

City storm Palace

Falcao rescues a point

AFP, London



Manchester City beat Crystal Palace 3-0 on Saturday to move level with Premier League leaders Chelsea, while Radamel Falcao earned Manchester United a 1-1 draw at Aston Villa.

City were missing Sergio Aguero, Edin Dzeko and Stevan Jovetic due to injury, but they secured an eighth consecutive win in all competitions thanks to David Silva's second-half brace and a late Yaya Toure strike.

Victory left City level on 39 points with Chelsea, who remain top by virtue of a superior goal difference (+23 to +22) ahead of their trip to Stoke City on Monday.

United spurned a chance to close on Chelsea after dropping points for the first time in seven matches at Villa, who had Gabriel Agbonlahor sent off in the 65th minute for a foul on former teammate Ashley Young.

RESULTS

Aston Villa 1 (Benteke 18) Manchester United 1 (Falcao 53)
Hull 0 Swansea 1 (Ki 15)
Manchester City 3 (Silva 49, 61, Toure 81) Crystal Palace 0
QPR 3 (Austin 24-pen, 48, 86) West Brom 2 (Lescott 10, Varela 20)
Southampton 3 (Lukaku 38-og, Pelle 65, Yoshida 82)
Everton 0
Tottenham 2 (Kane 21, Lamela 35) Burnley 1 (Barnes 27)

Christian Benteke put Villa 1-0 up in the 18th minute at home against United by chesting down a deep free-kick, stepping inside Jonny Evans and curling a fine left-foot shot inside the left-hand post.

David de Gea produced a stunning save to tip a header from Benteke over the bar early in the second half, before Falcao met Young's cross with a powerful 53rd-minute header to claim his first goal since October.



Manchester City midfielder Yaya Toure (R) scores the third goal against Crystal Palace during their Premier League encounter at the Etihad Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

AAB's new committee

SPORTS REPORTER

A new executive committee of the Alumni Association of BKSP (AAB) has been formed, with former hockey player Nurur Rahman Durbar made president and former footballer Rafiqul Islam Siddiqui the general secretary.

Former national cricket team captain Naimur Rahman has been named as chief advisor while national hockey coach Mamunur Rashid, former fielding coach of national cricket team Mohammad Salahuddin, Bangladesh Test captain Mushfiqur Rahim and all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan were the other advisors to the new committee, which will arrange a reunion on January 23 at BKSP.

INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE

Kolkata crowned champions

GOAL.COM



In a stunning finish to the Indian Super League (ISL), Atletico de Kolkata scored the only goal in the final against Kerala Blasters FC deep into stoppage time to become the first ever champions of the tournament. Mohammed Rafique's headed goal from a corner kick in the fourth minute of added time sealed the historical win for the Kolkataans.

The Kolkata outfit struggled to get into the game and started second best as it was the southern side which created most of the opportunities and were the more adventurous of the two.

In the 26th minute, Llibert sent Rafi through from the left. Chetri had to resort to last ditch tackling in order to ensure the Kolkata striker didn't get into the box and was lucky to have only been shown a yellow card as he was the

last man. From the ensuing free-kick, Podany's shot sailed over the bar.

At the other end too, Arnab put in a debatable two-footed challenge on Mehtab Hossain to deny him an opportunity to surge forward.

Kolkata should have taken the lead in the 35th minute had it not been for a reflex save by David James. Llibert found Sahni wide on the right and his cross towards the far post found the Spaniard with only the Kerala custodian to beat from close range. However, James did well to thwart the opportunity by putting his body on the line.

Two minutes after the break, Kolkata created their first chance of the half. Podany crossed from the left which saw Sahni and Llibert look to head it in but Edel came off his line to clear the danger.

Kerala however, got their foot back into the game as they created three good goal scoring opportunities in as

many minutes. Ishfaq found Pearson in space on the left and the Scottish midfielder's cross from inside the box was collected by Bete.

In the 52nd minute, Ishfaq got the better of Saumik Dey and crossed for Pearson at the far post who scuffed his shot wide.

The 79th minute saw a brilliant bit of interplay between Hume, Chopra and Pearson which saw the Scottish midfielder send the ball across for Chopra who struck it straight for Bete to collect it safely, much to the disappointment of the assembled Kerala fans.

In the fourth minute of stoppage time, Atletico found the breakthrough as Rafique headed in a Podany corner-kick at the near post as he sneaked in between Jhingan and Mathew.

The full-time whistle was blown soon after to mark the end of the inaugural ISL season as Atletico de Kolkata claimed the title in dramatic fashion.

Bayern leave it late

AFP, Berlin



Bayern Munich claimed two Bundesliga records on Friday as Bastian Schweinsteiger and Arjen Robben scored in their 2-1 comeback win at Mainz which left them 14 points clear.

Pep Guardiola's Bayern have conceded only four goals so far this season to break their own joint record of seven from the 2012/2013 season which had matched Stuttgart's previous best mark from the 2003/04 season.

With 14 wins from 17 matches and three draws, Bayern have taken 45 from a possible 51 points to break their own record of 44 points at the same stage last season when they won the title with a record seven matches to spare.

With the Bundesliga set to pause for winter on Sunday, Bayern will finish the year at least 11 points clear and are on course to break more records in 2015.

Elkin Soto's stunning first-half goal gave Mainz a shock lead, but his effort was

cancelled out by a superb strike from Schweinsteiger before Robben's late winner just a minute from time.

Despite the result, this was a below-par display from injury-hit Bayern, who are on course to claim a third straight Bundesliga title.

With centre-back Mehdi Benatia ruled out with the groin strain he suffered in Tuesday's 2-0 win over Freiburg, Guardiola started Jerome Boateng and Dante in his back four.

Teenager Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg, 19, who has said he wants to leave in January, was named alongside Schweinsteiger in the defensive midfield.

Bayern's defence was breached when Japan striker Shinji Okazaki freed Soto and the Colombia midfielder fired through Manuel Neuer's legs on 21 minutes.

The Germany shot-stopper, who has been shortlisted for this year's Ballon d'Or, was left red-faced, but the lead lasted all of three minutes.

Germany captain Schweinsteiger curled home a superb free kick for his first goal of the season having only returned at the end of October after a knee injury.



Europa Group players celebrate clinching the title of the 4th Marcel T20 Corporate Cricket Tournament defeating Walton Group in the final at Mohammadpur Eidgah Ground yesterday. Walton had scored 101 all out before Europa eased to victory in 11.3 overs, losing only one wicket.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Suarez opens account

AFP, Madrid



Luis Suarez scored his first La Liga goal and Lionel Messi netted twice as Barcelona moved to within a point of leaders Real Madrid with a 5-0 thrashing of Cordoba in their final game of the year on Saturday.

The hosts got off to a flying start as Pedro Rodriguez, once again deputising for Neymar, opened the scoring with a smart finish from Ivan Rakitic's wonderful through ball inside two minutes.

Barca then struggled to build on their lead for the rest of the first period, but Suarez capped another quick start to the second period when he poked home from close range to end a seven-game drought in the league since returning from a four-month ban for biting.

Gerard Pique headed in a third before Messi rounded off the scoring with two

stunning finishes in the final 10 minutes.

Despite coach Luis Enrique claiming that Neymar had fully recovered from an ankle injury, the Brazilian watched on from the bench as Pedro was rewarded for his hat-trick in the 8-1 thrashing of Huesca in midweek and the Canary Islander continued his scoring streak in the first meaningful attack of the game.

Rakitic's intelligent left-footed pass over the top was trapped by the Spain international before he lashed the ball into the roof of the net to register his sixth goal in as many games.

Andres Iniesta then shot straight at Juan Carlos before Suarez was inches away from making his mark with an acrobatic effort that flew into the side-netting.

Nabil Chilas and Fede Cartabia shot into the side-netting in Cordoba's only two attacks of note in the first 45, and they could have been further behind at the break but for a fine reaction save from Carlos to turn Pique's header from close range behind for a corner.

Hart signs new deal

AFP, London

Manchester City goalkeeper Joe Hart signed a new contract on Friday which will keep him with the Premier League champions until 2019.

City manager Manuel Pellegrini had revealed earlier this month that talks with Hart were approaching a successful conclusion and the England international has now been rewarded with an improved deal.

The 27-year-old has reestablished himself as City's number one over the past year after being dropped by Pellegrini for a short spell following a series of errors in the first half of last season.

Hernanes set to return

AFP, Milan



Brazilian midfielder Hernanes could return for Inter Milan when Roberto Mancini's side host high-flying Lazio on Sunday looking to continue their pursuit of a third place finish in Italy's Serie A.

Inter claimed their first win under Mancini since the coach's return to the club in a 2-0 win at Chievo last week.

Although Inter are 19 points behind leaders and champions Juventus, who beat Cagliari 3-1 Thursday in a fixture brought forward due to Italian Super Cup commitments in Qatar, they are only seven behind Napoli in the third and last Champions League qualifying place.

Qualifying for next season's competition after a two-year absence remains Mancini's priority, although the former Manchester City handler admitted his return to the club he led to three consecutive Serie A titles in 2004-2008 has not gone as smoothly as he hoped.

"Having lost twice I can't say I'm satisfied with my first month at Inter, although I'm happy with how the lads are progressing," Mancini told reporters on Saturday.

"Finishing third remains our objective but it's not something you talk about in the dressing room after a victory and we don't talk about it if we lose either."

Hernanes is expected to be named in Mancini's squad for Sunday night's San Siro clash after a brief injury absence and could make his return against his former teammates.

go beyond
ADVENTURE
CYCLING
MUSIC
FOOD
PHOTOGRAPHY
LIFESTYLE
GAMING

bondhu garage
CARNIVAL
THE HOTTEST PLACE TO BE THIS WINTER
Funky stores | Crazy rides | Foods | Gadgets & Lifestyle...

Date: 26th Dec 2014 | Time: 10 am - 9 pm
Place: Banani Bitya Niketan Field
Sign up at www.bondhugarage.club to get free entry

grameenphone