

Arsenal stun Real Madrid as Rice delivers free-kick masterclass

Inter Milan stun Bayern Munich with late winner

AFP, LONDON/MUNICH: Arsenal delivered a sensational 3-0 victory over Champions League holders Real Madrid, with Declan Rice scoring two sublime free-kicks in a quarter-final first leg that left the Gunners on the brink of a historic semi-final berth.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Rice, who had never scored a free-kick in his career, struck twice from set-pieces in the second half at the Emirates Stadium. Mikel Merino added a third before Real's Eduardo Camavinga was sent off late for kicking the ball away, capping a humiliating night for the 15-time European champions.

Rice's first goal curled around the wall into the far corner in the 58th minute, before he rifled another into the top corner from 20 yards out in the 70th. Even Real keeper Thibaut Courtois had no answers for the England star's thun-

RESULTS	
Quarter-finals, first leg	
Arsenal 3 (Rice 58, 70, Merino 75)	Real Madrid 0 ;
Bayern Munich 1 (Mueller 85)	Inter Milan 2 (Martinez 38, Frattesi 88)

derbolts. Merino's goal five minutes later sealed a dream result, sending the Emirates into wild celebration. Arsenal, who haven't reached a Champions League semi-final since 2009, are firm favourites for the second leg in Madrid on April 16, with a potential tie against PSG or Aston Villa looming.

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta had dubbed it the "biggest night" of his career, and his players rose to the challenge. Despite trailing Premier League leaders Liverpool by 11 points, the Gunners now have a clear shot at European glory.

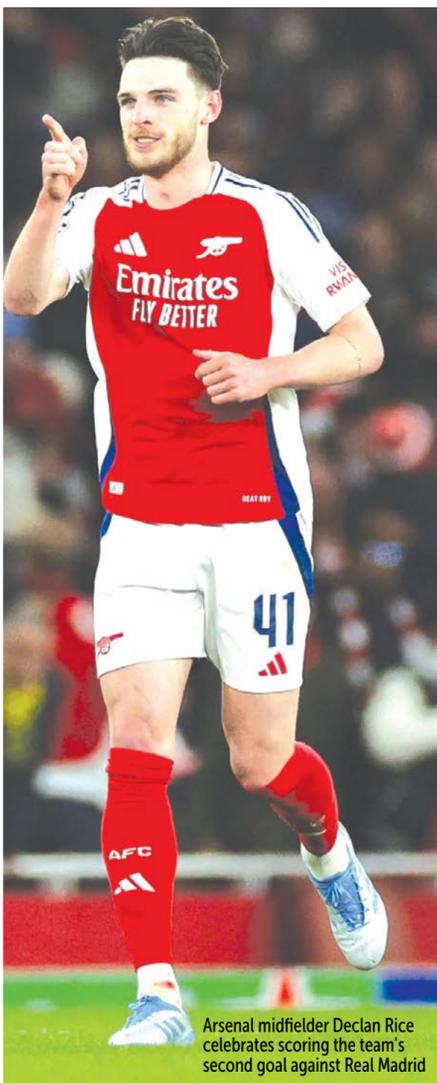
Meanwhile in Munich, Inter Milan secured a thrilling 2-1 win over Bayern thanks to an 88th-minute strike from Davide Frattesi. Marcus Thuram's clever back-heel set up Lautaro

Martinez to open the scoring in the 38th minute, before Bayern's Thomas Muller equalised five minutes from time.

But Inter responded quickly, breaking on the counter with Carlos Augusto feeding Frattesi for the winner. It was Bayern's first home loss in the Champions League since 2021, ending a 22-match unbeaten run.

Inter, last season's finalists, showed resilience and composure. "We showed character, personality," said Martinez. Injury-hit Bayern, missing key defenders, were unable to capitalise on early dominance, with Harry Kane hitting the post and Michael Olise testing the Inter defence.

Despite Mueller's late goal, Bayern coach Vincent Kompany faces a tough task in the return leg in Milan.



Arsenal midfielder Declan Rice celebrates scoring the team's second goal against Real Madrid



Arsenal midfielder Mikel Merino (centre right) celebrates scoring the team's third goal against Real Madrid, at the Emirates Stadium, in London

Leonard Rebello nets hat trick as FC Goa held in six-goal thriller

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MAPUSA: FC Goa's rising star Leonard Rebello scored a superb hat trick, but his side were held to a thrilling 3-3 draw by a resurgent Penha de France SC in a GFA U-19 League match played at the Duler stadium, on Wednesday.

Penha de France came out with renewed purpose after a humiliating 10-1 loss to Dempo Juniors in their previous outing and shocked their opponents early on. Their captain, Soham Sheticar, put them ahead in the opening stages with a powerful left-footer from outside the penalty area, giving his side a 1-0 lead.

Just a minute before half-time, FC Goa levelled the score when Leonard Rebello played a smart one-two with Mehboob Khan before finishing clinically to make it 1-1.

After the break, FC Goa began strongly and took the lead in the 49th minute as Leonard struck again, this time sending a

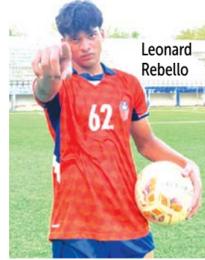
direct free-kick into the far corner of the net, 2-1.

In the 61st minute, Leonard completed his hatrick, collecting a cut-back from Ashlam Simoes and slotting home, extending the lead to 3-1.

However, Penha de France refused to surrender. Their fighting spirit paid off in the 70th minute when Shavir Ahmed beat his marker Balkaran Singh and set up Sahil Gadekar, who guided the ball into the net, reducing the deficit to 3-2.

Then came the moment of the match - Shavir Ahmed, already instrumental in the second goal, dazzled once again. He dribbled past a number of FC Goa defenders and calmly placed the ball past the goalkeeper, leveling the match at 3-3.

At Ella ground: Dempo SC demolished Sporting Clube de Goa with a resounding 6-0 victory. Shailesh Shirvoikar netted a brace, while Ashon Vaz, Kayden Faleiro, Topon Moniz, and Murphy Fernandes all added their names to the scoresheet.



GFA U-19 LEAGUE

Cricket tourney at Mapusa

MAPUSA: SK Jogging Cricketers, Canca-Bandh, Mapusa, are set to host the 7th All-Goa and Sindhudurg Day & Night Taluka-Level Cricket Tournament - the Shivani Developers Premier Trophy - from April 10 onwards. The tournament will take place under floodlights at the Shree Bodeshwarground, Mapusa, from 6:30 pm. A total of 24 teams will participate in the tournament, 5 from Sindhudurg. The tournament will be inaugurated by Shripad Naik, Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy & Power in the presence of Shivshankar Anant Mayekar.

CC Nuvem edge past Chandrawaddo Boys

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RAIA: In an exhilarating encounter at the 18th Rebello Pandal Football Tournament, CC Nuvem overcame Chandrawaddo Boys Fatorda 4-3 to book their place in the quarter-finals.

The match was held on Wednesday at the St Rita Church ground, Maina-Curtorim, and was organised by the Rebello Pandal Maina. CC Nuvem dominated the first half, racing to a 4-0 lead with Akil and Larson both netting a brace to put their side in a commanding position.

However, the second half saw a spirited fight-back from Chandrawaddo

Boys. Striker Francisco Andrade struck twice to reduce the deficit, followed by a goal from Charles Miranda to make it 4-3. Despite sustained



Francisco Andrade receives man-of-the-match award from Carlos Paes

pressure in the dying moments, the Fatorda side fell just short of pulling off a remarkable comeback.

Francisco Andrade was received man-of-the-match award from Carlos Paes.

Ilhas Veterans book semis spot

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SANTA CRUZ: Ilhas Veterans cruised into the semi-finals of the Santa Cruz Village Panchayat Veterans Cup football tournament with a convincing 3-0 victory over Ashvem Veterans, in a match played at the Santa Cruz ground, on Wednesday.

What was billed as a potentially tight contest soon turned one-sided after Nevil Araujo opened the scoring early on. Ilhas doubled their advantage inside the opening 20 minutes, courtesy of a fine strike from Govind.

Ashvem, despite some intent, failed to make any real impact in the final third, managing only a few half-chances that posed no real threat. Ilhas remained in firm control and Pratap all but sealed the win in the second half with the team's third goal.

Ilhas will now face the winners of the upcoming tie between Bardez Veterans and Calangute Veterans in the semi-finals.

Punit in men's singles and boys' U-18 semis

PANJIM: Punit Fadte extended his fine form in the Bandodkar Panjim Gymkhana Open 2025, powering past top seed Siddharth Nunes with a dominant 6-1 victory in the men's singles quarter-finals. He also sealed a spot in the boys' U-18 semi-finals, blanking Devaansh Naik 6-0.

Joining him in the men's singles semi-finals is Santosh Gorawar, who fended off a strong challenge from Tanay Amonkar to win 6-3. Earlier, in the pre-quarters, Nagesh Naik beat Pankaj Nanoskar 6-4, while Prince D'Silva and Raju Kundaikar advanced with wins over Lyndon Pinto (6-3) and Kedar Tari (6-2), respectively.

BANDODKAR PANJIM GYMKHANA OPEN

In mixed doubles, Tithee Bhoonkar and Raju Kundaikar stormed past Junette Rodrigues and Kane Pereira 6-0. Asuntha Fleming and Nagesh Naik replicated the scoreline against Anindita Sarwate and Gary Steele, while Tomoyo Fujita and Prajat Halankar swept aside Lianne Ribeiro and Eugene D'Souza.

The girls' U-14 semi-finals saw Bhaavya Bhoonkar dominate Ahana 4-1, 4-0 to book a final clash with Tvisha Sardesai, who edged past Urvi Panandikar 4-1, 4-3(4). In the boys' U-14, Kyan Mavany reached the final

with a 4-3(2), 4-0 victory over Ethan Ataide. In the younger age categories, girls' U-10 players Samaira Patil, Aaliya Metry, and Subaghya Manda registered convincing wins. In the boys' U-10, Jai Mehta pulled off a thrilling 7-6(4) win over Kabir Thapar.

In men's doubles, Rajaram Paiginkar and Kyan Mavany thrashed Arhan Gaunkar and Krishna Volvoikar 6-0, while Prajat Halankar and Avadhut Palekar overcame Cherian Joseph and Sarvesh Bhoobe 6-3.

In the 45+ singles, Caetano Fernandes edged out Navin Cardoz in a tense encounter, winning 6-4, 0-6, 10-6 to reach the final.



Champions in Celebration: FC Goa U-15 with club officials after clinching the GFA U-15 Division 1 League 2024-25 title at the Guirim ground. Present at the occasion were Dr Fenton D'Souza, Chairman of the GFA Sports Medical Committee, along with GFA Executive Committee members Laximan and Uday Lingudkar, who congratulated the team on their stellar performance and tournament triumph

Fractures Verem Veterans down Calangute to enter semi-finals

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TALEIGAO: Fractures Verem Veterans caused a major upset by defeating Calangute Veterans, 1-0, in a thrilling quarter-final clash at the Panjim Veterans Football tournament, held at the Taleigao ground.

PANJIM VETERANS FOOTBALL

The decisive moment came in the first half when Steven Fernandes netted the only goal of the match, finishing off a sublime cross from Remus Gomes, former Dempo SC player. Verem went into half-time with a 1-0 lead.

The second half saw former international Robert Fernandes push hard for an equaliser with a series of long-range efforts, but Verem's goalkeeper Camilo Bar-



Prasant Matkar of Calangute Veterans receives man-of-the-match award from Morgan Gomes

reto produced a stunning save to deny him and preserve the lead.

Prasant Matkar of Calangute Veterans received the man-of-the-match award from Morgan Gomes.

Scorpions off to winning start in VMCL Season 3

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MARGAO: VMCL Scorpions began their campaign in style with a five-wicket victory over VMCL Hustlers in the opening match of Season 3 of the Margao Cricket Club Ferdinand Coelho Memorial Veteran Members Cricket League (VMCL), played under floodlights at the MCC ground.

Batting first, Hustlers were bowled out for 106 runs in 18.3 overs, with Venkatesh Nevagi top-scoring with 33 and a 46-run opening partnership with Shailu (15). Middle-order contributions came from Mahendra Pai Kuchelkar (14) and Anoop Borkar (13).

Scorpions' bowler Satyesh Kamat turned the tide with a match-winning spell of 4 for 17, ably supported by Sameer Desai (3/11).

In reply, Scorpions reached the target with 107/5 in 19 overs, led by Jude Cardozo (23), Itfikhkar Agha (19), and Sandeep Dalal with an unbeaten 19. Nilesh Prabhusdesai chipped in with 15.

Satyesh Kamat was named player of the match for his outstanding bowling performance.

Jharkhand thrash hosts Goa 6-2

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MARGAO: Jharkhand recorded a dominant 6-2 victory over hosts Goa on the second day of the Dream Sports Championship Football 2025 - Girls' National Finals, held at the SAG Utorda ground in South Goa.

GIRLS' FOOTBALL NATIONALS

Jharkhand surged to a 4-2 lead by half-time, showcasing their attacking strength. Rashmi Minz opened the scoring for Jharkhand in the 14th minute, but Goa's Neha Verlekar levelled proceedings in the 19th minute.

The momentum swung back in Jharkhand's favour,

as captain Alka Indwar netted in the 33rd minute, followed by Sanjna Oraon just six minutes later. Anamika Sanga then added a fourth in first-half stoppage time, putting Jharkhand firmly in control.

Jharkhand continued to dominate in the second half. Shaulina Dang extended the lead with a goal in the 48th minute, and Sanga struck again in the 67th minute to complete a resounding win.

In the day's earlier fixture at SAG Benaulum, Assam defeated Karnataka 2-0. Assam scored both their goals in the first half, with Karina Narah opening the tally in the 8th minute, followed by a strike from Serbirika Terangpi in the 35th minute.

TODAY'S SPORTS

GFA First Division League (Group A): Youth Club of Manora vs Nuvem SC, at DBO ground, Fatorda, at 4 pm

GFA First Division League (Group B): Dempo SC (JRS) vs Pilerne SC, at Poriat ground; Goa Velha SC vs Young Boys of Tonca, at Duler stadium, Mapusa. Both matches at 4 pm

33rd Arlem Rolling Trophy football tournament 2025: United Club Verna vs Mandopa Sporting Club, at Raia panchayat ground, at 4:30 pm

18th Rebello Pandal football tournament 2025: Rebello Pandal Maina vs Shiroda Boys, Shiroda, at St Rita Church ground, Maina-Curtorim, at 4:30 pm

Santa Cruz Village Panchayat Veterans Cup: Bardez Veterans and Calangute Veterans, Santa Cruz ground, 4:30 pm

Dream Sports Championship football 2025 girls' national finals: Dempo vs Reliance Foundation, at 8:30 am; Football 4 Change vs Punjab, at 5:30 pm. Both matches at SAG Benaulum. Mohun Bagan SG vs Chennaiyin FC, at 8:30 am; Sesa vs Norwich City FC, at 5:30 pm. Both matches at SAG Utorda.

AFTER A SUCCESSFUL UK TOUR
LENOY GOMENDES LENTEN DRAMATIC TEAM BACK TO GOA
LENTEN DRAMA
14TH APRIL 7.45 PM
MARGAO
AT PAI TIATRIST HALL RAVINDRA BHAVAN

LENOY GOMENDES
Presents
DHORMIK TIATR
BASED ON SIN OF OMISSION
LENTEN MISSION
BATTLE BETWEEN GOOD & EVIL
VAITT ADARUN BOREM SODDUN
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY: LENOY GOMENDES
SOUND & LIGHTS: JERSON FERNANDES STAGE MANAGEMENT: AGNELO & FLORIANO 0822171748 / 982422984