

STAR SPORTS2

England v New Zealand
First Test, Day 2
Live from 4:00pm

CHANNEL 9 & SET MAX

Indian Premier League
(QUALIFIER-2)
Chennai v Bangalore
Live from 8:30pm

STAR SPORTS2

Pakistan v Zimbabwe
First T20I
Live from 8:00pm

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh Premier League

Venue: BNS
Farashganj v Muktijoddha

Brothers move up

SPORTS REPORTER



Haitian Augustine Walson struck a brilliant brace to power Brothers Union to a 2-0 win over Chittagong Abahani in the Manyavar Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The tall marksman unbelievably curved the ball from the dead-ball situations to bamboozle Chittagong Abahani goalkeeper Shohag Hossain and took Brothers to the joint second-position along with Mohammedan SC and Sheikh Russel KC with 20 points from 10 matches, just three points less than leaders Sheikh Jamal DC.

"I am used to scoring from such difficult angle and it is nothing new for me," said Walson adding that he had struck 15 to 16 goals from freekick in his playing career.

Walson is the lone player who has been pulling Brothers Union single-handedly as the 27-year-old marksman had direct contribution in four wins out of six Brothers posted and had scored 11 goals out of 16 in 10 matches.

Amid scorching heat at the big bowl, both teams looked tired after thirty minutes into the game but both of them recharged following the cooling break and Brothers came

close to taking a lead in the 33rd minute but Walson saw his back-heel on a corner kick saved from the goalline by Kaushik Barua.

After resumption, Brothers who were playing without their Indian coach Syed Naeemuddin looked different and launched a wave of attack with Walson rattling the post on the edge of the box in the 65th minute.

Soon he made amends to put Brothers ahead in the 69th minute with a curling free kick taken deep from the left flank and doubled the lead in same fashion after curving another free kick in the 83th minute to raise his goal tally to 11, four goals ahead of second-best scorer of Muktijoddha Snagsad's Enamul Haque.

With Brothers creating more chances, Walson wasted three chances to miss his second hattrick of the ongoing league.

First Chittagong goalkeeper Shohag Hossain denied Walson in a one-on-one situation while Pradip Barua and Saiful Islam Khokon made goalline saves.

Chittagong Abahani stayed just ahead of bottom-placed Farashganj SC with five points from 10 matches.

The day's second match between Farashganj and Muktijoddha was stopped after 40 minutes due to thunderstorm. The match was postponed and will resume today from the 41st minute with the scoreline 0-0.

CTG ABAHANI 0 - 2 BROTHERS
MUKTIJODDHA 0 - 0 FARASHGANJ (po)



Chittagong Abahani goalkeeper Shohag Hossain (L) fails to stop a freekick from Brothers Union's Haitian striker Augustine Walson (inset) during their Manyavar Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Juve's treble hopes alive

AFP, Rome



An extra time winner by Alessandro Matri kept Juventus on track for the treble after the Italian champions ended a 20-year wait for Cup final victory with a 2-1 win over Lazio on Wednesday.

Juventus were stunned after just four minutes when Stefan Radu rose to beat Marco Storari with a powerful header from a free kick after Paul Pogba had given away a needless foul on the right flank.

Juve got back on level terms thanks to Giorgio Chiellini's half-volley in the 10th minute.

After the match finished all square after 90 minutes, Matri, back on loan at Juve after being sold to Milan in

2013, made the difference when he latched on to Carlos Tevez's lay-off inside the area to bundle past Etrit Berisha in the Lazio net.

Juve held on to their lead amid a tense second period of extra-time to send the black and white half of the Stadio Olimpico into raptures as the champions secured their first double since 1995.

Juve coach Massimiliano Allegri was without Claudio Marchisio and Alvaro Morata, the Spanish striker whose late leveller in a 1-1 draw away to Real Madrid secured Juve's Champions League final against Barcelona in Berlin on June 6.

Allegri was also without number one goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon, and the big Italy keeper's absence was felt almost immediately when Storari struggled to reach Radu's powerful

header from a free kick on the right.

Yet Juventus, who beat Lazio 3-0 and 2-0 in their Serie A encounters this season, were soon back on level terms.

The fingers of blame had pointed at Chiellini after Radu's opener, but the big Juve defender was in the right place at the right time when Andrea Pirlo fired in a free kick from 25 metres out on 10 minutes.

Pirlo's curling delivery was headed into the area by Pogba and Chiellini was left enough space to connect and beat Berisha with a close range volley. If the early goals provided some early match drama, they did not spark a Cup goals fest before the interval.

Fernando Llorente fired a header just over Berisha's bar and after Pirlo saw a free kick blocked, what followed displayed Lazio's threat on the counter.



Juventus players celebrate with the Coppa Italia trophy after winning final against Lazio at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Money world's richest athlete

AGENCIES, New York

American pound-for-pound boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr has been named as the highest-paid athlete in the world by ESPN The Magazine.

The publication's annual rich list has placed the fighter, who is said to have pocketed around £161m from his win over Manny Pacquiao, at the top of the pile with a fortune of around £159m.

The highest-paid footballers on the list are Barcelona star Lionel Messi and his Real Madrid rival Cristiano Ronaldo, who are worth an estimated £36.2m and £32.3m respectively.

The two La Liga stars are third and fourth in the list behind Pacquiao, who is believed to have a fortune of around £96.6m, while Ferrari Formula 1 driver Sebastian Vettel is fifth in the standings on £32.2m.

Mats turns down MU

AFP, Berlin

Germany defender Mats Hummels has ended speculation about a possible transfer to Manchester United by confirming he will play for Dortmund next season.

The 26-year-old has turned down an approach from the English league giants and the Dortmund captain has told Borussia he will fulfil his contract which expires in 2017, according to magazine Kicker.

Black Cats survive

AFP, London



Sunderland produced a gutsy rearguard action to preserve their Premier League status with a tense 0-0 draw against Arsenal on Wednesday.

Dick Advocaat's side knew a point at the Emirates Stadium would be enough to guarantee their survival and they achieved that goal with an obdurate defensive display that kept Arsenal at bay despite a barrage of pressure from the hosts.

Superbly marshalled by holding midfielder Lee Cattermole and central defenders Sebastian Coates and John O'Shea, Sunderland still needed a fine performance from goalkeeper Costel Pantilimon to emerge unscathed.

The Black Cats, now four points clear of third bottom Hull, can now start planning for next season instead of nervously facing a decisive trip to champions Chelsea in Sunday's final round of fixtures.

Despite failing to win for the fourth time in their last five matches, Arsenal have likely done enough to secure a third place finish and automatic qualification for next season's Champions League group stage.

Arsene Wenger's team are three points clear of fourth placed Manchester United with a significantly better goal difference with only one match to play.

Sunderland's point means that the final relegation place from the Premier League will be filled by either Hull or Newcastle.

Jack Wilshere, making his first Arsenal start since November following a series of ankle problems, was deployed in an unfamiliar role out on the right flank.

But the England international had an early chance to mark his return with a goal when he raced onto Alexis Sanchez's pass, only to poke his shot tamely at Pantilimon.

Wilshere had another sight of goal when Aaron Ramsey teed him up just inside the penalty area, yet once again the midfielder couldn't find the required accuracy as he blazed high over the crossbar.

Unsurprisingly Sunderland seemed intent solely on soaking up the pressure with a view to catching the Gunners on the break.

But even when they did launch a rare counter the paucity of their attacking ambition was laid bare when Sunderland left-back Patrick van Aanholt sprinted 50 yards before looking up to discover not a single team-mate had made a supporting run.

BHF reveals friendship series

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Handball Federation (BHF) yesterday announced a friendship series between West Bengal's men's and women's handball teams and Bangladeshi services and district teams.

A 40-member contingent consisting 26 players is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on May 26, just one day before the start of the eight-match series.

The men's and women's team of West Bengal will play four matches in Dhaka against Border Guard Bangladesh, Bangladesh Police and Bangladesh Jute Mills Cooperation (BJMC) at the Shaheed Captain M Mansor Ali Handball Stadium on May 27 and 28.

Benzema's season over

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid striker Karim Benzema's season at club level is over after the Spanish giants confirmed on Thursday that he had torn a thigh muscle in his right leg.

"The player has been diagnosed with a (muscle) tear," the club said, without stating how long he is expected to be sidelined for.

French international Benzema hobbled off after an hour of Madrid's 4-1 win at Espanyol last weekend.

Uncapped trio called up

AFP, London



Uncapped trio Charlie Austin, Jamie Vardy and Tom Heaton were on Thursday named in England's squad for next month's friendly in Ireland and 2016 European Championship qualifier away to Slovenia.

Queens Park Rangers striker Austin, 25, and 28-year-old Leicester City forward Vardy have been drafted into an attacking department depleted by Daniel Sturridge's injury and the inclusions of Harry Kane, Saido Berahino and Danny Ings in the England Under-21 squad.

"For Jamie Vardy and Charlie Austin, it's a good opportunity for them to show us what they can do," England manager Roy Hodgson told a press conference at Wembley Stadium.

"I don't think anyone can deny they deserve a chance because they've had very good seasons for their clubs, often in difficult circumstances."

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Robert Green (Queens Park Rangers), Joe Hart (Manchester City), Tom Heaton (Burnley)

Defenders: Ryan Bertrand (Southampton), Gary Cahill (Chelsea), Nathaniel Clyne (Southampton), Kieran Gibbs (Arsenal), Phil Jagielka (Everton), Phil Jones (Manchester United), Chris Smalling (Manchester United)

Midfielders: Ross Barkley (Everton), Fabian Delph (Aston Villa), Jordan Henderson (Liverpool), Adam Lallana (Liverpool), Ryan Mason (Tottenham Hotspur), James Milner (Manchester City), Raheem Sterling (Liverpool), Andros Townsend (Tottenham Hotspur), Theo Walcott (Arsenal), Jack Wilshere (Arsenal)

Forwards: Charlie Austin (Queens Park Rangers), Wayne Rooney (Manchester United), Jamie Vardy (Leicester City),

Leicester's escape from Premier League relegation, was playing non-league football for Fleetwood Town as recently as 2012.

Austin also began his career outside England's top four divisions. He has scored 17 league goals this season despite QPR's relegation.

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