

Kerala Blasters send East Bengal packing

Team Herald
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BHUBANESWAR: Defending champions East Bengal FC crashed out of the Kalinga Super Cup 2025 after Kerala Blasters FC defeated them 2-0, at the Kalinga Stadium on Sunday.

The winners, who led 1-0 at half time in the Round of 16 clash on day one of the tournament, scored through their Spanish striker Jesus Jimenez Nunez (40' penalty) and American Noah Wali Sadaoui (64').

Kerala Blasters' next stop in the quarter-finals is on April 26, against Mohun Bagan SG, who are in roaring form this season after bagging a Shield and Cup double in the recently-concluded Indian Super League.

Both Kerala Blasters and East Bengal had rather forgettable campaigns in the ISL 2024-25 and failed to make the top-six

cut before finishing eighth and ninth, respectively.

Both teams began cautiously and remained more engaged in controlling the midfield than taking an aggressive posture. Yet the two teams had their fair share of chances that could have fetched goals, but erratic shooting forced the game to remain goalless for the majority of the first half.

Jesus Jimenez could have put his team ahead in the very second minute as he had ample time at the rival goalmouth to beat Prabhukhan Singh Gill. But the Spanish striker was a trifle late in approaching the ball, which

saved East Bengal from conceding an early goal.

For the Red and Gold, Richard Enrique Celis remained an active man up front and twice came close to scoring. In the eighth minute, Celis's left footer missed the target by a whisker, and the next time, his long-ranger off a corner kick narrowly missed the target.

After missing another easy chance, Jimenez put Kerala Blasters in the lead. Striker Noah Wali Sadaoui was brought down inside the box by defender Anwar Ali, and the referee had no hesitation in immediately pointing to the dreaded spot.

After being handed the spot-kick responsibilities, Jimenez took a rather weak shot that was saved by Gill. But to East Bengal's dismay, their goalkeeper was pulled up for standing slightly ahead of the line, and a re-take was ordered. Much to the relief of his teammates, Jimenez found the target with a low but accurate shot this time.

East Bengal's hopes of putting in a second successive strong campaign at the Kalinga Super Cup were further diminished in the 64th minute, when Kerala Blasters struck for the second time. Sadaoui scored the goal in spectacular fashion when he dodged past two rival players before unleashing a left-footer from around 25 yards that crashed against the net over the goalkeeper.

The second goal virtually brought the curtain down on the game.

KALINGA SUPER CUP RESULT
Kerala Blasters 2 (Jesus Jimenez Nunez 40' p, Noah Wali Sadaoui 64') East Bengal FC 0
TODAY'S FIXTURES
FC Goa vs Gokulam Kerala FC, 4.30 pm
Odisha FC vs Punjab FC, 8 pm
All the matches will be streamed live on JioHotstar

Goa move past Assam 2-1

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NARAINPUR (Chhattisgarh): Goa moved past Assam 2-1 in the Swami Vivekananda U-20 Men's National Football Championship match played at the Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama Ground, here, on Sunday.

Sereno Noronha gave Goa the lead in the 22nd minute. The midfielder converted a penalty, sending the Assam goalkeeper the wrong way. Assam did not waste much time, scor-

ing the equaliser after just four minutes of conceding. Songja Teron scored the first goal for Assam in the 26th minute. Goa regained the lead in the 52nd min-

ute, as Preston Castano found himself in the perfect spot with a sliding tap-in, putting an end to the game. In the other match, Sports Authority of India defeated Odisha 3-0.

his run perfectly for a long ball from their backline in the fourth minute, and swirled a shot around the keeper to give SAI an early advantage.

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA U-20 MEN'S NATIONAL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Dhanush Ramesh timed

Ningthoujam Moramba Singh doubled the lead for SAI with a right-footed attempt in the second half. Anaj M scored the final goal of the game in injury time and helped SAI bag all three points.

SAI are now placed at the top in Group G with six points, followed by Goa with four points and Odisha with one, while Assam are yet to grab any. Only the group winners will book their place in the quarter-finals.

RESULTS

Goa 2 (Sereno Noronha 22', Preston Castano 52') Assam 1 (Songja Teron 26'); Sports Authority of India 3 (Dhanush Ramesh 4', Ningthoujam Moramba Singh 62', Anaj M 90+ 3') Odisha 0

Utorda football summer camp concludes

HERALD PIC



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RAIA: The United Club of Utorda in association with the Goa Football Development Council (GFDC) organised a two-week football summer camp at the floodlit SAG ground, Utorda, recently.

Around 140 trainees, both girls and boys, participated in the grassroots football camp for children aged 6 to 14 years old. It was fulfilling to see enthusiastic participants arrive on time with considerable attention.

Coaches Suraj Pujari,

Marcos Carvalho, Antonio Pereira, Linet Vaz, Jose Gomes, Cedric Coelho, Jennifer Fernandes and Damasceno Pereira showed keen interest in training the participants to be fair, positive, consistent and disciplined.

Navin Fernandes, senior programme manager at Dream Sports Foundation, was present for the camp and extended support to the participating teams and coaches, providing wonderful interaction that motivated the young football trainees. The parish priest of Utorda Fr Arvino Fernandes declared the camp closed and appreciated the

role of the Utorda club in promoting grassroots-level football.

President of UC Utorda Trindade Fernandes welcomed the gathering.

Secretary Tony Fernandes in his vote of thanks appreciated Fransquinha Oliveira, member secretary of the Goa Football Development Council for the approval of the camp, the Sports Authority of Goa and Joe Dias of VJT Arts for his full-fledged support.

In the open sessions, participating trainees Saanvi Katak and Mervick Fernandes spoke about the benefits of the camp. Sports

secretaries Pascoal Vaz and Tony, along with Vincent Fernandes, Albino D'Costa, Tony Fernandes, Jhonny Gomes, Inacinho Pereira, Liberata Fernandes, Ana Pacheco, Carmelina Pereira, Assumpta Da Cruz, Bruno Azaredo, Shawn Pereira, Azavedo Gomes, and Camilo Da Cruz, were part of the organising committee.

Parents were very happy that UC Utorda are conducting such summer camps every year as they are of great benefit for the children and were requesting to extend it. Nutrition was provided to the trainees, stated a press release.

VMCL Scorpions triumph over VMCL Kings by 6 wickets

HERALD PICS



Chief guest Siddesh Verlekar hands over the man-of-the-match award to Satyesh Kamat at the MCC ground, Margao

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MARGAO: In an electrifying encounter, VMCL Scorpions registered a commanding 6-wicket victory over VMCL Kings in the Ferdinand Coelho Memorial Veteran Members Cricket League hosted by the Margao Cricket Club under floodlights at the MCC ground, here, recently.

The toss was graced by Shreya Hemant Sail, daughter of MCC member Hemant Sail, a flying officer in the Indian Air Force and recip-

ient of the prestigious Chief of Air Staff Medal.

After winning the toss and electing to bat, VMCL Kings posted a respectable total of 155 runs for 7 wickets in their allotted 20 overs. Apoorv Bhembre led the charge with a top score of 35 runs, while Sachin Bhandare (32), Ambeyparwathkar (29), and Rajendra Prabhudesai (20) provided crucial contributions. The Scorpions' bowling attack was spearheaded by Dr. Satyesh Kamat, who delivered a match-winning performance by taking 3



Chief guest for the toss Shreya Hemant Sail is welcomed by MCC President Yogesh Naik and MCC Secretary Apoorva Bhembre

wickets for 20 runs.

In response, VMCL Scorpions confidently chased the target, reaching 156 for 4 in 18.4 overs. Itikar Agha played a solid knock of 35 runs, supported by Nilesh Prabhudesai (34) and Jude Cardozo (29), while Sandeep Dalal remained unbeaten on 23, guiding the team home.

The man-of-the-match award was presented to Satyesh Kamat for his outstanding bowling performance. The award was handed over by Siddesh Verlekar, sales manager at Goa Brewing Co Dr Kamat

also contributed an unbeaten 14 runs, playing a key role in his team's victory.

Brief scorecard: VMCL Kings: 155/7 in 20 overs (Apoorv Bhembre 35, Sachin Bhandare 32, Ambeyparwathkar 29, Rajendra Prabhudesai 20, Dr. Satyesh Kamat 3/20, Itikar Agha 1/15, Rasik Pai Khot 1/22, Anil Mashelkar 1/23). VMCL Scorpions: 156/4 in 18.4 overs (Itikar Agha 35, Nilesh Prabhudesai 34, Jude Cardozo 29, Sandeep Dalal not out 23, Ambeyparwathkar 1/17, Apoorv Bhembre 1/27, Hemant Sail 1/23).

Mapusa Dream Crushers, Antruz Aviators march ahead

HERALD PICS



Best batter Amith Kamat, man-of-the-match Balkrishna Hodarkar, best bowler Laxmikant Kurade receive trophies from Damodar Patnekar, Rajendra Prabhudesai and Ashutosh Angle

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PANJIM: Mapusa Dream Crushers, Antruz Aviators registered victories in the Sarsangan Priority Veterans Cricket Series 2025 matches played at Arlem cricket ground, recently.

Electing to bat first, Delite Titans got off to a sedate start with Ashutosh Angle (10) and Siddesh Desai (37) putting on 48 in 6 overs before Siddesh Bodke (35) got into his groove hitting the bowlers to all parts of the field. However, rest of the batters, Brijesh Naik (11), Shiraj Pai Khot (12 no) and Sachin Neurekar (14) couldn't convert their start to bigger scores as the Delite Titans could post only 155-4 in 20 overs. The pick of the bowlers was Laxmikant Kurade taking 2-18 while Balkrishna Hodarkar and Sanjiv Sukhtankar picked a wicket each.

In reply, Mapusa Dream Crushers were dealt a big blow as Anant Chodnekar (9) was dismissed by Sid-

desh Bodke at the score reading 21 in the 3rd over. But that was the only positive news for the Titans as the Dream Crushers batters made merry scoring runs quite easily to reach the target of 156 in 13.4 overs, winning by 9 wickets. Amith Kamat (39), Balkrishna Hodarkar (38), Avinash Kossambe (29 no) and Sanjiv Sukhtankar (25 no) completing the formalities with 38 balls to spare. Siddesh Bodke was the lone success-

SARSANGAN PRIORITY VETERANS CRICKET SERIES

ful bowler who got a wicket. Balkrishna Hodarkar collected Drogaria Colvalcar man-of-the-match, Amith Kamat received Priority Constructors best batter and Laxmikant Kurade was awarded Wakao best bowler.

In another match, electing to bat first, Antruz Aviators posted a formidable 197-7 in 20 overs with their batters doing the talking through Sudin Kamat (38), Sarvesh Kamat (38), Sachin

Kenkre (35), Mahendra Pai Kuchelkar (22) and Rasik Pai Khot (19). Rakesh Malya with 4-19 was the pick of the bowlers and received support from Dr. Sarvesh Kamat, Rajendra Prabhudesai and Narcinva Shanbhag who picked a wicket each.

In reply, Ultracon Madgaon Royals started on a promising note through Pratap Prabhugaonkar (27) and Deep Bhende (16). The Royals were helped by Rajendra Prabhudesai

ly caught by Santosh Kuncolienkar running outside the 30 yard circle, leaving the Royals to get 41 in 13 balls. Though Dr. Sarvesh Kamat (20 no) and Sudin Karmali (22 no) tried their best, the Royals could manage to reach 190-4 in 20 overs, giving the Antruz Aviators a close 7 run victory. Rasik Pai Khot and Sarvesh Kamat picked a wicket each.

Sarvesh Haridas Kamat collected Drogaria Colvalcar man-of-the-match award, Sudin Kamat was adjudged Priority Constructors best batter while Rasik Pai Khot picked Wakao best bowler award.

Ultracon Madgaon Royals lead the points table with 10 points followed by Mapusa Dream Crushers on 9 points with both teams playing their last two league matches against each other.

Antruz Aviators with 8 points will face Delite Titans who have one point in their last two league matches. The top two teams will face off in final on May 4, with Delite Titans out of the reckoning.

Sai Avtar SC face Goa Velha SC in opener of Calangute Association Cup today

PANJIM: In the opening match of Group B, Sai Avtar SC, Anjuna, will face Goa Velha SC in the Calangute Association Cup 2025 inter-village football tournament organised by Calangute Association, on April 21, at Poriat football ground, Calangute, at 4.30 pm. The competition is divided into Group A and Group B, with a total of 16 teams battling it out in a knockout format for a place in the final. In the Group A teams include Sinquerim SC, Augustias Sporting

TODAY'S SPORTS

Calangute Association's inter-village football (inaugural): Sai Avtar SC, Anjuna vs Goa Velha SC, at the Poriat ground, Calangute, 4.30 pm

Holy Cross Sports Club's 27th inter-village football (inaugural): United Ambaulim Cavorem, 4.30 pm

5th All Goa Sir Jawaharlal Da Costa inter-school football organised by United Sports Club of Seraulim at the Seraulim panchayat ground, 8.30 am

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