

Trijoy, Stendly guide Churchill Bros to victory

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Rajasthan United FC player tries to overpower Churchill Brothers player to take control of the ball at the Raia ground, on Sunday

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RAIA: Trijoy Savio Dias' brace and a goal from Stendly Fernandes guided Churchill Brothers to beat Rajasthan United FC 3-1 in the I-League match played at the Raia ground, on Saturday.

For Rajasthan United, Kyrgyzstan midfielder Bektur Amangeldiev was on target. With this win, Churchill Brothers reclaimed their lead as they now sit on 31 points from 17 matches. Despite having the same points, Inter Kashi, who have played a game less than Churchill Brothers, trail on goal difference. Rajasthan United,

coming off a resounding 4-0 victory over Real Kashmir, found themselves outplayed and remain fifth in the table with 24 points.

Inter Kashi will play their Round 17 match against Real Kashmir FC on Sunday.

From the outset, Churchill Brothers dominated the proceedings and asserted their intent with high pressure and disciplined defence. Dias, alongside Colombian Sebastian Gutierrez, drove the team's offensive efforts with dynamic play and relentless energy.

Dias threatened with his pace and agility on the left

flank causing continuous problems for Rajasthan's defence. He came close to scoring early in the game but an alert Rajasthan United goalkeeper Bhabindra Malla Thakuri thwarted his attempt. Dias then laid one off for Rafiq Aminu, but the Ghanaian forward failed to connect with the ball properly.

Trijoy Savio's persistence finally paid off in the 27th minute. Taking control of a long ball on the left

flank, he cut inside, twisting and turning, before firing a right-footed shot into the back of the net.

Buoyed by the goal,

Churchill Brothers went on to create more opportunities. Gutierrez skilfully weaved through a maze of Rajasthan United defenders to attempt a powerful right-footed shot, but Thakuri managed to fist the ball away. Dias was once again in action in the 40th minute when he drove a powerful long ranger only to see his shot ricochet off the crosspiece.

Rajasthan United tried to make a comeback in the second half and Alain Oyarzun came close to finding the equaliser but his looping shot was saved by Churchill goalkeeper Sayad Bin Abdul Kadir.

The Red Machines finally extended their lead in the 63rd minute. Gutierrez initiated the move with a clever back pass for Aminu who drew the Rajasthan United defenders towards himself before playing a cutback for Dias. The forward didn't make a mistake as he calmly slotted past Thakuri to complete his brace.

Rajasthan United reduced the deficit in the 77th minute. Oyarzun delivered a precise cross into the box, where Amangeldiev rose to head home, giving the visitors a glimmer of hope.

However, Churchill Brothers quickly extinguished any potential comeback. In the 84th minute, Gutierrez launched a counterattack, supplying Fernandes who broke through on the right to seal the victory with a composed finish.

RESULT
Churchill Brothers 3 (Trijoy Savio Dias 27', 63', Stendly Teotonio Fernandes 84') Rajasthan United FC 1 (Bektur Amangeldiev 78')

Dempo SC look to bounce back

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PANJIM: Dempo Sports Club will aim to return to winning ways when they take on Delhi FC in an I-League 2024-25 away fixture at the Mahilpur Football Stadium, Punjab, on March 2.

The Golden Eagles come into this encounter on the back of a heart-breaking 2-3 defeat at home to Sreenidi Deccan. Marcus Joseph continued his rich vein of form, netting his third goal in as many games to put Dempo SC ahead, while Spanish playmaker Juan Mera doubled the lead with his first strike for the club.

However, a second-half resurgence from Sreenidi Deccan saw David Mu-

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— Samir Naik, Dempo Sports Club head coach

noz bag a brace to restore parity before Brandon Vanlalremdika sealed all three points for the visitors.

Reflecting on the setback, Dempo SC Head Coach Samir Naik remained pragmatic. "There are always ups and downs in football. It's a game of challenges, and you have to be prepared for them. We lost a bit of focus in the second half, but overall,

I'm happy with how the boys performed. We just have to be ready for every battle," he stated.

Meanwhile, Delhi FC head into this contest after a narrow 0-1 defeat to Inter Kashi, with Nikola Stojanovic's strike proving decisive. The capital-based side remains rooted to the bottom of the table with just 10 points from 16 matches.

Dempo SC, currently ninth with 19 points from the same number of games, will have to navigate this fixture without key players. Coach Naik confirmed the absence of Shaheen and Juan Mera, both ruled out due to injuries. However, he remains unfazed by the setbacks.

"As professionals, we can't afford to make excuses. Challenges are part of the game, and we're ready for them," he signed off.

Valpoi FC GFA Division II U-13 League Champions

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Champions Valpoi FC along with the Goa Football Association President Caitano Fernandes, executive members, club officials and other dignitaries at the Duler Stadium, Mapusa, on Saturday

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MAPUSA: Valpoi Football Club managed to edge past Don Bosco Oratory, Fator-da, 2-1, to emerge champions in the Goa Football Association's Division II U-13 League played at the Duler Stadium, here, on Saturday.

Valpoi FC went into the breather with a goal cushion scored by Vithoba Polekar in the 15th minute,

after Gaurang Opkar has sent a low cross at the goal area, 1-0.

On crossing ends, Don Bosco Oratory boys went all out in search of the equaliser but Valpoi FC's stopper back Blessan Philip time and again checked Don Bosco Oratory's striker Ruben Pereira.

However, finally in the 40th minute, Ruben Pereira collecting a pass from Presley Faleiro dribble past

a host of defenders and drilled a left footer into the back of the net sending large Salcete supporters into raptures, 1-1.

Don Bosco Oratory almost doubled their lead in the 65th minute but once again Ruben was timely thwarted by Valpoi FC defender.

When it looked the teams were heading for the tie-breaker, Kashinath Gaonkar drove a rasping shot from outside the pen-

alty box to make it, 2-1.

Goa Football Association President Caitano Fernandes presented the winners' trophy to Valpoi FC, while Ravi Cabral presented the runners-up trophy to Don Bosco Oratory.

Also present were GFA Vice-President Anthony Pango, Executive Members Laximan Hadfadkar, Uday Lingudkar, Cosme Oliveira and former GFA's vice-president Francis Fernandes.

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Thane Boys, Valpoi, emerged champions in the T20 leather ball cricket tournament organised at Bamra, Valpoi. In the final, Thane Boys defeated Goa Police. Batting first, Thane Boys set a target of 102 runs in 20 overs, but Goa Police were all out for 99 in 14.3 overs

Asmita Khelo India Wushu Women's City League concludes in Siolim

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PANJIM: The Government High School, Juna Bazar, Ponda, emerged as the overall champions to emerge champions in the Asmita Khelo India Wushu Women's City League organised by the Association of Goa Wushu under the guidance of Secretary Paulo Killman Fernandes at the health and recreation, Porta Vaddo, Siolim, recently.

Chopdekar Memorial High School, Agarwada, Pernem, secured the second place. Karate Academy of Goa claimed the third place.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 185 competitors, including students,



All the participants of Asmita Khelo India Wushu Women's City League at the Health and Recreation, Porta Vaddo, Siolim, recently

parents, and teachers, ranging from 8 to 40 years of age. Participants competed in sub-junior, junior, and senior categories of Sanda and Taolu, showcasing their talent and skills in the sport.

All participants received certificates, while winners were awarded medals and certificates for their outstanding performances.

The opening ceremony was graced by chief guest Alexyz, renowned cartoon-

ist from Siolim.

The closing ceremony saw Suzette Souza Monteiro, a well-known figure in Siolim recognised for her strong support for women empowerment and social change, as the chief guest.

Young footballers shine at JSF Golden Baby League

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The participants along with Ponda parish priest Fr Francis Rozario, Swati Vasantsanas and JSF Director Joseph Fernandes and parents

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PANJIM: Asher Fernandes emerged victorious against Vanora Vaz to claim the U-12 title at the Joseph School of Football (JSF) Golden Baby League Trophy, held at Ponda, recently.

In the U-10 category, Roman Pandhre triumphed over Devansh Sanas, while in the U-13 group, Leon Dias secured the title after defeating Shane Fernandes.

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The Joseph School of Football, Caranzalem, organised the seven-day league, with two matches played per day. A total of 23 students participat-

ed across four categories - U-10, U-12, U-13, and U-12 girls. The competition followed a 1v1 format, designed to enhance each child's potential, strength, ability and self-confidence.

The Ponda parish priest Fr Francis Rozario, graced

the occasion as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, he emphasised the significance of sports in a child's life.

During the closing function, the young footballers showcased the skills they had learned at the academy.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Swati Vasantsanas, who expressed gratitude to Fr Francis, JSF Director Joseph Fernandes, and the parents for their support and encouragement.

Workshop highlights role of mentors in sports

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PANJIM: The John Paul II Foundation for Sports successfully organised a one-day workshop on "Mentoring for Wholistic Development of Sportspersons", as part of the Jubilee Year 2025 celebration in the Archdiocese of Goa bringing together coaches, physical educators and sports professionals to discuss the critical role of mentorship in shaping young athletes and the many teams in the State.

The workshop was held in collaboration with the Archdiocese Board of Education and Diocesan Education Society at Fr Agnel College of Arts and Commerce, Pilar.

It featured insightful sessions by distinguished speakers, who shared their expertise on fostering personal, ethical and professional growth among sportspersons.

The event provided a platform for interactive discussions on the challenges and best practices in mentoring

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Several coaches and resource personnel were honoured for their outstanding contributions to the field of sports and mentorship including Dronacharya Awardee Armando Colaco, Savio Madeira, Jovito Lopes, Marcus Merghullao, Maymol Rocky, Anthony John D'Costa and Mario Aguiar

through case studies especially in connection with the Indian Super League from its inception emphasising values-based education and holistic development as the need of the hour.

A key highlight of the event was the felicitation ceremony, where several coaches and resource personnel were honoured for their outstanding contributions to the field of sports and mentorship including Dronacharya Awardee Armando Colaco, Savio Madeira, Jovito Lopes, Marcus Merghullao, Maymol Rocky, Anthony John D'Costa and

Mario Aguiar. Their dedication which has played a vital role in nurturing talent and instilling sportsmanship among athletes was recognised through the awards presentation.

Speaking on the occasion, Kennedy D'Silva, director of the John Paul II Foundation for Sports, emphasised on the importance of mentorship beyond skill development, stating, "A true mentor not only trains athletes for success in the game but also guides them towards success in life. Our goal is to build a strong mentoring culture in sports to create

responsible and resilient sportspersons."

The workshop saw enthusiastic participation from around 140 physical education professionals, sports coaches, referees and physical education students from Don Bosco College, reaffirming the commitment to fostering a strong mentorship ecosystem in sports in the State.

There was a call for continued collaboration and knowledge-sharing to ensure the holistic development of athletes in Goa and beyond made by the organisers to all present.