

Churchill Brothers regain top spot with a hard-fought win

Team Herald

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RAIA: Churchill Brothers continued to impress in the I-League 2024-25 as they eased past Gokulam Kerala FC 2-1, at the Raia Ground, here, on Friday.

The winners led by a solitary goal at the breather.

The victory, highlighted by goals from Lalremruata Ralte and Kingslee Fernandes, reinforced Churchill Brothers' status at the top of the I-League table, with 26 points from 13 matches. They are two points ahead of Namdhari FC, who will play their 13th outing on Saturday against Shillong Lajong FC.

For Gokulam Kerala, M Soosairaj reduced the margin in the added time of the match. Churchill Brothers demonstrated on Friday why they are one of the high-scoring teams this season as they pushed their goal count to 26. The match was a testament to their relentless attack and strategic play, which has seen them notch eight wins this campaign so far.

Gokulam Kerala, on the other hand, suffered their second consecutive loss. They struggled to find their rhythm and managed only two shots on target throughout the match, reflecting their frustration and sixth position in the standings with 19 points.

From the outset, Churchill Brothers imposed their game plan effectively, utilising high pressing and quick passing to disrupt Gokulam Kerala's setup. Their dynamic play stretched the

AIFF MEDIA



Churchill Brothers and Gokulam Kerala FC in a tussle for the ball at Raia ground, on Friday

width of the pitch, allowing them to penetrate Gokulam's defence with relative ease. Despite several attempts that rattled the woodwork and some fine saves by goalkeeper Shibin Raj Kunniyil, Churchill's dominance was palpable.

The breakthrough came in the 21st minute. Lalremruata Ralte's free-kick from the top of the box deflected off Gokulam Kerala midfielder Sergio Llamas, who was part of the wall, and wrong-footed Kunniyil as it nestled into the net. This early goal underscored Churchill Brothers' intent and set the tone for the rest of the match.

Churchill Brothers continued to threaten Gokulam

Kerala's goal throughout the first half. Notably, Sebastian Gutierrez and Wayde Lekay, the league's joint second top scorer with nine strikes, were instrumental in creating multiple scoring opportunities.

Gutierrez's efforts particularly stood out, though Lekay was unlucky, hitting the woodwork and failing to capitalise on a well-set chance.

The second half mirrored the first, with Churchill Brothers maintaining control and creating numerous opportunities. Their persistent efforts paid off in the 62nd minute when Kingslee Fernandes doubled the lead. Receiving a clever pass from Gutierrez, Fernandes twisted and turned before slotting

the ball through the legs of Gokulam Kerala defender Salam Ranjan Singh and effectively sealing the match for his team.

Despite the overwhelming control by Churchill Brothers, Gokulam Kerala found a late consolation goal in stoppage time through M Soosairaj, who injected much-needed energy after coming on as a substitute. His determined effort took a deflection off Nischal Chandan and managed to find the back of the net, providing a slight reprieve for the struggling side. However, the goal came in too little, too late.

RESULT

Churchill Brothers 2 (Lalremruata Ralte 21', Kingslee Fernandes 62') Gokulam Kerala FC 1 (M Soosairaj 90+4')

Islanders hand Highlanders first defeat

AGENCIES, SHILLONG: Mumbai City FC downed NorthEast United FC 2-0 in the Indian Super League match played at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, on Friday.

The Islanders handed the Highlanders their first defeat after a run of eight winless games to jump to the fourth spot with 31 points. Mumbai City FC will play their next game against FC Goa on February 12, whereas NorthEast United FC are set to feature against Jamshedpur FC on February 13.

RESULT

NorthEast United FC 0 Mumbai City FC 2 (Bipin Singh 41', Lallianzuala Chhangte 90+2')

ISL FIXTURE

Hyderabad FC vs Mohammedan SC, at the GMC Balayogi Athletic Stadium, Hyderabad, 5 pm

Chennaiyin FC vs East Bengal FC, at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan, Kolkata, 7.30 pm

HERALD PIC



Our Lady of the Rosary High School, Dona Paula, won the Taluka Level U-14 and U-17 Girls Tennis Ball Cricket Tournaments organised by the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs, Campal-Panjim, recently. The Our Lady of the Rosary High School now have qualified to play at the District Level. The teams along with the officials

GFA 2nd Div: South Goa Utd, Guirdolim Club collect full points

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RAIA: South Goa United and Guirdolim Club collected full points in the Goa Football Association Division II League matches.

At Cansaulim Sports Complex ground, South Goa United outplayed Vasco City SCC 6-2 goals. Jayden Xavier Pinto and Casvino Fernandes scored a brace each, while Denvil Fernandes scored one goal. Rajesh Lakkipogu of Vasco City added one own goal

for South Goa United. Sunar Dammar and Abhishek Kumar Singh scored a goal each for Vasco City SCC.

At Don Bosco Oratory ground, Fatorda, Guirdolim Club outwitted Rising Star SCC 9-3. Edgar Noronha scored a hat-trick, while Jollyton Fernandes, Shubert Colaco, Meliston Dias, Prestly Gomes, Sildon Peixoto and substitute Mario Fernandes scored a goal each for Guirdolim Club.

For Rising Star SCC, Fredrick Vaz, Rehan Sayed

and Judson Soares scored a goal each.

GFA U-15 Div I League: Guardian Angel SC down Geno SC

Guardian Angel SC got the better of Geno FC 3-0 in the Goa Football Association U-15 Division I League match played at Batalbatim ground, on Friday.

Farhan Shaikh scored a brace and Trinsly Menezes scored the other goal for Guardian Angel SC.

Raia SC move into semis

INACIO NORONHA



Guests Alex Dias, Andrew Barretto, Prashant Damskar, Francis Fernandes, Vincent Fernandes present the man-of-the-match award was to Jack Meideira of Raia Sporting Club at the DYSA ground, Curtorim, on Friday

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RAIA: Raia Sporting Club edged past Margao SC 7-6 via tie-breaker to move into the semi-finals of 1st Vauradencho Ixtt Trophy 2025 organised by Batora United Club in association with Margao Sports Club, at the DSYA ground, Curtorim, on Friday.

Raia SC netted the first goal of the match through Garrison Fernandes in the 10th minute. Later, Margao SC through Cliff Barretto missed a chance to equalise. This move of Margao Sports Club through Serenio Fernandes yielded

ed result and levelled 1-1 in the 34th minute. It was Silviano Oliveira, who netted the second goal for Raia Sporting Club in the 48th minute. Then a sudden move by Roque Borges netted 2-2 for Margao SC to remain at draw to end the regulation time.

In the resultant tie-breaker, Raia Sporting Club proved to be the better shooters.

GOA DIARY

Floodlight volleyball tournament at Quepem from today

RAIA: United Boys of Ambaulim will organise all Goa floodlight volleyball tournament from February 8 to 15, at volleyball ground, Copelabhat Deao, Quepem. In all, 16 top teams from across Goa will be participating. The winners will be awarded a cash prize of Rs 40,000 plus trophy, while the runners-up will take home a cash prize of Rs 30,000 plus trophy.

Dream Sports Championship to kick-off on Feb 10 at Guirim

PANJIM: The Dream Sports Championship organised by the Dream Sports Foundation will kick off the Goa regional round on February 10, at the Field of Dreams, Guirim, featuring six of the region's most competitive football clubs. The teams will be split into two groups of three, battling for a coveted spot in the National Finals of the U-17 football tournament. Defending regional champions FC Goa, who triumphed over Dempo Sports Club in last year's thrilling final, will look to retain their crown. The competition features strong challengers including Guardian Angel Sports Club, Belgaum United Football Academy, Sporting Clube de Goa and Sesa Football Academy. The group stage matches will run from February 10, with the top teams from each group advancing to the knockout phase. The regional final is scheduled for February 14, where the winner will secure qualification for the national finals. The national finals will also be held in Goa this April, adding extra motivation for local teams to secure home advantage in the championship decider.

TODAY'S SPORTS

GFA U-13 Division II Play-Offs (semi-finals qualifier knockout): Raia FC vs Don Bosco Oratory, Fatorda, at Beaulim ground. Ave Maria A&WC vs Vasco United FC, at Don Bosco Oratory ground, Fatorda. Kick off 3.45 pm

GFA U-17 Division I League: FC Goa vs Sporting Clube de Goa, at Guirim ground, 3.45 pm

1st Vauradencho Ixtt Trophy: Guardian Angel SC vs Navelim SC, at the DSYA ground, Curtorim, 4.30 pm

Damian, keeper Sibi play a stellar role in Dempo SC win

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PANJIM: Dempo Sports Club put up a good show sealing a crucial 2-0 win over Inter Kashi, thanks to a resilient defensive effort and the brilliance of goalkeeper Ashish Sibi, in the I-League match played at Kalyani Stadium, West Bengal, on Friday.

Playing away from home, Dempo SC capitalised on their chances and punished 10-man Inter Kashi, securing just their second win in eight games.

While title contenders Inter Kashi remained stuck in the third place with 21 points from 13 matches, Dempo SC closed the gap to 17 points, reigniting their fight for a stronger finish in the league.

Inter Kashi started on the front foot, dominating possession and creating early chances. Matija Babovic came close with a quick turn and shot, while Sarthak Goloui fired over from range. But just as the hosts looked poised for a breakthrough,

the game turned on its head. Defender Sandip Mandi was sent off in the 36th minute, picking up a second yellow for a reckless challenge, leaving Inter Kashi down to 10 men for the rest of the match.

Dempo SC wasted no time taking advantage. Six minutes later, Juan Mera's electrifying run opened up space for a perfect cutback, which Damian Perez Roa smashed into the far corner, giving Dempo SC a shocking lead.

Despite being a man down, Inter Kashi fought back before halftime, forcing Sibi into two world-class saves - first denying Babovic in a one-on-one situation and then stretching full-length to palm away Edmund Lalrindika's curling effort.

The second half was all about Sibi's heroics. The Dempo SC shot-stopper made another crucial one-on-one save in the 60th minute, stopping

RESULT

Inter Kashi 0 Dempo SC 2 (Cristian Damian Perez Roa 42', 81')

Lalrindika's attempted dink.

Five minutes later, Inter Kashi had a golden opportunity to equalise from the penalty spot after Domingo Berlanga was fouled inside the box. But Sibi, even after committing to a dive, somehow adjusted in mid-air to keep Berlanga's low shot out, preserving Dempo SC's slender lead.

With Inter Kashi desperate for an equaliser, Dempo SC struck the killer blow in the 81st minute. A mix-up between goalkeeper Arindam Bhattacharya and defender V Bijoy saw a miscommunication hand Damian his second of the night, as he coolly walked the ball into an empty net.

Despite some late half-chances from the hosts, Dempo SC held firm to clinch a massive away win - one that could prove to be a turning point in their campaign.

With Sibi in inspired form and Damian delivering the goods up front, Dempo SC's fightback in the I-League is well and truly on.

Sporting Clube secure a point

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AIZAWL (Mizoram): Sporting Clube de Goa secured their first point of the I-League 2 following their 1-1 draw against CNFC (Chanmari FC) at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium on Friday.

Doyal Alves put Sporting Clube de Goa ahead in the 16th minute after converting the spot-kick while Vincent Laldhawma from CNFC levelled terms in the 39th minute.

I-LEAGUE 2

Sporting Clube de Goa move to one point, while CNFC stand at seven points on the league table standings. Sporting Clube lined up with Nitish Mehra in goal, supported by defenders Myron Fernandes, Joel Colaco and Sairuat Kima. The midfield saw Biswa Darjee, Selwyn Miranda, Ivon Costa, Dattaraj Gaonkar, Sushil Meitei and Naocha Singh dictating play while Doyal Alves led the attack.

The substitutes' bench featured Siddharth (GK),



Sporting Clube de Goa and Chanmari FC players try to overpower each other to take control of the ball at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Aizawl, Mizoram, on Friday

Kunal, Joyner, Rohan, Lalremruata, Samuel, Joyson G, Vikram, Semboi and Dhiraj. The second half of the match saw both teams unable to break the deadlock, despite Sporting Clube controlling possession early on and generating several promising attacking op-

portunities. CNFC, reduced to 10 men following Lalrindika's red card in the 20th minute, were put under pressure, but Sporting was unable to capitalise on the numerical advantage.

The flaming Oranje displayed strong attacking play and created some ex-

cellent goal-scoring chances, but couldn't convert. Both sides continued to push forward, determined to secure the lead, but the match ultimately ended in a 1-1 draw. Sporting Clube's next challenge will see them face KLSA at the Bambolim Stadium.

HERALD PIC

AUDIENCE DECLARED BEST SHOW OF THE SEASON WITH DIALOGUES SCRIPT. RIB TICKLING COMEDY BY SUPREMO HUMBERT. GOOD MORAL SONGS

TOMORROW

9th FEB - 3.30 P.M.

PAI HALL MARGAO

TODAY

08/02-8.00 P.M. CANDOLIM

DANDU ACHIN 5.00 PM (SHARPI)

THE KING OF TRIPLES GET AWAY

MEETING OF KHAMAR

KING OF DANCE SONGS

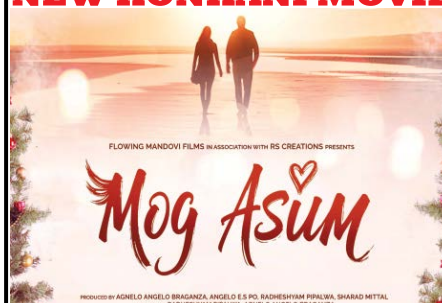
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ULHAS TARI

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TODAY

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PAI HALL MARGAO

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MUSIC BY: NOLVERT COTA & ARIF THE GREAT

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