

12 Greased lightning! Tongan pin-up makes 'crazy' Olympics return



14 Mominul's unbeaten ton powers Bangladesh to 374-4 on day one



15 Kylian Mbappe sent off as PSG reach French League Cup final



HOUSTON: Gerald Green #14 of the Houston Rockets drives to the basket against the Orlando Magic on Tuesday at the Toyota Center in Houston, Texas.— AFP

Historic night for Harden in Rockets' win

No Love in Cavaliers' loss, Wizards win without Wall

LOS ANGELES: James Harden scored a franchise-record 60 points while posting a triple-double, almost single-handedly carrying the short-handed Houston Rockets to a 114-107 victory over the visiting Orlando Magic on Tuesday. Harden shot 19 of 30 from the floor and 17 of 18 at the line while adding 10 rebounds and 11 assists. With Houston missing three rotation players, Harden logged a season-high 46 minutes. His 60-point triple-double was the first in NBA history. With the game deadlocked at 107-107, Harden nailed a step-back jumper with just under two minutes left before drilling a 3-pointer through a Mario Hezonja foul with 45.4 seconds to play. Harden completed the four-point play to surpass Calvin Murphy (57 points) in franchise annals. Orlando hung tough by placing six in double figures, led by Hezonja and Marreese Speights with 17 points apiece.

PISTONS 125, CAVALIERS 114

Stanley Johnson scored a career-high 26 points, and Detroit snapped an eight-game losing streak by defeating visiting Cleveland. Johnson also grabbed 10 rebounds, while Detroit's Andre Drummond piled up 21 points, 22 rebounds, seven assists, three steals and three blocks. Reggie Bullock supplied 22 points, Anthony Tolliver had 20 and Ish Smith added 19 points and seven assists for the Pistons. Cleveland lost All-Star forward Kevin Love in the early going. Love broke a bone in his left hand after Tolliver tried to swipe the ball away from him during the

first quarter. LeBron James led the Cavs with 21 points.

JAZZ 129, WARRIORS 99

Ricky Rubio scored 23 points and dished out 11 assists while Joe Ingles and Donovan Mitchell each chipped in 20 points to lead Utah past Golden State in Salt Lake City. Derrick Favors added 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Jazz, who snapped a five-game losing streak to Golden State extending back to the 2017 NBA Playoffs. Utah handed the defending NBA champions their most lopsided loss of the season. Klay Thompson scored 27 points to lead the Warriors. Kevin Durant added 17 points while Stephen Curry and JaVale McGee chipped in 14 apiece.

TRAIL BLAZERS 104, CLIPPERS 96

Damian Lillard scored 28 points as Portland held off a late surge by host Los Angeles for the win. CJ McCollum added 16 points and Jusuf Nurkic collected 14 points and 20 rebounds for the Trail Blazers, who have won three in a row and six of their past seven outings. Lou Williams scored 20 points off the bench for the Clippers, who lost for the fourth in six games. However, Williams was only 5 of 26 from the field, missing 16 shots in a row after a 4-of-8 start.

SPURS 106, NUGGETS 104

LaMarcus Aldridge scored 30 points and Manu Ginobili added 14, including a 3-pointer and a jumper in

the closing minutes, as host San Antonio outlasted Denver. Jamal Murray's 3-pointer with 31.6 seconds left gave the Nuggets a final chance, but Will Barton missed from beyond the arc with 1.5 seconds to go, allowing the Spurs to escape with the win. Kyle Anderson and Pau Gasol added 18 points each for the Spurs, who have won four of their past five games. All five Denver starters scored in double figures, led by Jamal Murray's 18 points.

KINGS 114, PELICANS 103

Zach Randolph had 26 points and 12 rebounds, and Sacramento pulled away for a win over host New Orleans. Kosta Koufos added 17 points and 17 rebounds for the Kings. De'Aaron Fox and Garrett Temple scored 15 each, and George Hill had 14. Anthony Davis had 23 points and 13 rebounds to lead the Pelicans, who fell to 0-2 since losing All-Star forward DeMarcus Cousins to a season-ending Achilles injury. New Orleans had won seven of eight prior to Cousins' injury. Jrue Holiday added 21 points, and Ian Clark scored a season-high 20.

KNICKS 111, NETS 95

Kristaps Porzingis had 28 points and Enes Kanter added 20 points and 20 rebounds as New York completed a season sweep of visiting Brooklyn. The Knicks, who won their first three games over the Nets this season by an average of more than 14 points, picked up their second straight win following three consecutive losses. Brooklyn,

which was playing without leading scorer Rondae Hollis-Jefferson (groin), dropped its fourth game in a row. DeMarre Carroll had 13 points to lead five Nets who scored in double figures.

RAPTORS 109, TIMBERWOLVES 104

DeMar DeRozan scored 23 points as Toronto edged visiting Minnesota. DeRozan produced his 36th game with at least 20 points despite shooting 6 of 18 from the floor and missing 5 of 6 3-point tries. The All-Star guard made 10 of 11 free throws and scored eight of his points in the fourth quarter. Jonas Valanciunas added 18 points and 11 rebounds for his 16th double-double as Toronto beat Minnesota for the 14th straight time at home. Jimmy Butler scored 25 points for the Timberwolves.

WIZARDS 102, THUNDER 96

Host Washington responded to some bad news about All-Star John Wall with a spirited victory over red-hot Oklahoma City. Otto Porter had 25 points while Bradley Beal added scored 21 for the Wizards, who snapped the visiting Thunder's league-best eight game winning streak. Wall will undergo a procedure on his sore left knee today, and he will be out six to eight weeks. Paul George scored 20 of his 28 points in the first half and Carmelo Anthony added 19 for Oklahoma City. Steven Adams contributed 16 points and 12 rebounds, and Russell Westbrook had 13 points and 10 assists. — Reuters

Formula One to stop using female models on the grid

LONDON: Formula One is ending the use of female models who parade and stand with the drivers' name boards before every grand prix, with immediate effect. The sport announced the decision in a statement yesterday and said the change would also apply to all support series on the programme.

"While the practice of employing grid girls has been a staple of Formula One grands prix for decades, we feel this custom does not resonate with our brand values and clearly is at odds with modern day societal norms," said commercial manager Sean Bratches.

"We don't believe the practice is appropriate or relevant to Formula One and its fans, old and new, across the world," he added. Formula One has not had a woman race

driver on the starting grid since the 1970s but is far more mixed off the track, with female engineers and mechanics as well as in media and marketing.

Two of the 10 teams have had female bosses, including former champions Williams, and Formula One management has a number of women in senior positions. The use of female models, even if not as scantily-clad as in the past, has been increasingly criticised in a sport that is now under US-based ownership following Liberty Media's takeover last year. Liberty, who ousted former supremo Bernie Ecclestone a year ago, have been looking to make the pre-race show more of a feature with the emphasis on entertainment for fans and promotion. "Formula One considers the time spent by teams and drivers on the grid before a race as one of celebration, where guests and various performers can add to the glamour and spectacle of the Grand Prix," the statement said.

It added that the change would allow promoters and partners "to showcase their countries and products". Ross Brawn, Formula One's managing director for motorsport, gave notice last December that the use of female models on the grid was under review for the season starting in Australia on March 25.

"There's a lot of people who respect the tradition of the grid



File photo shows Sebastian Vettel, then driving for Infiniti Red Bull, poses with grid girls at 2014's American GP.

girls and there's people who feel that it has become a bit dated, so we're addressing that," he told the BBC at the time. In 2015, men were deployed in place of the women at the Monaco Grand Prix—a move welcomed by some fans

and deplored by others.

That same year, the FIA-sanctioned World Endurance Championship announced an end to the practice at the Le Mans 24 Hours sportscar race. — Reuters