

shorttakes

Stokes adamant Archer 'desperate' for England return

LONDON: England captain Ben Stokes says Jofra Archer is "absolutely desperate" to be involved in the upcoming home series against India and so revive a Test career that has been stalled for more than four years. Archer enjoyed a spectacular start with England in 2019. The Barbados-born fast bowler played a key role in the team's 50-over World Cup final win at Lord's and made his presence felt in a dramatic drawn Ashes series with Australia. England have kept faith with Archer. He is due to make his first-class return for Sussex against Durham on Sunday as part of a plan that could see him feature during a five-match series with India.

India's Senthilkumar signs off with bronze medal at Asian Squash C'ships

KUCHING (Malaysia): India's Velavan Senthilkumar signed off with a bronze medal after losing to second seed Alex Lau Tsz Kwan of Hong Kong in the men's singles semifinal at the Asian Squash Championships, here, on Friday. The Indian, ranked 45th in the men's singles chart, went down 1-3 (9-11, 11-13, 11-5, 6-11) to the world number 41 Lau in a marathon 65-minute last four clash. Both the losing semi-finalists are awarded bronze at the continental showpiece.

Bangladesh's lead over Sri Lanka nears 200 in first Test

GALLE (Sri Lanka): Bangladesh edged ahead of Sri Lanka on day four of the first Test in Galle on Friday, extending their lead to 187 runs with seven wickets in hand. The visitors finished at 177-3 after a strong partnership of 68 between opener Shadman Islam and skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto. All-rounder Milan Rathnayake dismissed Shadman for 76 but veteran campaigner Mushfiqur Rahim, fresh off a first-innings century, joined his captain to steady the innings. Brief scores: Bangladesh 1st innings: 495 all out (Mushfiqur Rahim 163, Najmul Hossain Shanto 148; Asitha Fernando 4-86). Sri Lanka 1st innings: 485 all out (Pathum Nissanka 187, Kamindu Mendis 87, Dinesh Chandimal 54; Nayeem Hasan 5-121, Hasan Mahmud 3-74) Bangladesh 2nd innings: 177-3 (Shadman Islam 76, Najmul Hossain Shanto 56).

Australia drop struggling Labuschagne for first West Indies Test

SYDNEY: Australia on Friday dropped Marnus Labuschagne for the opening match of their three-Test tour of the West Indies after a poor run of form while Steve Smith is out injured. Teenager Sam Konstas and Josh Inglis come into the starting XI for the opening match in Barbados starting on Wednesday. "Marnus at his best can be a really important member of this team," chair of selectors George Bailey said.

South Korea lifts 26-year ban on foreign goalkeepers in K League

SEOUL (South Korea): A 26-year ban on foreign goalkeepers in South Korea's top soccer league has been lifted for the start of the 2026 season. Only Korean goalkeepers have been allowed to play in the K League. The rule was introduced in a bid to protect homegrown talent when there were only 10 professional clubs. The K League announced after a board meeting in Seoul this week that because there's now 26 professional clubs in the top two tiers of competition, there's enough room for international goalkeepers.

Ishan signs short-team deal with Nottinghamshire

NOTTINGHAM (England): Indian wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan has signed a short-team deal, subject to international clearance, with Nottinghamshire to play two County matches, the club said on Friday. The 26-year-old Kishan will be a replacement for South Africa's Kyle Verreynne in the Nottinghamshire side and will be available for selection for their matches against Yorkshire and Somerset. Verreynne, a member of South Africa's World Test Championship final-winning side, will be away on national duty for a two-Test series against Zimbabwe.

Real star Mbappe released from hospital

MIAMI: Real Madrid superstar Kylian Mbappe has been released from hospital in the United States after suffering a stomach bug, the Spanish giants said on Thursday. Mbappe, who is in the USA at the Club World Cup, had what the club called "an acute case of gastroenteritis" and was taken in for tests and treatment. "Our player Kylian Mbappe was discharged from hospital this afternoon and has returned to the Real Madrid training camp," Los Blancos said.

St Anthony's SC in semi-finals

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RAIA: St Anthony's Sports Club, Assolda, edge past Varca Sports Club 4-2 via tie-breaker to enter the semi-finals of 19th Super Soccer inter-village football tournament organised by UC Benaulim at St John de Baptista ground, Benaulim, on Saturday.

St Anthony's SC were the dominant side with medios Moises D'Sa and Joaquim Carvalho having a stronghold but winger Richard Fernandes was the culprit missing to tilt edge chances. Varca SC goalkeeper Mohammad Shaikh also made crucial saves.

After the lemon break, St Anthony's SC again missed chances through Richard and Sunny Fernandes. Midfielder Aaron Barreto, who was working hard, came close for Varca SC with a



Goa Football Association Executive Committee member Anthony Leo Fernandes presents the man-of-the-match award to Joseph Fernandes of St Anthony's Sports Club

long range effort. Both the teams settled for a 0-0 draw at the end of regulation time.

In the resultant tie-breaker, for St Anthony's SC, Moises D'Sa, Richard Fernandes, Sunny Fernandes and Joseph Fernandes were on target, while Clayton Luis and Landan Mendonsa netted for Varca SC.

TODAY'S SPORTS

Anil Kamat Trophy inter-village football: St Anthony SC, Colva, vs Guirdolim Club, at Our Lady of Hope Church ground, Chinchinim, 4.30 pm

19th Super Soccer: CAC Cansaulim vs Parish Youth Nuvem, at St John de Baptist ground, Dando-Benaulim, 4.30 pm

1st Vedanta Trophy football: Dunes SC, Mandrem, vs BAF, at Sinquerim ground, 4.30 pm

Top Nat seeds Dev, Pushkar, Shaina & Lakshya in quarters

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PANJIM: Goa's Aarush Pawaskar gave the home crowd plenty to cheer about on Day 7 of the Yonex-Sunrise All India Sub Junior (U-15 & U-17) Ranking Badminton Tournament 2025 at the Multipurpose Stadium, Peddem-Mapusa, on Friday.

The talented youngster fought hard in the Boys Singles U-17 Round of 32, edging out Kerala's Fikham Hamdal 21-15, 10-21, 21-19 in a tightly contested three-game battle. However, his campaign ended in the pre-quarterfinals where he lost to Badminton Asia bronze medal winner, Jagsher Singh Khangurra of Punjab 11-21, 13-21.

The match of the day belonged to the top seed in Boys U-17, Dev Ruparelia of Maharashtra, who was pushed to the limit



Dev Ruparelia of Maharashtra, India ranked No. 1 was pushed to the limit by Hardik Divyansh, top ranked player from Karnataka, at the Yonex-Sunrise All India Sub Junior (U-15 & U-17) Ranking Badminton at the Multipurpose Stadium, Peddem-Mapusa, on Friday

by Hardik Divyansh from Karnataka, prevailing to a 21-12, 15-21, 21-15 win to book a spot in the quarter-finals.

In the U-15 Round of 16,

the top seeds continued their dominant run. In Boys Singles, Pushkar Sai (1) from Karnataka defeated Jaivardhan Hooda (Hary-

ana) 21-12, 21-14; Wazir Singh (3) from Punjab beat Jayvardhan Singh (Rajasthan) 21-12, 21-18. Among the girls, top seed Shaina Manimuthu (Karnataka)

(Karnataka) 21-6, 21-8.

The U-15 Boys Doubles saw a big upset, as Jaivardhan Hooda (Haryana) and Harshit Khatri (Delhi) knocked out second seeds Samarth Bhardwaj and Jatin Kumar (Haryana) 21-15, 21-19. In Girls Singles U-17 action, top seed Lakshya Rajesh (Karnataka) overcame Somyaa Bhatnagar (Rajasthan) 16-21, 21-17, 21-6.

ALL INDIA SUB-JUNIOR RANKING BADMINTON

Ulhas Jewellers BPS All Goa major ranking table tennis tournament to start on June 23

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PANJIM: The Ulhas Jewellers BPS All Goa Major Ranking Table Tennis Tournament 2025 will officially open the State's table tennis season this year, which is scheduled from June 23 to 29, at the Multipurpose Stadium, Fatorda.

Organised by the BPS Sports Club in association with the Goa Table Tennis Association, the tournament will see participation from the State's top paddlers across multiple age categories, including para and veteran events, promising a week of high-octane and competitive matches.

The tournament commences with Girls U-11, U-13 and U-15 events, followed by Boys U-11, U-13 and U-15 on June 24. The Girls U-15 and U-19 categories will be held on June 25 and Boys U-15 and U-19 will

compete on June 26.

The women's category will be held on June 27 and the men's on June 28. On June 29, the final day, para table tennis and veterans matches will be played from 9 am to 4 pm, with all finals scheduled from 4 pm. Addressing the mediapersons, Vikram Verlekar, vice-president of the Goa Table Tennis Association said, "This tournament marks the exciting start to Goa's table tennis calendar for 2025. The BPS Sports Club deserves special recognition for its unwavering commitment to the sport, having consistently hosted major ranking events for decades."

Yogiraj Kamat, president of BPS Sports

Club, shared the club's broader vision: "At BPS, our vision is to promote a culture of sports and fitness for all. Through activities in the table tennis, badminton, tennis, pickleball and more, we aim to create a vibrant ecosystem where children, youth and adults embrace healthy living, competition and a positive lifestyle."

Kunal stars in Assonora Utd's win



Kunal Salgaonkar of Assonora United receives the man-of-the-match award for his five-star performance from Narayan Tari

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MAPUSA: Favourites Assonora United Football Club drubbed Football Club Tuem with a 5-1 win to move into the quarter-finals of 1st Vedanta Trophy organised by Sinquerim Sports Club at Sinquerim Sports Club

ground, on Friday.

In a one-sided affair, Kunal Salgaonkar put Assonora United ahead in the 9th minute of the play. Kunal scored his brace midway during the first half to make it 2-0 in the 17th minute of play.

On crossing ends, Kunal scored his hat-trick in the 48th minute of play. Immediately thereafter, Kunal scored his fourth goal to make it 4-0 in the 50th minute of play. Football Club Tuem reduced the margin through Sergius Fernandes to make it 1-4 in the 53rd minute of play.

Kunal sealed the win for Assonora United by scoring his fifth goal to make it 5-1.

DBO Fatorda move ahead

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RAIA: In a tightly contested clash, Don Bosco Oratory, Fatorda, scored a solitary goal victory over SCC Loutolim's Samson Mascarnahas had another opportunity before the break, but once again Soares stood firm. Despite the attacking display the first half ended 0-0.

The second half saw Don Bosco Oratory press harder. In the 48th minute, Clencio Pinto forced another fine save from Hilario. Four minutes later, Clencio missed another clear opportunity to give his side the lead. Their persistence finally paid off in the 59th minute when Clive Miranda found the back of the net, breaking the deadlock with a calm finish.

Though, SCC Loutolim pushed for an equaliser in the dying minutes, Don Bosco Oratory's defence stood strong.

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