, a chance to grab the national trophy.

But Shivram and his brother Dilip Sharan, who is his navigator, and his team worked hard last night and brought the Polo back to run the final day on Sunday. And the three points he earned in the second leg helped the Bengaluru driver claim his maiden overall National title with 78 points.

Meanwhile, after all the problems earlier this season, everything fell in place for Gaurav Gill as he retained the Popular Rally title for his first victory in the National championship this season. It was also Gill's fifth triumph in Popular, which is supported by the Kuttakaran Group.

Bikku Babu and Dean Mascarenhas finished second and third in the Popular Rally.

TRAU holds Real, gets off the mark

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
IMPHAL

Debutant Tiddim Road Athletic Union (TRAU) earned its maiden I-League point on Sunday after a 2-2 draw with Real Kashmir FC here on Sunday.

Real led 1-0 at half-time, but the home side fought back admirably well in the second to split points with the Srinagar-based side.

The result: TRAU 2 (Emeka 78, Uche 82) drew with Real Kashmir 2 (Mason 27 & 84).

PTL: Delhi Crusaders in semifinals

Sapphires will be challenged by Avengers in the other group

KAMESH SRINIVASAN

NEW DELHI

Former National champion Dalwinder Singh rode on his explosive game and a gutsy approach in the face of adversity to drive DMG Delhi Crusaders to a thrilling 29-28 victory over Sankara Aces, and into the semifinals of the Pro Tennis League under the floodlights at the RK Khanna Stadium here on Sunday.

Watched by an appreciative crowd, Dalwinder recovered from a bad start and saved match points to beat Sriram Balaji 6-5(4). This gave a marginal lead to Delhi, which had lost two rubbers after Kabir Hans had given it a flying start against Vansh Kapoor.

In the event, Dalwinder won the doubles with Siddhant Bantia against the formidable Sriram Balaji and Kunal Anand in the tie-break.

In the entertaining last rubber, Vivek Shokeen displayed glimpses of his high quality, partnering Bikramjeet Chawla for Sankara Aces, to survive match points with his big serves, and win tie-break against Tushar Jagota and Ajay Malik.

However, Delhi prevailed on the basis of having won one more game.

Quite interestingly, despite winning both its ties, Delhi found itself second in the group, as the rules looked at the game difference of the teams in grading them for the knock-out stage.

In the semifinals, Delhi will play the topper of the other group, Proverii Supersmashers, spearheaded



On fire! Dalwinder Singh recovered from a bad start and saved match points to beat Sriram Balaji and take his team to the last-four stage. ■ KAMESH SRINIVASAN

by Ramkumar Ramanathan. Haryana Sapphires, which topped the group with a seven-game difference, despite having won only one tie, will be challenged by ARA Avengers, which came back strongly to finish second ahead of Grip N Rip in the other group.

Siddharth Rawat played a splendid all-court game in winning his singles and doubles matches for Avengers. Riya Bhatia was also in good form, outplaying Prerna Bhambri.

In the decisive sixth rubber, Saurabh Singh and Suvrat Mall were able to outclass Aditya Khanna and Rohan Srivastava 6-3, after having trailed 1-3, to put the icing on the cake for Avengers.