

## SHORT TAKES

## Virus spike sees fans shut out of EPL games

**London:** London's six Premier League clubs won't be allowed supporters at games again after the British capital was placed under the toughest level of coronavirus restrictions due to a spike in cases. The decision by the British government, which takes effect on Wednesday, leaves only four top division clubs in areas where a maximum 2,000 fans are allowed in stadiums. They are Everton and Liverpool on the west coast, and Brighton and Southampton on the south coast. Fans are being shut out of Arsenal, Chelsea, Crystal Palace, Fulham, Tottenham and West Ham only two weeks after they were allowed back.

**Cech battles cold feet to make winning return:** Petr Cech returned to the pitch 18 months after retiring to help Chelsea's reserve team beat Tottenham's U-23 side on Monday despite conceding two early goals and grappling with nerves. Chelsea's second string returned to the top of Premier League 2 after coming back from 2-0 down on 17 minutes to win 3-2 with three second-half goals. "For the first 20 minutes, I struggled to find the automatic movements I had been used to," the 38-year-old goalkeeper said in an interview mediated by his Czech agent Sport Invest.

**Barca confirm presidential elections on January 24:** Barcelona will hold presidential elections on January 24 after the managerial committee which has run the club since Josep Maria Bartomeu's October resignation agreed on the date. "The Management Committee has agreed to call elections for the club's presidency and Board of Directors. Voting will be held on January 24, 2021," the body said in a statement. The final approval comes after Barca reached an agreement with the Catalan regional government two weeks ago.

**Pogba likely to stay with United till next summer:** France midfielder Paul Pogba is likely to remain at Manchester United until next summer as it would be difficult to organise such a high-profile transfer in January, his agent said. Mino Raiola had said last week the 27-year-old was unhappy at United and needed to change teams "in the next transfer market" to reignite his career. However, Pogba has since pledged his commitment to United.

**Arsenal must trust in Arteta, says Guardiola:** Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has backed former assistant Mikel Arteta to turn Arsenal's fortunes around despite the club's dismal start to the season. "Arsenal don't have a better manager that can lead this club in this year and the next," Guardiola said on Tuesday. AGENCIES

## HYDERABAD FC RALLY TO DOWN EAST BENGAL

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Hyderabad FC came back from a goal down to defeat SC East Bengal 3-2 at the Tilak Maidan on Tuesday.

A Jaques Maghoma strike gave SC East Bengal a 1-0 lead at the end of first-half. But a quickfire brace by Aridane Santana and a tap-in by Halicharan Narzary saw the Nizams lead the game 3-1. Maghoma grabbed a consolation goal for the Red and Gold Brigade at the end.

Hyderabad imposed a pressing game, seeking to outfox the East Bengal defence. Aridane pounced

## ISL REPORT

on a weak goal-kick from East Bengal keeper Debjit Majumder; but there was no one at the end of his cross.

Jaques Maghoma scored SC East Bengal's first goal in ISL when he delivered a shot inside the net thanks to a Matti Steinmann through-ball just before the half-hour mark. Aridane almost equalised for Hyderabad before half-time from a penalty, but Majumder made an assured save by diving to his right, protecting Bengal's lead.



**ON TARGET:** Hyderabad FC players celebrate a goal in the ISL match against East Bengal at the Tilak Maidan Stadium in Goa on Tuesday

Santana redeemed himself when he scored two goals within the space of a minute to put the Nizams ahead. For the first goal, Yasir delivered a free-kick towards goal, which the Spaniard gently headed inside the net. The second goal came just 39 seconds later, when Yasir won the ball in the middle of the field and delivered it to Liston Coloco, who threaded a through-ball for Aridane to drive home from close range.

Coloco increased Hyderabad's

lead after he made a stunning solo run from the midfield, leaving Bengal defenders in a tizzy and setting up a simple tap-in for Narzary.

Maghoma brought Bengal back into the match when he headed an Anthony Pilkington free-kick inside the net 10 minutes before the end of regular time.

But the end-to-end game finished 3-2, and saw SC East Bengal remain at the bottom of the table, with Hyderabad FC climbing to the fifth position.

## Moody back at Sunrisers as director

**New Delhi:** Australia cricketer-turned-coach Tom Moody was on Tuesday appointed as the director of cricket by IPL franchise Sunrisers Hyderabad.

The 55-year-old Australian was in charge of SRH for seven years till the 2019 season, guiding the team to IPL title in 2016 before he was replaced by England's World Cup-winning coach Trevor Bayliss in July last year.

"Tom Moody Cricket has been appointed as the Director of Cricket for Sunrisers Hyderabad. #OrangeArmy #KeepRising," the franchise announced on its official Twitter handle.

During Moody's seven-year tenure, Sunrisers reached IPL play-offs five times.

In this year's IPL in the UAE, SRH again reached the playoffs after qualifying third. They lost to Delhi Capitals in the Qualifier 2 at Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi. PTI

## CITY SPORT



Victory Playground, winners of the Dumpala Narsingh Rao Patel Memorial basketball tournament

## VPG claim basketball title

Hosts Victory Playground (VPG) claimed the Dumpala Narsingh Rao Patel Memorial basketball tournament as they beat Hyderabad Mayors 83-75 in the final at VPG on Tuesday.

Results (final): VPG 83 (Pathak 21, Mintu 19, Salman 18, Naveen 16) bt Hyderabad Mayors 75 (Nares 20, Prasan 17, Balu 15). 3rd place playoff: TSF bt Hyderabad Sporting Club 61-56.

## Manohar beats Sourab

Manohar Kumar of IOC defeated M Sourab of GSM 4-11, 11-7, 11-9, 11-4 in the men's singles knockout match of the Telangana state table tennis championships at Anandnagar Welfare Association on Tuesday.



Telangana state youth table tennis winners SFR Snehit (MLR) and G Pranitha (HVS) with TSTTA vice-presidents S Surender Reddy, A Narasimha Rao and others at Anandnagar Welfare association

**Results (knokouts): Men:** Manohar Kumar (IOC) bt M Sourab (GSM) 4-11, 11-7, 11-9, 11-4; Zubair Farooqui (LBS) bt Kunal Bhargav (APG) 11-5, 11-7, 11-2; Swarnendu (AVSC) bt B Vishin 11-7, 11-3, 8-11, 11-7; Kesavan Khannan (MLR) bt Somraj Roy (IT) 11-8, 9-11, 11-7, 11-5; A Vishal (GSM) bt M Shashi Kiran 11-3, 11-5, 11-4; B Vatsin bt Somnath Ghosh (SCR) 11-9, 11-9, 11-7; Ali Mohd (AVSC) bt Tirthudeep Ghosh 11-5, 11-6, 11-6; Dr Chandradud bt Akhil (AWA) 11-8, 11-8, 11-5.

**Women:** M Nikhita (PPA) bt S Saranya (LFC) 11-4, 11-2, 11-7; Rachana (GSM) bt HS Nandini (VPG) 11-8, 11-8, 11-8.

## HFL academy launched

Hyderabad's Football League (HFL) has launched its academy at Basheerbagh on Monday. The academy will provide coaching for boys and girls from Monday to Friday between 5pm and 7pm. For details, contact 9133662193 or visit their website www.thehfl.in

## Ex-state boxer Srinivas dies

Former state and SCR boxer M Srinivas (55) died of heart attack at his Gunfoundry residence on Monday night. Srinivas is survived by wife and two sons. Srinivas had represented Andhra Pradesh for over a decade from 1980 and won a silver medal in the National senior championships in New Delhi in 1986.



Valluvar Nagar Football Club, winners of the Sports Village title

## Garrison for Varuna Plate

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mysuru:** Impressive second to unfancied Tremendous in his last essay, Garrison from the stables of Micheal Eshwer, to be ridden by Srinath, is fancied to win the Varuna Plate over 1600 metres, the feature event at the races here on Wednesday. First race starts at 2pm.

## SELECTIONS

- 1. Kutta Plate (Div II) 1600M:** Scarlet Princess 1, King's Command 2
- 2. Planters Plate 1400M:** Time Always 1, Astara 2
- 3. Kurta Plate (Div I) 1600M:** Matteo 1, Eloika 2
- 4. Brig. C.D. Mohan Memorial Plate 1400M:** African Emperor 1, Aberlour 2
- 5. Kovalam Plate (Div II) 1200M:** Lord Commander 1, D Ross 2
- 6. Varuna Plate 1600M:** Garrison 1, Make My Way 2
- 7. Kovalam Plate (Div II) 1200M:** Country's Light 1, Murclago 2

**Day's best:** African Emperor

**Jackpot:** 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7

**1st Treble:** 2, 3 & 4; **2nd Treble:** 5, 6 & 7

## Lombardy &amp; Brilliant View impressive

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Hyderabad:** Lombardy and Brilliant View moved impressively when the horses were exercised here on Tuesday morning.

**Sand 800M:** Fashion Universe (App) 58, 600/43, 400/28.5, moved well. Smashing Blue (Koushik) 1-2, 600/47, 400/30, handy. Gusty Look (Rohit K) 1-3, 600/47, 400/32, moved easy. House Of Diamond (App) 1-2, 600/45, 400/30, good. Augenstein (Afroz K) 1-2, 600/45, 400/30, not extended. A 2-Y-O Painted Apache (Joshi) 1-2, 600/47, 400/31, improving. Balius (Rohit K) from 1200 to 400/1-0, eased up. A 2-

## TRACK NOTES

Y-O Ambitious Star (Bopanna) 1-2, 600/46, 400/30, shaped well. Southern Legacy (Rb) 1-3, 600/48, 400/32, very easy.

**1000M:** A 2-Y-O Kingstom (Ajit S), 2-Y-O Blue Label (App) 1-13, 800/57, 600/42, 400/28, both look well. Star Dancer (Rb) 1-17, 800/1-0, 600/43, 400/28, moved well. A 2-Y-O Stern Opinion/Ashatamasha (Afroz K) 1-18, 800/1-2, 600/46, 400/30, speedy. Kesariya Balam (Koushik) 1-14, 800/1-0, 600/45, 400/30, fit and well. Shivalik Valley (Rohit K) 1-13, 800/58, 600/45, 400/30, retains form. Coastal Cruise (AA Vikrant) 1-15, 800/59, 600/44, 400/28, moved nicely. A 2-Y-O Knotty Dancer (AA Vikrant), Kapell Bruke (App), India Gate (Deepak S) 1-18, 800/1-2, 600/46, 400/31, they trio moved freely. A



2-Y-O Sedgefield/Lopamudra (App), 2-Y-O Hymn/Sublimely Single (App) 1-18, 800/1-1, 600/46, 400/30, both level. Aarya (App), Alliston (Nares) 1-17, 800/1-0, 600/44, 400/28, they moved together.

**1200M:** Super Angel (Abhay S) 1-32, 1000/1-15, 800/1-0, 600/44, 400/29, worked well.

**Monsoon Outer Race Grass: 1000M:** Royal Romance (AA Vikrant) 1-14, 800/58, 600/43, 400/28, not extended. A 2-Y-O Indie (Gopal S), 2-Y-O Limoncello (App) 1-12, 800/57, 600/43, 400/28, former finished 11 in front. Crazy Horse (App) 1-12, 800/57, 600/43, 400/28, pushed. Golden Hope (App) 1-11, 800/56, 600/42, 400/28, can upset. Royal Girl (Rb), 2-Y-O General Atlantic (Ajit S) 1-9, 800/55, 600/41, 400/28, both level. That's My Magic (Rb) 1-13, 800/58, 600/44, 400/30, eased up. A 2-Y-O Smuggler's Cove/Azarenka (Afroz K), Fleur (App) 1-11, 800/55, 600/42, 400/28, they moved together. A 2-Y-O Planetaire/Perfect Polly (P Ajeeth K), 2-Y-O Special Effort (S Prakash) 1-10, 800/56, 600/43, 400/28, both look well.

**1200M:** A 2-Y-O Due Diligence (P Ajeeth K), Astro-naut (S Prakash) 1-25, 1000/1-10, 800/56, 600/41, 400/28, both level. Brilliant View (Kuldeep), Bisate (SS Tanwar) 1-24, 1000/1-8, 800/55, 600/40, 400/27, former easily held latter. That's My King (Nares), Silver Set (Afroz K) 1-27, 1000/1-10, 800/55, 600/40, 400/28, both level. A 2-Y-O Lord Admiral/Rising Rainbow (App), 3-Y-O Shivalik Bright (Rb) 1-27, 1000/1-10, 800/55, 600/40, 400/27, both moved nicely.

**1400M:** Rulethetworld (P Ajeeth K), Lifetime (S Prakash) 1-37, 1200/1-20, 1000/1-5, 800/53, 600/40, 400/26, a noteworthy pair. Best In Show (Kuldeep), Saffron Art (SS Tanwar), My Legacy (Gopal S) 1-37, 1200/1-22, 1000/1-5, 800/52, 600/39, 400/24, the trio finished in that order. Forever Splendour (Kuldeep), Galloping Gangster (SS Tanwar) 1-38, 1200/1-20, 1000/1-7, 800/54, 600/40, 400/27.5, a fit pair.

**1600M:** Lombardy (S Prakash), Consigliori (P Ajeeth K) 1-46, 1400/1-30, 1200/1-15, 1000/1-2, 800/50, 600/37, 400/24, former started 5L behind and easily finished well in front, note.

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