

## Akanksha, Shria shocked

GIRLS' under-13 fourth seed Akanksha Salunkhe of Goa and sixth seed Shria Ladiwala of Mumbai crashed out, in the Otters Devotie Squash Open 2010, organised and hosted by Otters Club, Bandra yesterday.

Both lost to unseeded opponents, as Anushka Nair of Mumbai rallied from 0-2 to overcome Salunkhe 7-11, 6-11, 11-4, 12-10, 11-8 in a thriller, and Koel Shankar of Khar Gymkhana crushed Ladiwala in straight games in the pre-quarter-finals, on a dramatic day of upsets.

In the men's open, top seed and defending champion Ritwik Bhattacharya entered the second round where he was joined by second seed Harinderpal Singh Sandhu, and No 3 Sandeep Jangra.

## OTTERS SQUASH

### TN siblings Velavan, Guhan dish out shock treatment

TAMIL Nadu siblings Velavan and Guhan Senthilkumar were the toast of an eventful day after shocking the favourites in the Otters Squash Open 2010 yesterday.

On a dramatic day of upsets, unseeded Velavan stunned fourth seed Vedant Baheti of Rajasthan in straight games in the boys' under-13 quarter-finals to set the tone for an ominous day for the favourites, as second seed Siddhant Iyer of Jindal Squash Academy and No 3 Yohann Surti of Bombay Gymkhana also joined the casualty list.

Unseeded Guhan Senthilkumar, who led 2-1, shocked boys' under-15 second seed Harshit Muchal of Madhya Pradesh 9-11, 11-9, 11-8, 7-11, 12-10 in a thriller.

### Easy for seeds at Otters Open squash

FIFTH seed Ashita Bengra of Tamil Nadu and No 8 Advitiya Kasliwal of MP eased into the girls' under-13 second round in the Otters Squash Open 2010 yesterday.

On a day when the seeds were untroubled, Bengra and Kasliwal registered convincing 3-0 wins over unseeded opponents. The winning duo was joined by sixth seed Shriya Ladiwala of CCI who dropped the second game before winning 3-1, and No 7 Vridhi Doshi of Madhya Pradesh. As the sixth seed, Doshi also entered the girls under-15 second round.

# Abhinav makes Ritwik sweat

Pradeep Vijayakar | TNN

**Mumbai:** Pune lad Abhinav Sinha had a golden chance to knock out top seed Ritwik Bhattacharya from the men's singles of the Rs 12 lakh Otters Devotie Squash Open on Wednesday.

## CITY SPORT ROUND-UP

Just out of juniors, Sinha led 2-0 and in the third, was level at 7-all. He made an unforced error and Ritwik began driving to length to win 11-8. In the fourth and fifth games, Abhinav was just not the player of the first three games when he called the tune and made Ritwik moved back and forth with drops, fierce volleys and fast crosscourts.

About his opponent who has played for India at the Asian juniors, Ritwik said, "He is good at one type of game, the variety. When I slowed him

down, he had no answer."

### Sanika, Shruti supreme

Sub junior girls' second seed Sanika Divekar and Cadet girls' top seed Shruti Amrute, both of Thane, emerged supreme in their respective categories, in the MCDTTA-Bombay YMCA Maharashtra State Ranking Table Tennis Tournament at the University Stadium on Wednesday.

Divekar upset top seed and compatriot Rutuja Khopkar 7-11, 12-10, 11-8, 12-10, 6-11, 11-4 in a thrilling sub junior final, while Amrute beat surprise finalist and sixth seed Simran Haria of Mumbai Suburban 11-5, 11-6, 11-6.

### Mumbai squad for Dhule

The Mumbai District Football Association announced an 18-man squad to represent Mumbai in the ongoing Maharashtra State Inter-District Football

### Championships in Dhule.

**Squad:** Joseph Wayne, Nisarullah Khan, Asif Ansari, Abhishek Mathews, Kazim Siddique, Abusaham Shaikh, Sagar Khanvilkar, Ryan John, Sachin Shetty, Faikh Ansari, Pankaj Koli, Merwyn Fernandes, Tariqe Ansari, Rohel Shaikh, Jagjeet Singh, Kevin Patrick, Francisco Sallian, Mathias Coutinho, Julian D'Silva (Coach), Francis Fernandes (Manager).

### MCA classes for umpires

The Mumbai Cricket Association will conduct classes on model rules on July 3 and 4. All the umpires who are intimidated the time and the day must attend these classes. Contact: Arvind Kadam, Secy Board Of umpires.

### Jagdale shocked

Favourite Mahesh Jagdale made a second round exit following a 1-3 loss in the senior snooker category of the BSAM Maharashtra State Selection Billiards & Snooker Tournament.

# Malhotra sails through

Pradeep Vijayakar | TNN

**Mumbai:** Vikram Malhotra showed some new tricks he had up his sleeve while beating CCI's Pranay Merchant 11-3, 11-7, 11-6 in the men's event of the Rs 12 lakh Otters Devotie Squash Open 2010 at Bandra on Tuesday.

Vikram, who was part of Trinity's team that won the US collegiate title in February on vacation. He showed plenty of deception and from the back, played some forehands with a top-spin action. Pranay had his moments when leading 6-4 in the second but had no answer to Vikram's variations.

## CITY SPORT

ROUND-UP

Vikram later warmed up with India star Ritwik Bhattacharya, the top seed who put out Akhilesh Nayak 11-6, 11-7, 11-4. Said Ritwik about Vikram, "He seems to be aware about himself now than before."

Said Vikram about his maiden US stint, "It's totally different. You play against all kind of players. You learn about adapting to them in the different conditions."

The juniors, fifth seed Ashwin Bengra of Tamil Nadu and No. 8 Advitiya Kasliwal of MP eased into the girls' under-13 second round. On an untroubled day for the seeds, Bengra and Kasliwal registered convincing 3-0 wins over unseeded opponents. The winning duo was joined by sixth seed Shriya Ladiwala of CCI, who dropped the second game before winning 3-1, and No. 7 Vridhi Doshi of Madhya

Pradesh. As the sixth seed, Doshi also entered the girls' under-15 second round.

Girls' under-17 eighth seed Namrata Purohit of Khar Gymkhana also advanced to the second round following a 11-0, 11-5, 11-3 win over Sanjana Raje of Goa.

Unseeded Yash Fadte of Goa made it to the boys' under-11 quarterfinals with a 3-0 win, while top seed Dev Vazirani and No. 8 Advait Adik, both of Otters Club, won their second-round ties.

**Results:** U-9 (PQF): Veer Chotrani (Otters Club) bt Om Fadte (Goa) 11-4, 11-3, 11-7; Neel Joshi (Otters Club) bt Vaibhav Arora (The Club) 11-5, 11-4, 9-11, 11-9.

U-11 (PQF): Yash Fadte (Goa) bt Ansh Vora 11-3, 11-2, 11-3.

## Pandia, Pahuja stretched

Fancied cueists Sushrut Pandia and Harish Pahuja were taken the distance in exciting senior snooker ties, in the BSAM Maharashtra State Selection Billiards & Snooker Tournament, organised and hosted by the Malabar Hill Club on Tuesday.

Pandia recovered from a deficit on two occasions to snatch a 16-60, 50-46, 19-69, 51-47, 75-37 second round win, after dropping the opening frame in which Prathamesh Sawant of Thane fired a significant break of 41.

Pahuja of Khar Gymkhana survived a first round challenge before overcoming Vilas Upsham of Vashi 45-15, 39-40, 57-12, 54-62, 54-12 after leading 2-1.

## Shaun stuns top seed Sanish for title

Second seed Shaun Rebello stunned top seed Sanish Ambekar in a thrilling final to

emerge the sub junior boys' champion in the MCDTTA-Bombay YMCA Maharashtra State Ranking Table Tennis Tournament, at the University Stadium on Tuesday.

Mumbai Suburban's Rebello, who ousted third seed Kalpak Bansod of Nagpur in the semifinals, overcame favourite Ambekar 11-8, 11-5, 10-12, 3-11, 11-7, 6-11, 11-7. Rebello was up 2-0 and 3-2 before Thane lad Ambekar forced the decider, in a championship round that went down to the wire.

Neel Joshi and Varun Shastry of Pune won the doubles crown with a 11-9, 11-8, 11-8 win over Sanish Ambekar and Abhishek Beria.

Thane's Tejas Kamble, who bagged the Cadet boys' individual title, added the doubles crown with partner Akshay Ghaisas following a 11-7, 11-9, 11-5 win over Sanket Godbole and Vedant Kulkarni of Mumbai Suburban.

**Results:** Sub jr. boys (Final): 2-Shaun Rebello (MSD) bt 1-Sanish Ambekar (Thane) 11-8, 11-5, 10-12, 3-11, 11-7, 6-11, 11-7.

**Doubles (Final):** Neel Joshi/Varun Shastry (Pune) bt Sanish Ambekar/Abhishek Beria (Thane) 11-9, 11-9, 11-8.

**Cadet boys doubles (Final):** 1-Tejas Kamble/Akshay Ghaisas (Thane) bt Sanket Godbole/Vedant Kulkarni (MSD) 11-7, 11-9, 11-5.

**Jr. Boys (QF):** 1-Devdatta Phadnavis (Nagpur) bt 9-Aniket Gulwani (Pune) 11-8, 11-6, 11-7, 11-9; Vilok Taori (Nagpur) bt Rohit Sharma (Nagpur) 9-11, 11-3, 11-9, 11-3, 11-5; Atharva Korde (Thane) bt Sanish Ambekar (Thane) 8-11, 7-11, 9-11, 11-3, 11-5, 11-9, 11-5; Siddharth Birje (MSD) bt Vitraag Mehta (MCD) 11-5, 11-5, 6-11, 6-11, 11-9, 12-10.

# Gritty Mangaonkar stretches Sandhu

Pradeep Vijayakar | TNN

**Mumbai:** Junior Mahesh Mangaonkar gave No. 2 seed Harinder Pal Sandhu many anxious moments before the latter made the men's semis of Rs 12 lakh Otters Devorie Squash Open at Bandra on Thursday.

## CITY SPORT ROUND-UP

Mahesh claimed the opening game and after losing the next two, had his moments in the fourth which went to extra points. Fortune didn't favour the underdog as Sandhu got a few lucky nicks that helped him nudge ahead. After that, he kept the ball in play and the onus of finishing the rallies made Mahesh make a few unforced errors that counted in the end.

To Mangaonkar's credit, there were many in the crowd who thought the lad could have won the tie. In the end, Harinder's experience went in his favour as he won 5-11, 11-7, 11-9, 11-12. He takes on Sandeep Jaiswal, who received a walkover against Delhi lad Karm Kumar. Kumar's nagging headache also caused him to grant a walk over to Mangaonkar in the under-19 semis. The other semifinal will be between top seed Ritwik Bhat-tacharya and Vikas Jangra, who wore down Vikram Malhotra 13-15, 11-5, 7-11, 11-9, 11-8.

### Double for Pooja

Top seed Pooja Sahastrabud-

dhe of Thane earned a double while Aniket Koparkar of Pune won the men's crown at the MCDTTA-Bombay YMCA Maharashtra State Ranking Table Tennis Tournament at the University Stadium on Thursday.

Sahastrabudhe bagged the women's and youth girls' titles, while men's second seed Koparkar upset top seed Aman Balgu of Mumbai Suburban 4-0 for the title.

**Results (all Final):** Men: Aniket Koparkar (Pune) bt Aman Balgu (MSD) 11-8, 11-6, 11-8, 11-9

Youth Boys: 6-Markand Biniwale (Pune) bt 9-Noel Pinto (MSD) 11-6, 11-4, 6-11, 11-8, 11-7

Jr. Boys: 1-Devdatta Phadnavis (Nagpur) bt Atharva Korde (Thane) 11-3, 11-6, 11-3, 11-5

Women: 1-Pooja Sahastrabudhe (Thane) bt 6-Shweta Parte (MCD) 12-10, 8-11, 11-8, 11-9, 11-7

Youth Girls: 1-Pooja Sahastrabudhe (Thane) bt 7-Shruti Talnikar (Thane) 11-7, 11-6, 11-2, 11-4

Jr. Girls: 2-Charvi Kawale (MSD) bt 1-Senhora D'Souza (MCD) 11-6, 13-11, 14-16, 9-11, 9-11, 11-3, 11-5

### Pune's Chaughule, Khandelwal escape to victory

Nishad Chaughule of Pune escaped to a hard fought 3-1 win over Mayur Sanghvi of Wodehouse Gymkhana in a senior snooker third round of the BSAM Maharashtra State Selection Billiards & Snooker Tournament at the Malabar Hill Club on Thursday. City mate Samar Khandelwal too endured stronger resistance before overcoming Krishnraj Arcot of Aurangabad 3-2.