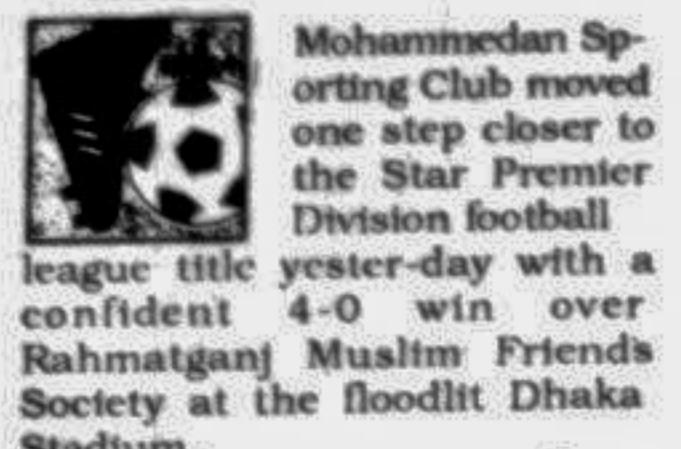


MSC march strongly on

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 Mualim Friends Society at the floodlit 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-

nings 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 Tareq, the Rahmatganj keeper before placing the ball neatly into the net (3-0).

Rummon-bin-Wali Shabbir, the hard working wily Mohammedi 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 hattrick 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



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

offered no comfort to the frustrated striker.

TEAMS

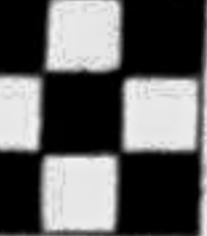
MOHAMMEDAN SC: Lahul, Roman, Kaiser (Peter), Jewel, Barun, Tito (Roxy), Arman, Murad, Shabbir, Aslam and Jivotnikov (Naqib).

RAHMATGANJ MFS: Tarek (Raju), Sufiani (Pappu), Jaglu, Rubel, Badal, Nazimuddin, Azim, Alfaiz, 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 Reuter.

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: Dhs 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.

— Star photo

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.

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 Dhanmondi 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 Zeenat 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.

— Star photo

State Minister for Posts and Telecommunications Tariqul Islam handed over the championship trophy to Loba and Luna, who won the title in the Litmond badminton tournament, at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday.

— Star photo

Sport

BCCB Eleven take on Chempast today

Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) Eleven, now visiting India, will take on Chempast team in their second and last group tie of the Moinud-Dowla 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 Reuter.

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 Reuter.

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.

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

It's a very nerve-racking

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.

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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.

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Jean-Louis Levereau (C), vice-president of Olympique de Marseille, addresses staff members and players, among them Alen Boksic, Jean-Christophe Thomas, Bernard Casoni, Jean-Marc Ferrer 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 Reuter.

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.

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