

sportspopup

Freestyle Grand Slam chess: Gukesh draws with Nakamura in 5-8 place play-offs

HAMBURG (Germany): World champion D Gukesh played out a hard-fought draw with Hikaru Nakamura of United States in the first game of the 5-8 place play-offs in the Freestyle Grand Slam chess here on Tuesday. After losing the semifinal against American Fabiano Caruana 0-2, Gukesh was back to his confident self against Nakamura who is known for his expertise in this version. On a day when Magnus Carlsen, the main protagonist behind the tour, lost to young Vincent Keymer, Caruana split the point with Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov. In the other game of the day, Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan signed truce with Alireza Firouzja of France. Results: Vincent Keymer (Ger) beat Magnus Carlsen (Nor); Hikaru Nakamura (Usa) drew with D Gukesh (Ind); Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb) drew with Fabiano Caruana (Usa); Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb) drew with Alireza Firouzja (Fra).

Dhawan among four event ambassadors for CT

DUBAI: Former India opener Shikhar Dhawan was on Wednesday named as one of the four event ambassadors for the ICC Champions Trophy to be held in Pakistan and Dubai from February 19 to March 9. Besides Dhawan, the ICC has also named Pakistan's 2017 Champions Trophy winning captain Sarfaraz Ahmed, former Australia all-rounder Shane Watson, and New Zealand's legendary fast bowler, Tim Southee as event ambassadors. The quartet will write guest columns and will also attend matches, sharing their thoughts on the event, where the world's best eight teams will compete for the top honour. "It is such a special feeling to be part of a Champions Trophy, and to be given the opportunity to enjoy the upcoming edition as an Ambassador is an honour," Dhawan said in an ICC release.

ODI: Rizwan and Salman smash tons as Pakistan defeat South Africa in record chase

KARACHI: Mohammad Rizwan and Salman Agha cracked centuries to guide Pakistan into the tri-series final with a thumping six-wicket win over South Africa in Karachi on Wednesday. Rizwan led Pakistan's highest successful chase in all one-day internationals of 353 in 49 overs with a magnificent 122 not out while Salman slammed 134 for his maiden century at the National Stadium. The hundreds made by Rizwan and Salman overshadowed Matthew Breetzke's record of scoring most runs by a batsman in his first two one-day internationals of 150 and 83. Breetzke's innings had set up an imposing South Africa total of 352-5. Rizwan and Salman built a match-changing stand of 260, a new record for the fourth wicket for Pakistan, improving on the 206 scored by Shoaib Malik and Yousif Khan against India at Centurion in 2009.

Torrent Group becomes majority stakeholder in Gujarat Titans

AHMEDABAD: Healthcare major Torrent Group became the majority shareholder of Gujarat Titans after acquiring 67 percent (2/3rd) stake from current owners CVC, the IPL franchise announced on Wednesday. The transaction is subject to customary closing conditions and approvals, including from the BCCI. "Torrent Group has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire majority stake of 67% in the renowned Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise, Gujarat Titans (Irelia Sports India Private Limited) from Irelia Company Pte Ltd ("Irelia") – currently fully owned by funds managed or advised by CVC," the press release stated. "As part of the deal, Irelia will retain a substantial minority stake of 33% in the franchise," it further stated.

FIFA staffer reportedly arrested in Miami in alleged underage sex case

MIAMI: A staffer at FIFA has reportedly been arrested in Miami on suspicion of having sex with an underage boy while on a work trip from Zurich. "FIFA is aware of ongoing legal proceedings in Miami in relation to a private matter of a person that is employed by FIFA," the world soccer body said in a statement Wednesday. "FIFA has no further comment at this stage." The Miami Herald reported Jack Coles was detained Friday by federal agents from Homeland Security Investigations at a hotel near FIFA's offices in the Coral Gables neighborhood. Coles is a project leader with FIFA Sound, the department that organizes music for the soccer body's events and broadcasts.

Australia's Kuhnemann reported for suspect bowling action

SYDNEY: Australian spinner Matthew Kuhnemann has been reported for a suspect bowling action after his pivotal role in the Test series win in Sri Lanka. Cricket Australia said Wednesday. Left-armed Kuhnemann, who took 16 wickets as Steve Smith's men swept the two-Test series this month, will have to undertake mandatory testing to determine whether his action is legal. "The Australian team was notified of the match officials' referral following the second Test against Sri Lanka in Galle and will support Matt through the process of clearing this matter," CA said.

Chelsea star Kerr cleared of racial harassment of police officer

LONDON: Chelsea striker Sam Kerr was Tuesday found not guilty of causing racially aggravated harassment after calling a British police officer "stupid and white". A jury at Kingston Crown Court in London cleared the Australia captain in relation to the incident in southwest London on January 30, 2023. Kerr, 31, and her partner, West Ham midfielder Kristie Mewis, had been out drinking when they were driven to Twickenham Police Station by a taxi driver who complained they had refused to pay clean-up costs after one of them vomited, and one of them had smashed the vehicle's rear window.

Badminton Asia Mixed Team C'ship: India thrash Macau to seal quarters berth

QINGDAO (China): India made a sizzling start to their campaign, delivering a 5-0 thrashing to Macau in their opening group D tie of the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championship here on Wednesday. Having won the bronze medal in the last edition in Dubai, India are now assured of a quarterfinal berth. They will next face Korea in their second and final group tie on Thursday. The mixed doubles pair of Sathish Kumar Karunakaran and Aadya Variyath gave India a rousing start, recording a 21-10, 21-9 win against lok Chong Leong and Weng Chi Ng in the opening match. In men's singles, Lakshya Sen then outwitted Pang Fong Pui 21-16, 21-12, making it 2-0. Malvika Bansod then sealed the tie for India with a dominant 21-15, 21-9 win over Hao Wai Chan in women's singles. Chirag Shetty paired up with MR Arjun and prevailed 21-15, 21-19 over Chin Pon Pui and Kok Wen Vong in men's doubles. Women's doubles pair of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand completed the demolition with a 21-10, 21-5 thrashing of NG Weng Chi and Pui Chi Wa in the final match.

FC Goa break 13-game-long winless run against Mumbai

PTI, MUMBAI: Spanish striker Iker Guarrotxena struck a brace as FC Goa defeated Mumbai City FC 3-1 to snap their 13-game-long winless run against the Islanders in the Indian Super League (ISL) here on Wednesday.

ISL

Guarrotxena scored in the 34th and 41st minutes before Borja Herrera added another goal for FC Goa in the 64th minute.

Lallianzuala Chhangte (90+7th) pulled one back for Mumbai City.

The Gaurs have thus strengthened their placing at the second spot, bagging 39 points after 20 games with 11 victories and six draws.

Guarrotxena attacked the FC Goa defence single-handedly, taking the

onus to score the first goal with a brilliant effort in the 24th minute.

Picking the ball at the edge of the 18-yard box, Guarrotxena tip-toed the entire Mumbai City defence before getting to a central position, still outside the penalty area, before drilling the ball into the bottom right corner to capture the lead.

Guarrotxena doubled the lead for the visitors through the help of Udanta Singh in the 41st minute.

The surge of FC Goa offences hadn't stopped and Guarrotxena made the most of it by positioning perfectly at the centre of the box as Udanta dragged the Mumbai City players behind with a darting run down the right flank, beating his nearest marker Vikram Partap Singh.

Udanta's cross barged into the box and met Guar-

rotxena with absolute perfection, who slotted it into the bottom right corner precisely.

Borja Herrera got FC Goa a cushion of an additional goal when he timed his run inside the box perfectly, to jump upon a meek headed clearance by Mehtab Singh. Herrera was unmarked and he deposited the ball into the bottom right corner in the 64th minute.

Toral turned provider by finding Lallianzuala Chhangte in the centre of the box in the 78th minute with a slick delivery that the Mumbai skipper was unable to convert and instead shot high and wide on the left.

Manolo Marquez jumped upon the chance to close out the game by bringing in Dejan Drazic, Seriton Fernandes, and Sahil Tavora for Herrera, Udanta, and

Ayush Dev Chhetri just prior to the 90th minute mark.

The Gaurs were thus fortified for the added time of the second half, but a foul by goalkeeper Tiwari led to the Islanders gaining a spot-kick late into the game.

Chhangte stepped up and converted the penalty with a left-footed shot in the centre of the net to gain a consolation goal, depriving the Gaurs of the clean sheet, though they walked away with all three points.

FC Goa will play their next game against Kerala Blasters FC on February 22, whereas Mumbai City FC are squaring off against Hyderabad FC on February 19.

TODAY'S FIXTURE
NorthEast United FC vs Jamshedpur FC, at JRD Tata Sports Complex, Jamshedpur, at 7.30 pm

Dempo SC eye back-to-back wins

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MARGAO: Dempo SC return to action in the I-League 2024-25 as they take on second-placed Namdhari FC at the Nehru Stadium, Fatorda. on Thursday, at 4.30 pm. The Golden Eagles will be looking to build on their impressive 2-0 win over Inter Kashi, where Argentine striker Damian Perez's brace sealed a crucial three points.

With momentum on their side, Dempo will be eager to test themselves against a Namdhari outfit that suffered a narrow 2-3 defeat to Shillong Lajong in their last outing. Despite Francis Addo's double, Namdhari were undone by a brace from

Ronney Kharbudon and an early strike from Figo Syndai.

Speaking ahead of the clash, Dempo head coach Samir was optimistic yet measured in his approach. "As always, we will give our best. Let's see how it

goes. We always take the field to win games, and we will try our best to get the three points," he stated.

Currently sitting eighth in the standings with 17 points from 13 matches, Dempo will need a strong performance to challenge Namdhari, who are pushing for top honours with 24 points from the same number of games. A win here could be a statement of intent as the Golden Eagles look to climb the table.



PREVIEW

Shreyash's last-gasp strike seals victory for Dempo

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MAPUSA: A dramatic 94th-minute goal from Dempo's Shreyash Naik handed his side a 1-0 victory over FC Goa, in the Goa Professional League clash, at Duler stadium, on Wednesday.

The opening half was action-packed, with both goalkeepers pulling off crucial saves to keep the game goalless at the break.

GOA PRO LEAGUE

Dempo's U-21 midfielder Arnold Oliveira missed two golden opportunities to put his side ahead, while another delivery from Aryan Poll saw Arnold's strike from just outside the six-yard box brilliantly parried for a corner by FC Goa's goalkeeper, Lionel Rymmei.

At the other end, Young Gaurs' Lalthangliana fired a shot from inside the 18-yard box, only to be denied by Dempo's custodian, Myrick Hilario.

As the game progressed, FC Goa's Malsawmtluanga sent in a curling corner, followed by a powerful effort from U-21 Bryson Pereira, but Hilario was equal to the challenge, making a comfortable save.



Dempo goalkeeper Myrick Hilario dives to his left to parry Young Gaurs' Limmet Tangvah's shot for a corner, in the GPL match, at Duler stadium

In the 40th minute, Dempo's Chinkhoslam Dimngel sent in a teasing cross into the goal area, but Velanco Rodrigues was a fraction too late to nod it home.

Deep into first-half stoppage time, an Arnold Oliveira free-kick found Aryan Poll, whose diving header was once again kept out by the agile Rymmei.

Both coaches made two changes each at the start of the second half in a bid to break the deadlock.

FC Goa came agonisingly close to taking the lead, but Dempo's goalkeeper produced two outstanding saves—first, stopping a strike from substitute Lemmet Tangvah, and

then denying a close-range header from Konsam Singh.

Dempo's defender Stenis Touthang also pulled off a world-class goal-line clearance in the 88th minute, blocking a powerful strike from Konsam Singh just outside the six-yard box.

Just as it seemed the match was heading for a draw, Dempo found the decisive breakthrough in the 94th minute. Substitute U-21 player Salgeo Dias delivered a dangerous cross to the far post, where fellow substitute Shreyash Naik was perfectly placed to tap the ball into the net, sealing a dramatic 1-0 victory for Dempo.

Livval SC outclass Maina to enter final

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RAIA: Livval Sports Club secured a commanding 3-0 victory over Maina SC to advance to the final of the Batora United Curtorim Women's Festival Soccer Tournament, held at the DSYA ground, in Curtorim on Wednesday.

Livval SC took an early lead when Anila Barretto opened the scoring in the 6th minute. She doubled her tally in the 15th minute, strengthening her team's grip on the match.

Maina SC's Swellen Fernandes had an opportunity to pull one back in the 20th minute but was unable to convert.

Anila Barretto completed her hat-trick in the 25th minute, sealing a dominant win for Livval SC.



Anila Barretto receives woman of the match award from Oswald Souza

Anila Barretto was presented woman of the match award by chief guest Oswald Souza, physical education teacher at St Xavier's Institute, Curtorim and deputy sarpanch of the Raia Village Panchayat, in the presence of James D'Costa, panch of Curtorim Village Panchayat.

Maina SC move ahead

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RAIA: Maina SC defeated Ambelim SC by solitary goal to move ahead in the Lourdes soccer tournament, organised by United Sports Club of Seraulim and played at the Seraulim panchayat ground. Guardian Angel dominated proceedings right from the

Guardian Angel storm into semi-finals

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RAIA: Guardian Angel SC secured a convincing 3-0 victory over Carmona SC to advance to the semi-finals of the 17th all-Goa inter-village Seraulim Panchayat Cup football tournament, organised by United Sports Club of Seraulim and played at the Seraulim panchayat ground.

Guardian Angel dominated proceedings right from the

start, but it took them 28 minutes to break the deadlock, with Regan Costa finding the net to put his side ahead.

At the half-time whistle, Guardian Angel SC led 1-0.

The second half continued in the same vein, with Guardian Angel in control. Regan Costa doubled his tally in the 38th minute, completing his brace.

The victory was sealed in the 46th minute when Cyril Dias added a third goal, securing a 3-0 win.

Real stun Man City

AFP, PARIS: Jude Bellingham snatched a stoppage-time winner as Real Madrid twice came from behind to beat Manchester City 3-2 in the first leg of their blockbuster Champions League play-off tie Tuesday, while Paris Saint-Germain took command of an all-French clash with Brest.

Erling Haaland's double -- his first goals in five appearances against Madrid -- looked to have secured Pep Guardiola's side a slender advantage, but instead the reigning European champions now go into next week's return leg in Spain as strong favourites to reach the last 16.

It is the fourth consecutive season City and Madrid have met in the knockout phase of the competition, with the winner in each of the past three encounters going on to lift the Champions League trophy.

City overcame a slow start at the Etihad and took the lead in the 19th minute as Haaland steered past Thibaut Courtois after Josko Gvardiol chested down a pass from Jack Grealish.

Madrid equalised on the hour after the City wall blocked a free-kick, with Dani Ceballos clipping the ball back into the area where Mbappe's mishit volley looped into the net after coming off his shin and leaving Ederson stranded.

City regained the lead 10 minutes from time as Haaland stuck away a penalty after Phil Foden was clattered by Ceballos.

But former City player Brahim Diaz levelled for Madrid in the 86th minute after a dreadful kick by Ederson, and Bellingham punished the hosts for more suspect defending as the England midfielder struck the winning goal at the death.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE RESULTS

Knockout phase play-offs, first leg
Brest 0 Paris Saint-Germain 3 (Vitinha 21-pen, Dembele 45, 66); **Juventus 2** (McKennie 34, Mbanguela 82) **PSV Eindhoven 1** (Perisic 56); **Manchester City 2** (Haaland 19, 80-pen) **Real Madrid 3** (Mbappe 60, Diaz 86, Bellingham 90+2); **Sporting 0 Borussia Dortmund 3** (Girassy 60, Gross 68, Adeyemi 82)

FA Cup Fourth round

Exeter 2 (Magennis 5, 50) **Nottingham Forest 2** (Sosa 15, Awoniyi 37), **Forest win 4-2 on penalties**

Dempo SC to clash with Sesa Academy in Goa regional final

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GUIRIM: Dempo SC and Sesa Football Academy will face off in the Goa regional final of the Dream Sports Championship after securing crucial wins on the final day on Wednesday.

While Dempo beat Belgaum United Football Academy, 1-0, Sesa Football Academy secured a similar, 1-0 win over FC Goa in the U-17 Football competition.

In the first game of the

DREAM SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP

day, Dempo's Jonathan Silva scored the winning goal in the 76th minute, ensuring that his team secured the three points. The second match was equally tense, but Chris Vedo broke the deadlock in the 48th minute to take Sesa Football Academy to the final, to be played on February 14, at the Fields of Dream, Guirim at 9 am.

PHC Aldona lift tennikoit title

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PANJIM: The PHC Aldona women's team clinched the tennikoit trophy defeating UHC Panjim in the final, at the DHS Sports Tournament, organised by the Recreation Club of the Directorate of Health Services (DHS), Campal-Panjim, held at the Navelim ground, Vividha Higher Secondary School, Sankhlim.

The tournament featured a series of competitions exclusively for DHS staff, including the men's cricket tournament, women's tennikoit tournament and women's tug of war.

The PHC Aldona women's



PHC Aldona women's team celebrating their tennikoit title

tennikoit team includes, captain Mrunali Gaonkar, Shruti Rane, Geeta Salgaonkar, Eugenia Vaz, Kavita Narvekar, Tejasvi Gaonkar,

Reena Chodankar, Ankita Gaonkar and Rohini Phadte. Shruti Rane was awarded the best player of the tournament.

TODAY'S SPORTS

Goa Professional League: Churchill Brothers SC vs Calangute Association, at Benaulim, at 3.45 pm; Sesa FA vs Pax of Nagoa, at Duler stadium, Mapusa, at 3.45 pm

GFA U-13 Division 1 League: South Goa United SC vs Goa Police GFDC, at DBO Fatorda ground, at 4.15 pm; Sporting Clube de Goa vs Sesa FA, at DBO Panjim ground, at 4.15 pm

GFA U-15 Division 1 League: Geno FC vs Cortalim Villagers SWSC, at Parra ground, at 3.45 pm

GFA Second Division League (North) play offs: Vagator Parish Youth SC vs PVC Association, Parra, at Vagator ground, at 4 pm; Agasaim YC vs Portais SC, at Santa Cruz ground, at 4 pm

17th all-Goa inter-village Seraulim Panchayat Cup football: Don Bosco Oratory, Fatorda vs United Sports Club of Seraulim, Seraulim panchayat ground, at 4.30 pm

