

# The American influence

Rahil Gangjee and Shiv Kapur take second round lead in Gujarat Kensville Challenge; while one banks on his experience of Nationwide Tour, the other takes inspiration from a highly rated song of an American rock band, The Killers

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So much is changing here that it hardly looks like part of India. This is what those in the city for a golf tour felt and could not help giving in to the urge of loving Gujarat.

That subtle influence was evident on the second-round leaders – Rahil Gangjee and Shiv Kapur – in the Gujarat Kensville Challenge at Kensville Golf and Country Club, on the outskirts of the city on Friday.

The duo ended the day with seven-under for the day, a stroke ahead of Englishmen Seve Benson and Gary Lockerbie and Sweden's Jens Dantorp.

## COWBOYISH AGGRESSION

On the land of Mahatma Gandhi, Gangjee who shares his birthdate with the Father of the Nation and who traces his ancestry to the state, there is a newfound 'cowboyish aggression' in his game.

"There is no change in my



LEADING THE INDIAN CHARGE Rahil Gangjee (left) and Shiv Kapur



KALPESH BHATT

berated with the platinum rated melodious song, Human, from the US rock band The Killers.

Though the song created a lot of confusion, over its lyrics, there was no confusion in Kapoor's mind as he shot an eagle, three birdies and a bogey.

"Yes I am listening to the song these days and it is sort of inspiring," he told Mirror after his game.

Starting with a birdie, Kapur went on to sink an eagle in the 14th and topped the front nine with a birdie in the 17th. Though he started his back nine with a birdie in the first hole, it was a quite round before the bogey in the sixth pegged him back.

"Conditions were easier then yesterday as there was no wind today," Kapur said. "I got off to a great start and then managed to pix up three more shots without any heroics," he said.

The time spent at the putting green at the end of the opening seems to have paid well for him. "I changed my putting grip from yesterday, and that seemed to help me with my pace," Kapur said.

approach. But your mindset changes when you play in the Nationwide Tour," the Kolkata-based pro whose forefathers lived at Kutch, three generations ago, had said after his first round on Friday.

Explaining his point, Gangjee said, "You always have to be positive and

aggressive about your scoring. There is no time to relax. There is a chance that you might fall back if you failed to score four-under consistently." "Nationwide (Tour) made you go deeper and deeper," he added.

That was evident once again when Gangjee, who started from the 10th

hole, had four birdies in his first five holes before the bogies at 16th and 18th hole. Gangjee had a sedate back nine, with just one birdie sixth hole. But that was enough to stay at top.

## SINGING THE KILLER TUNE

The 29-year-old Kapoor's mind rever-

## Big win for CBCA



Priyank Panchal



Rajdeep Barad

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A star-studded Central Board of Cricket, Ahmedabad (CBCA) thumped Gandhinagar District Cricket Association (GDCA) by 135 runs in Reliance Inter-District (senior one-day) Tournament on Friday.

Fielding a strong team comprising of some Ranji Trophy regulars, CBCA managed 227 for 8 in their 50 overs.

Priyank Panchal top-scored with 64 runs while Niraj Patel (48) and Avi Barot (46) were the other notable

contributors.

For GDCA, experienced campaigner Salil Yadav took four wickets for 48 runs while Parth Parikh took two for 58 as they stopped their Ranji teammates from Ahmedabad from running away with a big total.

However, GDCA batsmen failed to complement their bowlers and were bowled out for just 88 runs in 27 overs. Rajdeep Barad was the wrecker-in-chief with four for 21 while Siddharth Dave gave him perfect support with three for 23.

On Saturday, CBCA will play Kheda District Cricket Association (KDCA) at Motera C.

## JG Cup in February

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JG College of Commerce, along with Gujarat State Football Federation, will jointly organise Inter-College JG Cup Football Tournament.

The tournament will start on February 26 while the final will held on March 3. Along with the trophy the winners will also get a cash prize of Rs 10,000 while the runners-up will get Rs 5,000. Interested colleges can contact J G College of Commerce, Drive-in Road, Thaltej or can call 26856448 for registration.

## Rajesh shines in Utkarsh win

Rajesh Thakore took four wickets as bowlers set up a four wicket win for Utkarsh CC against Dinesh CC in Indian Bank (Minor) Cup on Friday.

Electing to bat first, Dinesh CC were bowled out for 123 runs in 28.5 overs. Rajesh took four wickets for 26 runs while Dinesh Nirman and Nihad Baloch also chipped in.

For Dinesh CC, Ravi Mistri top-scored with 24 runs. Ramesh Makwana's run-a-ball 30 and Mujmil Ansari's carefully constructed 30 then set up an easy win for the Utkarsh. **AM**

## Rangers up against MUFC

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Ranger's Football Club set up a final date with Mehsana United Football Club (MUFC) in the under-18 Sintex Cup Football Tournament.

Steven Crasta (40th minute) and Samip Shaikh (60th) found the net for Rangers as they upset home team Kahaani 2-0 in the semis.

In an exciting second semi-final, MUFC overcame YCC Rajkot 3-1 in the tie-breaker. Deep Kansagra gave YCC the lead in the 14th minute itself but Krishna levelled the scored

in the 50th minute. In the tie-breaker, only Vishal Adeshara found the net for YCC while Madhurjya, Saurav and Anand found the net for the winners. In the under-15 section, it will be Nameless 11 vs Anand Niketan for the final battle. Nameless upset hosts Kahaani by a solitary goal (Gurudutta, 20th minute) while Anand Niketan scored two (Sidharth Shah, 8th, and Kashish Pujara, 47th) past El Nino.

Meanwhile in the under-13 category, YCC Rajkot, SGVP, Anand Niketan School and Vadodara's Barca Football Club marched into the semis.

## Zeel shines in AITA tourney

JIGNESH VORA



Zeel Desai and Utsav Patel



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Gujarat's Zeel Desai and Utsav Patel stole the thunder on the final day of ARA AITA Championship Series with five titles between them.

Zeel won girls singles and doubles under-16 and girls under-14 title. While Utsav won boys singles

under-14 and under-16 title while settled for doubles in boys under-16. In the girls under-16, Zeel beat Aboli Ghoghari 6-2, 7-5 while in the under-14 Zeel outclassed her opponents from Maharashtra 6-3, 6-3. In the boys under-16, Utsav beat Nagaland's Kepeville Khate 7-5, 6-2 while in under-14, he beat teammate Danish Siddiqui 6-1, 6-3.

## MKSSS win GLS tourney

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With a brilliant all-round show M K Secondary School (MKSS) overwhelmed Hiramani School by first innings lead to win the three-day under-16 GLS School Tournament on Friday.

Electing to bat, MKSS rode on

centuries from Jay Mori (145) and Jash Patel (138) to declare their first innings at huge 488 for nine.

Harsh Shashtri then took five wickets as MKSS restricted their opponents to 204 despite Jaydev Parmar well-made 123.

Following on, Dhruvant Soni (47) and Harsh Oza (35\*) helped Hiramani to reach 114 for three but could not save the day.