

Ronaldo strikes in Sporting Clube win

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PANJIM: Sporting Clube de Goa pipped Tiddim Road Athletic Union (TRAU) 1-0 in their second home I-League 2 match with Ronaldo Oliveira's brilliant strike in the 40th minute at Ella Academy Ground, Old Goa, on Thursday.

I-LEAGUE 2

After playing three away matches, Sporting Clube secured another victory with a strong performance in their second home match against TRAU, adding to their impressive win in the first home game. Sporting Clube delivered a commanding performance, the opposing team faced their fourth defeat of the season, drawing one game and struggling to



Sporting Clube de Goa's Ronaldo Oliveira scores a goal against Tiddim Road Athletic Union, at the Ella Academy Ground, Old Goa, on Thursday

find the back of the net for five consecutive matches. They stand at one point, tied with Keinoon Library and Sports Association (KLASA). With a swift first touch, Ronaldo controlled the ball and with a quick glance at the goal, expertly fired a powerful shot. The ball

soared past the goalkeeper and into the back of the net, giving Sporting Clube the lead in the first half.

In the second half, Sporting Clube showcased exceptional defensive discipline, denying the opposition any opportunity to get on the scoreboard.

Sesa FA pip Calangute Assn

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MAPUSA: Sesa Football Academy registered a hard-fought 1-0 win over Calangute Association in the Goa Professional League (GPL) match played at Duler Stadium, here, on Thursday.

The all-important goal for the winners came in the additional time of the first session through Myran Pereira's header, from a slip off by Calangute Association's goalkeeper Aditya Sharma.

GOA PRO LEAGUE

Both the teams having won their last GPL match with Sesa FA drubbing Panjim Footballers and Calangute Association getting the better of Churchill Brothers came strongly into today's match with a promise to return home with a win.

However, nothing much transcribed with just one close attempt at the goal from Sesa FA's Muhammed Faheez header missing the target narrowly.

In the added time of the first session, a curling corner at the far end by Muhammed saw Myran Pereira header come off the gloves of Calangute Association's custodian Aditya Sharma which had a touch from defender Vishesh head before entering the goal, 1-0.

Calangute Association's new signing coach Anthony D'Souza brought in two



Calangute Association's new signing Samuel D'Souza tries to shield the ball from Sesa FA skipper Shridharnath Gawas at Duler Stadium, Mapusa, on Thursday

chances at the start of the second session Pandurang Gauns and Richard Cardoz, which did bring some teeth in their attack.

In the 48th minute, Calangute Association lost a glorious chance to level terms. Samuel D'Souza sent an acute angle pass to substitute Pandurang only to find the latter fumble in front of the goal.

At the other end, Calangute Association's custodian Aditya brought two outstanding saves to deny skipper Shridharnath Gawas and Beckham Singh

from scoring.

Match was mostly then restricted to midfield which came to life in the last quarter of the match when Calangute Association's Pandurang drilled a fierce grounder from top of the penalty box which was blocked by Sesa FA's custodian Roanal Ganekar for a corner.

In the stoppage time Sesa FA's Chaitan Dabholkar getting hold of a ball from the midfield covered some ground and latched a rasping 25-yard shot which went inches over the crossbar.

Tithee in U-18, ladies singles semi-finals

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MARGAO: Displaying grit, Tithee Bhoomkar qualified for the semi-finals in the girls U-18 and ladies singles categories, defeating her respective opponents Renee de Menezes 6-1 and Poojal Naik 6-3, at the Baale BPS Open 2025 underway at the BPS Sports Club, here, on Thursday.

BAALE BPS OPEN TENNIS

Players across age groups took to the courts to play fast-and-furious pre-quarterfinal, quarter-final and semi-final matches.

In the girls U-14 category, Tvisha Sardesai beat Danielle Eva Fernandes 6-0 and Bhaavya Bhoomkar overturned Neeraja Dandle's challenge with a score of 6-1, while in the girls U-18 category quarter-final, Bhaavya Bhoomkar secured another win by blanking out Urvi Pai Panandiker 6-3.

The boys U-14 category saw Shaurya Verlekar win against Vedant Naik 6-1 in the quarter-final, and Kyan Mavany overwhelmed Arhan Gaunkar 4-2, 4-2 in the semi-final. In the boys U-18, Vedant Naik overpowered Alec Barreto 6-4 in the quarter-final, and Shreyas Patil conquered Ethan Luis De Ataide 4-1, 4-2 in the semi-final.

In the ladies singles category, the pre-quarterfinal witnessed Poojal Naik trouncing Kimberly Cabral 6-0, Junette Rodrigues get the better of Renee de Menezes 6-3, and Liza George vanquish Anjali Philip 6-4. In the quarter-finals of the category, Tanya

Shelyazhynska-Caldeira and Raisa Menezes Mergulhao emerged victorious over their respective opponents Avni Lotlikar and Junette Rodrigues 6-0, and Atika Gaur bested Liza George 6-3.

In the mixed doubles category, Kimberly Cabral/Joshua Cardozo trounced Gary Steele/Anindita 6-2, and Liza George/Prince Agnelo Joven de Silva won 7-5 after a tough match

6-0, and Akhil Shirwaikar bested Rahul Pinto 6-1 in the men's singles category quarter-final.

In the 45+ men's singles, Caetano Fernandes subdued Neville Menezes 6-0, 6-0 in the semi-final, storming into the final.

There were also several matches across the men's doubles categories. In the open men's doubles, Raju/Santosh Gorwar handed Joao Mergulhao/Sandeep Menon a defeat 6-0 in the pre-quarter-final and then went on to beat Nihala Borkar/Kane Pereira 6-1 in the quarter-final.

In the 45+ men's doubles semi-final, Sunil Signapurkar/Shubert Colaco breezed through their match against Valinton Fernandes/Marcus Dcosta 6-0, 6-0 and Naveen Daivajna/Neville Menezes defeated Allan Fernandes/Kedar N. Tari 6-2, 6-1.

In the 55+ men's doubles semi-final, Jude Cardozo/Noel Noronha prevailed over Sameer Kakodkar/Sandeep Verlekar 6-1, 6-1.

TENNIS LEGEND PAES TO INTERACT WITH YOUNG TALENT TODAY

MARGAO: Goa's tennis enthusiasts are in for a rare treat with Indian tennis icon Leander Paes scheduled to make a special on-court appearance on February 21, at the BPS Hall, here, at 12 noon. Paes, a multiple Grand Slam champion, Olympic medal winner and one of India's most celebrated sports personalities, will engage with participants, inspire young players and share playing tips and racquet skills with Goa's young tennis talent.

"As part of our commitment to fostering tennis talent and elevating the tournament experience, BPS Sports Club has invited Leander to encourage aspiring players and fuel excitement around the sport," said Yogiraj Kamat, president of the BPS Sports Club.



South Goa Utd gain 3 points

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RAIA: South Goa United downed Salgaocar FC 3-0 in the Goa Football Association's U-15 Division I League match played at Sinquetim sports complex ground, Navelim, on Thursday.

Yohann Sousa, Armstrong Fernandes and Rahul Sherpali scored a goal each for the South Goa United.

GFA LEAGUES

Salgaocar FC tried their best to reduce the margin but in vain.

Fr Agnelo YSC in quarters

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RAIA: Fr Agnelo YSC, Paroda, blanked Dramapur Sports Club 2-0 to enter the quarter-finals of Vaidya Family Memorial Cup organised by

Cuncolim Union at the government school ground, Cuncolim, on Thursday.

Fr Agnelo YSC scored both the goals in the second session of play. Selton Fernandes scored the first

goal with assist from Sowell Fernandes in the 36th minutes, while Sowell Fernandes scored the second goal in the 59th minute.

Goalkeeper Glen Leitao of Dramapur SC was excellent under the crossbar and saved three one to one situation goals and was awarded the man-of-the-match.



Mario Coutinho presents the man-of-the-match to Dramapur SC goalkeeper Glen Leitao

TODAY'S SPORTS

Goa Professional League: Dempo SC vs Cortalim Villagers SWSC, at Dempo Sports Academy ground, Ella-Old Goa, 4 pm

GFA Division II League (North Zone) Play-Offs League: Portais Sporting Club vs Vagator Parish Youth SC, at Santa Cruz ground. PVC Association, Parra, vs Agassaim Youth Club, at Parra ground. Kick off 4 pm

GFA U-13 Girls League (North): El Shaddai S&CC vs Sinquerim SC, at Sinquerim ground, 4.30 pm

GFA U-15 Division II All Goa Play-Offs (semi-finals): Dunes SC vs YWSC, Assolna, at Duler Stadium, Mapusa, 4 pm. SCC Loutolim vs Super Goans FC, at Benaullim ground, 4 pm

Vaidya Family Memorial Cup: Sporting Club Davorlim vs SCC Loutolim, at the government school ground, Cuncolim, 4.45 pm

U-15 Women's football: St Jude's, Betalbatim, vs Perpetual Succour Convent High School, Navelim, 3.30 pm. Our Lady of Poor High School, Tilamol-Quepem, vs Rosary High School, Navelim, 4.30 pm, at Rosary Church ground, Navelim

Mbappé 'tricks' as Real dump Man City out; PSG, Dortmund in last 16

AP, LONDON: Kylian Mbappé scored a hat-trick, Erling Haaland stayed on the bench injured and Real Madrid dumped Manchester City out of the Champions League on Wednesday.

Mbappé's stellar trio of goals in the fourth, 33rd and 61st minutes in a 3-1 win gave Madrid a 6-3 victory on aggregate over the 2023 champion in their two-leg knockout playoff.

"This has been the complete performance — attack, defense, with the ball and without the ball, we showed such high levels of quality," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "Almost the perfect night."

One superstar striker was watched by another from the sidelines. Haaland was not fit to start for an ultimately overmatched Man City because of a knee injury sustained late in a Premier League game Saturday.

Paris Saint-Germain beat French rival Brest 7-0, to run up a 10-0 aggregate

score, and will play either Liverpool or Barcelona in the round of 16.

PSV Eindhoven ousted Juventus in the only one of the eight playoffs this week that went to extra time. Defender Ryan Flamingo scored in the 98th minute for a 3-1 win on the night and 4-3 on aggregate.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE RESULTS

Knockout phase play-offs, second leg: Borussia Dortmund 0 Sporting Lisbon 0. Dortmund win 3-0 on aggregate. PSV Eindhoven 3 (Perisic 53, Saibari 74, Flamingo 98) Juventus 1 (Weah 65). After extra time, PSV Eindhoven win 4-3 on aggregate. Paris Saint-Germain 7 (Barcola 20, Kvaratskhelia 39, Vitinha 59, Doue 64, Nuno Mendes 69, Ramos 76, Mayulu 86) Brest 0. PSG win 10-0 on aggregate. Real Madrid 3 (Mbappe 4, 33, 61) Manchester City 1 (Gonzalez 90+2). Real Madrid win 6-3 on aggregate.

TEAMS QUALIFIED

Qualified automatically: Liverpool, Barcelona, Arsenal, Inter Milan, Atletico Madrid, Bayer Leverkusen, Lille, Aston Villa.

Qualified via knockout phase play-offs: Borussia Dortmund, Real Madrid, Bayern Munich, PSV Eindhoven, Paris Saint-Germain, Benfica, Feyenoord, Club Brugge. Last 16 draw takes place on Friday

United States international Timothy Weah scored for Juventus. In the early game, Borussia Dortmund started with a 3-0 lead at home to Sporting Lisbon and was barely stretched in a 0-0 draw. Sporting's Champions League campaign imploded after coach Ruben Amorim left for Manchester

United in November.

Real Madrid, PSG, Dortmund and PSV join Bayern Munich, Benfica, Club Brugge and Feyenoord, which all advanced on Tuesday, as playoff round winners who will be seeded teams in Friday's draw. They will host the first-leg games on March 4-5.

The top eight in the 36-team standings three weeks ago - Liverpool, Barcelona, Arsenal, Inter Milan, Atletico Madrid, Bayer Leverkusen, Lille, Aston Villa - skipped the play-offs round and are seeded in the round of 16 draw. They host second legs on March 11-12.

The round of 16 is in a new, tennis-like seeded bracket for the knockout stage in the expanded competition format. Madrid, as the 11th-place team in the standings and No. 11 seed already knew its next opponent would be Atletico or Leverkusen, who respectively placed fifth and sixth. Top-seeded Liverpool will play No. 15 PSG or No. 16 Benfica.

Liverpool title charge dented

AFP, BIRMINGHAM: Liverpool's Premier League title charge was slowed by Aston Villa after a pulsating 2-2 draw on Wednesday left neither side satisfied.

Arne Slot's men open up an eight-point lead at the top of the table over second-placed Arsenal, but the Gunners now have a game in hand over the Reds. Liverpool led through Mohamed Salah but were also forced to come from behind after Youri Tielemans and Ollie Watkins swung momentum in Villa's favour.

Trent Alexander-Arnold's deflected shot secured a point for the visitors, but it should have been more as substitute Darwin Nunez missed a glorious chance to snatch victory.

Liverpool are now 22 Premier League games unbeaten, but after conceding at the death against local rivals Everton, a second 2-2 draw in eight days offers Arsenal hope in the title race. Slot's men also face a tough trip to Manchester City on Sunday.

sportspopup

England recall Smith for Champions Trophy clash with Australia

LAHORE: England recalled wicketkeeper-batsman Jamie Smith on Thursday for their Champions Trophy opening game against Australia in Lahore. The 24-year-old missed the preceding one-day series against India which England lost 3-0 last month, but will keep wicket and bat at number three in the match on Saturday.



Jofra Archer, Brydon Carse and Mark Wood were named as the team's seam attack. Former World Cup winners England have never won the Champions Trophy. They are placed in Group B along with Australia, Afghanistan and South Africa. Pakistan, India, New Zealand and Bangladesh are in Group A. The top two sides from each group will qualify for the semi-finals. England team to face Australia on Saturday: Phil Salt, Ben Duckett, Jamie Smith, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Jos Buttler (captain), Liam Livingstone, Jofra Archer, Brydon Carse, Adil Rashid, Mark Wood.

Pakistan fined for slow over-rate in New Zealand defeat

KARACHI: The International Cricket Council on Thursday fined Pakistan five per cent of their players' match fee for a slow over-rate in the Champions Trophy defeat to New Zealand in Karachi. "Pakistan have been fined five per cent of their match fee for maintaining a slow over-rate against New Zealand," said an ICC statement. Andy Pycroft of the ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees imposed the sanction after Mohammad Rizwan's side was ruled to be one over short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration. Rizwan pleaded guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing, the ICC said. "On-field umpires Richard Kettleborough and Sharfuddinoula, third umpire Joel Wilson and fourth umpire Alex Wharf levelled the charge," the ICC added. Pakistan now face arch rivals India in Dubai in a must win game on Sunday to keep their semi-final hopes alive from Group A.

Andreeva, 17, stuns Swiatek to reach Dubai semi-finals with landmark win

DUBAI: Teenager Mirra Andreeva stunned second seed Iga Swiatek to become the youngest woman to reach the semi-finals of the Dubai Championships on Thursday, attributing victory to working on her "anger inside". The 17-year-old Russian came from a break down in the second set to win 6-3, 6-3 in one hour and 36 minutes and continue the cull of the leading seeds in Dubai. The 14th-ranked Andreeva, who reached the semi-finals at the French Open last year, is the youngest player to record five Top 10 wins since Nicole Pietrangeli in 2007. Swiatek joined third seed Coco Gauff, who exited in her opening match, world No.1 Aryna Sabalenka, fourth-seeded defending champion Jasmine Paolini and fifth seed Jessica Pegula to be knocked out. Andreeva will next face sixth seed Elena Rybakina after the former Wimbledon champion claimed a 6-2, 7-6 (7/4) victory over Sofia Kenin of the United States. Clara Tauson, the 38th-ranked Dane who knocked out Sabalenka in the last 16, also advanced to the semi-finals by beating Czech Linda Noskova, Pegula's conqueror, 7-6 (7/4), 6-4. Tauson will be playing in her first WTA 1000 semi-final where she will face either Karolina Muchova or Sorana Cirstea.

Alcaraz dumped out by Lehecka in Qatar Open quarters

DOHA: Carlos Alcaraz crashed out of the Qatar Open in the quarter-finals on Thursday after losing to Jiri Lehecka, the Spaniard heading for the exit along with second seed Alex de Minaur. The top seed dropped the first set before recovering to level, and then led by a break in the decider, but world number 25 Lehecka won the final four games for a 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 victory. Alcaraz entered the clash on a seven-match winning streak following his triumph in Rotterdam earlier this month but ran into trouble against a confident Lehecka, who won his second career title in Brisbane to start the year. The 23-year-old Czech will play British eighth seed Jack Draper or Italy's Matteo Berrettini on Friday for a place in the final. Lehecka is through to the last four in Doha for the second time. Berrettini, a former world number six and Wimbledon runner-up, knocked out Novak Djokovic in the second round. Andrey Rublev converted his eighth match point against De Minaur to take his place in the semi-finals. The Russian, a Qatar winner in 2020, had to dig deep to down the Australian 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 (10/8).

WOMEN PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURE

Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Mumbai Indians, at M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru, at 7.30 pm

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