

sportspopup

Shreyas Iyer wins ICC Men's Player of the Month award

DUBAI: Stylish Indian batter Shreyas Iyer on Tuesday secured the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for March after playing a stellar role in India's Champions Trophy triumph. Iyer finished as the highest run-scorer with 243 runs during the ODI event to win the honour, overcoming competition from New Zealand's Jacob Duffy and Rachin Ravindra.

Rohit Sharma gets Wankhede stand in his name

MUMBAI: The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) on Tuesday named a stand each after the incumbent India Test captain Rohit Sharma, former skipper Ajit Wadekar, and ex-BCCI president Sharad Pawar at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. The decision was taken during the MCA's annual general meeting. As per the resolution passed, Divecha Pavilion's Level Three will now be known as the Rohit Sharma Stand, Grand Stand Level 3 will be named after ex-ICC chairman Pawar, and Grand Stand Level 4 will be named after Wadekar. Wadekar, who had played 37 Tests and two ODIs from 1966-1974, led India to historic series wins in the West Indies and England in 1971. He passed away in August 2018 at the age of 77.

Sudirman Cup Finals: Gayatri-Treesa pair misses out; Sindhu, Sen to lead

NEW DELHI: The women's doubles pair of Gayatri Gopinath and Treesa Jolly will miss out due to injury, but P V Sindhu and Lakshya Sen will spearhead a strong Indian singles challenge at the Sudirman Cup Finals to be held in Xiamen, China from April 27 to May 4. It has been learnt that both Treesa and Gayatri, currently ranked 10th in the world, are recuperating from shoulder issues attributed to a packed schedule last year. The duo have already featured in five tournaments this season, adding to the 22 events they contested in 2024.

Luka Modric becomes co-owner of championship club Swansea

LONDON: Real Madrid and Croatia midfielder Luka Modric has joined Swansea as an investor and co-owner, the Championship club announced on Monday. The 39-year-old Croatia captain has spent the past 13 seasons with Real Madrid and helped them win six Champions League titles after a spell at Tottenham earlier in his career. Swansea failed to disclose how much Modric, who won the Ballon d'Or in 2018, had invested but he expressed excitement at the chance to use his knowledge to help the Welsh club, who play in the second tier of the English league.

Barcelona Open champion Ruud down Galan, cruises into last 16

BARCELONA: Defending Barcelona Open champion Casper Ruud sailed into the last 16 with a 6-4, 6-3 win over Daniel Elahi Galan on Tuesday. Earlier France's Arthur Fils beat Spaniard Pablo Carreno Busta 7-6 (8/6), 6-3, while last year's runner-up Stefanos Tsitsipas crushed giant American Reilly Opelka 6-2, 6-2. Later Tuesday Carlos Alcaraz, who won the Monte Carlo Masters title last Sunday, faces American Ethan Quinn in the first round.

FOOTBALL RESULTS

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Bournemouth 1 (Semenyo 1) Fulham 0

LA LIGA

Atletico Madrid 4 (Alvarez 25-pen, 71-pen, Simeone 27, Sorloth 79) Valladolid 2 (Sylla 21-pen, Sanchez 56)

SERIE A

Napoli 3 (McTominay 18, 61, Lukaku 56) Empoli 0

GOA DIARY

Applications invited for sports scholarships

PANJIM: The Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs, Campal-Panjim, has invited applications for the 2025-26 Sports Scholarship, aimed at encouraging young sporting talent across Goa. A total of 25 scholarships will be awarded to deserving candidates who have earned merit certificates at the State level or have represented Goa at national or international competitions during the year 2024-25. Applicants must be studying in Standards 6 to 12. Candidates who received the scholarship last year are not eligible to apply again. Interested applicants can download the application form from the Department's official website at www.dsyg.goa.gov.in. Completed forms must be submitted via email to dir-spor.goa@nic.in on or before April 25.

Wushu selection trials on April 21

PANJIM: The Association of Goa Wushu will be conducting selection trials for the upcoming National Wushu Championships on April 21, at 4 pm at Health & Recreation, Siolim, Bardez. The trials aim to select athletes who will represent Goa in three prestigious national-level competitions: 25th Sub-Junior National Wushu Championship in Namakkal, Tamil Nadu (May 26 to 31); 34th Senior National Wushu Championship in Jaipur, Rajasthan (June 14 to 19) and 24th Junior National Wushu Championship in Hyderabad, Telangana (July 1 to 6). The trials are open to boys and girls, as well as men and women, within the age group of 8 to 40 years. Selections will be held in Sanda, ranging from 20kg to 100+kg, and Taolu categories, which include barehand, short weapon and long weapon routines. Kungfu players are also encouraged to participate in the respective Kungfu events. For further details, interested participants may contact: wcwa_goa@rediffmail.com

75 teams gear up for Rainforest Challenge India 2025 in Goa

PANJIM: The 11th edition of the Rainforest Challenge (RFC) India, organised by Cougar Motorsport, RFC India in Goa from July 28 to August 3. This year, in addition to the iconic '4x4 Extreme' category, two new classes - '4x4 Modified' and '4x4 Stock' - have been introduced to encourage broader participation. Around 75 teams are expected to compete, with more than 50 already registered, including entries from Manabhum Offroaders Club (Arunachal), Jeepers of Bangalore, Offbeat Automotives, Torque Monsters (Uttarakhand), Satara Offroaders and Sahyadri Offroaders. RFC India was launched in 2014 as the Indian chapter of the Malaysian Rainforest Challenge, ranked among the world's top off-road motorsport races. Competition Schedule: 4x4 Extreme: Scrutiny - July 28 | competition - July 29 to August 3 (26 special stages); 4x4 Modified: Scrutiny - July 29 | competition - July 30 to August 3 (20 SS); 4x4 Stock: Scrutiny - July 30 | competition - July 31 to August 3 (14 SS); Winners of each category will be announced on August 3 based on cumulative points.

Dempo SC clinch U-19 title in style

Thrash Penha de France 10-0 to emerge champions



Victorious Dempo SC GFA's U-19 winning team, along with team officials, GFA President Dr Caitan Fernandes and Executive Committee members, at Ella ground

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ELLA: Dempo SC unbeaten U-19 side produced a scintillating performance to outclass Penha de France, 10-0, and secure the GFA's U-19 championship title, at Ella ground on Tuesday.

Dalvin Coelho stole the show with a well-taken hat-trick, while Topan Miniz

(2), Shailesh Shirvoikar (2), Murphy Fernandes (2) and Vedant Gadekar also added their names to the score-sheet in a thoroughly dominant display.

The emphatic victory underscored not only the team's attacking firepower but also their cohesion and disciplined preparation throughout the campaign. GFA President Caitan Fer-

nandes and several members of the executive committee were present to witness the commanding win.

Speaking after the match, Dempo SC Head Coach Pradip Chopdekar remarked, "This victory is a testament to our players' and technical staff's hard work, dedication, and unwavering belief in each other. I am super proud of

every player and every staff member for this collective effort."

He further added, "We believe in process, preparation, and perseverance. Throughout the season, we focused on the process—attacking, defending, and transitions in all three thirds of the pitch. The moment we start talking about results, it places pressure

on the players to perform."

Chopdekar also expressed his gratitude to Club President Shrinivas Dempo for his continued support through both highs and lows. He paid a heartfelt tribute to the late Katz Naidoo, former Technical Director and the late John Dias, former U-19 manager, for their invaluable contributions to the club.

Jharkhand edge Odisha to lift girls' title

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RAIA: The Dream Sports Championship Football 2025 Girls' National Finals witnessed a closely fought contest as Jharkhand edged past Odisha with a narrow 1-0 victory to claim the title.

DREAM SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP

The decisive moment came in the 20th minute, when Anamika Sanga netted the match's only goal, which ultimately proved enough to crown Jharkhand champions.

Odisha battled hard to find an equaliser, but Jharkhand's defence, marshalled by skipper Chandani Kumari, stood resolute until the final whistle, denying their opponents any clear-cut chances.

Panchwadi Utd, Cuncolim Union secure narrow victories

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RAIA: Down by a goal, Panchwadi United SC staged a spirited second-half comeback to register a hard-fought 2-1 win over Salcete Football Club in the GFA U-17 Division II match at the SAG ground, Benaulin.

Following a goalless first half, Salcete FC took the lead through Raphael Ayden Miranda. However, Panchwadi United hit back strongly, with goals from Lesiyon Rebello and Prajyot Pilgaonkar securing them all three points.

In the GFA First Division League match held at Don Bosco Oratory ground, Fatorda, Cuncolim Union edged past St Savio SC 2-1 in a dramatic finish.

Pedro Gonsalves gave St. Savio SC the lead in the 64th minute. Cuncolim Union responded in the 74th minute through Wilson Fernandes, before Rutik Bhandarkar struck the winner in the second minute of injury time to seal a thrilling victory.

Clube de Salgaocar stun Sporting Clube de Goa

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MAPUSA: New entrants Clube de Salgaocar halted Sporting Clube de Goa's winning run with a narrow 2-1 victory, in the Goa Professional Super League, at Duler Stadium, on Tuesday.

GOA PROFESSIONAL SUPER LEAGUE

Following the win, Clube de Salgaocar now have 37 points from 17 matches, while Sporting Clube de Goa continue to top the league table with 38 points from 16 matches.

Salgaocar struck in each half, with goals from Boinao Singh (5th minute) and Denil Rebello (53rd minute), while Sporting Colts' lone goal came through Francisco Fernandes (14th minute).

Both teams started earnestly, but it was Salgaocar who stunned the table-toppers early on. In the fifth minute, Sporting goalkeeper Siddharth Rana pulled off back-to-back brilliant

saves from Saesh Halarnkar, but the ball fell kindly to Boinao Singh, who fired into the far corner to make it 1-0.

Just three minutes later, Sporting's Lalremruata HP unleashed a powerful right-footer from outside the box, which deflected off a rival defender but was comfortably collected by Salgaocar custodian Sanij Bugde.

In the 14th minute, Sporting's U21 player Francisco Fernandes struck from just outside the penalty area. The effort took a wicked deflection off a defender and crept in after ricocheting off the inside of the post: 1-1.

In the 25th minute, Boinao Singh once again caused problems, getting past his marker Deeshank Kunkalikar, entering the penalty area, and drilling a low shot, which was parried away at the near post by the Sporting goalkeeper.

In stoppage time of the first half, Joel Colaco attempted a 25-yard rasping

effort, which was gathered safely by Bugde.

Just three minutes into the second half, Boinao Singh again beat his marker and entered the 18-yard box, attempting a placed finish, but his effort was blocked by the alert Sporting custodian.

In the 51st minute, Sporting defender Joel Colaco was penalised for a tackle on Isac Zomuanpuia inside the box, prompting referee Jan Rodrigues to award a penalty.

Salgaocar skipper Denil Rebello stepped up and calmly slotted home to restore his side's lead: 2-1.

Speaking to reporters after the match, Salgaocar head coach Keenan Almeida said: "In spite of our skipper Pratesh Shirodkar and three other players being sidelined due to injuries, today's win was special as all the players played their hearts out to give victory to their team. This result keeps us in the contest for the GPL title," concluded Almeida.

Dragon Boys edge Fatima Boys to enter quarters



Lewiston Rebello receives man-of-the-match award from Caitano Rebello

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RAIA: In the final pre-quarterfinal clash of the 18th Rebello Pandal football tournament, Dragon Boys, Borda, staged a thrilling comeback to defeat Fatima Boys, Baida-Chinchinim 5-4 and secure a spot in the quarterfinals, played at St Rita Church ground, Maina-Curtorim, on Tuesday.

Fatima Boys took an early lead with Deral Rebello netting a brace in the 5th and 10th minutes. Sherino Gomes and Om Raikar add-

ed to the tally with goals in the 20th and 48th minutes, respectively.

However, Dragon Boys fought back with determination. Ranzil and Myron each scored a brace, finding the net in the 15th, 25th, 40th, and 45th minutes.

The decisive moment came in injury time, when Shubert struck in the 60+2 minute, delivering the match-winning goal for Dragon Boys.

Lewiston Rebello of Fatima Boys was adjudged man-of-the-match and received the award from Caitano Rebello.

Fatorda Veterans lift Flame of Unity Cup



Fatorda Veterans receiving the 21st Flame of Unity Veterans Cup from Churchill Alemao

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RAIA: Fatorda Veterans clinched the 21st Flame of Unity Veterans Cup in dramatic fashion, overcoming Joe Cookie's Veterans Lotoulim, 4-3, via a penalty shootout in the final held at Mabai ground, Seraulim, on Saturday. The tournament was organised by the Flame of Unity Sports Club, Seraulim.

In a tightly contested final, both teams remained locked at 1-1 at full-time. Vincent Barbosa opened

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

- First scorer of the final & best forward: Jerson Cardozo (Joe Cookie's Veterans)
- Highest scorer of the tournament: Rosario Carvalho (Fatorda Veterans)
- First hat-trick of the tournament: Filipe Rodrigues (Colva Veterans)
- Oldest player: Manuel Fernandes
- Best half of the final & last touch of the final: Remy Colaco (Fatorda Veterans)
- Best keeper of the final: Camilo Barreto (Fatorda Vet)
- Best defender: Anthony C Pereira (Fatorda Veterans)

the scoring for Fatorda Veterans before Jerson Cardozo restored parity for Joe

Cookie's Veterans. The tie-breaker proved decisive, with Fatorda Vet-

erans converting through Anthony C Pereira, Vincent Barbosa and Remy Colaco. Joe Cookie's Veterans replied with successful spot-kicks from Tiago Fernandes and Jerson Cardozo.

The finale was graced by Churchill Alemao, former chief minister, who served as chief guest and distributed the prizes. Also in attendance were social worker Savio Alemao, Nelly Rodrigues (former zilla panchayat member), the sarpanch, all panch members, other dignitaries and club officials.

Bengaluru FC allege attack on fans, owner

PTI, BENGALURU: Bengaluru Football Club on Tuesday claimed that its owner Parth Jindal suffered 'burns and bruises' in a cowardly attack by a section of home fans on travelling supporters during the Indian Super League final against Mohun Bagan Super Giant, last week.

The club said a live firecracker was hurled into the stands and a BFC supporter sustained an eye injury during the incident.

The Blues, who lost the summit clash 1-2 in the extra time, said it has filed a formal complaint with the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

"Bengaluru FC strongly condemns the reckless and cowardly attack on our travelling supporters by a section of the home fans, where a live firecracker was hurled into the stands during the ISL final

against Mohun Bagan Super Giant in Kolkata on Saturday. "The incident resulted in a BFC supporter sustaining an injury to the eye that required treatment, while other supporters, including club owner Parth Jindal suffered burns and bruises," the BFC said in a strongly-worded post on 'X'. The club also urged the AIFF and the ISL organisers FSDL to take strong action to ensure fans' safety in stadiums.

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NACHOIN-10 KUMIPASAR

27th April at Chinchinim
30th April at Ravindra Bhavan, Margao at 7.30 pm
For Bookings Contact
South Goa 8668966971
North Goa 9422445665

TODAY'S SPORTS

GOA Professional League (Super League): Goa Police SC vs Geno FC, at Duler stadium, Mapusa, at 4 pm; Dempo SC vs Sesa Football Academy, at Dempo Sports Academy ground, Ella, at 4 pm

GFA First Division League (Group A): Nuvem SC vs Mandopa SC, at Curtorim ground, at 4 pm

GFA U-17 Division II League (South Zone) Group A: Don Bosco Oratory, Fatorda vs Snow's Football Academy, at Benaulin ground, at 4 pm

GFA U-19 Division I League:

FC Goa vs Penha de France SC, at Guirim ground, at 4 pm

Santa Cruz Village Panchayat Veterans Cup: Ilhas Veterans vs Calangute Veterans, at Santa Cruz ground, 4.30 pm

All-Goa inter-village United Trophy football tournament (2nd semis): Cuncolim Union vs Sao Jose de Areal, Rosary ground, Navelim, at 4.30 pm

18th Rebello Pandal football tournament: CC Boy's Nuvem vs Rebello Pandal, Maina, at St Rita Church ground, Maina-Curtorim, at 4.45 pm

Caledo brace sends Verna Veterans into final

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SANTA CRUZ: Verna Veterans stamped their class as they effortlessly saw off Nuvem Veterans 3-0 to book a place in the final of the Santa Cruz Village Panchayat Veterans Cup football tournament, held at the Santa Cruz ground on Tuesday.

Verna Veterans enjoyed a

comfortable 2-0 lead at the interval.

Francis Caledo was the standout performer for Verna Veterans, scoring once in each half, while Raymond D'Souza also found the back of the net.

Verna now await the winners of the second semi-final, to be contested between Ilhas Veterans and Calangute Veterans.

NEW KONKANI MOVIE

Mog Asim

PANJIM at ESG theatre 20th April at 6:30 pm
Tickets available at ESG counter
MARGAO at Ravindra Bhavan 24th April at 7:30 pm
9422445665 / 9511627369