

Jamal edge Russel

SPORTS REPORTER

A second-half strike from Landing Darboe powered Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club to a narrow win over title contenders Sheikh Russel KC in the Manyavar Bangladesh Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

With sixth straight wins, Sheikh Jamal are in pole position of the 11-team point table with 18 points, five ahead of second-placed Abahani and nine clear of sixth-placed Sheikh Russel KC, who suffered second defeat in five matches.

"I think we have completed only 30 percent of our job of retaining the title," said Sheikh Jamal coach Maruful Haque, who believed his charges came out of individual performances to play as a team which resulted in the win.

Sheikh Russel, despite playing without their two key foreign players -- Bojan Patrick and Kingsley Chigozie -- due to injuries, played comparatively better than their previous matches and exposed the Sheikh Jamal defence on quite a few occasions but were denied by the woodwork twice.

Within the first 25 minutes, Winger Zahid Hossain whipped in two nice crosses for striker Zahid Hasan Emily, who was first denied by the woodwork and then drove off target. With the half time approaching, the same striker received a nice cutback from Wali

Faisal, but his feeble drive failed to test Sheikh Jamal goalkeeper Mazharul Islam Himel.

Sheikh Jamal also showed character and launched some attacks from the right flank, with Landing putting ball in front of the goalmouth but there was no one to capitalise on it.

The Gambian midfielder finally capitalised on a Mohammad Linkon corner in the 56th minute as his bouncing header beat Sheikh Russel keeper.

Ten minutes later, the defending champions were denied by the woodwork as substitute Monaem Khan Raju's powerful shot from distance but rattled the crossbar.

Sheikh Russel came close to snatching a point one minute from time, but once again were denied by the woodwork as substitute Akeem Priestley's effort struck the crosspiece.

ABAHANI BOUNCE BACK
 Meanwhile, Abahani bounced back from their 0-2 defeat against Sheikh Russel with a 1-0 win over Brothers Union over Brothers Union in the second match of the day under the floodlights.

The decisive goal came in the 21st minute when Emon Babu squared the ball to Hungarian midfielder Gabor Demjen, who drove a left footed shot from outside the box to beat Brothers goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharjee.

The win lifted the Sky Blues to second position with 13 from six matches while Brothers remained at fourth position with previous 10 points from six outings.

SK RUSSEL 0 - 1 SK JAMAL
BROTHERS 0 - 1 ABAHANI



Sheikh Jamal's Gambian forward Landing Darboe celebrates his all-important goal against Sheikh Russel during their high-octane clash in the Manyavar Bangladesh Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Mission treble on

AFP, Berlin



Pep Guardiola has taken the first step towards winning the treble with Bayern Munich after he collected his fifth title with the Bavarians on Sunday and his 19th as a coach.

Bayern are German league champions for the 25th time and, with four games left, captured a third-straight Bundesliga title after Moenchengladbach's win over Wolfsburg on Sunday meant they cannot be caught.

PAST WINNERS

- 2015: Bayern Munich
- 2014: Bayern Munich
- 2013: Bayern Munich
- 2012: Borussia Dortmund
- 2011: Borussia Dortmund
- 2010: Bayern Munich
- 2009: VfL Wolfsburg
- 2008: Bayern Munich
- 2007: VfB Stuttgart
- 2006: Bayern Munich

Their 1-0 win at home to Hertha on Saturday was their 53rd win in 64 Bundesliga games with Guardiola as head coach since the 44-year-old took charge in July 2013.

"It is a huge title, the most important and the most honest," Bayern's director of sport Matthias Sammer told Sky.

"It was never a foregone conclusion we'd do it. The coach, his staff and the players have done amazingly well."

Bayern have conceded just 13 league goals so far -- the record is 14 -- and only their nearest rivals, Wolfsburg and Borussia Moenchengladbach, have beaten them in this season's league campaign.

Moreover, Borussia Dortmund, their main rivals in Germany over the last four seasons, were dispatched with a 2-1 win in Munich last November and a 1-0 win away earlier this month.

Having won the Bundesliga, domestic cup, the UEFA Super Cup and Club World Cup during his first year in charge, the Champions League and German Cup are Guardiola's next targets.

Torino stun Juve

AFP, Milan



Juventus will have to wait at least a few more days before they can celebrate winning a fourth consecutive Serie A title as Massimiliano Allegri's side lost 2-1 to city rivals Torino on Sunday.

Fresh from winning through to their first Champions League semi-final in 12 years after beating Monaco in midweek, Juve took their eye off the ball domestically and suffered a second defeat in three Serie A matches.

"All we had to do is be patient," Allegri said after Juve's first derby loss in 20 years.

"We were ahead, why would we run after that second goal? They had to open up and go for it. We had to force our nature when we shouldn't have."

"We didn't lose because of defensive mistakes. We lost because of the match management."

Andrea Pirlo put the visitors in front at the Stadio Olimpico with a trademark free-kick that went in off the bar 10 minutes before half-time, but Torino produced a tremendous fightback to claim a first win in the city derby since 1995.

Fabio Quagliarella was the hero for the Granata against the club he left last summer as he set up Matteo Darmian to equalise just before half-time and then netted what proved to be the winner from close range 12 minutes into the second half.

RESULTS

- Atalanta 2 (Gomez 43, Denis 90+3) Empoli 2 (Saponara 41, Maccarone 60)
- Genoa 3 (Bertolacci 38, Perotti 45+3-pen, Pavoletti 53) Cesena 1 (Carbonero 69)
- Lazio 1 (Klose 45+1) Chievo 1 (Paloschi 76)
- Torino 2 (Darmian 45, Quagliarella 57) Juventus 1 (Pirlo 35)
- Parma 1 (Nocerino 22-pen) Palermo 0
- Verona 3 (Juanito Gomez 30, Toni 63, 71) Sassuolo 2 (Moras 35-og, Floro Flores 89)
- Florentina 1 (Gilardino 74) Cagliari 3 (Cop 7, 59, Farias 90+2)
- Napoli 4 (Gabbiani 31, Higuain 34, 81-pen, Insigne 47) Sampdoria 2 (Albiol 12-og, Muriel 89)

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