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**Women's Premier League: Lanning, Sutherland hand Delhi Capitals 7-wkt win**  
**VADDARA:** Skipper Meg Lanning struck 69 off 49 balls as Delhi Capitals produced a solid batting effort to beat UP Warriorz by seven wickets and register their second win in the Women's Premier League, here, on Wednesday. Sent into bat, UP Warriorz rode on opener Kiran Navgire's quick-fire half-century to post 166 for seven. But the total was not enough as besides Lanning, Annabel Sutherland played a crucial 35-ball 41-run knock and was ably supported by Marizanne Kapp (19 not out 17) and opener Shafali Verma (16 off 16). Delhi completed the chase with a ball to spare. DC were off to a brisk start with Shafali and Lanning sharing 65 runs in just 41 balls for the opening stand. Shafali was going great guns before she was caught by Chinelle Henry off Deepti Sharma in the seventh over. Earlier, sent into bat, Navgire (51 off 27 balls) and Dinesh Vridha (16 off 15) shared 66 runs in 5.5 overs to give a great start to UP Warriorz innings. Thereafter, UP Warriorz lost five wickets for 52 runs. Sheweta Sehrawat (37 off 33) and Grace Harris (12) added 36 runs for the fifth wicket before the latter spooned a straight-forward catch to Shafali Verma at mid-off off the bowling of pacer Arundhati Reddy. Towards the end, Chinelle Henry (33 not out off 15) played a brief little cameo to take UP Warriorz past 160. For DC, Annabel Sutherland was the pick of the bowlers with figures of 2/26 from her four overs.

**Gill dethrones Azam to become No. 1 batter in ICC ODI rankings**

**DUBAI:** India Vice-Captain Shubman Gill on Wednesday dethroned Babar Azam of Pakistan from the No. 1 spot in the ICC ODI Rankings for batters on the back of his strong show against England in the recent home series. The ICC issued the latest rankings just ahead of the start of the eight-team Champions Trophy in Karachi with the match between Pakistan and New Zealand. "India right-hander Shubman Gill overtakes former Pakistan captain Babar Azam to become the top ranked ODI batter in the world," the ICC said. He now has 796 rating points compared to Babar's 773. India skipper Rohit Sharma is placed at the third spot with 761 points followed by South Africa's Henrich Klaasen and New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell at fourth and fifth respectively. Sri Lanka's Maheesh Theekshana, meanwhile, has taken the first position in the ODI rankings for bowlers as he replaced Afghanistan captain Rashid Khan. The Sri Lankan spinner has 680 rating points, followed by Rashid at second, Namibia's Bernard Scholtz at third, India's Kuldeep Yadav at fourth and Pakistan's Shaheen Shah Afridi at fifth. Afghanistan veteran Mohammad Nabi remains the top ranked all-rounder in ODIs, followed by Sikandar Raza, Azmatullah Omarzai, Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Rashid.

**India men beat Germany 1-0 in FIH Pro League return match**

**BHUBANESWAR:** India rode on Gurjant Singh's fine field goal to beat world champions Germany 1-0 in their return-leg FIH Pro League match at the Kalinga Stadium here on Wednesday. This was after Germany defeated India 4-1 in the first leg match on Tuesday. Gurjant scored in the fourth minute of the match from a field effort. This was a marked improvement for India in every aspect of the game, especially after their thrashing on Tuesday.

**FIH Pro League: India women's team goes down 0-1 to Spain in return leg**

**BHUBANESWAR:** The Indian women's hockey team conceded a goal in the final quarter to go down 0-1 to Spain in the return leg match of the FIH Pro League here on Wednesday. Segu Marta scored the lone goal, a field effort, in the 49th minute to break Indian hearts at the Kalinga Stadium here. Spain earned as many as nine penalty corners in the match while India got just two. This was India's second consecutive loss to Spain as the hosts had lost 3-4 in the first leg here on Tuesday.

**Djokovic loses to Berrettini in Doha, says no pain in hamstring**

**DOHA:** Novak Djokovic was upset by Matteo Berrettini 7-6 (4), 6-2 on Tuesday at the Qatar Open in the Serb's first match since exiting the Australian Open with a hamstring injury. The 37-year-old Djokovic, ranked No. 7, lost to the Italian for the first time in five career matches and will have to wait to join Jimmy Connors (109) and Roger Federer (103) as the only players in the ATP Tour's 100-win club. The 24-time Grand Slam champion reached the Australian Open semi-finals but retired from the last-four match against Alexander Zverev because of a hamstring injury. Djokovic said he didn't have "any pain or discomfort." "I was outplayed by just a better player today," he said. Also on Tuesday, No. 2 seed Alex de Minaur defeated Roman Safiullin 6-1, 7-5. Meanwhile, Andy Murray looks set to remain as Novak Djokovic's coach likely through the French Open. The 24-time Grand Slam champion told the media channel that Murray has agreed to stay on as coach.

**Raducanu loses to Muchova after a spectator is ejected in Dubai**

**DUBAI:** Emma Raducanu lost to Karolina Muchova after an emotional first set in which a spectator was ejected at the Dubai Championships. The 2021 U.S. Open champion appeared to be in tears as she went to the umpire's chair after the second game on Tuesday and her second-round match was briefly paused on Court 2. The British player rallied from 4-0 down to force a tiebreaker but eventually lost 7-6 (6), 6-4 to Muchova. The 14th-seeded Muchova advanced to a meeting against No. 53-ranked McCartney Kessler, who upset 2023 U.S. Open champion Coco Gauff 6-4, 7-5. Third-ranked Gauff hadn't fallen to an opponent ranked outside the top 50 since a loss to Sofia Kenin (128th) at Wimbledon in 2023. Earlier, second-seeded Iga Swiatek beat Victoria Azarenka 6-0, 6-2 and will next face Dayana Yastremska for a spot into the quarter-finals. Top-seeded Aryna Sabalenka eliminated Veronika Kudermetova 6-3, 6-4, and defending champion Jasmine Paolini defeated Eva Lys 6-2, 7-5. Elena Rybakina, Jessica Pegula and Paula Badosa also advanced.

**Neymar is among the players protesting the use of artificial turf pitches in Brazil**

**SAO PAULO:** Neymar, Memphis Depay and Thiago Silva are among the leading Brazilian footballers protesting against using artificial turf for league matches instead of natural grass. They all campaigned online with the same message Tuesday highlighting their fear of increased injury risk for players on the artificial surfaces. Some clubs in Brazil's top divisions are using artificial turf to allow for multiple uses for stadiums while minimizing damage to the playing surfaces. "It is worrying to see the direction Brazilian football is taking. With the size and representation of our sport, this debate shouldn't even exist. In the most respected leagues in the world, players are heard and investments are made to ensure the quality of the pitch in the stadiums," the footballers said in a statement. "The solution to a bad pitch is to make a good pitch, it is as simple as that. Soccer is natural, not artificial."

**Shillong Lajong deny Dempo SC full points**

**Hosts were left heartbroken as forward Goncalves struck deep into stoppage time to salvage a 2-2 draw**

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**FATORDA:** Dempo Sports Club were left heartbroken as Brazilian forward Daniel Goncalves struck deep into stoppage time to salvage a 2-2 draw for Shillong Lajong FC in their I-League 2024-25 clash at the Nehru Stadium, Fatorda, on Wednesday.



The Golden Eagles, who led 1-0 at halftime, were moments away from sealing three crucial points before Goncalves' dramatic late intervention. Marcus Leric Jr Joseph put Dempo SC ahead in the 39th minute, but Shillong Lajong responded swiftly after the break through Goncalves. Captain Mohamed Ali restored the advantage for Dempo SC in the 52nd minute, but their defensive resilience cracked in the dying seconds as Goncalves completed his brace in the 97th minute. The result saw Dempo SC slip to

ninth place with 19 points from 15 matches, while Shillong Lajong climbed to fifth with 23 points. Dempo SC started brightly and nearly took an early lead in the sixth minute when Marcus Joseph found himself through on goal after a lofted pass. The Trinidadian striker fired a powerful left-footed effort, but Shillong Lajong's goalkeeper Ranit Sarkar produced a sharp save to deny him. However, Joseph wasn't to be denied for long. In the 39th minute, Knerkitalang Buam raced down the right flank and delivered a low cross into the box. Seigoumang Doungle met it with a first-time effort that forced another fine save from Sarkar, but the rebound fell perfectly for Joseph, who made no mistake in slotting home to hand Dempo a deserved lead. Shillong Lajong responded within two minutes of

the second half, with Goncalves rising highest inside the box to power a header past the Dempo SC custodian. The Golden Eagles, determined to reclaim their advantage, struck back five minutes later. A free-kick situation saw Joseph's deft touch deceive Sarkar, who managed to push the ball onto the post, but the lurking Mohamed Ali reacted quickest to tap in the rebound and put Dempo SC back in front. Joseph continued to trouble the Shillong Lajong defence and almost secured the win in the 84th minute with a moment of brilliance, only for Sarkar to once again come to his team's rescue. Just when Dempo SC seemed to have done enough, a lapse in concentration in stoppage time proved costly. Kenstar Kharshong's delivery into the box was expertly chested down by Hardy Cliff Nongbri into the path of Goncalves, who coolly slotted past the keeper to deny Dempo SC victory.

**Kuldeep stars for Cortalim Villagers**

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**RAIA:** Cortalim Villagers defeated Pax of Nagoa SC 4-1 in the GFA U-15 Division

I League match played at Cansaulim sports complex, on Wednesday. Kuldeep Kullu scored a brilliant hat-trick, while Macvyb Joshua

Silva scored the other goal for Cortalim Villagers. The only goal for Pax of Nagoa SC was scored by Joseph Kerketta.

**PY Nuvem move into quarters**

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**RAIA:** Parish Youth Nuvem moved past SWC Zaino Velim 5-4 via tie-breaker to move into the quarter-finals of Vaidya Family Memorial Cup organised by Cuncolim Union at the government primary school ground, Cuncolim, on Wednesday.

Both teams played an attacking soccer and got equal chances to remain goalless draw at the end of regulation time.

In the resultant tie-breaker, PY Nuvem netted through Niclau Colaco, Shenoy Colaco, Drawin Colaco, Meckvino Colaco and Frazier Miranda, while for Velim Blasco Fernandes, Desmond Fernandes, Ronit Correia and Nosh Pinto were on target.



Abhijit Sawant presents the man-of-the-match award to Blasco Fernandes

**India Khelo to revolutionise grassroots football in State**

**Launches TYGER-IKF Season 5 trials with Sinquerim SC**



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**PANJIM:** India Khelo Football, a pioneering non-profit initiative, inaugurated its TYGER-IKF Season 5 trials in collaboration with Sinquerim Sports Club, at the Sesa Academy ground, recently.

The trials kicked off with an impressive turnout, as over 200 young footballers eagerly showcased their skills. The trials featured structured match play and individual assessments, ensuring every participant

had a fair chance to impress the scouts and secure a spot in the next phase.

The event not only provided a platform for aspiring footballers but also reinforced Goa's rich footballing heritage. The positive response from the community underscores IKF's significant impact on grassroots football and sets the stage for further expansion and success in the seasons to come.

"At India Khelo Football, our mission has always been to provide a structured and transparent

pathway for grassroots footballers to reach professional opportunities. The launch of TYGER-IKF Season 5 in Goa marks a significant milestone in our journey, expanding our reach to over 125 cities in India and five neighbouring countries. We are deeply encouraged by the overwhelming participation and enthusiasm witnessed at the inaugural trials, reinforcing the region's deep-rooted passion for the sport," said Phani Bhushan, founder, India Khelo Football.

**Bayern, Benfica reach last 16; Milan out**

**AFP, PARIS:** Bayern Munich needed a stoppage-time goal to see off Celtic and secure a place in the last 16 of the Champions League on Tuesday, while AC Milan were dumped out by Feyenoord and both Club Brugge and Benfica also advanced.

In Germany, Bayern were defending a 2-1 lead over Celtic in their play-off tie from last week's first leg but the Bundesliga leaders were unable to put the tie to bed, with Harry Kane hitting the bar before half-time.

Instead it was Celtic who went ahead on the night on 63 minutes thanks to Nicolas Kuehn, the former

Bayern player, who slotted low into the net after a failed attempt to win the ball by Kim Min-jae.

That meant the tie was heading for extra time, but Bayern ultimately would not need to go that far as they scored in the fourth

minute of injury time.

Alphonso Davies bundled the ball in from close range to make the score 1-1 on the night and clinch the tie for six-time European champions Bayern 3-2 on aggregate. Vincent Kompany's team will find out their last-16

**India eves beat Jordan 2-1 in Pink Ladies Youth Cup**

**PTI, MANAVGAT (Turbkiye):** The Indian U-20 women's football team made a rousing start to its Pink Ladies Youth Cup campaign as it beat Jordan 2-1 here on Wednesday.

The Young Tigresses found themselves trailing via a 35th minute penalty con-

verted by Jinan Said but they fought back to win the match with Lhingdeikim and Pooja scoring in the 63rd and 77th minutes respectively.

**PINK LADIES CUP**

India will play two more friendly matches against

Hong Kong (February 22) and Russia (February 25) at the same venue.

This was coach Joakim Alexandersson's third win in a row with the Indian national team after leading the senior side to two friendly victories over Maldives earlier this year.

**Mumbai City rue missed chances in goalless draw**

**AGENCIES, HYDERABAD:** Hyderabad FC held Mumbai City FC to a goalless draw in the Indian Super League match played at the GMC Balayogi Athletic Stadium, on Friday.

The result extended the Islanders' unbeaten away streak to eight games, but they would have hoped to find the back of the net after holding 64.6% possession of the ball and hitting eight shots on target. Mumbai City FC have made a progression to the fifth spot as they now have 32 points from 21 games.

**ISL FIXTURE**  
**Jamshedpur FC vs Mohammedan SC at the Kishore Bharati Krirangan, Kolkata, at 7.30 pm**



Shenora Rawat, Class VII student of Our Lady of the Rosary High School, Dona Paula, who won two gold and one Silver at the 3rd Open National Taekwondo Championship (U-14 category) held at Pune, recently, along with Headmistress Sr Antonieta Colaco



Regina Mundi School, Chicalim, emerged champions in the South Goa District U-15 Girls Inter-School Football Tournament organised by the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs, at the Cuncolim ground, recently. In the final, all the goals were scored in the first half by Regina Mundi School with a brilliant hat-trick from Goa State player Siya Naik against strong contenders and defending champions The King's School, Sao Jose de Areal

**Caetano in Masters singles final**

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**MARGAO:** On a winning streak, Caetano Fernandes trumped Manoj Pandey 6-3, 6-3 to reach the final of the Masters 55+ men's singles category, while also defeating opponents in the quarter-finals of the Masters 45+ men's singles and Masters 55+ men's doubles categories at the ongoing Baale BPS Open 2025 at the BPS Sports

Club, here, on Wednesday. The men's categories witnessed an abundance of on-court action, with Rishabh Beria defeating Jai Gill 6-2 in the men's singles quarter-finals.

In the Men's Doubles category, Nishad Shevde/Anurag Agrawal overpowered Pushpak/Parth Kadam 6-0, Wes Ryan Cardoso/Sanket Nayak breezed through their match against

also had several talented young tennis players showcase their mettle in exciting matches. In the girls U-14 category, Urvi Panandiker breezed past against Renee De Menezes 6-0, Neeraja Damle and Kimberly D'Sa prevailed over their respective opponents Anindita and Ira Borker 6-1, and Danielle Eva Fernandes trounced Ammiel Fernandes 6-2. The girls U-18 category saw Avni

**BAALE BPS OPEN**

Jai Gill/Joshua Cardozo 6-1, Dunstan Dias/Deepak Nahak vanquished Saurabh Trivedi/Sujit Kumar Sahoo 6-2 and Prince Agnelo Joven de Silva/Akhil Shirwaikar overwhelmed Pankaj Nanoskar/Lyndon JP 6-3.

In the men's doubles quarter-finals, Prince Agnelo Joven de Silva/Akhil Shirwaikar overcame Rahul Pinto/Ehrlick de Ataide 6-1, Nishad Shevde/Anurag Agrawal beat Allan Fernandes/Ojasvi Singh Mann 6-2 and Wes Ryan Cardoso/Sanket Nayak bested Dunstan Dias/Deepak Nahak 6-3.

The junior categories

Lotlikar subduing Kimberly D'Sa's challenge 6-2 and Renee De Menezes and Tvisha Sardesai overpowering their respective opponents Ammiel Fernandes and Neeraja Damle 6-3.

Over two rounds in the boys U-14 category, Devaansh Naik got the better of Aragya Goyal 6-0, but lost to Kyan Mavany 6-1. In the same category, Ethan Luis De Ataide beat Vidal De Menezes 6-0 and Alec Cris Barreto and Vedant Naik defeated their opponents Arsh Sardesai and Aarin Ballani, respectively, with a score of 6-1.

**TODAY'S SPORTS**

**Goa Professional League:** Calangute Association vs Sesa FA, at Duler Stadium, at Mapusa, 4 pm  
**GFA U-13 Girls League (North):** Laxmi Prasad SC vs Quitula S& SC, at Sinquerim ground, 4.30 pm  
**GFA U-15 Division I League:** Salgaocar FC vs South Goa United SC, at Sinquetim ground, 4 pm  
**GFA U-13 Division I League:** Guardian Angel SC vs FC Goa, At Betalbatim ground, 4.15 pm  
**Vaidya Family Memorial Cup:** Dramapur Sports Club vs Fr Agnelo YSC, Paroda, at the government school playground, Cuncolim, 4.45 pm  
**U-15 Women's inter-school football:** Fatima Convent High School, Margao, vs Saviour of The World High School, Loutulim, 3.30 pm; St Anne's Institute, Agonda, vs St Joseph High School, Aquem, at Rosary Church ground, Navelim, 4.30 pm

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