

Hunters bank on Sindhu's form and home support to keep winning momentum going in Vodafone PBL

Chennai Smashers will want Kashyap to fire the first salvo

Our Correspondent
Hyderabad, Dec 24

Defending champions and the P.V. Sindhu-led Hyderabad Hunters could not have asked for a better opening to Season 4 in the Vodafone Premier League Badminton (PBL) than what they got against debutant Pune 7 Aces on Saturday night. But keeping the winning momentum is what would be weighing the minds of Hunters' players, especially when they begin the home leg and play their first match against Chennai Smashers at home tomorrow.

The confidence that Sindhu, who won the World Tour Finals, displayed the other night in Mumbai against reigning world champion Carolina Marin was something to marvel when the Indian beat her for the first time in the PBL. Having done that, she will be making all efforts along with her team members to maintain the winning momentum against the 2016 Champions, the Chennai Smashers. Sindhu before the start of the home leg did admit Mumbai was a dream start for the team but it would be important to concentrate on the job at hand. "Yes, it was a very good start and we managed to win our opening tie without dropping a single match. Now we are playing on home turf and I am really looking forward to keeping the winning momentum going," she said.

Asked if the home crowd support would come in hand, she said: "Yes, we always count on the



crowd support and expect yet another good game, especially I will be playing for my own city Hyderabad for the first time and it is special as well as very emotional for me."

On the other hand, the Parupally Kashyap, who recently tied the knot with Saina Nehwal, has his task cut out as the Chennai Smashers would want to upset all calculations of the home team. For that to happen not only the reliable Kashyap has to lead from the front but also expect Sun Ji Hyun puts up a better showing against Sindhu. But the experienced Indian knows full well that the team has to jell well and fight with full force to dislodge a settled team like Hunters. "This is going to be the first match of this season for us and the team is really determined to give its best shot tomorrow. Hyderabad Hunters are one of the strongest teams this season and they have come here with a win already in their bag and would be very confident

of repeating it. In the last few days, we have trained well and are looking forward to the opening night," said Kashyap.

Talking on his personal form, he said that the playing at the league was very important to him after having been plagued by injuries. "Personally, playing the PBL is very important to me. Most of this year has been a difficult one for me with all the injuries and staying away from the Court. Now that I have started playing and moving well, I am really looking forward to the matches," added the Smasher winning team member from 2016.

The Hyderabad leg of Season 4 will end on December 28 with the doubleheader being played on the last day. About Vodafone Premier Badminton League Season 4 The Vodafone Premier Badminton League Season 4, is the one of world's richest prize money tournament offering a total prize of INR 6 Cr. The league is

conducted by SportzLive, licensee partners of PBL and is organised under the aegis of Badminton Association of India (BAI), led by President Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma. The league kick starts from December 22nd 2018-January 13th 2019 and will see 9 teams; Delhi Dashers, Mumbai Rockets, Hyderabad Hunters, Awadhe Warriors, Chennai Smashers, Bengaluru Raptors, Ahmedabad Smash Masters, North Eastern Warriors and Pune Aces battle out in 5 different cities of India, including Mumbai, Pune, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Bengaluru. Matches will be telecast live on Star Sports and live streaming made available on Hotstar.

About Badminton Association of India: The Badminton Association of India (BAI) is the Governing Body for Badminton in India recognized by Ministry of Sports, Govt. of India as National Sports Federation. BAI is

registered under the Societies Act and recognised by Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and internationally affiliated to Badminton Asia Confederation (BAC) and Badminton World Federation (BWF). BAI was formed in 1934 and Badminton Associations of all States / UTs are its Member Associations. BAI organizes National Championships for all categories of Badminton players apart from Zonal, Inter State Championships and All India Ranking Tournaments in India. BAI also conducts various International Tournaments like the India Open World SuperSeries, Syed Modi India Grand Prix, India Junior International Championship along with the ambitious grassroots project, Shuttle Time which aims to reach 1.5 million school children in 21 States in 2018. BAI has also initiated the Coaching the Coaches programmes for creating a pool of Coaches to promote Badminton in India.

About Sportz+ Live Entertainment Pvt. Ltd. (Sportzlive) is a Gurgaon based sports management and marketing company set up by experienced industry veterans! It's a venture capital funded company that acquires sports IPRs. It already has an impressive portfolio that includes the Premier Badminton League, Indian Cue League (Snooker + Pool) and several other IPR properties.

Sportzlive currently has about 90 days of Live action content as part of its overall vision for development of the sports ecosystem in the country. They have also set up North India's largest Badminton Academy at Greater Noida in association with Pullula Gopichand.

Horticulture Minister Shyamkumar Inaugurates Rural Market At Nambashi Khullen

Minister Shyamkumar urges Residents of Nambashi Khullen to Conserve Forest, Environment, Wildlife and Traditional Culture of Tangkhuls



IT News
Kamjong, Dec 26,

Horticulture and Soil Conservation Minister Thounaojam Shyamkumar on Sunday inaugurated a rural market constructed under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) scheme under the aegis of Horticulture and Soil Conservation Department at Nambashi Khullen, Kamjong district. Addressing the gathering, Minister Th. Shyamkumar said that the Government under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh is committed to visit the interior areas of the State so that all the facilities can be provided to the people both in the hills and the valley. He said the support of the locals is necessary for the successful implementation of any Government programme or scheme. Minister Shyamkumar further assured to the locals of the Nambashi Khullen that the locally produced vegetables and other produces unsold in the market will be bought by the Government so that local residents do not suffer economically. Regarding a memorandum submitted to him, he assured that

financial assistance will be given to the locals for fencing work of the Biodiversity Park and the department officials will be consulted for providing possible schemes to the women society groups. Assuring to the people of Nambashi Khullen that the Works Minister will be apprised regarding the bad road condition in the area, he said although there are different Cabinet Ministers but the Government is one. Stating that the Government is working for the welfare of all the people of the State, he said the Government welcomes positive criticism and suggestions from the people so that programmes and policies can be made or amended for the welfare of all. Advising the Tangkhul community of Nambashi Khullen to preserve and safeguard their traditional cultural heritage, he said the State needs to conserve and protect the forest, environment and wildlife for a better Manipur. He concluded his speech by extending his good wishes for a merry Christmas to the people of Nambashi Khullen. Leishiy Keishing, MLA Phungyar Assembly Constituency appreciated and lauded the officials of the

Horticulture and Soil Conservation Department for constructing the rural market within a week. Opining that the rural market will help the local residents in generating income, he said that the locally grown produces can be consumed by the people of other areas with the help of the Government. Stating that the *yongchak* (*parkia speciosa*) grown in the area has a particular taste which is unique from others, he advised the people to gradually stop practicing Jhum cultivation and opt for other alternatives. He also concluded his speech by wishing the people of the State for a merry Christmas. Wungreiyao Ningshen, UADC member, Shri David Kasungnao, SDO, Kasom Khullen, Shri Kirankumar Singh, District Officer, Horticulture and Soil Conservation (Ukhul), Shri Bhogen Singh, Environmental Scientist, Environment Directorate, Forest officials, Shri M. Ngathingkhui, Headman Manthouram village, Shri T. Shimreiphang, Headman Kashung village, Shri NK Ngamrei, Headman Nambashi Khullen among others attended the inaugural function.

Forest Dept to increase green cover area in the valley: Minister Shyamkumar

IT News
Imphal, Dec 26,

Wishing the people of the State a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2019, Forest and Environment Minister Shri Thounaojam Shyamkumar hoped that the department under him is aiming to achieve more milestones with the advent of the New Year. Speaking to the media persons at his office in New Secretariat office, he announced that the Forest Department is planning to plant tall saplings (4 and half feet) in the historical hills of the valley areas of Imphal, Thoubal and Bishnupur to increase the forest cover under the CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority) fund. Stating that the target can be easily accomplished with the support of the people, he said that the saplings will be planted so that the visible results can be achieved at the earliest. He informed that the Loktak Development Authority (LDA) has

removed illegal constructions in the Loktak and is continuing with the drive. Regarding the cleanliness of the Imphal city, he said that although the officials of the Imphal Municipal Corporation (IMC) are diligently doing their duties, it is also the responsibility of the citizens of the State to cooperate with them so that the city can compete with other cities on cleanliness.

Support, positive criticism and suggestions from the people are important in effective implementation of any scheme/programme, he added. Informing that all the possible help and assistance are provided to the organic farmers registered under the MOMA and the department aims to continue, he said the Horticulture and Soil

Conservation Department achieved many milestones as it was able to sent organic products to national and foreign buyers this year. He hoped that in next year, the department can achieve more achievements. Minister Thounaojam Shyamkumar once again wished the people of the State a very merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year 2019.

Special Outreach Programme on Swachh Bharat Mission

IT News
Imphal, Dec 26,

The Regional Outreach Bureau (ROB), Imphal of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Government of India, today organized the Special Outreach Programme on the theme of Swachh Bharat Mission at the Multipurpose Community Hall, Wanghei Keithel Ashangbi, Imphal Loukrakpam Tombi Devi, Corporator Imphal Municipal Corporation Ward No. 20, K. Sonikumar Singh, Officer incharge,

ROB, Imphal, Sorokhaibam Noren Singh EE Bishenpur Municipal Corporation, Namoijam Kumar Singh, President, Naharol Sintha Kanglung, Wangkhei Keithel Ashangbi, Imphal graced the function as Chief Guest, functional President, Guests of Honour respectively. Gin Gangte, Head, FOB also was on the dais, Sorokhaibam Noren Singh, speaking as a resources person said that the main aim and objective of the Swachh Bharat Mission is to achieve "open defecation free" India by 2

October, 2019. He added that the said mission is successful in Manipur because all the 27 towns of this state was declared as open defecation free. Now it was announced that Rs. 12000/- will be given for construction of individual household latrine in urban areas to fulfil the mission by 2 October, 2019. At the end of the SOP programme, Cultural Troupes of ROB, Imphal performed Magic Show, Martial Art, Stick Dance on the theme of Swachh Bharat Mission.

Continued from page 2

Of Rafale deal: Beyond politics

On 12 November, the central Government gave the details to the Supreme Court as directed. On December 14, SC gave its verdict. The 29 pages long judgment is available on the official website of the Supreme Court. In the judgement, the SC has stated that, it will not interfere in the case of Rafale deal as it is outside its jurisdiction. It is not the Supreme Court's place to investigate sensitive defence deal or advice the government on it. "WE find no reason for any intervention by this court on this sensitive issue". The case would have ended here, if there were not factual error in the SC judgement. For example, the judgement state in point 25, that the pricing details have been shared by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and the CAG's report has been examined by the Public Account Committee (PAC) only redacted portion of the report was placed before the parliament and is in public domain. But in reality, there were no such reports submitted to PAC. Neither is it available in the public domain nor has it been submitted in the parliament.

And this is what Rahul Gandhi pointed it out in a press conference following the judgment. After Rahul Gandhi's press conference, Modi government says that the sealed envelope given to the Supreme Court stating the details of the deal, was misinterpreted by the Supreme Court Judges. Which caused typing mistake in their report. They meant to say that the CAG report "will be examined by the PAC". But it was typed "has been examined by the PAC" in the report. The government has now put in a petition in the Supreme Court to rectify the report. The leaders of opposition parties claim that the government is lying as three Supreme Court judges cannot all be grammatically wrong, resulting in the misinterpretation causing such a blunder. They also alleged that the sealed envelope given to the Supreme Court contain lies. Experts believe that the Supreme Court Judgement may be declared null-and-void because the main point is factually incorrect. But the fact about - who is wrong and who is right will soon be coming up in the public domain after Supreme Court gives another verdict.