

# Djokovic centre of row, 'dizzy' Sinner reaches quarters

AFP, MELBOURNE: Novak Djokovic was at the centre of another Australian Open row on Monday while Jannik Sinner needed medical attention in fierce heat to battle into the quarter-finals and Iga Swiatek won easily.

But American teenage qualifier Learner Tien's fairytale run is over after he suffered a thigh problem in a four-set defeat to Italy's Lorenzo Sonego in Melbourne.



Italy's Jannik Sinner reacts on a point against Denmark's Holger Rune during their men's singles match on day nine of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on Monday

Five-time major champion Swiatek torpedoed another feel-good story as she thrashed "lucky loser" Eva Lys 6-0, 6-1 to set up a meeting with eighth seed Emma Navarro.

Poland's Swiatek, who accepted a one-month doping ban late last year, then learnt that the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) will not appeal in the case. She called it "closure".

The 24-time Grand Slam champion Djokovic wasn't in action -- he plays Carlos Alcaraz in a quarter-final blockbuster on Tuesday -- but he was the story.

On Sunday he refused to do a routine on-court interview, his hasty exit drawing boos from the Rod Laver Arena crowd.

Afterwards he said it was in protest at Tony Jones, a top sports presenter with host broadcaster Channel Nine, who he accused of "insulting and offensive comments" towards him and Serbian fans.

Djokovic said he would boycott interviews with the TV station until he got an apology.

He later released a short video on X to explain his stance and it has been viewed more than 60 million times, and caught the attention of the site's owner Elon Musk.

**RESULTS**

**Men's singles - Jannik Sinner bt Holger Rune 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2. Alex de Minaur bt Alex Michelsen 6-0, 7-6 (7/5), 6-3. Ben Shelton bt Gael Monfils 7-6 (7/3), 6-7 (3/7), 7-6 (7/2), 1-0 ret. Lorenzo Sonego bt Learner Tien 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-1. Women's singles: Madison Keys bt Elena Rybakina 6-3, 1-6, 6-3. Elina Svitolina bt Veronika Kudermetova 6-4, 6-1. Emma Navarro bt Daria Kasatkina 6-4, 5-7, 7-5. Iga Swiatek bt Eva Lys 6-0, 6-1.**

**QUARTER-FINAL LINE-UPS**

**Men's singles - Tommy Paul vs Alexander Zverev, Novak Djokovic vs Carlos Alcaraz, Lorenzo Sonego vs Ben Shelton, Jannik Sinner vs Alex de Minaur. Women's singles: Coco Gauff vs Paula Badosa, Aryna Sabalenka vs Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, Madison Keys vs Elina Svitolina, Iga Swiatek vs Emma Navarro.**

# India U-20 to play in Indonesia

PTI, NEW DELHI: India U-20 men's football team will participate in the Mandiri U-20 Challenge Series 2025, a four-nation friendly tournament, in Indonesia from January 24 to 30.

Syria, Jordan and hosts Indonesia are the other teams.

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has appointed Biby Thomas as the coach, with Mileswamy Govindaraju Ramachandran as his assistant coach. Dipankar Choudhury will be the goalkeeper coach.

Thomas also named a 23-member squad consisting of 17 and 18-year-old players (born in 2007 and 2008), who have been preparing for the SAFF U19 Championship to be held from May 8 to 18.

India will begin the

**SQUAD**

**Goalkeepers:** Suraj Singh Aheibam, Alsabith Sulaiman Thekkekkaramel, Karan Makkar

**Defenders:** Yaipharemba Chingakhom, Sumit Sharma Brahmacharimayum, Afinmon Bajju, Mukul Panwar, Malemngamba Singh Thokchom, Jodric Branches

**Midfielders:** Md. Arbash, Mahmud Sami, Levis Zangminlu, Manbhakupar Malngiang, Ahongshangbam Samson, Ningthoukhongjam Rishi Singh, Jajo Prashan, Ngamgouhou Mate, Gurnaj Singh Grewal, Danny Meitei Laishram

**Forwards:** Bharat Lairenjam, Lemmet Tangvah, Sujin S, Md. Zulkif

four-nation tournament against Syria (January 24), followed by matches against Jordan (January 27) and Indonesia (January 30). The matches will be played at the Gelora Delta Stadium in Sidoarjo.

All the three of India's opponents are using the tournament to prepare for next month's AFC U20 Asian Cup.

The Indian players, who had been camping in Goa, will depart for Sidoarjo on Tuesday.

After the tournament, the team will have a break before reassembling with more players for a longer camp to continue the preparations for the SAFF U19 Championship.

# Portais SC collect full points

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**PANJIM:** Portais Sporting Club downed Carambolim Sports Club 3-0 in the Goa Football Association's Division II League Ilhas Zone match played at Agassaim ground, on Monday.

The match was evenly poised with both teams coming close to score on many occasions but the strikers fumbled and sometimes the goalkeepers saved.

**GFA DIV II LEAGUE**

For Portais SC, Ayush Mardolkar, Nilesh Kunkalkar, Divesh Adkonkar and Mukesh Kunkalkar guarded the defence well while Babush, Aadarsh Mardolkar and Vishal were excellent in the midfield. Strikers Vignesh Shirodkar and Mahendra played well in the forward line.

Portais SC's Aadarsh Mardolkar opened the ac-

# Fr Agnelo YSC face Mandopa SC in semis

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**RAIA:** Fr Agnelo YSC, Paroda, blanked Arlem Youth Association 3-0 to enter into the semi-finals of Simon Barreto memorial inter-village football tournament organised by Maina Sports Club, at the DYSA ground, Curtorim, on Monday.

Both teams played an attacking soccer from the word go and were eager to get the goals but couldn't find the ball back of the net. Livon Clement of Fr Agnelo YSC fired from the top of the box in the 10th minute but it sailed over the crossbar.

In the counter attack, Arlem YA's Selwin gave a through pass to Garrison Fernandes but goalkeeper of Fr Agnelo YSC punched away the ball for corner. Both teams remained 0-0 draw till the lemon break.

All three goals came in the second session of play. Livon Clement in the 38th minute, while Ashwan Fernandes in the 43rd and Bradley Carvalho in the 48th minute.

In the semi-final, Fr Agnelo YSC will meet Mandopa Sports Club on January 23. Velroy Borges of Arlem YA was declared the man-of-the-match.

# Gadre Gaspar Dias Open to kick off on Thursday

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**PANJIM:** The tenth edition of the Gadre Gaspar Dias Open 2025, a premier tennis tournament, is set to kick off at Clube Tennis de Gaspar Dias, Miramar, on January 23.

With a record breaking 533 entries received, the event promises a thrilling display of talent from a diverse range of participants, including veterans, seasoned professionals and promising juniors.

**TENNIS**

Organised jointly by Clube Tennis de Gaspar Dias and the Gadre Group, in collaboration with the Goa State Tennis Association (GSTA), the tournament has garnered tremendous interest this year in the tennis fraternity.

In the tournament's Masters segment, the 45+ category has received the highest number of entries, 61, followed by 55 entries in the Masters doubles 90+ and 40 in the Masters doubles 110+ category.

Other entries include 30 in the Masters doubles 120+, 32 in the Masters singles 60+ and 30 in the Masters singles 55+ category. The 35+ mixed doubles, the only mixed category in the Masters segment, has recorded 11 entries.

The Open category also boasts significant participation, led by 118 entries in the men's singles and 43 teams in the men's doubles.

The ladies' singles category has drawn 28 entries, while the Open mixed doubles segment has 23 teams.

In the junior divisions, the boys under-16 category has 26 entries, the girls under-16 category has 15 entries, the boys under-12 category has 13 entries, while eight players have registered to participate in the girls under-12 category.

The tournament will begin with the Masters category matches commencing from January 23 to 26, followed by the highly anticipated Open category matches from January 27 to February 2.

# UC Verna book final berth

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**RAIA:** In a nail-biting semi-final clash of the 1st Fernando Abranches Memorial Trophy 2025 football tournament, hosts United Club of Verna secured the final berth with a 5-3 victory over Navelim Sporting via a tense tie-breaker.

The match held at the Verna panchayat ground, witnessed high-voltage drama before a roaring spec-

tators. The game started with great intensity and UC Verna's Clive came close to giving his team an early lead in the 6th minute. However, Navelim Sporting's solid defence thwarted the attempt, setting the tone for a fiercely contested encounter. Despite relentless attacks from both sides, neither team managed to find the back of the net during the regulation time, leaving the scoreline goalless draw.

The tie-breaker proved to be the decider, with UC Verna's players stepping up the under pressure. Fulgancio, Jayson, Clive, and Roydon converted their penalties with clinical precision. For Navelim Sporting, Noah, Aden and Ronaldo kept their team in the hunt, but they ultimately fell short.

Jayson Fernandes emerged as the "Star of the Match", ex-Sesa Goa and Winson Fernandes, former Churchill Brothers players.



VIDYA PRABHODINI HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, PORVORIM, WON THE ZONAL LEVEL U-19 GIRLS INTER-HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL TENNIS BALL CRICKET TOURNAMENT ORGANISED BY THE DIRECTORATE OF SPORTS AND YOUTH AFFAIRS, CAMPAL-PANJIM, AT MERCEZ, RECENTLY. IN THE FINAL, VIDYA PRABHODINI HSS DEFEATED DEFENDING CHAMPIONS NAVDURGA HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, MADKAI, BY 8 WICKETS. THE TEAM ALONG WITH OFFICIALS (SITTING LEFT TO RIGHT) HEMANT KHOT (TECHNICAL OFFICIAL), VILAS PALKAR (PE TEACHER), SANJAY SHIRODKAR (ZSO) AND RIYA MALWANKAR (CAPTAIN)

# PGML 4.0: Priority Titans in play-offs, Prescon Panthers stay in the hunt

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**PANJIM:** Priority Titans became the first team to book their place in the play-offs stage of the PGML 4.0 after scoring a thrilling 4-run victory over Baale Tigers at Panjim Gymkhana ground, here.

Prescon Panthers remained in the hunt for the last-four stage with a crucial 13-run win against Dempo Challengers. Priority Titans occupy the top place in the standings with 8 points from 4 matches. Prescon Panthers are second with 4 points from 4 games. Dempo Challengers, who suffered their second loss of the season in third league match, have 2 points in their tally and are placed 6th in the 7-team PGML.

Baale Tigers, who are the only team yet to open their account, came close to a fighting victory in the first match of the day when chasing a challenging target of 156, two of Goa's for-

mer Ranji Trophy all-rounders Robin D'Souza (28 not out) and Harshad Gadekar (28 not out) exhibited power-hitting in the closing stages.

However, Priority Titans skipper Mukhtar Kadri bowling the final over with Baale Tigers requiring 18 runs to win, managed to restrict Robin on strike to taking 13 runs from the over. Earlier, Priority Titans put on another strong batting display with Vedant Naik (39 off 19 balls) being their top-scorer. All-rounder Ojas (35 runs and 1 wicket) was named Grant Thornton Man-of-the-Match. Vedant, meanwhile, is now the Orange Cap holder as he leads the batting list with 131 runs from 4 innings.

In the second match, Prescon Panthers all-rounder and Man-of-the-Match Aditya Angle (36 & 3 wickets) delivered a fabulous performance with the bat, ball and in the field to enable his team clinch their second win in their fourth match. Having posted a moderate total of 134/5, Prescon

bowlers kept the remarkably deep batting line-up of Dempo Challengers in control before restricting them to 121/9. It was a scratchy outing with the bat once again for Dempo Challengers with none of the batters showing a substantial positive attitude.

Edwin Menezes and Gaurish Dharwadkar were the chief guests for the presentation ceremonies of the day's respective matches.

Brief scores: Priority Titans 155/7 (Vedant Naik 39, Sachin Sardesai 35, Ojas 35, Mrunmay Das 2/17); Baale Tigers 151/4 (Shushrut Nasnodkar 35, Rajaram Kundaikar 30, Robin D'Souza 28 not out, Harshad Gadekar 28 not out), Priority Titans win by 4 runs.

Prescon Panthers 134/5 (Aditya Angle 36, Prajyot Rivonker 35, Manish Kakode 35); Dempo Challengers 121/9 (Shubham Lokre 23 not out, Om Fadte 23, Prashant Pangam 21; Aditya Angle 3/10), Prescon Panthers win by 13 runs.

**ISL FIXTURE**  
Chennaiyin FC vs Mohun Bagan Super Giant at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Chennai, 7.30 pm

**GOA DIARY**

**Open Rapid Chess Tournament at Ponda**  
**PANJIM:** Ponda Friends Circle Sports and Cultural Club in association with Ponda Taluka Chess Association will organise Ponda taluka level Open Rapid Chess Tournament on February 2, at the Shree Naktshwar Hall, Upper Bazaar, Ponda. Top 15 players will be awarded with trophies. Also age-category prizes will be awarded. Last date of registration is January 31. For more details, contact Sagar Sakordekar, Amogh Namshiker, Wilson Cruz and Vishnu Naik.

**Tennis ball selection trials on January 25**  
**PANJIM:** The Goa Tennis Ball Cricket Association will hold tennis ball selection trials to select State team on January 25, at SAG ground, Campal-Panjim, at 3 pm, for the 32nd Senior Federation Cup Tennis Ball Cricket Championship for Men & Women to be held from February 21 to 23, at Sholingur, Tamil Nadu. Interested players should report at 2.45pm with a copy of Aadhaar Card to Hareesh Parsekar or Ajinkya Naik at the venue, with a playing kit.

**TODAY'S SPORTS**

**GFA Division II League (Bardez Zone):** Sangolda Lightening vs Vagator Parish Youth Sports Club, at Vagator ground, 3.45 pm

**Mix Friends of Santa Cruz Veterans football:** Calangute Veterans vs Bardez Veterans, at Santa Cruz ground, 3.30 pm; Fatorda Veterans vs Pele Veterans, 4.30 pm

**3rd All Goa volleyball tournament:** Radhakrishna Usgao vs Kakoda Boys, Cur-

chorem, at Manora ground, Raia, 4.30 pm

**KALA ACADEMY GOA**  
**10th TIATR 'B' GROUP COMPETITION - (2024-25)**  
**TODAY'S TIATR**  
**DUBAV**  
Gloria Ferrao  
Institution:  
G.F Production,  
Navelim - Salcete  
Venue:  
Ravindra Bhavan, Margao  
Time: 7.00 p.m.

**sportspopup**

**'Bazball' inventor McCullum says England will play 'watchful' cricket in India**  
**KOLKATA:** Credited with introducing the ultra-aggressive 'Bazball' brand of batting, England coach Brendon McCullum on Monday sprang a surprise by promising to "play very watchful style of cricket" in the limited overs series against India. The upcoming assignment against India will be McCullum's first in white-ball cricket, having coached the Test team with plenty of success since May 2022. "I know it's going to be a tough tour, taking on a very good Indian side, but I'm sure we'll play what I hope is a very watchful style of cricket," McCullum told reporters here. The tour begins with the first of the five-match T20I series at Eden Gardens on Wednesday, followed by three one-day internationals. "It's great, actually. That's really exciting, I think. Obviously, we've known for a couple of months this was going to unfold, and it's been great." In India, England will play five T20Is and three ODIs.



One of India's most iconic athletes, Neeraj Chopra left the country wonder-struck on Sunday night when he tied the knot with US-based tennis player and coach Himani Mor at a secret ceremony, on Sunday

**Singapore signs Anup as additional singles coach**  
**SINGAPORE:** India's Asian Championships bronze-winning former shuttler Anup Sridhar was on Monday roped in as a singles coach by the Singapore Badminton Association (SBA). However, South Korean Kim Ji-hyun will continue to be the head coach for SBA's men's and women's teams. Meanwhile, the number of home grown coaches might have been on the rise but their exit rate eyeing better-paying opportunities too is quite high, and the Badminton Association of India (BAI) is now preparing a roadmap in association with the Sports Authority of India (SAI) to stop the exodus. The crux of that proposal is a hike in remuneration for the coaches. One of India's most iconic athletes, Neeraj Chopra left the country wonder-struck on Sunday night when he tied the knot with US-based tennis player and coach Himani Mor at a secret ceremony, on Sunday

# Mapusa Dream Crushers, Commonwealth Developers win opening matches

**Team Herald**  
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**MARGAO:** Mapusa Dream Crushers UC claimed a convincing 36-run victory over Priority Titans in the inaugural match of Alcon GSB Unity Cup 2025 organised by the Goa GSB Sports and Charitable Trust at the MCC ground in Margao.

Batting first, Mapusa Dream Crushers posted an impressive total of 180/7 in their 20 overs, with stellar contributions from Saish Hegde (37), Kaushal Churi (35), and Rajaram Kundaikar (35)\*.

In response, Priority Titans were bundled out for 144 in 18.2 overs, despite a valiant 33 from Kapil Sinai Borker. Venkatesh Verle-

kar, with bowling figures of 3/26, was named Man of the Match for his match-winning performance.

Commonwealth Developers Margao Mega Strikers delivered a dominant performance, defeating Rising Stars of Antruz UC by 5 wickets with 45 balls to spare.

**ALCON GSB UNITY CUP**

Chasing a modest target of 112, Mega Strikers cruised to victory in just 12.3 overs, thanks to an opening partnership of 41 runs between Vismay Falgaonkar (35) and Durgesh Prabhugaonkar (30). Earlier, their bowlers shone brightly, with Animesh Prabhugaonkar (2/17), Aditya Angle (2/19), and Siddhesh

Prabhu Alvenkar (1/30) restricting the Rising Stars to 111/9 in 20 overs. Animesh was awarded the Man of the Match for his all-round contribution. The tournament has set a high standard for the coming matches, with teams showcasing exceptional cricketing skills and sportsmanship.

Brief scoreboard: Rising Stars of Antruz UC: 111/9 in 20 overs (Gaurish Shenvi Lotlikar 23, Eeshan Kamat 14, Saesh Prabh Desai 12; Animesh Prabhugaonkar 2/17, Aditya Angle 2/19, Siddhesh Prabhu Alvenkar 1/30).

Commonwealth Developers Margao Mega Strik-

**TODAY IN CORTALIM 7PM**  
**HO SONVSAR ATAMCHEA BHURGANCHO**  
FOR VILLAGE SHOWS CONT  
8888718809 / 9822393408