

RESULTS

Anzhi Makhachkala (RUS) 2 (Samba 72, Eto'o 75) Udinese (ITA) 0
Liverpool (ENG) 2 (Shelvey 33, Cole 72) Young Boys (SUI) 2
(Bobadilla 52, Zverotic 88)
Academica Coimbra (POR) 1 (Edinho 88-pen) Viktoria Plzen (CZE) 1 (Horvath 57-pen)
Atletico Madrid (ESP) 1 (Raul Garcia 7) Hapoel Tel-Aviv (ISR) 0
Marseille (FRA) 0 **Fenerbahce (TUR) 1** (Irtegun 40)
Moenchengladbach (GER) 2 (De Camargo 79, 90+1) AEL Limassol (CYP) 0
Club Brugge (BEL) 1 (Lestienne 86)
Bordeaux 2 (Jussie 3, 39)
Newcastle (ENG) 1 (Marveaux 23)
Maritimo (POR) 1 (Fidelis 79)
Molde (NOR) 1 (Chukwu 62) **FC Copenhagen (DEN) 2** (Santini 21-pen, Gislason 76)
Steaua Bucharest (ROM) 1 (Costea 83)
VfB Stuttgart (GER) 5 (Tasci 5, Harnik 18, Sakai 23, Okazaki 31, 55)
AIK Solna (SWE) 1 (Danielsson 35)
Napoli (ITA) 2 (Dzemaili 20, Cavani 90+4-pen)
PSV Eindhoven (NED) 1 (Wijnaldum 18)
Dnipro Petrovsk (UKR) 2 (Seleznov 24, Konoplyanka 74)
Basel (SUI) 3 (Schar 23, Stocker 66, Degen 70) Sporting Lisbon (POR) 0
Videoton (HUN) 0 **Genk (BEL) 1** (Barda 19)
Neftci PFK (AZE) 1 (Flavinho 10)
Partizan Belgrade (SRB) 1 (Mitrovic 67)
Rubin Kazan (RUS) 3 (Karadeniz 1, Rondon 87, 90+3) Inter Milan (ITA) 0
Hapoel Kiryat Shmona (ISR) v Athletic Bilbao (ESP) - postponed
Sparta Prague (CZE) 1 (Husbauer 53)
Lyon (FRA) 1 (Benzia 46)
Lazio (ITA) 0 Tottenham (ENG) 0
Panathinaikos (GRE) 1 (Vitolo 67-pen) Maribor (SLO) 0
Metalist Kharkov (UKR) 2 (Cristaldo 46, Xavier 85) Bayer Leverkusen (GER) 0
Rosenborg (NOR) 3 (Chibuike 28, Elyounoussi 76, Prica 79) Rapid Vienna (AUT) 2 (Schrammel 53, Boyd 66)

Mark set for EPL return

AFP, London

Referee Mark Clattenburg will return to action this weekend after being cleared of racially abusing Chelsea's John Obi Mikel, the Premier League announced on Friday.

The 37-year-old official will take charge of the match between Tottenham Hotspur and West Ham United at White Hart Lane on Sunday. He will also referee the game between Southampton and Norwich City on Wednesday next week.



Channel 9

Bangladesh v West Indies

Second Test, Day 4

Live from 9:30am

ESPN

Australia v South Africa

Second Test, Day 3

Live from 6:00am

English Premiership

Sunderland v West Bromwich

Live from 6:45pm

Man United v QPR

Live from 9:00pm

Aston Villa v Arsenal

Live from 11:30pm

STAR Cricket

India v England

Second Test, Day 2

Live from 10:00am

STAR Sports

Primera Liga

Valladolid v Granada

Live from 11:00pm

Malaga v Valencia

Live from 1:00am (Sunday)

DAY'S EVENT



Bangladesh v West Indies

Second Test, Day 4

Time: 9:30am

Venue: Sk Abu Naser Stadium, Khulna

Bangladesh Premier League

Arambagh v Abahani

Time: 5:00pm

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

National Cricket League

(Four-day match, Day-2)

Rajshahi v Dhaka Metro

Venue: Rangpur Cricket Garden

Khulna v Sylhet

Venue: Shaheed Kamaruzzaman Stadium, Rajshahi

Chittagong v Dhaka

Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagong



Young Boys goalkeeper Marco Wolfl (L) saves a shot from Liverpool forward Joe Cole during their Europa League encounter at Anfield on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

L'pool made to wait Messi nears goal record

AFP, Paris



Five-time European champions they may be but Liverpool must wait before they can take their place in the last 32 of the Europa League after allowing Swiss side Young Boys to draw 2-2 at Anfield on Thursday.

A much-changed Liverpool side - coach Brendan Rodgers left Luis Suarez and Steven Gerrard on the bench to begin with - let the Swiss off the hook after Jonjo Shelvey and the recalled Joe Cole had scored to sandwich a riposte from Raul Bobadilla.

With just two minutes remaining Elsad Zverotic had the 2,500-strong visiting contingent on their feet as he thrashed a fine strike past Pepe Reina, the Spaniard beating Ray Clemence's European goalkeeping appearances record in Europe in his 81st game.

The draw means Liverpool may need to win their final game at Udinese as Young Boys joined the Merseysiders on seven points.

Russia's Anzhi Makhachkala are already through from Group A after

Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o scored in a 2-0 success over Udinese.

Tottenham could only draw 0-0 at Lazio - who qualify - meaning they also have to gain a point in their final game at home to Panathinaikos, who trail the Londoners by two points.

Another English Premier League side, Newcastle, did book their passage, however, despite being held to a 1-1 draw at home by Portugal's Maritimo after Fidelis levelled Sylvain Marveaux's opener for the Magpies.

Bordeaux of France join Newcastle in the hat for the last 32 after a 2-1 win at Belgium's Brugge.

Joey Barton finished on the losing side as Marseille of France went down 1-0 at home to Fenerbahce of Turkey, who win Group C while Borussia Moenchengladbach also advanced after seeing of Cypriot side AEL Limassol 2-0.

Holders Atletico Madrid and Viktoria Plzen are through from Group B after a win over Israel's Hapoel Tel Aviv and a draw at Coimbra respectively and Group F is cut and dried with Dnipro Petrovsk and Napoli through, PSV Eindhoven losing out.

Group H sees Rubin Kazan advance with former European champions Inter Milan, despite the latter going down 3-0 in Russia.

AFP, Madrid



Superstar Lionel Messi, having taken his 2012 goals tally to 80 in midweek, can close in on German great Gerd Mueller's all-time record of 85 in a calendar year on Sunday.

The Argentinian had already surpassed Pele's total of 75 goals in 1958 and a double at Spartak Moscow on Tuesday, when Barcelona secured their spot in the Champions League last 16, further boosted his hopes.

With his La Liga-leading side travelling to Levante on Sunday, Messi now has eight matches left before the Christmas break in which to break Mueller's record of 85 goals in 1972.

"Everyone says I'm very competitive, I do plan my objectives year by year to keep improving and to win again all we have won before," Messi said.

"I just like to train, play and win. I've been like that since I was young, but without my colleagues I would

not achieve anything, they deserve all the credit."

Levante will be a difficult place to go for Barca as Real Madrid can vouch after scraping a late 2-1 win there two weekends ago.

A 2-0 win at Deportivo La Coruna last weekend saw Levante move into

FIXTURES

Saturday

Rayo Vallecano v Mallorca (1500 GMT), Valladolid v Granada (1700 GMT), Malaga v Valencia (1900 GMT), Betis v Real Madrid (2100 GMT)

Sunday

Espanyol v Getafe (1100 GMT), Athletic Bilbao v Deportivo (1800 GMT), Atletico Madrid v Sevilla (1800 GMT), Levante v Barcelona (2000 GMT)

Monday

a Champions League position in fourth, and in Obafemi Martins they have pace that Barca will be wary of.

The Nigerian ex-Newcastle and Inter Milan striker has hit five goals in eight league games this season since his summer move from Rubin Kazan.

Second-placed Atletico Madrid entertain Sevilla just before Barca

play, knowing that a win will pile pressure on Messi and his team mates.

There are three points between the two sides who have both made record-breaking starts to the season.

Barca have dropped only two points to date in the 2-2 draw with Real Madrid, while Atletico have let just five slip.

Atletico have won every home game but Sevilla arrive in the capital full of confidence after the 5-1 thrashing handed to their local rivals Betis last Sunday.

Sevilla midfielder Javi Hervas is clear his side must forget that triumph.

"We have to go out like that in all games and if we do it at Atletico we can break their record. They have lots of good players, not just Falcao, and they play at a great pace, but we'll go there to win," he said.

Meanwhile, chasing hard in third position, eight points behind Barca, are Real Madrid who go to Real Betis on Saturday on the back of five straight league wins.

'Pele got lucky'



Football

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Late Brazil star Garrincha believed contemporary great Pele got lucky as he had such a brilliant ensemble playing alongside him in his glory years, it emerged in an interview published Thursday -- decades after the former's death.

Garrincha, nicknamed O Anjo de Pernas Tortas (The Angel With Bent Legs) owing to a spine deformity and a left leg which was shorter than his right, gave the interview in 1981, 18 months before his death, to Argentine reporter Carlos Bikic.

Only an abridged version ever saw the light of day -- in Japan -- and it is only now it has been published in Brazil in a report by ESPN magazine.

Asked if Pele was the best ever, Garrincha, who struggled first for recognition owing to his deformity and then with alcoholism, said - with certain understatement: "He was a good player (but) he was lucky. He scored goals and was lucky as he also had good people alongside him to pass him the ball."

Garrincha, who starred with Pele in Brazil's first World Cup victory in 1958, suffered from alcoholism and died aged just 49 but is recognised as past master of the dribble.

At the time of his interview he said he had worked on beating his drink problem drinking "a lot of coffee" and guarana juice.

"For a while I had a hell of a pain in the stomach. To get a bit better I lay face down on the cold concrete. The doctor told me I couldn't drink again and now I only drink guarana."

Garrincha's father also had a drink problem and the star said: "If I see someone drinking cachaca (a popular Brazilian liquor) I yell at him that's drinking poison."

He convinced himself that "I am not addicted" to drink - but died of cirrhosis of the liver on January 19, 1983, after falling into an alcoholic coma.

Garrincha, believed to fathered at least 14 children, spent his later years coaching disadvantaged children and drew a stipend from the Brazilian Football Confederation.

Benitez's baptism of fire

AFP, London



Rafael Benitez began his reign as Chelsea interim manager insisting working with Roman Abramovich will be "easier" than the US ownership duo of George Gillett and Tom Hicks he knew at Liverpool.

Benitez arrived at Chelsea on Thursday and so became the club's ninth manager in just over eight years under the ownership of Russian billionaire Abramovich.

Former Liverpool coach Benitez, 52, is only under contract until the end of the current season after replacing Roberto di Matteo,

sacked on Wednesday after European champions Chelsea lost 3-0 at Juventus in the Champions League.

Chelsea's rapid turnover of managers under Abramovich has long been a topic of discussion in English football.

But Benitez, who on Thursday had still to meet the Blues owner, said the experience could not be worse than the difficult relationship with Gillett and Hicks that led to the Spaniard's departure from Liverpool two

FIXTURES

(1400GMT unless stated)

Saturday

Aston Villa v Arsenal (1730GMT), Everton v Norwich, Manchester United v QPR, Stoke v Fulham, Sunderland v West Brom (1245GMT), Wigan v Reading

Sunday

Swansea v Liverpool (1330GMT), Southampton v Newcastle, Chelsea v Manchester City (1600GMT),

years ago.

"If you have two bosses who aren't talking to each other, it's difficult," said Benitez. "You want a striker and one of them says: 'I don't know...'"

"This will be easier."

Benitez will have a tough baptism of fire on Sunday when

Manchester City, fresh from a draw with Real Madrid that scuppered their hopes of reaching the Champions League last 16 for the second season in a row, arrive in west London with a four-point

lead over the hosts.

"Chelsea tried to win the Champions League for 10 years, said City manager Roberto Mancini. "The Champions League is strange, different, and we have to be patient for this."

Manchester United can overtake cross-town rivals City, if only for a day, at the summit when they face a bottom of the table QPR still looking for a first league win this season under Old Trafford old boy Mark Hughes on Saturday.

The match will be United's first since Friday's scheduled unveiling of a statue of manager Alex Ferguson who, in contrast to the managerial maelstrom elsewhere, has presided over the club for 26 years.



Former Argentina player Juan Sebastian Veron (L) receives recognition as Outstanding Figure of Sports at the Deputies Chamber in Buenos Aires on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP