



Chittagong Mohammedan midfielder Camara (R) evades a tackle from Sheikh Russel's Moroccan striker Touati in their B.League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Lucky Russel win



SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra scraped through to a 2-1 win in their home match against a spirited Chittagong Mohammedan in the B. League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Moroccan striker Touati Younes celebrated his return to Dhaka in his only previous season in Dhaka for Russel in 2004, then fired home from 25 yards with a first-time angled volley that gave Mohammedan's diminutive keeper Raju no chance to react to the overhead shot in the 12th minute.

With Guinean midfielder Camara giving an indefatigable performance, Mohammedan got a grip on the game but Yusuf drove a low shot from the left to put a glancing header into the roof of the net despite saving efforts from Chittagong black and whites' leftback Israfil.

Russel hung on to the advantage this time as Shakil, the under-23 national custodian, blocked a close-range shot by Pavel, who almost pulled off a sensational equaliser with a diving Russel goalkeeper Shakil for a corner.

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players -- showed their nerves and Yusuf came close to giving the Chittagong outfit lead after six minutes. But Yusuf failed to capitalise on the defensive lapse and blasted a volley over the lone keeper from 15 yards.

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in the 48th minute. Taking the left-flank pass inside the box, an old-Russel cast Yusuf clinically placed a left-footer into the far post.

Moroccan midfielder Ighir Mohamed forced a fine save by Raju while quick-footed substitute Towhid kept the Russel defence under pressure, twice threatening to score. He, however, was denied by Shakil from close range before a top-of-the-box effort missed the mark by inches.

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Wajed Gazi's boys, on the other hand, looked slow and untidy after the break but Russel's veteran coach claimed that the footballers will recover from the early-season sluggishness as they play more matches.

Yellow cards: Touati (Russel) and Israfil, Camara (Chittagong Mohammedan)

TEAMS

Russel: Pradip (Aminul), Shawkat, Jahirul, Hassan, Saad, Ighir, Khoubache, Tanvir (Rikto), Touati and Bulbul.

Chittagong Mohammedan: Raju, Tareq, Saikat, Sohel, Israfil, Daulat (Pavel), Camara, Asif, Azim (Zahid), Dipu (Towhid) and Yusuf.

Referee: Azad Rahman.

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