

MSC drop further astern

Sports Reporter

Mohammedans paid dearly for the myopia of their marksmen as the reigning champions went down fighting to their second successive defeat losing to Brothers Union by a solitary goal in the Star Premier Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

A sixteenth minute penalty conversion by Shahzada meant the black whites slip further behind in the title race having dropped their sixth point in the current league. Mohammedans have only one game left in the first phase against arch-rivals Abahani, the league leaders, next Monday.

Badly needing a victory to boost their sagging morale as well as their chances to retain the title, Mohammedans naturally appeared in the aggressors' role right from the beginning.

But Brothers, who with two earlier defeats seemed to have pulled their horns in for their first ever league title in a familiar fashion, employed a five-man defence in front of a consistent Ponir to hold off a charged Mohammedan offence which had the Russian Inataev Guermann returning from a two-match suspension.

However, the Gopibagh team which last beat its infinitely more popular rival way back in 1981 shot into the lead from its first serious sortie.

Attacking midfielder Sadequl Islam Uttam pushed a fine pass to fast improving left winger Ranjan and ran inside the danger zone for the return which duly came and when he was poised for the final crack at goal, Rehan the tall robust Mohammedan defender committed the cardinal sin of bringing down a man inside the box and referee S. M. Mansoor who had good match with the whistle promptly pointed to the dreaded spot.

Shahzada strolled up to accept the early offer without any fuss with the match barely sixteen minutes old.

Two minutes later Brothers tormented the unsettled Mohammedan defence when a pacy Biplob cut in from the right to unleash a thunderous shot at the first post which came back to play off the perpendicular wood work with the whistle promptly pointed to the dreaded spot.

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Thereafter, it was rather a one-sided tale of the shock absorbing quality of the Brothers defence and the panicky pounding of the goal-blind black and white frontliners. Young Asad, Russian Kazakov, all had their chances but none missed a surer sitter than the stop-gap skipper Mahbubur Rahman Roxy. He was provided with a superb minus by a hardworking Manik in the 36th minute but the midfielder's attempt from barely six yards somehow managed to miss and open inviting goal.

Brothers defence put up a cool show as exemplified in the individual excellence of Ruhul Amin and custodian

Ponir with the latter pulling off marvellous saves from a powerful left footer by a swivelling Inataev inside the box seconds before half time.

Tension and frustration demonstrated by the abortive and repeated play-acting in the Brothers citadel by the Mohammedan players infected the galleries. Some of the frenzied fans forced open one of the closed openings in the fence and police swung into action to trigger off a prolonged clash while Mohammedan's quest for at least a face-saving equaliser degenerated into unimaginative passing and erratic shooting.

Although Mohammedans controlled the entire second half and came across chances,

TODAY'S MATCHES

Sadharan Biman KS vs



An exciting moment during last night's crucial Star Premier Division football encounter between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Brothers Union at the Dhaka Stadium.

— Star photo

Eskaton (Mirpur Stadium 6:00)

Victoria vs Muslim Institute (Dhaka Stadium 4:30)

Muktijoddha vs Arambagh (Dhaka Stadium 6:30)

STANDINGS

Following are the standings of the Star Premier Division Football League on competition of 40 matches yesterday.

Teams	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	P
Abahani KC	8	5	3	0	18	5	13
Muktijoddha	8	5	1	2	14	7	11
Mohammedan SC	8	4	3	2	14	5	10
Brothers Union	8	4	2	2	11	6	9
Wan Club	8	3	2	3	8	9	8
Fakirpool YC	8	1	5	2	8	9	7
Arambagh KS	8	2	3	3	8	9	7
Agrani bank	8	2	2	4	2	5	6
PWD SC	8	1	3	4	7	5	5
Bangladesh Boys	8	1	1	6	10	30	3

TEAMS

BROTHERS UNION: Ponir, Shahzada, Moon, Mizan, Ruhul Amin, Uttam, Pijush, Bakhtiar, Rupu, Biplob and Ranjan (Ripon).

MOHAMMEDAN SC: Lahul, Shamim, Kaisar, Rehan, Biplob, Parvez, Manik, Roxy (Zahid), Guarman, Andrey Kazakov and Asad (Reaz).

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