

MORNING BRIEFING



Bhupathi-Mirnyi bag title
India's Mahesh Bhupathi and Belarus' Max Mirnyi defeated Mark Knowles and Andy Ram 7-5 7-5 to clinch the doubles title of the Paris Masters at the Palais Omnisports on Sunday.

Mumbai FC beat ONGC
Nigerian striker Nna Ezech Henry scored two opportunistic goals to help Mumbai FC maintain their all-win record. His twin strikes enabled Mumbai FC rally to overcome ONGC 2-1 in an Elite Division match of the Mumbai District Football Association League played at the Cooperage ground on Sunday evening.
Results Elite Div: Akbar Travels 2 (A Agharaji, I Pedro) beat Western Railway 1 (PV Vinoy); Mumbai FC 2 (NE Henry 2) beat ONGC 1 (ND Opara)

Victory CC in semis
Victory cricket club defeated Mumbai Cricket Association Colts by 7 wickets to reach the semifinals of the Police invitation shield cricket tournament at the Parsee Gymkhana in Mumbai on Sunday. Victory CC chased the target of 189 in 31.4 overs. They will face Payyade SC in the semifinal.
Brief score: MCA Colts 189 all out (R Kerkar 68; B Sandhu 5/10) lost to Victory CC 191/3(A Patil 81*)

Dita coming to India
The Delhi half marathon will be promoted by reigning Olympic marathon champion Constantina Dita. She will be the event ambassador to be run on November 21.

Wonder kid

23-year-old Red Bull driver, Vettel wins at Abu Dhabi to pip Alonso for the title



Vivek Phadnis ABU DHABI

The kid could just not choose between emotions. Standing on the podium while the German national anthem played, Red Bull Racing driver Sebastian Vettel looked like he would break down at any moment. But then he would smile again after looking at his team standing below the podium at the Yas Marina Circuit, the venue of the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

Vettel is now 23 years and 135 days old and has become the youngest world champion. McLaren Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton was 23 years and 166 days when he became the champion in 2008. This win is something the German will surely remember for a very long time. The season has been pretty tight but he has stuck to the job with utmost dedication and support from the team. Three wins in the last four races of the season is testimony to that. For an energy drink manufacturer-sponsored team to beat some of the best in the business and clinch the constructors' and drivers' title is no ordinary achievement.

There was surely quite a bit of pressure on the young man from Heppenheim and he admitted later that he was having trouble falling asleep on Saturday night. But it all

ROLL OF HONOUR	
2010	Sebastian Vettel (Germany) Red Bull
2009	Jenson Button (Britain) Brawn
2008	Lewis Hamilton (Britain) McLaren
2007	Kimi Raikkonen (Finland) Ferrari
2006	Fernando Alonso (Spain) Renault
2005	Alonso, Renault
2004	Michael Schumacher, Ferrari
2003	Schumacher, Ferrari
2002	Schumacher, Ferrari
2001	Schumacher, Ferrari
2000	Schumacher, Ferrari

turned out well in the end and he is the king of the Formula One world now.

Red Bull boss Christian Horner, Australian Mark Webber and Vettel have maintained throughout the weekend that they would just focus on winning and who becomes champion depends on how the others end up. But this pole-to-chequered flag win from Vettel proved that he has really done his homework, put his head down and stuck to the job.

But Vettel and Red Bull

must not forget the service Renault drivers Robert Kubica and Vitaly Petrov have done them. With Vettel always in the lead, Hamilton, who finished second, was putting up a very good pace. But the Brit struggled quite a bit in his bid to get past Kubica, who was ahead. That probably was one of the crucial aspects of the race that kept making Vettel's bid stronger lap after lap.

While Hamilton took things in his stride after he ended up fourth in the championship, Ferrari driver and championship leader before the final race, Fernando Alonso was grim as anyone could be after his seventh place finish. He is one driver who has really worked hard and stayed in the fray throughout the season. But to lose the world drivers' championship by a margin of just four points (256 for Vettel and 252 for Alonso) is nothing short of heartbreaking. It was written all over his face as the Spaniard sat in the Ferrari pit garage dejected, all the while being consoled by his team members.

Webber was another disaster on Sunday. He went into the pits on lap 11 but dropped to the 16th place. He gained some places to eventually finish eighth. While Vettel will be celebrating, it will be mixed feelings for Webber in the Red Bull camp.

ABU DHABI GRAND PRIX FINAL RESULTS					
1	SEBASTIAN VETTEL Germany/Red Bull	2	LEWIS HAMILTON Great Britain/McLaren	3	JENSON BUTTON Great Britain/McLaren
	1:39:36		1:39:46		1:39:47
4	NICO ROSBERG Germany/Mercedes GP	5	ROBERT KUBICA Poland/Renault	6	VITALY PETROV Russia/Renault
	1:40:07		1:40:15		1:40:357
7. Fernando Alonso (Spain/Ferrari) 1:40:634; 8. Mark Webber (Australia/Red Bull) 1:40:080; 9. Jaime Alguersuari (Spain/Toro Rosso) 1:40:038; 10. Felipe Massa (Brazil/Ferrari) 1:50:868; 11. Nick Heidfeld (Germany/Sauber) 1:40:388; 12. Rubens Barrichello (Brazil/Williams F1) 1:57:686; 13. Adrian Sutil (Germany/Force India) 1:58:325; 14. Kamui Kobayashi (Japan/Sauber) 1:59:558; 15. Sebastian Buemi (Switzerland/Toro Rosso) 1:63:178; 16. Nico Hulkenberg (Germany/Williams F1) 1:64:763; 17. Heikki Kovalainen (Finland/Lotus) +1 lap; 18. Lucas Di Grassi (Brazil/Virgin Racing) +2 laps; 19. Bruno Senna (Brazil/Hispania) +2 laps; 20. Christian Klien (Austria/Hispania) +2 laps; 21. Jarno Trulli (Italy/Lotus) +4 laps; Ret Timo Glock (Germany/Virgin Racing) +12 laps; Ret Michael Schumacher (Germany/Mercedes GP) Accident; Ret Vitantonio Liuzzi (Italy/Force India) Accident					



Ciel Indienne wins

Ciel Indienne (I) winning the race at Mahalaxmi racecourse on Sunday
—SALMAN ANSARI/DNA

DNA Correspondent MUMBAI

Ciel Indienne won The Maharaja of Morvi Trophy on the opening day of the Mumbai Meeting at the Mahalaxmi Race Course here on Sunday.

Ciel Indienne, a property of Dr & Mrs Vijay Mallya rep Utd Rac & B'Stk Breeders Ltd's and ridden by CD Hayes, left Sunset Boulevard behind by 1 length to win the feature event. Royal Highness ridden by YS Srinath finished third.

Results:

- The Season's Best Plate (1,400m): 1. Solar Angel, 2. Ocean Touch, 3. Arisen Star
- The Starynsky Plate (1,600m): 1. Chingari, 2. Constantina, 3. Wilna
- The Sir Jamssetjee Jeejeebhoy (VI Bart) Trophy (1,000m): 1. Snow Blaze, 2. Greatness, 3. Equiano
- The Scorpio Plate (1,200m): 1. Beautiful Stranger, 2. Bullet, 3. Lago Medio
- The Ace Ruler Plate Div II (1,200m): 1. Dancing Glances,

- Awesomeness, 3. Tysea
- The Mathradas Goculdas Trophy (1,400m): 1. Moonlight Romance (6), 2. Weizhou, 3. White Knight
- The Maharaja of Morvi Trophy (1,400m): 1. Ciel Indienne, 2. Sunset Boulevard, 3. RoyalHighness
- The My Desire Plate (1400m): 1. Illustrious, 2. Scarlett, 3. Icon
- The Ace Ruler Plate Div I (1200m): 1. Caribbean Queen, 2. Starry Ocean 3. Ocean Trail

Missing players may cost dear

India are set to take on Japan in the pre-quarters of football event sans a few key players

Sanjeev K Samyal GUANGZHOU

The Indian football team has been the surprise package of the 16th Asian Games here. Coached by Sukhwinder Singh and captained by Joaquin Abrances, this under-23 batch has exceeded all expectations by qualifying for the knock-out round of the tournament, advancing from a tough group comprising of defending champions Qatar, Kuwait and Singapore.

In the pre-quarterfinals, India is lined-up against Asia's No 1 ranked football nation, Japan. Common-sense says that it's a match where the Indian team should be playing its best men. But thanks to senior team coach Bob Houghton's decision to ignore the Asian Games, it will be a second-string Indian side that will take on the mighty Japanese on Wednesday.

Houghton has convinced the All India Football Federation (AIFF) to focus completely on preparing for the AFC Asian Cup to be held in Qatar in December and hence has neglected the Asian Games team.

The British coach's decision not to release eight key players from the under-23 age-group for the Asian Games

might cost India the chance to make a mark in the event after a long time. The last time India won a medal in the Asian was in 1970 at Bangkok.

One of the AIFF official told DNA that the Indian team would have been stronger if goalkeeper Arindam Bhattacharya, Govind Singh, Mohan Raj, Rakesh Masih, Jagpreet Singh, Baldev Singh, Baljit Saini and Sushil Singh would have been here. All these players were in the 38 names selected by Houghton himself in the list first submitted for the Asian Games. "Four of these players were in the first eleven of the Indian team which won the SAFF Cup in Bangladesh this season. The biggest setback is the absence of goalkeeper Arindam. Our first-choice goalkeeper Laxmikanth Kattimani is out with injury and against Japan we will have only one goalkeeper, Gurpreet Singh, in the squad," said the official.

Kattimani suffered a back injury during the match against Qatar and is ruled out for the tournament. India had a good record in Asian Games in the period from 1950 to 1970, winning the gold in 1951, New Delhi, and 1962 in Jakarta, and taking the silver in 1954 in Manila.



India's Lalpekhlu Jeje (L) battles with Mohammad Abdul Hameed of Singapore during their Group D pool match in the Asian Games in Guangzhou —AFP

Pune's Guangzhou connection

Nitin Ghule from the city along with the kabaddi team, will aim for gold at the Asiad

Tushar Dutt PUNE

When athletes from all over India are doing their bit to earn medals at the Asian Games in Guangzhou, Pune's Nitin Ghule is also keen to hold the yellow metal with his teammates.

For Nitin, who has been

selected for the China-bound kabaddi team, it is a dream come true to represent the country at this level. The 24-year-old, who attended the camp in Bhopal, will leave for China on Monday night, with a mission—to win gold for the country and popularise the sport in its birth-place.

"The sport is not very popular in India, but I am sure it will gain popularity once we win gold there," Nitin said while talking to DNA from Delhi.

Nitin, who took up the sport after getting inspiration from his elder brother, feels kabaddi has taught him a lot and it is time to pay back



We are strong contenders to win the gold and the way we have practiced, I am sure we will achieve our targets.

—Nitin Ghule, player



to the game. "We are strong contenders to win the gold and the way we have practiced, I am sure we will achieve our targets," he said.

When asked about the strongest opponents India will face in the Games, he said, "I feel Iran and Pakistan will be tough teams. But we are no less than anyone and we will do our best to top the podium."

Nitin took up the sport 12 years ago and has played for India at the international level. This will be his first multi-sport event. The kabaddi matches will start from November 22.

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