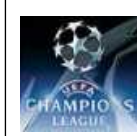




Kraigg Brathwaite fends off a rising delivery. The West Indies negotiated England's pace attack with aplomb after a record six-for from skipper Jason Holder (Inset) had bundled the hosts out for 204 in the first innings of the first Test. PHOTO: REUTERS

Barca, Bayern on collision course

AFP, Paris



Barcelona and Bayern Munich will meet in the quarterfinals of the UEFA Champions League should both sides make it through, Friday's draw for the final eight confirmed.

Both teams still need to complete their last-16 ties, with Bayern almost there having won 3-0 away to Chelsea in the first leg, while Barcelona are due to host Napoli after a 1-1 draw in Italy.

Meanwhile, if Manchester City can finish the job against Real Madrid, Pep Guardiola's team will go on to a quarter-final against either Juventus or Lyon. City won 2-1 in Madrid in the first leg in March, while Juventus must overturn a 1-0 deficit from the first leg of their last-16 tie against Lyon.

Postponed in March as the pandemic took over, all remaining last 16 second legs are due to be played on August 7 and 8.

The winners will advance to the Final Eight, which will be held as a unique straight knockout tournament in Lisbon due to the difficulties caused by the coronavirus.

The draw threw up the possibility of a Clásico semi-final, with Barcelona and

Madrid on collision course to meet in the last four should both make it that far.

The other side of the draw is clearer. First-time quarter-finalists RB Leipzig will meet Atletico Madrid. Atletico knocked out holders Liverpool in the last 16.

The winners of the Leipzig v Atletico quarter-final will face either Paris Saint-Germain or Atalanta in the last four.

The quarter-finals will be played between August 12 and 15 in the Portuguese capital, with matches shared between Benfica's Estadio da Luz and Sporting's Estadio Jose Alvalade.

The semi-finals are scheduled for August 18 and 19, with the final on August 23 at the Estadio da Luz.

All games are set to be played without spectators after UEFA confirmed on Thursday that "matches should take place behind closed doors until further notice" because of the uncertain health situation around Europe.

The situation in Lisbon itself is particularly concerning, with lockdown restrictions reimposed last week on 19 neighbourhoods across the northern periphery of the city as virus cases increase at a worrying rate.



Paul Pogba (L), Bruno Fernandes (R) and Mason Greenwood got their names on the scoresheet as Manchester United thrashed Aston Villa 3-0 on Thursday, becoming the first team in Premier League history to win four consecutive games by at least a three-goal margin and extending their unbeaten streak to 16. PHOTO: REUTERS

With five-for in the bag, Holder eyes a hundred

AFP, Southampton



West Indies captain Jason Holder said "my Test is far from over" after he rocked England with a career-best six-wicket haul on the second day of the series opener at Southampton on Thursday.

Holder, the world's top-ranked all-rounder, took 6-42 as England were dismissed for 204 to surpass his previous Test-best of 6-59 against Bangladesh at Kingston two years ago.

It was the sixth time in his last 10 Tests that the towering paceman had taken five or more wickets in

an innings, with Thursday's return including the prize scalp of rival all-rounder and stand-in England captain Ben Stokes.

West Indies have not won a Test series in England since 1988 but they hold the Wisden Trophy after a 2-1 success in the Caribbean last year -- when Holder made an unbeaten double century in an opening win at his Barbados home ground.

"I have done a good job so far but my Test is far from over," Holder told reporters after bad light forced an early close with West Indies 57-1, a deficit of 147 runs.

"I have a massive contribution to make with the bat," the 28-year-old added.

Holder had been struggling with

an ankle injury in the lead-up to the series -- the first Test campaign since lockdown -- but still troubled England with his accuracy and late movement.

He also led from the front. West Indies had twice dropped Stokes, second in the Test all-rounder rankings, before Holder had him caught behind for 43, the top score of the innings, to end a stand of 67 with Jos Buttler (35).

"It was a big wicket to get," said Holder. "We put down two chances and he was looking to make us pay."

"His partnership with Jos was starting to blossom into something that could really hurt us."

"But I was getting just enough movement to keep him at bay, keep

him playing and eventually got the edge."

Holder added he had a particular reason for wanting to do well in England this time.

"I really wanted to get on the honours board at Lord's," Holder said.

"We were scheduled to play there but then due to COVID they shuffled it around," he added of a series where the bio-secure grounds of the Ageas Bowl and Old Trafford, the venue for the last two Tests, are being used instead.

"One of the things I have always strived to do is to score a hundred in England and get a five-wicket haul. I've ticked one box, now it's time to knuckle down and get a hundred."

Henry kneels for 8 mins 46 seconds

REUTERS

Montreal Impact manager Thierry Henry took a knee for eight minutes and 46 seconds at the start of their Major League Soccer game against New England on Thursday to show his support for the campaign against social injustice. He also wore a T-shirt with the slogan "Black Lives Matter".

"Well I sat for eight minutes and 46 seconds, I guess you guys know why. So that was just to pay tribute and show support to the cause, that was basically it and pretty simple," Henry said.

Impact lost 1-0 in Thursday's game, their opener in the "MLS is Back" tournament.



Montreal Impact manager Thierry Henry took a knee for eight minutes and 46 seconds at the start of their Major League Soccer game against New England on Thursday. PHOTO: MLS

Only BAF, BSSF ready to hold training

SPORTS REPORTER

While the Bangladesh Cricket Board and Bangladesh Football Federation are making their own plans for the resumption of national training, most indoor sports disciplines are not yet in position to resume amidst the coronavirus pandemic.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Zahid Ahsan Russel on Thursday sat with higher-ups of seven federations and one association to judge the possibility of resuming activities, which have been halted since mid-March. Russel agreed to resume training in contactless sports, subject to health ministry clearance, after exchanging opinions with officials of archery, shooting, swimming, handball, volleyball, karate, taekwondo and the women's sports association.

So far, only the archery and shooting federations have shown eagerness to resume training as their athletes are due to take part in the Tokyo Olympics next year.

Bangladesh Archery Federation general secretary Kazi Razibuddin Ahmed Chapal said: "We are completely ready to resume the national camp within a week if the sports ministry gives us the go-ahead because we

have already prepared our training plan in light of recommendations from the WHO, World Archery and local health guidelines."

"Despite the pandemic, India started their training camp. South Korea and Thailand completed their national championships while China has also started training," said Chapal, adding that they wanted to start the camp with 12 to 16 archers at the Shaheed Ahsan Ullah Master Stadium in Tongi.

Although Bangladesh Shooting Federation general secretary Intekhabul Hamid could not be reached, Chapal informed Hamid was positive at the meeting about the resumption of shooters' training.

Officials of the swimming, handball, volleyball and karate federations told this reporter that they were not ready to resume activities due to challenges in maintaining sanitary measures.

"There is no environment to resume because it is tough to maintain health measures. However, swimmers Arifun Islam and Junayna Ahmed are training abroad," said Bangladesh Swimming Federation general secretary BM Saif, who was eager to resume national training on a small scale.

Bangladesh Handball Federation general secretary Asaduzzaman Kohinooor said: "208 countries play handball across the world and no country has resumed yet. Besides, parents will not allow children to take part in such a situation. So we want to wait but we have arranged different courses for coaches and judges maintaining social distance."

"Volleyball is a contact sport. At the moment, we are not in a position to start the game. Besides, we don't have any hurry with having no international meets. Construction work is still going on at our venue, so we will restart once the situation is normal," Bangladesh Volleyball Federation general secretary Ashikur Rahman Miku said.

"If we start training or tournaments at the moment, we can't control the spread of coronavirus because karatekas will come from across the country. But if the government provide us with facilities, then we think of resuming with a residential camp for the national team on a small scale," said Bangladesh Karate Federation vice-president Moazzem Hossain Sentu, adding that Taekwondo wanted to stage demonstrations, which had no contact.

Marega apologises for moment of madness

REUTERS

Porto striker Moussa Marega apologised for kicking the ball away and remonstrating with teammates after not being allowed to take a late penalty in the 3-1 win at Tondela on Thursday that took his side closer to claiming the Portuguese title.

"Sorry for my behaviour. Now we need one win to become champions," he said on social media after scoring in the victory which put his club within touching distance of the title.

Marega scored the second goal, setting the move up himself after winning possession in his own half and then sprinting onto the end of a searching midfield pass for an expert finish.

But he was angry near the end of the game after

being fouled to earn a penalty. When he got up to take the kick, instructions came from the Porto bench for Fabio Viera to take it instead.

Mali international Marega then picked up the ball and hoofed it away in a petulant display of anger. Porto coach Sergio Conceicao insisted afterwards that the issue had been quickly resolved.

"Marega is a great professional. He works a lot. One moment does not make him less of a good player," he said.

"Everything is resolved, there is no issue, there was a misunderstanding before the penalty was taken. I have already settled it with the squad in the dressing room," he added.

The victory, followed by a draw for second-placed Benfica at Famalicao later on Thursday, means Porto need one more point to guarantee winning the league given their head-to-head record.



Professional cricket may still be sometime away from a return in Bangladesh, but cricket as a means of leisurely recreation has already made it to the parks -- like this one at the Suhrawardy Udyan -- and alleys and terraces despite the scourge of Covid-19. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Fans to return in Germany in autumn?

REUTERS, Berlin

German football fans may be able to return to stadiums to cheer on their heroes in national team and Bundesliga matches soon, the German Football Association (DFB) and the German football league (DFL) said on Friday.

DFB Secretary General Friedrich Curtius said in a statement that he expects that the association will develop a concept that will allow the German national team to play in front of spectators at home games this autumn.