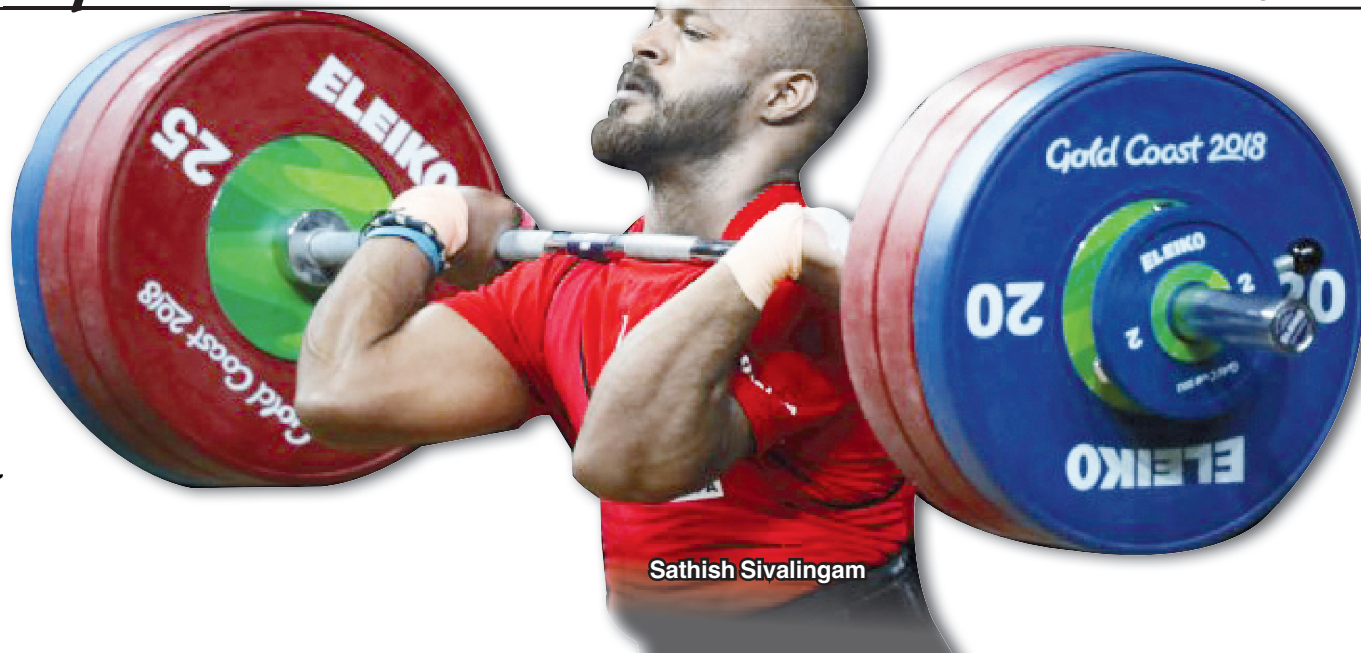


Srikanth leads India into semis

Gold Coast, Apr 7:

Star shuttler Kidambi Srikanth led from the front as India thrashed Mauritius 3-0 to advance to the semifinals of badminton mixed team event in the Commonwealth Games. Srikanth took just 29 minute to beat Georges Julien Paul 21-12 21-14 in the men's singles after the two doubles pairs had given India a 2-0 lead. The men's doubles duo of Satwik Rankireddy and Chirag Chandrashekar Shetty hardly broke a sweat in their 21-12 21-3 win over Aatish Lubah and Christopher Jean Paul in the first match before Ashwini Pannappa and N Sikki Reddy chalked out an easy 21-8 21-7 victory over Aurelie Marie Elisa and Nicki Chan-Lam in the women's doubles.



Gymnast Yogeshwar comes up short

Gold Coast, Apr 7:

Indian gymnast Yogeshwar Singh finished 14th among 18 competitors in the men's individual all round event final in the Commonwealth Games.



Yogeshwar, who had finished 18th in the qualification round, collected 75.60 points from the six events in the competition. He got 11.40 in floor exercise, 12.25 in pommel horse, 12.60 in rings, 14.10 in vault, 13.00 in parallel bars and 12.25 in high bars. Yogeshwar had a fall during the floor exercise and if he did not have it he could have finished a few positions above the 14th.

Sharath Kamal enters last four

Gold Coast, Apr 7:

Indian paddlers continued their impressive run as they outshone Malaysia to cruise into the semi-finals of both men's and women's team events on day three of competitions in the Commonwealth Games. Both the men's and women's teams crushed Malaysia 3-0 in their respective quarterfinal matches at the Oxford Studios.



In the men's quarterfinal tie, Harmeet Desai started off the proceedings with a comfortable 11-4, 12-10, 11-6 victory over Chee Feng Leong before star paddler Sharath Kamal gave India a 2-0 lead by thrashing Muhammad Ashraf Haiq 11-8 11-7 11-6. The duo of Desai and Sathiyam Gnanasekaran then beat the pairing of Javen Choong and Chee Feng 11-7, 11-6, 11-7 to make it 3-0 in favour of the Indians.

Sathish fights through pain for golden finish

Defending champ from TN claims gold in weightlifting



Gold Coast, Apr 7:

Defending champion Sathish Sivalingam (77kg) claimed India's third gold medal in the Commonwealth Games, coming out tops comfortably despite having given up podium hopes after his injured thighs made even routine things like sitting painful.

The 25-year-old Indian lifted a total 317kg (144kg+173kg) and was so ahead of the competition that he forfeited his final clean and jerk lift.

'I had no hopes of winning a medal after I injured my thighs during the National Championships while attempting 194kg in clean and jerk. It's a quadriceps problem, even now I am competing at less than ideal fitness but I am glad that was enough to get me a gold,' Sathish said after

his medal ceremony during which he was accorded a warm applause by the packed arena.

'I was in so much pain that even sitting was very painful for me. Everyone took care of me, gave me hope but I was not very confident. I had not trained that hard and my body was not at its best, and so how could I hope for a medal,' added the Tamilnadu lifter.

It was a fascinating contest of one-upmanship between Sathish and eventual silver-medallist Jack Oliver of England in the snatch competition. The two kept upping the weights before their attempts but Oliver kept his nose ahead at the end of snatch as he lifted 145kg in his second attempt. It was a kilogram more than Sathish's final attempt.

However, Satish had the last laugh quite comfortably in clean and jerk after Oliver failed two attempts of 171kg and settled for a total of 312kg (145kg+167kg). The bronze medal went to Australian showman Francois Etoundi, who lifted 305kg (136kg+169kg) and collapsed clutching his injured shoulder after his final lift. 'I got lucky there, had he (Oliver) not dropped those weights, I would have had to go higher and I am not sure how my body would have taken that.

I am quite relieved actually,' the Indian said. At the 2014 Commonwealth Games, Sathish won the gold medal with 149kg snatch and 179kg clean and jerk lifts, totalling 328kg. His lift of 149kg in snatch continues to be the Games record. 'I didn't want to touch that level because I still need to undergo rehabilitation. The fact that the access to our physio was limited made it all the more difficult.

'I had no hopes of winning a medal after I injured my thighs during the National Championships while attempting 194kg in clean and jerk. It's a quadriceps problem, even now I am competing at less than ideal fitness but I am glad that was enough to get me a gold'

I just hope that we get a physio with us at the Asian Games,' said Sathish, once again highlighting the problems the weightlifters are facing due to the lack of accessibility of the physio in the competition area.

Sathish is also the reigning Commonwealth Championships gold-

medallist. 'I hope to do even better in the Asian Games because there is a gap now. Earlier Asian Games used to come within 20-25 days of CWG, which didn't give us enough time to prepare. But this time I have got time to prepare and be fully fit now,' he said.

Paes most successful player in Davis Cup

Veteran combines with Bopanna to win doubles

India gets lifeline against China



CAREER IN NUMBERS

7

Leander Paes has seven wins in the fifth set in Davis Cup doubles, the joint second-best record in the history of the competition behind Croatian Ivan Ljubicic's eight.

12

Leander Paes has had 12 doubles partners in Davis Cup history, starting with Zeeshan Ali back in 1990.

56

Since making his Davis Cup debut against Japan in 1990, Paes was playing in his 56th tie for India in the doubles rubber against China.

43

Overtakes Italian great Nicola Pietrangeli in Davis Cup victories

Tianjin, Apr 7: Leander Paes became the most successful player in the history of Davis Cup as he combined with Rohan Bopanna to not only grab a record 43rd win but also bring India back in tie against China. Forced to play together by AITA, 44-year-old Paes and Bopanna downed a fighting Chinese pair of Mo Xin Gong and Ze Zhang 5-7 7-6(5) 7-6(3) in the do-or-die doubles rubber of the Asia/Oceania Group I tie.

India were trailing 0-2 in the tie after Ramkumar Ramanathan and Sumit Nagal suffered surprise tame defeats and needed a win in the doubles to stay alive in the tie.

The Indian youngsters will now have to win both the reverse singles to advance to the World Group Play-offs.

Paes, India's Davis Cup hero for years, was tied on 42 wins with Italian great Nicola Pietrangeli for long

but finally surpassed him, albeit, in a foreign land. The fight was on with the Indians getting more break opportunities than the home players but struggled to deliver the knock-

out punch. Bopanna served too big and the Chinese were not even coming close to making impactful returns. The Chinese nevertheless stayed strong on their serves and

there was no break of serve in the second set. Gong came out to serve under pressure at 5-6 and faced a set point too but managed to stretch it to the tie-breaker.

India concedes late again, draws 2-2 with Pak

Gold Coast, Apr 7:

All the excitement came down to the last seven seconds as the Indian hockey team's perennial problem of conceding late goals left them with a disappointing 2-2 draw against a sloppy Pakistan in its Commonwealth Games opener here today.

For India, Dilpreet Singh (13th minute), Harmanpreet Singh (19th minute) did the scoring, while Pakistan's goals came from Mohammed Irfan Junior (38th minute) and Mubashar Ali (59th minute). It was touted as the blockbuster clash of the preliminary stage and the turn-out, at least, lived up to the hype.

The diaspora of both the countries was out in good numbers but adding to the fervour were the Australian fans, who showed up to just soak in the excitement of an Indo-Pak clash. Not to forget the beat of the dhol, that usually amplifies the sloganeering, was also there adding to the fervour. On the field, India dominated quite clearly despite being a bit sloppy themselves. Forward Dilpreet opened the scoring in the first quarter, helping the last edition silver-medallists end the first 15 minutes with a 1-0 lead. In the second quarter, Harmanpreet Singh converted the second of the two penalty corner chances he got to put India in control.

Loyola retains BB trophy

NT Bureau

Chennai, Apr 8:

Loyola College retained the Jeppiaar Trophy in the 2nd all-India inter-collegiate invitation basketball tournament at the Jeppiaar Institute of Technology grounds.

The match looked like a challenge between Loyola's Bala and JIT's Moin Bek. Both dominated and scored more points for their respective teams. In the last quarter Loyola scored easily and finish it off.

Earlier MCC beat SRM by 27 points to secure the third place. Advisor, Ministry of Sports in Govt of India and former Vice Chancellor, Tamilnadu Sports and Physical Education University, Dr Moorthy gave away the prizes in the presence of Director, Jeppiaar Institute of Technology, Dr N Marie Wilson.



FINALS: JIT 78 (Anandraj 21, Moin Bek 23, Daniel 15) lost to Loyola 85 (Manikandan 14, Surya 22, Bala 37)
Play-off for third place: MCC 85 (Karthick 19, Surya 11) bt SRM 58 (Tamil 14, Vimal 11).

JIT to conduct trials

NT Bureau

Chennai, Apr 8:

The Jeppiaar Institute of Technology, Sriperumpudur will conduct selection trials for basketball, football and ball badminton (boys & girls) for the academic year 2018-19 on 11 April, 2018 around 5 pm, at the college premises.

Preference will be given to state and national level achievers. And the selected candidates will be given admission, food and stay at free of cost.

Further details can be contact 7401292223 and 044-27159000.



Tigermania still going strong

Despite poor show Woods happy to play at top level

Augusta, Apr 7:

Even after a bad round at the Masters, Tiger Woods says he's pleased just to have the chance to play after fearing his career might be over six months ago. The 14-time major champion and world number 103 fired a second-round 75, 3-over par, in second round to stand on 4-over 148 after 36 holes at Augusta National. That's 13 shots adrift of tournament leader Patrick Reed.

Its only one shot inside the cut line, which Woods flirted with before making birdies at the par-5 13th and 15th holes and closing with

back-to-back pars. 'It was me,' Woods admitted. 'I didn't hit the ball very good.' Four-time Masters winner Woods has been cheered at every tee box and supportive fans have roared their devotion at every opportunity as Tigermania made a comeback this week at Augusta National.

It's the first Masters for Woods since 2015 and the first major since he missed the 2015 PGA Championship cut due to nagging back pain that eventually forced four operations.

, the most recent a spinal fusion that appears to have helped Woods find competitive form.

