

# Dempo SC eye victory against Shillong Lajong at home

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**MARGAO:** Dempo SC will look to build on their recent form when they take on Shillong Lajong FC in their upcoming I-League 2024-25 fixture at the Nehru stadium, Fatorda, on Wednesday, at 4.30 pm.

The Golden Eagles enter the match following a hard-fought 2-2 draw against Namdhari FC at home. Seigoumang Doungel gave Dempo the lead before halftime, but Namdhari FC responded with goals from Akashdeep Singh and De, turning the game in their favour. However, Dempo's latest signing, Marcus Jo-

seph, had an immediate impact, scoring a crucial equaliser to salvage a point.

Head coach Samir Naik was full of praise for the Trinidadian forward, who quickly adapted to the team. "I took a chance, and it clicked. It felt like he had been with us for six months already. He slotted straight into the team, combined well with the players, and adapted quickly thanks to his experience in Indian football," Naik said.

Meanwhile, Shillong

Lajong are in high spirits after a dominant 4-0 victory over Sreenidi Deccan.

Marcos Silva netted a brace, with Kenstar Kharshong and Renan Paulino adding to the tally in a commanding display.

Despite Dempo's mid-table position, Naik remains optimistic about his team's progress.

"The boys are getting used to the ground now, and our confidence is growing. In our last four games, we've only dropped a couple of points. There's a lot of positivity in the camp,

and with everyone available, we're ready," Naik stated.

Currently, Dempo SC sit eighth in the table with 18 points from 14 matches, while Shillong Lajong are in fifth place with 22 points. In their previous encounter, Dempo secured a 2-0 victory at the Polo Grounds in Shillong.

Naik emphasised the importance of the upcoming fixture in Dempo's push for a higher finish in the league. "Whenever we take the field, we aim to win. It's about keeping ourselves in the race for the league. If we win tomorrow, we're back in that mix," he concluded.

## Verna Veterans drubs Bardez

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**MAPUSA:** Verna Veterans proved to be too good as they trounced Bardez Veterans by 4-0 margin in the all-Goa Siolim Veterans football tournament, played at St Anthony's Church ground, Siolim, on Tuesday.

The match was witnessed by a large crowd where Verna's Ricardo Carvalho stole the lime-light scoring a hat-trick, with Jess Cardoz accounting for the fourth goal with a superb solo effort.

Ricardo Carvalho of Verna Veterans was presented man-of-the-match award by chief guest Dilip Mambrey, former Laxmi Prasad SC and Sesa player.

# Goa Blue's win Edwin Carvalho Memorial title

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**MAPUSA:** Goa Blue's emerged winners in the Edwin Carvalho memorial 6-a-side hockey fiesta for veterans in the two-day event, held at the Peddem Sports Complex, Mapusa.

The tournament featured 8 teams - Melbourne Knights and Melbourne Raptors from Australia; Sticks and Soros from the UAE; Kajang Panthers from Malaysia and four Goa teams.

The eight teams were distributed into two pools of 4 teams each.

The Goa Reds topped pool A with 3 wins while the Raptors edged out the Sticks and Soros into third

position on goal difference. In pool B, Goa Blue also won all its league matches to go to the top whilst the Knights edged out the Panthers.

## VETERANS HOCKEY

The semi-finals were both closely fought encounters with both Goa teams defeating the two Melbourne outfits.

The final was a pulsating battle which finished with both teams locked at 2-2 at full-time.

Goa Blue emerged winners by the narrowest of margins with their goalie, Conan Fernandes bringing off two spectacular saves.

Goalkeeper Nilesh Poro also impressed in goal for the Reds.

Olympians Joaquim Carvalho and Merwyn Fernandes were the guests of honour and distributed the attractive trophies.

Merwyn, in his speech said that more youngsters must be encouraged to take up the sport in Goa.

He reminded the large crowd that he and Joaquim are putting together a hockey grassroot development program in association with Mavericks Club.

Further he said, "If any other club wishes to contribute towards the program. We would also like to extend our services for any program initiated by Goans Hockey."

# Ponda Taluka Chess Association felicitates top performers

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**PONDA:** The Ponda Taluka Chess Association honoured several local chess players for their outstanding performances at State and FIDE-rated chess tournaments, recently, at the Thrift Co-operative Association Hall.

Players Devesh Naik, Avani Sawaikar, Sarthak Naik, Avnish Borker, Riddhi Gaude, Swayam Sandesh Naik, Anish Naik, Mayank Kurtikar, Anvay Borkar, Amaira Borkar, and Aarav Naik were recognised for their achievements. The event was attended by Sagar Sakordekar, president of the association, who welcomed the guests, while Radha Sakordekar introduced the chief guest, Mukesh Thali,



a writer and Sahitya Academy award winner.

The chief guest, Mukesh Thali, felicitated the players and praised their efforts, encouraging parents to motivate their children to participate in chess.

Other notable awards included Avani Sawaikar, Kaushik Pednekar, Riddhi Gaude, Mayank Kurtikar, Sarthak Naik, Sopan Desai, and Nishesh Gaude, who were honoured by the SRS Vedic Maths Academy for achieving FIDE ratings.

Yash Upadhye was also recognised for his excellent performance in the Goa International Grandmaster Chess Tournament. Radha Sakordekar compered while Sagar Sakordekar delivered the vote of thanks.

## USC Seraulim enter quarter-finals

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**RAIA:** United Sports Club, Seraulim, secured a place in the quarter-finals of the Vaidya Family Memorial Cup 2025, organised by Cuncolim Union, with a 2-1 victory over Guardian Angel SC Curchorem, at the Government School playground, Cuncolim, on Tuesday.

Keith Rodrigues opened the scoring for Seraulim in the 19th minute, assisted by Nayab, giving his team a 1-0 lead at half-time.

In the second half, Guardian Angel SC applied intense pressure and were awarded a penalty kick, taken by Cyril. However, Seraulim's goalkeeper Joywin Braganza produced a stunning save to deny the equaliser.

Elroy Costa then doubled Seraulim's lead, but Regan Costa pulled one back for Guardian Angel SC to keep the match competitive.

Seraulim's goalkeeper, Joywin Braganza, was awarded the man-of-the-match, presented by Shogun Aguiar, former player of Cuncolim Union.

## Cortalim Villagers thrash Pax of Nagoa

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**RAIA:** Cortalim Villagers SWSC cruised to a 4-0 victory over Pax of Nagoa SC in their Goa Professional League match at Nagoa Panchayat ground on Tuesday.

## GFA LEAGUES

All four goals for Cortalim Villagers came in the first half. Ponif Vaz of Pax of Nagoa SC was sent off in the 43rd minute. Prathmesh Gaonkar was the star of the match, netting a superb hat-trick with goals in the 69th, 73rd, and 85th minutes. Substitute Leo Gomedes added the final goal in the 5th minute of added time, sealing an emphatic win

for Cortalim Villagers.

## Compassion SC dominate

Compassion SC secured a commanding 5-0 victory over Union of Chinchinim Villagers in the GFA U-13 girls' match at King's School ground, São José de Areal. Jasmine Baral led the charge with a brace, while Leska Alfonso, Asma Bandodkar, and substitute Skye Fernandes added to the tally.

At Cansaulim Sports Complex ground, in the GFA U-13 Division I League, Guardian Angel SC and Cortalim Villagers Social Welfare SC played out a goalless draw at. Both teams fought hard, but neither managed to break the deadlock.

## GOA DIARY

### U-15 women's football tournament at Navelim

**RAIA:** Navelim Sporting Club will be organising their annual inter-school U-15 women's football tournament, from February 20, at Rosary Church ground, Navelim and finals will be on February 23, at 4.30 pm. A total of 8 team will participate from all over Goa. The teams include Fatima Convent High School; Saviour of the World High School, Lotoulim; St Annes Institute, Agonda; St Joseph High School, Aquem; Rosary High School, Navelim; Our Lady of Poor High School, Tilamol; St Judes, Betalbatim and Perpetual Succour Convent High School, Navelim. Winners will be richer by Rs 12000 plus trophy while runners will have to settle for Rs 8000 plus trophy. Semi-finalist will receive Rs 2000 each plus trophy.

### Int'l tennis coaches certification workshop

**MARGAO:** The Goa State Tennis Association (GSTA), in collaboration with the All India Tennis Association (AITA) and the Sports Authority of Goa (SAG), will host Goa's first-ever International Tennis Federation (ITF)-recognised Tennis Coaches Certification Workshop from March 17 to 23, at the SAG Tennis Courts, Fatorda. Renowned tutor Kanwaljeet Singh

and India coach Radhika Kanitkar will conduct the training. GSTA President Sameer Kakodkar emphasised the importance of this initiative in developing certified tennis coaches in Goa, particularly at the grassroots level. The course fee is Rs 19,620, including AITA registration, and GSTA is willing to sponsor deserving candidates. Interested participants can register on the AITA website [www.aitatennis.com](http://www.aitatennis.com) or contact the GSTA Secretary. Limited seats are available for Goa-based coaches until March 10, after which registration will open to all India-based coaches.

### All-Goa inter-village cricket at Seraulim

**RAIA:** United Sports Club of Seraulim will be organising their 2nd all-Goa inter-village cricket tournament, on February 22 & 23, on Seraulim Panchayat ground, from 9 am. Cash prizes of Rs 25,000 and Rs 15,000 will be awarded to the winners and runners up, respectively, besides trophies. Interested teams may register their teams to Rayner Dias, Nitesh Parab or Mukhund Sinde by February 20.

### ISL FIXTURE

**Mumbai City FC vs Hyderabad FC,** at the GMC Balayogi Athletic Stadium, Hyderabad, at 7.30 pm

## Rishabh advances to quarterfinals

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**MARGAO:** Rishabh Beria celebrated his 41st birthday in style by securing a quarterfinal spot in the Baale BPS Open 2025, defeating Prithvi Naik 6-4 in the open men's category. He was joined by Prince Agnelo de Silva, who dominated Pankaj Naik 6-1.

### BAALE BPS OPEN 2025

In the Masters 45+ men's singles quarterfinals, Neville Menezes, Manoj, Caetano Fernandes, and Sameer Kakodkar progressed, while Noel Noronha and Caetano Fernandes won in the 55+ men's singles category. The 45+ men's doubles saw Kedar Tari/Allan Fernandes and Sunil Signapurkar/Shubert Calaco advance, while Raju/Aman Prabhu moved forward in the 55+ men's doubles.

In the boys' U-18 category, Shaurya Verlekar, Alec Cris Barreto, Kyan K Mavany, Viddal De Menezes, Ethan De Ataide, and Shreyas Patil emerged victorious. The boys' U-14 category saw wins for Aarin Ballani, Aarav Kumar, Arhan Gaunkar, Shaurya Verlekar, and Timofei Polosin.

In the men's doubles event, Dustan Dias/Deepak, Wes Ryan/Sanket Nayak, and Nihaal Borkar/Kane Pereira secured wins to progress further.

# Mandovi Boys triumph in Loliem Champions League

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**LOLIEM:** The Mandovi Boys clinched the Loliem Champions League 2025 Tennis Ball Cricket tournament by defeating Let's Go Forward of Agas-Mashem by 6 wickets in the final, held at the Green Forest ground in Loliem.

## TENNIS BALL CRICKET

Opting to field first after winning the toss, Mandovi Boys restricted Let's Go Forward to 44 runs in 4 overs, losing 3 wickets. Akshay Bhandari top-scored with 36 runs, while Mandovi's Adarsh Velip took 2 wickets. In reply, Mandovi Boys chased down the target in 3.3 overs, scoring 47/4. Vinesh Satarkar made 31 runs, and Amar Naik contributed 8 runs. Akhil Devastali and Saurav



Naik took 2 and 1 wicket(s) respectively.

Mandovi Boys reached the final by defeating Jai Amba Helping Boys in the first eliminator. Let's Go Forward advanced by defeating Crazy XI and Jai Amba Helping Boys in the semi-final and second eliminator respectively.

Ajay Lolayekar, former sarpanch of Loliem-Polem, was the chief guest for the prize distribution ceremony, with Prashant Naik, Chetan Acharya, and others in attendance.

Vinesh Satarkar was named the best batsman and man-of-the-tournament, while Amar Naik was awarded best bowler.

## TODAY'S SPORTS

**GFA U-13 Division I League:** Goa Police GFDC vs Sporting Clube de Goa, at Police HQ ground; Panjim Footballers vs Youth Club of Manora, at DBO ground, Panjim. Both matches at 4.15 pm

**GFA U-15 Division I League:** Cortalim Vil-

lagers SWSC vs Pax of Nagoa SC, at Cansaulim ground, at 4 pm

**Vaidya Family Memorial Cup 2025:** Parish Youth Nuvem vs SWC Zaino Velim, at Government School play ground, Cuncolim, at 4.45 pm

# Lewandowski lifts Barcelona past Rayo and into Liga lead

**AFP, BARCELONA:** Robert Lewandowski scored from the penalty spot as Barcelona scraped out a 1-0 home win over Rayo Vallecano on Monday to climb top of the Spanish Liga.

Barcelona were seven points off first place three weeks ago but the two big Madrid clubs have suffered dips in form. Both drew their games 1-1 on Saturday playing with 10 men.

Barcelona took advantage on Monday night by eking out a victory over a third Madrid team, Rayo, thanks to their star striker.

"We can't win every game 3-0, we had to work," Barcelona fullback Alex Balde told broadcaster Movistar. Lewandowski scored



Barcelona forward Robert Lewandowski (right) is challenged by Rayo Vallecano defender Florian Lejeune at the Estadi Olímpic Lluís Companys in Barcelona

his 20th goal of the season with a 28th-minute penalty that went in off the post.

Rayo goalkeeper Pep Chavarria repeatedly frustrated Barcelona.

## LA LIGA RESULT

**Barcelona 1** (Lewandowski 28-pen) Rayo Vallecano 0

At the other end, Jorge de Frutos had a strike disallowed and missed with a headed chance in added time.

"It was hard work for the players and at the end we are happy," said Barcelona coach Hansi Flick. "Everyone is happy about our new position. I think we played very well, although I think we can do better."

Barcelona remained unbeaten in 12 matches in 2025 while ending the 10-match unbeaten run that had lifted Rayo to a surprising sixth place.

## Next Gen League 2.0 witness thrilling matches

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**PANJIM:** The Next Gen League 2.0, U-12 Diamond mixed boys and girls 7-a-side football match saw St Anthony's High School, Cuncolim and St Anne's Institute, Agonda, play to an intense draw at The King's School ground, Sao Jose de Areal. Josvon Miranda was named player of the match.

In the U-12 Sapphire League, Our Lady of Health High School, Cuncolim, defeated Holy Spirit Institute, Margao, led by an impressive performance from Vinay Yadav. St Francis Xavier's High School, Macasana, triumphed over Bloomz International School, Verna, with Valen Vas earning player-of-the-match honours.

Loyola High School, Margao, secured a win against Immaculate Conception High School, Paroda, thanks to Abner Luis, while Perpetual Succour Convent High School, Navelim, dominated Our Lady of Succour High School, Verna, with Aditya Bhardwaj standing out.

In the U-6 Diamond 3-a-side futsal, Bloomz International School, Verna, and Our Lady of Succour High School, Verna, played to an exciting draw, with Rishab Naik and Aiden Antao sharing player-of-the-match honours.

The U-10 Diamond 5-a-side futsal saw Regina Martyrum High School, Asolna, secure a strong win over Rosary High School, Navelim, with Velan Simoes earning top honours. Auxilium High School, Benaulim, also claimed victory over St Anne's Institute, Agonda, powered by Fraeli Rodrigues' standout performance.



**PANJIM SHOW**  
23rd Feb at ESG theatre at 3:30 pm  
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE ESG COUNTER  
9422445665 / 9511627369

