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Katya, Dwayne & Keona steal the show on Day 2

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Katya Coelho

MORJIM: Three windsurfers from Goa - Katya and Dwayne Coelho and Keona Rajani – emerge champions on Day 2 of the India Windsurfing and Kitesurfing Championship 2025 organised by Board Sailing Association (BSA) and Premier Kiteboarding Association (PKA) at Vithaldas Vaddo, here, on Thursday.

While Katya and Dwayne proved unbeatable in iQFoil women and men respectively winning all the races, Keona continued her unbeaten run in the women section of kiteboarding leaving others vying for the second and third slots.

Eleven-year-old Naavya Kaku continued winning in the U-19 kiteboarding championship keeping the hopes alive of great laurels in the years to come.

"This young girl has the potential to win medals for India at the international level," stated former national windsurfing winner Remy Fernandes.

Ovie Shaffi from Mumbai won all the three rounds in the Women's U-19 iQFoil category while K Gowtham from INWTC Goa held the first position at the end of second day of the formula kite rounds winning four of the five rounds.

"I prefer to sail in Goa because it is home for me and we never have problems of winds. I once went to Mumbai for the nationals and had to return without competing as they were no winds and finished spending money for nothing," said a composed Katya at the end of sailing.

ALL INDIA WINDSURFING & KITEBOARDING CHAMPIONSHIP

Dempo SC aim to end home campaign on a high

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PANJIM: Dempo Sports Club will look to end their home campaign on a high as they take on Real Kashmir in their final I-League fixture at the Nehru Stadium, Fatorda, on Saturday.

Reflecting on the season, head coach Samir Naik acknowledged the team's growth in their return to the I-League.

"It's a mixed reaction. We could have done better, but overall, I think we performed quite well. It was my first season as a coach in the I-League and for many of my young players. It was their debut season too. We've gained valuable experience and I'm confident we'll be stronger next year," Naik stated.

Their opponents, Real Kashmir, come into this fixture after a hard-fought 2-1 win over Delhi FC, with Mohammad Inam and Gnohere Krizo finding the net. Delhi's lone goal came via a Hridaya Jai penalty.

I-LEAGUE PREVIEW

Naik also acknowledged the unwavering support of Dempo SC's fans, despite their reputation for being more reserved.

"Dempo SC fans are silent supporters, but they always have our back. Even at Fatorda, we've had large turnouts, and they've always believed in us. I know they're behind us, and hopefully, we'll see them again in full force next season," he expressed.

Heading into this crucial clash, Dempo SC sit ninth in the standings with 25 points from 20 games, while Real Kashmir hold third place with 35 points from the same number of matches.

Naik assured that his team remains fully focused. "We've approached every game with the same mindset and this one is no different. The boys are charged up and ready," he concluded.

Surchi Sangha, Garhwal Utd FC secure win

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MAPUSA: Surchi Sangha,West Bengal, had an easy outing as they drubbed SAG Football Academy, Gujarat, by 3-0 margin in the Indian Women's League 2, match played at Duler Stadium, here, on Friday.

Surchi Sangha held the upper hand to go into the breather with a two goals cushion.

A pinpoint cross by Sunita Sarkar was smartly headed by Oinam Devi into the goal 1-0.

After Moirangthem Devi was thwarted by SAG custodian in one to one situation, Suruchi Sangha's Pukhrambam Devi scored from the penalty spot after SAG Pritinda Nath brought down Moirangthem inside the penalty box, 2-0.

INDIAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE 2

Just five minutes into the second session and this time Moirangthem Devi entering the 18-yard box placed the ball into the far corner of the goal, 3-0.

Surchi Sangha's substitute Riya Duley almost netted team's fourth goal but SAG FA custodian Saumya Upadhyay brought a brave save.

Minutes later, once again, SAG FA goalkeeper Saumya blocked Riya Duley strike from a close.

In the morning, inaugural match Garhwal United FC, Delhi, registered a comfortable 3-0 win over Krida Prabodhini, Pune.

Lingdaikin netted a brace, scoring a goal in each session of play with Deepika Pal netting the team's third goal.

Niraj, Chaitan guide Geno FC to victory

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MAPUSA: Geno FC struck a goal in each session of play to register a hard-fought 2-1 win over Sesa FA in the Goa Professional Super League match played at Duler Stadium, here, on Friday.

With the win, both the teams have 32 points each with Geno FC playing 17 matches, while Sesa FA played 16 matches.

In the 40th minute, Geno's FC striker Abelson Jachi after dribbling past a couple of rival defenders latched a stiff grounder which was once again saved by Sesa FA's custodian Sapam.

However, in the added time of the first session, Sesa FA's Aman Rajbhar brought a clumsy tackle on Geno FC's Prajat Naik outside the penalty box prompting Referee Sunil Nanodkar to award a direct free-kick which was brilliantly scored by Geno FC's defender Niraj Parekh by curling the ball past the rival defensive wall, 1-0.

GOA PROFESSIONAL SUPER LEAGUE

Sesa FA trying to improve their league standings came aggressively into the match.

Two attempts at the rival goal by strikers Mahammad Faheez and Chaitan Dabholkar were confidently collected by Geno FC's custodian Savio Pereira.

After some midfield tussle, this time, Geno FC's Gaurav Kankonkar try was thwarted by Sesa FA's custodian Sapam Singh in one to one situation.

On resumption of play, Geno FC kept on exerting pressure on the rival citadel with Chaitan Komarpant further increasing the lead with a neat placement.

Sesa FA tried to get back into the match when Mahammad Faheez managed to score in the 69th minute of play, 2-1.

sportspopup

Gurindervir smashes men's 100m national record

BENGALURU: Gurindervir Singh stormed into the record books, smashing the men's 100m national record with a blistering 10.20-second run in a top-class field at the Indian Grand Prix 1, here, on Friday. The 24-year-old Punjab sprinter, representing Reliance, eclipsed the previous national mark of 10.23 seconds set by Manikanta Hoblidhar in October 2023. Singh's previous personal best stood at 10.27 seconds -- clocked in 2021. "I'm extremely happy to have posted a good time in the IGP ahead of the Federation Cup in April," Singh said after the race. He said his main goal this season is to do his best at the Asian Athletics Championships to be held in Gumi, South Korea, in May.

Djokovic beats Korda, advances to semis in push for 7th Miami Open title

MIAMI GARDENS (Florida): Novak Djokovic gunning for his seventh Miami Open title, dispatched American Sebastian Korda 6-3, 7-6 (7-4) in one hour, 24 minutes in a quarterfinal match that was postponed because the women's quarterfinal between Jessica Pegula and Emma Raducanu ran past 11 pm. Djokovic advanced to Friday's semi-finals and will face Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov. In the first women's semi-final, No. 1 seed Aryna Sabalenka routed sixth-seeded Jasmine Paolini 6-2, 6-2 in 71 minutes to advance to her first Miami Open final. Sabalenka will face the winner of semi-final between Jessica Pegula andAlexandra Eala of the Philippines. In the day's first men's quarter-final, unseeded teenager Jakub Mensik beat 17th-seeded Arthur Fils 7-6 (7-5), 6-1.

Manisha wins first Asian Championship gold, bronze for Antim

AMMAN (Jordan): Manisha Bhanwala clinched India's first gold medal at the Asian Championships with a close 8-7 win over Korea's Ok J Kim while Antim Panghal settled for a bronze, here, on Friday. Manisha (62kg) began with an easy win over Kazakhstan's Tynys Dubek and pinned Korea's Hanbit Lee for another dominating win. In the semi-final, as she conceded only one point to eventually win 5-1 against Kalmira Bilimbek Kyzy. In the title clash, Manisha looked down and out, trailing 2-7 but logged six points in a row to grab her first gold medal. She had three podium finishes at the tournament before but they were all bronze medal efforts. In the bronze play-off, Panghal was dominant against Taipei's Meng H Hsieh, winning by technical superiority without conceding a point. The men's freestyle competition will begin on Saturday.

GOA DIARY

Chess tournament at Vasco

PANJIM: Celestial Minds in coordination with Centenary Chess Academy, Baina, and MTCA will conduct chess tournament on March 29 and 30, at the Centenary Chess Club, Baina, Vasco. The tournament is open to chess enthusiasts of all levels and will be conducted in two sections – Rated - is open to players who have held a FIDE rating in any format at any point in time. This section will follow a time control of 30 minutes + 30 seconds increment per move. The Unrated, scheduled for March 30, is exclusively for players who have never had a FIDE rating. This section will be played with a time control of 15 minutes + 10 seconds increment per move. Entries will be accepted till Friday evening. For registrations and further details, contact Avijit Ray and Tanishk Kavlekar.

All India Squash Masters at Chicalim

PANJIM: Goa is playing hosts for the All India Squash Masters 2025 for the first time, which will be going on till March 30, at the SAG squash courts, Chicalim. Matches will commence daily from 10 am. The All India Squash Masters is a premier event in the national squash calendar, attracting some of the finest minds and talents of the game. This year's edition promises to be an electrifying spectacle, bringing together top-ranked players, seasoned professionals and squash enthusiasts from across the country. Sports lovers and aspiring players will have a unique opportunity to watch thrilling matches up close and interact with seasoned professionals, gaining valuable insights into the sport. The event aims to foster a greater appreciation for squash while inspiring the next generation of athletes. For more information log on to goaassociationofsquash@gmail.com.

Betalbatim SC in last eight

INACIO NORONHA

Elroy Fernandes of Betalbatim SC receives the man-of-the-match award from Donald Rocha

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RAIA: Betalbatim Sporting Club blanked Fr Agnelo YSC, Paroda, 3-0 to enter into the quarter-finals of United Trophy organised by United Club of Telaulim, at Rosary Church ground, Navelim, on Friday.

Betalbatim Sporting Club scored a brace through Elroy Fernandes in the 17th and 42nd minute, while Klusner Pereira made the issue safe by scoring the third goal in 63rd minute. Fr Agnelo YSC missed the opportunity to covert the chance that came in their way.

Joe Cookies Veterans in quarters

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RAIA: Joe Cookies Veterans downed Football Mogi 3-0 to move into the quarter-finals of 21st Flame of Unity Veterans football tournament played at Mabai ground, Per Seraulim, on Friday.

Joe Cookies netted a brace through Michael Barreto and Pascoal Fernandes added the third goal. Earlier, Colva Veterans scrapped past Betalbatim Veterans 3-1 in the inaugural match to move into the next round.

Colva Veterans netted a hat-trick through Filipino, while Levi pulled a goal back for Betalbatim Veterans.

TODAY'S SPORTS

All India Windsurfing and Kiteboarding Championship Goa 2025 Day 3 at Vithaldas Vaddo, Morjim Beach, from 10 am to 5 pm

I-League: Dempo SC vs Real Kashmir, at Nehru Stadium, Fatorda, 4.30 pm

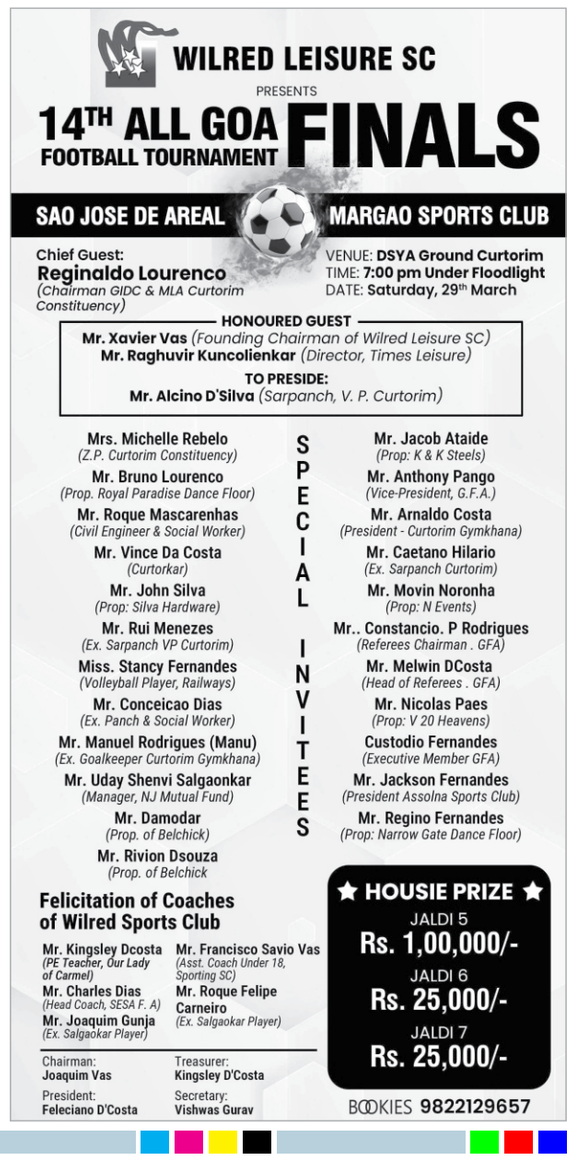
GFA U-19 Division I League: FC Goa vs Sesa FA, at Guirim ground, 4 pm

GFA Division I League (Group B): Young Boys of Tonca vs Dempo SC (Jrs), at Dempo Sports Academy ground, Ella, Old Goa. Chapora Yuvak Sangh vs Albert Developers SC, at Duler Stadium, Mapusa. Kick off 4 pm

All Goa United Trophy football: Parish Youth Nuvem vs Raia Sporting Club, at Rosary Church ground, Navelim, 4.30 pm

21st Flame of Unity Veterans football: Colva Veterans vs Mitra Candolim Veterans, at the Mabai ground, Per Seraulim, 4.30 pm

17th London Trophy inter-village football: Peddem Bom Sports Club vs Nerul Sports Club, at Goa Velha Sports Club ground, Goa Velha, 4.30 pm

14th Wilred Leisure Soccer Cup (final): Margao Sports Club vs Sao Jose de Areal Sports Club, at DSYA ground, Curtorim, 7 pm

Panjim Veterans football: Chunchelim Veterans vs Fatorda Veterans, at Taleigao ground, 4.30 pm