

Indian Super League

East Bengal to face Mohammedan SC

KOLKATA: East Bengal FC will play Mohammedan SC at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK) in the Indian Super League (ISL) match today (Sunday). East Bengal FC are currently placed 11th with 18 points from 19 games, having won once and lost thrice in their previous five matches. However, four goalless games in their last five fixtures has dented their progress and the Red & Gold Brigade would want to regain their scoring touch and solidify their position with 15 points still to play for them in the league.

At the bottom of the standings, Mohammedan SC have gone through a difficult debut campaign in the ISL, earning 11 points from 19 encounters. The team has scored just nine goals in the competition, conceding 34 and are coming into this game on the back of a three-game-long losing streak. In the earlier fixture between these two sides in November, both sides had settled for a goalless draw.

As of now, East Bengal FC are 13 points behind sixth-placed Mumbai City FC (31). Bridging that gap and entering the playoffs might be slightly difficult, but it is in their hands to continue to push for a strong finish to the season.

After parting ways with Carles Cuadrat, the team went through a slight transition and their cause has not been bettered with a dry patch upfront, scoring the second-least goals (18) in the competition.

The star striking duo of Cleiton Silva and Dimitrios Diamantakos, who netted a combined total of 21 goals for their respective teams in ISL 2023-24, have scored just thrice so far – all of them coming from Diamantakos as Silva is yet to open his account for the campaign.

For both these sides, the key is to sign off positively from this season. With 19 games gone, each of them must have secured important take-aways that can enable them to en-

sure a better finish in the standings.

East Bengal FC have arguably consciously devised a strategy to catch opponents offside, having done so 51 times this season, which is the most by any side. This disrupts the other team's offensive patterns and gives the Red & Gold Brigade a stronger base to build their attacking moves from.

The Jordanian centre-back has been a powerhouse for East Bengal FC, making 17 blocks, winning 32 duels, rounding off 54 recoveries, 63 clearances, and also finding the back of the net twice in 13 appearances this season.

Mohammedan SC's defensive frailties have been palpable, since they have given away multiple goals in each of their last four games. This marks the second-longest such stretch by any team in their debut ISL season, only behind Hyderabad FC's six-game run between December 2019 and January 2020. Their goal difference of -25 is the worst in the league. Mohammedan SC's attacking problems have been down to their inefficiency upfront, as they have converted just six of their 29 big chances this season. They have the lowest conversion rate (20.7%) among all teams. East Bengal FC (28) are the only team to have created fewer big chances than Mohammedan SC this season. East Bengal FC head coach Oscar Bruzon said that his team has worked hard towards recovering their lost form. "This was a long week. It was a week where we worked towards bringing our performances back to the level that we have displayed earlier against good and quality teams," he said.

Mohammedan SC's assistant coach Mehrajuddin Wadoo expressed that his side understands the magnitude of this match. "We know the importance of this game. We are going to play with all our heart and make sure that the game is difficult for East Bengal FC," he said.

Odisha FC defeat Hyderabad FC

BHUBANESWAR: Odisha FC defeated Hyderabad FC by 3-1 at the Kalinga Stadium in the Indian Super League (ISL) match. The Juggernauts are seventh in the table now with 29 points, two behind the sixth-placed Mumbai City FC (31) as Sergio Lobera's team continues to be a formidable contender for the playoffs.

They entered the half-time in this game trailing by a goal but produced a remarkable turnaround in the following 45 minutes to seal all three points – holding 54.6% possession in the game and taking five shots on target as compared to three of the opponents.

Odisha FC thus recorded their fourth straight win at home in Bhubaneswar against Hyderabad FC on Friday night.

Hyderabad FC drew the game momentarily in their favour by exerting pressure on the Odisha FC defence from a set-piece situation in the 30th minute.

The visitors worked in tandem to dissect the Juggernauts' backline, winning over second balls before Muhammed Rafi placed a headed pass from the left post in the path of Stefan Sapic for the latter to tap into the centre of the goal from extremely close range.

The Juggernauts turned to

Mourtada Fall to secure the equaliser in the 47th minute with a slightly unique take to their corner routine this time around.

Hugo Boumous launched in a quick cross on the far post but Fall was distant from the net at the time of the delivery. The centre-back made a dash of a sprint before thumping in a powerful header into the top left corner, bringing the Sergio Lobera-coached side back into the game.

Odisha FC treated this sudden shift in momentum to their advantage, pressing high up with Diego Mauricio leading the charge at the centre.

Women's Premier League

RCB beat Gujarat Giants

VADODARA: A scintillating counterattack from Ellyse Perry and Richa Ghosh guided Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) to a stunning six-wicket victory over Gujarat Giants in a high-scoring Women's Premier League (WPL) encounter on Friday.

After Gujarat Giants posted a daunting 201/5 in their 20 overs, RCBW chased down the target with 1.3 overs to spare, finishing at 202/4 in 18.3 overs. The chase, which initially seemed improbable after a poor start, was powered by Perry's well-paced fifty and Richa's destructive onslaught, exposing Gujarat's sloppy fielding.

Winning the toss and electing to bat first, Gujarat Giants showcased an explosive batting display, overcoming early stutters to post a commanding total. Skipper Beth Mooney (56) anchored the innings before Ashleigh Gardner un-

dered the ship after the early WPL match. Their 201/5 joined the



leashed a brutal assault on the RCBW bowlers. Gardner's 67-run partnership with Deandra Dottin (25 off 13) propelled Gujarat past the 200-run mark.

Gardner's onslaught saw her smashing eight sixes, equalling Sophie Devine's WPL record for the most in an innings. Gujarat's ten sixes in total were the sec-

ond-highest ever in a single WPL match.

With RCBW reeling at 14/2, Gujarat had a golden opportunity to tighten their grip on the match. However, what followed was a horror show in the field.

Dropped catches, missed run-outs, misfields, and poor bowling discipline cost Gujarat dearly. Perry was dropped on 2 in the fourth over and again on 18 in the sixth over, while Richa was let off on 0 in the 12th over. These missed chances proved to be the turning point as both batswomen went on to notch fifties.

Perry (57 off 34) steadied the ship after the early blows, anchoring the chase and laying a strong foundation. But it was Richa Ghosh who completely took the game away from Gujarat with a sensational knock. The wicketkeeper-batswoman blazed her way to 64 off just 27 balls.

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ICC Champions Trophy 2025

ICC announces broadcast details

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the details of its broadcast arrangements for the ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025, where eight teams will put it all on the line across 19 days in Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates.

The event where every match counts kicks off on 19 February as hosts Pakistan face New Zealand, with the Final taking place on March 9 where the victorious team will claim the iconic white jackets.

The ICC, through its direct broadcast partnerships with world class broadcasters will bring the thrilling 15 match, two-week com-

petition to fans across the globe. In India, the JioStar network will be the home of the Men's Champions Trophy 2025, offering fans a never-seen-before presentation of an ICC event.

For the first time ever on digital, an ICC tournament will be streamed live across 16 feeds, including nine languages: English, Hindi, Marathi, Haryanvi, Bengali, Bhojpuri, Tamil, Telugu, and Kannada. The live streaming on JioHotstar will be complemented by four multilingual feeds. On TV, in addition to the English feed, the network will provide coverage in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, across Star Sports and Sports18 channels.

NZ thrash Pakistan

KARACHI: New Zealand asserted their dominance once again, comfortably chasing down Pakistan's total of 242 to secure victory in the tri-nation series final on Friday.

With another clinical performance, the Kiwis have continued their impressive form ahead of the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy.

Pakistan's batting woes persisted as they were bundled out for 242 after opting to bat first. The top-order failed to deliver, placing the burden on Mohammad Rizwan and Salman Agha in the middle overs. However, the duo struggled to build momentum as New Zealand's disciplined bowling attack, spearheaded by William O'Rourke (4/43), restricted them effectively.

Tayyab Tahir (38) and Faheem Ashraf (22) contributed useful runs lower down the order, ensuring Pakistan had a competitive total to defend.

New Zealand's bowlers adapted well to the slightly two-paced pitch, with O'Rourke making effective use of cutters and spinners Mitchell Santner (2/20) and Michael Bracewell (2/38) applying pressure with their variations.

RBI fines The Nainital Bank Ltd

NEW DELHI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 61.40 lakh on The Nainital Bank Limited for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI on 'Interest Rate on Advances' and 'Customer Service in Banks'. According to RBI, the bank did not benchmark certain floating rate loans extended to MSMEs to an external benchmark rate; and also the bank levied penal charges for non-maintenance of minimum balance in savings bank accounts at flat rates instead of the charges being directly proportionate to the extent of shortfall.

The statutory Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE 2023) of the bank was conducted by RBI with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2023.

Based on supervisory findings of non-compliance with RBI directions and re-

lated correspondence in that regard, a notice was issued to the bank advising it to show cause as to why penalty should not be imposed on it for its failure to comply with the said directions.

After considering the bank's reply to the notice, additional submissions made by it and oral submissions made during the personal hearing, RBI found, inter alia, that the above mentioned charges against the bank were sustained, warranting imposition of monetary penalty.

This action is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers. Further, imposition of monetary penalty is without prejudice to any other action that may be initiated by RBI against the bank.

SIB Quick FD introduced

HYDERABAD: South Indian Bank (SIB) on Friday announced the introduction of a new product variant, "SIB Quick FD" that allows customers to open Fixed Deposits (FDs) seamlessly using funds from their other bank accounts.

This initiative enhances accessibility and convenience, enabling customers to invest in FDs digitally using UPI, the bank said in a release. With SIB Quick FD, Fixed Deposit booking has become more accessible and streamlined.

Customers with valid KYC can now open fixed deposits effortlessly using UPI, making secure investments more convenient than ever.

Key Highlights of this initiative include customers can open a fixed deposit without an existing savings account with South Indian Bank; FDs can be opened anytime, ensuring flexibility; Fixed deposits start at just ₹1,000, making them accessible to a wider audience and Competitive interest rates with the flexibility of premature withdrawals. Deposits are covered under DICGC insurance up to ₹5 lakhs, ensuring peace of mind.

PwC announces key new leadership appointments

HYDERABAD: PwC in India made key leadership announcements that will come into effect from April 1, 2025.

These announcements were made by Chairperson Sanjeev Krishan, who was recently re-elected for a second term. These announcements underpin the firm's aspirations of further strengthening its presence as a leading professional services organisation in India, bolstering its ability to deliver end-to-end capabilities for its clients and create enhanced consideration among the broader stakeholder groups, the company said in a release.

"In the last four years, we have made investments in areas that are strategic to our growth. We set out to achieve the USD 1 Billion revenue mark and achieved that well before our timeline. We have more than doubled our number of people and have significantly enhanced our presence with domestic businesses as well as key Alliance partners, said Sanjeev Krishan, Chairperson, PwC in

India. "These appointments are pivotal and will help build convergence in enabling our clients' strategic growth journeys and our own aspirations in India. We will be bold in our ambition and be a partner of choice for our clients and an aspirational workplace for our partners and people," Sanjeev added.

Some key appointments include: Vivek Prasad will take over as the firm's Chief Commercial Officer; Arnab Basu will be the firm's new Chief Industries Officer, moving on from his previous role as the Advisory leader. In his role; Manpreet Singh Ahuja moves on from his role as Chief Digital Officer to become the firm's Leader for Clients and Alliances; Dinesh Arora takes over as the new leader for the Advisory practice, moving on from his role as the Deals leader of the firm.

Dinesh will be supported by Dheeraj Gangrade, as the Deputy Advisory Leader, a role created to bring focus to the next line of leaders for the firm.

LogiMAT India 2025 inaugurated

MUMBAI: The backbone of India's development and fulfilling the vision of a \$5 trillion economy, India's logistics sector is witnessing unprecedented growth driven by dedicated government policies and public-private partnerships. At the Bombay Exhibition Centre in Mumbai, Dr. Anbalagan IAS, Secretary of the Industries Department for the Government of Maharashtra, inaugurated the second edition of LogiMAT India 2025, the world's largest logistics and infrastructure satellite show. While addressing the inaugural ceremony, Dr. Anbalagan IAS, Secretary of the Industries Department for the Government of Maharashtra emphasised, "We have recently allocated 400 acres to a company, which is expected to begin construction in approximately 3 to 4 years. This project will involve an investment of around 3 billion USD in Ratnagiri. The

Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg region has great potential, particularly in agricultural products like mangoes and cashews, as well as marine products, which could establish it as a significant logistics hub. Additionally, we can develop around 15 to 20 nodes along the Samruti corridor from Nagpur to Mumbai. This means that if you are looking to invest in logistics over the next 10 years, there will be no need to go beyond Maharashtra, as the scale of work available will be substantial within the state."

As the landscape of India's logistics sector evolves, the potential for attracting substantial investments becomes increasingly evident. In an extensive survey and interactive session with more than 150 industry leaders, LogiMAT India industry survey projects investments of 4 billion USD in India's logistics sector in the next three years.

MCMIL announces results

MUMBAI: Manaksia Coated Metals & Industries Limited (MCMIL), is one of the leading coated metal products manufacturer and exporter. Specializing in Pre-painted Galvanised Steel and Plain Galvanised Steel in both coil and sheet forms, has reported its Unaudited financials for Q3 & 9M FY25.

Commenting on the performance Karan Agrawal, Whole Time Director, Manaksia Coated Metals & Industries Limited said, "We are pleased with our Q3 FY25 performance, which reflects strong revenue growth, improved profitability, and an expanding global footprint. This growth has been driven by enhanced operational efficiency, strategic initia-

tives, and a continued focus on high-value products. Our emphasis on pre-painted steel remains a key driver of success, with a growing revenue contribution, reinforcing our shift towards value-added offerings. This transition not only strengthens our margins but also aligns with evolving industry demands. Additionally, strong production growth across both galvanised and pre-painted steel highlights our manufacturing excellence and the increasing market demand for our products. Exports continue to be a significant growth catalyst, with a notable increase in international sales, further strengthening our position in key global markets."

PIGL announces results

AHMEDABAD: Power & Instrumentation (Gujarat) Limited (PIGL), One of the leading players in the electrical contracting and equipment industry, has announced its Unaudited 9M & Q3 FY25 Financial results.

Commenting on the financial performance, Padmaraj Padmabhan Pillai, Managing Director, Power & Instrumentation (Gujarat) Limited said, "We are pleased to report a remarkable performance in Q3 FY25, with a 120% increase in revenue and a 278% surge in net profit. This strong growth trajectory reaffirms our commitment to scaling new heights. Notably, we have already surpassed our FY24 rev-

enue within the first nine months of FY25.

Additionally, we are excited to enter the Solar EPC segment, leveraging the growing demand for renewable energy. This presents significant opportunities for us to expand our expertise and strengthen our presence in the sector.

Furthermore, our plan to increase our stake in PECL to 60% will enable us to leverage its Siemens-certified expertise, enhance our manufacturing capabilities, diversify our product offerings, and expand our market reach. As we continue to scale our operations, we remain confident in sustaining strong growth in FY25 and beyond."

AVG announces results

MUMBAI: AVG Logistics Limited, (AVG), a leading multimodal logistics solutions provider, has announced its unaudited financial results for the Q3 & 9M FY25.

Commenting on financial performance, Mr. Sanjay Gupta Managing Director & CEO, AVG Logistics Limited said, "We are pleased to report a strong Q3 FY25 performance, reflecting our strategic focus on operational efficiency and sustainable growth. The consistent improvement in revenue and profitability underscores our commitment to delivering value to our stakehold-

ers. Additionally, securing a prestigious order from one of India's leading cement companies is a testament to our industry expertise and market trust. This contract, expected to contribute approximately ₹90 crore over the next three years, further strengthens our revenue visibility and growth trajectory.

"The Indian government's recent budget further strengthens the logistics and transportation industry, with a sharp focus on infrastructure development, including road expansions, dedicated freight corridors, and improved connectivity. These initiatives are set to reduce logistics costs,

enhance efficiency, and position India as a global logistics powerhouse. Additionally, the budget's emphasis on sustainability, including incentives for electric vehicles, aligns with our long-term vision of a greener logistics ecosystem.

"As we move forward, we remain committed to capitalizing on emerging opportunities, optimizing operations, and driving sustained profitability. Company remains focused on expanding its market presence and enhancing shareholder value through strategic initiatives and operational excellence."