

Satwik-Chirag in quarters; Prannoy, Sindhu bow out

PTI, SINGAPORE: The Indian men's doubles team of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty entered the quarterfinals, while former world champion PV Sindhu suffered an early exit in the Singapore Open badminton tournament, here, on Thursday.

Satwiksairaj and Chirag rallied to beat seventh-seeded Indonesian duo of Sabar Karyaman Gutama and Moh Reza Pahlevi Isfahani 19-21, 21-16, 21-19 in a gruelling contest that lasted one hour and 14 minutes. They will face the second seeded Malaysian team of Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin in the next round.

It was a commendable performance by the Indian duo, which is making a comeback after battling fitness issues for the last few weeks. Double Olympic medalist Sindhu went down to world No. 5 Chen Yufei of China 9-21, 21-18, 16-21 in 65 minutes in a hard-fought second-round match.

Sindhu, who recently slipped to world No. 17, showed glimpses of her old form, especially in the second game where she led 19-12 before closing it out 21-18. However, the decider saw her struggle to



Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty battled for an hour and 14 minutes before sealing their place in the quarters

match Chen's sharp smashes and court control.

It was Sindhu's seventh

While Sindhu sparked in patches, her sluggish reflexes and lack of control in

SINGAPORE OPEN

loss to Chen in 13 meetings, highlighting her inconsistency this season.

Despite a dominant 21-14, 21-9 win over Canada's Wen Yu Zhang in the opening round, the 2022 Singapore Open champion failed to build momentum.

rallies allowed the Chinese star to dictate terms in the final set. There was disappointment for India in the men's singles competition as H S Prannoy bowed out following a 16-21, 14-21 loss to Frenchman Christos Popov in the pre-quarter-

finals. The eighth seeded Indian pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand also bowed out after losing 8-21, 10-21 to Chinese combination of Jia Yi Fan and Zhang Shu Xian in the second round.

The mixed doubles combo of Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde couldn't get past Hong Kong's Tang Chun Man and Tse Ying Suet, losing 10-21, 16-21 in 31 minutes.

Sinner thrashes retiring Gasquet; Zverev, Andreeva cruise through

AFP, PARIS: Jannik Sinner ended the retiring Richard Gasquet's career with a one-sided victory at the French Open on Thursday, while Novak Djokovic looks to sharpen his game in the second round in his pursuit of a 25th Grand Slam title.

Women's second seed and former Roland Garros finalist Coco Gauff also targets a place in the last 32, after 18-year-old contender Mirra Andreeva cruised through.

World No. 1 Sinner had no trouble in seeing off the 38-year-old Gasquet, playing at the tournament for the 22nd and final time, 6-3, 6-0, 6-4 in under two hours. Sinner made his comeback from a three-month doping ban at the Italian Open earlier in May, reaching the final before losing in straight sets to reigning Roland Garros champion Carlos Alcaraz.

He was in fine form against Gasquet, saving three break points to serve out the first set before dominating the rest of the match on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Djokovic, fresh off his 100th ATP title last weekend, got his tilt at a fourth French Open crown off to a solid start on Tuesday.

The Serbian sixth seed will need to be on his guard against crafty Frenchman Corentin Moutet.

Third seed Alexander Zverev bounced back from losing the first set in a 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-3 win over Dutchman Jesper de Jong.

The German, who lost last year's final to Alcaraz, will next face the winner of an all-Italian clash between Flavio Cobolli and Matteo Arnaldi on Saturday for a last-16 berth.

Australian ninth seed Alex de Minaur's run of reaching four consecutive Grand Slam quarter-finals was ended as he blew a



Italy's Jannik Sinner celebrates after beating France's Richard Gasquet during their second round match of the French Tennis Open, at the Roland-Garros Stadium, in Paris, on Thursday

two-set lead to lose 2-6, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2 to Alexander Bublik.

Czech teenager Jakub

Fils narrowly avoided suffering a similar fate though.

The 14th seed fought back from a break down

FRENCH OPEN

Mensik, the Miami Open champion, also suffered a collapse from two sets up in a 2-6, 1-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 defeat by Grand Slam debutant Henrique Rocha of Portugal. Home hope Arthur

Later, Gael Monfils looks

BOPANNA, BALAJI SHINE TO MAKE IT THREE INDIANS IN MEN'S DOUBLES SECOND ROUND

PTI, PARIS: Rohan Bopanna and N Sriram Balaji advanced to their respective men's doubles second round at Roland Garros with contrasting wins, making it three Indians in the round of 32 at the French Open.

Bopanna and Czech partner Adam Pavlasek battled past Americans Robert Cash and JJ Tracy 7-6(8), 5-7, 6-1 to advance to the next round late on Wednesday.

The duo converted four break points and won 68% of their first-serve points in the hard-fought encounter that lasted two-hour and 11 minutes.

Later, Balaji and his Mexican partner

Miguel Reyes-Varela cruised past China's Yunchaokete Bu and Argentina's Camilo Ugo Carabelli 6-2, 6-1 in just 51 minutes.

The Indo-Mexican duo dominated from start to finish, firing four aces, winning 81 percent of first-serve points and converting four of 10 break-point opportunities.

Their aggressive return also earned them nearly half (49%) of receiving points.

With Balaji's win, three Indians have now made the round of 32 in the men's doubles at the Roland-Garros.

Earlier, Yuki Bhambri and American Robert Galloway had edged past Robin Haase and Hendrik Jebens 6-3, 6-7(8), 6-3.

India to play Qatar, Bahrain & Brunei Darussalam

PTI, NEW DELHI: The India U-23 men's national team was on Thursday drawn in Group H of the AFC U-23 Asian Cup Qualifiers and will play against hosts Qatar, Bahrain, and Brunei Darussalam.

The draw was conducted at the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur. Qatar, the highest-seeded team among the four, will host Group H, with the matches slated to be played between September 1 and 9.

A total of 44 teams were divided into 11 groups of four each. The group winners and the four best runners-up, alongside hosts Saudi Arabia, will complete

DRAW

- Group A:** Jordan (Hosts), Turkmenistan, Chinese Taipei, Bhutan
- Group B:** Japan, Kuwait, Myanmar (H), Afghanistan
- Group C:** Vietnam (H), Yemen, Singapore, Bangladesh
- Group D:** Australia, China (H), Timor-Leste, Northern Mariana Islands
- Group E:** Uzbekistan, Palestine, Kyrgyz Republic (H), Sri Lanka
- Group F:** Thailand (H), Malaysia, Lebanon, Mongolia
- Group G:** Iraq, Cambodia (H), Oman, Pakistan
- Group H:** Qatar (H), Bahrain, India, Brunei Darussalam
- Group I:** United Arab Emirates (H), IR Iran, Hong Kong China, Guam
- Group J:** Korea Republic, Indonesia (H), Laos, Macau
- Group K:** Tajikistan, Syria, Philippines, Nepal

the cast of 16 teams for the seventh edition of the AFC U23 Asian Cup, which will take place in January 2026.

The seedings for the

draw were based on a points system derived from the teams' final rankings across the previous three editions of the tournament.

India were placed in Pot 3. India had earlier appointed Naushad Moosa as the head coach of their U-23 national team.

Moosa takes charge from June 1, when the Blue Colts assemble in Kolkata for a training camp, before flying off to Tajikistan to play two exposure matches against Tajikistan (June 18) and Kyrgyz Republic (June 21).

The India U-23s will utilise all the FIFA international windows to set camp and play exposure friendlies to prepare for the AFC U23 Asian Cup qualifiers, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) said.

History-makers Chelsea roar back to beat Real Betis in UEFA Conference League final

AFP, WROCLAW (Poland): Chelsea roared back to beat Real Betis 4-1 in the UEFA Conference League final in Wroclaw on Wednesday, becoming the first club to complete a clean sweep of European trophies.

Manuel Pellegrini's enterprising Betis caught the favourites cold with an early goal from Abde Ezzalzouli against a flat-footed and listless Chelsea. But Enzo Maresca's second-half substitutions injected energy and Cole Palmer changed the complexion of the game in a five-minute spell, setting up Enzo Fernandez and Nicolas Jackson to score.

Substitute Jadon Sancho



made the game safe in the 83rd minute as the Spanish side faded in their first European final and Moises Caicedo added gloss to the scoreline.

Chelsea are the first club to win the full set of five UEFA club tournaments -- the Champions League, Europa League, Conference League, Super

Cup and the now-defunct Cup Winners' Cup. Result: Real Betis 1 (Ezzalzouli 9) Chelsea 4 (Fernandez 65, Jackson 70, Sancho 83, Caicedo 90+1).

Saligao SC book final berth

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MAPUSA: Saligao Sporting Club registered a hard-fought 6-5 win via tie-breaker over Raia Sporting Club to book their place into the final of Calangute Panchayat Cup organised in memory of Rev Fr Conceicao D'Silva by St Savio Sports Club, Calangute, at Poriat ground, Calangute, on Thursday.

Saligao SC's Sachindand Satelkar opened the account with powerful shot in the 17th minute of play, 1-0.

On crossing over, in the 54th minute, Leran Dias equalised for Raia Sporting Club with neat placement, 1-1.

Saligao Sporting Club



Velito Cruz of Raia Sporting Club is being awarded the man-of-the-match

CALANGUTE PANCHAYAT CUP

goalkeeper Augustin brought number of saves to deny Raia Sporting Club from scoring.

In the penalty shoot-out,

Saligao Sporting Club won via tie-breaker by 6-5 margin. The man-of-the-match was awarded to Velito Cruz of Raia Sporting Club.

Peddem Bomm in semis

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MAPUSA: Peddem Bomm SC registered a solitary goal win over FC Tuem to enter the semi-finals of Xetrapal Cup organised by Xetrapal SC at Oxel ground, on Thursday.

The all-important goal for Peddem Bomm SC was scored in the 18th minute through Kalpesh Parsekar on entering the 18-yard box, 1-0.

On crossing over, FC Tuem time and again attacked the rival citadel but Peddem Bomm SC custodian Soma Korgaonkar brought three outstanding saves.

Daddy Boys move into semi-finals

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RAIA: Daddy Boys, Guir-dolim, thumped Davorlim Boys 5-2 via tie-breaker to

enter into the semi-finals of 5th All Goa 8-a-side football tournament organised by Davorlim Sports and Cultural Club at Laymati ground, Davorlim, on Thursday. Both

teams remained 2-2 draw at the full time. Mark Carvalho scored a brace for Davorlim Boys in the 12th and 47th minute of play, while Alerich Peixeto and Joaquim Car-

valho scored for Daddy's Boys in the 25th and 60th minute of play. In the resultant tie-breaker, Daddy's Boys proved to be the better shooters.

Blue Tigresses to play friendlies

PTI, BENGALURU: The Indian women's football team will take on Uzbekistan in the first of the two international friendly matches here on Friday as part of preparations for the upcoming AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026 qualifiers.

The Blue Tigresses are set to play the AFC Asian Cup qualifiers from June 23 to July 5.

India head coach Crispin Chhetri said at the pre-match press conference they are preparing in earnest for the upcoming assignments.

"We are moving in the right direction. The team have had almost 25 days of preparation, everything's going as per the expectations," Chhetri said.

Since Chhetri took over as the head coach of the Blue Tigresses

in February, the senior India women's team have seen a transition to a much younger squad, something that the coach has emphasised.

"It's a mixed bunch that we have. While there are many youngsters, we also have some very good seniors like Panthoi (Chanu Elangbam), Grace (Dangmei), Sweetie (Devi Ngangbam), Anju (Tamang), and Ratan (Nongmaithem Ratanbala Devi)." "We are without the likes of Ashalata (Devi Loitongbam), Dalima (Chhibber), Aditi (Chauhan), and Indu (Indumathi Kathiresan)."

In the AFC Qualifiers, India are in Group B and will play against Mongolia (June 23), Timor-Leste (June 29), Iraq (July 2), and hosts Thailand (July 5).

GOA DIARY

ANB Unity League at Arpora

PANJIM: Happy Boys will organise ANB Unity League 2025-26 -- a 5-a-side football tournament on June 21 and 22, at St Sebastian ground, Arpora. Participation is open to the residents of Arpora, Nagoa and Baga (Bardez) only. Players for eight teams will be picked on June 8. Those interested must register latest by June 4, through the following link: <https://forms.gle/4bTysx8RgdCrTnQ18>.

Vagator Soccer Cup: Sinqerim SC to take on Don Bosco Oratory Fatorda

RAIA: Vagator Parish Youth Sports Club is set to host the 24th edition of the Vagator Soccer Cup, commencing on June 1, at Ozran ground, Vagator, where Sinqerim SC will take on Don Bosco Oratory in the inaugural match. The tournament will feature 16 teams. ABC Sports Club Arambol, PVC Association, Saligao United, Pilerne Sports Club, Youth Sports Club Colvale, St Anthony's Sports Club Marna-Siolim, St Savio Sports Club Calangute, Don Bosco Oratory Fatorda, Assonora United Football Club, Augustias Sporting Club Pomburpa, Sinqerim Sports Club, Guardian Angel Sports Club Churchoer, FC Tuem, Sao Jose De Areal Sports Club, CAC Sports and Social Club Cansaulim and the hosts Vagator Parish Youth Sports Club.

TODAY'S SPORTS

Xetrapal Cup (quarters): Dunes SC vs Verem United SC, at Xetrapal ground, 4:30 pm

Silver Jubilee Cup 2025: Cumborda Sports Club vs Novowaddo Sports Club, at St Alex Church ground, Curtorim, 5 pm

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