

MUSTREAD

Sergio Ramos defends Gareth Bale's Real Madrid record

Madrid: Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos has defended the club's Welsh international forward Gareth Bale. Following a summer in which he looked to have one foot out of the door, Bale has been one of Madrid's best players in their start to the season, setting up Karim Benzema for their first goal of the season and scoring twice himself in a 2-2 draw at Villarreal before the international break. However, in recent days Bale admitted to the British press that he wasn't "playing happily" at Madrid after the summer in which coach Zinedine Zidane had tried to push him out. Speaking to the Daily Mail, Ramos defended the striker. "Bale is a great player and he's been vital for the club in the years that he has been with us," he said.

IAAF clears 11 Russian athletes to compete internationally in neutral status

Moscow: Eleven Russian athletes have been allowed to participate in international competitions under a neutral status as the Russian national federation is still suspended, the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) said Tuesday. "The IAAF Doping Review Board has agreed that the applications of 11 Russian athletes have met the exceptional eligibility criteria to compete in international competition as neutral athletes in 2019 under competition Rule 22.1A(b) while the Russian national federation (RUSAF) remains suspended," the IAAF said in a press release.

Haryana Steelers take on Jaipur Pink Panthers

Kolkata: The Haryana Steelers face off against Jaipur Pink Panthers in Pro Kabaddi League season seven here on Wednesday. The Steelers will be looking to ride on the momentum after winning five matches in a row. They defeated Dabang Delhi KC 47-25 in their previous match. Haryana's young raider Vinay expressed that there's a great understanding between the players in the team. "The team's confidence is high after winning five matches in a row. There's a good understanding between all the players and the coach and captain keep guiding us on and off the mat. We are a confident unit, but we will never be overconfident. We will trust ourselves and execute our plans," said the 20-year-old. The Haryana Steelers went down 21-37 against Jaipur Pink Panthers in their third match of the season, however, Vinay said that the loss will not be playing on the minds of the players when the two teams face each other on Wednesday.

TransStadia, Ahmedabad to host playoffs, and finale

New Delhi: Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) Season 7 has announced Ahmedabad as the venue for the playoffs and final for this year scheduled to take place between October 14 and October 19. EKA Arena by TransStadia, Ahmedabad will host the two eliminators, semi-finals and the Grand finale. With every team having played their opponents once, the competition hereon gets tougher, making way to the playoffs. The teams at the bottom will fight their way to the top 6 to make it to the playoffs as every match will be a turning point for these teams. PKL caravan heads to Pune with matches from September 14 followed by Jaipur - the Pink city where matches begin on September 21.

Netherlands defeat Estonia 4-0 in Euro 2020 qualifier

Tallinn: Estonia lost to the Netherlands 4-0 in Group C of Euro 2020 qualifiers here on Monday at Estonia's national stadium A. Le Coq Arena. The Dutch team forward Ryan Babel scored his first goal in the 17th minute of the first half, while the home side defended resolutely and the tally was kept the same till half-time. Babel completed his brace after the break, while Lyon's winger Memphis Depay also found the net at the 76th minute. Georginio Wijnaldum added another one in the 87th minute to lock down the score at 4-0. On Oct. 10 of the matchday 7, Estonia will play away against Belarus in Minsk, while the Netherlands will face Northern Ireland in Rotterdam.

Indo-South Africa first test match to be held at Vizag from Oct 2 to 6

Visakhapatnam (UNI)

The First Test Match between India and South Africa, is being hosted by Andhra Cricket Association (ACA), scheduled to be held at DR YSR ACA-VDCA Stadium here from October 2 to 6.

As a part of smooth conduction of this international event, ACA has formed an Organising committee under the chairmanship of Visakhapatnam district Collector and Magistrate V Vinay Chand.

The Committee chaired by Vinay Chand which met here on Monday, expressed happy to announce the first test match in Vizag and advised that 12 sub-committees formed, would play a vital role in the test event and to have their committee meetings on a priority basis.

From district administration there will be full co-operation

District court stays arrest warrant against Mohammed Shami

Kolkata: A district court on Monday stayed an arrest warrant against Indian pacer Mohammed Shami in connection with a case of alleged domestic violence filed by his estranged wife Hasin Jahan.

District and Sessions Judge Rai Chattopadhyay stayed the warrant issued against Shami by the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (ACJM) on September 2.

Shami had challenged the ACJM order in the District and Sessions Court.

Shami's counsel Sheikh Salim Rahaman said that it was pleaded before Judge Chattopadhyay that after filing of chargesheet in a case, the magistrate has to issue summons against the accused.

Rahaman claimed that failing to appear before a court on summons may invite a warrant being issued by the magistrate.

He claimed that the ACJM had instead of issuing the summons, issued a warrant of arrest against Shami.



from all departments, for the smooth conduction of the Test match without any disturbances, the district Collector said and declared the ticket denominations of from Rs 100 to 500 for daily tickets while from Rs 400 up to Rs 1500 for season tickets.

Besides corporate boxes con-

sisting 30 seats per box are open for sale on match days, he said only 12 gates out of 21 gates in the stadium will be opened on match days.

Ticket sales will commence from September 15 and it will be sold online and manual counters, the Chairman informed.

Malinga among ten Lankan players to pull out of Pakistan tour

Colombo (UNI)

Lasith Malinga, Dimuth Karunaratne and Angelo Mathews are among the ten Sri Lanka players who have decided to pull out of team's tour of Pakistan where they play 3 ODIs and 3 T20Is beginning from September 27 to October 9.

"Sri Lanka Cricket on Monday held a meeting with players, who were chosen as part of a preliminary squad to select the team, which will be touring Pakistan to play 3 ODIs and 3 T20Is, starting from September 27 to October 9," Sri Lanka Cricket said in a statement.

"Former Sri Lanka Air Force Commander, Marshal Air Roshan Goonetilleke, who is the Chief Security Advisor of the SLC, briefed the players about the security situation in Pakistan and the security arrangements PCB plans on im-



plementing during Sri Lanka team's tour of that country, whilst Chairman of the National Selection Panel Mr. Asantha De Mel, explained about the selection policy for future tours.

"He said, players will be given the freedom to decide on either

Visakhapatnam Police commissioner RK Meena, who is also the organizing committee member, said adequate security measures will be taken on all parameters, for the forthcoming match.

Earlier, ACA President GVKG Rangaraju while briefing about the methodology of conducting the game, south out for the co-operation of the districts officials.

ACA Secretary Ch Arun Kumar, said that 2000 students per day will be given free entry into the stadium to watch the match.

The other members attended at the meeting are GVMC Commissioner Ms G Srujana, ACA Treasurer

KS Ramachandra Rao, APSRTC Regional Manager MY Danam, VDCA Secretary K Pardha Saradhi, ACA Media Manager CR Mohan and ACA Estate Officer V Umamaheswar Rao.

taking part or not in the forthcoming Pakistan tour.

Accordingly, the following players chose to stay away from the upcoming Pakistan series - Niroshan Dickwella, Kusal Janith Perera, Dhananjaya De Silva, Thisara Perera, Akila Dhananjaya, Lasith Malinga, Angelo Mathews, Suranga Lakmal, Dinesh Chandimal, Dimuth Karunaratne."

The statement also mentioned that Kusal Mendis is not available for selection due to an injury sustained during the recently concluded New Zealand series.

"Following the meeting with the players, the National Selectors, selected a T20i and ODI squad to tour Pakistan, and the respective squads will be sent to the approval of the Minister of Telecommunication, Foreign Employment and Sports Honorable Harin Fernando in due course."



UP Yoddha beat Gujrat Fortunegiants 33-26 to register 4th consecutive win

Kolkata: UP Yoddha registered their fourth consecutive win after defeating Gujarat Fortunegiants by a score-line of 33 - 26 in the 82nd game of the Pro Kabaddi League here at Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Indoor Stadium on Monday.

It was the day of the raiders for UP Yoddha as Shrikant Jadhav, Surender Gill and Rishank Devadiga scored 6, 6 and 5 points, respectively.

The defence, as usual, was rock solid as star defender Sumit notched up another high 5 for the

season. With this win, UP Yoddha now has 42 points from 14 games and is placed at 5th position.

The first half began with both teams going toe to toe and not allowing even an inch of breathing space to opposition. The teams known for their defensive capabilities proved their credibility.

As the half seemed to be low scoring it was UP who took the initiative and inflicted the first all out with just 2 minutes to go in the half going into a 14-9 lead.

UP looked pumped up as expe-

rienced Rishank Devadiga went in for a last minute raid which yielded two points as the half-time bell rang.

The two points also ensured that the star raider from UP Yoddha crossed 450 raid points in PKL. UP held the upper hand at half-time with a seven point lead at 16-9.

The second half began with UP Yoddha carrying on from where they had left in the first half as they raced to a 19-10 lead with Shrikant Jadhav getting Parvesh Bhainswala and Rohit Gulia out.

James hoping to recapture best form at Real Madrid

Madrid: Real Madrid midfielder James Rodriguez probably didn't expect to be starting this season with the club, but after failing to move over the summer, the Colombian hopes to become a key figure in Zinedine Zidane's side over the coming months.

When the 28-year-old was sent on loan to Bayern Munich for two seasons at the start of 2017-18, few would have expected him to return to the Santiago Bernabeu - and after making just 32 league starts in those two years, his chances of playing for Madrid again looked even slimmer.

Both Atletico Madrid and Napoli were interested in signing James during the summer, but neither deal went through and James found himself on the subs' bench for Madrid's opening league game of the campaign at Celta Vigo, before starting their first home game against Real Valladolid.

The midfielder was withdrawn after 57 minutes after suffering an injury which kept him out of the team's 2-2 draw at Villarreal, but he should be fit to face Levante this coming weekend.

Speaking on Monday's television program "El Chiringuito",

Retired cricketers invited to apply for Indian Cricketers' Association membership

Kolkata: The Indian Cricketers' Association (ICA), the official players' association for male and female ex-cricketers in India, has commenced its membership application process.

All retired male and female international cricketers and retired domestic cricketers who have played a certain number of first class matches are eligible to apply for ICA membership.

Further information regarding the membership eligibility criteria and the application process is available on the official website of the ICA (www.indiancricketersassociation.com).

Interested individuals who meet the eligibility criteria and wishing to participate in the 2019 ICA elections may apply for ICA membership on or before 21 September 2019 through the online application form available on the ICA website.

The first ICA elections are scheduled to be held on 11 October 2019 under the supervision of the Electoral Officer, BCCI.

BCCI partners with AIR to provide live radio commentary

New Delhi: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Tuesday announced a two-year radio rights arrangement with All India Radio (AIR) to enhance the coverage of Indian Cricket and take it to the nook and corner of the country.

The audio commentary will commence from the first game of India's upcoming three-match T20 series against South Africa in Dharamsala starting on September 15.

In addition to international matches, AIR will also provide coverage for domestic tournaments like Ranji Trophy, Duleep Trophy, Deodhar Trophy, Women's Challenger Series, Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Super League, Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy league and Irani Cup (Men).

The two-year tenure will continue till August 31, 2021.

Indian cyclists put up dominant display on opening day with 12-medal haul



fourth in the final race.

"My partner (Reji) suffered a bit of a malfunction at the start of the finals, and it had to be restarted. However, after the restart, we somehow found confidence, and were able to set our sights on winning a medal in the event," said Herold, the first Indian to par-

ticipate in the UCI Track Cycling World Championships.

Herold, in fact, hadn't even been preparing for the team sprint event in the first place. She had been practicing for other disciplines of the sport such as omnium and keirin, which she plans to focus on after the Track Asia Cup.

"We hadn't been practicing for the sprint event for the last four-five months. We were hardly prepared for the team sprint event. We have instead been focusing on team pursuit, omnium, etc," added Herold, who will next set her sights on the Asian Championships in Korea taking place in October.

Alben, who was part of the gold-winning quartet in team sprint at the World Junior Championships last month, managed to finish third along with Jemsh Singh and Sandeep Kumar in the men's elite team sprint event, in which Thailand and Kazakhstan won gold and silver respectively.