

Sports

Kalou saves Hertha with second penalty attempt

Freiburg climbed out of the bottom three to 15th

BERLIN: Ivory Coast veteran Salomon Kalou rescued Hertha Berlin with a penalty at the second attempt in yesterday's 1-1 draw at Freiburg in the Bundesliga. Hosts Freiburg took the lead on 52 minutes when the video assistant referee (VAR) confirmed Christian Guenter had been fouled in the penalty area and Janik Haberer drilled home from the spot.

At the other end, Kalou fired his first penalty effort over the bar on 77 minutes after Berlin midfielder Arne Maier was brought down in the area. However just four minutes later, Kalou took his chance to make amends by converting a spot kick after a second penalty was awarded to Berlin. The VAR spotted Hertha's Davie Selke had been fouled in the area and ex-Chelsea striker Kalou made no mistake this time. "I said to our manager, 'I think we're jinxed' after Salomon missed the first penalty, but then he had the balls to take the second one and convert it," said Hertha coach Pal Dardai.

With time almost up, both teams had clear chances. Hertha's Austria international Valentino Lazaro forced Freiburg goalkeeper Alexander Scholow into a reflex save with ten minutes left. Then a freekick by Freiburg's Julian Schuster was palmed onto the crossbar by Berlin goalkeeper Rune Jarstein just before the

final whistle. The point was Hertha's second in their last four games to go 11th while Freiburg climbed out of the bottom three to 15th at the expense of Hamburg, who lost 1-0 at home to Bayern Munich on Saturday.

Bayern are level with leaders Borussia Dortmund on 20 points, but stay second on goal difference after Corentin Tolisso scored their winner while Hamburg's Gideon Jung was sent off on 40 minutes for fouling Kingsley Coman. Dortmund threw away a two-goal lead in Saturday's 2-2 draw at Eintracht Frankfurt as goals by Nuri Sahin and Maximilian Philipp were cancelled out by Sebastien Haller and Marius Wolf Earlier yesterday, Cologne and Werder Bremen remain in the relegation places

after their goalless draw. Cologne's Claudio Pizarro, the highest scoring foreign striker in the Bundesliga's history, picked up an injury before kick-off and the 39-year-old had to sit out the home clash against his former club. Both sides had several chances - Cologne shaded the shots on goal with 18 compared to Bremen's 13.

"It's difficult, that was something for vegetarians - it wasn't meat or fish, so it's hard to know where to start," said Cologne coach Peter Stoeger. "The guys have everything, there was passion. "We can moan as much as we want, but there were enough chances." —AFP



Pizarro, the highest scoring foreign striker



FREIBURG: Berlin's Per Ciljan Skjelbred, left, and Freiburg's Florian Niederlechner clash during the German Bundesliga soccer match between SC Freiburg and Hertha BSC in Freiburg, Germany, yesterday. — AP

N Zealand stun India by 6 wkts in first ODI

MUMBAI: Century-maker Tom Latham and Ross Taylor inspired New Zealand to a thrilling six-wicket win over India in the first one-day international at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium yesterday. The batsmen put on a 200-run partnership as the Kiwis successfully chased down 281 to stun the hosts after Indian captain Virat Kohli had hit a century of his own.

Left-hander Latham smashed 103 off 102 balls, including eight fours and two sixes, while Taylor made 95 off 99 as New Zealand won with six balls to spare, finishing on 284-4. The visitors' run chase got off to a poor start with opener Colin Munro falling for 28 before Kiwis captain Kane Williamson walked shortly afterwards on a paltry six. When Martin Guptill was sent packing by Hardik Pandya in the 18th over for 32 New Zealand were at 80-3 and looking like they were heading for a heavy defeat. But Latham and Taylor had other ideas and put on a superb 200-run fourth-wicket partnership that lasted 187 balls. Taylor, who hit eight fours, was dismissed in the penultimate over with New Zealand needing just one run to win.

The right-hander was caught out before Henry Nicholls came in and smashed a four to secure the tourists' victory. Earlier, Kohli scored his 31st ODI century in his 200th match as India made 280-8 after winning the toss and opting to bat first. The Indian captain smashed 121 off 125 balls including nine fours and two sixes. — AFP



MUMBAI: New Zealand's Tom Latham plays shot during their first one-day international cricket match against India in Mumbai, India, yesterday. — AP

Bishoo puts West Indies in control

BULAWAYO: Leg-spinner Devendra Bishoo pricked Zimbabwe's bubble of optimism yesterday as his five-wicket haul put the West Indies in charge of the first Test at Queens Sports Club.

Zimbabwe came into the two-match series in a buoyant mood following the return of Brendan Taylor and Kyle Jarvis to their ranks, and carried it through the opening day when they dismissed the West Indies for 219.

But Bishoo's 5 for 79 on the second day was like a bucket of cold water on Zimbabwe's spirits as they were bowled out for 159, with Hamilton Masakadza's 42 the top score. "There were way too many soft dismissals, and the boys are upset with themselves. That wasn't how we wanted to play," said Zimbabwe's batting coach Lance Klusener.

"We've got a second bite at the cherry, but it won't be easy to bat out there." With Zimbabwe bowled out in just 61.3 overs, the West Indies began their second innings after tea and reached stumps on 88 for one, giving them an overall lead of 148. Kraigg Brathwaite led the way with an unbeaten 38, while Kyle Hope registered a career-best 32 not out in his fourth Test.

The hosts made a positive start in reply to West Indies' 219 all out, with openers Masakadza and Solomon Mire moving their overnight total from 19 to 44 without loss.

But from 91 for one Zimbabwe slipped to 139 for seven as Masakadza felt for a Bishoo delivery and edged behind. Brendan Taylor reverse-swept the legspinner to slip and Sikandar Raza holed out to long-off. Shannon Gabriel finished off the innings with the wicket of Chris Mpofu on the stroke of tea, leaving the tourists with a sense of satisfaction. — AFP



EAST LONDON: South African bowler Dane Paterson throws the ball during the 3rd ODI match at the Buffalo Park, in East London, yesterday. — AFP

Markram shines on debut as South Africa complete sweep

EAST LONDON: Aiden Markram scored a half-century and took two wickets on his one-day international debut as South Africa completed a clean sweep of their three-match series against Bangladesh with a crushing 200-run victory at Buffalo Park yesterday.

Markram contributed 66 from 60 balls as South Africa posted 369 for six from their 50 overs, with Faf du Plessis (91 from 67 balls) and Quinton de Kock (73 from 68) also in the runs. Du Plessis retired hurt with a lower back strain and has been withdrawn from the two-match Twenty20 International series that starts in Bloemfontein on Thursday as JP Duminy takes over the captaincy duties. Bangladesh slipped to 61 for five in reply and were eventually all out for 169 as Markram claimed two for 18, including the wicket of Shakib Al Hasan (63 from 82), who provided the lone score of note for the visitors. — Reuters

Inter end Napoli winning streak in stalemate

MILAN: Inter Milan ended Napoli's winning streak in Serie A with a goalless draw despite a hard-fought top of the table clash in Naples on Saturday. Napoli—who suffered Champions League disappointment at Manchester City this week—now have 25 points from nine games to maintain their two-point advantage on second-placed Inter.

Champions Juventus and Lazio—joint third on 19 points—have a golden opportunity to narrow the gap on Sunday when they take on Udinese and Cagliari respectively. Napoli had been on a winning streak in 13 Serie A games going back to last season. But they came up against a stubborn Inter, chasing a first win in Naples in 20 years, and who underlined their title credentials in front of 50,000 spectators at the San Paolo Stadium.

Both teams had their goalkeepers to thank for the point with Inter's Samir Handanovic and Napoli's Pepe Reina pulling off some fine saves. "These players must be complimented," Inter coach Luciano Spalletti told Mediaset Premium after the match.

"Today we played a very good game, which could have been even better. Napoli were very strong, they did incredible things. Handanovic did what he needed to do. Reina also seemed good to me on a couple of occasions. We have suffered and we are keeping this (title race) close" Napoli had more possession in the first half but little to show as Handanovic kept out a quickfire double from Jose Callejon and Dries Mertens. Reina also denied Inter's Mauro Icardi and Borja Valero just before the break.

Napoli ran out of steam in the second

half showing signs of fatigue after their European travels. Inter with no European commitments looked fresher, but Napoli earned the two best chances with Piotr Zielinski's long range volley on 84 minutes and a Mertens effort six minutes later both cleared.

"The feeling I have is that the team have more motivation in the league than Europe," conceded Napoli coach Maurizio Sarri. "Tonight we played with great determination for 95 minutes, in Manchester only for 55."

"I think it's a sub-conscious thing. If in our minds we feel more competitive in Serie A than in the Champions League, that might be a difficult thing to shake off. "We don't have that much of a chance to go all the way in Europe, but we do want to put in a great tournament performance." Both Napoli and Inter take on teams from Genoa next week. Napoli play at Genoa with Inter hosting local rivals Sampdoria, who earlier Saturday crushed struggling Crotona with a five-goal blitz to move fifth. Sampdoria, who have a game in hand, were three goals up by half-time.

Gianmarco Ferrari headed in after three minutes against his former club. Fabio Quagliarella converted a penalty on 11 minutes after Arlind Ajeti dragged down Duvan Zapata, with Gianluca Caprari tapping in a third before the break.

Polish pair Karol Linetty and substitute Dawid Kownacki added two more for good measure in a five-minute spree from 71 minutes as Sampdoria kept their perfect home record. "We're going through a good run of form, even if we know there are always going to be high and lows in a campaign," said Sampdoria coach Marco Giampaolo. — AFP

Guangzhou retain China league title

GUANGZHOU: Luiz Felipe Scolari's rampant Guangzhou Evergrande won the Chinese Super League (CSL) for the seventh time in a row yesterday and with two games to spare. In what is expected to be the decorated Brazilian coach's last season in charge, Guangzhou scored twice in three minutes in the first half as they thrashed Guizhou Zhicheng 5-1 at home. Scolari, whose contract is up at the end of the season after two successful years in southern China, was banned from the bench as his side romped to the victory they needed to wrap up the CSL title once more. Under the 68-year-old Scolari, who took over from the Italian Fabio Cannavaro in 2015, Guangzhou have cemented their place as the best team in China.

They went out of the Asian Champions League in the quarter-finals to domestic rivals Shanghai SIPG, but they have once more dominated the CSL. Guangzhou suffered a minor wobble when Brazilian international Paulinho left for Barcelona in August, but Andre Villas-Boas's Shanghai—the nearest challengers in the CSL—failed to capitalise.

The home fans came to see a coronation yesterday and Gao Lin headed home unmarked at a packed Tianhe Stadium to start the party on 15 minutes. Two minutes later Guangzhou were 2-0 up as Guizhou made a mess of things in defence and another Brazilian, the forward Alan, waltzed through the non-existent backline.

The visitors pulled a goal back midway through the first half but Guangzhou's prolific Brazilian striker Ricardo Goulart put the game out of sight with a deft header in the 52nd minute that bounced off a Guizhou player and into the net. — AFP