

## Bhullar runner-up at Macau Open

**Macau:** India's Gaganjeet Bhullar zoomed to a second place finish behind the seasoned veteran Thailand's Thaworn Wiratchant in the full field US\$ 500,000 Macau Open at the Macau Golf and Country Club here Sunday.

As Thaworn continued his rich vein of form to claim his 11th Asian Tour victory with a commanding six-shot triumph, Bhullar shot a superb five-under 66 to move up the ladder and finish second. Bhullar picked up \$54,250 and moved to sixth on Order of Merit.

Of the other Indians, Digvijay Singh (73, three-over 287) finished tied 43rd, down from overnight 36th and C. Muniyappa, 26th after third round, dropped to tied 56th with a final round of 77 for a total of six-over 290.

Bhullar had a birdie-eagle-birdie start on his opening three holes. However, with Thaworn in fine form, the Indian paid a tribute to the Thai for his fantastic victory.

"I had a good trot and that gave me a lot of boost. I was having a look at Thaworn's score but he was way in front of me and I didn't think I could catch him. He is our Asian hero and I look up to him for his achievement on the Asian Tour," said Bhullar.

The second place in Macau was the sixth top-10 finish for the 21-year-old Bhullar.

### nationwatch

#### Durand: JCT struggle past ONGC

**New Delhi:** An unimpressive JCT managed a 1-0 win over ONGC in a quarterfinal group two league match of the 122nd Durand Cup football tournament here Sunday. Baljit Sahni struck the winner from a header in the 62nd minute after missing three sitters in the first half. JCT should have won by a bigger margin, but striker Sahni wasted too many chances.

#### Jeev finishes 18th

**Cologne:** Two late bogeys derailed Jeev Milkha Singh's quest for a top-10 finish at the Mercedes-Benz Championship. The Indian ace was five-under through 15, but found bogeys on 16th and 17th before closing with a par for a three-under 69 to total five-under 283. Jeev was tied for 18th place and it will help him to stay in the race to Dubai, where the top-15 share a bonus pool of \$ 10 million. Jeev bogeyed the 10th, soon after which he had four birdies in five holes from 11th to 15th. Then came back-to-back bogeys and he lost his chance of a top-10.

#### Commentator passes away

**Kolkata:** Well-known football commentator Noel De Lima Leitao was found dead in his hotel a day after the final of the IFA Shield in Kolkata on Sunday. The 52-year-old Goan was found dead sitting on the commode of the hotel washroom around 9 am at Hyatt Regency. Police have registered a case of unnatural death and his body has been sent for post-mortem examination. Noel was in the city as a commentator for ESPN for the semifinals and final of the just concluded IFA Shield.

#### Girish's brace sinks ABW

**Bangalore:** Girish struck twice to help Navaratna overcome 515 Army Base Workshop 2-1 in the 'C' Division league at the Bangalore Football Stadium. Girish struck in the 14th and 21st minute, while Arun pulled one back for 515 in the 32nd. In the second match, Surjit Singh helped Bangalore Kickers edge past Afghan 1-0. Today's matches: Vehicles vs Jawahar and Young Dynamos vs Independents.

# Johnson bowls Panthers to victory

The medium pacer struck at crucial moments to keep the momentum with Belagavi

DNA Correspondent, BANGALORE

Malnad Gladiators lost the plot in the final over against Belagavi Panthers in the KPL match on Sunday at Chinnaswamy Stadium. Chasing 153 for a win, they were 13 short of the target in the final over, but lost two wickets and with it, the match. A Mithun's run out and KP Appanna's dismissal (caught by Manish Pandey off David Johnson) blew a great chance for the Gladiators to pull off the match. They were eventually six runs short.

Belgavi's top order once again did well to give them a flying start but the middle and lower order caved in to Gladiators' bowling. Skipper Arun Kumar, who scored 95 in their last match, scored a brisk 51 of just 40 balls with five fours and three sixes. He put on 77 runs for the first wicket with Shyam Ponnappa.

But Ryan Ninan turned the tide in Malnad's favour, claiming the wickets of all their three top guns. Arun Kumar failed to negotiate a turning delivery, while Ponnappa (33 off 35 balls) and Manish Pandey (39 off 24 balls) fell to Ninan after a substantial second wicket partnership. Belgavi lost the remaining four wickets for just 17 runs to fritter away the early advantage.

In reply, Malnad's middle order responded well, with SL Akshay maintaining the chase with a 27-ball 42 and Raju Bhatkal making a quick 35. Bhatkal and Shanbal fell in quick succession, and Malnad were eventually bowled out for 146. David Johnson was the pick of the bowlers with four for 30.



**STAR POWER:** Actor Pooja Gandhi, who is brand ambassador for one of the KPL teams, seen at Chinnaswamy Stadium



**ALL STYLE:** J Arun Kumar of Belagavi Panthers during his half-century knock against Malnad Gladiators at the KPL match at Chinnaswamy stadium on Sunday

### SCOREBOARD

#### BELAGAVI PANTHERS

J Arun Kumar b Ryan Ninan 51; Shyam Ponnappa c Rohan b Ryan Ninan 34; Manish Pandey b Ryan Ninan 39; Vinay Kumar lbw b K.P. Appanna 4; Surath Sampath run out 9; Vinayak Uthappa run out 1; Zeeshan Ali Syed run out 0; Prakash Yogesh not out 0; Santosh Vadeyaraj not out 2;

**Extras:** (b3, w8, lb2) 12.

**Total:** (for 7 wks, 20 overs) 152

**Fall of wickets:** 1-77, 2-93, 3-135, 4-144, 5-146, 6-150, 7-150.

**Bowling:** A. Mithun 4-0-20-0; K.P. Rohan 3-0-14-0; S.L. Akshay 3-0-29-0; K.P. Appanna 4-0-32-1; K. Gowtham 3-0-25-0; Ryan Ninan 3-0-27-3.

#### MALNAD GLADIATORS

K Gowtham c Manish Pandey b

David Johnson 1; Nishanth Hedge c J.A. Kumar b Vadeyaraj 21; S.L. Akshay c V. Uthappa b G. Vinay 42; Ganesh Satish c M Pandey b Vadeyaraj 12; Raju Bhatkal b David Johnson 35; Kunal Kapoor b V Kumar 10; Ryan Ninan c G. Vinay b David Johnson 4; R. Shanbal b V Kumar 2; A. Mithun run out 12; KP Appanna c Manish Pandey b David Johnson 0; K P Rohan not out 0;

**Extras:** 7.

**Total:** (for 10 wks, 20 overs) 146.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-3, 2-61, 3-71, 4-92, 5-119, 6-127, 7-130, 8-145, 9-146, 10-146.

**Bowling:** Vinay Kumar 4-0-20-2; David Johnson 4-0-30-4; G.Vinay 4-0-38-1; S Vadeyaraj 4-0-33-2; Prakash Yogesh 2-0-15-0; Shyam Ponnappa 2-0-10-0.



**CUTTING IT FINE:** Sunil Raju of Davangere Diamonds scored an invaluable 42 against Bijapur Bulls on Sunday

## Diamonds snatch NARROW WIN

Prasanna Patil takes four for 16 to restrict Bijapur Bulls; Raju makes the difference

DNA Correspondent, BANGALORE

Shamanoor Davangere Diamonds carved out a last-over, three-wicket victory over Bijapur Bulls in the Karnataka Premier League cricket match at the Chinnaswamy Stadium on Sunday.

Bijapur set a modest target of 131 which Davangere achieved with just one ball to spare. Some superb fielding by Stuart Binny, who held three well-judged catches, and a run out he affected to send CM Gautham back, gave a new twist to the unfolding drama in the final over when scores were tied. It was anybody's game - but Nidesh took a single off the penultimate ball to enable Davangere scamper home.

The winners survived a top and lower order collapse with Sunil Raju (42) and Yere Goud (20) piecing to-

gether a sixth wicket stand of 54 to carry the team through after the first three wickets fell cheaply.

Earlier, Prasanna Patil claimed four for 16 to restrict Bijapur to just 130. Prasanna was unlucky not to get a hat-trick after he had no.8 Praveen Kumar and no.9 CK Akshay plumb in front off successive balls. Only Sudhindra Shinde (30) and Surendra Prasad (31) made useful contributions for Bijapur but their efforts fell narrowly short.

#### BRIEF SCORES:

**Bijapur Bulls:** 130 for 9 in 20 overs (Shinde 30; Surendra Prasad 31; Prasanna Patil 4-16) lost to **Shamanoor Davangere Diamonds: 131 for 7 in 19.5 overs** (Sunil Raju 42, Yere Goud 20; M Nidesh 21; Jayaprakash Shetty 3-25) by 3 wickets

### LAZARUS TAKES BRIGADIERS THRO'

**Bangalore:** Steve Lazarus made a superb 70 off 34 balls after the top order, including Robin Uthappa (0), crumbled to enable Bangalore Brigadiers (Urban) defeat Bangalore Provident (Rural) by three wickets. Medium pacer Neravanda Aiyappa did most of the early damage claiming three wickets to reduce Bangalore Urban, needing 163 to win, to 36 for 4 at one point. But Lazarus came good and rescued his team from almost certain defeat with a cavalier knock. Skipper B Akhil slammed a hurricane 55 in just 37 deliveries with

four fours and three sixes to steer Bangalore Rural to 162 for 5. Akhil got good support from Sunil Kumar Jain (59) and Anirudh Joshi who remained not out with a patient 36.

#### BRIEF SCORES:

**Bangalore Provident (Rural)** 162 for 5 in 20 overs (Sunil Kumar Jain 59, B Akhil 55, Anirudh Joshi 36, David Mathias 3-21) lost to **Bangalore Provident (Urban)** 166 for 7 in 19.2 overs (Steve Lazarus 70, Choughule 23, Aiyappa 3-26) by 3 wickets.

## A first-person account of running the 10K between impossibly lush fields along a canal of the Kaveri

Dev S Sukumar, MYSORE

It's still in these parts. You can hear the birds, the moo of the cows, but nothing to say it's a Sunday. Things lie heavy, under an increasingly warm sun. A bullock-cart man looks up as someone greets him, but otherwise his weathered face is impassive.

This is a stretch between Ranganathittu and Balmuri Falls; both are well-known tourist spots, but it is doubtful if any tourist explored the stretch in between. The trail, a mud road that was abandoned after the gravel was laid, winds along a plentiful canal that is gushing with water. All around are lush green fields.

This is the third year of the Kaveri Trail Marathon. A few bus-loads of runners have come from Bangalore - 717 of them were participating in the run (marathon, half-marathon and 10K), more than double last year.

#### Running the 10K

So, anyway, there I was, halfway through the 10K run, a rookie on his first run. Runners up ahead and behind; I'm somewhere in the middle of the pack. The sun comes up as we start, and it's going to be a warm day.

The trail winds and winds, and these are scenes typical of village life. People working the fields; washing clothes by the canal; unloading stacks of hay from bullock carts. On the road I can hear the footfalls of runners ahead and behind.

A kilometre after the first water station, a curious sort of fatigue sets in. It's pretty all around, but it's doing nothing to alleviate the running. Just fields and more fields. One keeps dwelling on the rest of the distance. Eight kilometres to go in this hot sun. I plug on my MP3 player - it's Lucky Ali. Songs on longing, loneliness, travel. There's a nice cadence to his melancholy, songs that one can dwell on. One foot after another; now the task is just to keep going until one can spot the next water-table. Someone said to watch the fields and the water and to 'enjoy' the scenery, but after a while it gets torturous. One doesn't enjoy the scenery by remembering to enjoy the scenery. Those things have to happen of themselves.

Twenty-five minutes into it. Body still holding up, surprisingly. Some of the runners are dropping back. I holler out to a girl cyclist coming the

# Getting Lucky on THE KAVERI TRAIL



**BOUNTIFUL:** The start of the running events between the Ranganathittu-Balmuri Falls stretch sees a colourful bunch snake through a verdant landscape

other way and she says: "Five kilometres!" and I wilt. I thought there was just three more to go. A water stop ahead but I'm scared to stop.

#### Thirty-five minutes

How much longer? I flag the half-marathoners coming the opposite direction - but their responses are inconsistent. What's creating all the trouble are the curves in the road. One keeps expecting the finish line round the next bend, but there's nothing there, just more of the trail. I wonder briefly how the marathoners put themselves through this. I turn my attention back to Lucky Ali's ballads. Better to listen to him than the questions in the mind, on how long this is going to take.

#### Fifty minutes

A foreigner couple by the road, taping the run on video. They clap us on. I ask a guy in dark glasses, how much more, and he says: "1.5K". He sees my face fall and tries to console me. "It's not so much," he smiles. "It's just round the bend."

The trouble is in expecting the finish line with hoping for it. Hope won't make it come any closer. I kept counting off the kilometres, I thought I counted out the 10K, but yet the end is nowhere in sight.

Finally, after all the bends in the world, I spot the finish line. This is the last time I'm doing this, I think as I cross over. Fifty-five minutes. The winner's done it in 39:39.



**HUNTING IN A PACK:** Shivakumara (left) and Nandisha (2nd from left) and their running team from Toyota Kirloskar Motor. Shivakumara and Nandisha achieved a 1-2 in the men's Open 10K



**SURGING AWAY:** One of the runners breaks away from the pack during the half-marathon

### KAVERI TRAIL MARATHON RESULTS

#### 10 KM MEN'S OPEN:

1st Shivakumara 39:39 sec  
2nd Nandisha C 40:14 sec  
3rd Praveen Kumar 41:19 sec

#### 10 KM WOMEN'S OPEN:

1st Solenne Devulader 1:02:29 sec  
2nd Gurmeet Soni Bhalla 1:05:41 sec  
3rd Vidya Laxman 1:09:35 sec

#### 10 KM MEN'S SENIOR:

1st Kothandapani 43:43 sec  
2nd Thanveer Kumar 59:06 sec  
3rd Simon C P 1:01:53 sec

#### 10 KM WOMEN'S SENIOR:

1st Sharadha Venkatraman 1:21:03 sec  
2nd Firoza Maneksha Sinha 1:32:13 sec  
3rd Pat Remedious 1:37:01 sec

#### HALF-MARATHON (21 KM) MEN'S OPEN:

1st Hemanth Kumara MH 1:29:54 sec  
2nd Harsha NM 1:32:43 sec  
3rd Sudindra 1:33:22 sec

#### 21 KM WOMEN'S OPEN:

1st Amrita Mitra 1:57:34 sec  
2nd Rachel Dadds 2:05:30 sec  
3rd Devyani Haldar 2:24:08 sec

#### 21 KM MEN'S SENIOR:

1st Ronald Aitken 1:38:27 sec  
2nd Srinath S 1:40:31sec  
3rd Ted Murray 1:47:52 sec

#### 21 KM WOMEN'S SENIOR:

1st Sindhu Naik 3:04:02 sec

#### 42 KM (MARATHON) MEN'S OPEN:

1st Ashok Nath 3:32:09 sec  
2nd BLI Bosco 3:42:22 sec  
3rd Ramesh P Kanjilimadhom 3:50:24 sec

#### 42 KM WOMEN'S OPEN:

1st Rachel Carter 4:16:22 sec  
2nd Meher D'Mello 4:35:32 sec  
3rd Leona Meng 5:48:51 sec

#### 42 KM MEN'S SENIOR:

1st Kenneth Skea 4:43:57 sec  
2nd Jagannath Raju 5:22:07 sec  
3rd Sunil Chainani 5:34:42 sec

#### 42 KM WOMEN'S SENIOR:

1st Chandra Gopalan 5:56:50 sec