shorttakes

French Open: Sabalenka downs Swiatek, Gauff ends Boisson's run

PARIS: Aryna Sabalenka ended Iga Swiatek's French Open reign with a devastating third-set performance on Thursday to tee up a Roland Garros final against Coco Gauff after the American knocked out French hero Lois Boisson. The Belarusian snapped Swiatek's French Open winning streak at 26 matches with a 7-6 (7/1), 4-6, 6-0 success to reach her first final in the clay-court Grand Slam. World No. 2 Gauff ended the dream run of 361st-ranked wildcard Boisson with a 6-1, 6-2 victory in the second semi-final on Court Philippe Chatrier. Gauff and Sabalenka are level at 5-5 in their head-to-head record and have won one each of their two meetings at major tournaments. Sabalenka is targeting a fourth Grand Slam title.

Australia on brink of World Cup after dramatic late winner

PERTH: Australia moved to the brink of the World Cup after beating already qualified Japan 1-0 in Perth on Thursday thanks to Aziz Behich's 90th-minute winner. In front of a sell-out crowd of 57,226 at Optus Stadium, the Socceroos were outplayed for long periods by an inexperienced Japan side. But then Riley McGree cut the ball back to defender Behich, who rifled a bullet into the corner for his first international goal in 13 years and trigger scenes of jubilation. After beating Japan for the first time since 2009, Australia are all but assured of a berth at next year's World Cup in North America. Australia face Saudi Arabia in Jeddah on June 10 in their final Group C match in the battle for second behind Japan.

Portugal praise veteran Ronaldo's 'hunger' after Nations League win

MUNICH: Portugal midfielder Bernardo Silva praised Cristiano Ronaldo's "hunger" after the 40-year-old striker continued to defy the years with a 68th-minute winner which booked a spot in Sunday's Nations League final. Ronaldo came into the tournament amid swirling doubts about his future at club level, with the veteran's contract at Saudi side Al-Nassr set to expire at the end of June. In May, the Portuguese posted on social media "the chapter is over" as reports emerged he could switch to another club, potentially Saudi side Al Hilal, in order to play the Club World Cup in the United States in June. But he left behind all the speculation as he knocked in his 137th international goal, extending his own record in his 220th game for Portugal.

Varsha Tekam banned for 3 years for evading dope test

NEW DELHI: Indian long-distance runner Varsha Tekam was on Thursday handed a three-year suspension for evading a dope test by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU). Varsha, who had finished second in the Pune Half Marathon last year with a time of 1:26.22, was provisionally suspended on May 26. According to the AIU, Varsha was suspended for "evading, refusing or failing to submit to sample collection by an athlete" under Article 2.3. "The AIU has banned Varsha Tekam (India) for 3 years from 20 May 2025 for Evading, Refusing or Failing to Submit to Sample Collection by an Athlete. DQ results from 15 December 2024," the AIU posted on X.

Shanto to lead Bangladesh on Test tour to Sri Lanka

DHAKA: Captain Najmul Hossain Shanto will lead a 16-man Bangladesh squad named on Thursday for two Tests in Sri Lanka this month as the next World Test Championship cycle begins. Wicketkeeper-batsman Litton Das returns from injury, while right-arm pace bowler Nahid Rana and left-arm spinner Hasan Murad are also recalled. The first Test begins in Galle on June 17 and the second is in Colombo from June 25. Squad: Najmul Hossain Shanto (capt), Shadman Islam, Anamul Haque, Mominul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim, Litton Das, Mahidul Islam, Jaker Ali, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Taijul Islam, Nayeem Hasan, Hasan Murad, Ebadot Hossain, Hasan Mahmud, Nahid Rana, Khaled Ahmed.

India, England to play series for Tendulkar-Anderson Trophy

LONDON: India and England will play the upcoming five-match Test series in the UK for a new trophy named after the legendary Sachin Tendulkar and James Anderson. A report in the BBC said the Tendulkar-Anderson Trophy will be unveiled in the run-up to the marquee series, which begins at Headingley on June 20, but added that the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) declined to comment.

Goa's Evan wins 38th National U-7 Open Chess Championship in Orissa

HERALD PIC

A K Verma, CEO of All India Chess Federation (AICF) presents the trophy to Evan Telles in the presence of Dharmendra Kumar, Treasurer AICF; Sagarika Nath IPS, SP of Khorda District; Debratta Bhatta, secretary, Orissa State Chess Association at the the KT Global School, Barunei Temple Road, Khordha, Odisha

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PANJIM: Goa's Evan Telles created history winning the 38th National U-7 Open Chess Championship 2025 (event code 419629/OD/2025) at the KT Global School, Barunei Temple Road, Khordha, Odisha, on Thursday. In an exceptional display of raw talent, the 7-year-old and 2nd year student of Manovikas School, Margao, made short work of top seed Thumati Sreyansh in the eighth round beating Vaibhav Vishnu of Bihar to win the gold outright with 8.5 points out of 9 rounds.

He is now selected to represent India at the World U-7 later this year. He is the son of Dr Jean Telles and hails from Salcete Taluka Chess Association.

The President of Goa Chess Association Mahesh Candolkar hailed the victory.

Secretary of Goa Chess Association Ashesh Keni said that Evan is a chess prodigy and will rise to the highest levels. He said that he expected him to win the title looking at his games at the U-7 State Championship played recently and said that inspite of tough competition Goa has managed to win the gold medal after winning the silver last year ahead of other chess playing States namely Tamil Nadu and Maharastra.

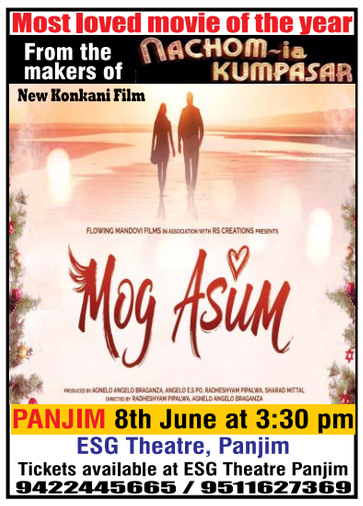
He congratulated the coach Prakash Singh and his team of Chess Guru Academy and the parents of Evan Telles for supporting him. Other members of Goa Chess Association Executive Committee and Salcete Taluka Chess Association expressed their happiness over the victory.

In the U-7 girls' category, Aradhya Desai was placed 16th in the National Girls.

A K Verma, CEO of All India Chess Federation (AICF) presented the prize in the presence of Dharmendra Kumar, Treasurer AICF; Sagarika Nath IPS, SP of Khorda District; Debratta Bhatta, secretary, Orissa State Chess Association.

TODAY'S SPORTS

Benaulim Panchayat Cup: Carmona SC vs UC of Verna, at Benaulim ground, 4.45 pm
24th Vagator Soccer: Sao Jose de Areal SC vs FC Tuem, at Vagator ground, 4.30 pm



SFX Sports Club emerge champs in Fondegal YC football

INACIO NORONHA

The winners along with chief guest social worker Conceicai Dias, Dronacharya Awardee Armando Colaco, India and FC Goa Player Brison Fernandes, Curtorim Sarpanch Alexinho D'Silva, Curtorim Gymkhana President Arnaldo Costa, Parish Priest of St Alex Church Curtorim Fr Manuel Dias, club officials and other dignitaries at the St Alex Church ground, Curtorim

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RAIA: SFX Sports Club, Camarxet, edged past Fondegal Youth club 4-2 via tie-breaker to emerge champions in the Fondegal Youth Club 9-a-side inter-ward football tournament at the St Alex Church ground, Curtorim, recently.

SFX Sports Club missed the chance to score, while Melvin of Fondegal shot wide in the 6th and 9th minute respectively. Both halves remained a goalless draw. In the resultant tie-breaker, SFX Sports Club proved to be the better shooters.

Social worker Conceicai Dias was the chief guest and gave away the prizes to the winners and runners-up in the presence of Dronacharya Awardee Armando Colaco, India and FC Goa Player Brison Fernandes, Curtorim Sarpanch Alexinho D'Silva, Curtorim Gymkhana President Arnaldo Costa, Parish Priest of St Alex Church Curtorim Fr Manuel Dias, club officials and other dignitaries.

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS

Last touch of tournament: Albert Dias (Fondegal YC)
Entertaining player of tournament: Benny Dias (Fondegal YC)
Disciplined player of tournament: Jerry Costa (Fondegal YC)
First hat-trick of tournament: Aleeward Mascarenhas (Fondegal YC)
Emerging player of tournament: Frezer Fernandes (Peidadigal FC)
First scorer of final: Mario Mascarenhas (Fondegal YC)
Best forward of final: Anslem Fernandes (SFX Sports Club)
Best defender of final: Caitano Viegas (SFX Sports Club)
Best goalkeeper of final: Fresley Mascarenhas (Fondegal YC)
Best half of final: Versley Paes (SFX Sports Club)
Golden gloves: Christo Hilario (SFX Sports Club)
Golden boot: Casvino Fernandes (SFX Sports Club)
Best disciplined team: Unjirim United
Highest scoring team of tournament: SFX Sports Club

Batora Utd move into next round

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INACIO NORONHA

Aliynier Fernandes receives the man-of-the-match from Lawry Fernandes, Sporting Club of Virabhat member

SILVER JUBILEE CUP

RAIA: Batora United moved into the next round defeating Fondegal YC 3-0 in the the Silver Jubilee Cup 2025 9-a-side inter-ward football tournament organised by Sporting Club of Virabhat at the St Alex Church ground, Curtorim, on Thursday.

Batora United scored the first goal through Valanko Paes in the 15th minute to make it 1-0. Fondegal YC missed the chance to equalise when Gavino Mascarenhas' shot hit the goalpost.

In the second half, Batora United scored two quick goals through Aliynier Fernandes in the 40th and 45th minute to make it, 3-0.

Nerul SC face Dunes SC in final

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MAPUSA: Nerul SC played their hearts out to register a fluent 3-1 win against Peddem Bomm SC in the semi-finals to enter the final of Xetrapal Cup organised by Xetrapal SC, Oxel, at Oxel ground, on Thursday.

All the goals came in the second session of play.

It was Peddem Bomm SC, who took the lead through Rohan Kamble from a long range strike which beat the rival goalkeeper hands down, 1-0.

However, Nerul SC not only equalised through Chaitan Dabholkar's goal from inside the 18-yard box but saw Aman Govekar and Chaitan Dabholkar pump in two more goals to complete the rout, 3-1. In the final scheduled on June 8, Nerul SC will face Dunes SC.

Betalbatim SC move ahead

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RAIA: In an exciting encounter at the Dando ground, Betalbatim Sports Club silenced the home crowd with a commanding 3-0 victory over hosts St Sebastian Union Club in the Benaulim Panchayat Cup, on Thursday.

The youthful Benaulim SC looked sharp early on, dominating ball possession and play. However, the match turned when Benaulim SC goalkeeper Scott received a red card for pulling down a Betalbatim SC attacker after a defensive lapse. Gladson Braganza coolly slotted home the resulting penalty, handing Betalbatim SC a 1-0 lead at the break.

Despite being a man down, Benaulim SC regrouped with a defensive approach while eyeing a potential equaliser. But Betalbatim SC's relentless pressure paid off.

Branson Fernandes doubled the lead in the 53rd minute, and just seven minutes later, Dickson sealed the match with a clinical finish. Stellar performances from Dickson and Alison ensured Betalbatim SC dominant march into the next round.