

shorttakes

Canadian sensation Summer McIntosh sets two world records in three days

VICTORIA (Canada): Canadian teen Summer McIntosh set her second world record in three days at the Canadian swimming trials. McIntosh swam the 200-meter individual medley in 2 minutes 5.7 seconds, breaking the previous record of 2:06.12 set by Hungary's great Katinka Hosszu in 2015. "I've been knocking on the door on this one. I've just tried to chip away, chip away at it. To finally do it, it's kind of like, wow, I've finally got that done," McIntosh said. The 18-year-old Toronto native had already broken the world best mark in the 400 freestyle on Saturday, completing the race in 3:54.18, shaving more than a second off the old record of 3:55.38 set by Ariarne Titmus of Australia.

Elavenil wins bronze after looking good for gold

MUNICH: Indian shooting ace Elavenil Valarivan settled for the bronze medal after leading for a good part of the women's 10m air rifle final on the first competition day of the ISSF World Cup, here, on Tuesday. The 25-year-old shot 231.2 to finish third on the podium behind Chinese 18-year-old sensation Wang Zifei, who won gold with 252.7, and Korea's silver medalist Kwon Eunji (252.6). Elavenil started with a high 10.7 and set the tone in the final, before coming up with a 10.8 in her next shot. The two-time Indian Olympian was just 0.3 behind Korean Olympic champion Kwon Eunji after the first five standing shots. She shot another 10.8 to move into the top spot ahead of Zifei.

Ace Indian race walker Goswami notches first win of season

NEW DELHI: Ace Indian race walker Priyanka Goswami notched her first win of the season, taking the top spot in the women's 10km event at the Austrian Race Walking Championships in Innsbruck. Goswami clocked 47 minutes and 54 seconds to win the 10km race walk on Monday. Her pet event is, though, 20km race walk in which she holds the national record holder of 1:28:45. She has a personal best of 45 minutes 47 seconds in the 10km event which she had clocked in 2022. Goswami also competes in longer distance events. In the men's 35km race walk event in Innsbruck, Sandeep Kumar finished second, clocking 2:38:45 while Ram Baboo was third with 2:41:47.

Gaikwad to join Yorkshire for County Championship, One-Day Cup

LEEDS (England): Indian batter Ruturaj Gaikwad will join Yorkshire for five matches of the County Championship's Division One as well as the One-Day Cup. Gaikwad will link up with the Yorkshire squad ahead of their County match against Surrey at Scarborough in July and will remain with the team until the end of the season, the club said on its website. The 28-year-old is currently a part of the India A squad on the tour of England where they have played two four-day unofficial Tests against England Lions and their last assignment will be an intra-squad four-day match in Beckenham against the senior side from June 13-16.

Madrid's new street circuit to debut in 2026, replacing Imola on F1 schedule

LONDON: A new street circuit in Madrid will make its debut on the Formula 1 schedule in September of next year, replacing the Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix at Imola. F1 announced its 2026 calendar on Tuesday, setting the first grand prix at the new Madrid track in the Spanish capital for Sept. 13. Spain gets two races in 2026 as Barcelona stays on the calendar for the final year of its contract. It faces an uncertain future after that. F1 has previously said Madrid's race will be known as the Spanish Grand Prix. The new schedule doesn't specify a new name for Barcelona's race, which has been known as the Spanish Grand Prix since 1991. Spain's second race means Italy drops back to having one grand prix as Imola leaves the schedule. The historic track, a favorite with drivers, returned to the schedule in 2020 as a late addition amid the COVID-19 pandemic and has hosted five races since. Its contract was up this year.

Ranieri rejects offer to coach Italy on a quest to get back to the World Cup

ROME: Claudio Ranieri did not even want to try where Roberto Mancini and Gian Piero Ventura failed — to take four-time champion Italy back to the World Cup. One of the most beloved coaches in Italian soccer, Ranieri said on Tuesday he declined to lead Italy's already troubled bid to qualify for its first World Cup since 2014. "I thank President (Gabriele) Gravina for the opportunity," Ranieri told Italian agency ANSA on Tuesday about the offer to coach the Azzurri from the national soccer federation leader. The job is vacant just five days after Italy began its qualifying campaign with a woeful 3-0 loss at group leader Norway.

India look to snap back-to-back losses in clash against Argentina in Pro League hockey

AMSTELVEEN (The Netherlands): Smarting from back-to-back defeats, the Indian men's hockey team will look to improve its penalty corner conversions and address the recurring issue of conceding late goals as it aims to bounce back against Argentina in the FIH Pro League, here, on Wednesday. It has been a disappointing start to the European leg for India, as they suffered 1-2 and 2-3 defeats against the Netherlands in the two matches played in Amstelveen. With six matches still to be played in the competition, India currently occupies fourth in the standings with 15 points. With a spot in next year's World Cup at stake, the Indian team will be determined to put up strong performances in the remaining fixtures. The team is now preparing for its next challenge against Argentina here.

GOA DIARY

Grand chess tournament on June 14, 15

PANJIM: The Tiswadi Taluka Chess Association, under the auspices of the Goa Chess Association, is set to organise the Grand Chess Tournament — Goa State Open Rapid Chess Tournament 2025, on June 14 and 15, at Menezes Braganza Hall, Panjim. This is an open rapid-format tournament. Entries must be submitted to Dattaram Pinge or Arvind Mhamalon by June 12. Only 220 entries will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. The tournament begins on June 14, at 2.30 pm. Time control: 20 minutes + 3-second increment per move.

St Anthony Festival Cup 2025 in July

RAIA: The 18th St Anthony Festival Cup 2025, organised by St Anthony Sports Club Assolda, will kick off in the first week of July at Moll Ground, Assolda. Winners will be richer by Rs 60,000 + trophy, while the runners-up will have to settle for Rs 40,000 + trophy, besides other individual prizes. Interested teams may contact Custodio Fernandes, Victorino Fernandes or Christo Fernandes for registration

# Injury-time goal breaks India's heart in Hong Kong

PTI, KOWLOON (Hong Kong): A profligate Indian football team suffered a calamitous 0-1 defeat to hosts Hong Kong after an injury-time goal by Stefan Pereira in a crucial 2027 AFC Asian Cup Qualifier match, here, on Tuesday.

The referee awarded Hong Kong the penalty after India custodian Vishal Kaith came out of the goal-line and tried to palm the ball to safety, only to end up hitting Michael Udebuluzor.

Pereira (90+4) stepped up to take the spot kick and shot the ball to the right of Kaith, who was also shown a yellow card for his injury-time foul.

Earlier, India coach Manolo Marquez kept out veteran striker Sunil Chhetri from the starting XI. A sea of red packed the stands at the newly built Kai Tak Stadium but despite the strong home support, India did pretty well to create a few chances in the first half, even though Hong Kong enjoyed more possession.

But, as has been the trend with them in recent



India and Hong Kong players in action at the Kai Tak Stadium, in Kowloon, Hong Kong, on Tuesday

## 2027 AFC ASIAN CUP QUALIFIER

times, the lack of finishing has again let the Blue Tigers down in the first 45 minutes.

Among the opportunities that came their way before the half-time break, the Indians came closest in the 35th minute but Ashique Kuruniyan shot the ball wide from a close range after Liston Colaco ran down the left to provide him a nice cross.

Meanwhile, after having received medical attention after getting injured, Colaco

unleashed a powerful long-range shot but it went straight into the keeper's gloves.

Hong Kong also grew in confidence as the game approached the half-time. The home team could have taken the lead from a free-kick had it not been for a timely clearance by Ashish Rai from goal-mouth after custodian Vishal Kaith was beaten.

Both India and Hong Kong have had their moments but neither side could convert in a tightly

contested first half of this crucial 2027 AFC Asian Cup Qualifier.

Kuruniyan, who has otherwise performed his job admirably on the flanks, looked to have got another chance to break the deadlock some minutes into the second half, but could not.

Soon after, coach Manolo Marquez brought on India's all-time highest goal-scorer Sunil Chhetri alongside Naorem Singh in place of Kuruniyan and Brandon Fernandes. India created chances in the second half too, including in the 81st minute when Lallianzuala Chhangte found Chhetri with a brilliant cutback inside the Hong Kong box, but the veteran striker was not able to connect it well.

The result is a setback for India who came into the game after a goal-less draw against Bangladesh in their first Asian Cup qualifying match, at home in March.

**RESULT**  
Hong Kong, China 1 (Stefan Pereira 90+4' p) India 0

# UC Nerul face Guardian Angel SC in semi-finals

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RAIA: In a fiercely contested quarter-final match of the Benaulim Panchayat Cup, United Club of Nerul scored a solitary goal victory over Betalbatim Sporting Club at the St John the Baptist ground, Benaulim, on Tuesday.

## BENAULIM P'YAT CUP

The match was a nail-biter, with both teams displaying exceptional skill and determination. In the 2nd minute, Betalbatim Sporting Club's Dickson had a promising opportunity, but UC Nerul's goalkeeper Krupesh made an impressive save, tipping the powerful shot to the corner.

Despite relentless pressure from Betalbatim Sports Club's Ronaldo Coello and former international player Clifford Miranda, who expertly fed the forwards, United Club of Nerul's defence, mar-

shalled by Stanley D'Silva and Melvin Lobo, held firm. The first half ended goal-less, with both teams creating scoring chances.

In the second half, Betalbatim Sports Club intensified their attack, but Krupesh continued to shine, making two excellent saves to deny Dickson what would have been certain goals.

As the match entered its final 20 minutes, United Club of Nerul took control, with Aniket Naik and Calum Fernandes dictating the tempo. However, Betalbatim SC's defence, led by Alison Rogtao, remained resolute.

The breakthrough came in the 50th minute when substitute Anson Pereira scored the winning goal in a goal-mouth scramble.

Despite a late surge from Betalbatim Sports Club, UC Nerul's defence led by Stanley D'Silva and Melvin Lobo held firm, ensuring a spot into the semi-finals where they will face Guardian Angel Sports Club.

## Arshdeep back in Kent

PTI, LONDON: India left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh is delighted to be back in Kent where he had earlier played county cricket as he looks to rediscover his red-ball rhythm ahead of the five-match Test series against England beginning June 20.

The 26-year-old is eyeing his maiden Test appearance after being named in the Indian squad. The team is playing a four-day tour match against India A at the Kent County Cricket Ground at Beckenham from June 13.

Primarily known for his white-ball exploits, Arshdeep, who represented Kent in the County Championship two years ago, had a notable season in the IPL 2025 with Punjab Kings, who finished runners-up.

"As for today's training session, my only motivation was to get a feel for the rhythm -- how the body feels, how the red ball is coming out of the hand -- because all the players have been playing with the white ball for quite a while. So I really enjoyed it," he told BCCI.TV.

"Going forward, as we keep progressing step by step, the intensity will keep increasing, and we'll keep making it more and more difficult for the batters to face the ball."

India led by new skipper Shubman Gill will include a crop of young batters such as Sai Sudharsan and Yashasvi Jaiswal.

# Dhoni, Amla & Smith inducted into ICC Hall of Fame

AFP, LONDON: India's Mahendra Singh Dhoni and South Africa's Hashim Amla and Graeme Smith were among seven new inductees into the International Cricket Council Hall of Fame announced Monday.

Also included were Australia's Matthew Hayden and New Zealand's Daniel Vettori, with former Pakistan captain Sana Mir and England's Sarah Taylor recognised for their contributions to the women's game.

The induction ceremony took place at London's Abbey Road Studios, where the Beatles recorded many of their hit songs.

Abbey Road is just a short walk from Lord's, where the World Test Championship final starts on Wednesday and both captains were among the audience - Australia's Pat Cummins and South Africa's Temba Bavuma.

Former India captain Dhoni led his country to 2011 one-day international World Cup glory on home soil, the wicketkeeper-batsman hitting the winning runs on a memorable night in Mumbai.

He is also the only captain to have won all three ICC white-ball trophies, after skipping India to the inaugural 2007 T20 World Cup title as well as the 2013



Cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni offers cake to former cricketer Saurabh Tiwary during a ceremony organised by Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) after Dhoni was inducted into ICC Hall of Fame, in Ranchi, on Tuesday

Champions Trophy. Dhoni finished his ODI career with an average above 50, having played 350 matches and scored over 10,000 runs -- often expertly helming a run-chase.

"It is an honour to be named in the ICC Hall of Fame, which recognises the contributions of cricketers across generations and

from all over the world," said Dhoni, who featured in this year's Indian Premier League aged 43.

The stylish Amla was the first South Africa batsman to score a Test-match triple century, making 311 not out against England at the Oval in 2012.

He often found himself playing alongside Smith. Thrust into the captain-

cy aged just 22, Smith led South Africa in a world-record 109 Tests, with the former opening batsman the only player to captain a Test team for over 100 matches.

"It is an honour to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame, especially alongside Graeme," Amla said. Smith added: "This is also a proud moment for South Africa, as two of us have got recognition this year."

Hayden was a mainstay of Australia's dominant sides of the early 2000s, with the powerful opener scoring 30 Test centuries and averaging above 50.

Former left-arm spinner Vettori, now an assistant coach with Australia, is one of only three players to score 4,000 runs and take 300 wickets in Tests.

Wicket-keeping great Taylor helped England win several global titles, including a 2017 ODI World Cup on home soil, while Mir is the first woman from Pakistan to be included in the Hall of Fame.

Off-spinner Mir took 151 ODI wickets and led Pakistan to two Asian Games gold medals, in 2010 and 2014. "From dreaming as a little girl that one day there would even be a women's team in our country to now standing here, inducted among the very legends I idolised long before I ever held a bat or a ball -- this is a moment I couldn't have dared to imagine," Mir said.

Thrust into the captain-

## Agxem SC move ahead

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RAIA: Agxem Sports Club moved into the next round after defeating Piedadigal FC 5-2 via tie-breaker in the Silver Jubilee Cup 2025 inter-ward football tournament organised by Sporting Club of Virabhat at St Alex Church ground, Curtorim, on Tuesday.

In an exciting match, both the teams played an attacking football. Piedadigal FC Anthony Fernandes' shot hit the post and went out of play. The first half ended in a goalless draw.

## BENAULIM P'YAT CUP

In the second half, Agxem SC scored their first goal through Alroy Gomes in the 40th minute after receiving a pass from Joel to make it 1-0. Soon after, Piedadigal FC equalised through Anthony Fernandes in the 45th minute to make it 1-1.

At the end of regulation time, both the teams settled for a 1-1 draw.

In the following tie-breaker, Agxem SC won by 4-1 penalties, with Joel, Nickson, Agnelo and Savio scoring. For Piedadigal FC, only Prakash was on target.



Anthony Fernandes of Piedadigal FC receives the man-of-the-match from Crisco Castanha, SC Virabhat member

# Belgium battle past Wales, Italy win as troubled Spalletti's era comes to an end

AFP, PARIS: Belgium held off a battling Wales and Italy gave sacked coach Luciano Spalletti a winning send-off in World Cup qualifying on Monday.

Elsewhere Manchester City star Erling Haaland's goal lifted Norway past Estonia, Luka Modric was among the scorers in Croatia's 5-1 rout of the Czech Republic, and the Faroes Islands left it late to down Gibraltar 2-1.

Giacomo Raspadori and Andrea Cambiaso scored in each half as Italy beat Moldova 2-0 to inject a smidgeon of pride back in the Azzurri camp after last week's 3-0 thrashing by Norway which cost Spalletti his job.

The Italians trail Norway by nine points in Europe's qualifying group I by nine points and are at risk of missing out on a third straight World Cup.

Even though they have played two games less their ticket to the United States, Canada and Mexico next year is far from certain. Only top spot in each



Italy's midfielder Samuele Ricci (left) and Moldova's forward Stefan Bodisteanu fight for the ball during the 2026 World Cup qualifiers Europe Zone Group I match at the Mapei Stadium in Reggio Emilia

group guarantees automatic qualification with Italy's best hopes appearing to rest on finishing second and reaching the play-offs.

"When you're the national team coach you have no

public broadcaster Rai. "It's the coach who has to make the difference and unfortunately I wasn't able to do that."

It left Wales sitting second in Group J, one point behind North Macedonia, 1-0 winners over Kazakhstan, and three in front of Belgium, who have two games in hand.

This was Wales manager Craig Bellamy's first defeat in his first 10 matches in charge.

Wales captain Ben Davies told the BBC: "Getting back as close as we did is probably why it's as painful as it is."

## 2026 WORLD CUP QUALIFYING

### EUROPEAN RESULTS

Estonia 0 Norway 1 (Haaland 62), Italy 2 (Raspadori 40, Cambiaso 50) Moldova 0, Kazakhstan 0 North Macedonia 1 (Trajkovski 33), Belgium 4 (Lukaku 15-pen, Tielemans 19, Doku 27, De Bruyne 88) Wales 3 (Wilson 45+7-pen, Thomas 51, Johnson 69), Croatia 5 (Kramaric 42, 75, Modric 62-pen, Perisic 68, Budimir 72-pen) Czech Republic 1 (Soucek 58), Faroe Islands 2 (Frederiksberg 71, Johannesen 86) Gibraltar 1 (Scanlon 23)

## TODAY'S SPORTS

Silver Jubilee Cup: Cumborda SC vs Bhatti SC, at St Alex Church ground, Curtorim, 5 pm

## POSITIVELY LAST SHOW AT PANJIM SATURDAY

14<sup>TH</sup> JUN - 7.30 P.M. - K.A. PANJIM

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE COUNTER

FOR ONLINE BOOKING: 7350839227/9309985421

29<sup>TH</sup> JUN - 3.30 P.M. - R.K.M. PONDA

WITH THE BLESSINGS OF PADR AGNEL FRANCIS DE TUEN PRESENTS HIS 10<sup>TH</sup> TIATR

