

shorttakes

Senthilkumar enters semi-finals, confirms medal

KUCHING (Malaysia): Velavan Senthilkumar, the lone Indian left in the fray, entered the men's singles semi-finals at the Asian Squash Championships 2025 with a straight-game win, here, on Thursday. Senthilkumar, ranked 45th in the men's singles chart, beat Malaysia's Joachim Chuah, the current world No. 196, 3-0 (11-7 11-6 11-6) in the quarterfinals. Senthilkumar will next play second-seeded Lau Tsz Kwan of Hong Kong in the semifinals.

Chopra seeks first major title of season, up against Weber in Paris Diamond League

PARIS: Having breached the 90m mark, two-time Olympic medalist Neeraj Chopra would now be eyeing a top finish when he goes up against familiar rivals in the prestigious Paris Diamond League on Friday in a star-studded field here. Chopra, German ace Julian Weber and two-time world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada will be among eight competitors vying for top honours in the second DL meeting of the season featuring men's javelin throw on the roster. Five of the listed throwers have hit the 90m mark. In Paris, Chopra would look to upstage Weber after finishing second in back-to-back competitions as he returns to the French capital after eight years for a Diamond League competition.

Indian junior archers enter five finals at Asia Cup Stage 2

SINGAPORE: Indian junior archers continued their dominating run by storming into five team finals at the Asia Cup Stage 2 here on Thursday. The Indian men's recurve team, seeded second, defeated Bangladesh 5-1 in a one-sided semi-final to set up a summit clash with third seeds Japan. The trio of Vishnu Choudhary, Paras Hooda and Juyel Sarkar dominated from the outset, taking the opening set 55-48. Although the second set was tied at 55-55, the Indians bounced back strongly against their fifth-seeded opponents, dropping just one point in the third set to win it 59-56 and seal the issue. In the recurve mixed team event, Vaishnavi Pawar and Vishnu Choudhary defeated Singapore's Tabitha Ern Lin Yeo and Yue Long Li 5-3 to enter the final.

Two-time Wimbledon champion Kvitova announces she will retire in September

LONDON: Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova plans to retire in a few months, the Czech player said Thursday. The announcement on social media came a day after Kvitova was granted a wild card for Wimbledon. "I am excited and very much looking forward to soak in the beauty of playing The Championships, Wimbledon one more time, a place that holds the most cherished memories in my career," Kvitova said. "And while I am not entirely sure yet what my hardcourt swing in the US will look like, I am intending to finish my active playing career at the US Open in New York later this summer."

Shubman should focus on his decisions, not how outside world perceives him: Tendulkar

NEW DELHI: Shubman Gill should be given adequate "time and support" to succeed as he leads India through a tough transition phase, feels the legendary Sachin Tendulkar, whose advice to the new skipper is to focus on his own planning without thinking about opinions outside the dressing room. "I think he (Gill) has to be given time. He has to be supported," Tendulkar told PTI. Being Indian skipper is a high-pressure job and Tendulkar knows that varied opinions will fly thick and fast. But he expects Gill to have a tunnel vision. "I feel there are going to be a lot of opinions that 'he should do this and he should do that'. And all those kind of things will come into play. But what he should be focused on is, what is the team's plan. What was the discussion in the dressing room. And is it going according to that?"

Nissanka's 187 leads Sri Lanka fightback in first Bangladesh Test

GALLE (Sri Lanka): Pathum Nissanka's career-best 187 helped Sri Lanka finish the third day of the first Test against Bangladesh in a strong position Thursday, only 127 runs off the Tigers' first innings score. The 27-year-old opener anchored the Sri Lanka innings before they finished on 368-4 at the close of play, behind Bangladesh's 495. He struck several key partnerships before he was bowled by Hasan Mahmud towards the end of the day's play. Nissanka, who had been under pressure before the match with only one half-century in nine innings, hit 23 fours and a six in his marathon 256-ball innings. Nissanka looked set for his maiden double-ton when he was bowled by Mahmud, who was bowling with the second new ball. Brief scores: Bangladesh: 495 all out (Najmul Hossain Shanto 148, Mushfiqur Rahim 163). Sri Lanka: 368-4 (Pathum Nissanka 187, Dinesh Chandimal 54).

SC Davorlim in quarters

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RAIA: Sporting Club Davorlim thrashed UC Benaulim 5-0 to storm into the last eight of the 19th Super Soccer inter-village football tournament organised by UC Benaulim at the St John de Baptista ground, on Thursday.

In the first session, both the teams were on equal footing with SC Davorlim striker Royson Colaco and Velroy Colaco posing threat to the UC Benaulim defence.

Keegan Rodrigues and Cayden Rodrigues also had their chances for UC Benaulim. After the restart, SC Davorlim were a transformed side totally dom-



UC Benaulim President Sanford Braganza presents the man-of-the-match award to Alent Colaco of Sporting Club Davorlim

inating the proceedings with speedy striker Alent Colaco hitting a superb hat-trick. Alent added another in the 60th minute while substitute striker Neville Mascarenhas completed the riot in the dying minutes.

TODAY'S SPORTS

Anil Kamat Trophy inter-village football: Don Bosco Oratory vs SCC Loutilim, at Our Lady of Hope Church ground, Chinchinim, 4.30 pm

19th Super Soccer football: St Anthony SC, Assolda, vs Varca SC, at St John the Baptist ground, Dando-Benaulim, 4.30 pm

1st Vedanta Trophy football: Assonora United FC vs FC Tuem, at Sinquerim ground, 4.30 pm

ISL organisers tell clubs 2025-26 edition will not start without clarity on MRA status

AIFF says FSDL silent about the fate of Indian Super League

PTI, NEW DELHI: Indian Super League (ISL) organisers have told the clubs that the 2025-26 edition will not kick off until there is clarity over the status of the Master Rights Agreement (MRA) signed with the All India Football Federation (AIFF), putting the country's top-tier competition in a limbo.

The Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL), which runs the ISL, is the commercial partner of the AIFF, with whom the national federation signed a 15-year MRA in 2010.

Under the MRA, the FSDL pays the AIFF Rs 50 crore annually. The FSDL, in turn, gets the rights to broadcast, manage and commercialise Indian football, including the national team.

"The FSDL has told the ISL club owners verbally that the next edition will not start until there is clarity on the MRA," a source

privy to the development told PTI on conditions of anonymity. "The MRA ends in December and there is no clarity whether it will be renewed or a new agreement will be signed."

The AIFF, however, said that the FSDL has not told anything about the fate of the ISL to the national federation.

"We have not got any communication from the FSDL regarding ISL," AIFF Deputy Secretary General M Satyanarayan said when asked if the league will start on time.

In the last two seasons, the ISL began in September. According to another source, the FSDL is learnt to favour creating a new holding company that operates the ISL, with participating clubs (60%), FSDL (26%) and AIFF (14%) as shareholders.

"May be, there might be other arrangements

for other properties like I-League, national teams etc. But it is very sketchy as of now regarding what the FSDL and AIFF want," the source said.

The matter has also become complex after the Supreme Court directive to the AIFF not to take any major decision until the final decision on a pending case on the constitution of the national federation is given. On April 30, the SC had reserved its verdict.

In April, the AIFF had formed an eight-member task force to look into MRA negotiations with the FSDL. Former India captain Bhachung Bhutia, who is also AIFF executive committee member, had then told the brass to wait till the Supreme Court verdict which is likely to come in July.

"If the SC directs new election of the AIFF, then the MRA will have to be negotiated by the new office

bearers and that will take time," a former official said. "Still, there may be enough time for the 2025-26 to happen, may be by squeezing the schedule or stretching the end date. That is the best case scenario."

The AIFF last month issued the competition calendar for 2025-26 season and there was no mention of the ISL in it. But, a source said the calendar was for events which come directly under the AIFF and ISL schedule is put up only after consulting the FSDL.

"There was nothing to be interpreted from the calendar. Firstly, it was issued last month and secondly, it was meant for events which are conducted directly by the AIFF," the source said.

"ISL is not directly conducted by the AIFF and so the ISL dates were not there in the calendar. Moreover, the AIFF always consults

the FSDL before announcing ISL dates. So, there is nothing in the calendar regarding the ISL."

Aarush registers nail-biting win

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Aarush Pawaskar in action on opening day of the main draw of Yonex-Sunrise All India Sub Junior (U-15 & U-17) Ranking Badminton Tournament at the Multipurpose Stadium, Peddem-Mapusa, on Thursday

PANJIM: Aarush Pawaskar gave Goa plenty to cheer for on the opening day of the main draw in the Yonex-Sunrise All India Sub Junior (U-15 & U-17) Ranking Badminton Tournament at the Multipurpose Stadium, Peddem-Mapusa, on Thursday.

In a thrilling Boys Singles U-17 round of 64 match, Aarush held his nerve to clinch a hard-fought 21-14, 9-21, 21-19 victory over Manu Taku of Andhra Pradesh, emerging as the lone Goan winner on a day that saw many local hopefuls bow out after spirited displays.

Among the other Goan participants, several fought valiantly but couldn't cross the first-round hurdle in their respective events.

In Boys Singles U-17, Advait Balakrishnan went down 15-21, 10-21 to Yash Soni of Rajasthan. The Girls

Singles U-17 category saw Ketaki Thite of Maharashtra and Ridhima Saini of Chhattisgarh got the better of Yashila Ritika Chelluri and Shivanjali Thite, re-

spectively.

In the Boys Doubles U-15, Shaan Cherkala Kunjutt and Mohammed Umar Shaikh fell 12-21, 13-21 to Vihaan Kolhaad and Hridaana Padve of Maharashtra, while Sparsh Kolwalkar and Arnnav Saraf narrowly missed an upset in a tight 18-21, 21-12, 20-22 loss to another Maharashtra duo.

ALL INDIA SUB-JUNIOR RANKING BADMINTON

In the Mixed Doubles U-15, Arnnav Saraf and Niharika Parwar put up a brave show before falling 18-21, 21-19, 16-21 to Edward Adrien and Supreetha Deepak of Karnataka.

In Girls Doubles U-15, after their fine performance in the qualification rounds, Goa's Dimple Revankar and her Telangana partner Tanishka Ganji were ousted by Vijaya Tejashwini Dantuluri (Andhra Pradesh) and Joel Rana (Haryana) 12-21, 17-21. Meanwhile, top-seeded

national contenders showcased their class.

In Boys Singles U-15, top seed Pushkar Sai (Karnataka) defeated Delhi's Avish Mehta 21-19, 21-5, while third seed Wazir Singh (Punjab) overcame Yatharth Kirola (Uttarakhand) 21-19, 21-12.

Girls Singles U-15 top seed Shaina Manimuthu

cruised past Smriti S 21-8, 21-13, while Avni Vikram Govind (3rd seed, Telangana) survived a scare before prevailing 17-21, 22-20, 21-13 against Anvi Patel (Gujarat).

In Boys Singles U-17, top seed Dev Ruparelia of Maharashtra and third seed Akhil Reddy Bobba of Telangana advanced comfortably. With the action heating up, Goan fans will now pin their hopes on Aarush to make a mark in the tournament ahead.

Saideep's hat-trick guides FC Siolim in quarters

INACIO NORONHA



The man-of-the-match award is presented to FC Siolim player Saideep Pombuphekar by Rajendra Narvekar

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MAPUSA: A revamped Football Club of Siolim under the newly elected president Francisco Fernandes scored an easy 5-2 win over hosts Sinquerim Sports Club to move into the quarter-finals of 1st Vedanta Trophy or-

ganised by Sinquerim Sports Club at Sinquerim Sports Club ground, on Thursday. Prolific goalscorer Pushparaj Mandrekar put FC Siolim ahead in the very first minute of play.

Saideep Pombuphekar made it 2-0 in favour of FC Siolim in the 7th minute of play. Saideep scored his second and the team's third goal in the 24th minute of play to make it 3-0. An unfortunate own goal by FC Siolim defender Sahil Pombuphekar enabled Sinquerim Sports Club to reduce the margin in the 27th minute of play to make it 3-1. FC Siolim were leading 3-1 at half time.

FC Siolim started just the way they did in the first half and scored their fourth goal in the very first minute of the second half through Saideep who completed his hat-trick to make it 4-1

in favour of FC Siolim. Saideep completed the misery on Sinquerim Sports Club scoring his fourth and the team's fifth goal in the 43rd minute of play to make it 5-1. Abdul Khan scored the second goal for Sinquerim Sports Club in the dying minutes of the match, 2-5.

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