

Sk Jamal edge Rahmatganj

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club notched their second successive victory in the Manyavar Bangladesh Premier League with a 2-1 victory over Rahmatganj MFS, despite a late scare courtesy of a strike and some enterprising moves from young forward Mannaf Rabbi.

The two-time champions, who came into this match on the back of a 4-1 thrashing of Farashganj, looked to be cruising with two goals in the bag within an hour at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, but a clinical strike from the 19-year-old Rahmatganj forward, Rabbi, and a couple of near-misses towards the end made way for some nervous moments for the Dhanmondi giants. In the end though Sheikh Jamal came out with three points -- no less than what they deserved -- to take pole position at this early stage of the league.

Sheikh Jamal coach Maruful Haque

opted to leave two of his regular starters -- winger Sohel Rana and centre-back Nasiruddin Chowdhury -- on the bench as Shakhawat Hossain Rony and Keshto Kumar were given a rare start. The shuffled eleven looked seamless, albeit a bit lethargic under the afternoon sun, as Sheikh Jamal held possession and created most of the opportunities in the first half. Left-back Yeamin Munna delivered two decent crosses in the second quarter of an hour, only to find those crosses

SHEIKH JAMAL 2 - 1 RAHMATGANJ

wasted by frontman Emeka Darlington. The deadlock, though, was broken right after the half-hour mark from a move through the right flank initiated by Mohammad Linkon. The former national-team defender swerved in a low-cross, which Keshto poked home before Rahmatganj goalkeeper Samiul Islam could get his hand to the ball.

Three minutes later, Haitian forward Wedson Anselme's clever dink

came off the crossbar before Rony's stifled attempt was blocked by Samiul. Sohel replaced a seemingly short-of-touch Rony at the start of the second half, while Nasiruddin came in place of Jamal Bhuiyan, much to the disgust of the central-midfielder. The game however continued to remain slow-paced, but when Emeka converted a spot-kick after being brought down in the box by Rahmatganj defender Sumon Dey, it looked like game, set and match for the Dhanmondi giants.

But Rahmatganj coach Kamal Babu brought on his trump card, Rabbi, who had denied Abahani three points with an injury-time strike. The 19-year-old tried an acrobatic volley from 30 yards out before reducing the margin in the 78th minute with a placed shot under Sheikh Jamal keeper Mazharul Islam Himel's legs.

Although Sheikh Jamal continued to attack, it was a miscued parry from Himel in stoppage time that could have set up another grandstand finish for Rahmatganj, but the ensuing shot from Mohammad Conte went awfully wide off target.



Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo (R) celebrates his opening goal with teammates during their Primera Liga clash against Eibar at the Bernabeu yesterday.

'I fear Villa more than Man City'

REUTERS, London

Manchester United manager Louis Van Gaal was more worried about playing Aston Villa than he feels about facing local rivals and champions Manchester City at Old Trafford on Sunday.

Third-placed United have won five successive Premier League games and eight of their last 10 to move above City in the table and victory in the 169th Manchester derby would extend the advantage over their neighbours to four points.

"On Sunday we have to wait and see if we can continue our good shape against City," Van Gaal told reporters. "I had more fear for Villa (who United beat 3-1 last week) than City because every player shall be motivated and want to win."

"Villa were more defensive but I don't expect City shall play as defensively as Villa did, and then you need a lot of focus and concentration on our defence."

Diego calls van Gaal the devil

DAILY MAIL

Diego Maradona has likened Louis Van Gaal to the devil over his treatment of misfiring Manchester United striker Radamel Falcao.

United thought they had pulled off one of the best deals of the summer transfer window when they signed Falcao on a season-long loan from Monaco.

The Colombian came to United with an impressive goalscoring record but, eight months later, he has found the net just four times for the club.

Falcao has been on the bench for the last five games and that has not gone down well with Maradona.

The former Argentina star, speaking at a press conference in Bogota, Colombia, to promote a charity match, criticised United boss Van Gaal for his handling of the two-time Ballon d'Or nominee.

"Van Gaal is not a nice guy," Maradona said when asked about the Dutchman's handling of Falcao.

"Van Gaal is closer to the devil than anything."

The Argentinian, who visited Old Trafford to watch United lose to Liverpool last year, believes the fact that Falcao has had to recover from a serious knee injury has made his adaptation to English football harder.

The 29-year-old was ruled out of the World Cup because of the injury he suffered in January and he has been hindered by a number of niggling problems since he signed for United.



Hamilton on pole

FORMULA ONE
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Ferrari, who are Ferrari? Lewis Hamilton sauntered to pole position for the Malaysian Grand Prix, nearly one second ahead of Sebastian Vettel's third-fastest Ferrari.

That said, Ferrari are stronger over a long run and may yet provide a threat to Hamilton's supremacy.

Hamilton was four-hundredths of a second ahead of his Mercedes teammate Nico Rosberg -- 'the blink of an eyelid', as he, the German described it. Rosberg will start second.

Vettel starts ahead of Williams pair Felipe Massa and Valtteri Bottas, with Ferrari teammate Kimi Raikkonen down in sixth place as he struggled in Q3, with his best lap in Q2.

Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo was seventh quickest ahead of the Lotus of Romain Grosjean, with Sauber pair Felipe Nasr and Marcus Ericsson performing superbly to claim ninth and 10th.

Suspension 'a farce'

AFP, Paris

Paris Saint-Germain's controversial Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic has hit out at his four-match suspension for an anti-French outburst last month.

Ibrahimovic, 33, received the ban for comments attacking France and its referees after the 3-2 defeat to Bordeaux.

Speaking on his personal phone app, Zlatan Unplugged, he was asked for his reaction to the league disciplinary committee's decision on Thursday.

"I was pleased as this proves what I have been saying. Now people can see for themselves, with their own eyes, instead of me just saying it.

"The whole situation has become a farce - ridiculous and unprofessional."

Sherwood haunts Spurs

AFP, London

Tim Sherwood returned to haunt former club Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday as Aston Villa improved their chances of avoiding relegation from the Premier League with a 1-0 away victory.

Christian Benteke scored the game's only goal, nodding in an inviting right-wing cross from Leandro Bacuna in the 35th minute to register his eighth goal in six games.

On his return to White Hart Lane following his sacking by Spurs at the end of last season, Sherwood saw his Villa side open up a six-point cushion over the relegation zone.

But victory came at a price for the Midlands club, with Ciaran Clark and Gabriel Agbonlahor, who hit the post, forced off by injury and Carlos Sanchez sent off in stoppage time after receiving two yellow cards.

Spurs' defeat saw them lose ground in the battle for European places, with Southampton moving two points above them -- and leapfrogging Liverpool -- by winning 2-0 at home to Hull City.

Real outclass Eibar

AFP, Madrid

Barcelona face a stiff test if they are to regain their four-point lead at the top as they travel to Sevilla later on Saturday.

Madrid boss Carlo Ancelotti had handed outings to Hernandez, Jese, Asier Illarramendi and Keylor Navas, making six changes from Wednesday's 2-0 win over Rayo Vallecano.

James Rodriguez and Toni Kroos were out suspended, whilst Gareth Bale missed the game through injury.

The hosts took their time to get going, but were only denied the opener in incredible fashion on 19 minutes as Sergio Ramos' initial shot came off the bar, Isco's follow-up effort then came off both posts and Hernandez was flagged offside as he fired in the rebound.

Madrid only had to wait four more minutes to make the breakthrough as Ronaldo's swerving free-kick flummoxed Xabi Irureta to end a run of 56 attempts at goal from free-kicks without scoring for the World Player of the Year.

The Portugal captain should have had a second moments later as he sliced Hernandez's fine low cross wide at the end of a lightning quick counter-attack from the European champions.

Hernandez then got the goal his performance deserved as the Manchester United loanee Alvaro Arbeloa's cross into the far corner.

Irureta made amends for his earlier mistake by making a fine save to deny Ronaldo low to his left just before half-time and also showed good hands to trap Luka Modric's volley soon after the restart.



Invitation to MTB Management Trainee (MMT) Program

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 - Minimum CGPA should be 3.25 out of 4.00 or 4.00 out of 5.00
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