10-man Brothers Union held struggling holders Sheikh Russel KC to a 2-2 draw in the Nitol Tata Bangladesh Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Despite being reduced to 10 men after just eight minutes, a spirited Brothers Union were unlucky not to secure the full three points as they surrendered their lead twice and had to be content with their seventh draw in 21 matches which gave them 33 points, equal with fourth-placed

Sheikh Russel, with their eighth draw, were in sixth position of the 10-team table with 28 points from 21 matches.

Muktijoddha Sangsad.

Brothers goalkeeper Mohammad Sujan was sent off in the eighth minute as the goalkeeper came out of the danger zone to foul onrushing Sheikh Russel striker Mithun Chowdhury, but Sheikh Russel failed to cash in on the advantage as Brothers took the lead in the 38th minute through Haitian Augustine Walson.

After resumption, Mohammad Suman equalised with a tap-in off a Mithun low cross in the 65th minute before Nigerian Simon Ezeokika restored the margin for Brothers on 71 minutes.

Three minutes later, Sabuj Kumar Biswas levelled the margin for Sheikh Russel.

BD Navy get on the board

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Navy earned their first point in the Asian Club Cup Team Chess Championship when they managed a 2-2 draw with Al Ain Chess Club of United Arab Emirates in the 2nd round at the Danat Hotel in United Arab Emirates on Sunday.

GM Reefat Bin Sattar beat IM Omar Noaman and FM Aminul Islam beat FM Sayeed Ishaq while GM Enamul Hossain respectively.

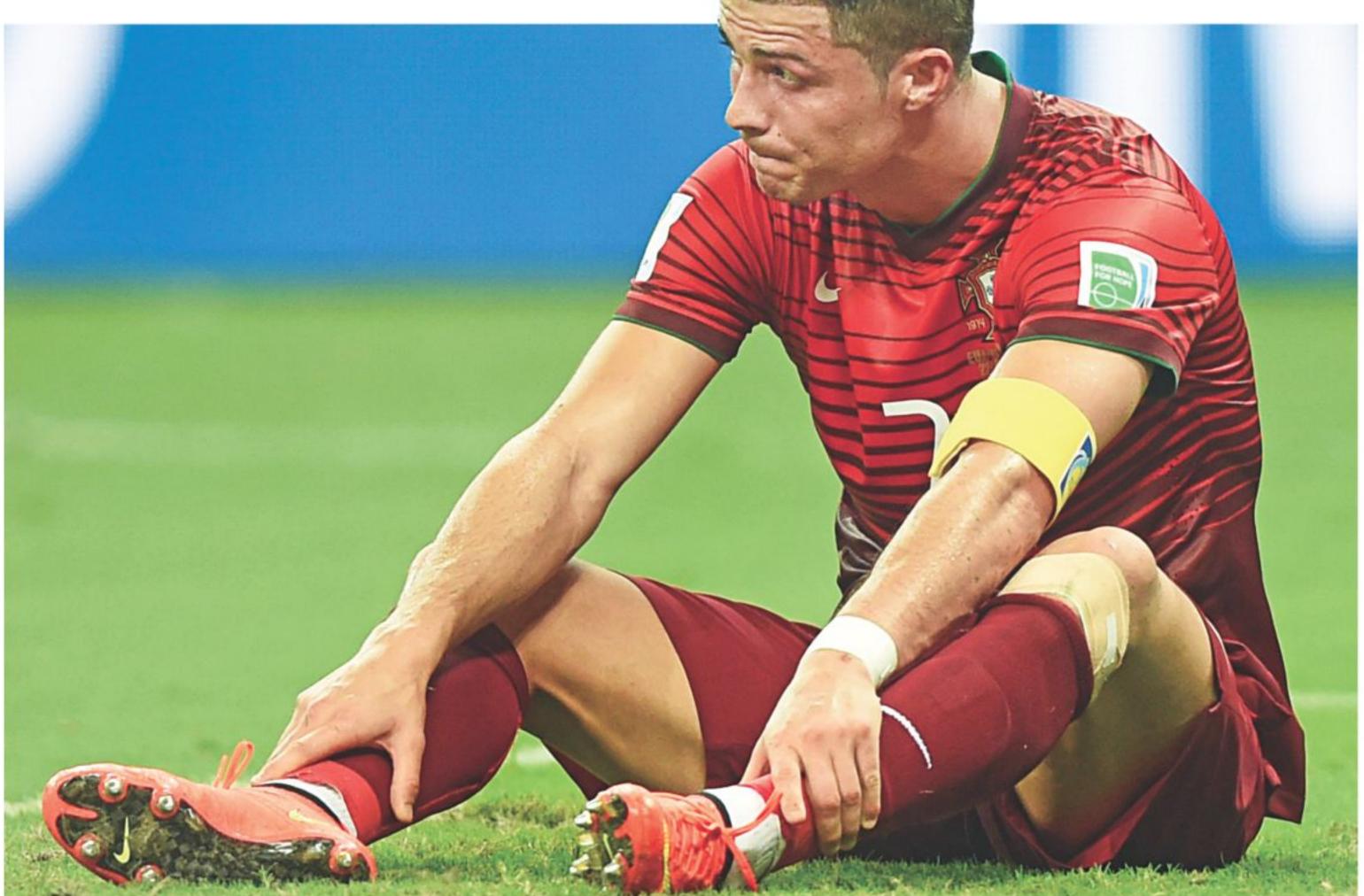


PHOTO: AFP

Down but still not out ... Portugal superstar Cristiano Ronaldo wears a forlorn look after their hard-earned draw against USA on Sunday.

Wimbledon stars hooked on Brazil

AFP, London

Tennis's top stars should be concentrating on Wimbledon, which got under way Monday, but

the big-name players can't help keeping an eye on the World Cup football action in Brazil.

The Championships are a football-free zone: the All England Club refuses to show matches on the big screens inside the grounds, while in 1996 America's Jensen brothers, who wanted to play doubles in England football shirts, were torn off a strip by the tournament organisers.

Nonetheless, the World Cup is the talk of the locker room, according to defending champion Andy Murray.

With England crashing out of the Wimbledon crown. World Cup early, Britain's hopes of Scot.

Indeed, the very first press conference question Murray faced at Wimbledon this year was: "How does

it feel to have the hopes of a despondent nation on your shoulders?" Murray replied simply: "Wow."

"I enjoy it when the World Cup is on. It gives me something to do in the evenings. I don't have to listen to people talking about me playing at Wimbledon," the champion said. "When you walk into the

locker room most mornings, that's what almost all of the players are talking about," he said of the World Cup. With champions Spain suffering

a humiliating early exit, Murray said the Spanish players had been "a little bit quiet" in the changing rooms. Rafael Nadal said Spain's shock

defeats did not make him more motivated to restore national sporting pride by winning a third

"I am sad. Everybody in Spain is sporting success now rest on the sad for what happened in the World Cup," the Mallorcan said.

"But my mentality, my motivation was going to be always at the top to play here at Wimbledon."

With Serbia not taking part, Novak Djokovic said he was supporting neighbouring countries like Bosnia, Croatia and Greece.

"Hopefully some of them will pass the group stage and get in the knock-out phase," the 2011 champion said. "Half of the planet is watching

the World Cup now. I'm following the matches.' Serena Williams said she was

watching at least one or two games per day. "Excited for the US. Obviously

I'm rooting for the US," the fivetime Wimbledon winner said.

"I thought the fight that the US male team has was just really great."

Meanwhile Maria Sharapova said she had been tucked up in bed before Russia's opening match kicked off, though her entourage has been glued to the screens.

"Every one of my team members is from a different nation, so I've been able to watch their games. Germany, Holland, Japan," said the 2004 champion.

But don't ask Sharapova for her opinions on Russia's players.

"I'm no expert in football. I'll tell you that straight off," she said.

While the players are watching the World Cup, there is no such luck for Wimbledon fans. An All England Club spokesman

said the last time they showed football on the big screens was in 1996 -- "so very consistent since then" England, hosting the European

Championships, reached the semifinals that year as the nation -- plus even the Jensen brothers -- was gripped with football fervour.

Not so this year, when England have gone crashing out before even completing their group games.

Dave Jackson, 33, who came over from Belfast to join the queue for Wimbledon tickets on Sunday night, said the line was "so much busier" than 2010, when the last World Cup was on and England reached the second round.

"Before, it would have been tennis fans," he said.

Varela keeps group open



A superb header by Silvestre Varela deep into time added on saved world player-of-the-year Cristiano Ronaldo and Portugal from crashing out of the World Cup finals on Sunday as it secured a 2-2 draw with the United States.

The Americans had looked to be safely into the last 16 after second-half goals by Jermaine Jones and Clint Dempsey saw them come back from 1-0

down -- a goal by Nani -- to lead. However, with only seconds remaining one sublime cross from a pretty anonymous Ronaldo was met by Varela and it soared past Tim Howard to give Portugal a lifeline as a

further defeat after the 4-0 hammering by Germany in the opening game would have seen them out. The United States -- who reached the last 16 in 2010 only to lose to Ghana -- are on four points along with Germany, who they play in their final group game, and who their coach Jurgen Klinsmann led at the 2006 finals.

Ghana and Portugal both have one point and play also

Klinsmann, who was also within seconds of being the first coach to guide the USA to two successive wins at a finals

UNITED STATES 2 (Jones 63, Dempsey 81) PORTUGAL 2 (Nani 5, Varela 90+5)

since 1930, was phlegmatic about the dramatic dashing of their hopes.

"Obviously the last second is unfortunate but my guys were magnificent," said Klinsmann, who won the 1990 World Cup as a player. "We just have to get a result against Germany. Obviously

the Germans have a day more to recover and we have had further to travel for our game but then the big guys are the ones that get the favourite treatment.

"My guys went to the limit but now they have to pick themselves up and despite this result we will go into the game with a lot of confidence."

their nerves as a terrible defensive error by Stoke City's Geoff Cameron -- the ball flying off his boot to Nani -- saw the Manchester United winger wait for Howard to commit himself before rifling the ball into the net. It had been pre-empted by an outrageous piece of skill by

The Portuguese got just the start they needed to settle

Ronaldo down the left side, completely bewitching three American players as they tried to corral him out on the touchline, only for a series of step overs and a backheel to see him squirm through the three of them. Conditions even in the evening were so draining that five

minutes from the break, when Jermaine Jones received some treatment, the referee allowed both sides to rehydrate with a drinks break. Howard, who was earning his 102nd cap, kept his side in

the game on the stroke of half-time as he somehow managed to stick a hand out as he dived the wrong way to tip a point blank shot by Eder over the bar.

There was an even finer block the other end 10 minutes into the second-half as Bradley's goalbound effort from only 10 yards out saw defender Ricardo Costa spread himself deflect the ball off his knee for a corner, earning a well deserved kiss on the head from goalkeeper Beto. The Americans, though, deservedly levelled in the 64th

minute as Jones produced a pearler of a right-footed shot from outside the area, leaving Beto rooted to the spot.

SL close in on victory

AFP, Leeds



Dhammika Prasad's dramatic four-wicket burst following a hundred from skipper Angelo Mathews left Sri Lanka on the brink of victory in the second Test against England at Headingley on Monday.

England were 57 for five at stumps on the fourth day, needing a further 293 runs to reach their imposing victory target of 350.

The most England have previously made in the fourth innings to win a Test is 332 for seven against Australia at Melbourne in 1928/29.

And only one team have made more in the fourth innings to win a Test at Headingley -- Australia's 404 for three against England in 1948.

Sri Lanka have won just two Tests in England and never claimed a series on English soil of more than one match.

But, having held out for a draw in the first Test at Lord's with just one wicket standing, Mathews's men were now on course for a memorable victory.

Earlier in the day, England bowled too short and Prasad, recalled in place of the dropped Nuwan Kulasekara, showed them the value of pitching the ball up.

England were making steady progress at 39 without loss when Prasad, the fifth bowler used by Mathews, struck twice in his first over.

With his third ball he induced England captain Alastair Cook to bottom edge a pull onto his stumps.

That meant the left-handed opener's run without a Test century since he scored the last of his England record 25 hundreds against New Zealand at Headingley last year now extended to 24 innings.

And next ball Prasad's excellent full-length delivery had Gary Ballance plumb lbw for a duck.

Ian Bell prevented a hat-trick but Prasad was in the wickets again when Australia-born opener Sam Robson, who in the first innings had made a maiden Test century, drove loosely outside off stump and was caught by second slip Mahela Jayawardene for 24.

SCORES IN BRIEF SRI LANKA: First innings 257

Prasad 4-15)

ENGLAND: First innings 365

SRI LANKA: Second innings 457 all out (Karunaratne 45, Sangakkara 55, Jayawardene 79, Mathews 160, Herath 48, Eranga 20 not out; Anderson 3-91, Plunkett 4-112, Ali 2-74) ENGLAND: Second innings 57 for 5 (Robson 24, Cook 16;

3-month extension for Naveed

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) extended Pakistani coach Naveed Alam's contract by three months to allow Naveed to guide the national hockey team in the Asian Games to be held in South Korea from September 19 to October 4. Naveed's oneyear contract was set to expire on June 30.

The decision was taken by the BHF executive com mittee, which also decided to install a new blue turf at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium in September while the national team are in South Korea.

Djokovic, Murray move on

AFP, London



Top seed Novak Djokovic and defending champion Andy Murray stormed into

the Wimbledon second round Monday with such speed that All England Club organisers had to pad out the Centre Court schedule.

Murray took out baby-faced Belgian, David Goffin 6-1, 6-4, 7-5 in a shade over two hours while Djokovic, the 2011 champion and runner-up to the third-seeded Briton in 2013, needed just 88 minutes to dispose of Kazakhstan's Andrey Golubev, 6-0, 6-1, 6-4.

In between, Li Na, the women's second seed, took only 77 minutes to get past Polish qualifier Paula Kania.

Murray and Djokovic were joined in the second round by Czech sixth seed Tomas Berdych, the 2010 runner-up, who came from a set down to beat Romania's Victor Hanescu, 6-7 (5/7), 6-1, 6-4, 6-3.

Spanish seventh seed David Ferrer, twice a quarterfinalist, also made it through by seeing off compatriot Pablo Carreno-Busta 6-0, 6-7 (3/7), 6-1, 6-1.

Grigor Dimitrov, the Bulgarian 11th seed who won the Queen's title last week, beat Ryan Harrison of the United States, 7-6 (7/1), 6-3, 6-2.

But Spanish 18th seed Fernando Verdasco, who took Murray to five sets in the quarterfinals in 2013, was knocked out by Australia's Marinko Matosevic 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Chinese women's second seed Li Na, a three-time quarter-finalist, got back on track after her French Open misery thanks to a 7-5, 6-2 win over Camila Giorgi. Kania.

Li suffered her worst Grand Slam performance since 2011 when she slumped to an opening round exit Kirilenko, 6-2, 7-6 (8/6). against Kristina Mladenovic in Paris.

But the 32-year-old from Wuhan was too strong for world number 183 Kania, hitting 24 winners to set up a

second round meeting with Austria's Yvonne Meusburger.

"In the beginning I was a bit shaky because I hadn't played her before and she was using my power against me, so I was really happy to win in the end," said Li.

Former women's world number one Victoria Azarenka won her first match since January as the eighth seed triumphed 6-3, 7-5 against Croatia's Mirjana Lucic-Baroni, who was a semifinalist back in 1999.

The former Australian Open champion has been plagued by a left foot injury which kept her off tour from Indian Wells in March to Eastbourne last week where she lost her opener to

US 18th seed Sloane Stephens, a quarter-finalist in 2013, was defeated by Russian former top 10 player Maria

Kirilenko, who had won just one match all year after a lengthy battle with a knee injury, claimed victory on a sixth match point.

Sinkhole won't affect match

REUTERS, Natal

Local organisers have dismissed concerns that last week's landslide in Natal might cause the postponement of Tuesday's World Cup Group D match between Italy and Uruguay.

Italian media reports said there were concerns that a "sinkhole" near the stadium might cause the match to be called off.

A landslide caused by heavy rain destroyed some 70 houses and made more than 150 people homeless last weekend.

The affected area was more than four kilometres from the Dunas arena and Reuters witnesses who were at the site last week and again on Saturday said little had changed.

