



Bashundhara Kings' attacking midfielder Daniel Colindres (R) tries to skip past Mohammedan goalkeeper Ahsan Habib Bipu during their Federation Cup fixture at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Colindres, Kings show class

SPORTS REPORTER



World Cupper Daniel Colindres showed his class to help newcomers Bashundhara Kings notch a come-from-behind 5-2 win over Mohammedan SC in the Walton Federation Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Colindres, who represented Costa Rica at the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia, scored a goal and set up three more to give the big-spenders a winning start in top flight football.

The Kings were twice down but hit back in the exciting match where they fielded national team forward Mahbubur Rahman Sufil and winger Mohammad Ibrahim as full-backs.

Colindres was easily the most recognisable player on the pitch not only for his tall physique but also due to his brilliant performance. The 33-year-old midfielder not only dictated terms in the middle but also released final passes selflessly to feed others to score.

"I was a bit nervous initially because it was my first match here. I think I played better in the second half because we had a good idea about the opponents. We tried to keep calm and tried to improve our game," Colindres said after the match. "I tried to give my best to help Bashundhara Kings win. I said before that we have very good players like Emon, Jonny, Sufil, Ibrahim, Mitul, Matin and they provided me with good support in the match."

Kings coach Oscar Bruzon played

Sufil and Ibrahim as full-backs due to injury to Sushanta Tripura and ineligibility of Nasiruddin Chowdhury and Baktyiar Duishobekov. The defence was exposed on some occasions by darting runs from Mohammedan's Nigerian striker Kingsley Chigozie and Haitian Landing Darboe.

Mohammedan took the lead against the run of play when Landing tapped in a deflected drive from Chigozie in 18th minute before Colindres equalised from the spot after defender Mintu Sheikh brought down Ibrahim inside the danger zone in 28th minute.

Mohammedan restored their lead in the 66th minute, with Landing converting a spot-kick after goalkeeper Mitul Hasan

brought down Chigozie inside the box. But Bashundhara Kings restored parity five minutes later with Gotor

Blas firing home from inside the box following a free-kick from Colindres.

Toklish Ahmed was booked for the second time in the 74th minute, leaving Mohammedan with 10 men. The Kings took full advantage of the opportunity as substitute Matin Mia gave the newcomers the lead in the 78th minute with an angular shot before man-of-the-match Colindres set up Marcos Vinicius for the last two goals within two minutes inside the seven minutes of added time.

"I think many players made the difference. Colindres was superb, awesome and he had a beautiful performance," said Kings' Spanish coach Bruzon, who was however a bit worried about his defence.

MOHAMMEDAN 2 - 5 BASHUNDHARA KINGS
LANDING 18', 66'
COLINDRES 28', BLAS 71',
MATIN 78',
VINICIUS 90+3', 90+5

Sheikh Jamal down NoFeL

SPORTS REPORTER



National discard Shakhawat Hossain Rony scored in the second half to power three-time champions Sheikh Jamal DC to a 2-1 win over newcomers NoFeL Sporting Club in a Walton Federation Cup encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

This win in the season's first match means Sheikh Jamal have a great opportunity to qualify for the quarterfinals after newcomers

Bashundhara Kings imposed a heavy defeat on Mohammedan SC in the first match of the group. Both Sheikh Jamal and Bashundhara Kings have three points to top Group D.

Rony came in place of Didarul Islam at the start of the second half and justified the decision of coach Joseph Afusi with a clinical finish from inside the box on the hour-mark after the first half ended 1-1.

"It is always a good feeling for a striker when they score a goal. The goal also helps a striker get confident. We have an important match against Bashundhara Kings on November 1 and

I think this confidence will help me in the next match if I am given another chance to play," said Rony.

In the closely-fought encounter, Sheikh Jamal took the lead in the second minute of stoppage-time of the first half through last season's joint top-scorer Solomon King, who placed a square-pass from Sainey Bojan from outside the danger zone.

However, the lead lasted only two minutes as NoFeL SC hit back four minutes into the added on time through a strike from Ismail Bangoura.

SHORT CORNER

PSG equal European win record

Kylian Mbappe responded to being dropped by coming off the bench and scoring the opener as Paris Saint-Germain won 2-0 at Marseille on Sunday to make it 11 wins out of 11 in Ligue 1 this season and match a long-standing European record.

Mbappe was a shock omission from the PSG starting line-up by coach Thomas Tuchel, with broadcaster Canal Plus reporting the move was a punishment after the teenage World Cup winner showed up late for the pre-match team talk.

But he was sent on in the 62nd minute of 'Le Classique' for Eric-Maxim Choupo-Moting and scored the breakthrough goal just three minutes later, being released by Angel di Maria and racing clear to finish past Steve Mandanda.

It was Mbappe's 10th Ligue 1 goal this season, and Julian Draxler then wrapped up the victory in stoppage time. --AFP

Tributes, mourning for Leicester's Thai boss

Leicester City's Thai billionaire boss was among five people killed when his helicopter crashed and burst into flames in the Premier League side's stadium car park moments after taking off from the pitch, the club said on Sunday.

A stream of fans already fearing the worst had laid out flowers, football scarves and Buddhist prayers outside the club's King Power stadium after Saturday's accident in tribute to Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha.

"The world has lost a great man," the club said in a statement.

"Struggling to find the right words...but to me

you are legend, an incredible man who had the biggest heart, the soul of Leicester City Football Club," Leicester striker Jamie Vardy posted on Instagram.

"Thank you for everything you did for me, my family and our club. I will truly miss you.... may you rest in peace...#theboss". --AFP

Zlatan's Galaxy miss playoffs

Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic's Los Angeles Galaxy missed the Major League Soccer playoffs by losing Sunday while the triumphant New York Red Bulls captured the regular season crown in record-setting fashion.

The Galaxy squandered a two-goal half-time lead in their first home loss since May, a 3-2 defeat to the Houston Dynamo that allowed idle Real Salt Lake to claim the final Western Conference playoff berth on the closing day of the regular season.

The Red Bulls edged visiting Orlando City 1-0 on US midfielder Derrick Etienne's goal in the 53rd minute to grab their third Supporters Shield in six seasons with an MLS-record 71 points, two more than Toronto's old mark from last year. --AFP

Cocu sacked as Fenerbahce coach

Phillip Cocu on Sunday was sacked as coach of Fenerbahce just four months after taking over the Turkish side.

Cocu, who was appointed after leading PSV Eindhoven to three Dutch league titles, was axed after a latest defeat left the club struggling in 15th in the table.

"The team manager Phillip Cocu has been relieved of his job this evening," Fenerbahce announced in a statement.

The 47-year-old leaves with the team having mustered only nine points from 10 games. --AFP

A shrewd call and a steady start

SPORTS REPORTER



Dhaka Metropolitan skipper Marshall Ayub's move to declare their first innings on 59 for eight against Dhaka Division at the Shaheed Chandu stadium in Bogura yesterday was the highlight of the first day of the fifth round of the National Cricket League.

After being asked to bat on a wet pitch, Metro faced the music right from the start as they kept losing wickets in clusters. Mohammad Ashraful's 14 was the highest score for Metro as only three batsmen were able to reach double figures.



SALAUDDIN... 4 for 15

Leading the highly competitive Tier-2 table -- where four teams are equal in the win-loss-draw stakes -- with 20.59 points, Metro declared after just 29.3 overs were bowled in order to deny Dhaka (on 15.38) the 1.5 points that they would have gained if they dismissed nine batsmen.

Dhaka's left-arm seamer Salauddin Sakil was the wrecker-in-chief and bagged four wickets for just 15 runs from his 12 overs, which included six maidens, while Sumon Khan bagged three wickets.

Dhaka however made a strong reply and ended the day on 167 for three, compiling a lead of 108 runs. Opener Rony Talukdar was the top scorer with 86, hitting nine fours and three sixes in his 154-ball innings, while Saif Hasan added 49. Shuvagata Hom (9 not out) and Taibur Rahman (4 not out) will resume batting on the second day.

Left-arm seamer Qazi Onik picked up two wickets while left-arm spinner Arafat Sunny took the other wicket for Metro.

In the Tier 1 game at the Cricket Garden in Rangpur, the hosts rode on fifties from opener Rakin Ahmed and skipper Naeem Islam to end the

first day on 230 for five.

Right-hander Rakin faced 183 balls for his 79 before becoming left-arm spinner Sunzamul Islam's first of three wickets. Naeem however remained not out on 63 off 161 balls, which included nine fours, and will resume the second day with

Dhiman Ghosh (13 not out).

Meanwhile, the first day of the Tier-1 game between Barishal and Khulna in Barishal and the Tier 2 game between Chattogram and Sylhet in Cox's Bazar were abandoned due to rain without a ball being bowled.

HIGHLIGHTS

It came as a surprise when Dhaka Metropolitan skipper Marshall Ayub declared their first innings on just 59 runs with the loss of eight wickets in the first day against Dhaka Division. However, it was a rather calculative move from Marshall keeping the point factor in mind. Any opposition will get one-and-a-half points if they are able to pick nine wickets within the 100 overs of the first innings. Dhaka Division got one point for the eight Dhaka Metropolitan wickets they scalped on the first day and so, saving the half point by declaring early could play a crucial role on the Tier-2 points

table in the coming days. Team wins will reward eight points while a tie will provide four points to each side and a draw will give two points to each team. Bonus points will only count within the first 100 overs of the first innings for both sides.

Rain once again played foul on the first day of the fifth round of the National Cricket League. The Tier-1 game between Barishal and Khulna at the Barishal Divisional Stadium and the Chattogram-Sylhet tie at the Sheikh Kamal International Cricket Stadium were both abandoned without a single ball being bowled due to the poor weather.

SCORES IN BRIEF

RANGPUR V RAJSHAHI
RANGPUR: First innings 230 for 5 (Rakin 79, Mahmudul 36, Naeem 63 not out; Sunzamul 3-41)
DHAKA METRO V DHAKA DIV

DHAKA METRO: First innings 59 for 8 decl (Shamsur 11, Ashraful 14, Shykat 10; Salauddin 4-15, Sumon 3-32)
DHAKA DIV: First innings 167 for 3 (Rony 86, Saif 49; Onik 2-27)

Hamilton joins Fangio with fifth title

AFP, Mexico City

Lewis Hamilton claimed his fifth drivers' world championship on Sunday to draw level with Juan Manuel Fangio in the Formula One record books when he finished fourth behind a victorious Max Verstappen in the Mexican Grand Prix.

Hamilton's success - the third time he has taken the title without finishing on the race podium - elevated him to a supreme club alongside Fangio with only seven-time champion Michael Schumacher ahead of him.

He was adding the 2018 crown to his championship wins in 2008, 2014, 2015 and 2017. The 33-year-old Briton's only remaining championship rival Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari, who needed a victory, with Hamilton outside the top seven, to keep his hopes alive, finished second.

Julen's sacking looms

AFP, Madrid



Julen Lopetegui's brief and inglorious reign as Real Madrid coach could come to an end on Monday with the defending European champions tipped to appoint Antonio Conte as his replacement. Madrid were thrashed 5-1 by great rivals Barcelona on Sunday as Luis Suarez scored a hat-trick, surely sealing Lopetegui's fate.

According to Spanish media, Real directors are set to meet later on Monday afternoon, when Lopetegui's sacking could be confirmed.

He was named coach only 139 days ago, with his decision to accept the post costing him the chance to lead Spain at the World Cup.

But Madrid's dreadful recent run showed no sign of abating at the Camp Nou. They have now managed one win in their last seven matches, sit ninth in La Liga and earlier this month went more than eight hours without a goal.

Sports daily AS called the defeat a "lethal rout" on its front page on Monday, and it is a far cry from Sergio Ramos hoisting a third consecutive Champions League trophy in May.

After Sunday's game, Ramos pointedly stated that managing the dressing room at Real is more important than technical

knowledge. Some now believe, perhaps club president Florentino Perez included, that the team needs a firmer hand.

Zinedine Zidane and Lopetegui have both been keen to afford freedom to the players while Conte is seen as a demanding coach, meticulous in his tactical preparation and unrelenting when it comes to defensive organisation.

"I've always had a good relationship with all the coaches," Ramos said. "Respect is earned, it isn't imposed. Those are the coaches with whom we've won titles. Managing the dressing room is more important than the knowledge of a coach."

The finger of blame is not only being pointed at Lopetegui, with Perez also being criticised for his failure to sign a replacement for Cristiano Ronaldo after the Portuguese superstar departed for Juventus.

Conte is available after being sacked by Chelsea in July. He had led them to the Premier League title in 2017 in his first season, when a switch to a three-man defence was hailed as a brilliant, and decisive, strategic move.

But they finished fifth in his second year, when the Italian grew increasingly agitated and fractious. He criticised the club's transfer policy and fell out with Diego Costa, who was eventually sold to Atletico Madrid.



PHOTO: RAJIB RAHMAN

ZIM'S PREP DAMPENED

The first day of Zimbabwe's three-day practice match against a BCB XI at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium was washed out yesterday. Zimbabwe will take on Bangladesh in the first of two Test matches in Sylhet on November 3.