



Mohammedan's Nigerian striker Emeka shoots the ball past Chittagong Mohammedan custodian Tito for his third goal in a match that the Dhaka giant won 7-1 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Mohammedan run riot Emeka slots hattrick



SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan broke their own record of the biggest B. League victory when the Dhaka heavyweights destroyed Chittagong Mohammedan 7-0 yesterday.

Nigerian striker Emeka Christina slammed a hattrick while midfielder Jumratul Islam Mithu struck twice as the black and whites bettered their 7-1 humiliation of Rahmatganj in the first leg at the same venue.

Captain Mwach Ukwu Paul regained his top scorer's position with one goal while fellow Nigerian defender Peter Odufe added the other as the hosts consolidated their position in the table with their first win in the second leg.

Mohammedan lead the pack with 26 points after 14 outings while Chittagong Mohammedan, who slumped to their third consecutive loss in the second part, stuck

to 17 points from 13 matches.

Although title contenders Muktiyoddha, Abahani and Sheikh Russel have the chance to replace Mohammedan from the top by the end of the ongoing 15th week, Shafiqul Islam Manik's boys have the comfort of having played all but one big match, against Brothers Union.

Unlike the two namesakes' first-leg clash in Chittagong, which ended in a goalless draw in last March, it was a one-way traffic at the muddy and a slowish Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The visitors however, rushed early blood when Dipu's left side cross picked up Yusuf, who shot the ball straight to goalkeeper Himel from six yards.

Chittagong Mohammedan kept the momentum for some time before the home side opened the floodgate through an apparently offside goal in the 15th minute.

Emeka, who missed their last game against Abahani due to suspension, was standing alone inches out of the line and tapped the ball home after Mithu managed to get the ball beyond goalkeeper Tito after his fist two attempts came off the bar and the keeper

respectively.

Mohammedan never looked back in the embarrassingly one-sided game and Emeka doubled the lead five minutes later with a backheader from 12 yards after the port city defence partially cleared a high ball by Sharif.

There was no respite and Paul scored his 13th league goal in the 21st minute when the robust striker, who raced inside with a through from rightback Kamal, hammered the ball into Tito's near post shrugging off a challenge by Saikat.

Emeka completed his treble eight minutes before the break when the yellow-haired cut in with Belal's through down the left and neatly placed the ball into the far corner.

The other players to score hattricks in the league are Muktiyoddha's Alfaz, Mohammedan's Paul and Brothers' Junior -- all against Rahmatganj -- but the latter has also struck a treble against Khulna Abahani.

The boys from Chittagong showed some spirit even after going 4-0 down and Zahid twice

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

Getafe threaten to sue Real

INTERNET, undated

Getafe have threatened to sue their more illustrious city rivals Real Madrid over reports that they are set to poach manager Bernd Schuster.

Reports have claimed that Real have signed a pre-contract agreement for German Schuster to take the reins at the Liga champions should Fabio Capello decide to leave or be fired.

"If there is an agreement and we can prove it, I will report Real to UEFA and to FIFA. You can't just push Getafe around," Getafe president Angel Torres told Radio Marca. "I have heard that an agreement was signed a few days before Easter in Denia. If I get evidence I will take action."

Capello wants to stay at Real but chairman Ramon Calderon has proved to be a less than easy boss to work with, placing pressure on Capello throughout a season that has seen the Italian turn the Spanish giants from a club in crisis with rifts in the dressing room to champions with an admirable team spirit that has seen them come from behind repeatedly during the latter stages of the season.

Former Real and Barcelona midfielder Schuster, meanwhile, has impressed as boss of the unfashionable suburban club, leading them to a top-half finish and the Copa del Rey final, and although while he has expressed an interest in one day managing Real he has insisted that nothing has been agreed.

"If anyone shows us a lack of respect they will have me as an enemy forever," Torres continued.

"Schuster tells me he has nothing agreed with Real but some board members over there think he is already in the bag."

"Calderon could have called to tell me it is only a press story, or alternatively that he is secured and that I should look for a new coach."

Kovac back to Juve

AFP, Zagreb

Croatia defender Robert Kovac has backed out of a deal negotiated earlier this month to play for Dinamo Zagreb, the club said Wednesday.

Dinamo "gave up on bringing Robert Kovac into its ranks because it could not meet his demands," it said in a statement.

According to local media, Dinamo could not guarantee to pay an agreed three-year contract worth six million euros (8.1 million dollars), even in case of possible injuries to the 33-year-old.

Dinamo's sporting director Zoran Mamic said last week that Kovac had agreed to play for the reigning Croatian champions after securing his transfer from Italian giants Juventus.

"I had a few demands and Dinamo did not meet them. Since this deal has failed, I am returning to Turin," said Kovac, adding his Juventus contract lasted another two years.

Mourinho taunts L'pool

Football

INTERNET, undated

Jose Mourinho has taunted Liverpool by claiming it is Chelsea who continue to make history in the English game.

Liverpool have sent Chelsea crashing out of the Champions League at the semifinal stage twice in the last three years and their fans taunt the Londoners by insisting the Blues have no real history.

But while Mourinho accepts they cannot compete with Liverpool's European heritage, he continues to point out that the Merseysiders have not won the

English title for 17 years and added that Chelsea made their mark in footballing folklore by winning the first FA Cup at the new Wembley.

Mourinho told the club's official magazine: "Liverpool fans can continue to chant 'no history' at us but we continue to make it."

"They have their history, we have our history. They are a club with a history in Europe that Chelsea doesn't have, and their history is magnificent, but I think for 17 years they don't win one championship and we won two in the last three years."

"Of the 12 pieces of silverware in English football in the last three years, Chelsea won six, Liverpool two, Manchester United two and

Arsenal two, so we won the same number of pieces of silverware that the other three clubs won all together. So I think we are going in the right direction."

"The FA Cup final was a special final, an historic one, more than a normal FA Cup final. It was also the end of a period when in three years, we won every competition in English football, so it was special."

"In the future a lot of people will do it but I was the first manager to lift the FA Cup at the new Wembley; John Terry was the first captain to lift it and so on."

"At that moment we made history and the way people celebrated was magnificent. A few days

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Tiago to join Juve

INTERNET, undated

French champions Lyon have revealed that Juventus are very close to signing midfielder Tiago.

The Bianconeri have been paired with the Portuguese star over the past few weeks after the player himself admitted that his time with the Ligue 1 outfit was over.

"We cannot say that a deal has been finalised, but that is only because there are a few details that still need to be clarified," said Lyon official Marino Faccioli.

"However, we can semi-officially say that Tiago will join Juventus."

Bianconeri director general Jean-Claude Blanc has also confirmed that negotiations are underway to bring the 26-year-old to the Stadio Olimpico.

"We are working on this operation and Tiago is moving closer to Juventus," he declared.

The international turned down the offer of a contract extension at Christmas and is valued at 12m pounds by chief Jean-Michel Aulas. Tiago, a reported target for Milan as well, joined Lyon in 2005 after appearing for Sporting Braga, Benfica and Chelsea.

The midfielder contributed to his club's record sixth straight league title last term and played an important role in the Portugal side that reached the semi-finals of last summer's World Cup.

Juventus are also on the verge of signing Empoli star Sergio Almiron, whose capture is expected to be announced shortly.

Morales hopes to meet Blatter

AFP, La Paz

Bolivia president Evo Morales said Tuesday he hopes to meet with FIFA chief Sepp Blatter next week in Zurich in a bid to overturn a ban on high-altitude stadiums being used for international matches.

World football's governing body introduced the new ruling last month, banning matches at more than 2,500 metres above sea level, citing its wish to better protect players' health.

The ruling has stirred up a storm in Latin America, led by Morales. He is president of a country whose capital La Paz is 3577m above sea level.

He said Tuesday: "We hope to meet with FIFA on June 27, but nothing has been officially confirmed yet."

Morales added that he would like to be accompanied at the meeting by the mayors of the cities of Cuzco (Peru), Quito (Ecuador), Bogota (Colombia) and La Paz, all of which are above 2500m altitude.

On Friday the South American football confederation (CONMEBOL) confirmed they will be calling on FIFA to temporarily suspend the ban.

"We will be asking FIFA to provisionally suspend the application of this measure until studies on the medical effects (of altitude) are concluded," CONMEBOL secretary general Eduardo Deluca said.

"Because up until two weeks ago

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Football

AFP, Madrid

AC Milan's Brazilian midfielder Kaka has not ruled out a transfer to Spanish giants Real Madrid, the player's spokesman said in comments published on Wednesday in sports daily AS.

"Kaka does not rule out a transfer to Madrid and I don't rule out that he will play there this year. He will be very happy either at Madrid or Milan," Diogo Kotscho told the newspaper.

Kotscho said talks between the two clubs would be very difficult but claimed that Real Madrid, who won their 30th Spanish title on Sunday, had "already made an offer that you don't refuse".

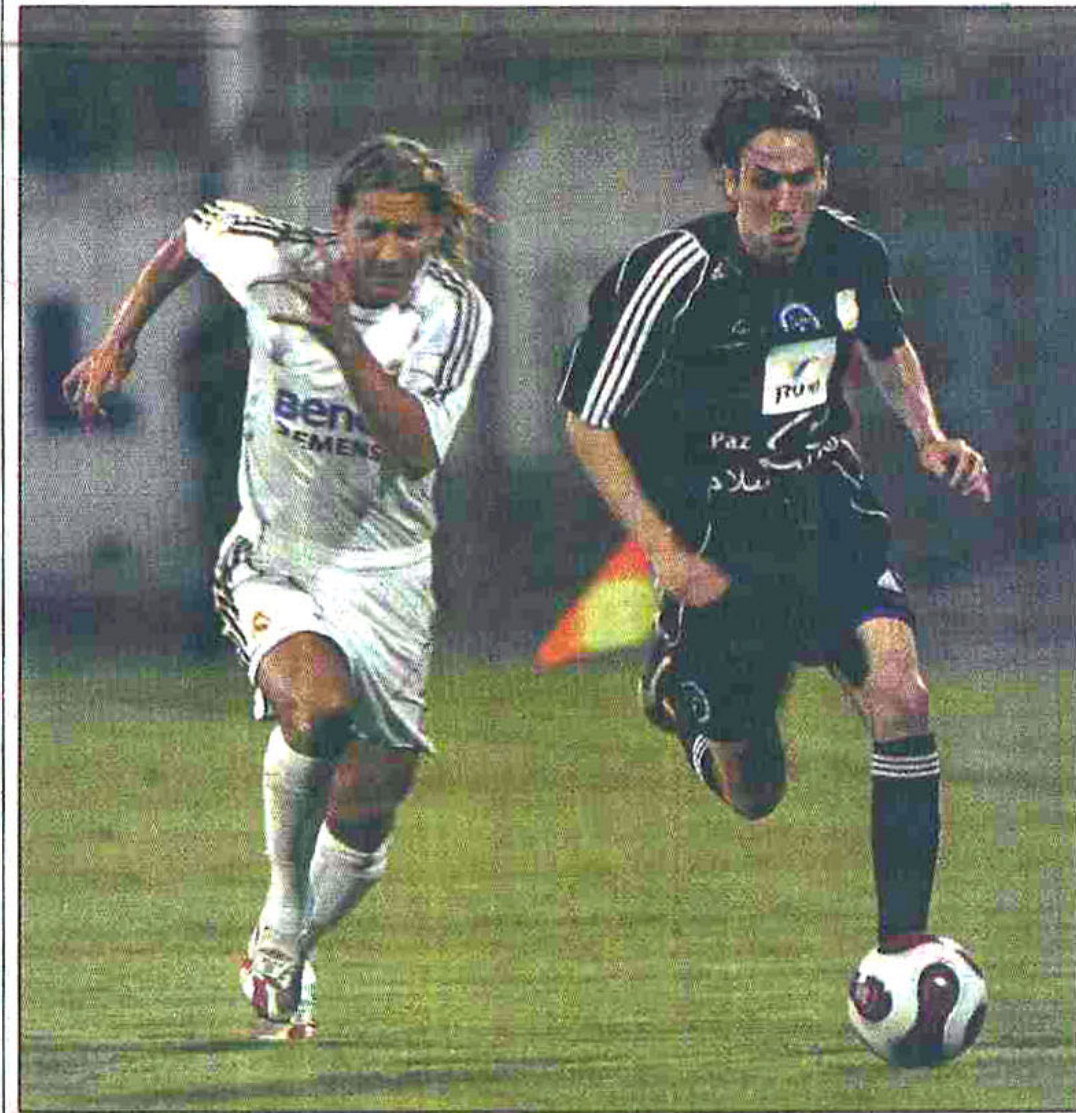
He gave no financial details, saying only it would be "the most expensive transfer in the history of football", topping the roughly 75 million euros Real paid Juventus to sign Zinedine Zidane in 2001.

Real Madrid president Ramon Calderon vowed to sign Kaka, who is under contract with Milan until 2011, as part of his campaign for the presidency of the club last year.

Spanish media have reported that Calderon is willing to pay 80 million euros for the Brazilian international, who scored 10 goals for AC Milan during the Champions League last season, the most of any player in the tournament.

"We've been working on new signings for the last three months," he told AS on Tuesday.

Real had signed German international Christoph Metzelder from Borussia Dortmund and "there are three more who are almost done", he added.



Real Madrid defender Michel Salgado (L) chases Mahmud Harbi Abu Shama of the Peace Team during the 'Peace Match' in Tel Aviv on Tuesday. The Peres Centre's Peace Team comprised players from both Palestinian and Israeli professional players.

Milan, Inter at war over Suazo

Football

AFP, Rome

City rivals AC Milan and Inter were involved in a bitter tug-of-war over Cagliari striker David Suazo on Tuesday, with both clubs claiming to have signed the Honduras international.

AC Milan issued a statement on Tuesday morning saying Cagliari had agreed to sell Suazo to them after a deal with Inter had fallen through, and that all that was left to resolve was the player's terms.

AC Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani said if they did snap up Suazo, the Champions

League winners were almost certain to drop their interest in Barcelona striker Samuel Eto'o.

"We have reached an agreement with Cagliari for Suazo, but the transfer is not yet complete as we don't have the player's signature," Galliani said.

"He is on holiday at the moment, and he may not want to come to Milan right now."

"If we close the deal for Suazo, it is highly unlikely that Eto'o will arrive this summer, and it will probably be the end of our buying."

Cagliari president Massimo Cellino, who last week said he had agreed to sell Suazo to Inter, performed a dramatic u-turn on Tuesday by confirming he had signed

him over to AC Milan instead.

"I've signed a deal with AC Milan," Cellino said.

"I have been trying to contact (Inter president Massimo) Moratti since Thursday, but I haven't been able to speak to him."

Moratti hit back angrily at Cellino, saying the Cagliari president had not tried to contact him.

"Suazo has signed for us," Moratti insisted.

"I see no reason for all of this as we had a deal. Cellino never called me, that's a lie. There is no justification for Milan's behaviour, either. But then, I know them well..."

Suazo, who was close to joining AC Milan a year ago, scored 14 goals

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



Brazilian supermodel Gisele Bundchen (L) presents an Ebel watch to French superstar Thierry Henry during a photocall in London, arranged to announce the luxury Swiss watch brand as the official partner for Arsenal.

PHOTO: AFP