

FC Goa close gap with top-placed Mohun Bagan Super Giant

Team Herald
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FATORDA: FC Goa showcased their dominance once again with a thrilling 2-0 victory over Chennaiyin FC in the Indian Super League match played at the Nehru Stadium, here, on Saturday.

The Gaurs, spurred on by a raucous home crowd right from kick-off, delivered a scintillating performance that saw them consolidate their second position on the Indian Super League table with 33 points from 17 matches, inching closer to league leaders Mohun Bagan.

ISL The game began with FC Goa firing on all cylinders, setting the tone for an electrifying evening.

With the referee blowing his whistle to signal the start of proceedings, the hosts wasted no time in testing Chennaiyin FC's defence. Just four minutes in, Boris Singh came tantalisingly close with a shot that whizzed past the far post after a brilliant build-up play involving Rowlin Borges, Brison Fernandes and Aakash Sangwan. A minute later, Borja Herrera's attempt to capitalise on a defensive lapse was denied by a goal-line clearance, keeping the visitors in the game.

FC Goa's relentless pressure finally paid off in the 11th minute. A corner from Borja was partially cleared, only for Boris to whip in a dangerous cross. Chennaiyin FC goalkeeper Mohammad Nawaz, under pressure, failed to hold onto the ball after a collision with a teammate.

Brison pounced on the



FC Goa's Borja Herrera dribbles past Chennaiyin FC's Mohammad Nawaz at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Fatorda, on Saturday

loose ball and struck the post, but Iker Guarrotxena was at hand to calmly slot home the rebound, registering his third goal of the season and giving his team a deserved lead.

FC Goa then doubled their advantage in the 26th minute, courtesy of Aakash Sangwan. Carl McHugh's exquisite long ball from midfield found the left-back in stride. Aakash controlled the ball deftly before firing past Nawaz from a tight angle, scoring his first goal in FC Goa colours against his former club.

The first half could have seen more goals for the home side, with Rowlin Borges and Iker both coming close. However, Chennaiyin FC managed to keep the deficit to two as the

half-time whistle blew. Following the change of ends, FC Goa continued their dominance, though the intensity of their attacks dipped slightly. Iker and Borja combined well to create chances, but Chennaiyin FC's defence managed to hold firm. In the 69th minute, Farukh Choudhary had a rare chance for Chennaiyin FC, but his shot sailed over the bar, summing up their frustrating night.

Late in the match, Aakash and substitute Muhammed Nemil both came close to adding a third for the Gaurs, but Nawaz denied them with some fine saves.

Chennaiyin FC tried to push forward in the final minutes, with both Connor Shields and Daniel Chima

missing opportunities to reduce the deficit.

The victory not only kept FC Goa's title hopes alive but also extended their unbeaten run to 12 matches. With 33 points, they now trail leaders Mohun Bagan by just four points, keeping the race for the ISL League Shield wide open. The Men in Orange will next face Jamshedpur FC away on Sunday, February 2, as they will surely aim to continue their remarkable form.

RESULT
FC Goa 2 (Iker Guarrotxena 11', Aakash Sangwan 26') Chennaiyin FC 0
ISL FIXTURE
Mumbai City FC vs Mohammedan SC, at the Mumbai Football Arena, 7.30 pm

Churchill Brothers shocked in add-on time

Artigas delivers the winner (90+3) deep into the add-on time of the second half for Rajasthan United FC

PTI, JAIPUR: Rajasthan United FC shocked Churchill Brothers 1-0 in their I-League match at the Vidya-dhar Nagar Stadium, here, on Saturday.

The loss was Churchill Brothers' second of the New Year. Spanish striker Gerard Artigas delivered the winner (90+3) deep into the add-on time of the second half.

The defeat came as a double blow for the visitors as it also cost them the top position they were occupying in the league table. While Namdhari FC, who outclassed Shillong Lajong FC in the day's first match, are now top-poppers with 20 points, the Goa side have dropped to the second place with 19 points from 10 outings.

Rajasthan United meanwhile moved up to fourth place with 14 points in

their kitty from nine matches. The win extended the Desert Warriors' unbeaten streak to five games, in which they have bagged 11 points.

After a shocking loss to open the New Year, Churchill Brothers' form reset to the normal and the league toppers were hoping to extend their lead after Inter Kashi's loss the prior evening.

Rajasthan United though were not an easy case to crack, unbeaten in four and putting together a run of results that not just belied their early season form but also had slowly turned it around.

Predictably, the visi-

tors were the ones who started off brighter, and in a first half devoid of much real goalmouth action, were the ones who conjured up the big chances of the period.

The first chance arrived seemingly on a platter for Kingslee Fernandes, the forward's run at the far post picked out with a perfect cross from the left. He volleyed high.

Neither team had adequately tested the goal-keepers with long balls and set pieces, often headed clear or easily gathered in goal. It took till the opening minutes of the second half for both sides to really put together a run of play that looked dan-

gerous, Rajasthan United's Naoba Meitei first testing Sayad Abul Kadir from a tight angle after a run into the box.

Off the counter attack, Churchill Brothers almost got the opener, Lamgoulen Hangshing's cutback from the right falling in the path of Kingslee running into the box. The forward's shot was on target, but bounced off a clueless defender blocking the goal.

The game wore on without either side able to break through, half chances also petering out to few and far between. Arguably the best chance fell to Churchill's Nishchal Chandan in the 88th minute, when a half cleared corner fell at his feet inside the six yard box. Facing a narrow angle and a rapidly shutting window of opportunity, he volleyed high.



Dempo SC set for showdown against Real Kashmir FC

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PANJIM: Dempo SC will face Real Kashmir FC in their 10th I-League match on January 26, at the TRC Polo ground, Srinagar.

The Golden Eagles will look to build momentum after a hard-fought 1-1 draw

against Rajasthan FC in their previous outing.

Meanwhile, Real Kashmir head into this encounter brimming with confidence following a commanding 3-1 victory over SC Bengaluru. Dempo SC Head Coach Samir remains optimistic ahead of the fixture.

"As always, we give our best on the ground, and we will make sure we put in all our hard work to get the results," he said.

"The atmosphere within the team is positive, especially after the comeback draw against Rajasthan. We will surely give our best on the

field." Currently, Dempo SC sit eighth in the standings with 11 points from nine matches, while Real Kashmir are just ahead in seventh, with 13 points from an equal number of games. With both teams vying to climb the table, fans can expect a fiercely competitive encounter.

Reliance Champs, FC Goa play 1-1 draw, Mumbai City hold Sesa FA; Dempo SC win

HERALD PIC



FC Goa and Reliance Foundation Young Champs players in action at Duler Stadium, Mapusa, on Saturday

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MAPUSA: Reliance Foundation Young Champs, Mumbai, fought gallantly to hold FC Goa to a 1-1 draw in the Reliance Foundation Development League U-21 match played at Duler Stadium, here, on Saturday.

RELIANCE FOOTBALL

FC Goa dominated the entire first session but Lalhangliana, Jovial Dias and Bryson Pereira time and again failed to score.

However, just seven min-

utes into the second session, Lalhangliana finally put his team ahead as his 25-yard strike brushed Young Champs custodian Aarush Haru Gores before entering the goal, 1-0.

A goal in the stoppage time by Reliance skipper Raj Sanyash with a 30-yard strike beat the Young Gaurs custodian Lionel Rymmei, 1-1.

In the morning match, Dempo SC registered a comfortable 2-0 win over Maharashtra Oranje FC. Both the goals were scored by Shreyash Naik (62nd) and Asmon Viegas (70th) minute of play.

At Sairsam ground: Mumbai City FC managed to hold Sesa FA to a 4-4 draw.

HERALD PIC



Ashwald Pereira secured the 1st place in junior boys category, while Geeta Gouli won the 1st place in the junior girls category; Geetika Kuttikar bagged the 1st place in the senior girls category, while Saiphen Vaz secured the 1st place in the senior boys category. The winners along with Anthony Pereira and other officials

Father-Son duo Tambes in semis

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PANJIM: The son and father duo, Amit and Shrikant respectively, reached the semi-final of men's doubles 120+ event in the Masters category of the ongoing Gadre Gaspar Dias Open 2025, at Miramar, on Saturday.

The pairing of Yati Gujarathi and Sushil Gujarathi defeated Rafik Khotu and Bruce Fernandes to also reach the semi-finals.

While Amit and Shrikant defeated Randeep Datta and Deepak Pathak 6-3, Yati and Sushil had to break a sweat in their contest against Rafik

and Bruce, 6-1, to reach the semifinal. In the same category, Dilip Londhe and Shirish Nandurdikar defeated Jayaram Ponniah and Ramanathan Kalimuthu 6-3 to reach the quarter-final.

In the tournament's men's singles 55+ event in the Masters category, Jude Cardozo overcame the challenge from Manoj Pandey 6-2 to reach the semis, while in the Masters men's doubles 90+ event, Vikas Choudhary and Anant Gupta were stretched by Vinoy Parakunnil and Bruce Fernandes, 7-5, before eventually defeating the latter pair to reach the semi-final.

DM'S College, GVM's Gopal Govind Poy Raiturcar College emerge baseball champions

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PANJIM: DM's College and Research Center, Assagao, and GVM's Gopal Govind Poy Raiturcar College of Commerce and Economics, Farmagudi, won the women and men's Inter Collegiate Baseball Championship for Men and Women 2024-25 organised by Goa University at the university ground, Taleigao Plateau, recently.

In a well-contested Women's final, DM's College defeated Shree Damodar College of Commerce and Economics, Margao, by 1 run.

In the men's final, GVM's Gopal Govind Poy Raiturcar College defeated Shree Damodar College, Margao, by 9 runs. Earlier, in the semi-finals, women's category, DM's College defeated GVM's Gopal Govind Poy Raiturcar College of Commerce and Economics, Farmagudi, by 14 runs and Shree Damodar College defeated St Xavier's College by 1 run.

In the men's category, GVM's Gopal Govind Poy Raiturcar College defeated Shree Mallikarjun and Shri ChetanManju Desai College by 4 runs.



The men and winners along with chief guest Prof Dilip Arolkar, principal of DM's College, Assagao; guest of honour Prof Teotone IM Vaz, principal of GVM's Gopal Govind Poy Raiturcar College, Farmagudi; Balachandra Jadar, assistant director of Physical Education and Sports, Goa University, at the university ground, Taleigao Plateau, recently



GU INTER-COLLEGIATE BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Best player in men was awarded to Dhruv Parwar of GVM's Gopal Govind Poy Raiturcar College and best player in women category was awarded to Roshni Parab Mayekar of DM's College, Mapusa. In total, 13 men's and 7 women's teams participated.

DM's College team: Tanaya Naik, Samiksha Raul, Komal Hallur, Shruti Jalagekar, Sachi Purkhe, Bhumika Gawander, Flavia

Vaz, principal of GVM's Gopal Govind Poy Raiturcar College, Farmagudi, along with Balachandra Jadar, assistant director of Physical Education and Sports, Goa University, presented the medals and trophies to the winners.

GVM's Gopal Govind Poy Raiturcar College: Jagdish Somji, Ved Patel, Dhruv Parwar, Yatish Devidas, Bhargav Gawas, Nishal Kothambikar, Devarsh Naik, Prajay Gaude, Kundan Gaude, Akshad Naik, Ashish Gaude, Yash Gaonkar, Mithil Lotlikar, Vaishnav Talaulikar, Rohan Gaude, and Biraj Gaude.

GOA DIARY

Inter-village Lourdes Soccer at Ambelim

RAIA: Ambelim Sports Club will organise their traditional inter-village Lourdes Soccer 2025 from January 27, at Ambelim ground. 16 teams are participating.

TODAY'S SPORTS

GFA Division II League (Ilhas Zone): Agassaim Youth Club vs Carambolim Sports Club, Agassaim ground, 3.45 pm. Portais Sporting Club vs Aivao Youth Club, at Taleigao ground, 3.45 pm

GFA Division II League (Bardez Zone): BAFF vs FC Tuem, at Duler Stadium, Mapusa, 3.45 pm. Bidesh XI Assonora vs Goan Warriors FC, at Guirim ground, 3.45 pm

Simon Barreto Memorial inter-village football (final): Curtorim Gymkhana vs Fr Agnelo YSC, Paroda, at the DYSA ground, Curtorim 4.30 pm

3rd All Goa Volleyball (final): Sai Krupa, Usgao, vs Sarwan Boys, at Manora ground, 8.30 pm

17th All Goa inter-village Seraulim Panchayat Cup football (inaugural match): Guirdolim Club vs United Club, Benaulim, at the Seraulim Panchayat ground, 4.30 pm

1st Fernando Abanches Memorial Trophy (final): United Club of Verna vs Parish Youth Nuvem at Verna panchayat ground, 4.30 pm

51st Guirdolim Club all Goa cycle race, at 8.30 am

CRI Jubilee Cup 2025 futsal football league for religious men and diocesan priests at Agnel Arena, Assagao, 2 pm

It's Today FINAL It's Today

MAINA SPORTS CLUB
Cordially invite you for the finals of
Inter Village Soccer
in Memorial of Simon Barreto

Fr. Agnelo Y.S.C Paroda v/s Curtorim Gymkhana

26 Jan 2025, at DYSA Curtorim Ground, @4:30 pm

Chief Guest
Shri Yuri Alemao (LOP)
Guest of Honours

Shri Alexio Reginaldo
(MLA of Curtorim Constituency)
Smt. Michelle Rebelo
(ZP Member Curtorim)

Special Guest: Shri Armando Colaco
Dronacharya Awardee !
To Preside: Shri Rui Menezes (Ex. Sarpanch),
Rev. Fr. Dominic Savio Vaz, Shri. Roque Carneiro,
Shri. Milagres Rodrigues & Shri. Alfred Barreto.
GFA Executive Members:
Shri. Antonio Pango & Andrew Ferrao
Maina Sports Club Executive Members

Francisco Rebelo Moreno Rebelo Fiel Braganza Angelis Rebelo
President Gen. Secretary Treasurer Sports Secretary

GRAND FOOTBALL FINAL
1st Fernando Abanches Memorial Rolling Trophy 2025
Org by: United Club of Verna
on 26th Jan 2025, at Verna Panchayat Ground

Parish Youth Nuvem vs United Club of Verna
Giant Killer Game Changer
Program starts : 3.30 pm onwards

House Prize: 50,000/-

Chief Guest:
Shri. LYNDON MONTEIRO
Guests of Honour: Rev Fr. Victor Rodrigues
(Ex. Vicar Holy Cross Church, Verna)

Special Invitee Celina Abanches (W/o Late FERNANDO ABANCHES)
Smt. Assuciana Roman Rodrigues (Z.P. Nuvem Constituency)
Smt. Nazia D'Costa (Sarpanch)
& All The Panch Members, Village Panchayat - Verna
Shri. Anthony Pango (Senior Vice President GFA)
Shri. Tony D'Costa (Ex. Sarpanch of Village Panchayat Verna)
GFA Executive Members (South)

LUIS VAS President
MARCELINHO MARCOS FARIA Treasurer
JOSE JAMES SELVEIRA Vice President
FULGANCIO CARDOZO Sports Secretary
GABRIAL RODRIGUES Jt. Treasurer
CASMIRO DIAS Gen. Secretary
ALBAN FERNANDES Jt. Secretary

Executive Members:
Anthony Rodrigues, Camilo Barretto, Andrew Fernandes, Winson Fernandes, Roy Lobo.

Thanks to: **ALEIXO SEQUEIRA** (Minister of Law & Judiciary, Environment, Captain of Port & Legislative Affairs)