

## Short Takes

### Harika holds Eljanov in first round of TePe Sigeman & Co chess tourney

**Malmö (Sweden) , May 11** : Indian Grand Master Harika Dronavalli staved off a strong challenge to eke out a thrilling draw against Ukrainian Grand Master and the highest rated player Pavel Eljanov in her opening round game of the TePe Sigeman and Co. chess tournament at the Hipp theatre here.

Harika, the lone Indian at the prestigious tournament, started with black pieces and had to be at her defensive best from the early stages here on Wednesday.

"My opponent attacked from the beginning and I countered with a defensive structure to contain the pressure," the Guntur lass said after the match.

However, during the later stages of the game, Harika capitalised on an error made by her higher rated opponent which helped her regain lost ground.

"In a crucial moment, he allowed me to break the Queen side due to slight miscalculation and after that I got a tactical shot that helped in drawing the game comfortably," the World No.10 Indian added.

At the end of the opening day's action, Harika moved up to the fifth spot on the leader board with half a point. She will take on the local Grand Master Nils Grandelius in her second round later on Thursday.

### Djokovic, Nadal struggle in Madrid Open

**Madrid, May 11** : Serbian tennis ace Novak Djokovic got off to a ragged start in his first match at the Madrid Masters, while Rafael Nadal needed almost three hours to advance to the third round.

Djokovic, the defending champion, who was handed a first-round bye in this year's tournament, recovered from a 0-3 deficit in the third set to close out a 6-1, 4-6, 7-5 second-round victory over Spanish wild card Nicolas Almagro here on Wednesday.

Nadal was pushed hard for his opening win of the tournament, saving 12 of 16 break points, as he outlasted Fabio Fognini 7-6 (7-3), 3-6, 6-4. The world number five was also given a bye in the first round.

Canadian fifth seed Milos Raonic defeated Gilles Muller of Luxembourg 6-4, 6-4, while Japanese sixth seed Kei Nishikori rallied to a 1-6, 6-0, 6-4 victory over Diego Schwartzman.

Asia's top player next faces Spain's David Ferrer, who advanced when Jo-Wilfried Tsonga withdrew prior to their match with a right shoulder injury.

Czech Tomas Berdych advanced past Dutchman Robin Haase 7-6 (7-5), 6-3, while 16th seed Nick Kyrgios beat Ryan Harrison 6-3, 6-3.

In another match, Frenchman Benoit Paire upset third-seeded Swiss Stan Wawrinka 7-5, 4-6, 6-2 to reach the round of 16 of the tournament.

The unseeded World No. 52 struck five aces in the final set and lost only three points over his final four service games, while Wawrinka won just two of his seven second-serve points in the third and was broken twice.

He will next take on Uruguay's Pablo Cuevas, who defeated Frenchman Nicolas Mahut.

In the women's third round, Canadian Eugenie Bouchard had another victory as Angelique Kerber quit with a hamstring problem trailing 6-3, 5-0.

Russian eighth seed Svetlana Kuznetsova defeated Wang Qiang of China 6-4, 7-5 and Latvian Anastasia Sevastova beat Spain's Lara Arruabarrena 7-5, 6-2.

### Flamengo settle payment to Ronaldo

**Rio de Janeiro, May 11** : Flamengo have settled a \$5 million payment to former FIFA World Player of the Year winner Ronaldo, according to the Brazilian club's latest financial statement. The last \$400,000 instalment was paid to the former Barcelona star during the January-March financial period, reports Xinhua news agency.

Ronaldo left Flamengo in 2012 and sued the club for unpaid salary and image rights. The club later agreed to pay the World Cup winner an upfront sum of \$1.5 million and a further \$5 million via future instalments. Ronaldo scored 28 goals in 72 appearances for Flamengo from January 2011 to May 2012

### India have capability to win ICC Champions Trophy, feels Kapil Dev

**New Delhi , May 11** : Former India skipper Kapil Dev on Thursday put his money on the men-in-blue to lift the ICC Champions Trophy silverware next month in England but also said it depends on how they execute their plans during the June 1 to 18 event.

The 1983 World Cup-winning captain said the team needs to put up a collective effort to come out victorious in the marquee International Cricket Council (ICC) tournament. "The Indian team is looking good.

They have been playing well for the last five years but it all depends on how well they apply themselves on that day," the 58-year-old said after attending the unveiling of his wax statue at Madame Tussauds here. "We definitely have the capability to win.

But how they maintain themselves and put pressure on the opponent will be the key," he added.

Kapil also admitted that no team can be taken lightly in the upcoming 50-over tournament, and hosts England will be the hardest to face.

"Every team will be tough to beat. You can't rule out any team. I think England will be very tough playing in England.

They know the conditions better than any other team," he said.

## IPL: Pune eye play-off spot against Delhi



**New Delhi , May 11** : Rising Pune Supergiant will aim to secure a play-off spot while Delhi Daredevils will only have pride to play for when they meet in their Indian Premier League (IPL) encounter at the Ferozshah Kotla here on Friday.

Sitting at the third spot with eight wins and four losses, Pune are currently on 16 points. They will like to continue their form and will be eager to bag two crucial points from this tie which will put them at the joint top spot with Mumbai Indians and guarantee them a berth in the knock-out stage.

Delhi, on the other hand, are languishing at the bottom of the IPL standings and are already out of contention for the play-offs as they only managed to have five wins in 12 league matches so far. Delhi have once again been hugely inconsistent this season. Their bowling line-up, on paper at least, is one of the strongest in the IPL but has failed to step up to the occasion.

The batting has also been inconsistent as their top and middle-order batsmen failed to click in unison.

Looking to salvaging some pride, the Zaheer

Khan-led side, however, can take some positives ahead of the match as they defeated Gujarat Lions by two wickets in a thriller contest on Wednesday.

Chasing a mammoth 196, Delhi lost half their side for 105 runs before Shreyas Iyer (96) and Australian Pat Cummins' cameo (24 off 13 balls) guided the visitors to the win. Pune, meanwhile, will aim to carry on their winning momentum.

Young opening batsman Rahul Tripathi, who performed consistently throughout the tournament, has emerged as the find of the tournament for the Pune side.

The visitors will be hoping for another good performance from the Maharashtra right-hander along side skipper Steve Smith, Manoj Tiwari, Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Ben Stokes.

Pune's main concern will be the form of the other opener Ajinkya Rahane, who has failed to compliment the hard-hitting Tripathi at the top.

The bowlers are also in good form. Jaidev Unadkat, who returned with figures of 5/30 from his four overs, including the hat-trick in the final over against Sunrisers Hyderabad, will also boost the bowling line-up.

### We let ourselves down in the last game, says KKR coach Kallis

**Kolkata, May 11** : Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) head coach Jacques Kallis on Thursday admitted that his team was not up to the mark in the previous match against Kings XI Punjab which they lost by 14 runs. Chasing a modest target of 168 runs for a win during last Tuesday's match at the IS Bindra Stadium in Mohali, KKR could only manage to post 153/6 in their allotted 20 overs despite Chris Lynn firing a 52-ball 84.

"We let ourselves down in the last game. We got off to a great start and I think the platform has been well set throughout the season. We have had very good starts and most of the times we have converted them. In the last game, like I said, we let ourselves down," Kallis

said while speaking to media at a Knight Golf event at the Royal Calcutta Golf Club (RCGC).

KKR, second in the points table with 16 points from 13 matches, will play Mumbai Indians in their final league encounter at the Eden Gardens here on Saturday. "That happens," Kallis said when asked what went wrong in the last game.

"In T20 cricket, you don't win all matches. There are hard totals that you chase down... and easy totals that you can't chase down. So you gotta plan for that. We will take some valuable lessons going into the next game. The guys are ready to come back from that. Hopefully, we can put up a good performance in the

next game," the 41-year-old former South Africa all-rounder said.

Twice IPL champions KKR have a different kind of pressure now that they have already put one foot in the play-offs, Kallis said. "We have pretty much qualified for the play-offs. It's a different kind of pressure now. We have still got one game to go. Again, it's not about the season but worrying about the next game. We don't think too far ahead, just try and plan for the next game," he said.

Seated next to him, KKR CEO Venky Mysore said: "Many of our players enjoy golf. It's a good way to take your mind off cricket. The last seven years that I have been involved with KKR and Jacques has been involved, we have had

some enjoyable rounds of golf." "Three years ago we decided to make it formal. I had grown from strength to strength. I have found this a terrific platform to say thanks to the city of Kolkata for all the love and support.

"We converted this last year to a charity golf event. There is tremendous support from all our players. Even the non-golfers are coming this evening. Also a lot of children showed up last year," he added. Besides Kallis and Mysore, KKR assistant coach Simon Katich, bowling coach Laxmipathy Balaji, physiotherapist Andrew Leipus, physical trainer Adrian le Roux and the New Zealand pair of Trent Boult and Colin de Grandhomme were seen teeing off.

### Vijender terminates contract with Queensberry Promotions

**New Delhi , May 11** : Indian boxing star Vijender Singh announced on Thursday that he has decided to terminate his agreement with Queensberry Promotions with immediate effect since the agency has not been for over a year honouring its contractual obligations. Vijender and Queensberry Promotions signed their agreement in 2015. Vijender's decision to terminate the association means that IOS Boxing Promotions are currently the only agency which will be responsible for his future associations and promotions.

Vijender's first six fights in the United Kingdom were promoted by Queensberry while two title fights in India were promoted by IOS Boxing Promotions.

The 2008 Beijing Olympics bronze medalist remains undefeated in the professional circuit, having won all the eight

bouts he has been involved in so far. He has also reached the 10th spot in the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) rankings.

"Yes, it is true that I have decided to end my agreement with Queensberry promotions. For future fights I am in discussions with my current promoter IOS Boxing Promotions. There were a lot of things that Queensberry Promotions had committed to me as part of their contractual obligations, but failed to deliver," Vijender Singh said in a statement.

"I have had a very good career with them, but not fulfilling what you commit is something I don't agree. Maybe in future, Queensberry and I work together, but as of now I am only working with IOS Boxing Promotions. I am looking forward to have my next fight in July 2017 in Mumbai, promoted by IOS," he added.

## Chennai City bow out of Federation Cup despite win



**Cuttack, May 11** : Chennai City FC on Thursday logged their first win in the ongoing Federation Cup football championship defeating Churchill Brothers 3-1 at the Barabati Stadium here. Despite the win, Chennai were knocked out of the competition along with Churchill Brothers, while both Aizawl FC and East Bengal qualified for the semi-finals.

Strikes by Dhanpal Ganes (18th minute),

Edwin Sydney (61) and Brazilian Charles de Souza (79) led Chennai to three points, leapfrogging Churchill Brothers to finish their campaign in third place in Group A with three points, after Brandon Fernandes scored from the spot in the 81st minute. Meanwhile, Churchill Brothers find themselves at the bottom of Group A with one point and no wins in three matches. Both teams played the first half of the game with caution and

while Churchill Brothers dominated possession, it was Chennai City FC that attacked the break and scored to lead 1-0 at half-time. In the 18th minute, Dhanpal Ganesh bombarded into the penalty box after stealing possession and his shot from a tight angle flew past Naveen Kumar into the back of the net to hand Chennai the lead.

Brandon Fernandes in the 31st minute rattled the woodwork from a free-kick 25 yards out for

Churchill Brothers.

There was even less action in the second half as both teams cancelled each other out on the mid-field tactically.

Bright moments came for Chennai City FC in the form of Dhanpal Ganesh who took on more of an attacking role, linking play between the midfield and the final third.

In the 59th minute, Brandon took it upon him to score the equaliser but his shot could only crash against the side-netting after he wriggled into the box from the left flank.

Two minutes later, Chennai City FC doubled their lead after Edwin Sydney's shot from inside the box crept into the back of the net leaving Naveen Kumar wrong-footed. Charles de Souza tripled Chennai City's lead in the 79th minute after his powerful shot crashed into the net leaving the Churchill custodian stunned.

Churchill were awarded a penalty in the 81st minute and Brandon stepped up to finish the spot kick with ease and reduce Churchill's deficit. However, it was too late for a comeback and the full-time scoreline read 3-1 in favour of Chennai.

## Real Madrid in Champions League final despite defeat

**Madrid , May 11** : Real Madrid booked a place in the Champions League final despite their 1-2 defeat in the semi-final return leg to Atletico Madrid at the Vicente Calderon stadium here.

A close range goal from Isco on the break of half-time was vital in easing Real Madrid into the final on 4-2 aggregate after a blistering start by their rivals, who won 2-1 here on Wednesday night, reports Xinhua news agency.

Knowing they needed at least three goals to get back from their 3-0 first

leg defeat, Atletico proposed a physical affair and Danilo and Stefan Savic were booked in the first five minutes.

Before the half-time break, Diego Godin, Gabi and Sergio Ramos had joined them in the referee's book, all for protesting as the referee let several tough challenges go unpunished.

By then Atletico were 2-0 ahead. Saul Niguez headed the home side ahead from a Koke corner in the 11th minute before Antoine Griezmann doubled Atletico's lead six minutes later after Rafael

Varene had fouled Fernando Torres in the Real Madrid penalty area.

To their credit Real Madrid remained calm and proceeded to dominate possession for the rest of the half, frustrating the home players and taking the sting out of Atletico's attacking thrust.

Isco got a vital away goal three minutes before half-time after brilliant work from Karim Benzema in twisting his way past two defenders on the goal-line before pulling the ball back for Tony Kroos. Although Jan Oblak saved the German's

shot, Isco was on hand to score from close range.

Real looked to continue their control of midfield in the second half and Atletico coach Diego Simeone responded with a double change replacing Torres and Gimenez with Thomas Partey and Kevin Gameiro.

Keylor Navas made a double save on 65 minutes to deny Yannick Carrasco's low shot and Antoine Griezmann's header from the rebound.

Luka Modric then had a goal ruled out due to a questionable positional offside from Ronaldo

before Navas saved low on his near post to deny Griezmann.

As the players tired the game opened up and only a late challenge from Thomas denied Benzema, while Ramos denied Griezmann almost on the goal-line.

The game ended in the middle of a tremendous thunderstorm and despite their side's exit, the home fans cheered their players off the pitch. They knew Atletico had tried everything possible, but the damage had been done eight days before in the Bernabeu stadium

## Today's Match

**Daredevils Vs Supergiant**  
time 8:00 PM