

MSC march strongly on

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting Club moved one step closer to the Star Premier Division football league title yesterday with a confident 4-0 win over Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society at the Noodlit Dhaka Stadium.

With the victory, their eleventh in this year's league, the DMFA Cup winners upped their tally to 24 points from 14 outings, three points clear at the top of the table off their traditional rivals Abahani Krira Chakra, who lost their sixth point on Monday when they were forced to a goalless draw by Agrani Bank.

Rahmatganj, on the other hand, plunged deep down with their eighth defeat in the league so far and they would certainly need a miracle to turn back and avoid the ignominy of relegation to the Star First Division. Rahmatganj, with a win and five losses, remained glued to the bottom position with a collection of seven points from 14 en-

minute when a Murad header off a Shabbir throw-in left him with enough leverage (1-0).

In the 30th minute, Aslam doubled the margin when he outleapt every Rahmatganj defender to head home a Shabbir free-kick (2-0).

One minute away from the short whistle, Jivotnikov scored his 11th goal of the league when the Russian dodged past Tarek, the Rahmatganj goalkeeper before placing the ball neatly into the net (3-0).

Rummon-bin-Wall Shabbir, the hard working, wily Mohammedan skipper, who designed the first two goals, again came up with a gem of a pass in the 19th minute of the second half that left Arman only with the job of guiding the ball into the Rahmatganj goal with a well-executed half-volley (4-0).

It was a pity that Aslam could not score a hat-trick although he had only himself to blame for failing as he missed two easy chances in the 38th and 40th minute. A yellow card in the later stage of the match

league, Youngmen's Club of Fakirpool maintained their solo lead beating lowly Adamjee SCC by 2-0 goals at the Hockey Stadium.

Fakirpool dominated the match all through and scored both the goals in the first half.

Asif put the winners ahead in the 32nd minute by a nice header off a Shamsu corner (1-0).

Askar Babu increased the margin in the 41st minute by a good placing shot (2-0).

Fakirpool have so far earned 18 points from 13 encounters while Adamjee SCC are almost certain of relegation with only three points, also playing 13 matches.

TEAMS

FAKIRPOOL FC: Kawsar, Lokman, Muktar, Gobinda, Sohel, Hassan, Masud (Babu), Askar (Shamim), Asif (Alamgir), Rana and Arif.

ADAMJEE SCC: Sakawat, Riad, Sohel, Zakir, Mitu

BCCB Eleven take on Chemplast today

Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) Eleven, now visiting India, will take on Chemplast team in their second and last group tie of the Moinud-Dowlah Gold Cup cricket tournament today at the Hyderabad Lal Bahadur Shastri Stadium, reports UNB.

On Monday, BCCB Eleven defeated Hyderabad Cricket Association President Eleven by 52 runs in their first group match at the same venue.

Romario hailed

MADRID, Sept 7: Brazilian Romario is being hailed as one of the world's greatest strikers just one match into his new Spanish league career with Barcelona, reports Reuters.

The dollar 4 million forward, who scored all three of the champions' goals in a 3-0 home win over Real Sociedad on Sunday, attracted lavish praise from both managers on Monday.

"Romario is brilliant in the penalty area. His control means he can score at any moment," said Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff, delighted with the performance of the former PSV Eindhoven player.

Opposing coach John Toshack agreed Romario had been the difference between the two teams.

"It is clear that he was the one who stood out. When the team is not playing that well, he can score three goals. There are few players who can finish off a move like he can," said Toshack.

Real Madrid, pipped at the post by Barcelona in the title race for the last two seasons, also made a good start as 21-year-old striker Alfonso Perez scored twice in a 4-1 away win at Osasuna on Saturday.

Madrid had not won on their opponent's ground by a three-goal margin since 1935.

Fatal festival

BOGOTA, Sept 7: Wild celebrations of a spectacular 5-0 soccer victory over Argentina left 20 people dead and 100 injured in brawls, car crashes and shootings across Colombia, police said on Monday, reports Reuters.

Cars jammed the avenues of Bogota on Sunday night, honking their horns furiously, waving jumbo red, gold, and blue Colombian flags and hurling bags of flour at pedestrians. Fireworks exploded across the sky and parties broke out across the city.

Groups of drunken youths filled the streets, jumping in front of cars and screaming "Five, five, five" in reference to the unprecedented number of goals scored in Colombia's victory, which qualified the country for next year's World Cup in the United States.

Police set up barriers to block cars from streets where the celebrations were most intense and hospitals across the city were put on full alert.

"We estimate that at least 20 people were killed and more than 100 injured in the five major cities," a Bogota police spokesman said on Monday morning.

"Most of the victims were drunk and either crashed their cars or were run over. Some died of gunshot wounds after bar brawls."

Police said the country's Marxist guerrillas took advantage of the game, played in Buenos Aires but telecast live in Colombia, to blow up two police posts in the northwest of Bogota and destroy a bank automated teller machine in the city centre. One policeman died in the blasts.

Rebels from the National Liberation Army (ELN) later called newspapers and radio stations to claim responsibility for the attacks.



Jean-Louis Leveau (C), vice-president of Olympique de Marseille, addresses staff members and players, among them Alen Boksic, Jean-Christophe Thomas, Bernard Casoni, Jean-Marc Ferreri and Rudi Voeller, few moments before the start of a training session yesterday. UEFA banned Marseille from this season's European Cup on September 6 following a match-rigging scandal. — AFP photo

UEFA anathema for Marseille

ZURICH, Sept 7: European champions Marseille were thrown out of this year's European Cup competition on Monday after UEFA decided bribery allegations against the French club were damaging soccer's image, reports Reuters.

Marseille, the Mediterranean port which lives and breathes for its beloved club, was shocked and angry, while the lawyer of club president Bernard Tapie said the millionaire soccer boss would take French football authorities to court over the ban.

With the first round of the cup only nine days away, the governing body of European soccer said it had acted to protect the integrity of the game.

UEFA president Lennart Johansson said after a six-hour meeting in Zurich: "The executive committee felt the affair, which has been waiting for more than three months to be dealt with, was bringing in-

creasing prejudice to the football movement and that further delays would damage directly the international competitions."

Marseille, who are also the French league champions, have been mired in match-rigging allegations that centre on a league game against Valenciennes last May.

Valenciennes players Jacques Glassman, Christophe Robert and Jorge Burruchaga have accused Marseille of offering them a 250,000 francs (50,000 dollars) bribe to play poorly and lose a key game on May 20, a few days before their European Cup final against AC Milan.

Johansson said UEFA were confident they had made the right decision based on reports of players' testimonies to the investigating judge.

However, Tapie's lawyer Francis Szpiner said the Marseille club president would take legal action today to demand that the French Football Federation (FFF) and French soccer league insist that Marseille represent France in this season's European Cup.

"UEFA's decision is totally against all the principles of law," Szpiner said. "Marseille was not heard and no appeal is possible. Marseille was not able to defend itself. Such justice is contrary to the most elementary rights."

FFF president Jean Fourmet-Fayard, who was in Zurich as a member of UEFA's executive committee, said the decision could have grave consequences for French soccer.

"This decision will lead us to look at the consequences which could be very damaging for French football," he said. Fourmet-Fayard said he regretted UEFA appeared to have paid more attention to media reports than to a report presented by French soccer authorities.

UEFA have given the French federation 48 hours to nominate a replacement for Marseille in the European Cup, though runners-up Paris St-Germain and Bordeaux, fourth in the French league last season, have already said they would not take part if asked.

Monaco join the club

PARIS, Sept 7: Monaco on Tuesday became the third French club to say they would refuse to take the place of disgraced champions Marseille in this season's European Cup, reports Reuters.

The European Football Union (UEFA) on Monday banned Marseille from this season's competition because of the bribery scandal and gave the French federation 40 hours to nominate a replacement.

Monaco, third in the French league last season, issued a statement saying they did not feel able to enter a competition for which they had not qualified and would remain in the UEFA Cup instead.

Paris St Germain, second in the league, Bordeaux, who were fourth, announced on Monday that they would refuse any invitation to compete in the European Cup.

Alimentary weapon

COPENHAGEN, Sept 7: Denmark's national team took off on Tuesday for a vital World Cup soccer qualifier against Albania with a secret weapon stowed away in the cargo compartment — 1,100 kilos of Danish food, reports Reuters.

"The food packages contain meat, fish and salad among other things. We've brought all the food for all the meals, even the cake for our evening coffee," soccer federation spokesman Lars Berendt said. The decision by the European champions to bring their own food for the European group Three tie in Tirana on Wednesday was made after a scouting tour to Albania by the squad's chef, Flemming Larsen.

Danish coach Richard Moeller Nielsen said: "The food of the south holds different bacteria from Danish food... we're not taking any risks. The situation awaiting us is like night and day compared with what we are used to."

Denmark, who need a win against bottom-placed Albania to stay on course for a place in the 1994 finals, fear primitive conditions in the country and Moeller Nielsen decided to prepare at home and leave for Tirana as late as possible.

"We will have an extremely difficult time against Albania," Moeller Nielsen said.

"Our plan is to go for victory with a controlled offensive. We won't throw everything forward from the start. Many good sides have run into trouble in Albania," he said.

Zsiboras no more

BUDAPEST, Sept 7: Hungarian goalkeeper Gabor Zsiboras, who suffered serious brain damage after collapsing before a training session, has died, the MTI agency reported on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Zsiboras, 35, would have won his 15th cap against Russia in a World Cup qualifying match on Wednesday. He played for the MTK club.

ASF fixes dates for WC playoff with Argentina

SYDNEY, Sept 7: Australian Soccer Federation (ASF) officials said today they had selected two dates for a two-match playoff with Argentina for a spot in next year's World Cup finals in the United States, reports Reuters.

Former World Cup champions Argentina, who will meet Australia after finishing second in the South American Group A qualifying round, must agree on the dates.



Action from yesterday's Star Premier Division football league match between Mohammedans and Rahmatganj MFS at the Dhaka Stadium. Mohammedans registered a facile 4-0 victory. — Star photo

Aslam, playing for the black and white after nearly a decade with Abahani, found the net twice while Russian Jivotnikov, who notched up a spectacular treble in his Premier Division debut and Arman scored once each for the winners, who led the first half by three goals to one.

Aslam, the ever-agile striker who took his individual tally to seven with yesterday's goals, opened the account for Mohammedans in the sixth

offered no comfort to the frustrated striker.

TEAMS

MOHAMMEDAN SC: Lahul, Roman, Kaiser (Peter), Jewel, Barun, Tito (Rox), Arman, Murad, Shabbir, Aslam and Jivotnikov (Naqub).

RAHMATGANJ MFS: Tarek (Raju), Sufan (Pappu), Jaglu, Rubel, Badal, Nazimuddin, Azim, Alfaz, Siraj, Makbul and Ranjan.

FAKIRERPOOL WIN In the Star First Division

Karpov grinds Timman down

ZWOLLE, Netherlands, Sept 7: Former world chess champion Anatoly Karpov, wielding the black pieces with clinical precision, beat Dutch Grandmaster Jan Timman in the first game of the FIDE World Chess Championship on Monday, reports Reuters.

Timman-Karpov tie: Facts and figures

ZWOLLE, Netherlands, Sept 7: Facts and figures of the FIDE World Chess Championship match which began Monday, accumulated by AP.

PLAYERS: Anatoly Karpov, 42, Russian, gained the World Championship when Bobby Fischer refused to defend it in 1975 and held it for 10 years before losing to Garry Kasparov in 1985. He is regarded as second only to Kasparov, who also beat him in the last World Championship in 1991.

Jan Timman, 41, Dutch. He lost to Nigel Short in the World Championship qualifier to challenge Kasparov but was invited to contest the title with Karpov after Kasparov and Short absconded to form the renegade Professional Chess Association.

PREVIOUS COMPETITION: In 67 games against each other before this match, Karpov won 23 games, Timman 5 and 39 were draws.

AT STAKE: The world Chess title as sanctioned by FIDE, the game's ruling federation since 1924. This year's title will be badly tarnished because of the rival Kasparov-Short championship match.

PRIZE-MONEY: Dfls 1.4 million. The winner gets five-eighths and the loser three-eighths.

SCHEDULE: 24 games, 12 played over three weeks in the Dutch cities of Zwolle, Arnhem and Amsterdam. The match then moves to Oman for the concluding 12 games.

Karpov, world champion from 1975 to 1985, ground the Dutchman down in a dour technical end game and takes a 1-0 lead in today's second game, when he has the advantage of the white pieces.

The first 12 games in the 24-game match are to be played in the Netherlands — in Zwolle, Arnhem and Amsterdam — and the second 12 in Oman. The winner will be the first player to reach 12 1/2 points.

Today Garry Kasparov and Nigel Short play their first game in London in the rival Times World Chess Championship.

FIDE, the world chess body, disqualified reigning champion Kasparov and official challenger Short in March after they rejected FIDE's planned venue and formed the breakaway Professional Chess Association.

Timman started with a king's pawn opening, giving Karpov the chance to use his tried and trusted Caro-Kann defence.

The opening went down known lines for 14 moves until Timman produced an innovation that watching experts said made for a sharp and exciting game.

"It's a very nerve-racking

Double crown for Loba

Loba of Rajshahi Division won double crown in the Litmond first women's badminton tournament, lifting both the singles and doubles titles yesterday at the Dhamondi Women's Sports Complex, reports UNB.

Loba clinched the singles title beating Liza of Dhaka 11-5, 11-0 and then shared the doubles title with compatriot Zinat defeating Noori and Ruma pair of BKSP by 15-7, 15-10.

Post and Telecommunications Minister M Tariqul Islam witnessed the singles final as chief guest and later distributed the prizes. State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain was present as special guest.

(Zamrul) (Abul), Dolan, Sharif, Babu, Nasir (Salam), Akmal and Iqbal.

Two Premier Division and one First Division football matches will be held today.

Sadharan Bima KS will take on Bangladesh Boys Club in the First Division league at the Hockey Stadium while Victoria Sporting Club will meet Wari Club and Brothers Union face PWD SC in the Premier Division, both at the Dhaka Stadium.

position," said Dutch International Master Paul Boersma.

But Karpov's powerfully-posted central knights overshadowed white's position, depriving Timman of any real advantage for his innovation.

"This is Karpov's bread and butter defence, Timman should really have researched it," said Australian Grandmaster Ian Rogers.

Deprived of any forceful strategy Timman speculatively sacrificed a bishop for one of Karpov's king side pawns.

The Russian uncharacteristically missed the best continuation and in a quickfire series of piece exchanges found only a small advantage in the endgame. It was enough.

"This is Karpov's type of position," Rogers said as he watched the Russian ruthlessly fashioning a superior position.

Timman resigned after move 56 when it became clear he could not save a crucial pawn.



Minister for Posts and Telecommunications Tariqul Islam handing over the championship trophy to Loba and Luna, who won the title in the Litmond badminton tournament, at the Dhamondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday. — Star photo