## O HERALDO

## voice of sports

newed hope, and Eric Gar- both teams finished with 10

### sportspopup

#### Sindhu, Lakshya to lead Indian team in Badminton Asia Mixed C'ship in China

NEW DELHI: Double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and World Championships bronze winner Lakshya Sen will lead a 14-member Indian team for the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championship to be held in Qingdao, China from February 11-16. India had clinched a bronze medal in the last edition of the competition in Dubai in 2023. The strong Indian team will also have star doubles players Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty. The women's doubles pairing could be either Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly or Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto. Tanisha will also pair up with Dhruv Kapila in mixed doubles while Sathish Kumar K and Adva Variyath will be the second combination.

## Borussia Dortmund fires coach

after dismal start to new year DORTMUND (Germany): Borussia Dortmund fired coach Nuri Sahin on Wednesday, a day after its 2-1 loss to Bologna in the Champions League. The loss extended Dortmund's losing streak to four games since the new year and dropped last season's Champions League runner-up to 13th in the standings. Dortmund is also struggling in the Bundesliga, where it's 10th. There was no immediate word on a successor. Dortmund's next game is Saturday in the Bundesliga against Werder Bremen.

#### Neymar in talks to leave Saudi team Al-Hilal: club source

**RIYADH:** Brazilian star Neymar is in discussions about leaving his Saudi club Al-Hilal but his financial demands are holding up an agreement, a club source told AFP on Wednesday. The 32-year-old former Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain forward has had an injury-plagued stay in Saudi Arabia, playing just seven times despite a reported salary of around \$104 million a year. The source, who spoke on condition that he was not identified, said: "Neymar is discussing his departure with Al-Hilal but his high financial demands remain a major obstacle." Nevmar is under contract with the Saudi Pro League club until June. Reports in Brazil say Santos, the club where Neymar made his name in his now fading career, are in talks for him to return to his homeland but Al-Hilal would prefer a transfer while Neymar wants a loan deal.

# Liverpool clinch last-16 berth; Barca score wild Benfica comeback win

Lille 2-1 on Tuesday to maintain their perfect record in this season's Champions League and clinch qualification for the last 16. while Barcelona produced a stunning comeback to beat Benfica 5-4 in a classic to secure their own place.

The Anfield side are the

AFP, PARIS: Liverpool beat only team with a maximum 21 points from seven matches in this new, expanded Champions League and they now know they will skip next month's playoffs and head straight to the last 16 in March.

have also impressed this season, and the visitors appeared in trouble when they had Aissa Mandi sent off just

Mohamed Salah ran clear to give Liverpool the lead at home to a Lille team who

before the hour mark. Jonathan David swept in an equaliser for Lille, but Harvey Elliott's shot took a wicked deflection on its

way in to give Liverpool the points. The biggest drama on the

night, however, came in the rain in Lisbon, where Barcelona trailed 4-2 with 12 minutes of the 90 remaining, but somehow recovered to win 5-4.

Greek striker Vangelis Pavlidis scored a hat-trick in the first half-hour for Benfica, including a penalty, while Robert Lewandowski netted from the spot for Barca, who were 3-1 down at the interval.

Raphinha pulled it back to 3-2 when a clearance by the goalkeeper ricocheted back off the Brazilian's head and in, but a Ronald Araujo own goal midway through the second half appeared to have secured the win for the Portuguese side.

However, another Lewandowski penalty on 78 minutes gave Barcelona recia headed in the equaliser men. on 86 minutes, before Raphinha ran away to settle an

incredible game. The Catalans are second with six wins out of seven, CHAMPION and will finish in the top eight to go straight to the last

must still sweat to reach the play-off round.

Elsewhere, Atletico Madrid are third on 15 points and certain to at least be in the play-offs after a Julian Alvarez brace secured a 2-1 home victory over Bayer Leverkusen in a game

just before the LEAGUE break. Argentina star 16. Benfica, with 10 points, Alvarez levelled seven minutes into the second half, and Hincapie was sent off

it for the home side in the last minute as they climbed

League winners Atalanta

#### RESULTS

Atalanta 5 (Retegui 12, Pasalic 58, De Ketelaere 63, Lookman 90, Brescianini 90+5) Sturm Graz 0; Monaco 1 (Singo 8) Aston Villa 0; Slovan Bratislava 1 (Metsoko 85) Stuttgart 3 (Leweling 11, 36, Rieder 87); Club Brugge 0 Juventus 0; Atletico Madrid 2 (Alvarez 52, 90) Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Hincapie 45+1); Benfica 4 (Pavlidis 2, 22, 30-pen, Araujo 68-og) Barcelona 5 (Lewandowski 13-pen, 78-pen, Raphinha 64, 90+6, Garcia 87); Liverpool 2 (Salah 34, Elliott 67) Lille 1 (David 62); Bologna 2 (Dallinga 71, Iling-Junior 72) Borussia Dortmund 1 (Guirassy 15-pen); Red Star Belgrade 2 (Ndiaye 71, Djiga 77) PSV Eindhoven 3 (de Jong 17, 24, Flamingo 43)

laere, Ademola Lookman Hincapie then put and Marco Brescianini all < Leverkusen ahead

Atletico

sent off midway

beat Aston Villa 1-0. Both teams are set to progress to the knockout phase and both could still finish in the top eight.

had

5-0.

Barrios

Last season's Europa

Last season's runners-up Borussia Dortmund should also be fine despite a 2-1 defeat away to Bologna, as substitutes Thijs Dallinga and Samuel Iling-Junior scored a minute apart in the second half after Serhou Guirassy's early penalty had put the

are also guaranteed at least

a play-off place after crush-

ing Sturm Graz of Austria

Pasalic. Charles De Kete-

Mateo Retegui, Mario

Germans in front. Club Brugge held Juventus to a 0-0 draw in Belgium as that duo both look set to go through to the play-offs at least, while PSV Eindhoven are poised to advance following a 3-2 win at Red Star Belgrade.

## **Big win for PVC Parra; Vagator PYSC hold Sangolda Lightning**

3

4

5

6

7

8

#### **Team Herald**

sports@herald-goa.com

MAPUSA: PVC Parra registered a thumping 4-0 win over table toppers Goan Warriors FC, in the GFA's Second Division league, played at Guirim ground, on Wednesday.

#### **GFA'S SECOND DIV LEAGUE**

Parra colts came strongly into the second session and pumped in all the four goals through their striker Cyprian Rodrigues.

Today's defeat for Goan Warriors FC was a big setback as they were topping the league table with 12 points from six matches. After today's win PVC Parra tops the league ta-

ble with 14 points from 7 matches. At Vagator ground, Vagator PYSC managed to hold Sangolda Lightning to a 1-1 draw.

With today's drawn encounter Vagator PYSC now stands second of the league table with 13 points from seven matches.

Yatish Kutikar put Sangolda Lightning ahead in the 61st minute only to find Vagator PYSC unit Rutik Bandodkar level terms in the 89th minute of play.

At BITS Pilani football ground, United Youth Club of Bogmalo defeated Chicalim SC. 3-1. Aster Thenamthara.

Team	Ρ	W	D	L	F	Α	D	Pts
PVC Association	7	4	2	1	17	8	9	14
Vagator PYSC	7	3	4	0	14	7	7	13
Goan Warriors FC	7	3	3	1	15	12	3	12
Bidesh XI SC	7	3	1	3	10	14	-4	10
Valpoi FC	7	2	3	2	15	12	3	9
Sangolda Lightning	7	2	3	2	9	8	1	9
Dunes SC	7	2	2	3	15	13	2	8
Benny XI SC	7	1	4	2	8	10	-2	7
BAFF	7	2	0	5	11	16	-5	6
FC Tuem	7	2	0	5	10	24	-14	6

Ivan Fernandes and Amit Vasco City SCC defeated Mor-Naik scored for UYC Bogmamugao United CSC, 4-0. Ablo, while Sadik Ingalgundi hishek Kumar Singh scored reduced the margin for Chia brilliant hat-trick while calim SC. Keegan D'Souza scored the At Tilak maidan, Vasco other goal for Vasco City.

umph over 10-man Bengaluru FC in the Indian Super League (ISL), on Wednesday. Diego Mauricio ISL (29th and 38th) struck a brace -- both from penalties -- while Jerry Mawihmingthanga (50th) scored the other goal for Odisha. Edgar Mendez (10th) and former India captain Sunil Chhetri (13th) scored for Bengaluru FC. The hosts started the

FC returned to winning ways

after four matches with a

come-from-behind 3-2 tri-

game strongly as they were 2-0 up within the first 13 minutes courtesy of goals from Mendez and Chhetri. However, Odisha FC came

back into the game when Aleksandar Jovanovic was handed marching orders and Mauricio converted

## Odisha FC rally to beat Bengaluru PTI, BENGALURU: Odisha

two consecutive spot-kicks before Mawihmingthanga scored the decisive goal in the second half. Bengaluru FC got off the blocks quickly with high pressing and pushed Odisha FC back in the initial exchanges. Their sustained pressure in the opening

minutes was rewarded when the hosts found the net in the 10th minute courtesy of a goal from Mendez. Suresh Wangjam picked out the Spaniard with a

fantastic long ball, and the experienced forward calmly slotted it past Thoiba Moirangthem and Amrinder Singh in goal.

With the goal gaping, the Things got more complimidfielder's effort went cated for the Juggernauts way over the target. when Bengaluru FC doubled the lead in the 13th minute the game changed when the when Alberto Noguera recyreferee rewarded a penalty cled possession and played to Odisha in the 26th min-

**TODAY'S FIXTURE** ute after Jovanovic brought **Hvderabad FC** vs Jamshedpur FC, at **GMC Balayogi Athletic** Stadium, Hyderabad,

at 7.30 pm

a great ball to Chhetri, who

showed exquisite footwork

to waltz past the entire Odi-

sha FC backline before nest-

ling it into the top right cor-

Odisha's first strong op-

portunity came in the 19th

minute when Gurpreet Sin-

gh Sandhu missed the flight

off the ball and it landed

straight to Hugo Boumous.

The entire complexion of

ner of the net.

down Mauricio in the penalty area. The Australian defender was subsequently sent off as the referee felt that he denied a clear goal-scoring opportunity.

Mauricio stepped up to take the spot-kick and slotted it home with aplomb, bringing the visitors back into the game.

Odisha FC clawed their way back into the game in the 38th minute when Bengaluru's Roshan Singh handled the ball in the penalty area and handed a penalty to the opposition. Mauricio again stepped up and calmly slotted it home, completing his brace.

The Juggernauts started the second half just like they finished the first. They eventually took the lead in the 50th minute through Mourtada Fall.

**Open archery** competition

**PANJIM**: Battle of the Rings,

an open archery competition,

organised by Fr Agnel Central

School, Pilar, in collaboration

with Zito Archery club, will be

through the first half, and Piero JEFA

Pablo

above Leverkusen.

scored for the Italians. Monaco got back to winning ways after some disappointing results had seen their campaign stall, as Wilfried Singo's early goal proved enough for them to for the Germans before another Alvarez goal won

#### **Team Herald** sports@herald-goa.com

MAPUSA: FC Goa defeated SESA Football Academy 1-0 in the Reliance Founda-

tion Development (RFDL) League match, played at the Duler stadium, in Mapusa, on Wednesday.

Jovial Dias' 75th minute strike for the Young Gaurs was enough for the team to see off the game.

The win takes FC Goa three points clear off the top of the table with 10 points from four matches, followed by Mumbai City FC in the second

**TODAY'S SPORTS** 

**GFA Second Division** League (Ilhas zone): Carambolim Sports Club vs Nauxim Sports Club, at Taleigao ground; Agassaim Youth Club vs Portais Sporting Club, at Agassaim ground. Both matches at 3.45 pm

Simon Barreto memorial football tournament (semi-final): Fr Agnelo YSC Paroda vs Mandopa Sports Club, at DYSA ground, Curtorim, at 4.30 pm

3rd all-Goa volleyball tournament (first semi-final): Sarwan Boys vs Kakoda Boys Curchorem, at Manora ground, at 8.30 pm

Mix Friends veterans soccer (semi-final): Ilhas Veterans vs Calangute Veterans, Santa Cruz ground, 4.30 pm

position, who share equal number of points (7) with third-placed Foundation Young Champs.

FC Goa pip Sesa FA

Reliance Jovial Dias received the man-of-the-match award.



**Team Herald** 

s@herald-goa.com

#### winner for Ilhas **Team Herald** sports@herald-goa.com

PANJIM: Nevil Araujo scored the goal that mattered as Ilhas Veterans put it across Mitra Veterans, 1-0, to enter the semi-finals of the all-Goa veterans football tournament, organised by Mix Friends of Santa Cruz, at Santa Cruz ground on Wednesday. In a closely-fought en-

**Nevil scores** 

counter, Ilhas Veterans started on the front foot and held on to the lead till the conclusion of the match.

Ilhas will now face Calangute Veterans in the semi-final clash. Gymkhana's goalkeeper,

## Curtorim Gymkhana edge past Maina Sports Club to reach final

**Team Herald** sports@herald-goa.com

> RAIA: Curtorim Gymkhana 응 secured their place in the <sup>≚</sup> final of the Simon Barreto Memorial inter-village football tournament, organised by Maina Sports Club, with a hard-fought 1-0 victory over the hosts, at the DYSA ground, in Curtorim.

Both teams displayed an attacking brand of football, creating several scoring opportunities. Maina's Jovial Martins delivered a precise through pass to Joywin Carneiro, who skillfully beat the Curtorim defence and unleashed a powerful shot. However, Curtorim



ic save, punching the ball away for a corner.

Curtorim capitalised on their opportunity from the resulting corner. Milagres took the kick, which was

initially cleared by Maina's goalkeeper, Prakash. How-

ever, the clearance fell to an unmarked Mario Mascarenhas, who controlled the ball and unleashed a stunning 30-yard strike.

at Pilar **Team Herald** sports@herald-goa.com

The shot beat Prakash and crashed into the net just before the half-time whistle, giving Curtorim Gymkhana the lead.

In the second half. both teams missed chances to add to the scoreline. Maina Sports Club pressed hard in search of an equaliser, but their efforts were thwarted by a resolute Curtorim defence. Despite their attacking intent, Maina were unable to find the back of the net, and the match ended 1-0 in favour

of Curtorim Gymkhana. The lone goal by Mario Mascarenhas proved to be the decisive moment of the match.

Prakash Jhosi, the goalkeeper of Maina Sports Club, was adjudged the man-of-the-match.

held on January 26, at Pilar Central School. The categories include 9,14,17 and open category. For further details contact Zeto. 🕅 KALA ACADEMY GOA 10<sup>th</sup> TIATR 'B' GROUP Competition - (2024-25) **TODAY'S TIATR** DHORONN **Ditta Gomes** Institution Pink Curtain, Merces

Tiswadi Venue Ravindra Bhavan, Margao Time: 7.00 p.m.



MASHEM: Arlem Cricket Club defeated Al Fatah by 66 runs in the final of the 43rd Nanda Lolayekar Trophy, organised by Mashem Cricket Club, at Nirakar Maidan, Dapot-Mashem, Canacona, on Sunday.

#### CRICKET

Put into bat, Arlem amassed 258/9 in their allotted 35 overs, thanks to a stellar all-round performance. Parth Sahani top-scored with 65 off 70 balls, including seven boundaries and two sixes, building crucial partnerships with Atharva Kale (30) and Shubham Dessai (23). A late blitz by Sanket Morajkar, who smashed an unbeaten

## Arlem Cricket Club defeat Al Fatah to elinch Nanda Lolayekar Trophy



58 off 29 balls with five sixes and four boundaries, pushed Arlem to a formidable total. Sanket shared an unbeaten 47-run stand for the last wicket with Dheeraj Yadav. For Al Fatah, Yeshwant Raikar

(3/53) and Kutbudin Jamadar (2/26) stood out with the ball. Al Fatah began their chase strongly

with a 71-run opening stand between Manthan Khutkar (50) and Aditya Dalal (35). However, after reaching 100 in 16 overs, their innings collapsed, losing eight wickets for just 92 runs. Abdul Salam (28) and Malik Shirur (21) made brief contributions, but the team was bowled out for 192 in 30.5 overs.

Arlem's bowling unit delivered a disciplined performance, with Mehank Dharwadkar (2/24), Shubham Dessai (2/39), Dheeraj Yadav

Man-of-the-match: anket Moraikar Best Batsman: Bhimappa Konnur Best Bowler: Yeshwant Raikar Man of the Tournament: Shubham Dessai

**AWARD WINNERS:** 

(1/11), and Ruthvik Naik (1/36) among the wickets.

Dr Suraj Prabhudesai was the chief guest at the presentation ceremony. Other dignitaries included Nisha Chari (sarpanch), Chirag Naik (tournament sponsor) and Prashant Naik (chairman, Nirakar Education Society).

The event was compered by Anup Naik with Sudin Lolayekar delivering the vote of thanks.