

Churchill Bros down Delhi, strengthen top spot

AGENCIES, MAHILPUR: Churchill Brothers held off Delhi FC's second half onslaught to take a valuable 2-1 victory at the Coach Ali Hassan Stadium in Mahilpur, on Friday.

Churchill Brothers took a commanding lead early, before fading and desperately hanging on to take the win which extended their lead at the top of the table.

Delhi FC stay rooted to the bottom half of the table, but will take heart from an improved second-half showing against the leaders of the I-League.

The hosts did not let the points gap between the sides deter them from asserting control in the early stages of the game and they even conjured up the first half chance of the game, when Harmanjot Khabra curled a corner just past the far post in the fifth minute.

After a blip to start the year, Churchill Brothers seemed to have rediscovered their winning mojo going into this game, and yet it was a matter of luck and inches that kept them from going down early. Having dribbled past two players, Sanson Pereira dropped a shoulder, shrugging away from a third and let fly at goal from the edge of the box. The ball curled agonisingly wide.

Within 30 seconds, Churchill Brothers made Delhi FC pay for the miss. It is the difference between proven quality and potential and what separates those at the top of the table from those struggling closer to the bottom. Played into the right side

AIFF MEDIA



Churchill Brothers celebrate victory in the I-League match against Delhi FC, at the Coach Ali Hassan Stadium, Mahilpur-Punjab, on Friday

of the box, Wayde Lekay was looking at what could best be described as a half chance, the angle too tight and the defender too close for anything spectacular to be pulled off.

Some things spectacular are done via the mundane. Lekay casually curled his foot around the pass and directed it towards the far post, just out of Abhishek's Calvin's reach, and into the bottom corner. It was a wonderful finish, crafted from almost nothing, a perfect display of the South African striker's innate ability to score when he wants.

Delhi FC looked broken and the game was not even a quarter of the way through. Churchill Brothers went on the rampage and Lekay was suddenly at the heart of it

all. In the 36th minute, he shrugged off a defender's challenge, drove into the box and cut the ball towards the centre, into the six yard area. A sliding Trijoy Dias applied the finish to it. Two goals to be a threat and in the 76th, curled a free kick narrowly wide of the right post from a central position outside the box.

Delhi FC continued to press for an equaliser and in their desperation often faltered with quality in the final third. Churchill Brothers meanwhile faded as the time ticked by and yet hung on to take a valuable win, that extended their lead to five points at the top of the table, with Namdhari and Inter Kashi still to play later in the round.

It proved to be useful, not only to recalibrate minds, but also the players on the pitch. Delhi FC introduced youngster Hridaya Jain into the mix. Right on the hour mark, the substitution proved inspired. A half cleared chance looped its way to him at the edge of the box. He adjusted his feet and let fly with the left, the volley shaping its way perfectly into the far right corner to draw Delhi FC to

within one. The fans were on their feet and everyone bar Jain struggled to keep their jaws off the floor.

Delhi FC looked pumped and suddenly Churchill Brothers, vulnerable. Jain continued to be a threat and in the 76th, curled a free kick narrowly wide of the right post from a central position outside the box.

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RESULT
Delhi FC 1 (Hridaya Jain 60')
Churchill Brothers 2 (Wayde Lekay 17', Trijoy Dias 36')

Cortalim Villagers dominate Goa Police with a 4-1 triumph

Vasco Sports Club narrowly defeated by FC Goa

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MAPUSA: Cortalim Villagers Social Welfare Sports Club registered a well-deserved 4-1 victory over Goa Police Sports Club, in the Goa Professional League, at the Duler Stadium, on Friday.

For Cortalim Villagers, Shario Gomes (2), Jason Vaz, and S Navaneeth scored, while Rui Noronha netted the consolation goal for the Goa Police side.

Following this victory, Cortalim Villagers now have 15 points from 10 matches, while Goa Police remain on 19 points from 11 matches.

GOA PRO LEAGUE

Cortalim Villagers took the lead in the 7th minute when U-21 player Shario Gomes collected a neat through pass from midfielder Ronil Azavedo. Gomes advanced a few steps before calmly placing the ball into the net to make it 1-0.

Despite missing six regular players and their coach, the Goa Police colts showed promise in patches. Rui Noronha and Mayuresh Naik managed strikes on target, but Cortalim's goalkeeper, Abhijit Shubb, handled them with ease.

In the final quarter of the first half, Cortalim consistently threatened the Goa Police defence. Pushkar Prabhu's strike was blocked by a defender, while Jason Vaz's effort ricocheted off the crossbar. However, Shario Gomes

scored his second goal in the 42nd minute, and skipper Jason Vaz added a third just before half-time, taking the score to 3-0.

After the break, Goa Police surprised their opponents when striker Kunal Salgaonkar set up Rui Noronha, who dribbled past a defender and slotted the ball home, narrowing the margin to 3-1.

Encouraged by the goal, Goa Police nearly doubled their tally, but Pajwal Ghadi's powerful strike from the edge of the box hit the crossbar. Cortalim's goalkeeper, Abhijit Shubb, made back-to-back saves to deny Kunal Salgaonkar's attempts from inside the 18-yard box.

The match then largely shifted to a midfield battle,

but in the 90th minute, substitute S. Navaneeth sealed the victory for Cortalim with a close-range finish, making it 4-1.

At Tilak Maidan, Vasco Sports Club were fortunate to lose by just a solitary goal against a rampaging FC Goa. The first half saw FC Goa adopt a cautious approach, while Vasco dominated proceedings on a pitch that left much to be desired.

It may have been a pep talk from head coach Mano-lo Marquez during the half-time interval, or perhaps a tactical adjustment, but FC Goa returned to the field with renewed vigour. Within two minutes of the restart, they found themselves 1-0 up. Defender Tomba surged forward to

meet a brilliant chip from Likson, beating Vasco goalkeeper Jerico with a sublime curling shot.

Following the breakthrough, FC Goa repeatedly breached Vasco's defence. However, a combination of poor finishing and the woodwork kept the scoreline unchanged. Vasco's goalkeeper Jerico played a pivotal role, making several outstanding one-on-one saves to prevent further damage.

Vasco nearly equalised against the run of play when the tireless Sinshit delivered an inviting cross from the right flank. But FC Goa goalkeeper Bob was quick to react, diverting the ball away from the lurking Sapam, who was well-positioned to capitalise.

HERALD PIC



Cortalim Villagers Social Welfare Sports Club and Goa Police players in action in the Goa Professional League match played at Duler Stadium, Mapusa, on Friday

Jamshedpur FC, Mohun Bagan Super Giant share spoils

AGENCIES, JAMSHEDPUR: Jamshedpur FC and Mohun Bagan Super Giant shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw in the Indian Super League match played at the JRD Tata Sports Complex, here, on Friday.

ISL

The league leaders took the lead in the first half courtesy of a goal from Subhasish Bose whereas Jamshedpur FC clawed their way into the game when Stephen Eze found the equaliser at the hour mark.

With this draw, the Men of Steel propelled to the second spot, eight points behind (28) the Mariners (36) with a game in hand, having player 15 as compared to the 16 of the Kolkata-based team.

RESULT
Jamshedpur FC 1 (Stephen Eze 60') Mohun Bagan Super Giant 1 (Subhasish Bose 25')
ISL FIXTURES
Hyderabad FC vs Bengaluru FC, at the GMC Balayogi Athletic Stadium, Hyderabad, 5 pm
Kerala Blasters FC vs NorthEast United FC, at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Kochi, 7.30 pm

U-17 I-League: FC Goa win in 3-2 thriller

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MAPUSA/RAIA: FC Goa secured a hard-fought 3-2 win over Belgaum United FA in a pulsating I-League fixture, at the Field of Dreams, Guirim, on Friday.

All five goals came in the second half, providing a thrilling spectacle for the fans.

Leonard opened the scoring for the Gaurs in the 47th minute, but Belgaum United FA equalised in the 53rd minute with a penalty. Meldon restored FC Goa's lead in the 65th minute, capitalising on a spilled cross by the opposing goalkeeper with a simple tap-in.

Freden extended FC Goa's advantage in the

86th minute, giving his side some breathing space. However, Belgaum United FA hit back with a late goal to make it 3-2.

Despite relentless pressure in the closing stages, FC Goa's defence held firm to preserve their

FOOTBALL

one-goal lead until the final whistle, earning them all three points.

GFA Div II: Velsao SCC win

Velsao SCC defeated United Youth Club of Bogmalo, 5-1, to register a win in the Goa Football Association's Division II League match played at Cansaulim Sports

Complex ground, on Friday. Mackinley Cunha scored a brace, while Jesus D'Sa, Sagar Naik and substitute Aloysius Mesquita scored a goal each for Velsao SCC. Jayson Gama reduced the margin for United Youth Club of Bogmalo.

AIFF U-17 Elite Youth League: Sesa FA win

Sesa FA thrashed Churchill Brothers, 4-0, in the AIFF U-17 Elite Youth League match played at Holy Trinity ground, Benaulim, on Friday. Suraj Kumar Thapa scored a brace, while Leo Soram and Anmesh Majik scored a goal each for Sesa FA.

Aglon stars in UC Verna's win

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RAIA: United Club of Verna secured a commanding 3-1 win over SCC Loutolim to progress in the 1st Fernando Abranches Memorial Trophy 2025 organised by UC Verna, at the Verna Panchayat ground, on Friday.

UC Verna seized an early advantage in the 11th minute when Aglon Abranches showcased his exception-

al skill and composure to score a brilliant opening goal. The first half ended with UC Verna leading 1-0, setting the tone for the rest of the game.

The second half began with UC Verna maintaining their dominance. Aglon Abranches struck again in the 48th minute, doubling the lead for his team. Eldrich Fernandes further extended their advantage shortly afterwards, netting

a third goal and putting the result beyond doubt.

SCC Loutolim, despite a challenging match, managed to salvage a consolation goal in the closing moments through Aston Fernandes. However, their late effort was insufficient as UC Verna controlled the game from start to finish.

Aglon Abranches was presented star of the match awarded by UC Verna Joint Secretary Alban Fernandes.

Navelim Villagers in final

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RAIA: Navelim Villagers Union, despite dominating the first half, had to rely on a tie-breaker to secure a 4-2 victory over Sporting Club of Davorlim, advancing to the finals of the Cavelossim Panchayat Cup inter-village football tournament played at the Fr Druston and Wellington Ground, Cavelossim, on Friday.

With neither side able to break the deadlock in regulation time, the match was decided by a penalty shootout. Navelim's Nash Pereira, Ronaldo Pereira, Noah Luis,

and Terance Miranda successfully converted their spot-kicks, while Airon Fernandes and Darwin Carvalho scored for Davorlim. Unfortunately for Davorlim, William Niasso and Nevil Mascarenhas missed their penalties.

Navelim Villagers Union now progress to the final, where they will face Ugum Rising Club on January 25.

Melchior Miranda of Sporting Club of Davorlim was presented man-of-the-match award by Mr Dionizio Dias, vice-president of the organising club and former sarpanch of the Village Panchayat, Cavelossim.

St Anthony SC seal final spot vie penalties

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RAIA: In a thrilling semi-final clash at the Fr Agnelo Youth inter-village football tournament, St Anthony SC, Assolda, secured their place in the finals with a penalty shootout victory over Ambaulim Youth Club, played at the panchayat ground, at Avdem-Paroda, on Friday.

The match ended goalless in regular time, setting up a tense tie-breaker.

Victorino Fernandes of St Anthony SC was a stand-out performer, weaving his way past several defenders on multiple occasions. However, the Ambaulim goalkeeper proved equal to the task, denying Fernandes any breakthrough. The game was not with-

out its share of physicality, with Richard Pereira receiving a warning for a rough tackle.

In the decisive penalty shootout, St Anthony SC displayed composure, successfully converting all five of their spot-kicks.

The scorers for St Anthony SC were Victorino Fernandes, Succor Fernandes, Richard Fernandes, Drayan Fernandes, and Akram Yadwad. On the other hand, Ambaulim Youth Club managed to convert three penalties, with goals from Dailon Carvalho, Airen Fernandes, and Visiton Fernandes.

St Anthony SC now advance to the final, where they will take on the hosts Fr Agnelo Youth Sports Club, Paroda, on January 19, at 4.30 pm.

TODAY'S SPORTS

Goa Professional League: Sporting Clube de Goa vs Clube de Salgaocar, at Duler Stadium, Mapusa, 3.45 pm
GFA Division II League (Mormugao Zone): Vasco United FC vs Vasco City SCC, at BITS Pilani, 3.45 pm. Rising Star SCC vs BITS Pilani FC, at BITS Pilani, 6 pm
Simon Barreto Memorial football tournament: Mandopa Sports Club vs SCC Loutolim, at DYSA ground, Curtorim, at 4.30 pm

TOMORROW SUNDAY 19th JAN. 3:30PM PAI HALL MARGAO

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