



# BHULLAR WARMS UP WITH PRO-AM WIN

Young golfers Varun Parikh, Kairav Shah & Anshul Patel share limelight with international star, who praises their skills

DNA Correspondent • AHMEDABAD

Former champion Gaganjeet Bhullar warmed up for the big weekend by emerging winner in the pro ranks at the Gujarat Kensville Challenge (GKC) here on Wednesday. Bhullar led his team of young local golfers, Varun Parikh, Kairav Shah and Anshul Patel to a fine win in the pro-am held to kick-start the week's golfing activities.

Giving them a run for their money was the team led by Spanish professional Carlos Aguilar, who had Manhar Gohil, Pranay Parikh and Manish Choksi as his amateur teammates.

"I had an excellent round, but the credit also goes to the youngsters, who played so well. They have been really impressive on the greens. Sometimes when Anshul drove the ball, he seemed to be doing so like the famous Canadian major champion, Mike Weir, who is a left-hander. Anshul is also a left-hander. Varun and Kairav were also excellent to play and sank some great birdies," said Bhullar.

Talking about the tournament, he



added, "I am feeling great after this round. I think I must have sunk some eight or nine birdies, but the real contest begins tomorrow." In the special skills category, Sameer Sinha won the 'closest to the pin', while the 'longest drive' fell on expected lines as Parthiv Mehta walked away with the award.

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# National, int'l golfers to tee off in city today

DNA Correspondent • AHMEDABAD

A host of national and international champion golfers, including the winner of a golf major, will exhibit their art as the new European Challenge Tour season in India commences with the third edition of Gujarat Kensville Challenge (GKC) here at picturesque Kensville Golf and Country Club on Thursday. Although Germany's Maximilian Kieffer will not be in the running to defend his title, last year's runner-up Rahil Gangjee, along with the winner of the challenge's inaugural edition, Gaganjeet Bhullar will fancy their chances. Kieffer is not a part of the European Tour event.

Also making the \$200,000-prize money competition exciting will be 2002 USPGA champion, Rich Beem.

Gangjee looks to be in great shape, especially after an outstanding show at Thailand. He scored four birdies in the last five holes to finish at five-under in the final stage of the Asian Tour Qualifying School to earn his Asian Tour card.

"I want to start afresh. I have good memories, but would like to keep my emotions at bay, like to keep my emotions at bay, lows, just playing from scratch. I will play the first round well, and the rest will follow," said Gangjee, who had faced the prospect of having no International Tour card to play with, had the Thailand trip been unfruitful.

Gangjee also praised the greens at Kensville. "The greens are holding better, and it will be a good weekend," said the confident looking golfer.

Besides Gangjee, Bhullar will also vie for top spot on the leader board. In fact, the Kapurthala lad looked confident and was hitting the ball well during the Pro-Am event on Wednesday. Moreover, international golfers from India, Shiv Kapur, Himmatrai and Chiragh Kumar would also play to make their presence felt on the Jeev Milkha Singh signature golf course. Rich Beem, the US golfer, will be looking to take inspiration from and emulate Dhahi HSBC Golf Championship winner, Jamie Donaldson.

Donaldson claimed that the Challenge Tour helped him immensely, when he returned from injury in 2007. Victory in Abu Dhabi has helped the Welshman jump up the rankings, standing 29th in the world. Donaldson's compatriot Rhys Davies will be another golfer aiming for a big weekend in Ahmedabad.



The Gujarat Kensville Challenge kicked off with a pro-am event on Wednesday in the city. Action from the greens. Pics: Piyush Patel, DNA

## SHORT STORIES



There may not be any astro turf to play hockey in the city, but the players' zeal remains intact. Gujarat Commerce and Ahmedabad Warriors were seen in action during the Khel Mahakumbh Ahmedabad city hockey competition, held at Gujarat College on Wednesday. —Pankaj Shukla, DNA

### CCC get Royal send-off

In a one-sided match, Royal Send CC beat Cantonment CC by nine wickets in their Naran Developers Gota Minor One-day match. Shail Rami (3/4) and Himanshu Patel (2/5) ripped the Cantonment batting apart after the latter elected to bat first. CCC were bowled out for 75 runs, with Jitendra Chauhan top scoring at 23. In reply, Rohan Jadav's quick-fire 38 (off 41 balls) enabled RSCC to race to victory - 78/1 - in the 13th over.

### Tripathi takes four-shot lead

Neha Tripathi played a brilliant back nine of three-under 33 to come up with an even par 72, which took her into the lead at the end of round two in the opening event of the 2013 Hero Women's Professional Golf Tour in Kolkata on Wednesday.

### Three more clubs for Division League

The All India Football Federation has granted clearance to three more clubs to participate in the 2nd Division League 2012-13. The three teams - Sangbad Pratidin Bhawanipore FC Pvt Ltd, Josco FC and Luangmual FC - will join the other 21 clubs.

### Santosh Trophy qualifiers on Feb 1

The qualifying rounds of the Santosh Trophy will be played in Varanasi from February 1 to 16. Qualifying matches of the Cluster C and D will be played from February 1 to 9, while the Group B and C matches will be played between February 9-16.

### Avantha Masters from March 17

The European and Asian Tour co-sanctioned Avantha Masters, has been shifted from DLF to Jaypee Greens Course this year and will be played from March 14 to 17.

### SGVP XI lift trophy

At the Prem-Prakash Cricket Tournament held at Shree Swaminarayan Gurukul Vishwavidya Pratishthanam (SGVP), the SGVP XI team defeated Darshanam XI by 31 runs to take home the trophy. Dilip Vanazara was awarded the Man of the Match award for his half century contribution.



# First taste of victory

After suffering seven consecutive defeats, Mumbai Magicians beat Uttar Pradesh Wizards 4-0



**PLAYING TONIGHT**  
Mumbai Magicians vs Punjab Warriors  
**LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 8 pm**

Mumbai Magicians played an attacking game against UP Wizards in Mumbai on Wednesday  
—Swapnil Sakhare DNA

Taus Rizvi • MUMBAI

Mumbai Magicians finally had something to cheer about as they tasted their first success in eight matches after beating Uttar Pradesh Wizards 4-0 in a Hockey India League encounter at the Mumbai Hockey Association Stadium on Wednesday.

Magicians accumulated five points from the game, taking their tally to 12. They are still bottom-placed, five behind the Wizards.

Skipper Sandeep Singh slammed a brace and now has 11 goals this season, while Jonny Jasrotia and Jason Wilson chipped in with a goal each. But Magicians' P Sreejesh was declared man of the match for his brilliant effort under the bar.

Magicians, who suffered the most after their four midfielder Pakistan

players returned home, finally got their coordination right. The forwards dominated while the defence did well to devoid UP any chances of a comeback.

The Magicians began on a high, opening the account in the 11th minute. Jasrotia converted a penalty corner with a ground flick that went between the legs of UP custodian George Bazeley. The first half ended at 1-0, with both teams putting up a tight defence.

Wilson doubled the margin in 10th minute of the second session via a field goal. He ran solo to get the ball in easily, taking the score to 2-0. Seven minutes later, Sandeep converted another penalty corner, his fiery shot on the top left of the corner leaving Bazeley stunned.

With less than 10 minutes to go, the Wizards, 3-0 down, removed

their goalkeeper and went for the attack with 11 players. In the 66th minute, Sandeep easily scored with yet another penalty corner striking a keeper-less citadel.

An elated Magicians coach Ric Charlesworth said, "The way things are going in this tournament, the semifinals could be decided on goal difference. And Punjab have scored one against us with 12 players on the field. I think the organisers should consider deducting that one goal from Punjab." "I had said in the beginning that this is a long-distance race. Our spirit is better now, but there is a lot of hard-work ahead," the Aussie added.

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**Stopwatch: Mumbai Magicians 4** (S Singh 52nd, 55th, J Jasrotia 11th, J Wilson 45th) **bt UP Wizards 0; Ranchi Rhinos 2** (J Ross 14th, F Evers 61st) **drew with Delhi Wave Riders 2** (OG 20th, 53rd)

# HLCC, Rashtrabhasha win in contrasting ways

DNA Correspondent • AHMEDABAD

Riding on their four first-half goals, HL College of Commerce crushed Government Commerce College, Gandhinagar in the JG Cup Inter-College football tournament. Played at the Kasa ground on Wednesday, HLCC won 4-1. Meanwhile, MB Patel Rashtrabhasha College of Commerce also won their match 3-1 during the day, scoring all their goals in the second half.

In the first match, Yunus Syed opened the account for HLCC in the seventh

minute. Two minutes later, the advantage was doubled when Ajay Raj Singh hit the back of the net. Atal Gatad took the score to 3-0 for HLCC in the 16th minute. In the 27th minute, Akash Shah netted the fourth and final goal for HLCC, making it 4-0 by half-time.

GCCG showed a lot of resistance in the second half and looked impressive. In fact they even managed to pull one back, but HLCC held on to their comprehensive lead for the win. In contrast, Rashtrabhasha College

scored all three of their goals after the break to win 3-1 against New LJ College of Commerce.

Prashant Roy struck thrice in an eight-minute span - at 58th, 62nd, 64th - to help Rashtrabhasha rally back for a victory. NLJCC had earlier managed to snatch the initiative in the 50th minute, with Sharlu Hazra's successful strike.

In another match, MS University beat LD Arts 5-2. Branden B scored a brace before Austin recorded a hat-trick during MSU's big win.

# This man is one big fighter

Rutvik Mehta • MUMBAI

Hit by polio at the age of two, lost vision in the right eye at six, underwent a heart surgery in 2011... Aren't these reasons enough for someone to feel absolutely hopeless? Not if you are Venkateswaran Subramanian.

The 41-year-old from Dadar has been playing billiards since 1990. "I've never experienced what it is to play with both eyes, so it is impossible for me to explain how difficult it is," he says. Fate struck him another blow in 2011, when he had to undergo a bypass surgery. Did he think his career was over? "Not at all. I lost around 20 kg. I felt younger and fitter."

And it showed.

Subramanian finished second from the state, and eighth overall, in the national billiards selections last year. He qualified for the World Billiards Championship in England, where he lost to compatriot Pankaj Advani in the pre-quarterfinals. "My aim is to be among the top four players in the country, and I know I can do it despite my limitations," says Subramanian. He has been writing letters to various companies seeking a job under the sports category. He also wrote to the sports ministry for the same, but to no avail.

## GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

### Judd splits with Dario

Ashley Judd and her race car driver hubby Dario Franchitti are splitting up after more than 10 years of marriage. Judd told People magazine that they have mutually decided to end their marriage, the New York Daily News reported. "We'll always be family and continue to cherish our relationship based on the special love, integrity, and respect we have always enjoyed," she said. Judd and Franchitti, 39, tied the knot in 2001 at a private wedding in Scotland.



### Whisked off by Phelps

Michael Phelps has whisked off a stunning waitress to the Bahamas for a romantic vacation. The swimmer's new girlfriend is 22-year-old Sarah Herndon, and according to her pal, she has been "swept off her feet" by Phelps, Radar Online reported. The 18-time Olympic gold medalist met her while she was on a holiday with her family in Cabo St Lucas, and she extended her trip an extra day to stay with him.



### Curvaceous Tamara

Tamara Ecclestone was spotted arriving at a restaurant in Mayfair in a plunging black mini dress and a leather jacket, ahead of an evening of partying on Tuesday night. The 28-year-old socialite showed off her pins in the outfit and wore a pair of skyscraper heels to accentuate her height, the Daily Mail reported. She also had heavy eye make-up and had her brunette locks freshly styled and tumbling around her shoulders. Tamara also posted a snap of herself and her friend enjoying a bottle of Dom Perignon rosé champagne as she enjoyed a meal at the upmarket eatery.

