



Shiv Kapur in action at Kenville Golf course on Friday

DNA Correspondent • AHMEDABAD

Indian golfers Rahil Gangjee and Shiv Kapur have raised hopes of an Indian party at the Gujarat Kenville Challenge at the Kenville Golf and Country Club. After the two rounds of the European Challenge, Gangjee and Kapur are leading the 15 home grown golfers, who made the cut. The duo is at seven-under 137 after 36 holes.

The Indian pair was closely followed by an European trio

comprising two Englishmen, Gary Lockerbie (69) and Seve Benson (68) and a Swede, Jens Danthorp (68) all of whom are at six-under 138 in tied third place.

Three others, German Max Keiffer (71), Australian Daniel Gaunt (68) and American Dodge Kemmer (72), were tied sixth at three-under 141. Gangjee had mixed feelings over his round.

"I started off pretty good. I birdied 10, 11, 13, 14 and then bogeyed 16 and 18 and then I

birdied just one on the way back, the sixth."

"I didn't leave too many putts to be honest, I struggled a bit today, the greens got much firmer than yesterday and somehow that didn't really help me, especially when I missed the greens, it was difficult to control the distances of my chips, it would bounce and take off.

They've cut the grass down a lot so it's a little more difficult to see the green, making it more interesting.

Otherwise, it wasn't bad, I played within myself." He was a little upset at the bogeys on 16th and 18th, but added, "I was irate at that but calmed myself and continued. I didn't birdie much on the second nine, the front end of the course except the sixth."

Meanwhile, summarizing his day, Kapur said, "The conditions were a little easier, because it wasn't as windy as yesterday, so the pins were a little more accessible. I got off to a great start with a birdie on the tenth, which was my first hole, then managed to pick up three more shots without too many heroics. I hit lots of greens but didn't hole any

really long putts, just burned quite a lot of edges. I changed my putting grip from yesterday, and that seemed to help me with my pace. If you feel like you've hit a good putt, even if it doesn't go in you can't feel too disappointed."

Besides Gangjee and Kapur, Ranjit Singh (71-73) at tied 20th, Digvijay Singh (73-73), Ashok Kumar (75-70), Abhinav Lohan (72-73) and Mukesh (72-73) at tied 30th, Vinod Kumar (75-71), Kapil Kumar (73-73), Gaganjeet Bhullar (71-75) at tied 38th, Shamim Khan (72-75), Mandeo Pathania (75-72) and Manav Jaini (70-77) at tied 46th and Ajeet Sandhu (72-76) and Vijay Kumar (76-72) at tied 51 have made the cut.

At the same time there were a few casualties in the form of Asian tour winner Himmat Rai (77-74), John Parry (73-76), Daniel Vancsik (76-75), Chiragh Kumar (71-79) and the seasoned Gaurav Ghei (78-73) and Ali Sher (73-77).

Peter Uihlein (76-72) would have been in the same list after double bogey on the par-4 fourth hole. But he held his nerve to keep his hopes alive.

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Gangjee, Kapur raise hopes of an INDIAN PARTY AT KENVILLE

Rahil's Gujarat connection

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When Rahil Gangjee qualified for the Gujarat Kenville Challenge, the first question his father, Bashir, asked him was whether he has plans to travel to Kutch. It is not because of Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan's call to explore the Rann of Kutch, but because their forefathers lived there before shifting to Kolkata some seven-eight decades ago. At the end of the second round of the Gujarat Kenville Challenge here at Kenville, Gangjee was joint leader with his compatriot Shiv Kapur on Friday.

"As this is my first trip to Gujarat, my father asked if I am going to Kutch. But I disappointed him by saying no," said Rahil, who shares his birthday with Mahatma Gandhi. "I admit we don't speak Gujarati at home. My mother is Mauritian, who speaks French. So English is what we speak at home," he said.

Rahil wants to make this trip to Gujarat special. "It would be nice to win in his state," said Gangjee, who marked with a round of 68 that gave him the double bogey on the par-4 fourth hole. The 33-year-old golfer was born in Kolkata and there he graduated from amateur



Rahil Gangjee with his wife

Kolkata's golf star's forefathers hail from Kutch; would be nice to win here, he says

to professional golfer. "I started playing at age of nine. The interest turned into passion and golf became integral part of my life when I was 14. I was part of a sub-junior Indian team that went to Italy," he said.

After turning pro in 2000, his first celebrated victory came in 2004, when he surprised everyone at the Volkswagen Masters in China in his rookie year on the Asian tour. It was only his 4th start of the season and 8th career start on the Tour. He finished at -15 and won in a playoff over Korea's Mo Joong-kyung.

It was a strong field at the Volkswagen Masters that included Ian Woosnam, Nick Faldo, Phillip Price and Milkha Singh. It took four years to register his next big win. Interestingly, Rahil's wife Maithreyi used to play golf

before marriage. But now she walks with him and is his inspiration on the greens.

Doesn't it distract him? "Nowadays she plays golf occasionally with family and friends. When she follows me, it is inspiration and not distraction. In fact her presence inspires me," said Rahil. On Maithreyi's part, she is quite happy to walk behind him. "I just get nervous when he is leading after three rounds," she giggled.

Rahil lost his Asian Card in 2012 because he did not play enough in Asia in 2011. But he got back into the Asian Tour with a 63 in the final round of Q-School and qualified as second in Q-School. He will be playing in Nationwide, a second ranked tournament in US and also occasionally in Asia.

SHARP SINGLES



Zeel, Utsav complete double

Two Gujaratis - Zeel Desai and Utsav Patel - ruled the courts at the AITA Championship series held at Ahmedabad Racquet Academy in city. The duo won their respective U-14 and U-16 finals on Friday. Ahmedabad's Zeel faced the same opponent Aboli Ghoghari of Maharashtra in both the finals. In the U-14 summit clash, top seed Zeel defeated second seed Aboli 6-3 6-3 and then followed it up with a 6-2 7-5 win in the U-16 category. Vadodara-based Utsav met second seed and his compatriot Danish Siddiqui in the U-14 final. He registered a 6-1 6-3 victory. The U-16 division saw Utsav pitted against unseeded Kepevil Khathe of Nagaland. Khathe put up a good challenge but Utsav prevailed 7-5 6-2.

Panchal, Barad shine for CBCA

Priyank Panchal slammed a half-century before Rajdeep Barad and Siddharth Dave rattled Gandhinagar's batting, in Central Board of Cricket Ahmedabad's thumping win in the Reliance Senior Inter District cricket tournament at Gandhinagar on Friday. Ahmedabad won by 135 runs. Batting first, CBCA riding on Panchal's 64 and important contributions from Niraj Patel (48) and Avi Barot (46) aggregated 227/8 in 50 overs. Salil Yadav picked up 4/48. In reply, Gandhinagar batsmen never looked under control as Barad (4/21) and Dave (3/23) bowled deadly spells. Gandhinagar were bowled out for paltry a 88. CBCA won by 135 runs and also earned a bonus point.

YCSA, I-T record big wins

Umang Parmar hit the target thrice as Youth Club Soccer Academy 'A' thrashed Real Madrid in their TransStadia Ahmedabad District Football Association League match Day 3 on Friday. Interestingly, after 43 goalless minutes, at half-time whistle YCSA were leading 2-0. Umang Parmar netted twice in as many minutes to give his team the necessary edge. In the second half, Pulkit did reduce the margin in the 66th minute but Shakti Chauhan increased the lead to 3-1. In the 80th minute, Parmar put the game beyond Real Madrid's reach with a thriller. YCSA 'A' won 4-1. But the match that turned many heads was between Income-Tax and WMC Youth. I-T thrashed hapless WMC Youth 10-0. Prasun began the rout in the 12th minute and six times he put the ball past the Youth team custodian. The rest of the goals came from Tarun.

Rangers, Mehsana in final

Ranger's Football Club and Mehsana United Football Club will battle it out in the final of the U-18 Kahaani Football tournament following their semi-final victories at Kahaani ground, LJ College campus Road, SG Highway on Friday. In the first semifinal, Ranger's beat Kahaani 2-0 thanks to goals from Steven Crasta and Samip Shaikh. On the other hand, Mehsana team needed tie-breaker to overcome YCC Rajkot. Both teams were tied 1-1 in regulation time. In the shootout, Mehsana won 3-1. The under-15 final will be played between Nameless 11 and Anand Niketan. Nameless beat Kahaani by a solitary goal scored by Simran Gurudutta. Kashish Pujara and Siddharth Shah scored a goal each to help Anand Niketan beat El Nino.

MKSS GLS trophy champions

MK Secondary School defeated Hiramani School on the basis of first innings lead to emerge as the GLS U-16 School cricket champions at Motera 'B' ground on Friday. Jay Mori's (145 off 237b; 19x4) and Jash Patel's (138 off 189b; 19x4) centuries enabled MKSS pile up 488/9 in their first essay. Hiramani's first innings revolved around Jaydev Parmar's 123. But his fall saw team's innings fold for 204. Harsh Shastri's 5/46 was vital in MKSS asking Hiramani to follow-on. At the end of the third and final day's play, Hiramani in their second innings were 114/3.



Welcome home Saira

Mahesh Bhupathi may not have had a very successful Australian Open campaign, but he would certainly be happy with the prospect of finally getting to see his newborn. Wife **Lara Dutta** and daughter Saira, who was born last week, returned home from hospital on Tuesday. Lara looked tired as she left the hospital accompanied by her father, and in-laws. They are now waiting anxiously for Mahesh's arrival. Welcome home Saira!



It's Blue for Bleakley

Christine Bleakley has revealed that she didn't care much about football earlier, but after dating **Frank Lampard** she now attends all the games with his father. Bleakley, who is engaged to the Chelsea and England footballer, recently started co-hosting ITV1's show *Dancing On Ice*, after her much publicised axing from the show *Daybreak*. "I have a scarf and baseball cap that were given to me when Chelsea won the Premiership and FA Cup in 2010. They will always remind me of the wonderful day when the team and wives and girlfriends got on double-decker buses and fans lined the streets," Bleakley said. "Before I met Frank, I couldn't have cared less about football. But from the first time I went to a match and saw the stadium, it was electric. I go to all the home games with Frank's dad, Frank Senior. I love it!" she said. Definitely a true WAG!



Lara Dutta returns home with her baby daughter Saira, Victoria Beckham gets comfortable in front of the camera, Muttiah Muralitharan makes a visit to Madurai and Shane Warne bags the Un-Australian of the year award. Here is your dose of the week's gossip...

MISS CHIEF



Murali in Madurai

Muttiah Muralitharan took a trip to the city of temples. He inaugurated a modern swimming pool named after Michael Phelps at the Velammal Vidyalaya in Madurai. He said providing sportsmen the facilities was a "great thing" as it would give them opportunity to improve and fine tune skills. He also urged the student community to participate in sports activities. "Sports gives you life, especially cricket. When you start playing cricket, it teaches you a lot about life. Every student and every school should contribute towards sports. It will keep them healthy as well," he added. Well said Murali!



For a good cause

The Duchess of Cornwall and Arsenal striker **Theo Walcott** joined hands in a campaign aimed to develop the reading habit in kids and adults. The England and Gunners star, 22, said he was "honoured" that Duchess Camilla, 64, sat on his seat in the dressing room at North London's Emirates Stadium. He was explaining how 100 Premiership idols are joining the drive to inspire parents and children to pick up books. Walcott was asked to choose his favourite kids' tale, and picked one he wrote himself called *TJ And The Hat-Trick*. Camilla also toured the stadium and saw the players' communal tub. "I am rather tempted by the bath," she said. We wonder if Walcott will write another book on his royal interaction.



WAG lift

Much was expected of the England cricket team prior to their Test series against Pakistan. However, a massive defeat in the first Test in Dubai turned out to be a shocker. Therefore, England cricket's WAGs (Wives and Girlfriends) joined the team to lift the morale of the gloomy cricketers. Some of the cricketers were spotted pushing prams and guiding their wives to the buses at the Grand Hyatt before the team's departure to Abu Dhabi for the second Test. The England management were counting on the WAGs to create a positive effect on the players. And this seems to have done the trick as the performance of the World No 1 team has improved drastically in the ongoing Test. WAGs the way to go!



Posh shows off

She is a mother of four but **Victoria Beckham** has maintained her figure to perfection. The wife of LA Galaxy star David Beckham looked super slender in her first lingerie photo shoot since giving birth to daughter Harper six months ago. The 37-year-old graced the March edition of *Numero* magazine in Japan in white corset underwear by Rochas, which shows off her enviably toned and slim physique. Now, that's a figure to remember.

Shane on you!

Since **Shane Warne** started dating Liz Hurley, the blonde haired ladies man has transformed into a shadow of his former self. As a result, the former Australian spinner has been given one of the biggest insults he could ever have received and has been named Un-Australian of the year. The unwanted accolade comes after a whirlwind 12 months in which Warne has gone from a chubby, stubbled boozier, to a smooth skinned, slim gentleman. Tough luck Warnie!



Warning letters for Barton

Joey Barton has scoffed at the Football Association for sending him a warning letter after he rightly predicted the results of two matches that took place on Sunday. The QPR star claimed that the FA was apprehensive because they fear it might look like he had insider information. Barton said he had received around 30 such warning letters from the FA since joining *Twitter* in May last year. He blasted the FA again on the social networking site over sending him another warning letter. "Just received my weekly warning letter from FA headquarters, this time regarding my tweeting about predicting the weekends Manchester double. According to the FA, I am not allowed to give my opinion of possible results in case this is seen as inside information. These people are so out of touch with reality it's untrue. What difference does my opinion of the outcome of a match have on the result? None," he added. "The strange thing is they have probably sent me 30 letters since I started tweeting. That's 30 pieces of paper wasted, stop sending please." Clearly Barton has become environment friendly and is against wasting paper. May be FA should tweet these warning letters next time.

