



PHOTO: STAR

Sheikh Russel KC striker Effiong Duke (L) fights off pressure from a Brothers Union defender during their Bangladesh League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. The Cameroonian striker netted a 25-yarder in Sk Russel's 4-0 victory.

Muktis march on

SPORTS REPORTER

Grameenphone Bangladesh League 2010 The Muktijoddha Sangsads jugger-

naut continued unabated as they defeated hosts Feni Soccer Club 2-0 in their Grameenphone Bangladesh League encounter at Shaheed Salam Stadium in Feni yesterday.

The win takes the Reds to 38 points from 15 matches and opens up a three-point gap with the second-placed and defending champions Abahani.

The match also saw Sudanese striker James Moga taking a solo lead at the top of scorer's chart with 14 goals, one more than teammate Mithun Chowdhury and Twum Frank of Abahani.

Moga opened the scoring from a penalty in the 18th minute after Feni's Cameroonian defender Jean Eric Batamack handled the ball in the for-

bidden zone, leaving the referee to point to the dreaded spot. The Cameroonian also got marching orders for his offence.

Muktijoddha used their man-

advantage to good effect and scored a

second in the 73rd minute through

Russian striker Boris Kochikin, who did a simple task of stabbing in an inviting cross from Arman Aziz from close.

In the other match of the day at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra thrashed Brothers Union 4-0.

Sheikh Russel took the lead in the 33rd minute thanks to a gaffe from Brothers custodian Uttam Barua, who got hold of a Mezbabul Haque long-

range shot but eventually let it slip from his grips and watched the ball harm-

lessly roll into the net.

Three minutes earlier the goal-

keeper's blushes were saved when

defender Nahidul Islam cleared an

Effiong Duke shot from the goal line. The lead was extended 11 minutes into the second half when Duke, the Cameroonian striker, beat the outstretched hands of the keeper with a 25-yarder.

Thirteen minutes later Duke turned provider as he danced down the right flank to deliver a cross for Monaem Khan who placed the ball at the far post giving no chance to the keeper to react.

Russel came close to scoring a fourth in the 77th minute, but Mezbabul Haque's brilliant free kick rattled off the crossbar.

However, they did find a fourth in the stoppage time when Wahid Ahmed collected the ball at the edge of the box and chipped it over the keeper and into the net to provide the icing on the cake.

Sheikh Russel's win takes them to fourth position with 26 points from 14 matches while Brothers are in sixth with 19 points.

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Deccan stun Mumbai

Gale flays Knight Riders

AFP, Mumbai



Little known Anand Rajan grabbed two key wickets to help bottom-placed Deccan Chargers shock third-placed Mumbai Indians by 10 runs in an Indian Premier League match on Saturday.

The seamer removed skipper Sachin Tendulkar and hard-hitting Kieron Pollard as Mumbai finished at 125-8 chasing a modest 136-run target to suffer their fourth defeat in 12 games of the Twenty20 tournament.

In another match, West Indies opener Chris Gayle smashed a 12-ball 38 as Royal Challengers Bangalore posted a four-wicket victory over Kolkata Knight Riders.

Bangalore made sure of a place in the semi-finals with 17 points. They are followed by Chennai (16), Mumbai (16), Kolkata (14), Rajasthan (11), Punjab (10), Kochi (10), Pune (eight), Deccan (eight) and Delhi (eight).

Mumbai needed 26 to win in the last over but managed only 15 as Anand dismissed West Indies all-rounder Pollard (24 off 13 balls) with his fourth delivery.

Tendulkar's Mumbai

were under pressure after being reduced to 25-3 in the opening 5.3 overs, with paceman Ishant Sharma taking two wickets.

Rajan, playing his first IPL match, then got two wickets in one over, including that of Tendulkar who top-scored with 37.

Mumbai paceman Dhawal Kulkarni grabbed three wickets to restrict Deccan, with Shikhar Dhawan (27 not out), skipper Kumar Sangakkara (27) and Sunny Sohal being the main scorers.

Mumbai seamer Munaf Patel, who conceded 23 runs in the last over, and Deccan batsman Amit Mishra exchanged words. Mishra hit the bowler for four successive boundaries in the over.

Gayle earlier hit two sixes and six fours as Bangalore achieved a rain-revised target of 102 with three balls to spare in a 13-overs-a-side game.

He started aggressively, hitting Australian paceman Brett Lee for four boundaries in the opening over and then cracking two successive sixes in the next over bowled by seamer Jaidev Unadkat.

He fell in the third over attempting a big shot, caught by Jacques Kallis off

Lee. Kallis took two wickets for 16 runs in three overs.

Yusuf Pathan top-scored for Kolkata with 36, adding 53 for the fourth wicket with Manoj Tiwary (19 not out).

He hit three sixes and two fours in his 24-ball knock.

BRIEF SCORES: KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS: 89-4 in 13 overs (Pathan 36; Langeveldt 2-10)

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE: 105-6 in 12.3 overs (Gayle 38; Kallis 2-16)

Result: Royal Challengers won by four wickets (D/L method).

DECCAN CHARGERS: 135-6 in 20 overs (Dhawan 27 not out, Sangakkara 27, Sohal 20; Kulkarni 3-26)

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