The Hans India

Sports Nation

After the game (against New Zealand) they said to us, 'you have to leave immediately. We've been asked to get on a plane and return to our camp in Tijuana, and we are really troubled by that. They are forcing us to go back early. They are making the situation more and more difficult, more hurdles, but we're not going to let that stop us from doing our best - Amir Ghalenoei, Iran football team head coach

Cape Verde's veteran wall stands tall on WC debut

Vozinha, 40, makes seven saves to hold Spain's star-studded lineup to shocking 0-0 draw

R J Rico
Atlanta

IT took Cape Verde goalkeeper Vozinha all of his 40 years on Earth to make his World Cup debut. The long, long wait was worth every fleeting second. Vozinha recorded seven saves on Monday, holding Spain's star-studded lineup to a shocking 0-0 draw.

The veteran keeper was everywhere as the Spanish team and its fans became increasingly frustrated, despite dominating possession and unleashing 27 shots. Not even the second-half entrance of young superstar Lamine Yamal could crack the code to get past Vozinha and the Cape Verde defense.

As the final whistle blew, Vozinha hunched over near his net and cried before being embraced by his teammates. Cape Verde, in its first-ever World Cup match, had gotten a point against Spain, the 2010 champion and one of the tournament favorites this year.

Vozinha said he was overcome by emotions thinking about his loved ones who were unable to see his finest performance: his grandparents who had raised him, and his mother. His grandparents died a few years ago.

And his mother had been unable to gather the money in time to secure a visa to enter the US, Vozinha said. Cape Verde is among 50 countries whose citizens face bonds of up to $15,000 to secure a US visa, part of President Donald Trump's broader crackdown on travelers from countries that officials said had high rates of visa overstays.

Cape Verde goalkeeper Vozinha makes a save during the World Cup match against Spain

The Trump administration last month suspended the requirement for ticket-holders from Cape Verde and four other World Cup nations, but critics said it was too late for many fans. Vozinha's performance was a culmination of a career that didn't even start at the professional level until Vozinha made his debut at the age of 25 for Angolan club Progresso. Since then, he's had stops in Moldova, Cyprus, Slovakia and Portugal, where he currently plays for Chaves in the Portuguese second division. He joined the national team in 2012 and at times, Vozinha said, he thought about retiring from the national team, but he "continued because of this dream."

"I work all my life for this, for this moment, for this dream," Vozinha said. "A lot of generations in the past (dreamed of) this day but they did not achieve. And now the dream comes true." The word "vozinha" is Portuguese for "little grandmother," and the goalkeeper said he was given the nickname by older kids who would beat him on the soccer field and then laugh, saying he was going home to complain to his grandparents.

Years later, he took on the nickname after someone else on his club also had the same first name, Josimar. These days, Cape Verde defender Steven Moreira said he and his teammates like to tease Vozinha about his age. He said he was proud of the keeper, calling him a "big legend" who had a "crazy game" and showed that age doesn't matter.

Belgium's Romelu Lukaku celebrates with teammates after a self goal from Egypt earn a draw for the latter

Belgium settles for 1-1 draw with Egypt

SEATTLE: Romelu Lukaku's mere presence sparked an attack that led to Belgium's lone goal only seconds after he entered as a second-half substitute, helping his team earn a 1-1 draw with Egypt on Monday at the World Cup.

Lukaku came on in the 66th minute with Belgium trailing 1-0. He ran down the middle of the field and lurched to tap a cross from the right into the net, but Egypt defender Mohamed Hany did that instead, scoring an own-goal. The equalising goal came only 23 seconds after Lukaku came on the field. Emam Ashour had put the Egyptians ahead in the 19th minute with his first international goal. Ashour, a midfielder who was playing in his 30th game for his country, took advantage of a defensive breakdown to give Egypt only its second lead in World Cup match. The Egyptians, who are playing in their fourth World Cup, still have never won a game at the tournament. Belgium failed to advance past the group stage at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar and has not won any of its last three matches in the tournament. Egypt had numerous chances to increase its lead but could not put the Red Devils away. Lukaku and teammate Kevin De Bruyne also had an abundance of opportunities to take the lead. (AP)

RESULTS

- Spain 0 Cape Verde 0
- Belgium 1 Egypt 1
- Saudi Arabia 1 Uruguay 1
- Iran 2 New Zealand 2

Fixtures (in IST)

ON WEDNESDAY

- France vs Senegal 12:30 am at MetLife Stadium, East Rutherford, New Jersey
- Iraq vs Norway 3:30 am at Gillette Stadium, Foxborough, Massachusetts
- Argentina vs Algeria 6:30 am at GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium, Kansas City, Missouri
- Austria vs Jordan 9:30 am at Levi's Stadium, Santa Clara, California
- Portugal vs Congo DR 10:30 pm at NRG Stadium, Houston, Texas

ON THURSDAY

- England vs Croatia 1:30 am at AT&T Stadium, Arlington, Texas
- Ghana vs Panama 4:30 am at BMO Field, Toronto, Canada
- Uzbekistan vs Colombia 7:30 am at Estadio Banorte, Mexico City, Mexico
- Czechia vs South Africa 9:30 pm atMercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta, Georgia

Gurucharan bags Brilliant Trophy Jrs online chess title

HYDERABAD: Gurucharan Bhole of Raviteja High School, Narayanpet, emerged champion of the Brilliant Trophy Juniors Online Chess Tournament, scoring an impressive 11 points from 12 rounds. The tournament, conducted online, witnessed participation from young chess talents across the country.

Ayaan Arora of New Delhi and Saw Jinson Samuel of Andaman & Nicobar Islands secured second and third places respectively, both finishing with 10.5 points from 12 rounds.

Leeladitya Vardhan, Shanmukha Vasudeva, Anjan Goud Panasa, P Jillin Jeffin, Lopamudra Srivalli Aadya, Advitiya A G., and Laxmi Rishaank completed the top ten standings.

The event also featured age-category prizes for boys and girls in Under-15, Under-13, Under-11, Under-9 and Under-7 sections. Several promising young players showcased their skills, making the tournament a highly competitive and successful event.

The age category prize winners are:Boys: Under-15: 1. Mohammed Shabbir Ahmed, 2. Preran. Under-13: 1. M Adithya, 2. VSai Anirudh. Under-11: 1. Sacit Bara, 2. Arhant Reddy Swarna. Under-9: 1. Mohammed Sahir Ahmed, 2. T Easanth Under-7: 1. Vaidik Tanwar, 2. B Nithwik.

Girls: Under-15: 1. Sri Lasya Tummapudi, 2. Kandepu Manasa. Under-13: 1. Saanvika Akarapu, 2. Parnita Under-11: 1.S K Sony, 2. Kandepu Karthika. Under-9: 1. Anshitha, 2. B Aira. Under-7: 1. B Nithwika, 2.Ishika Garlapati.

Gymkhana FC enter semis, beat Bolarum Sporting 2-0

HYDERABAD: Gymkhana FC secured a place in the semi-finals of the Bolarum Challenge Cup 2026 with a convincing 2–0 victory over hosts Bolarum Sporting in the tournament's second quarter-final match.

Bolarum Sporting made an energetic start and nearly opened the scoring in the 10th minute. Piyush delivered a precise cross to Sai Satya, but a timely intervention by a Gymkhana defender prevented the hosts from taking the lead.

Gymkhana FC gradually settled into the contest and broke the deadlock in the 20th minute of the first half. Jobin finished off a well-constructed attacking move to put his side ahead 1–0.

The visitors maintained control after the break and doubled their advantage in the 75th minute. Majid reacted quickest to a rebound after goalkeeper Likith made an initial save, calmly slotting the ball home to make it 2–0.

Bolarum Sporting continued to battle hard and created a late chance through Abhishek, but he was unable to find the target.

TCA THREATENS LEGAL ACTION OVER PROPOSED TG-20 LEAGUE

Hans News Service
Hyderabad

THE Telangana Cricket Association (TCA) has announced that it will issue legal notices to several film personalities, cricketers and Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) officials over their alleged association with the proposed TG-20 League, which it claims lacks mandatory approval from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). TCA General Secretary Dharam Guruva Reddy said notices would be sent to actors Venkatesh Daggubati and Vijay Deverakonda, former India cricketer Ambati Rayudu, and international players Tilak Varma and Mohammed Siraj, among others. The association alleged that their endorsements could create a misleading impression that the tournament is officially recognized. The TCA also raised concerns over the role of the Court-appointed Single Member Committee headed by retired Justice P. Naveen Rao and questioned the legality of the league's governing structure and financial transactions.

Further, the association alleged political interference in cricket administration, irregularities in franchise ownership and marginalization of district-level players. It claimed that cricket was being used to advance commercial and political interests.

'People from RSS' behind attack on me: Dipke

Jaipur

COCKROACH Janta Party founder Abhijeet Dipke on Tuesday alleged that "some people from RSS" were behind the attack on him a day earlier, claiming it was an attempt to shift focus away from the real issue and stifle the voice of students.

Dipke landed at the Nagpur airport on Tuesday morning, ahead of the CJP's protest scheduled at Samvidhan Square here later in the day to demand the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over last month's NEET (UG) paper leak issue.

The CJP founder was allegedly slapped multiple times by two men while supporters carried him on their shoulders during a protest in Jaipur on Monday. Two youths have been detained in connection with the incident.

Asked who he thinks was behind the attack on him, Dipke alleged, "There were some people belonging to RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh), and there is nothing new in it."

Whenever someone speaks against the government or their ideology, they do like this; there is nothing new in it, he claimed.

On claims that he has ties with RSS and had met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Dipke said, "Is that why they attacked me yesterday?"

He claimed the attack on him was an attempt to divert attention from the real issue and to suppress the students' voices.

"We will not deviate from our issues; you attack us as much as you want. We will do our protest peacefully and democratically and not deviate from our main issue, which is about more than one crore students suffering injustice, and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has to take responsibility for it," he said.

"These kind of attacks will keep happening, but I am not afraid. We walk on the path of (Mahatma) Gandhi ji and Ambedkar, and it is our satyagraha, we will keep going on peacefully," he asserted.

Dipke has appealed to Nagpur residents, including students and the youth, to gather at Samvidhan Square at 4 pm on Tuesday for a peaceful demonstration.

The CJP has been demanding Pradhan's resignation over the NEET (UG) paper leak scandal.

Elaborate security arrangements have been made ahead of the protest in Nagpur, officials said. PTI

'BJP 'failed' accountability test by not seeking Pradhan's exit'

New Delhi

CONGRESS president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday accused the BJP government of having completely failed the test of accountability by not asking Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to resign following several exam irregularities.

He also criticised the government for putting curbs on the Telegram messaging app ahead of the NEET-UG 2026 re-exam on June 21, "The Modi government has temporarily blocked Telegram for the NEET exam re-test.

Modi ji should first demand the resignation of his Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who has blocked the futures of millions of youth," Kharge said in a post on X.

"Whether it's deploying the Indian Air Force, blocking Telegram, or catching small fish to protect the paper leak mafia - this is all something the Modi government has to do because in the last 10 years, 90 paper leaks have occurred, and 9 crore youth are suffering due to this fraud and corruption. How long will this government keep covering up its failures?" the Congress chief asked.

The Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha claimed that nearly half a dozen young people have been forced to take their own lives due to the exam irregularities.

"Modi ji doesn't utter a single word. There are countless candidates whose parents took loans to prepare them for recruitment exams over years. And then, one after another, NEET, SSC, UGC-NET, CUET, and other exam papers get leaked," he said.

The situation, Kharge said, has reached such a point that so much fraud was carried out in the CBSE results that talented students had to expose this government.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will also be addressing a few student conventions across the country starting June 17 in Kota while seeking to unite the student community against the Modi government over the paper leaks.

Jharkhand: NDA MLAs moved to hotel ahead of RS polls

RANCHI: Legislators of the opposition NDA in Jharkhand were being moved to a hotel here days ahead of polls to two Rajya Sabha seats in Jharkhand, a source in the alliance said. Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly Babulal Marandi said they will hold meetings to chalk out a strategy for the elections on June 18. Asking if the MLAs would stay at the hotel for two days, he said, "We will hold meetings." The BJP leader exuded confidence in the victory of the BJP-backed Independent candidate Parimal Nathwani in one of the two Rajya Sabha seats in the state.

A candidate is required to secure a minimum of 28 first-preference votes to emerge victorious. The BJP-led NDA does not have the numbers in the state assembly to make Nathwani a winner in the polls, unless there is cross-voting, a ruling party legislator said. In the Jharkhand Assembly, the INDIA bloc has 56 members, comprising 34 from the JMM, 16 from the Congress, four from the RJD and two from CPI(ML) Liberation.

NCPI names new chief; party gen secy 'has no idea'

KOLKATA: The Nationalist Citizens Party of India, which has been thrust into the spotlight after the Trinamool Congress rebel Lok Sabha faction's merger with it, has named Jyotiprakash Chatterji as its new president, according to Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, a key face of the dissident camp.

Ghosh Dastidar's statement came a day after NCPI founder Shewli Kundu told reporters that she had stepped down as the NCPI chief, triggering speculation that Ghosh Dastidar herself had taken charge of the party.

Amid TMC split, LS speaker gave Abhishek 2-hr notice

New Delhi

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will hear the defected TMC MPs as well as the faction led by Mamata Banerjee before deciding on giving recognition to the breakaway faction, sources said. Meanwhile, sources from the Mamata-led TMC said that on Monday, its leader Abhishek Banerjee was called for a meeting with Birla at a two-hour notice when he was still being questioned by the ED. TMC sources said Banerjee got an email from the speaker's office at around 2 pm on Monday, asking him to meet Birla at 4 pm. Soon after, the speaker's office called party MP Kirti Azad and told him about the email. Azad, in response, informed the speaker's office that Banerjee was "committed to cooperating with all investigative agencies" and was cooperating with the investigation at the ED office in CGO complex in Kolkata, sources said. Later in the day, Azad also met the speaker to inform him about the email.

The sources added that Banerjee returned after questioning only around mid-

night. The communication came as around 20 TMC MPs announced they were merging with the little-known Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI) and said they would later stake claim to be recognised as the "real TMC".

Earlier, sources from Parliament said Birla is likely to seek legal opinion on the defected leaders' demand to be recognised as a separate group after a proposed merger with the little-known Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI).

Two held for throwing eggs at TMC MLA Kunal

KOLKATA: Two persons were arrested on Tuesday morning, allegedly for throwing eggs at Trinamool Congress MLA Kunal Ghosh outside party supremo Mamata Banerjee's residence here, a senior police officer said. Chandan Singh and Ravi Koyal were arrested following a complaint lodged by Ghosh late on Monday evening. "An FIR was registered immediately. One accused was detained in the night, and based on information gathered during his interrogation, the second accused was arrested on Tuesday morning," a senior police officer said.

Raut rejects Sena (UBT) MP defection buzz

Mumbai

A day after Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Deshmukh met Shiv Sena minister Prataprao Jadhav, sparking speculation of a possible switch, Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said a "wrong picture was being painted" and asserted all parliamentarians remain firmly with the party.

Talking to reporters in New Delhi, Raut targeted the ruling BJP, accusing it of splitting parties and saying this was bad for the country's political health. "All Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs are together and will remain together," the Rajya Sabha member said.

The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) has downplayed the speculation of an 'Operation Tiger' being afoot (by ruling Shiv Sena led by Eknath Shinde) to poach party MPs.

Notably, the mascot of the undivided Shiv Sena was a tiger drawn by party founder Bal Thackeray. Thackeray on Sunday called a meeting of party MPs. Of the nine Lok Sabha members, only four --- Arvind Sawant, Anil Desai, Rajabhau Waze and Sanjay Patil --- attended the meeting in person, while Omprakash Raje Nimbalkar, Bhausaheb Wakchaure, Nagesh Bapurao Patil Ashtikar and Sanjay Deshmukh attended online.

Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Jadhav spoke to Thackeray over the phone, Raut said on Monday. The five MPs had cited different reasons to attend the meeting virtually.

Deshmukh, MP from Yavatmal-Washim, had said he skipped the meeting for family reasons.