

T20 WC

Windies in Super 8

TRINIDAD: The West Indies stormed into the Super 8 of the T20 World Cup, defeating New Zealand by 13 runs in a nail-biting contest on Thursday. This victory leaves the Kiwis teetering on the brink of elimination, their hopes now hanging by a thread.

The game's momentum dramatically shifted in the final two overs of the West Indies' innings, transforming the match's dynamics and showcasing their prowess in both batting and bowling. Sherfane Rutherford spearheaded the batting revival,

while Alzarri Joseph's four-wicket haul dismantled the New Zealand batting lineup. At one point, the West Indies were floundering at 58 for 6, their chances of posting a competitive total looking grim. Yet, Rutherford's composed and strategic approach held the innings together. With calculated aggression, he launched a decisive assault in the final overs, pushing the score close to 150—a target that seemed unattainable just minutes before.

Kane Williamson, New Zealand's captain, faced heavy criticism for his deci-

sion to exhaust his premier pacers early in the innings. This strategy backfired spectacularly, leaving the Kiwis with limited bowling options when they needed them most. Daryl Mitchell, brought in for the 19th over ahead of Mitchell Santner due to a left-hander at the crease, conceded 19 crucial runs. Santner, who bowled the final over, aimed to keep the ball outside off stump to restrict Rutherford but instead saw him score 18 more runs, bringing the total of the last two overs to a game-changing 37 runs.

ASIAN TEAM SQUASH

India men to meet Pak today

CHENNAI: India men qualified for the quarterfinals of the Asian Team Squash Championships in Dalian, China on Thursday as the second team from Pool D behind Japan following a 3-0 victory over Mongolia for their second win in the four-team group.

Former champions India men will meet Pakistan in the quarterfinals today.

Meanwhile, India women beat Chinese Taipei 3-0, but lost to Malaysia by an identical margin.

They will meet South Korea on Friday in a must-win final Group A league match for a semifinal spot.

India results:

Men: India bt Mongolia 3-0 (Suraj Kumar Chand bt Yesun Otgonchaimeg 11-3, 11-5, 11-1; Om Semwal bt Brian Bolor Bayarmaa 11-2, 11-3, 11-2; Rahul Baittha bt Amartuvshin Mandakhbayar 11-4, 11-5, 11-8).

Women: India bt Chinese Taipei 3-0 (Pooja Arthi R bt Wu Yi Chun 11-4, 11-1, 11-3; Sunita Patel bt Wang Yuan 11-6, 11-8, 11-9; Rathika Suthanthira Seelan bt Lee Yi Hsuan 11-7, 11-6, 11-5).

Malaysia bt India 3-0 (Aifa Azman bt Pooja Arthi 11-3, 11-5, 11-4; Aira Azman bt Janet Vidhi 11-1, 11-3, 11-1; Sivasangari Subramaniam bt Rathika Seelan 11-4, 11-5, 11-8).

PARIS OLYMPICS 2024

Nadal, Alcaraz included in Spanish tennis team

MADRID: New French Open champion Carlos Alcaraz and veteran Rafael Nadal, who has won a record 14 times at Roland Garros, have both been included in the Spanish team for the upcoming Paris Olympics.

The news was confirmed by the Spanish Tennis Federation (RFET) at an event in Barcelona on Wednesday, with Alejandro Davidovich, Pablo Carreno and Marcel Granollers also included in the team.

Team captain David Ferrer confirmed that Alcaraz,

Nadal, Davidovich and Carreno will compete in the singles, while Alcaraz and



Nadal will compete together in the doubles.

"Rafa and Carlos will play together in Paris if nothing impedes it," confirmed Ferrer, who insisted that the Olympics were "incredibly important."

Ferrer also announced that Nadal would not compete at Wimbledon this summer in what the 38-year-old, 22-times Grand Slam winner has already said this will be his final season.

"Nadal will be in good condition (for the Olympics) and he is preparing carefully. Rafa is not going to play at Wimbledon," said the captain.

Nadal's Olympic experience goes back 16 years ago, and began with him winning gold medal in the singles in Beijing 2008. He also won a gold in doubles (with Marc Lopez) in Rio 2016.

FIFA WORLD CUP QUALIFIER

Ghana leads group

ACCRA: A hat-trick by Crystal Palace's Jordan Ayew led Ghana to a thrilling 4-3 victory over the Central African Republic (CAR) on Matchday Four of Africa's 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers at the Baba Yara Sports Stadium in Kumasi, the second-largest city in Ghana.

The Black Stars got off to a flying start as Ayew converted from a spot kick six minutes into the game, making it 1-0 after Issahaku Fatawu was fouled in the penalty box. CAR responded six minutes later with their lead striker Louis Mafouta scoring to level the match. Mafouta added another goal in the 41st minute, giving the away team an advantage going into halftime.

Playing before their vociferous home fans, the Black Stars applied pressure on CAR early in the

second half. Their efforts paid off in the 60th minute when Ayew latched onto an assist from Ghanaian defender Gideon Mensah to equalize, making it 2-2.

Two minutes later, Ghana found the net again to make it 3-2 through Issahaku Fatawu, thanks to a Thomas Partey assist that helped the young attacker send the ball past CAR goalkeeper Dominique Youfeigane. Jordan Ayew completed his hat-trick in the 69th minute, sending another strike beyond the reach of the CAR goalkeeper, bringing the score to 4-2. However, CAR was not finished. Mafouta scored his third goal in the 90th minute, creating a nerve-wracking moment for the home team in the final minutes. The referee eventually blew the whistle, ending the game at 4-3 in favor of the Black

Chile beat Paraguay

SANTIAGO: Victor Davila scored two first-half goals as Chile cruised to a 3-0 home victory over Paraguay in their friendly.

The CSKA Moscow forward struck in the 17th and 37th minutes at Estadio Nacional before Eduardo Vargas added a third goal just after halftime.

The match was Chile's last outing before the Copa America, to be played in the United States from June 20 to July 14.

Ricardo Gareca's men will begin their campaign against Peru on June 21 before also facing Argentina and Canada in the group stage.

Paraguay will have another warmup match against Panama in Panama City before facing Colombia in its Copa America opener on June 24. The Guaraniés have also been drawn alongside Brazil and Costa Rica in Group D.

EUROPEAN ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Italy tops medal tally

ROME: Host Italy won the men's 4x100m relay, the last race at the European Athletics Championships, here on Thursday, topping the tally with 24 medals. The five-day championships in Rome's Stadio Olimpico, the last major European athletics competition before the start of the Paris Olympics next month, marked 50 years since the last time Rome hosted the prestigious event.

The Italian team claimed the 4x100m relay title in 37.82 seconds, only 0.32 seconds slower than its winning time at the Tokyo Olympics three years ago. Three of the four Italian sprinters had been crowned at Tokyo 2020, including Marcell Jacobs, who earlier took the men's 100m gold in a season-best 10.02 seconds. In the medal standings, Italy was followed

by France with 16 medals and Britain with 13. In the middle distances, 23-year-old Jakob Ingebrigtsen of Norway won his third consecutive double victory at the European Championships in the 1,500m and the 5,000m. In Rome, he won the 1,500m in a championship record of 3 minutes, 31.95 seconds.

Ingebrigtsen, the defending Olympic champion in the 1,500m and the two-time defending world champion at 5,000m, is expected to compete in both events in Paris 2024.

As for other highlights, Italy's Gianmarco Tamberi, the defending Olympic and world champion in the high jump, added the third European gold medal to his collection with a jump of 2.37 metres.

In the men's 4x400m relay, Belgium won in

2:59.84, while the Netherlands took home the title in the women's event in 3:22.39.

The Dutch team was anchored by Femke Bol, who earlier won the women's 400m hurdles in 52.49 seconds. Bol won both the 400m and the 400m hurdles at last year's World Championships.

Italy's Nadia Battocletti won the women's 5,000m with a championship record of 14:35.29 and triumphed in the 10,000m in 30:51.32. Britain's Dina Asher-Smith clinched the women's 100m title in 10.99 seconds, 0.04 seconds ahead of Ewa Swoboda of Poland. Asher-Smith was also part of the gold medal-winning team in the women's 4x100m relay, which finished 41.91 seconds ahead of France and the Netherlands. Britain's time was the fastest in Eu-

rope so far this year.

Swiss sprinters won the men's and women's 200m. Timothe Mumenthaler finished first in the men's event in 20.28 seconds ahead of Italy's Filippo Tortu, who ran the anchor leg on the Italian 4x100m relay team.

Meanwhile, Muhinga Kambundji took the women's 200m gold in 22.49 seconds in a photo finish over Britain's Daryll Neita, who was just 0.01 seconds behind.

Alexander Doom of Belgium won the men's 400m in 44.15 seconds, while Natalia Kaczmarek won the women's 400m in 48.98 seconds.

Mizoram Sports Conclave

AIZAWL: Chief Minister Lalduhoma inaugurated the Mizoram Sports Conclave with a vision of preparing Mizoram for the 2036 Olympics. Speaking at the event, he expressed his pride and excitement, emphasizing the state's deep-rooted passion for sports and its ambition to shine on the global stage. The inaugural function was held at the Baptist Centre in Falkland, Aizawl.

The Mizoram Sports Conclave marks the beginning of a journey to prepare local athletes for the Olympics.

Sensex at new high

MUMBAI: The BSE Sensex on Thursday touched 77,102.05 -- an all-time high -- after climbing 496 points at opening on positive global cues. The National Stock Exchange (NSE) rose 53.40 points at 23,376.36.

The equity market was on rise following gains in realty, technology and IT stocks amid positive global cues as markets were buoyed by favourable US inflation report expecting rate cut in America.

Vodafone Idea raises Rs 2,458 cr

NEW DELHI: Stressed mobile operator Vodafone Idea on Thursday approved preferential allotment of equity shares for an aggregate consideration of Rs 2,458 crore to two key vendors -- Nokia and Ericsson.

"The board of directors of Vodafone Idea Limited approved preferential allotment of about 166 crore equity shares of face value of Rs. 10/- each, at an issue price of Rs. 14.80 per share, for an aggregate consideration of up to Rs. 2,458 crore, to two of its key vendors, Nokia Solutions and Networks India Private Limited and Ericsson India Private Limited," the company said in a regulatory filing with the stock exchanges.

This preferential allotment price is higher by about 35 percent to the Follow Option price and comes with a lock in of 6 months. Nokia and Ericsson will participate for up to Rs. 1,520 Crore and Rs. 938 Crore respectively, subject to approval by VIL shareholders at the EGM to be held on July 10, 2024.