

NorthEast United play out gripping draw with FC Goa

PTI, GUWAHATI: Hosts NorthEast United FC came from behind to hold FC Goa 1-1 in a closely-contested Indian Super League (ISL) match here on Tuesday.

Mohammad Yasir handed the lead to FC Goa in the 65th minute but Jithin MS struck in the 76th minute for NorthEast as the two sides took one point each from the match.

ISL

This was the 11th draw between these two teams, the most number of stalemates between two side in this competition's history.

The Highlanders started the game on the front foot as the likes of Guillermo Fernandez and Alaaeddine Ajarai made some marauding runs, keeping the FC Goa defenders on their toes.

However, the first real opportunity came to the Gaurs when Dejan Drazic found Armando Sadiku with a telling cross in the



FCG's Brison Fernandes dribbling with the ball against NEUFC's Muthu Irulandi Mayakkannan and Redeem Tlang at Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium, Guwahati on Tuesday

penalty area. But unfortunately, the Albanian's header was not strong enough to trouble Gurmeet Singh in goal.

Minutes later, Ajarai almost opened the scoring when Buanthanglun Samte found him with a long pass.

The Moroccan was through on goal but his subsequent effort was tipped over the

TODAY'S FIXTURE

Mohammedan SC vs Chennaiyin FC, at the Kishore Bharati Krirangan, Kolkata, at 7:30 pm

bar by Hritik Tiwari.

Despite absorbing the pressure from the hosts for the majority of the first half, FC Goa finished the half on a strong note.

NorthEast started the second half with a lot of zeal just like they did in the first half. However, they lacked the cutting edge in the final third to break open FC Goa's resolute backline.

In the 59th minute, assistant coach Naushad Moosa decided to change the dynamics of the game as he brought on Nestor Albiach

and Ninthoinganba Meetei in place of Guillermo and Muthu Mayakkannan.

Nestor almost made an instant impact when he combined with Ajarai for a give-and-go and Hrithik lost the ball in the crowd, creating an opening for the Spaniard. But Odei Onaindia cleared the dangerous ball away from the goal.

Against the run of play, FC Goa broke the deadlock in the 65th minute when Jay Gupta unleashed a long ball into the penalty area. Mohammed Yasir then played it towards Brison. The youngster played it back to Yasir, who hammered it into the bottom right corner, handing an important lead to the Gaurs.

After a sustained spell of long balls, the Highlanders decided to hit FC Goa on the counter. Ajarai held the ball brilliantly before unleashing Jithin with a sensational through ball. The winger eventually slotted the ball past Hrithik in the 76th minute.

Gokulam Kerala down Dempo

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RAIA: Gokulam Kerala FC edged past Dempo SC with a 1-0 victory in a closely contested AIFF I-League match, at the Nehru stadium, Fatorda, on Tuesday.

The match began with high intensity as Dempo SC's Kapil Hobble delivered a precise cross to Shubham Rawat in the 6th minute. Rawat's shot, however, was expertly pushed to safety by Gokulam Kerala FC's goalkeeper, Shibin Raj Kunniyl.

I-LEAGUE

Just five minutes later, Gokulam's Adama Niane came close to breaking the deadlock, but his powerful strike struck the goalpost and rebounded back into play. In the 25th minute, Niane's effort was once again denied, this time by Dempo SC's goalkeeper, Ashish Sebi, who made a fine save to keep the scores level. Dempo's Shubham Rawat then tested Kunniyl again in the 44th minute, but the Gokulam custodian was equal to the challenge, ensuring the first half ended goalless.

The second half saw both teams creating opportunities. From the 53rd to the 56th minute, Gokulam's Saurab Mondal missed several chances, including one set up by Sinisa Stansavic. Shortly after, Dempo's Shubham Rawat attempted to outmanoeuvre Kunniyl in the 60th minute, but the Gokulam keeper displayed excellent composure to avert the danger.

The decisive moment came in the 87th minute when Gokulam Kerala's Abhishek K found the back of the net with a clinical finish, giving his team the crucial lead. Dempo SC fought hard to equalise, but Laximan-



Dempo SC goalkeeper Ashish Sebi leaps to intercept the ball and prevent Gokulam Kerala FC from scoring

rao Rane and Nestor Dias squandered late opportunities, with Dias missing a golden chance in injury time.

The victory reinforced Gokulam Kerala FC's resilience, with their goalkeeper Shibin Raj Kunniyl delivering a standout performance to secure the clean sheet.

Navelim Sporting Club crush Guirdolim Club

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VERNA: Navelim Sporting Club delivered a commanding performance to thrash Guirdolim Club, 4-0 and secure a place in the semi-finals of the 1st Fernando Abranches Memorial Trophy 2025, organised by the United Club of Verna, at the Verna Panchayat ground.

Ronaldo Pereira opened the scoring in the 12th minute with a clinical finish, putting Navelim ahead and setting the tone for the rest of the match.

The second half saw Navelim intensify their attack. Star forward Noah Luis



dazzled the crowd with two sensational goals in quick succession, further extending the lead. Pereira then sealed the emphatic victory by scoring his second goal of the match, capitalising on a precise assist from Luis.

Noah Luis's stellar performance, which included two goals and an assist, earned him the star of the match award, presented by Gabriel Rodrigues, joint treasurer of United Club of Verna.

FC Goa win over Churchill Bros

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MARGAO: FC Goa secured a commanding 3-0 victory over Churchill Brothers FC in the AIFF U-17 Elite Youth League match, held at Holy Trinity ground, Benaulim.

Josley put FC Goa ahead just before the breather as he headed the ball into the nets from a good cross by Meldon.

Churchill stayed in the game and tested FC Goa's keeper in the second half but failed to score.

In the 86th minute Leonard put the game to bed with a long range effort from the left.

Ruell curled in a free kick in the 89th minute to add for the third goal.

Sporting Clube thrash Guardian Angel

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MAPUSA: Sporting Clube de Goa extended their unbeaten run with a commanding 8-2 victory over Guardian Angel SC, in the Goa Professional League (GPL), at Duler Stadium, on Tuesday.

For the Flaming Oranje,

GOA PRO LEAGUE

substitute Vikram Venkatachalam netted a hat-trick, Doyal Alves struck twice and Francisco Fernandes and Ahongshangbam Meitei each added a goal. Guardian Angel SC's captain Peter Carvalho and Airen Fernandes were the scorers for their side.

This emphatic win keeps Sporting Clube de Goa atop the GPL table with 31 points from 11 matches, while Guardian Angel SC remains at the bottom with just 5 points from the same number of games.

Despite their recent struggles, Guardian Angel SC showed determination at the start. In the 6th minute, they came close to opening the scoring when Godwin Fernandes narrowly missed connecting with a well-delivered cross from Cyril Dias on the right flank. However, the breakthrough came in the 13th minute when Angel's skipper Peter Carvalho rose above the Sporting defenders to head James Fernandes' corner into the net, giving his side a 1-0 lead.

Sporting responded instantly, equalising in the very next minute. A long throw-in by Biswa Darjee found Ahongshangbam Meitei, whose chest control and lob into the box caught Angel's goalkeeper Oswin Rodrigues off-guard. Leran Dias capitalised on the fumble to head the ball into the goal, making it 1-1.

In the 35th minute, Sporting took the lead when Doyal Alves' header, off a pinpoint cross from Ivon Costa, beat Oswin Rodrigues, making it 2-1.

The second half saw an avalanche of goals, with seven more scored. Francisco Fernandes extended Sporting's lead in the 52nd minute with a powerful solo effort, driving forward

from the centre line to score with a precise placement, making it 3-1.

Guardian Angel SC briefly fought back in the 55th minute, as Airen Fernandes curled a stunning 25-yard free kick past Sporting's custodian Siddharth Rama, reducing the deficit to 3-2.

Sporting regained momentum in the 66th minute when they were awarded a penalty after Angel's Liven Clement handled the ball in the box. Doyal Alves calmly converted from the spot, making it 4-2.

The Flaming Oranje then unleashed a relentless assault, with Ahongshangbam Meitei scoring again and substitute Vikram Venkatachalam adding a hat-trick, sealing an 8-2 rout.

Carrom tourney on January 19 at Mapusa

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MAPUSA: Youth of Mapusa will organised singles carrom tournament on January 19, at the Savio Azavedo Hall, Cuchelim-Mapusa. Reporting time for event is 10 am & tournament will start at 10.30 am. Winners will be awarded cash prize of Rs 10,000 plus trophy and the runners up will be awarded Rs 5,000 plus trophy. Semi-final losers will get Rs 2500 each plus Trophy.

Entry fees is Rs 300 and the last date for entry is January 18 upto 5 pm. For more details contact Dominic Braganza.

Slizhevsky, Semetei lead; Ethan impresses

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PANJIM: IM Alexander Slizhevsky (RUS) and IM Semetei Tololon Tegin (KGZ) lead the 3rd Goa International Open Grandmaster Chess Tournament 2025, with a perfect score of 5 points after five rounds. The event is being held at the Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium, organised by the Goa Chess Association under the aegis of the All India Chess Federation (AICF).

Close behind with 4.5 points each are GM Alexei Fedorov (BLR) and GM Sayantan Das (WB), while 15 players, including Goa's

GOA INTERNATIONAL OPEN GRANDMASTER CHESS



IM **Ethan Vaz** (4 points), are vying for contention in a competitive field.

The highlight of the day was Slizhevsky's victory over GM Sethuraman S.P, keeping him in the joint lead. Tololon Tegin also secured an important win against IM Nitin S. GM Alexei Fedorov defeated GM Siddharth Jagadeesh (SGP)

to remain in the chase, while FM Nguyen Quoc Hy held GM Diptayan Ghosh to a draw. GM Sayantan Das's win over IM Saravana Krishnan placed him firmly in the leading pack.

Goan players delivered notable performances on Day 4. Ethan Vaz held IM Aronyak Ghosh (RSPB) to a draw, maintaining 4 points. GM Anurag Mhamal and IM Ameya Audi registered draws and wins, respectively, while IM Ritviz Parab defeated WCM Charvi A., leaving all three local players with 3.5 points each.

Uguem Rising Club storm into semi-finals

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RAIA: Uguem Rising Club secured an emphatic 4-1 victory over a determined St Rock YC, Majorda, to advance to the semi-finals of the Cavellossim Panchayat Cup inter-village football tournament, organised by Santa Cruz Club of Cavellossim, at the Fr Druston and Wellington ground, in Cavellossim.

Despite playing a defensive game for much of the match, Uguem showcased the importance of capitalising on key moments. St Rock YC Majorda dominated stretches of the game but were unlucky not to convert

opportunities, with close attempts by Myron Pereira and Wendell Coelho missing the target narrowly.

Uguem took the lead when a free kick outside the 18-yard box by Jester Carvalho was deflected into the net by Rutik Bhandodkar, catching goalkeeper Freddy Fernandes off position on the right.

In the second half, Uguem doubled their lead as Youhan Dias rose high to connect with a precise cross from Israel Gomes, making it 2-0.

Majorda fought back valiantly, pulling a goal back through Asley Rodrigues, who latched onto a pass from Oscar Braganza to re-

duce the deficit to 2-1.

However, Uguem responded swiftly with their third goal, a soft tap-in by the relentless Rutik Bhandodkar, following a long clearance by goalkeeper Tejas Madval. The goal left Majorda's defence scrambling and the scoreline at 3-1.

The final blow came when Rutik completed his hat-trick in style. His seemingly innocuous corner kick found the back of the net, sealing a 4-1 victory.

Rutik Bhandodkar of Uguem Rising Club was presented man-of-the-match award by Joaquim (Dicky) Mendes, Seafarer and Club founder life member.

Sahil joins Mohun Bagan from Geno FC

PANJIM: Geno Football Club has announced the transfer of talented young centre-back Sahil Inamdar to Indian Super League (ISL) giants Mohun Bagan SG for an undisclosed fee.

Sahil has been a standout performer in the Goa Pro League, showcasing exceptional composure, technical skills, and defensive ability. His move to one of India's premier football clubs marks a significant step in his career.

Dr Sagar Salgaocar, owner of Geno FC, expressed pride in the club's player development philosophy:

"At Geno Football Club, we pride ourselves on nurturing young talent and providing players with a platform to showcase their abilities. Sahil's transfer to Mohun Bagan SG is a testament to our belief in developing players ready to compete at the highest level. Our mission remains to develop more players from Goa who can make their mark in the Indian Super League and beyond."

Gabriel Jesus suffers injury

AFP, LONDON: Arsenal forward Gabriel Jesus will need surgery on a serious knee injury as Gunners boss Mikel Arteta scrambles to replace the Brazilian in the January transfer window.

Jesus was stretched off in the first half of Sunday's FA Cup third-round match against Manchester United, which ended in a defeat for the Gunners on penalties. The 27-year-old saw specialists this week to assess the extent of the problem, which has now been diagnosed as an anterior cruciate ligament injury to his left knee.

Sindhu, Satwik-Chirag shine on mixed day at India Open

PTI, NEW DELHI: PV Sindhu and the celebrated doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty had to toil to advance to the second round of the USD 9,50,000 India Open Super 750 badminton tournament on Tuesday, as home shuttlers experienced a mixed day.

After missing the season-opening Malaysia Open Super 1000 due to her wedding in December, Sindhu looked a bit rusty but managed to battle through a 21-14, 22-20 victory over world No. 24 Sung Shuo Yun of Chinese Taipei.

The world No. 16 Indian will now face Japan's Manami Suizu in the second round.

In men's doubles, title contenders Satwiksairaj

Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, seeded seventh, overcame a few nervous moments to defeat Malaysia's world No. 7 duo, Man Wei Chong and Kai Wun Tee, 23-21, 19-21, 21-16.

After winning a narrow opening game, the Indian pair slipped in the second, allowing the Malaysians to force a decider. Satwik and Chirag took an 11-9 lead in the third game, but the Malaysian pair kept things tight until 18-16, before the Indians sealed the match following two net errors from their opponents.

Talented shuttler Kiran George, who trains at the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy (PPBA), fought through a thrilling three-game encounter,

saving three match points and then securing the win against Japan's world No. 25 Yushi Tanaka. Kiran won 21-19, 14-21, 27-25.

In mixed doubles, Tanisha Crasto and Dhruv Kapila advanced to the second round with a 8-21, 21-19, 21-17 victory over Chinese Taipei's Chen Cheng Kuan and Hsu Yin-Hui. Former national champions Ashwini Bhat and Shikha Gautam also progressed, defeating Crystal Lai and Jackie Dent 22-20, 21-18 in women's doubles.

However, there was disappointment for the women's doubles pair of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, seeded fifth, as they suffered a 21-23, 19-21 loss to Japan's Arisa Igashira and Ayako Sakuramoto, despite recent success at the Syed Modi International Super 300.

Amrutha Pramuthesh and Sonali Singh also fell short, going down 21-19, 15-21, 12-21 to Thailand's O Jongsathapornpan and S Suwachai.

In mixed doubles, S Karunakaran and A Variyath lost 10-21, 10-21 to the French pair of T Gicquel and D Delrue. Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Gadde also fought hard but were defeated 21-17, 18-21, 15-21 by Hee Yong Kai Terry and Jin Yu Jia.

Former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth, who was granted a last-minute entry, withdrew from the tournament, handing a walkover to his first-round opponent Weng Hong Yang of China.

