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Five-star MSC move to 2nd

SPORTS REPORTER



Ismail Bangoura slammed a hattrick as Mohammedan Sporting Club thrashed Rahmatganj MFS 5-0 to move into second place in the Manyavar Bangladesh Premier League.

The Guinean forward, who had scored 15 goals for his former club Team BJMC last season, gave the Black and Whites a 2-0 lead within the first 26 minutes before wrapping up the victory in the 87th minute in the one-sided affair at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The three goals took the Guinean to eight goals in the campaign while giving his side a much-needed boost ahead of their crucial encounter against arch-rivals Abahani on Wednesday. Both Mohammedan and Abahani have 17 points from nine matches and are six behind leaders Sheikh Jamal with a game in hand in the first leg.

The Black and Whites, who came into the match on the back of two 1-1 draws - one against Brothers and the other against Sheikh Jamal - dictated terms from the beginning against their Old Dhaka neighbours. And their incessant pressure paid off when Bangoura volleyed home from close range after winger Jewel Rana had headed a cross to his path.

MOHAMMEDAN 5 - 0 RAHMATGANJ FENI SOCCER **BROTHERS**

The gangly Guinean soon doubled Mohammedan's advantage with a towering header before Jewel made it 3-0 on the half-hour mark with a delectable floating effort.

The young Mohammedan winger, who has been recently rewarded with a call-up to the preliminary national squad for his impressive form in the league, bamboozled the Rahmatganj goalkeeper with a left-footed diagonal shot which floated over a host of defenders before finding the top left corner of the net.

Mohammedan played in the same vein after the restart as Rahmatganj, who had earlier held Sheikh Jamal and Abahani to draws, struggled to get the ball out of their own half. The fourth goal came in the 76th minute with Tawhidul

Alam Sabuz finding the net with a stooping header. Bangoura then completed his hattrick with an easy tap-in on a cross from substitute winger Mobarak Hossain.

WALSON DOUBLE DRIVES BROTHERS

Bangoura's treble had put him on top of the scorers' list for two hours as Augustine Walson reclaimed the spot striking twice in Brothers Union's 3-1 win against Feni Soccer Club in the day's second match.

The Haitian sharpshooter, who was on seven goals alongside Enamul Haque of Muktijoddha Sangsad prior to yesterday's match, gave the Oranges a 29th minute lead with a placing shot before Azmal Hossain Bidyut equalised for the Feni side two minutes later.

Nigerian striker Kester Akon restored Brothers' lead in the 62nd minute with a clever chip over Feni keeper while Augustine put the final nail in Feni's coffin with another clinical finish in the first minute of stoppage time.



Mohammedan forward Ismail Bangoura (L) shrugs off the challenge from a Rahmatganj player during their Bangladesh Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

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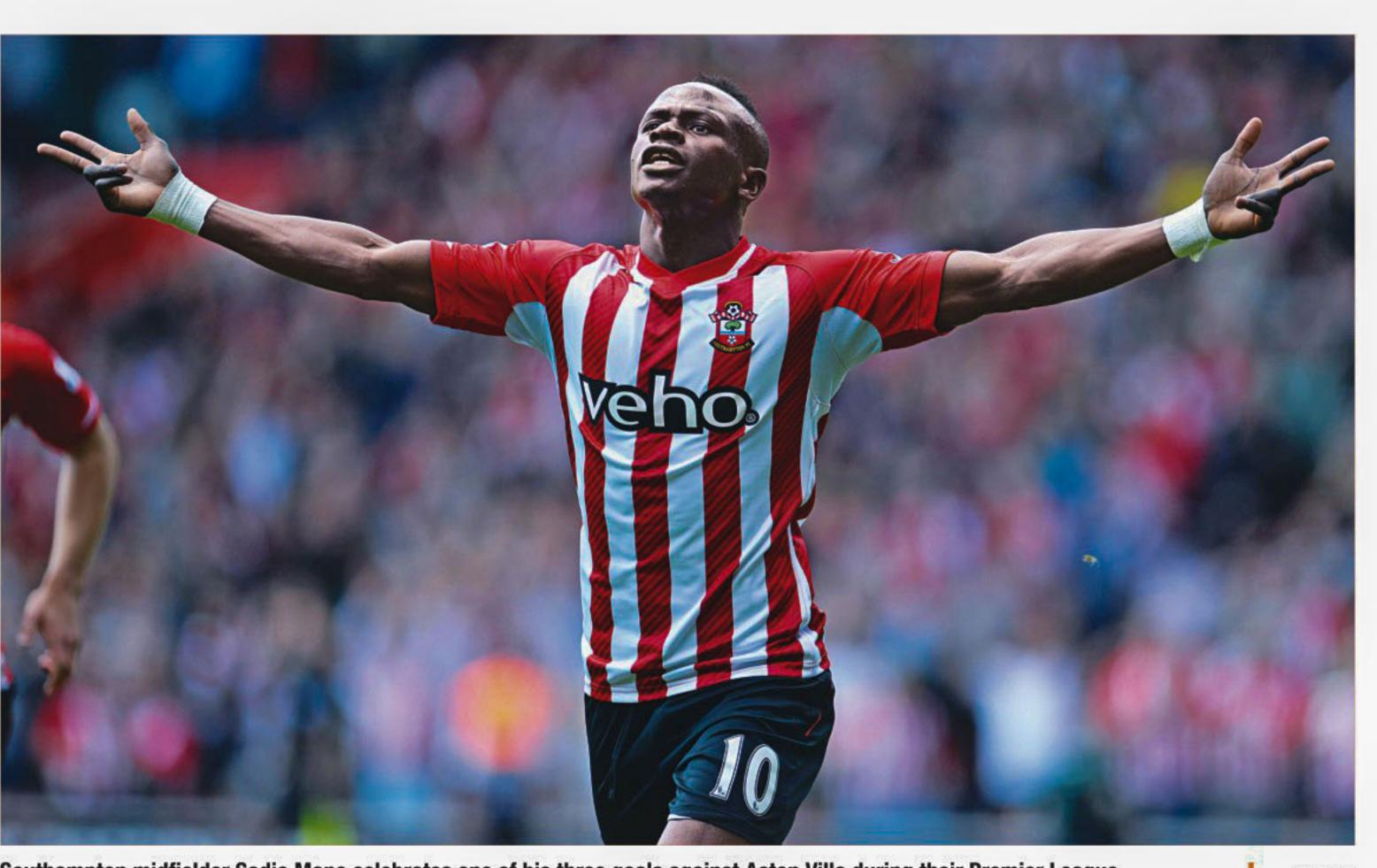
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Southampton midfielder Sadio Mane celebrates one of his three goals against Aston Villa during their Premier League encounter at St Mary's yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Mane scores fastest hattrick in history

AFP, Southampton



Southampton's Sadio Mane scored the fastest hattrick in Premier League history as the Senegal winger's astonishing spree condemned dismal Aston Villa to a 6-1

defeat on Saturday. The 23-year-old also set a new mark for the quickest post-war English top-flight treble as Villa's defence parted with alarming ease.

Although Mane made Premier League history, he couldn't break the record for the fastest ever hattrick in English football, which was set by James Hayter when he scored three times in two minutes and 20 seconds after coming on as an 84th-minute substitute for Bournemouth in their thirdtier match against Wrexham in 2004.

Irish striker Shane Long netted twice after Mane's treble to leave shell-shocked Villa trailing by five goals only 38 minutes into the match.

Graziano Pelle made it six late on and Southampton's scintillating display keeps them firmly in the hunt for a place in next season's Europa League.

Christian Benteke got one back for Villa in first-half stoppage time, but it was no consolation for Tim Sherwood's players, whose woeful capitulation cost them a chance to guarantee their Premier League survival. FA Cup finalists Villa remain four points

above the bottom three and will have to rely on other results if they are to be certain of staying up before the season's final round of fixtures next weekend.

Ronald Koeman's team were on course for their first win in five matches from the moment Mane struck in the 13th minute.

Mane took just two minutes and 56 seconds to demolish Villa at St Mary's and surpass the previous record of four minutes and 33 seconds set by Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler against Arsenal in 1994.

Mane, a £10 million (\$15.7m) signing from Red Bull Salzburg last year, latched onto Pelle's flick and held off the weak challenges from two Villa defenders before slotting into the net after a lucky rebound off goalkeeper Shay Given.

Just 84 seconds later he scored again after Ron Vlaar's sloppy backpass fell to Long, who helped the ball on for Mane to tap in. Fittingly, Mane's hattrick was completed

in more eye-catching style as he curled home from just inside the penalty area in to the most important the 16th minute.

made it four in the 26th minute, playing a defence-splitting pass to Pelle, who fed his strike partner for an easy finish.

With Villa in complete disarray, the fifth goal arrived in the 38th minute as Ashley Westwood conceded possession to Long and he caught Given off his line with a brilliant long-range strike.

Belgian striker Benteke headed home from Leandro Bacuna's cross in first-half stoppage time, but there was hardly a sign of celebration from Sherwood and his embarrassed players.

Gerrard devastated

AFP, Liverpool



Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard told supporters he was "devastated" about leaving the club during an on-pitch address after his final game at Anfield on Saturday. Gerrard, 34, will join the Los Angeles

Standard &

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Galaxy in July after almost 17 years at his home-town club and following a 3-1 loss to Crystal Palace, he paid an emotional tribute to Liverpool's fans. "It felt very strange. I've been dreading this moment. I'm

going to miss it so much," Gerrard told the crowd at a sunny, sold-out Anfield. "I've loved every min-

ute. I'm absolutely devastated I'm never going to play in front of these supporters again." He added: "I'd like to thank everyone at the club

who's helped me over the last 17 years. There are too many people to name. "I would like to thank all my team-mates, all the

ex-players. They've made me the player I am today. "I'll save the last thanks

people at the football Mane was involved again when Long | club. These supporters stand out more than any-

He was then interrupted by cheers and applause from the fans, before continuing: "Before I go, before the tears come, I've played in front of most supporters around the world, but let me tell you, you're the best."

Gerrard was joined on the pitch at the final whistle by his team-mates, all of whom wore shirts with his name and squad number, eight, on the back, before going on a lap of

He was earlier presented with a keepsake by former Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier, who handed Gerrard his debut against Blackburn Rovers in November 1998.

BPL by-laws violated?

SPORTS REPORTER

Rahmatganj MFS coach Kamal Ahmed Babu was expelled from the dug-out during his side's Bangladesh Premier League match against Mohammedan yesterday as widespread allegations over violation of league by-laws reigned over the one-sided affair.

The Rahmatganj outfit, which eventually lost the match 0-5, saw their coach being expelled on the halfhour mark for arguing with referee Jalaluddin against some confusing decisions regarding the playing conditions of the match. The rescheduled match, which was played for only seven minutes on Friday before being postponed due to inclement weather, started with a drop-kick from the eighth minute on the clock as per the by-laws of the league regarding matches which are postponed after kick-off.

But midway through the first half the referee and match commissioner Rafigul Ahmed decided to run the match for full 90 minutes, which caused confusion and protestation from the Rahmatganj coach, earning him an expulsion.

Later, both the referee and match commissioner admitted that the by-laws have been violated. The Rahmatganj coach

was also planning to protest against the referee's decision.

BSJA elects new office bearers

SPORTS REPORTER

ATM Sayeeduzzaman was re-elected unopposed as the president of the Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA) while Raihan Al Mughni was elected as the new general secretary when the elections of the association was held at its head office in Motijheel yesterday.

The polls, which followed the association's 15th biennial general meeting, also elected Aghore Mandal, Tarek Mahmud and Junate Hossain as the three vicepresidents and SM Sumon as the joint secretary of the new committee.

BSJA's former general secretary and veteran cricket coach Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury acted as the election commissioner.

