

INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE

Bengaluru FC to face FC Goa

BENGALURU: Bengaluru FC Head Coach Gerard Zaragoza has stressed the importance of home advantage as his side prepares to host in-form FC Goa in an Indian Super League (ISL) clash at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium today (Saturday).

The Blues, who remain unbeaten at home this season, will face the Gaurs, who have yet to suffer defeat on their travels, in an early kickoff at 5 pm.

Zaragoza, who missed Bengaluru's recent 4-2 victory over Kerala Blasters due to the birth of his son,

will return to the touchline against Goa. Speaking ahead of the match, he reflected on his time in Bengaluru, noting, "This week marks a year since I've come to Bengaluru and, in that time, we've lost just once at Kanteerava. That should tell you enough about our Fortress. We have the best supporters in India. I know that other teams do not like to come and play."

Bengaluru currently occupy second place in the ISL standings with 23 points, level with Mohun Bagan Super Giant but second on goal difference. The team has been

buoyed by the return to form of captain Sunil Chhetri, who has netted five times in his last three matches. Ryan Williams, who returned from injury earlier in the season, has also made a significant impact, contributing two assists and two goals in his last four appearances.

Despite their home advantage, Zaragoza remains cautious about the challenge posed by Goa, who are currently on a five-match winning streak. "Goa are a good team and have good players. But they are coming to Kanteerava.

PRO KABADDI LEAGUE

Dabang Delhi beat Telugu Titans

PUNE: Dabang Delhi K.C. clinched a crucial victory against Telugu Titans, winning 33-27 at the Badminton Hall in Balewadi Sports Complex.

Riding on Naveen Kumar's Super 10 and Ashu Malik's 9 points, Dabang Delhi K.C. won the match on Thursday night in a tightly-fought contest that held a lot of significance for the playoffs race.

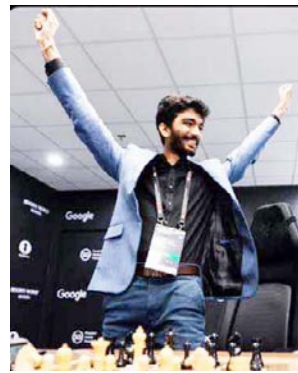
The two teams got off the blocks quickly with Vijay Malik getting the first points on the board for Telugu Titans.

Pawan Sehrawat didn't waste much time and made his presence felt on his return to the mat, giving his side a good start on the attacking front.

For Dabang Delhi K.C., Ashu Malik set the tone with a two-point raid as the teams traded blows in the opening exchanges. Naveen Kumar also contributed for Dabang Delhi K.C., making it an intriguing contest with both sides going toe-to-toe. In a Do-or-Die Raid, Vijay Malik bagged a two-point raid to put pressure on the opposition.

Rs 5 cr award for Gukesh

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu government on Friday announced an award of Rs five crore to chess prodigy D Gukesh from Chennai, who became the youngest ever World Champion.



In the 14th and last round, the Indian challenger dethroned title holder Ding Liren of China and was crowned the King of 64 squares at Singapore last night. Gukesh won 7.5 to 6.5 pts. An official release said, Stalin congratulated Gukesh soon after becoming the World Champion and also spoke to him over phone and extended his greetings. Stalin announced a cash award of Rs five crore to

Gukesh based on the request made by Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, who holds the Sports department portfolio, for making Tamil Nadu proud.

Santosh Trophy final round kicks off

NEW DELHI: After 57 years, the Santosh Trophy will grace the City of Pearls once again.

Hyderabad, a place rich in footballing legacy, attested by their three Santosh Trophy titles in the 1950s and 1960s, will host the Final Round of the 78th National Football Championship for Santosh Trophy 2024-25 from today (December 14) to December 31.

The esteemed GMC Balayogi Athletic Stadium will stage the final to determine the 78th champions of India's premier men's state tournament on New Year's Eve. A dozen teams will hope to make it there as they take to the Deccan Arena pitch for the group stage from today (Saturday) onwards.

Apart from hosts Telangana and last year's finalists Services and Goa, nine teams traversed the qualifying rounds

held across the length and breadth of the country to book their berth in Hyderabad. The top four teams from each six-team group will qualify for the quarter-finals.

Three matches will be played on the opening day. Services will kick off their title defence in the opening game of the final round as they take on Manipur at 09:00 in Group A.

Seven-time champions Services are, by far, the most successful team of the recent past, winning six of the last 11 titles. Shafeel PP's stunning match-winning strike in last season's final in Yulia, Arunachal Pradesh.

Manipur, champions once in 2002 on home soil in Imphal, suffered an extrajudicial heartbreak at the hands of Goa last time, but are rejuvenated again after an unscathed record in qualifying.

Sensex zooms

MUMBAI: Erasing losses, the BSE Sensex on Friday zoomed 843.16 points to close high at 82,133.12 following gains in IT stocks, anticipating US rate cut.

Consumer Durable stock also rose following a decline of 1 pc in domestic inflation. The National Stock Exchange (NSE) gained 219.60 points at 24,768.30.

A major up-down was Tata seen during the session, as the BSE sensex opened negative at 81,212.45, sliding 77 points. It was tanked 1207 points at 80,082.82, days low. In late trade, it erased earlier losses and spurred 924 points at 82,213.92, days high, before closing at 82,133.12, surging 843.16 points from its previous close.

The Nifty registered days high and low at 24,792.30 points and by 24,180.80 points respectively. The stocks that lifted the market were Telecommunications by 2.13 pc followed by Technology by 1.32 pc, Consumer Durable by 1.14 pc and FMCG by 1.07 pc.

The Mid cap fell 0.08 pc and Small cap by 0.29 pc. In 30 scrips, 26 advanced while 4 declined.

The gainers were Bharti Airtel by 4.39 pc to Rs 1681.95, ITC by 2.07 pc to Rs 470.15, Kotak Bank by 2.06 pc to Rs 1806.15 and Hind Unilever by 1.92 pc to Rs 2389.45.

The losers were Tata Steel by 1.26 pc to Rs 148.95, IndusInd Bank by 1.09 pc to Rs 987.05 and JSW Steel by 0.53 pc to Rs 1001.20.

Retail inflation eases to 5.48 pc: Govt

NEW DELHI: Easing of food prices, especially vegetables, the retail inflation eased to 5.48 percent in the month of November 2024 from 6.21 percent in the previous month, according to Consumer Price Index data released by the government. During the month of November 2024, a significant decline in inflation is observed in the Vegetables, Pulses & Products, Sugar & Confectionary, Fruits, Eggs, Milk and Products, Spices, Transport & Communication, and Personal Care & Effects subgroups, the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation said in a statement.

According to data, the inflation in the food basket reduced to 9.04 percent in November. It was 10.87 percent in October and 8.70 percent in November 2023.

The CPI-based headline inflation increased from an average of 3.6 percent during July-August to 5.5 percent in September and further to 6.2 percent in October 2024, the highest in more than a year since September 2023.

Last week, the Reserve Bank of India, while announcing the bi-monthly credit policy, had raised the inflation projection for the current fiscal year to 4.8 percent from 4.5 percent. Though it had retained the key rates unchanged, keeping in mind the inflation, it reduced the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by 50 basis points to ensure enough liquidity in the system.

The RBI had observed that the lingering food price pressures are likely to keep headline inflation elevated in the December quarter. Consumer price index (CPI)-based headline inflation increased from an average of 3.6 percent during July-August to 5.5 percent in September and further to 6.2 percent in October 2024. However, the inflation rate for both CPI (General) and CFPI was declining, reaching its lowest point in July 2024. However, from August 2024 to October, 2024, an increasing trend was observed.

KISAN KISAN AGRI SHOW 2024

Sonalika launches new tractors

PUNE: India's No. 1 tractor export brand Sonalika Tractors has made its powerful presence at Kisan Agri Show 2024 in Pune, Maharashtra where the company has showcased its most innovative and heavy duty tractors customised for Maharashtra farmers. The company has introduced 3 brand new heavy duty tractors - Sonalika Tiger DI 26, Sonalika Cheetah DI 32 and Sonalika Tiger DI 65 CRDS 4WD - that are customised to deliver exceptional performance in the hard soil of Maharashtra. Complementing the grand launch, Sonalika has also showcased 5 more innovative tractors in an impressive line-up, including Sonalika Cheetah NT30 4WD, upgraded Sonalika Sikander DI 750 III DLX 4WD, Sonalika Tiger DI 30 4WD, Sonalika Sikander DI 60 DLX 4WD, and Sonalika Sikander DI 60 DLX Torque Plus 4WD, along with Maharashtra special model - Sonalika Sikan-

der DI 745 III DLX 4WD.

The highlight of the event was the launch of Sonalika Cheetah DI 32 that has a heavy duty 3 cylinder 2,780cc engine, excellent 8F+2R transmission, superior Oil Immersed Disc Brake and power steering to offer robust performance across diverse agri-tasks.

Under the 'Designed in Europe' tiger Series, Sonalika has showcased Tiger DI 26, a compact powerhouse tractor equipped with a 3 cylinder 1,318 cc engine, seamless 12F+4R transmission, and 3ft-narrow track that makes it an ideal choice for sugarcane farming. The premium Sonalika Tiger DI 65 CRDS 4WD at the stall gets the biggest 4 cylinder 4,712 cc engine, smooth 12F+12R multi-speed transmission, advanced 5G hydraulics, making it a true game changer for large-scale agriculture operations in hard soil of Maharashtra.

WIML introduces electric three wheelers

UMBAI: Committed to promote environment friendly mobility solution with evolving technology and best-in-class features, WardWizard Innovations & Mobility Limited (WIML), a leading electric vehicle manufacturer, introduced a new range of 'Made in India' passenger and commercial electric three wheelers under the brand Joy e-rik and launched all new high speed electric scooter 'Nemo' under the brand Joy e-bike.

Making electric three wheelers more reliable, safe and practical for driver and passengers, the company has launched two models under passenger vehicle segment - Joy e-rik V1 (L5) and Joy Bandhu (L3). In the commercial segment, the company launched two models Joy Sahayak + Cargo (L5) and Joy Eco Loader (L3). The commercial models will be available across authorised dealerships.

In its endeavour to strengthen the e-mobility landscape in the country, WardWizard Innovations and Mobility will be collaborating closely with fleet operators in India

to provide sustainable and cost-effective transportation solutions for electrified last-mile delivery, shared mobility, and logistics sectors and thereby accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs). By leveraging WardWizard's advanced EV technology and operational expertise, the collaboration will help fleet operators reduce their carbon footprint, achieve significant savings on operational costs, and enhance efficiency. Focusing on innovation and localization, WardWizard is offering customized solutions tailored to the address the diverse needs of Indian fleet operators.

Further strengthening the product portfolio of Joy e-bike, the company also launched its new high speed electric scooter 'Nemo' that features bold design with impressive performance, new features and technology to bring utmost comfort and convenience to the rider. The new offering from Joy e-bike marks an important moment in reaching new audience. The booking of the new model will begin from across all the authorised dealership.