

SPORTS

Kuwait's Al-Qadsia edge Al-Riffa in AFC Cup

Al Hilal win to begin ACL title defense



An amateur kiteboarder jumping the waves, trying to change the direction of the sail. (Inset): An amateur kiteboarder practicing his favorite sport. (KUNA)

Kiteboarding ... Harnessed sport for unharnessed thrill

Kiteboarding is a challenging extreme sport that depends mainly on the wind at any season of the year as it is the utmost vital factor to have when up in the air.

The kiteboarder combines surfing with paragliding and other sports, doing tricks and spectacular movements in mid-air for enthusiasts to watch captivating shows on Kuwait's beaches.

Since there are no training centers in Kuwait, thrill-seekers travel abroad to obtain certificates and expertise from specialized organizations.

A team of professionals established a center to train those who wish to practice it, giving them the skills that will allow them to enter international tournaments. (KUNA)

Khalid replaces head coach Jarni of NorthEast

NorthEast United, Jamshedpur share points in 3-3 draw

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 11: Goals galore. The NorthEast United FC and Jamshedpur FC entertained the spectators with a six-goal thriller at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati.

The encounter between both teams ended in a 3-3 draw in the Indian Super League clash. Although both teams are out of contention for the last four (playoffs), there was plenty of action as each side tried to get the better of the other.

Jamshedpur and NorthEast United occupy seventh and ninth places on the table. Federico Gallego in the 4th minute, Redeem Tlang in the 77th and Jose Leudo 88th scored for the hosts while Davide Grande (45+1), Noe Acosta (82nd) and Memo (85th) found the back of the net for the visitors.

It took just five minutes for NorthEast to break the deadlock. Ninthoingnba Meetei split the Jamshedpur defence

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with a good through-ball for Andrew Keogh whose shot was parried by goalkeeper Rafique Ali, the rebound fell into the path of Gallego who made no mistake.

Clear-cut chances were few and far between for both sides. Bikash Jairu could have equalized for Jamshedpur minutes after the half-hour mark, but a poor first touch to control Aniket Jadhav's cross allowed NorthEast custodian Subhasish Roy Chowdhury to prevent him from finding his name of the score sheet.

The visitors came back into the game just before the break. Aniket won a header in the air and flicked the ball into the path of Amarjit Singh who delivered an accurate cross into the box from the right flank. Grande rose the highest at the far post and found the back of the net with a good header.

Both teams chased opportunities to take the lead and for NorthEast, it

France winger Rattetz to miss rest of 6N with injury

PARIS, Feb 11, (AP): France winger Vincent Rattetz will miss the rest of the Six Nations after breaking a bone in his right leg against Italy.

"Fracture of the fibula, finished," Rattetz said in a post on his Instagram page on Tuesday.

The left winger scored a try in France's 24-17 win over England in round one, then played 77 minutes in the 35-22 victory over Italy on Sunday before leaving the field.

France, which leads the standings, plays defending champion Wales away in their third match on Feb 22.



Tlang reacts after scoring a stunning volley in NorthEast United's 3-3 draw.

came in the 56th minute. From a quick counter-attack, Martin Chaves chipped the ball into space behind the defence. Keogh made the run to get to the ball before Rafique's attempt over the keeper went wide.

Jamshedpur had a few chances too before NorthEast took the lead in the 77th minute. Chaves ran down the left flank and outfoxed Memo. The substitute crossed towards the far post where Sandeep Mandi's poor defensive header allowed Tlang to hit a volley into the net.

A persistent Jamshedpur attack was

gifted a chance to equalize two minutes later when Vaz handled the ball inside the box. However, Subhasish came up with a good save to deny Noe Acosta from a penalty spot.

Acosta was in the thick of things again when he received a corner-kick in the centre of the box and directed it towards the goal but his solid strike bounced off the crossbar.

The visitors eventually equalized for the second time in the game in the 82nd minute. Acosta redeemed himself after receiving the ball outside the box and unleashed a brilliant, curling strike that

flew past the extended gloves of Subhasish and into the net.

The NorthEast defence lacked the composure to see off the game and lost their cool in the final 10 minutes. Jamshedpur pressed hard and claimed the lead from a free-kick. Memo stepped up and struck a powerful effort into the net.

Jamshedpur, however, were dealt a blow when Farukh was punished with a second yellow card for his reaction to a bad tackle. A minute after the send off, NorthEast equalized.

Memo failed to clear a routine delivery into the box and Leudo scored with a powerful hit for a 3-3, capping an exciting game.

In the meantime, it has been reported NorthEast United FC has parted ways with manager Robert Jarni, with the announcement of Khalid Jamil as the interim head coach.

The announcement came hours after NorthEast drew 3-3 with Jamshedpur FC. The club said in a statement: "NorthEast United FC would hereby like to confirm that the club has parted ways with head coach Robert Jarni and his coaching staff through mutual agreement. The decision has been taken keeping in mind the best interests of the club and our recent performances in the ISL."

Jarni had replaced Eelco Schattorie as the NorthEast United manager at the start of the 2019-20 season. With three league rounds left to play, NorthEast lies second from bottom, having scored the least number of goals in the ISL (12). The club is on an 11-match winless run.

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 11, (Agencies): Kuwaiti outfit Al-Qadsia edged a 2-1 triumph over Bahrain's Al-Riffa in the AFC Cup, Asia's second tier club competition.

Kuwait internationals, Sultan Al-Enezi and Saif Al-Hashan, both scored for the away side in the 25th and 74th minutes respectively at Bahrain National Stadium.

The hosts attempted a comeback nine minutes before the end of the match through Mohammad Jasim but were left empty-handed in the two sides' initial Group C encounter.

The result sees the Kuwaiti side move three points to the top of the group with Omani side Dhofar, who earlier beat Jordan's Al-Jazeera, trailing on goal difference.

Earlier, Kuwait SC defeated Lebanon's Al-Ansar FC 1-0 in the Asian

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Football Confederation Cup AFC 2020.

Kuwait's Abdullah Al-Buraiki scored the winning goal in the 17th minute, in the match that was held at the Kuwait Club stadium, giving his team the first three points in the tournament.

Besides Kuwait SC and Al-Ansar, Group B includes Jordan's Al-Faisali and Syria's Al-Wathba.

Meanwhile, Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia began its defense of the Asian Champions League title by defeating newcomer Shahr Khodro of Iran 2-0 on Tuesday.

Peru international Andre Carrillo and the top scorer from the 2019 tournament, Bafetimbi Gomis, scored for Al Hilal.

Coach Razvan Lucescu warned his side was in for a hard time with a target on its back as the titleholder.

The Melbourne Victory kicked off the eastern zone of the league by beating Chiangrai United of Thailand 1-0.

A first-half penalty converted by captain Ola Toivonen - the Swede was fouled in the area by Tanasak Srisai - was all Melbourne needed against the tournament debutant. A plucky Chiangrai was reduced to 10 late when Thirayu Banhan was sent off.

With the scheduled game between Beijing Guoan and FC Seoul postponed - all games involving the four Chinese teams have been postponed to April and May because of the coronavirus - the



Photo from the event

Ezzullah wins horse racing 'champ'ship'

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 11: Under the patronage of the heirs of the late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, who were represented by Sheikh Abdullah Khaled Fahd Al-Ahmad, the horse "Ezzullah" from Al-Mulla Stable won the first Cup of the horse-racing championship after of 1,200 meters.

Sheikh Abdullah Khaled Al-Fahd presented the Cup to the owners of Al-Mulla Stable and congratulated them on the victory.

He also expressed his happiness and honor on behalf of the heirs of the late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Mubarak to be present at this big festival.

Sheikh Abdullah Khaled Al-Fahd revealed that it is the second time he is attending a horse-race at the Hunting and Equestrian Club this season.

He said he wants to use this opportunity to pay tribute to the Chairman and members of the Hunting and Equestrian Club under the leadership of Sheikh Dari Al-Fahd.

win put Melbourne to the top of Group E.

Ulsan Hyundai from South Korea came back to draw with visiting FC Tokyo 1-1 after a scoreless first half. Brazilian striker Diego opened the scoring for the J-League runner-up just after the hour, and with eight minutes remaining, an own goal from Adailton gave Ulsan, the 2012 champions, a point.

NFL Roundup

Vikings hire Capers

Chargers QB Rivers will enter free agency after 16 seasons

COSTA MESA, California, Feb 11, (AP): Philip Rivers' 16-year career with the Chargers has come to an end.

The franchise announced Monday that Rivers will enter free agency and not return for the upcoming season. General manager Tom Telesco said in a statement that as they talked through various scenarios with Rivers, it became apparent it would be best for both "to turn the page on what has truly been a remarkable run."



Rivers

The Minnesota Vikings hired long-time NFL coach Dom Capers on Monday as a senior defensive assistant on an already experienced staff.

The 69-year-old Capers will start his 33rd season as a coach in the league, after serving last year as a senior defensive assistant for Jacksonville. Capers was an NFL head coach for eight seasons, with Carolina (1995-98) and Houston (2002-05).

Suspended Browns star defensive end Myles Garrett met Monday with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell to discuss his possible reinstatement, a person familiar with the meeting told The Associated Press.

Garrett, who was banned indefinitely for ripping off Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Mason Rudolph's helmet and hitting him over the head with it during the closing seconds of a Nov 15 game.

The Los Angeles Rams have hired Denver outside linebackers coach Brandon Staley as their new defensive coordinator.

The Rams also announced the hirings of offensive coordinator Kevin O'Connell and special teams coordinator John Bonamego on Monday.

The Washington Redskins on Monday hired Jennifer King as a coaching intern who will work with the offensive staff throughout the season.

King will be a full-year intern but not a full-time assistant coach. The NFL currently does not have a black woman as a full-time assistant.

She most recently worked as an offensive assistant at Dartmouth College.

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