

Two late goals from Herrera, Yasir send FC Goa into semis

PTI, BHUBANESWAR: Indian Super League Shield and Cup winners Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) beat Kerala Blasters 2-1 to enter the Super Cup semi-finals, here, on Saturday.

Mohun Bagan Super Giant, fielding an all-Indian squad, except for Portuguese defender Nuno Reis, scored once in each half through Sahal Abdul Samad (22nd minute) and Suhail Ahmad Bhat (51st).

Herrera and Mohammed Yasir in the dying minutes turned the game on its head, leaving Punjab heartbroken.

Earlier, the match between Mohun Bagan and Kerala Blasters began at a leisurely pace, with both teams not committing many bodies in the opposition half. After 20 minutes of no goal-mouth action, Mohun Bagan Super Giant churned out the opener with their first meaningful attack.

SUPER CUP

Sreekuttan MS (90+4) pulled one back for the Blasters, but it was too little, too late for the Kerala side. Later in the day, FC Goa produced a sensational late comeback to defeat Punjab FC 2-1 and book a semifinal date with Mohun Bagan Super Giant on Wednesday.

Punjab FC, who had taken the lead early in the second half through Ezequiel Vidal (57th), looked set for a famous win. However, two quick goals in the space of three minutes from Borja

With lightning footwork, Salahuddeen Adnan twisted and turned past left-back Naocha Singh and slipped a cross into the six-yard box. Getting on the end of it was Samad, who swiftly evaded Ruivah Hormipam's challenge and dinked the ball over goalkeeper Sachin Suresh to make it 1-0 in the 22nd minute.

From then on Kerala Blasters grew desperate for the equaliser. Noah Sadaoui cut in from the right and took a shot from distance,

Face Mohun Bagan Super Giant on Wednesday



FC Goa and Punjab FC players in action at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar, on Saturday

but he didn't get enough elevation, and the ball landed straight into the gloves of

Mohun Bagan Super Giant goalkeeper Dheeraj Singh. The Blasters became in-

creasingly dangerous from corners. In the 30th minute, after playing a one-two with

Vibin Mohanan, Sadaoui drilled a low cross that was cleared by Dippendu Biswas.

Later, from another corner, Hormipam's cross-turned-shot almost landed into the top corner, but Dheeraj did well to tip it over. In the added time of first half, Mohammed Aimen was fed on the left wing by Vibin. The midfielder cut in from the left before seeing his right-footed swerve over the bar.

Before Kerala Blasters could even get into gear for the second half, Mohun Bagan Super Giant struck another goal.

Ashique Kuruniyan created the second goal from the left flank. The India international skipped past Hormipam and squared an inch-perfect ball into the six-yard box for Bhat to guide it into the net with ease.

The rest of the second half was all about Dheeraj Singh keeping the Kerala Blasters forwards at bay, but it wasn't until after Jesus Jimenez missed a couple of gilt-edged chances -- half-volleying over the bar in the 65th minute and then curling it wide of the

far post after going clean through on goal in the 67th. Three minutes later, Dheeraj palmed over substitute Kwame Pehrah's right-footed shot from a narrow angle. With just five minutes to go, Pehrah tried to set up Jimenez with a low cross into the six-yard box, but the Spaniard couldn't sort his feet out quickly enough and missed it completely.

Dheeraj again made himself big to deny Pehrah from six yards before Ebinadas's attempt on the rebound was cleared off the line by Amandeep.

The Mohun Bagan Super Giant custodian was finally beaten in the 94th minute when Jimenez slipped a neat ball for Sreekuttan on the right. The substitute thrashed it over Dheeraj and into the back of the net, but it only turned out to be a consolation strike.

RESULT

FC Goa 2 (Borja Herrera 89', Mohammed Yasir 90+3') Punjab FC 1 (Ezequiel Vidal 57')

Dominant wins for Geno SC, Manas Panjim Gym; Shivendra shines in Chowgule's winning start

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PANJIM: Desserts N'More Avengers Geno Sports Club and Manas Panjim Gymkhana scored dominant victory in their respective outings of the Bhandokar League T20 tournament organised by Panjim Gymkhana, at the Panjim Gymkhana ground, Campal, here, on Saturday.

Desserts N'More Avengers Geno Sports Club crushed Salgaocar Cricket Club by 9 wickets with 8.4 overs to spare in the first match of the day.

Manas Panjim Gymkhana then put up a stunning show with the bat as they outplayed Dempo CC Cricket Club by 52 runs in the second match on Day 2.

BANDODKAR LEAGUE T20

Rajshekhar Harikant was the architect of Manas Panjim Gymkhana's winning start to the campaign as the skipper led from the front with a superb exhibition of power hitting. He scored 83 runs off 46 balls, which were studded with 8 boundaries and 6 sixes.

Rajshekhar, who was named Player of the Match, and Sanvir Singh (46 off 24 balls) put on 70 runs for the third wicket as Manas Panjim Gymkhana posted a formidable total of 206/8 after electing to bat first. Dempo medium-pacer Saniket Palkar picked up five



Rajshekhar Harikant of Manas Panjim Gymkhana receives the player-of-the-match award from Prashant Kakode, managing committee member of Panjim Gymkhana

wickets, giving away just 28 runs.

In reply, Dempo CC failed to get into the groove and were behind the asking rate throughout their chase before managing to reach 154/7. Captain Lakshay Garg (51 not out) and Prashant Chopra (49) were the top two run-getters for Dempo. All-rounder Sanvir Singh and off-spinner Amit Yadav took 2 wickets each for Manas Panjim Gymkhana.

Earlier in the day, Desserts N'More Geno SC off-spinner Shubham Desai (3/23), who was named Player of the Match, induced a dramatic collapse as Salgaocar Cricket Club were bowled out for 106 in 16.4 overs after being put into bat.

In reply, Desserts N'More Geno SC's Pukhraj Mann (52 not out) and Devankumar Chittem (33 not out) motorred along smoothly



Shubham Desai of Desserts N'More Geno SC receives the player-of-the-match award from Ameet Nachinolkar, managing committee member of Panjim Gymkhana



Panjim Gymkhana Managing Committee member Girish Parekh presents the player-of-the-match award to Chowgule Global's Shivendra Bhujbal at the Panjim Gymkhana ground, Campal-Panjim with an unfinished second-wicket partnership of 87 runs to take their team to a one-sided victory. Shivendra Bhujbal scored a strokeful half-century to power Chowgule Global to an emphatic 8-wicket win over Salgaocar Cricket Club in the opening match. The other scheduled

match for the day was not played as Priority Construction MCC failed to report due to unavoidable circumstances. Their opponents Dempo Cricket Club were awarded two points from the resultant walkover. Brief scores: Salgaocar CC 106 all out in 16.4 overs (Azaan Thota 35, Mayank

Rawat 28; Shubham Desai 3/23, Samit Aryan Mishra 2/07), Desserts N'More Geno SC 110/1 in 11.2 overs (Pukhraj Mann 52 not out, Devankumar Chittem 33 not out; Vijesh Prabhudesai 1/10), Desserts N'More Geno SC win by 9 wickets. Manas Panjim Gymkhana 206/8 (Rajshekhar Harikant 83, Sanvir Singh 46; Saniket Palkar 5/28, Sagar Udeshi 2/15), Dempo CC 154/7 (Lakshay Garg 51 not out, Prashant Chopra 49; Sanvir Singh 2/17, Amit Yadav 2/20), Manas Panjim Gymkhana win by 52 runs.

Salgaocar CC 145/8 (Mayank Rawat 47, Vision Panchal 25, Aditya Suryawanshi 17; Shubham Tari 3/35, Chirag Jani 1/19). Chowgule Global 147/2 in 14 overs (Shivendra Bhujbal 72, Aryan Narvekar 47, Sohraab Dhalwal 14 not out; Pundalik Naik 2/13). Chowgule Global win by 8 wickets.

Dempo SC hold Goa Velha SC; Snow's FA pip Panchwadi United

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MAPUSA/RAIA: Dempo Sports Club Juniors came back from a goal down to hold Goa Velha SC to a 2-2 draw in the Goa Football Association's Division I League match played at Duler Stadium, here, on Saturday.

After this drawn encounter, Dempo SC Juniors have 7 points, while Goa Velha SC have five points from 7 matches.

GFA DIV I LEAGUE

Francis Afonso scored a goal in each session of play for Goa Velha Sports Club.

However, on crossing ends, Dempo SC Juniors scored through Favio Martin's efforts.

While after Goa Velha Sports Club had once again taken the lead through Francis Afonso, Pathi Mayekar equalised for Dempo SC Juniors to make it, 2-2.

Snow's Football Academy scored a solitary goal win over Panchwadi United in the U-17 Division II League match played at SAG ground, Benaulim. Samuel Colaco scored the winning goal for Snow's Football Academy in the first half.



In a unique football inter-ward tie-breaker tournament organised by Our Lady of Candelaria Church, Baina, on the occasion of the feast of St. Joseph, Nelson Landez and Lector Landez were winners in the "Legacy-Father Child Duo" competition and received the trophy from Parish Priest Fr Domic D'Souza



Shirlenn Fernandes emerged victorious in the final of PDF Badminton Championship 2.0 organised by the Parish Youth of Penha de Franca at the Penha de Franca Church badminton court, recently. A total of 46 enthusiastic parishioners competed across eight categories, which ranged from U-14 kids to women's singles (15-50 years), women's doubles, men's singles (15-50 years), men's doubles, women's singles (above 50) and men's singles (above 50)



Rayhaan Amonkar, student of Sharada Mandir School, Miramar-Panjim, bagged the first place, while Reuben Rocha, student of Bethany Convent High School, Sao Jose de Areal, finished third in the U-10 boys category, at the Goa Aquatic Crown 2025 Open Water Swimming organised by the Open Water Swimming Academy, India, in association with National Institute of Water Sports, at Caranzalem beach, recently

VMCL Hustlers edge out VMCL Blasters in a thrilling clash

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MARGAO: In a nail-biting encounter, VMCL Hustlers clinched a dramatic 4-run victory over VMCL Blasters in the Ferdinand Coelho Memorial MCC VMCL-3 match played under floodlights, at the MCC ground, here, on Saturday.

Winning the toss and electing to bat first, the Hustlers posted a fighting total of 115 runs in 19.5 overs. It was a collective batting effort, though no single player crossed 30 runs. One down Santosh Lotlikar scored the team's highest 23.

Captain Sarvesh Kamat (21 off 28 balls) and Anoop Borkar (17 off 29 balls) showed some resistance, while extras played a crucial role, contributing 22 runs to the Hustlers' total. Sidharth Desai was the pick of the bowlers for the Blasters, claiming 3 crucial wickets for just 22 runs. While Balkrishna Hodarkar, Sreeram, and Brijesh Prabhu chipped in with 1 wicket each.

In reply, VMCL Blasters fell



Sarvesh Kamat receives the man-of-the-match award from Nikhil Virginkar. (Right) Sagar Shet presents the man-of-the-match award to Venkatesh Nevagi

agonisingly short, bowled out for 111 in 19.4 overs. Captain Uday Naik fought valiantly with a top score of 33, but consistent breakthroughs by the Hustlers' bowlers kept the chase under control. Venkatesh Nevagi (2 wickets), Rizwan Kazi (2 wickets), and captain Sarvesh Kamat (3 wickets) starred with the ball, maintaining pressure throughout the innings.

The Blasters' chase unraveled towards the end, with wickets falling at regular intervals, including a key spell where they lost three for just 25 runs.



Sarvesh Kamat led from the front, delivering a strong performance with both bat and ball, and was deservedly adjudged Man of the Match. The award was presented by Nikhil Virginkar. Scorpions and Hustlers will clash in the

FERDINAND MEMORIAL MCC VMCL-3

Final for the prestigious Trophy.

In the earlier match, the VMCL Hustlers edged out the VMCL KINGS by 11 runs in a tightly contested T20 match. The game, played un-

der the lights, saw the Kings winning the toss and elected to field first. However, the decision did not quite go in their favor as the Hustlers put up a competitive total and followed it with a disciplined bowling display. Batting first, the VMCL

Hustlers posted 160/8 in their allotted 20 overs. Mahendra Pai Kuchelkar provided a steady start with 19 runs, while Venkatesh Nevagi impressed with a quick-fire 37 off just 18

balls. Contributions came down the order, with Sachin Kenkre 19, Anoop Borkar adding 16, and Shailu chipping in 13 runs. Despite not having any standout individual innings, consistent efforts across the lineup helped the Hustlers build a defensible total.

For the Kings, Gurudatt Angle was the pick of the bowlers with 2 wickets for 27 runs, supported by Vinay Sambari, Apoorv Bhembe, Hemant G Sail, and Venkatesh Raut Desai who chipped in with a wicket each. The VMCL KINGS were

bowled out for 149 in 19.4 overs in response. Despite a fighting 35-run knock by Gurudatt Angle and a blistering 34 from Ashish Dukle, the Kings struggled to maintain momentum. Early wickets and a lack of partnerships plagued their chase. Venkatesh Nevagi and Raghuvir Kuncolienkar starred with the ball for the Hustlers, claiming 2 wickets each, while Santosh Lotlikar also grabbed two early breakthroughs.

Sachin Kenkre sealed the match with two vital wickets in the death overs, ensuring the Kings were dismissed 11 runs short of the target. Venkatesh Nevagi was adjudged MoM for 37 runs with the bat and 2 wickets with a ball. Award was presented by Sagar Shet.

With this win, VMCL Hustlers showcased depth in both batting and bowling, securing a significant victory in the Super League. The Kings, despite their strong bowling start and middle-order resistance fell just short in what turned out to be a gripping contest.

IT'S TODAY FINALS IT'S TODAY
1st All Goa 5-A-Side Futsal Tournament
 Org. By: Friends of Verna
 In memory of Late Caetan Mello
 At Kings Turf, Near Verna Church
 On 27th April 2025 at 8.30 p.m.

Between Edwin Brothers V/s Zico Boys, Verna

Chief Guest: **Shri Lyndon Monteiro** (Social Worker, Verna)
 Guest of Honour: **Shri Chirag Datta Naik** (M.D. Commonwealth Developers)

Guest of Honour: **Rev Fr. Lucio Dias** (Parish Priest Holy Cross Church, Verna)

Special Invites: **Smt. Nazia D'Costa** (Sarpanch of V. P. Verna)
Smt. Ankita Ghogole (Secretary V. P. Verna)
 To Preside: **Rev Fr. Valentine Alvares**
 Invites: **Bartolomeo Costa, Remegio Fernandes, Cedley Braganza, Jessica Fernandes** (All Panch Member of V. P. Verna)

Winners: Rs. 10000/- + Trophy
Runners-up: Rs. 7000/- + Trophy

Bartolomeo Costa (Organising Committee) **Isidorio Melo** (Organising Committee) **John D'Costa** (Honorary Organising Committee)