

Churchill Bros surrender top spot after draw

Team Herald
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RAIA: Churchill Brothers missed the chance to go top, while Sporting Club Bengaluru lifted themselves off the bottom of the I-League 2024-25 table after the two sides played a 1-1 draw at the Raia ground, on Monday.

After Wayde Lekay's ninth goal of the season had given Churchill Brothers the lead in the 61st minute, Clarence Fernandes, making his first start in the I-League drew SC Bengaluru level in the 73rd.

As a result, Namdhari FC remained atop with 24 points from 12 games. Churchill Brothers are now a point behind at 23.

It was SC Bengaluru's first ever away point in the I-League, ending a run of six straight defeats on the road. The Golden Tigers, with nine points, are out of the bottom spot for the first time in two months. Delhi FC now occupy 12th place.

By the looks of things in the first half, one must have found it hard to believe Churchill Brothers were the ones fighting

for the title and SC Bengaluru the ones trying to avoid the drop. The visitors took the game to the Red Machines and were unlucky not to find the opener as the woodwork denied them twice.

Both opportunities arose from corners. In the 23rd minute, Saiyyad Umar's delivery was met with an off-balance header by Clarence Fernandes. The loose ball fell for Alex Sánchez, who flicked a half volley that hit the top of the crossbar.

Four minutes later, Churchill Brothers goalkeeper Sayad Kadir made a fingertip save to keep out Salam Johnson Singh's volley. Captain Carlos Lomba took the resulting corner, finding Shafeel PP in the box, who thumped a header straight onto the crossbar.

Later, when Lomba himself had a sight of goal in first half added time, he blasted a first-time half-volley inches above the frame of the goal.

Churchill's golden opportunity to break through in the first half fell for Anil Gaonkar, who dribbled his way into the box and only had the goalkeeper to beat but was expertly tackled by Oinam Sanatomba Singh from behind just as he was about to pull the trigger.

After a lacklustre first half, Churchill head coach Dimitris Dimitriou was quick to roll in the changes. New signing Rafiq Aminu and Colombian midfielder Sebastián Gutiérrez, returning from an injury, came off the bench to add a new dynamic to the hosts' attack.

They created the opening goal in the 61st minute as Gutiérrez picked out Aminu on the overlap with an exquisite outside-of-the-boot pass. The Ghanaian showed quick feet before sliding the ball across the face of the goal. With goalkeeper Yuya Kuriyama beaten, Wayde Lekay cheekily back-heeled it into the empty net.

But the visitors were in no mood to return empty-handed. They created the equaliser just 11 minutes later with a free-kick near the touchline. As Lomba sent a knee-height delivery into the box, Clarence Fernandes, a former Churchill player, swung his left foot at it and thumped it past Kadir.

As expected, Churchill grew desperate to score the winner late on. However, they missed a decent chance, while Kuriyama denied them on two other occasions.

The Japanese tipped over a dipping shot from distance by Pape Gassama before showing quick reactions to palm away Gutiérrez's powerful 25-yard shot that took a deflection. In the 81st minute, Gutiérrez set a glorious chance on a plate for Gassama, but the Senegalese blazed his shot over from just over 12 yards out.

RESULT

Churchill Brothers 1 (Wayde Lekay 61') drew with Sporting Club Bengaluru 1 (Clarence Fernandes 72')

Odisha FC, NorthEast

play 2-2 draw
AGENCIES, BHUBANESWAR: NorthEast United FC and Odisha FC played a 2-2 draw in the Indian Super League match played at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, on Monday.

A record-breaking brace from Alaaeddine Ajarai was not enough for the Highlanders as Thoiba Singh and Isak Vanlalruatfela scored timely strikes to salvage a point from the clash.

ISL

With this result, North-East United FC have dropped 17 points this season from winning positions. Despite the draw, a brace from Ajarai meant that he has scored 18 goals this season, matching the highest individual goals tally in an ISL season of Ferran Corominas (2017-18) and Bartholomew Ogbelhe (2021-22). Odisha FC will next face FC Goa away from home on February 6, whereas NorthEast United FC will host Mumbai City FC in Shillong on February 7.

RESULT

Odisha FC 2 (Thoiba Singh Moiranthem 78' Isak Vanlalruatfela 90+3') NorthEast United FC 2 (Alaaeddine Ajarai 67' 83').

I-League 2: Sporting Clube fail to impress in opener

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KOLKATA: Sporting Clube de Goa's I-League 2 campaign began with a hard-fought 1-2 defeat against Diamond Harbour FC at the Naihati Stadium, here.

Diamond Harbour struck first in the 35th minute when Naro Hari Shrestha converted from the penalty spot. The hosts were reduced to 10-man in the 56th minute but held their ground before Girik Khosla sealed the victory in the 89th minute, finishing off a precise cross from Dilip Oraon.

Sporting Clube de Goa pulled one back in stop-

page time through Vikram Venkatachalam, who calmly slotted home a penalty, but it was too late for a comeback.

Sporting Clube lined up with Abhimanyu Singh in goal, supported by defenders Kunal Kundaikar, Joel Colaco, Joyner Lourenco and Biswa Darjee.

The midfield saw Doyal Alves, Ivon Costa, Dattaraj Gaonkar, and Sushil Meitei dictating play, while Ronaldo Oliveira and Semboi Haokip led the attack. The substitutes' bench featured Nitish (GK), Dhiraj, Selwyn, Naocha, Samuel, Kima, Myron, Rohan, Joyson G, and Vikram.

The Goan side started

with intent, pressing high and testing Diamond Harbour's defence in the opening exchanges. However, a moment of indecision led to a penalty for the hosts, which Shrestha buried past Singh. Sporting Clube's attempts to respond were met with stiff resistance, and despite a numerical advantage following the red card in the second half, their final ball lacked precision.

As the match entered its closing stages, Khosla's well-timed finish widened the gap, leaving Sporting Clube with an uphill task. Venkatachalam's late goal offered a glimmer of hope, but time was not on their side.

Sporting Clube de Goa now shift focus to their next challenge, facing CFC on February 7, at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Aizawl.

Guirdolim SC hold South Goa United; Vasco City SCC win

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RAIA: A goal in the dying minutes by Prestly Gomes helped Guirdolim SC to hold South Goa United Club to a 2-2 draw in the GFA Division II League match played at Don Bosco Oratory ground, Fatorda, on Monday. Mildroy Menezes scored a brace for South Goa United. Meliston Dias and Prestly Gomes scored for Guirdolim SC.

At Tilak Maidan, Vasco, Vasco City SCC thrashed Rising Star SCC 6-1. Abhishek Kumar Singh, Aneesh Harmalkar scored a brace each, while Chandrakant Shedad and Sushant Borkar scored a goal each for Vasco City. The only goal for Rising Star was scored by Chrisval Joseph Gonsalves.

Don Bosco Oratory Fatorda U-16 boys, girls emerge champions

HERALD PIC



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PANJIM: Don Bosco Oratory Fatorda (Seasons) emerged champions in the U-16 boys and girls category in the 3x3 basketball Festival organised by Don Bosco Oratory Fatorda along with the South District Basketball Association.

The U-16 girls saw Don Bosco Oratory Fatorda (Seasons) winning the tournament by topping their girls' pool going undefeated. Sharda Mandir Panjim were the runners-up. Sanya da Costa was the top scorer of the category and won the MVP award.

And in the final match of the day, Don Bosco Oratory Fatorda (Seasons) won the U-16 boys tournament defeating Euronation comprehensively 13-5. The Don Bosco boys used their superior speed and skills to overcome their taller opponents, with Sean Fernandes

3X3 BASKETBALL FESTIVAL

being declared as the MVP. The U-14 girls was an all Don Bosco Oratory Fatorda affair, with Don Bosco Fatorda Grey getting the better of Don Bosco (the Goan Kitchen) 9-5. Sarah Albuquerque was declared MVP. In the U-14 boys, the vis-

iting Bosconians Telangana were simply too strong for Don Bosco Oratory, Panjim, winning 11-4. Prajivin Anthony was the MVP of the category.

In the U-12 girls final, Don Bosco Oratory Fatorda (Costa Constructions) overpowered Sharda Man-

dir, Panjim, 10-5, with Eva Mascharenhas being declared as MVP.

In the boys final, Don Bosco Grey Fatorda got the better of Don Bosco Panjim 4-2 in a close encounter. Kurth D'Silva was declared as MVP. Fr Ralin D'Souza, Rector of

Don Bosco Oratory Fatorda, Vice-President of Basketball Federation of India and current Secretary of Goa Basketball Association, proposed a vote of thanks, thanking the many private and corporate sponsors who supported the event, and along with other dignitaries gave away the prizes.

Spread over three days, this year's event had almost 50 teams participating in the U-12, U-14 and U-16 categories from Margao, Fatorda, Siolim, Panjim, Porvorim, Calangute, Arpora and Telangana making their way to Fatorda to test their mettle against the local teams.

Navelim SC in quarters

INACIO NORONHA



Paul Rodrigues presents the man-of-the-match award to Atif Shaikh of Navelim SC at the DSYA ground, Curtorim, on Monday

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RAIA: Navelim SC downed St Anthony SC, Assolda, 2-0 to enter into the quarter-finals of 1st Vauradeancho Ixtt Trophy organised by Batorra United Club in association with Margao Sports Club at the DSYA ground, Curtorim, on Monday.

St Anthony SC through Reagen Fernandes should have netted but missed the target by whiskers in the

4th minute. Then Velon Rebello of Navelim SC missed a chance to score in the 10 minute. Anthony D'Silva and Benson Almeida netted a goal each for Navelim SC in the 47th and 50th minute respectively. Guest for match was Melvin D'Costa. Paul Rodrigues presented the man-of-the-match award to Atif Shaikh of Navelim SC.

National Games: Goa fail to qualify in football

PANJIM: Goa failed to qualify in football at the 38th National Games held at Uttarakhand, on Monday. Goa lost against the hosts 1-4 to finish bottom on the points table.

TODAY'S SPORTS

GFA U-15 Division I League: Salgaocar FC vs Dempo SC, at Sinquetim ground. Geno FC vs Pax of Nagao SC, at Parra ground. Goa Police GFDC vs South Goa United SC, at Panjim headquarters ground. Kick off 3.45 pm
1st Vauradeancho Ixtt Trophy: SC Davorlim vs Margao SC, at the DSYA ground, Curtorim, 4.30 pm

Canacona Mathagram pull off last-over victory

Laziz CQS, CD Margao Mega Strikers register hard-fought victories

HERALD PICS



Sumiran Monkar receives the man-of-the-match and Kaushik Pai Fondekar receives hero of the match award from Nilesh Prabhudesai and Pranav Biche

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RAIA: Canacona Mathagram United pull off thrilling last-over win, while Priority Titans dominated in the Alcon GSB Unity Cup T20 cricket tournament organised by Goa GSB Sports and Charitable Trust in association with Goa Saraswat Samaj at the MCC ground, Margao.

While Priority Titans cruised to a dominant win over Rising Stars of Antruz, Canacona Mathagram United edged out Sinq Rangers UC in a nail-biting finish.

In the first match, Rising

Stars of Antruz, opting to bat first, struggled against the disciplined bowling attack of Priority Titans and were bowled out for a paltry 79 runs in 18.3 overs.

The second match turned out to be a thriller, with Canacona Mathagram United staging a dramatic last-over comeback against Sinq Rangers UC. Batting first, Sinq Rangers UC set a competitive target of 154/5 in 20 overs. In response, Canacona Mathagram United kept losing wickets at regular intervals but managed to take the chase deep.

In the earlier matches,



Sridhar Keni receives the man-of-the-match award on behalf of Siddharth Ghanekar from Deepak Naik Raiker and Nikit Naik Dalal

Laziz CQS and CD Margao Mega Strikers registered hard-fought victories in their respective matches.

In the first match, Laziz CQS edged past Madgaon Royals by two wickets in a last-ball thriller. In the second match, CD Margao

ALCON GSB UNITY CUP

Mega Strikers outclassed Mapusa Dream Crushers UC by five wickets. Brief scores: Rising Stars of Antruz UC: 79 all out in 18.3 overs (Vivek Keni 17, Nandan Acharya 13, Saish Prabhudesai 12; Siddharth

Ghanekar 3/11, Gaurish Prabhudesai 2/4, Smitesh Divekar 2/6)

Priority Titans: 83/2 in 8.3 overs (Anish Mahambre 28*, Samar Dubhashi 18*, Sachin Sardesai 14, Ved Mahambre 14; Rohish Sangaonkar 1/24, Nandan Acharya 1/24).

Sinq Rangers UC: 154/5 in 20 overs (Vardhan Prabhudesai 34*, Megh Neetravalkar 33, Sanat Mhapne 25*, Samrudh Bhanre 23; Sumiran Monkar 3/23, Krishnakant Hegde Desai 1/26).



Anish Mahabre receives Hero of the match award from Deepak Naik Raiker and Nikit Naik Dalal at the MCC ground, Margao

Canacona Mathagram United: 155/8 in 19.3 overs (Viraj Purnik 36, Nikit Naik Dalal 36, Kaunteya Shenvi 17, Kaushik Pai Fondekar 14; Sanat Kamat 3/14, Ashay Ambe 1/24, Vardhan Prabhudesai 1/29, Sanat Mhapne 1/37). Brief scores: Madgaon Royals: 153/5 in 20 overs (Sanat Prabhudesai 40, Damodar Pai Patnekar 36, Sahish Mahambrey 35; Nikhil Virginkar 1/29, Vasant Karmali 1/24, Ishan Hodarkar 1/19).

Laziz CQS: 154/8 in 20 overs (Sarvesh Prabhudesai 35*, Rauji Kakodkar 34, Laxmikant Kurade

26; Siddesh Desai 3/19, Kartik Hattangadi 1/15, Vikram Gaitonde 1/23, Vishakh Talak 1/16).

Mapusa Dream Crushers UC: 134/8 in 20 overs (Pankaj Naik 30, Smit Dalvi 18, Rajaram Kundaikar 15; Durgesh Prabhugaonkar 2/19, Siddesh Prabhudesai 1/25, Aditya Angle 1/21, Aditya Prabhugaonkar 1/14, Raunak Nargundker 1/7).

CD Margao Mega Strikers: 135/5 in 17.2 overs (Sidhit Raiturkar 40*, Aditya Angle 31, Durgesh Prabhugaonkar 23; Rajaram Kundaikar 3/30, Mahesh Churi 1/21, Vipul Deshprabhu 1/21).

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