

Sesa FA emerge winners of Dream Sports Championship Goa Round

HERALD PIC



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GUIRIM: Sesa Football Academy qualified for the National Finals of the Dream Sports Championship 2025 after a tough battle against Dempo SC in the Goa Regional Round

final played at the Fields of Dreams, on Friday.

The match ended with a 2-2 draw, but eventually, Sesa FA goalkeeper Sakib Lamture emerged as the hero as his side secured a 4-2 win on penalties in the U-17 football tournament. Sesa FA opened the scor-

ing in the 14th minute when Aniket Terane found the net. A second goal followed when Pramod Gawas doubled the lead for Sesa FA in the 63rd minute. With the victory almost in the bag, Dempo SC turned up the heat. Jonathan Silva reduced the deficit in the 73rd min-

ute and in the 5th minute of injury time Jodric Abranches scored the equalising goal, taking the game to penalties.

However, despite this loss, Dempo SC will qualify for the National Finals by virtue of being the best losing regional finalists following the draw and will

join Sesa Football Academy (Goa), Punjab FC (Delhi), Chennaiyin FC (Bengaluru), Reliance Foundation Young Champs (Mumbai), Mohun Bagan Super Giant (Kolkata), and Football 4 Change (Guwahati), completing the final line-up for the National Finals in Goa in April.

Odisha FC down Hyderabad FC

AGENCIES, BHUBANESWAR: Odisha FC moved past Hyderabad FC 3-1 in the Indian Super League match played at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar, on Friday.

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.

RESULT
Odisha FC 3 (Mourtada Fall 47', Hugo Boumous 49', Rahim Ali 70')
Hyderabad FC 1 (Stefan Sapic 30')

ISL FIXTURES
Chennaiyin FC vs Punjab FC at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Chennai, at 5 pm
Kerala Blasters FC vs hosts Mohun Bagan Super Giant at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Kochi, at 7.30 pm

Salgaocar FC win

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MAPUSA: Salgaocar FC had an easy outing as they humbled their rivals Geno FC by 8-0 margin in the Goa Football Association's U-13 Division I League match played at Parra ground, on Friday.

Having dismantled their senior team, patron Swati Salgaocar, this season has fielded U-13 and U-15 teams in the ongoing GFA's age group tournaments.

GFA LEAGUES

For Salgaocar FC Pavel Pires did most of the damage as he netted a hat-trick, after Ralin Albuquerque had opened the account in the very 3rd minute of play, with substitute Ashton Gomes scoring a brace and Daison Colaco and Rylan Almeida adding their names to the scorer's list.

U-15 Div I League:
Cortalim Villagers drub Geno FC

Cortalim Villagers Social Welfare SC drubbed Geno FC by 7-3 margin in the GFA's U-15 Division I League match played at Parra ground.

For Cortalim Villagers, Macwyn Silva opened the flood gates by scoring in the very 2nd minute of play. As the match progressed, Kuldeep Kullu pumped in five goals with Isaiah Dias adding his name to the scorer's list.

At the other end, Geno FC which shone in patches saw Tyler Rodrigues net a brace and Macaire Pereira accounted for his team's third goal.

TODAY'S SPORTS

Goa Professional League: Dempo SC vs Goa Police SC, at Dempo Sports Academy ground, Ella ground, 4 pm

GFA U-15 Division II League (final) (South District): SCC Loulutilm vs Youth Welfare Assolna, at Navelim ground, 4 pm

GFA U-13 Division I League: Cortalim Villagers SWSV vs Clube de Salgaocar, at Cansaulim ground, 4.15 pm

All Goa Siolim Veterans football: Verem Veterans vs Anjuna Veterans, at Siolim ground, at 4.30 pm

Sesa FA clinch Batora Utd Women's Festival Cup

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RAIA: Sesa Football Academy clinched the Batora United Women's Festival Cup defeating Livral Sports Club Benaulim by a solitary goal in the final played at the DYSA ground, Curtorim, on Friday.

The all-important goal for Sesa FA came in the first half before the half time through Shusmita Jadhav.

In the second half, Livral went all out and that yielded result as their forward brought down in danger area and referee awarded a penalty but Sesa FA goalkeeper saved the attempt by diving to his right and that turned out to be winning moment.

Curtorim Zilla Panchayat member Michelle Rebelo was the chief guest and gave away the prizes to the winners and runners-up in the presence of first FIFA Referee in Goa Maria Rebelo, Curtorim panch members Gloria Demelo, James D'Costa, former Curtorim Gymkhana president Savio Fernandes, Goa Football Association Executive Members Anthony Fernandes and Francisco Nunes, Joaquim Fernandes, Franky Fernandes, Caetano Fernandes, Domnick Pais, other dignitaries and the club officials at the DYSA ground, Curtorim, on Friday



The winners along with chief guest Curtorim Zilla Panchayat member, first FIFA Referee in Goa Maria Rebelo, Curtorim panch members Gloria Demelo, James D'Costa, former Curtorim Gymkhana president Savio Fernandes, Goa Football Association Executive Members Anthony Fernandes and Francisco Nunes, Joaquim Fernandes, Franky Fernandes, Caetano Fernandes, Domnick Pais, other dignitaries and the club officials at the DYSA ground, Curtorim, on Friday

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INDIVIDUAL PRIZES

First scorer of the match & best player of the final: Sushmita Jadhav
Best goalkeeper of the final: Aashika Gadekar
Best defender of the final: Rhea Pires
Best half of the final: Josiel Mare
Best forward of the final: Aniela Barreto

GOA DIARY

Young Boys of Tonca to hold football selections at Sangolda on Sunday PANJIM: Young Boys of Tonca will conduct football selection trials to select team for upcoming Goa Football Association Division I League on February 16, at Sangolda ground, at 3.30 pm. Interested players should contact Nelson D' Cunha at the venue.

Goa Fencing Association to hold State fencing championship PANJIM: The Goa Fencing Association will be conducting State level Fencing Championship for boys and girls, men and women) on February 26, at Campal indoor stadium, Campal-Panjim. The championship will be held in senior, juniors and sub-junior categories. Interested players should register before February 20. For details, contact the State coach Deepak Singh Rajput and Arunkumar Saine.

Anish wins Ponda Open Rapid Chess Tournament

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PANJIM: Anish Naik won the Ponda Taluka level Open Rapid Chess tournament organised by the Ponda Friends Circle Sports and Cultural Club (PFSCCC) in association with Ponda Taluka Chess Association (PTCA), at the Shree Naktshwar Hall, Ponda, recently.

Avnish Borker secured the second place, while Sidhiraj Gaunkar secured third. Raghvendra Gupta, Samarth Borker, Swayam Bambolkar, Ridhhi Gaude, Sopan Desai, Prathamesh Shirodkar, Arush Naik, Kaushik Pednekar, Vithal Pai, Mayank Kurtikar, Nagesh Nayak and Anvay Borker secured fourth to 15th place respectively.



The winners along with chief guest Minister for Agriculture Ravi Naik, former chairperson of Ponda Municipal Council Ritesh Naik, PFSCCC President Narayan Bhamalkar, Secretary Vishnu Naik, Treasurer Sadashiv Pandit, PTCA President Sagar Sakordekar, Chief Arbiter Sudhakar Patgar and other dignitaries at the Shree Naktshwar Hall, Ponda, recently

Best U-15 boy: Supreet Priolkar. **Girl:** Saanvi Gaude.
Best U-13 Boy: Vivaan Venkerkar. **Girl:** Bhakti Pikle.
Best U-11 boy: Nityam Gaude. **Girl:** Aarya Kamat

Helekar: Best U-9 boy: Siaan Kerker. **Girl:** Amaira Borker.
Best U-7 boy: Nirbhay Gaude. **Youngest player:** Neesh Mulvi. **Best Above 40:** Yogesh Dalvi.

Chief guest Minister for Agriculture Ravi Naik distributed the prizes in the presence of former chairperson of Ponda Municipal Council Ritesh

Naik, PFSCCC President Narayan Bhamalkar, Secretary Vishnu Naik, Treasurer Sadashiv Pandit, PTCA President Sagar Sakordekar and Chief Arbiter Sudhakar Patgar.

Jitendra Naik compered, prize winners announced by Amogh Namshikar and Vishnu Naik proposed the vote of thanks.

Milind Gaude (assistant arbiter), Govind Desai (former PFSCCC President), Dilip Mangaonkar, Mahadev Hallemani, Mahesh Mangeshkar, Rajan Kolvekar, Mujib Mulla, Ajay Vernekar, Noor Shaikh, Ajay Patil, Wilson Cruz, Pankaj Chavan, Anand Kurtikar, Sandesh Naik, Anirudh Borkar and Ganraj Nayak supported to make the tournament successful.

had not trained during the ODI series that India swept 3-0. "Firstly, it's factually incorrect, the whole statement that we don't train," McCullum told talkSPORT. "We've trained plenty right throughout, and guys have come from a lot of cricket as well. I think it's an easy thing to have as a throwaway line that guys don't train enough when the results aren't right."

Doping: Koki Ikeda banned for 4 years

MONACO: Japanese race walker Koki Ikeda, a former Olympic silver medalist, has been banned for four years for doping, the Athletic Integrity Unit said Friday. The athletics watchdog said that a disciplinary and appeals tribunal ruled that the 26-year-old Ikeda had broken anti-doping rules. Ikeda has been provisionally banned from competition since November 2024, with his results disqualified since June 2023.

Asia Mixed Team C'ship: India crash out

QINGDAO (China): HS Prannoy fought valiantly, but India succumbed to a 0-3 defeat against a second-string Japan in the quarter-finals of the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships, ending their campaign on a disappointing note, here, on Friday. India struggled to find their rhythm, and trailed 0-1 after going down in the mixed doubles. Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto, ranked 37th in the world, showed resilience before going down 13-21, 21-17, 13-21 to world number 12 Hiroki Midorikawa and Natsu Saito.

sportspopup

Perry, Richa fifties power RCB to 6-wicket win over Gujarat Giants

VADODARA: Richa Ghosh and Ellyse Perry smashed forceful fifties as Royal Challengers Bengaluru pulled off the highest run chase in the history of Women's Premier League to register a thrilling six-wicket win over Gujarat Giants, here, on Friday. Perry (57, 34b, 6x4, 2x6) and Ghosh (64 not out, 27b, 7x4, 4x6) were in sublime touch as defending champions RCB scaled down the target of 202 with ease in the tournament opener. It was a remarkable turnaround for RCB as they were tottering at 14 for two after second over, as Ashleigh Gardner ousted openers Smriti Mandhana (9) Danny Wyatt (4) in the space of four balls. But from thereon, Perry and Raghavi Bist (25, 27b) added 86 runs for the third wicket to steady the ship, before the latter fell to pacer Deandra Dottin.

Gukesh loses to Firouzja, ends eighth

HAMBURG (Germany): World champion D Gukesh ended in eighth position after losing to Iranian-French grandmaster Alireza Firouzja in the second game of their seventh-place play-off match at the Freestyle Chess Grand Slam, here, on Friday. Gukesh thus concluded his forgettable cam-

paigned in the tournament at Weissenhaus Resort without a single win. A day after his remarkable comeback from a hopeless position to draw game one against Firouzja on Thursday, the ball was in Gukesh's court to do well as the white pieces, but clearly, the world champion had run out of steam to lose in 30 moves. In the final game, Firouzja proved superior and cashed in on the opportunities presented to him.

Ben out of CT, Jacob named replacement

CHRISTCHURCH: Pacer Ben Sears has been ruled out of the Champions Trophy due to a hamstring injury, a significant setback for New Zealand ahead of the ICC event which kicks off on February 19. New Zealand Cricket (NZC) has named Jacob Duffy as Sears' replacement. "Sears felt some pain in his left hamstring at the team's first training in Karachi on Wednesday and a subsequent scan revealed a minor tear that would require at least two weeks' rehabilitation," NZC said.

We trained plenty for India tour: McCullum

AHMEDABAD: England's head coach Brendon McCullum has dismissed suggestions that his team did not prepare adequately during their white-ball tour of India, calling such claims "factually incorrect". The New Zealand great was responding to criticism that emerged during TV commentary for the third ODI, where Ravi Shastri and Kevin Pietersen suggested that, apart from Joe Root, England's players

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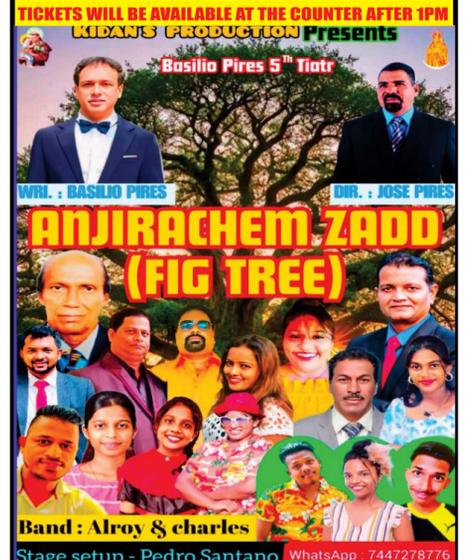
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Stage setup - Pedro Santana WhatsApp 7447278776