

With third draw, 3 points elude leaders Churchill Brothers

AGENCIES, SRI BHAINI SAHIB: A three-pointer continued to elude leaders Churchill Brothers for the third time in a row as they played out a 1-1 draw with Namdhari FC in the I-League match played at the Namdhari Stadium, here, on Monday.

In a highly-anticipated match that didn't quite spark as expected, Pape Gassama gave Churchill Brothers the lead in the 27th minute before Cleudson Carvalho Da Silva scored the equaliser from the penalty spot in the second half. With both teams in desperate need of points to fuel their title ambitions, it was Sayad Kadir's heroics under the crossbar for Churchill Brothers that thwarted a second-half siege by Namdhari FC.

Both teams have been experiencing a dip in form recently, with Churchill Brothers now having drawn

three consecutive matches - all of them from winning positions - while Namdhari FC extended their winless streak to four games.

It was a missed opportunity for Churchill Brothers to consolidate their lead at the top. The Red Machines still lead the table with 29 points from 16 matches with eight wins, five draws and three losses. Namdhari FC have slipped to fifth place with 23 points from 16 games.

The match kicked off with Churchill Brothers asserting dominance, commanding possession and pressing Namdhari FC into defensive disarray. Yet, despite their control, Churchill Brothers managed only a single goal in the first half.

Gassama's strike gave them a momentary edge, but Namdhari FC's defence, anchored by the composed Ghanaian Lamine Moro, kept further threats at bay, neutralising top scorers like Wayne Lekay and Sebastian Gutierrez.

Namdhari FC, largely passive in the first half, transformed after the break, increasing the tempo and pinning Churchill Brothers back into their own half. The pressure mounted until the 68th minute when a shot from Francis Addo struck Churchill Brothers defender Lalbiakhlua's outstretched arm in the penalty box. Cleudson stepped up to the spot and made no mistake, drilling the ball home to level the scores and notch his tenth goal of

the season.

The momentum firmly shifted towards Namdhari FC as they continued to push for a winner. Kadir, however, stood firm, producing crucial saves from Bhopinder Singh's cross and Dharmpreet Singh's header.

His finest moments came late in the game, denying Cleudson a second goal and subsequently thwarting Akashdeep Singh's attempt from a corner.

Churchill Brothers had chances to snatch a late victory, with Stendly Fernandes and Trijoy Dias forcing Namdhari FC goalkeeper Jaspreet Singh into action in the closing moments. Despite these efforts, the game concluded at 1-1.

RESULT
Namdhari FC 1 (Cleudson Carvalho Dasilva 68' p) Churchill Brothers 1 (Pape Gassama 27')



Tithee, Nishad win trebles

Niklesh, Mahesh win Wheelchair Tennis Challenger Tourney

HERALD PIC



The winners along with the tournament organisers and committee members at the BPS tennis court, Margao

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MARGAO: Fifteen-year-old Tithee Bhoomkar from Old Goa was the toast of the recently concluded Baale BPS Open 2025, winning treble honours including the ladies singles, ladies doubles and the girls U-18 crowns.

Well-known Margao-based tennis coach Nishad Shevde also won the treble in the tournament winning the men's singles, men's doubles and mixed doubles titles.

Niklesh Pednekar and Mahesh Pagadala paired up to win the maiden final of the Wheelchair Tennis Challenger event, held on the sidelines of the tournament, which was also held simultaneously at the BPS courts, here.

Tithee, a prominent

young talent in Goa's tennis circuit, defeated Raisa Meneses in the semi-finals of the women's singles event defeating her 6-1, 7-5.

In the final, Tithee won the title with a walkover, after her opponent in the final hurdle, Tanya Shelyazhynska-Caldeira, retired hurt and did not participate in the match due to injury.

In her semi-final encounter, Tanya defeated her opponent Atika Gaur 6-0, 6-2, with relative ease.

Tithee's journey to the title in the ladies doubles category was not an easy one, with she and her partner, Vidhi Naik, stretched considerably in the final encounter.

After winning the first set 6-3, they lost the second

and set to Tanya and Raisa 3-6, before being stretched 11-9 in the third to emerge victorious. Tithee had previously won the under-18 girl's title 4-2, 4-0 defeating Tvisha Sardesai.

In the maiden edition of the Wheelchair Tennis Challenger Tournament, Niklesh combined with Mahesh

Pagadala to defeat Stany D'Souza and Gauresh Marathe 6-3 to win the final.

In the men's singles final, Nishad trounced Akhil Shirwaikar 6-2, 6-0 to win the title. In the men's doubles final, Nishad/Anurag defeated Raju/Santosh in a stretched encounter. While Nishad and Anurag Agrawal won the first set 6-4, Raju and Santosh Gorawar staged a stunning come-

back, winning the second set 6-2, before they eventually lost 10-7 at the final hurdle. Raju and Santosh had defeated Wes Ryan Cardoso/Sanket Nayak 6-1, 6-4 in the semifinals en route the final encounter. In the mixed doubles final, Junette Rodrigues/Nishad overcame a tough challenge from Anjali Philip/Santosh Gorawar defeating them 7-6 (5), 6-3.

The 55+ men's singles final saw Caetano Fernandes defeat Jude Cardozo 6-3, 7-6 (2), while in the men's doubles final in the same category, Jude Cardozo/Noel Noronha had it easy in their match against Caetano/Basavaraj defeating them 6-2, 6-0.

In the final of the boys u-10 event, Devaansh Naik defeated Arsh Sardesai 4-1, 4-2 to win the title.

Dempo SC look to break run of draws, set for clash against Sreenidi Deccan

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PANJIM: Dempo Sports Club will look to break their run of draws when they take on Sreenidi Deccan FC in an I-League 2024-25 match on February 25, at the Nehru Stadium, Fatorda.

The Golden Eagles are coming off back-to-back 2-2 stalemates, most recently against Shillong Lajong FC at home. Sreenidi Deccan FC, meanwhile, entered the contest on the back of a narrow 2-1 victory over Rajasthan FC.

Reflecting on their previous outing, Dempo SC Head Coach Samir Naik remained upbeat despite the disappointment of conceding late.

"The boys played really well and gave their best on the field. Even though we conceded a silly goal in stoppage time, they are growing in confidence and gelling well together," he said.

The last time these two sides met, Dempo SC edged out Sreenidi Deccan FC 1-0 at the Deccan Arena, courtesy of an early penalty from Argentine forward Damian Perez. Looking ahead to today's showdown, Naik expressed confidence in his squad.

"The team is really strong. Sreenidi Deccan FC have some quality foreigners, but I feel we have a good chance of taking three points, especially at home. The boys are now used to these conditions and the ground. I trust every member of the team, so it doesn't matter if any particular player is missing," he stated.

Both teams are level on 19 points from 15 matches, but Sreenidi Deccan FC hold a slight edge in eighth place due to their superior goal difference, while Dempo sit ninth. A win for either side could prove crucial in the battle for a higher spot in the standings.

Vagator PYSC humble PVC Parra, South Goa United hold Vasco City

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MAPUSA: Vagator PYSC registered a 4-1 win over PVC Parra in the Goa Football Association Division II All Goa Final Play-Off played at Guirim ground, on Monday.

Though PVC Parra had the first attempt at the rival goal but Sahil Jalmi was thwarted by Vagator PYSC custodian in one to one situation.

GFA DIV II FINAL PLAY-OFF

Once Vagator PYSC got their acts together they scored two goals in each session of play.

Striker Wilson Fernandes proved unstoppable as he netted a hat-trick (10th, 28th and 50th minute) with Sheldford Fernandes pumping in the fourth goal



PVC Parra and Vagator PYSC players vie for the ball as Referee Tejas Nagvekar officiate at Guirim ground, on Monday

in the 55th minute getting the better of unrushing PVC Parra custodian Soma Korgaonkar 4-0.

PVC Parra managed to pull a goal in 88th minute through Roydon Rego with a smart back heal, 4-1.

In the 91st minute PVC Parra's Joston Cardoz was sent off for second book-

ing offence. At Don Bosco Oratory ground, Fatorda, South Goa United Club were held by Vasco City Club to a 1-1 draw.

Casvino Fernandes put South Goa United Club ahead in the 25th minute only to find Aneesh Harmalkar level terms in the 69th minute of play.

Sporting Clube top GPL League table

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MAPUSA: Sporting Clube de Goa with 34 points have topped the Goa Professional League table after their first round matches.

Sporting Clube along with Dempo Sports Club, Geno FC, Sesa FA, Clube de Salgaocar, FC Goa, Cortalim Villagers and Goa Police have now qualified to play for the Super League.

Pax of Nagao, Calangute Association, Churchill Brothers, Guardian Angel SC, Panjim Footballers and Vasco SC will play to avoid relegation to the First Division.

To create interest among spectators, the GFA organised matches not only at their home turf Duler Stadium but also at Sirsaim, Nagao, Benaulim, Ella ground and Tilak Maidan.

Sporting Clube look to maintain winning momentum at home

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PANJIM: After securing a hard-fought victory in their previous home match against TRAU, Sporting Clube de Goa will look to build on their momentum as they prepare to take on Neroca FC in a crucial High League 2 encounter at Ella ground, Old Goa, at 4 pm.

With confidence running high and a positive mood within the camp, the Flaming Oranje will be eager to put in another strong performance and continue their push for success in the campaign.

I-LEAGUE 2 PREVIEW

The back to back wins at home has set a strong foundation for the team, and Head Coach Armando Colaco believes his players are ready to carry that momentum forward.

Speaking ahead of the match, Colaco expressed satisfaction with the team's energy and commitment in training.

"The mood in the team has been positive. The players have shown great energy throughout the week. Neroca FC is not an easy opponent

has been positive. The players have shown great energy throughout the week. Neroca FC is not an easy opponent - every team in high League 2 is difficult, and we have to be at our best. We are going to continue giving our best and focusing on what we do well

Armando Colaco, head coach, Sporting Clube de Goa

- every team in high League 2 is difficult, and we have to be at our best. We are going to continue giving our best and focusing on what we do well," he stated.

Colaco's tactical approach has seen Sporting Clube adopt a balanced style of play, blending solid defensive structure with fluid attacking movements. With key players stepping up in crucial moments, the coach will be expecting another disciplined performance from his squad.

With his eye for goal and ability to make a difference in the attacking third, Ronaldo will be a key player to watch as Sporting looks to break down Neroca

FC's defence. Neroca FC will not be an easy opponent. Known for their aggressive pressing and quick transitions, they pose a serious threat, especially in midfield battles and attacking set-pieces. Sporting will need to stay disciplined at the back while capitalizing on their own attacking strengths. The midfield battle could be a key factor in determining the outcome, with Sporting looking to control possession and dictate the tempo. The pace of their wingers and the creativity of their midfielders will be vital in breaking down Neroca's defensive structure.

Carmona SC march into quarter-finals

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RAIA: Carmona Sports Club got the better of Chandor Club 3-1 to enter into the quarter-finals of Vaidya Family Memorial Cup football tournament organised

by Cuncolim Union at Cuncolim ground, on Monday.

Carmona SC netted the first goal of the match through Shanon Fernandes in the 34 minute. Carmona SC further inflated the lead through Dezwin Dias in the 37 minute. Then Carmona

SC through Ronan Ferrao netted 3-0 in the 53rd minute. Chandor Club pulled a goal back through Alreach Pixeto in the 47 minute.

The man-of-the-match was awarded to Dezwin Dias of Carmona Sports Club by football lover Vijay Mopkar.

Colva Veterans move ahead

Colva Veterans defeated Varca Veterans 7-6 via tie-breaker to move into the next round of the Benaulim Constituency Veterans Football tournament at Varca ground, on Monday.

Goa's boxer Prahlad to feature in West Zone C'ship

16 boxers to battle it out in 8 action-packed bouts, including a championship title fight; Goan pugilists Kailas and Umesh will also feature in the ring

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PANJIM: The gloves are off as the countdown begins for Goa's biggest professional boxing showdown, Susegado Strike Fight Night 2.0.

Scheduled for February 28, at the International Centre Goa, Dona Paula, this high-octane event will feature 16 fierce contenders from across India, including three of Goa's own boxers, going head-to-head in eight intense bouts.

Goa's own pugilists Kailas Gauns, Prahlad Panda and Umesh Chavan will feature in the ring.

The night's highlight is a championship title fight for the Indian Boxing Council's (IBC) West Zone Championship that promises to deliver adrenaline-pumping action featuring Goa's very own boxer Prahlad Panda.

Building on the success of last year's debut edition, Susegado Strike Fight Night 2.0 is set to up the ante, with an elaborate lineup of boxers from Punjab, Tamil Nadu, North East, Hyderabad and Goa. Among them are four female boxers, adding to the evening's offering.

Ahead of the fight night, the official weigh-in ceremony will take place on



Susegado Strike is back to deliver even more action, more fighters and even a championship title bout, with Fight Night 2.0

February 27, setting the stage for the fighters to step onto the scales before stepping into the ring.

"Susegado Strike is here to make boxing bigger, bet-

ter and more visible in Goa. The first fight night proved there's a real hunger for the sport and this edition will feature more fighters, tougher bouts and a championship title up for grabs," said Luisgon Fernandes, founder of Susegado Strike.

Luisgon, along with other founders, Prathamesh Naik and Clyde Lobo believe that boxing involves tenets of discipline, resilience and heart and their initiative to promote the sport of pugilism, provides fighters with a platform to showcase their talent in the true spirit of competition.

Founder Prathamesh believes the event is a

game-changer for Goa's evolving identity as a destination for major sporting events.

Clyde emphasised on the opportunity the event provides for aspiring fighters. "Goan fighters have the skill, but they need platforms to showcase it. Fight Night 2.0 isn't just about matchups. It's about mentorship, opportunity and proving that Goan boxers belong in the ring with the best in the country," said Lobo, a former secretary of the Goa Amateur Boxing Association.

Tickets for the event are now live on Tictet: <https://tictet.xyz/product/susegado-strike-fight-night-2-0/>.

TODAY
25TH FEB
7:30 P.M.
PAI HALL
MARGAO
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE COUNTER

AL-RIYA PRODUCTION
ROMA FERNANDES
PANVDE
NASLEM GHOR
MUSIC BY: NAVJYOT SINGH & ARIF THE GREAT

TOMORROW
LAST CHANCE TO SAVE SOUTH GOA BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE
DO COME AND WATCH THIS TIATR DON'T MISS THE OPENING SCENE
4TH REPEAT SHOW
26TH FEB
7:30 PM
PAI HALL
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MHOZO FAIDO
TUZO KAIDO
SPECIAL THANKS TO: JK CATERERS
Prop: ROQUE CARNEIRO (MAINA CURTORIM)