



Sheikh Jamal forward Solomon King Kanform celebrates one of his two goals against Brothers Union during their Bangladesh Premier League fixture at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

King takes Sheikh Jamal to top

SPORTS REPORTER

Ten-man Sheikh Jamal DC joined leaders Chittagong Abahani on top of the Bangladesh Premier League after notching a come-from-behind 2-1 win over Brothers Union at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Mohammad Biplob put Brothers Union ahead with a header in the 20th minute before Gambian forward Solomon King nodded home twice in the 54th and 68th minutes to push Sheikh Jamal to the top of the 12-team table alongside Chittagong Abahani on 19 points from seven matches.

After the second goal, Sheikh Jamal were reduced to 10 men as Enamul Haque received marching orders for a second bookable offence, leaving the control of the match to Brothers. The Oranges

were, however, denied of legitimate penalty by referee Jalal Uddin after Mithu Biswas was brought down inside the penalty area.

Earlier in the day, Rahmatganj MFS and Farashganj SC shared honours in the Old Dhaka derby by playing out a 1-1 draw in a lively encounter.

Mohammad Shamim gave Farashganj a first-half lead before substitute Mohammad Elias levelled the margin for Rahmatganj MFS in the second half of an entertaining encounter in front of some humbled spectators as the league resumed after the Eid-ul-Adha break.

Rahmatganj came into the match on the back of a creditable 0-0 draw against holders Abahani and they were supposed to dominate the game over Farashganj, who had suffered four straight defeats in the run-up to this game. However, it turned out to be a fiercely fought contest between the two Old Dhaka outfits.

Farashganj looked good on the

SK JAMAL	2	1	BROTHERS
RAHMATGANJ 1	1	1	FARASHGANJ
(ELIAS ST)			(SHAMIM ST)

pitch from the outset with their positive attitude, pressing on their old rivals, with Nigerian Chinedu Mathew forcing Rahmatganj goalkeeper Omar Faruk to a decent save from a close-range header in the 19th minute. However, two minutes later the goalkeeper failed to stop a dipping shot from Shamim, who let loose from the edge of the box after being set up by Mathew, who snatched the ball from a Rahmatganj midfielder on the centerline.

Rahmatganj stepped up and were deprived of an equaliser when Faisal Ahmed saw his 25-yarder come off the inside of the crossbar in the 39th minute.

Rahmatganj found a fortunate equaliser in the 51st minute when

substitute Elias tapped in from a scramble after Farashganj goalkeeper Ashim Das failed to grip an innocuous looking header from Ismail Bangura.

With the score locked at 1-1, both teams tried to get the match moving but Farashganj were deprived of restoring the lead when Mathew saw his attempt come off the woodwork in the 86th minute.

Rahmatganj could have killed off the match in the stoppage time but Faisal Ahmed failed to connect to a low cross from the right flank from shaking distance while from a counter-attack Omar Faruk failed two efforts from Algal Hossain and Tanhdir Zaman as the match ended 1-1.

With the first draw in seven matches, Farashganj stayed at the bottom with four points while Rahmatganj raised their tally to nine points from seven matches to stay at fifth position.

'BARTOMEU IS A JOKE'

Neymar labelled Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu a "joke" as the war of words between Barcelona's beleaguered board and the Brazilian star continued on Tuesday after Bartomeu claimed Barca would be better off without Neymar. With Bartomeu's handling of Barca's haphazard transfer policy being heavily criticised, he described the loss of Neymar as an "opportunity" for Barca to rebuild their midfield rather than pile resources into a superstar front of three Neymar, Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez. "The trident was very good but it had its consequences," Bartomeu told Sport. "It is an opportunity to return to the collective football in the middle of the field, which traditionally was Barca's strength. It is an opportunity, with a new coach, a new project. We need to stop being pessimistic." Bartomeu also criticised Neymar and his father and agent Neymar Sr's exit strategy. "This president is a joke," Neymar replied in a comment about the news on social media site Instagram.



Venus, Anderson into semis

AFP, New York

Seven-time Grand Slam champion Venus Williams became the oldest semi-finalist in US Open history at age 37 on Tuesday by defeating two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7/2).

US ninth seed Williams, seeking her third US Open crown, advanced to a Thursday matchup against 83rd-ranked compatriot Sloane Stephens for a spot in Saturday's final.

"I'm so fortunate to have won that match. It came down to the wire," Williams said. "I try to tell myself enjoy the competition, enjoy the battle and I think I was able to do that."

In the men's event, South Africa's Kevin Anderson reached a Grand Slam semi-final for the first time where he will face Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta who will also be appearing in his maiden last-four at a major.

Stephens, who missed 11 months with a left foot injury before returning at Wimbledon, matched her best Grand Slam showing by outlasting Latvian 16th seed Anastasiya Sevastova 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7/4).

"This is just incredible," Stephens said. "When I started my comeback at Wimbledon I could never have dreamed of

coming back and having these results. Incredibly."

Stephens has won 13 of her past 15 matches and matched her 2013 Australian Open semi-final run for best Slam effort.

Williams, who improved to 2-4 all-time against the Czech 13th seed, will return to the world top five for the first time since January 2011, a span that saw her diagnosed with the energy-sapping disease Sjogren's Syndrome.

Williams, the oldest Slam semi-finalist since Martina Navratilova at Wimbledon in 1994, won the 2000 and 2001 US crowns.

She was run-up this year at Wimbledon and the Australian Open and could reach three Slam finals in a year for the first time since 2002.

Kvitova battled back from a five-month absence after a knife-wielding home intruder injured her left hand last December.

"I'm glad I'm still able to compete on the high level against the top players which I hope will give me some confidence to continue to play well, to know that it's still there somewhere," Kvitova said.

If Americans Madison Keys and Coco Vandeweghe win Wednesday, they will produce the first all-American US Open semi-finals since 1981.



Venus Williams's renaissance year continued on Tuesday as she downed Petra Kvitova 6-3, 3-6, 7-6(2) to set up an all-American US Open semifinal against Sloane Stephens.

Korea, Saudi qualify Syria, Australia into playoffs

AFP, Tehran

Omar Al Soma's stoppage-time equaliser took war-torn Syria into Asia's World Cup play-offs on Tuesday, as South Korea and Saudi Arabia both booked their spots at next year's tournament.

Syria were 2-1 down against Iran and heading out when Al Soma threaded his shot through goalkeeper Alireza Salimi's legs in the third added minute, sparking wild celebrations.

The 2-2 draw means Syria now face Australia home and away, with the winner going into an intercontinental play-off.

On the final night of Asia's qualifying group games, South Korea drew 0-0 with Uzbekistan to reach their ninth straight World Cup, while Saudi Arabia joined them with a 1-0 win over Japan.

Fahad Al Muwallad's thunderous winner in Jeddah qualified the Saudis for their fifth World Cup, snatching the second automatic spot in Group B — and relegating Australia to the play-offs.

South Korea spurred several late chances

before settling for the 0-0 draw in Uzbekistan, grabbing the second automatic berth in Group A as their heartbroken hosts missed out.

Syria's heroics also extinguished China's faint hopes of reaching only their second World Cup, despite snatching a 2-1 win over 2022 hosts Qatar thanks to Wu Lei's late winner.

Earlier in Group B, Australia won 2-1 against Thailand but they will rue their failure to score more as they missed out on an automatic place on goal difference.

The United Arab Emirates also saw their dream die when they lost 1-0 to Iraq to finish fourth in Group B.

But there was jubilation in Tehran as Syria extended their dream run, after Tamer Mohamad and Al Soma became the only players to score past Iran in the final qualifying round.

Mohamad scored in the 13th minute before Iran equalised through Sardar Azmoun, who chested in a rebound on the stroke of half-time and then put the hosts ahead in the 64th minute.

Al Soma's heart-stopping goal had one Syrian team official in tears before the players hugged and celebrated at the final whistle.



Paris St Germain's new striker Kylian Mbappe said he joined "for the project" and not just to play alongside Brazil's talisman Neymar as the 19-year-old was unveiled at the Parc des Princes in Paris yesterday.

India win lone T20I to sweep Sri Lanka 9-0

AFP, Colombo

Skipper Virat Kohli hit a blazing half-century as India completed their run of Sri Lanka on this tour, winning the one-off Twenty20 by seven wickets in Colombo on Wednesday.

The visitors remained unbeaten in their nine matches against Sri Lanka as they won the Test and one-day series 3-0 and 5-0 respectively.

Chasing 171 for victory, India rode on a 119-run second-wicket stand between Kohli (82) and Manish Pandey (51 not out) to achieve their target with four balls to spare.

Kohli remained calm in a tricky chase with Pandey for company after India lost their openers for 42 runs in the sixth over.

Rohit Sharma fell to veteran paceman Lasith Malinga for nine and Lokesh Rahul was done in by a superb catch by Dasun Shanaka at short cover off Seekkuge Prasanna.

But Kohli took the attack to the opposition with 7 fours and a six during his 54-ball knock before falling to injury to Udana with India requiring 10 runs to win.

Pandey finished off the game with a boundary that brought his maiden T20 fifty in 36 balls.

Earlier leg-spinner Yuwendra Chahal played his part by claiming three wickets to restrict Sri Lanka to 170-7 after being put into bat first.

Dilshan Munaweera hit a 29-ball 53 before Ashan Priyanjan scored a run-ball 44 not out to lift the Sri Lankan total after a middle-order collapse.

Argentina, Chile stumble

AFP, Montevideo

Argentina and Chile's World Cup qualification hopes were left on a knife edge Tuesday after the South American heavyweights slipped up once again on the road to next year's finals in Russia.

Argentina needed a second-half own goal to help them snatch a 1-1 draw against already-eliminated Venezuela in Buenos Aires while Chile crashed to a 1-0 defeat against Bolivia in La Paz.

The results left 2014 World Cup finalists Argentina and reigning Copa America champions Chile outside of the automatic qualifying places and set up a nail-biting final two rounds of matches next up.

Argentina are fifth in the standings with 24 points from 16 games while Chile are sixteenth with 23 points.

The Argentinitians — who would face a playoff against New Zealand if they remain fifth — host fourth-placed Peru next month in Buenos Aires before an awkward final game at altitude against Ecuador.

Chile meanwhile will face Ecuador in Santiago on October 5, before heading to Brazil for their final qualifier five days later.

At the top of the table, Brazil have already qualified and assured themselves of first place. The Brazilians picked up another point on Tuesday with a 1-1 draw against

from Radamel Falcao.

In Buenos Aires, Argentina coach Jorge Sampaoli admitted his team had blown a golden opportunity to force themselves into the automatic qualifying places following Chile's defeat earlier in the day.

Sampaoli blamed poor first-half finishing for his side's failure to take all three

Venezuela's Jhon Murillo ensured that Argentina's bid to qualify for the 2018 World Cup would not get any easier as his strike saw the Albiceleste held to a draw.

Team	M	W	D	L	Pts
Brazil (Q)	16	11	4	1	37
Uruguay	16	8	3	5	27
Colombia	16	7	5	4	26
Peru	16	7	3	6	24
Argentina	16	6	6	4	24
Chile	16	7	2	7	23
Paraguay	16	6	3	7	21
Ecuador	16	6	2	8	20

third-placed Colombia in Barranquilla.

A spectacular volleyed goal from William Gonsky gave the lead on the stroke of half-time before Colombia claimed back a share of the points with a battling second-half display capped by a headed equaliser

points against the Venezuelans.

"We have two games left against Peru and Ecuador and we need to win both of them," Sampaoli said. "We had three chances to score in the first half and everything could have been settled."

"We must continue to fight in attack and give strength to the players."

Uruguay meanwhile moved to the brink of qualification with a typically combative 2-1 win over Paraguay in Asuncion.

Paraguay, riding high after a brilliant 3-0 win over Chile in Santiago last month, were left stunned by two opportunistic Uruguayan goals.

Federico Valverde fired Uruguay into the lead with a deflected shot on 76 minutes before Luis Suarez then broke clear to set up the visitors second.

The Barcelona superstar rounded goalkeeper Anthony Silva and then saw his shot hit the woodwork only to rebound into the net off Gustavo Gomez.

QUICK SINGLES

The following are a few samples of stories that did not make the print edition. However, if they pique your interest, you can always read them online on The Daily Star website by simply scanning the QR codes listed below.

Aurier lashes out at media
Tottenham Hotspur new recruit Serge Aurier says he got a rough deal from the media during his often controversial time at Paris Saint-Germain.

Mbappe says change of heart triggered PSG move
Kylian Mbappe revealed a change of heart prompted him to join Paris Saint-Germain from French champions Monaco in a deal poised to become the second most expensive transfer in history.

La Liga chief says PSG make mockery of system
Qatari-owned French side Paris Saint-Germain are 'laughing' at the financial fair play (FFP) system, a combative Javier Tebas, president of Spain's La Liga, said on Wednesday.

Mendes summoned over Ronaldo tax evasion case
Cristiano Ronaldo's agent, Jorge Mendes, has been summoned before a Spanish court as part of a probe into alleged tax evasion by the world player of the year, judicial sources confirmed on Wednesday.