

Sk Russel fight back to grab a point

SPORTS REPORTER

 Sheikh Russel came from two goals behind to secure a draw against Brothers Union in their JB Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni Stadium in Gopalganj yesterday.

Haitian hitman Augustine Walson struck on either side of the break to give Brother the edge over Sheikh Jamal, who came into the match on the back of a five-game unbeaten run, including a 2-0 over Muktioddha Sangad in their previous match, and they showed character to extend their unblemished run to six matches despite falling behind.

With both teams out of the title race, the teams were focused on consolidating their positions in the 12-team table and the draw helped them to do so. Brothers remain sixth with 23 points from 18 games, while Shiekh Russel are glued to eighth with 20 points from 18 outings.

Sheikh Russel looked the better side in the initial stages of the match, but they conceded against the run of play in the 32nd

SK RUSSEL 2 - 2 BROTHERS

minute as Walson availed a through ball and burst into the box from the right before dancing past defender Mintu Sheikh and driving a shot past goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharjee, whose hand was not strong enough to keep the ball from finding the back of the net.

Brothers had a chance to increase their lead in the dying moments of the first half, but Nigerian Nkowcha Kingsley squandered the opportunity.

After resumption, Sheikh Russel pressed for the equaliser but they were caught out and survived a scare as Biplob brilliantly denied Kawsar Ali Rabbi. However, Walson ensured that Brothers would get that elusive second as he galloped in from the left-flank and beat three defenders before powering a grounded shot home in the 59th minute.

However, it took Sheikh Russel just five minutes to pull one back as Mintu converted from the spot after left-back Nasirul Islam was fouled by Monir inside the box. Ikanga levelled the match with a header off Nasirul's chipped ball into the box in the 75th minute to rescue a point.



Bournemouth stunned even their own fans at the Vitality Stadium as they scored three goals in the final 15 minutes of their Premier League match against Liverpool to emerge 4-3 winners.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Roma win Derby della Capitale

AFP, Milan

Second-half goals from Kevin Strootman and Radja Nainggolan kept the local bragging rights with Roma for the fourth year in succession thanks to an 2-0 derby win at Lazio on Sunday.

With only one point separating the sides, the biggest 'Derby della Capitale' in years was played out in a half-empty stadium as Roma's hardline ultras continued to protest strict security measures introduced by the club last year.

But after the first half produced little of note from either side, Roma made light of their lack of support with an improved second-half performance that saw Strootman then Nainggolan strike within 13 minutes of each other.

The 10th win of the season moved Luciano Spalletti's men up to second at four points behind leaders Juventus. AC Milan sit third, also at four points adrift.

YONEX-SUNRISE OPEN CHALLENGE Int'l tourney after chaos

SPORTS REPORTER



Yonex-Sunrise Bangladesh Open Badminton International Challenge gets underway tomorrow at the Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Gymnasium in Mirpur with over 104 shuttlers from 13 countries participating in the five-day competition.

The shuttlers will compete in five events in the 17,550-dollar prize money tournament. The events are: men's singles and doubles, women's singles and doubles and mixed doubles.

"It is an international ranking tournament which we have been organising since 2013 with the help of Yonex-Sunrise and through this tournament the players can improve their ranking," Bangladesh Badminton Federation's (BBF) acting general secretary Golam Aziz Jilani said at a press conference yesterday.

No Bangladeshi shuttlers have ever managed to reach the knockout stages of any singles events previously even though Bangladesh reached quarterfinals in mixed doubles. This time too there is no specific target set by the 15 Bangladeshi shuttlers, whose preparation has been hampered by a group of shuttlers over control of the Badminton Payers' Welfare Association.

Since the incident happened on Thursday, the national players refrained from training, demanding security from the federation. They however returned to training yesterday evening after BBF president Abdul Malek sat with them and ensured that exemplary measures will be taken against the perpetrators.

Jamal's final flourish

SPORTS REPORTER

Golfer Jamal Hossain Mollah produced an excellent performance in the third and final round of the Panasonic Open on Sunday to finish in 15th position.

The 31-year-old golfer returned a card of four-under-par (68), featuring five birdies and a bogey, to move 20 places from his overnight position.

The two-time PGTI winner carded three birdies on the front nine and two more on the back nine, including one on the final hole of the day at the Delhi Golf and Country Club yesterday. The only bogey of the day for Jamal came on the tenth hole.

With an aggregate score of three-under-par (213), Jamal finished seven strokes behind eventual winner Mukesh Kumar of India.

Jyoti Randhawa and Rashid Khan shared second place with scores of nine-under-par.

Reds bleed yellow

AFP, Bournemouth



Liverpool's title challenge suffered an unexpected setback as they squandered a 3-1 lead to lose 4-3 at Bournemouth on an astonishing day the south coast club will never forget.

Jürgen Klopp's side missed out on a chance to go second in the Premier League and instead remain four points behind leaders Chelsea after their incredible meltdown in the last 14 minutes at Dean Court.

Bournemouth had never beaten Liverpool in nine previous meetings in all competitions dating back to 1927; in fact you have to rewind to 1968 to even find a draw.

But after excellent goals from Sadio Mané, Divock Origi and Emre Can appeared to put Klopp's team in control, Bournemouth produced a stunning, high octane comeback culminating in a stoppage-time winner for Nathan Ake.

It was all inspired by a match-winning performance from 22-year-old substitute Ryan Fraser, who only came on because of an injury to a teammate.

The Scottish winger won a penalty with his first touch, scored Bournemouth's second at 3-1 and set up the equaliser for Steve Cook as the game was turned on its head.

Bournemouth's problems began after

20 minutes when a sumptuous long pass from Can sent Mané racing towards goal.

He easily held off defender Ake before coolly and cleverly drinking a shot past goalkeeper Artur Boruc.

If there was nothing Boruc could do about that one, he was at fault for the next – which arrived two minutes later.

Again, a long ball up the line found Origi racing into the channel, but strangely Boruc hared out, heading across the field, far too early.

The Belgian was able to side step him and curl a perfect long-range shot into the far corner of the net from a very difficult angle.

The hosts finally scored from the spot after 56 minutes when James Milner clearly brought down Fraser who had only arrived on the pitch seconds earlier.

Liverpool responded well, going 3-1 ahead after 64 minutes when Mané cut the ball back for Can to score.

Fraser had one effort well saved before finishing an excellent break-away move with a drilled finish from inside the area after 75 minutes.

Suddenly the visitors were rocking – and when Fraser crossed again, Wilson set the ball back for defender Cook to lash home an equaliser.

Bournemouth completed their incredible comeback when Loris Karius fumbled Cook's long-range shot and

Ake pounced from close range.

In the second game of the day, Manchester United were held to a 1-1 draw by Everton. Zlatan Ibrahimovic had given the visitors the lead in the first half before Leighton Baines fired home from the spot in the 89th minute of a dramatic affair.

Ibrahimovic scored in typically outlandish fashion after picking up the ball from a Paul Pogba pass. Although there was a defender on the Swedish forward's shoulder, Everton goalkeeper Maarten Stekelenburg made the decision to charge out of his box. That left Ibrahimovic with the simple job of lobbing the ball over the keeper's head, onto the crossbar and finally into the net as Goodison Park held its collective breath.


Visiting manager Jose Mourinho felt that the goal and three points would be a good enough result for his side from what is generally a tough ground to visit and he introduced Maroune Fellaini late into the second half to consolidate.

However, his decision backfired as the Belgian midfielder lunged at Idrissa Gueyein and conceded a penalty in the 89th minute. Baines stepped up and, although David de Gea guessed the right way, he made no mistake.

Manchester United are now sixth with 21 points, 13 points behind league leaders Chelsea, while Everton are one point behind and remain eighth.

Thousands mourn under weeping Chape sky

REUTERS, Chape

 A downpour drenched thousands of mourners in this Brazilian city on Saturday as they grieved over 50 caskets flown overnight to the stadium of the local Chapecoense soccer team, which was all but wiped out in an air crash Monday in Colombia.

An arena filled with banners and team faithful donning its green and white colors served as an open-air wake for locals. Just a week ago, they were braced to celebrate the plucky squad, which had ascended from minor leagues in recent years to reach the final of a major South American tournament.

Instead, they looked on as Air Force



Relatives of the members of the Chapecoense Real team enter the field during a wake at the Chapeco stadium in Santa Catarina on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

troops, after unloading the bodies from cargo aircraft, ferried the caskets to makeshift tents on the team's soggy home turf, where victims' families sat in sorrow.

President Michel Temer bestowed posthumous honors on the athletes.

"This event, as you know, shook the whole country," Temer told reporters in brief comments before making the short drive to the stadium, where he remained silent for the rest of the emotional tribute.

"This rain must be Saint Peter crying."

Monday's disaster, which killed 71 passengers and crew, shocked soccer fans the world over and plunged Brazil into mourning. A BAe146 regional airliner operated by Bolivian charter company LAMIA had radioed that it was running out of fuel before smashing into a hillside outside Medellin, Colombia.

Only six people survived, including just three members of the club, en route to the Copa Sudamericana final, the biggest game in its history. Earlier on Saturday, the bodies of eight journalists who also died in the crash arrived in Rio de Janeiro.

Victims' families in recent days have been outraged by reports that the plane, which circled for 16 minutes while another aircraft emergency landed, had barely enough fuel for the flight.

Bolivian President Evo Morales has pledged to take "drastic measures" to determine the cause. Bolivia has suspended LAMIA's operating license and replaced the national aviation authority's management.

In Chapeco, a small agricultural city, dozens of fans kept vigil overnight at the stadium, where an impromptu shrine swelled with fresh flowers and handmade posters.

By Saturday afternoon, thousands more gathered, cheering and applauding as the caskets arrived. Visitors from other parts of Brazil joined locals, waving flags of other teams in solidarity.

The ceremony, at times solemn and at times raucous, was "as informal as formality would allow," said an announcer, thanking those who packed the 20,000 capacity stadium to chant and sing between speeches, tributes and prayers.

"They could put Neymar on the field here and it wouldn't replace what we've lost," said Juliana Frata, a local supporter. "Those players were our neighbors. It felt like every day you would bump into them and their families."

Jose, Ronaldo deny tax fraud

AFP, London

Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho and Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo on Saturday denied hiding millions of euros in off-shore accounts in an effort to avoid the tax man.

An international consortium of media organisations claimed that a huge data leak involving 18 million documents showed Ronaldo hid 150 million euros from image rights in a British Virgin Islands tax havens.

According to the European Investigative Collaborations (EIC) consortium, Mourinho is said to have concealed 12 million euros in a Swiss account owned by a British Virgin Islands company.

But Gestifute, a firm representing the two men, has rejected the allegations.

A statement from the company said; "Both Ronaldo and Mourinho are fully compliant with their tax obligations with the Spanish and British tax authorities.

"Neither Ronaldo nor Mourinho have ever been involved in legal proceedings regarding the commission of a tax offence.

"Any accusation made over a tax offence will be reported to the legal authorities and prosecuted."

'Late goals are a part of our DNA'

AFP, Madrid



A never say die approach is part of Real Madrid's DNA said captain Sergio Ramos after his stoppage time equaliser maintained a six-point La Liga lead over Barcelona with a 1-1 draw in El Clasico.

Ramos strode forward from defence to net another important goal after Luis Suarez's 53rd minute opener looked set to end Madrid's 32-game unbeaten run.

"The team has again showed that we came here to win the game, it wasn't to be but we got a point," said Ramos.

"At the end of the day the DNA of Real Madrid obliges you to fight until the end, to always have hope."

Ramos's header was a hammer blow for Barca, who have now dropped more points at home already this campaign than they did in the whole of last season.

"It shows that we have done things well since the start of the season, but we can't go crazy," added Ramos.

"Six points is just two games. There is a long way to go and Barca and the other teams below will make things very difficult.

"We prefer to rely on ourselves, but neither should we be singing from the rooftops."

Despite Ramos's heroics, Madrid's stand-out performer was Luka Modric as the Croatian ran the midfield in the opening 45

minutes before Barca markedly improved after the break.

"We played like a team," said Modric.

"If we leave it all out on the field, it is very difficult to beat us. We have to do this in every game, not just in the Clasico."

Real manager Zinedine Zidane said after the match that although his side had only secured one point, it still felt like a win.

Suarez awoke from an off colour display to head home Neymar's free-kick to give Barca the lead.

However, the hosts were left to rue huge missed chances from Neymar and Lionel Messi before Ramos's late leveller snatched a point.

One piece of positive news for Barcelona, though, was the return of captain Andres Iniesta from injury as the Spanish international put on a virtuoso display as a second-half substitute.

Iniesta's introduction into the side in the second-half of the match in place of Croatian midfielder Ivan Rakitic seemed to revitalise Barcelona with Real seemingly on the ascendancy.

"The feeling could be that we've dropped two points, but there is no time to feel sorry for ourselves," said Iniesta.

"The games come thick and fast and we have to win and hope Madrid slip up.

"Madrid are a dangerous team but I think we played well.

"Normally you are left with what comes last and that was Madrid's equaliser. It was a shame not to have taken our chances at 1-0."



SERGIO RAMOS