

sportspopup

Dominant India beat Ireland 4-0 in men's FIH Pro League

BHUBANESWAR: India continued their domination over Ireland, defeating the visitors 4-0 in their return leg men's FIH Pro League match here on Saturday. It was India's second consecutive win over Ireland in the Pro League, having defeated the same opponents 3-1 in the first-leg here on Friday. The Indians dominated the proceedings from start to finish, scoring through Nilam Sanjeev Xess (14th minute), Mandeep Singh (24th), Abhishek (28th) and Shamsher Singh (34th). India will next take on England here on February 24.

Deepika's goal hand India 1-0 win over Germany in women's FIH Pro League

BHUBANESWAR: Star drag-flicker Deepika scored the all-important goal from a set piece to hand India a crucial 1-0 victory over Germany in a return-leg women's FIH Pro League match, here, on Saturday. Deepika sounded the board with a thunderous flick from a penalty corner in the 12th minute, which proved to be decisive. The win came after India's 0-4 loss against the same opponents here on Friday. India will next play Netherlands here on February 24. After suffering a heavy defeat on Friday, the Indian women did turn the tables around with a gritty performance.

Gulveer qualifies for World C'ships in 5000m, first Indian to run distance in sub-13 min

NEW DELHI: India's Asian Games bronze medallist Gulveer Singh smashed the Asian Indoor 5000m record while also qualifying for the World Athletics Championships to be held later this year when he finished fourth in an indoor event in Boston, USA. Gulveer clocked 12 minutes and 59.77 seconds to finish fourth at the Terrier DMR Challenge indoor competition in Boston on Friday and become the first Indian to run 5000m in sub 13 minutes. His performance on the Boston University track eclipsed the earlier Asian indoor 5000m record of 13:08.41s set by Thailand's Kieran Tuntivate in 2022. The entry standard for the 2025 World Championships (September 13 to 21) in Tokyo is 13:01.00. The 26-year-old Armyman also bettered his own 5000m outdoor national record of 13:11.82 by more than 12 seconds. USA's Olympic 1500m champion Cole Hocker sprinted home to gold with a time of 12:57.82 while Cooper Teare was second with 12:57.97. Jack Rayner was third with a time of 12:59.43. Gulveer also holds the national 10000m record of 27:14.88 which he had set at the Hachioji Long Distance meet in Japan last year.

India top medal tally at Asia Cup Archery tournament

BANGKOK: India topped the medal standings at the first leg of the Asia Cup World Ranking Archery tournament, securing eight medals, including 5 gold, at the conclusion of competitions, here, on Saturday. In the recurve men's section, India's Vishnu Choudhary and Rahul finished 1-2. The other four gold were won by Basanti Mahato (women's recurve), Kushal Dalal (men's compound), men's recurve team of Vishnu, Goldi Mishra and Rahul, and the men's compound team of Kushal, Manav Ganeshrao Jadhao and Ganesh Mani Ratnam. The recurve mixed team of Basanti and Vishnu also picked up a silver, while the women's compound team of Avneet Kaur, Madhuravarshini Muruganatham and Chikitha Taniparthi clinched a bronze. Korea finished second in the medal tally with five medals, including two gold.

Rublev takes home second Doha title

DOHA: Andrey Rublev fought off Jack Draper 7-5, 5-7, 6-1 on Saturday to win the Qatar Open. Rublev regained a title he previously won in 2020. "It feels amazing," said the Russian on court at the end. "It's my first ever title that I won twice." Both men had battled to the final with demanding victories in the quarter-finals and semi-finals. "I think both of us were really tired after two three-set matches that finished late," said Rublev. "We were exhausted and it was difficult, but somehow we were able to play at a good level." After the first 11 games went with serve, Rublev broke the Briton to take the first set. The second set followed a similar pattern with Draper gaining the only break in the 11th game before holding serve to level the match. "When I lost the second set, I let it go and started to play more freely," said Rublev. It was his 17th ATP Tour title, but first since winning in Madrid last May.



French Open organisers planning 'big tribute' to Nadal

PARIS: French Open organisers are preparing to honour Rafael Nadal with a major tribute at this year's tournament, won by the Spaniard a record 14 times before his retirement last year. "There's bound to be something, a very big tribute" to Nadal, the head of the French tennis federation Gilles Moretton told Europe 1 radio. "We were ready last year and he wasn't ready, he was still a player." The 22-time Grand Slam champion received a send-off after the final match of his career at the Davis Cup in Malaga in November, but Moretton said "the tribute was not, in my opinion, what it should have been". He said he had gone to visit Nadal at his home in December along with Roland Garros tournament director Amelie Mauresmo to discuss plans for the tribute at the French Open, which runs from May 25 to June 8.

Manu to lead 35-member shooting team to World Cups in South America

NEW DELHI: Ace pistol shooter Manu Bhaker will lead a 35-member Indian team in the season-opening ISSF World Cups in April in South America with almost all the shooters who featured in the Paris Olympics making the cut. The international shooting season will begin with a double-leg South American sojourn, with the first World Cup (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun) scheduled in Buenos Aires, Argentina from April 1-11, which will be followed by a second combined World Cup in Lima, Peru from April 13-22. The team: (Individual events) Air rifle: Men: Rudranksh Patil, Arjun Babuta, Hriday Hazarika. Women: Arya Rajesh Borse, R Narmada Nithin, Sonam Uttam Maskar. 50m rifle 3-positions: Men: Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, Chain Singh, Niraj Kumar. Women: Ashi Chouksey, Shriyanka Sadangi, Sift Kaur Samra. Air pistol: Men: Saurabh Chaudhary, Ravinder Singh, Varun Tomar. Women: Suruchi, Manu Bhaker, Sainyam. 25m rapid-fire pistol: Men: Anish Bhanwala, Vijayveer Sidhu, Gurpreet Singh. 25m sports pistol: Women: Manu Bhaker, Simranpreet Kaur Brar, Esha Singh. Trap: Men: Lakshay, Prithviraj Tondaiman, Zoravar Singh Sandhu. Women: Neeru, Pragati Dubey, Bhavya Tripathi. Skeet: Men: Bhavtegh Singh Gill, Anantjeet Naruka, Gurjoat Singh. Women: Raiza Dhilon, Ganemat Sekhon, Darshna Rathore. Mixed team events: Air rifle mixed team: Rudranksh Patil, Arya Rajesh Borse; Arjun Babuta, R Narmada Nithin. Air pistol mixed team: Saurabh Chaudhary, Suruchi; Ravinder Singh, Manu Bhaker. Trap mixed team: Lakshay, Neeru; Prithviraj Tondaiman, Pragati Dubey.

Clube de Salgaocar halt Sporting Clube's unbeaten run

Team Herald
sports@herald-goa.com

MAPUSA: Clube de Salgaocar played their hearts out to finally halt Sporting Clube de Goa's unbeaten run with a thrilling 3-2 win in the Goa Professional League match played at Duler Stadium, here, on Saturday. After Saturday's win, Clube de Salgaocar have 27 points, while Sporting Clube de Goa still stays atop of the GPL table with 34 points from 13 matches.

GOA PRO LEAGUE

Clube de Salgaocar walked into the dressing room with two goals cushion being scored by Pratesh Shirodkar and an own goal from Sporting Clube defender Dhiraj Chouhan.

Flaming Orange did start earnestly and had two good attempts at the Clube de Salgaocar goal but Joyson Coutinho's shot was collected by Clube de Salgaocar custodian, while Vikram Venkatchalam header from inside the 6-yard box went just over the crossbar.



Sporting Clube de Goa and Clube de Salgaocar players vie for the ball at Duler Stadium, Mapusa, on Saturday

In the 22nd minute, Clube de Salgaocar came with an excellent move where Isac Zomuanquia sent a long ball to Boinao Singh on the right flank, who played a short pass to his skipper Pratesh Shirodkar who drilled a power-packed right footer which crashed into the far

corner of the goal, 1-0. Just three minutes, later a curling left footer from Clube de Salgaocar's Saesh Halarnkar came off the far goal post.

Another chance went a begging for Clube de Salgaocar with U-21 Shrine Clemente fumbling to connect Isac cross at the goal area.

After number of missed chances finally in the 42nd minute Clube de Salgaocar doubled their lead where a long throw in by Mevzen Oliveira saw Dhiraj Chouhan header land into his own goal, 2-0.

Early after the start of the second session, Clube de Salgaocar's Boinao Singh curling shot once again came off the far post, while a well-executed free-kick by Sporting Clube's Selwyn Miranda saw Clube de Salgaocar custodian Sanij Bugde flung to his left and pair the ball for a corner.

In the 60th minute, Clube de Salgaocar were back in action with Suraj connecting Denil Rebello's corner into the goal, 3-0.

Never say die spirit saw Sporting Clube regroup themselves and score two quick goals through Doyal Alves, first from a penalty spot and second with a brilliant diving header.

In the stoppage time, Sporting Clube almost levelled leaders only to find a strong header from Vikram Venkatchalam zoom just over the crossbar.

FC Goa reinforce second-place hold

Team Herald
sports@herald-goa.com

FATORDA: FC Goa downed Kerala Blasters FC 2-0 in the Indian Super League match played at the Nehru Stadium, here, on Saturday.

The Gaurs held 52.2 per cent of the possession, taking six on-shot targets as compared to just one by the visitors, and moved to 42 points to strengthen their hold at the second spot in the points table.

On a night when Iker Guarrotxena became the fifth Spaniard to score 20 goals in the ISL, the Gaurs also extended Mohun Bagan Super Giant's wait for the ISL title - as a loss for the Gaurs tonight would have automatically crowned the Mariners the League Winners.

Now, the Jose Moli-

na-coached side will seek a win in their next game against Odisha FC on Sunday to achieve that feat.

The Gaurs were on the offensive right from the beginning, pushing numbers forward and creating chances from both open plays and set-pieces.

FC Goa will play their next game against Punjab FC on February 27, whereas Kerala Blasters FC are set to feature against Jamshedpur FC on March 1 next.

RESULT
FC Goa 2 (Iker Guarrotxena 46', Mohammed Yasir 73')
Kerala Blasters FC 0
ISL FIXTURE
Mohun Bagan Super Giant vs Odisha FC at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan, Kolkata, at 7.30 pm

East Bengal beat Punjab FC

AGENCIES, NEW DELHI: East Bengal FC maintained their newfound form with a 3-1 thumping over Punjab FC in the Indian Super League 2024-25 season at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi, on Saturday.

Dimitrios Diamantakos had set the tone for the visitors in the first half with an early strike before the likes of Naorem Mahesh Singh and Lalchungnunga found the back of the net early in the second half. Later, Punjab FC opened their account courtesy of a fantastic strike from Ezequiel Vidal which unfortunately resulted in a consolation.

East Bengal FC are now unbeaten in their last three

away games this campaign as they kept their hopes for playoffs alive albeit mathematically. They are 10th in the table with 24 points from 21 games now, whereas Punjab FC have dropped to the 11th place, having the same points from an equal number of matches as the Red & Gold Brigade. With 3 games left to play, both of them are eight points behind (32) than the sixth-placed Mumbai City FC.

RESULT
Punjab FC 1 (Ezequiel Vidal 62') **East Bengal FC 3 (Dimitrios Diamantakos 15', Naorem Mahesh Singh 47', Lalchungnunga 54')**



The winners of the State Masters Ranking Tournament organised by Panjim Panthers Club and Panaji Ganeshotsav Samiti in collaboration with the Goa Badminton Association and the Sports Authority of Goa at the Indoor Stadium, Campal, Panjim, recently. Betty Dourado, Tanaji Sawant and Manjiri Moktali clinched triple crowns, while Vrushali Cardozo, Dr Manju Khandeparkar, Parag Chauhan, Amit Kakkar, Agnelo Da Cunha, Kamlesh Kanji, Rupchandra Humraskar and Vineeta Adpaikar bagged the double crowns. The tournament served as a key selection event for the Masters (Veteran) Nationals, set to be hosted in Goa this March

Presley stars for DBO Fatorda

Team Herald
sports@herald-goa.com

MAPUSA: Don Bosco Oratory, Fatorda, defeated Super Goans FC 4-1 in the Goa Football Association U-13 Division II League match played at SAG ground, Benaulim, on Saturday.

Presley Faleiro scored a brace, while Reuben Pereira and Joswalt Fernandes scored a goal each for Don Bosco Oratory. The only goal for Super

Goans FC was scored by Gabriel Salameh.

Cortalim Villagers gain full points
Cortalim Villagers SWSC downed Goa Police 3-1 in the GFA U-13 Division I League match played at Cansaulim sports complex ground.

Ryan Lakkipogu, Frezar Carvalho and Salman Shaikh scored for Cortalim Villagers SWSC, while Alister Fernandes reduced the

margin for Goa Police.

Cuncolim Union in quarters
Cuncolim Union goat the better of Benfica YC, Vasco, 5-2, to march into the quarter-finals of Vaidya Family Memorial Cup organised by Cuncolim Union, at the government school ground, Cuncolim, on Saturday.

Wilson Fernandes of Cuncolim Union took the lead but Benfica YC equalised in the very

next minute through the efforts of Edson Souza and remained 1-1 draw at half time.

In second session, Cuncolim Union quickly scored three goals. A brace by Wilson Fernandes and Tushar Gauncar added one, while again Edson Souza pulled one goal back for Benfica YC.

Wilson Fernandes of Cuncolim Union was awarded the man-of-the-match by former player of Cuncolim Union Drenzil Noronha.

Canacona Mathagram United, Madgaon Royals dominate

HERALD PICS



Vrushab Kuncolienkar receives the man-of-the-match and Sahil Mandrekar hero-of-the-match from Nagnath Shanbag and Siddharth Ghanekar. (Right) Granthik Buyao receives the man-of-the-match and Vikram Gaitonde hero-of-the-match from Aditya Naik and Kapil Borker

Team Herald
sports@herald-goa.com

MARGAO: Canacona Mathagram United and Madgaon Royals registered emphatic wins to strengthen their positions 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, here, on Saturday.

In the opening match, Canacona Mathagram United outclassed Laziz CQS by six wickets. Laziz CQS posted 114 runs in 18 overs, with Sarvesh Prabhugaonkar (40) leading the batting effort. However, United's bowling attack, spearheaded by Man

of the Match Vrushab Kuncolienkar (3/16), restricted them effectively. In reply, United chased down the target in just 13.5 overs, scoring 118/4, courtesy of crucial knocks from Sahil Mandrekar (36), Sumiran Amonkar (31), and Sukrut Pai (22).

In the second encounter, Madgaon Royals crushed

SinQ Rangers by a massive 103-run margin. Royals set an imposing target of 201/9 in 20 overs, powered by aggressive innings from Kauschal Hattangadi (40 off 19 balls) and Granthik Buyao (39 off 14 balls).

Despite Sanat Mhapne's effort with the ball (2/37), SinQ Rangers crumbled under pressure, managing only 98/9 in 11 overs. Vardhan Prabhu Misquin (36 off 16 balls) was the lone warrior for Rangers, while Granthik Buyao was named man-of-the-match for his all-round performance.

Priority Titans and CD

Margao Mega Strikers currently hold the top two spots, with their clash on Sunday, set to decide the table leader. Madgaon Royals have secured third place, while Canacona Mathagram United remains in conten-

tion for the fourth slot.

Briefscores: Laziz CQS: 114 all out in 18 overs (Sarvesh Prabhugaonkar 40, Deval Karmali 30, Nikhil Virginkar 21; Vrushab Kuncolienkar 3/16, Kauschal Pai Fondekar 1/9). Canacona Mathagram United: 118/4 in 13.5 overs (Sahil Mandrekar 36, Sumiran Amonkar 31, Sukrut Pai 22; Balkrishna Hodarkar 1/27)

Madgaon Royals: 201/9 in 20 overs (Kauschal Hattangadi 40, Granthik Buyao 39, Sanat Prabhudesai 28; Sanat Mhapne 2/37). SinQ Rangers: 98/9 in 11 overs (Vardhan Prabhu Misquin 36, Sachin Kenkre 27; Shaunit Sawardekar 2/2, Mahendra Audi 2/8).

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MR. BRUNO COUTINHO (Former Indian Football Team Captain & Arjuna Awardee)
REV. FR. SOCORRO MENDES (Parish Priest of St. Anthony Church, Siolim)
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