

Quiet night, safe soccer

Sports Reporter

After a turbulent night marked by an orgy of hooliganism, the Dhaka Stadium passed a quiet night as two title chasers — Abahani Khana Chakra and star-studded Muktiyoddha Sangsad played out a goalless draw but Brothers Union another heavy-weight suffered a U-turn in fortune losing to lowly Agrani Bank in the Star Premier Division football league yesterday.

The outcome of the yesterday's matches left holders Mohammedan at the top of the table with a slender one point lead ahead of Abahani, Muktiyoddha and Brothers Union who have seven points from five matches each.

A nearly full house crowd who gathered at the big bowl to enjoy a thrilling encounter between two top teams, were certainly disappointed by the pronounced tendency of both sides to resort to rough and tough football.

However, the DMFA Cup champions Abahani KC played better against a virtual national side and came close to scoring on several occasions.

Mintu, the promising winger of Abahani got the easiest chance in the 13th minute when he latched on to a ball, breaking an off-side trap, but with the Muktiyoddha custodian-cum skipper Mohsin at his mercy he shot straight to the on rushing goalkeeper.

One minute later, Mohsin left the field sustaining injury on his hand after a tussle with Abahani's Iraqi recruit Nazar Ali.

Arun Bikash Dewan, the reserve goalkeeper of Muktiyoddha replaced him under a bar and justified his fusion with some brilliant saves.

The Federation Cup champions Muktiyoddha Sangsad who survived a torrid 20-minute spell of sustained pressure from Abahani never appeared at their best in the 90 minute slowdown.

Apart from four rearguards — Masud Rana, Arman, Nakib of Muktiyoddha and Partha, Nazar Ali of Abahani were cautioned with the yellow card in the match.

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East End vs Farashganj 6:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium).

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BU'S MAIDEN LOSS

In the first match of the day, substitute Mian of Agrani Bank scored the match decider during the injury time to inflict a stunning 1-0 defeat on high flying Brothers Union.

The Gopibagh outfit, who beat Muktiyoddha in their previous encounter played like an ordinary team and looked almost certain for a draw before Mian placed the ball over on out-of-position

Brothers custodian.

In an evenly contested match both sides struck the woodwork once before Agrani Bank snatched two crucial points from their superior opponent.

With this win Agrani Bank raised their collection to three from five matches but still remained in the dreaded relegation zone.

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