

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
English Premier League
Man City v West Ham
Live from 1:20am (Thursday)
TEN 1
UEFA Champions League

Atalanta v Valencia
Live from 2:00am (Thursday)
TEN 2
UEFA Champions League
Tottenham v Leipzig
Live from 2:00am (Thursday)

DAY'S EVENT

BCB XI v Zimbabweans
Two-day Practice match, Day-2
Time: 9:30am
Venue: BKSP

Atalanta ride wave of remarkable run

AFP, Milan

Gian Piero Gasperini's Atalanta are counting on the wave of enthusiasm generated by the Italian outsiders remarkable run in their Champions League debut season to surge past Spanish club Valencia in the knockout rounds.

The team from Bergamo in the foothills of the Italian Alps take on Valencia on Wednesday in the last 16, first leg, at the 80,000-seater San Siro, which has nearly four times the capacity of their home stadium, 55 kilometres away.

"This is a game that we have been waiting months for," said Gasperini.

"Being able to play on front of so many of our fans at a venue like San Siro is a beautiful achievement that we have been waiting a long time for."

"The Champions League is a dream which we'll try to carry forward as much as possible."

"The whole city of Bergamo is practically travelling to Milan."

The team's stunning run comes despite losing their opening three Champions League group games, including 4-0 away to Dinamo Zagreb before a 5-1 loss at Manchester City.

But a 1-1 draw against Man City in the San Siro sparked the revival of 'La Dea' (The Goddess) who finished seven points behind the Premier League side in second to reach the knockout stage.

Atalanta's confidence has been further boosted after seeing off AS Roma 2-1 in a cauldron atmosphere on front of their home crowd at their Atleti Azzurri d'Italia stadium on



Saturday.

The victory consolidated fourth place in Serie A, six points ahead of the side from the capital and bolstered their hopes of Champions League next season.

"This victory gives us confidence for the next games, it was a fundamental clash to be won," said Mario Pasalic who came off the bench and hit the match winner 19 seconds later.

Their current form is a remarkable achievement for a club with a modest budget compared to rivals Juventus, Inter Milan and AC Milan.

Their transformation follows the arrival of Gasperini in the summer of 2016 from Genoa.

The 62-year-old previously coached

Crotona, Palermo and briefly Inter Milan, where he was sacked after a run of five winless Serie A games and just one point.

The team -- founded 113 years ago by a group of students from a local school and named after Atalanta, a huntress in Greek mythology -- had been relegated in 2003, 2005 and 2010.

Gasperini guided them to a fourth-place finish in his first season to qualify for the Europa League.

Last season they finished third, powered by Colombian Duvan Zapata's 23 league goals, and qualified for the Champions League for the first time.

Atalanta have the best attack in the league with 63 goals scored -- 17 more than Cristiano Ronaldo's Juventus.

Spurs lose Son to broken arm

AFP, London

Korean star Son Heung-min has fractured his right arm his club Tottenham Hotspur said on Tuesday delivering a blow to their hopes of silverware this season and qualifying for the Champions League next season.

The 27-year-old South Korean international forward suffered the injury in the 3-2 Premier League victory over Aston Villa -- in which he scored twice including the late winner -- on Sunday.

Son suffered the injury in a robust first-minute challenge from Villa's Ezri Konsa. The club did not specify how long Son would be out.

Spurs manager Jose Mourinho is already without star striker Harry Kane -- side-lined since January with a torn hamstring -- and as the club enters a crucial period. Midfielder Moussa Sissoko is another long-term casualty.

"Heung-Min Son is to undergo surgery this week after sustaining a fracture to his right arm," read Spurs statement.

"Following surgery, our medical staff shall be reviewing management options for Son's rehabilitation with the player expected to be sidelined for a number of weeks."



JOSE MOURINHO



JULIAN NAGELSMANN

'Special one' up against 'Baby Mourinho'

AFP, LONDON

A Champions League last 16 tie with Leipzig offers Tottenham a window into what might have been when Julian Nagelsmann brings the buccaneering Germans to London on Wednesday looking to inflict another early exit from the competition on Jose Mourinho.

Nagelsmann, 32, is 25 years younger than Mourinho and has a CV 25 trophies lighter than the Portuguese, yet many believe Spurs missed a trick in failing to pursue him as Mauricio Pochettino's successor.

Pochettino's time at Spurs never recovered from losing last season's Champions League final, instead he lumbered on until November, when he was sacked, paving the way for Mourinho's return to the Premier League.

Despite his relative lack of experience, Nagelsmann would have been a more natural heir to Pochettino if Spurs chairman Daniel Levy wanted to rekindle the high-pressing, attacking and proactive football of the glory days of Pochettino's reign.

But Tottenham and plenty others were too slow off the mark when it came to getting their hands on one of Europe's top

coaching talents. After three-and-a-half seasons transforming Hoffenheim from battling for Bundesliga survival to qualifying for the Champions League, Leipzig knew Nagelsmann was the man they wanted to fulfil Red Bull's ambitious project to dethrone Bayern Munich as the kings of German football.

An agreement was in place well before Nagelsmann took charge at the start of this season.

"It's like when you go to a disco and you are single, you'll never find a girl," Nagelsmann told The Independent of the interest that followed him signing a contract with Leipzig.

"Then when you go to the disco with your girlfriend, quite a few want you!"

However, experience is on Tottenham's side. Not only do Spurs now have a two-time winner of the competition in the dugout, but a team that has progressed further in the Champions League every year for the past three seasons.

"Jose has experience in every sort of situation," added Nagelsmann. "He has managed so many knockout games and knows what to do if his team goes ahead, is behind, concedes early, needs a late goal. I've only had knockout games in the DFB-Pokal (German Cup)."

'Maguire should have seen red'

REUTERS, Undated

Chelsea manager Frank Lampard has said Harry Maguire should not have been on the pitch when he scored his side's second goal in a 2-0 Premier League win on Monday after the Manchester United defender escaped a red card for kicking Michy Batshuayi.

The Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system was in the spotlight after Maguire kicked Batshuayi in the groin area in the first half. "Maguire should have been sent off," Lampard told British media. "That's clear, and that obviously changes the game."

Maguire went on to score a thumping header in the 66th minute to seal the win.

4TH ISSF ARCHERY CHAMPIONSHIPS BAF postpones event due to coronavirus

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Archery Federation (BAF) yesterday postponed the 4th ISSF International Solidarity World Ranking Archery Championships, citing the unwillingness of nations to participate following the outbreak of the coronavirus.

The championships were scheduled to begin at the Shaheed Ahsan Ullah Master Stadium in Tongi from February 23.

"Some big teams such as Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan, Iraq and Azerbaijan are not interested in competing in the championships due to the outbreak of the coronavirus and the number of participating nations has come down from 33 to 20. So, after consulting with OIC and World Archery, we postponed the championships," said BAF general secretary Kazi Rajib Uddin Ahmed Chapal yesterday.

"It is meaningless to hold the championships if the meet has no importance, so we will try to hold it after the Tokyo Olympics," Chapal added.

The Bangladeshi archers have dominated the medals tally of the ISSF Solidarity Archery championships in the past three editions held in Bangladesh.

Rebic boosts Milan's hopes

REUTERS, Rome

AC Milan forward Ante Rebic continued his superb run of form by securing a 1-0 Serie A win over Torino at San Siro on Monday that sent them within touching distance of the European spots.

The Croatia international latched onto a Samuel Castillejo cross to sweep home the decisive goal after 25 minutes, marking his fifth in the last five league games.

Milan move into eighth place on 35 points but only trail seventh-placed Parma and Hellas Verona in sixth on goal difference.

Torino are 14th with 27 points, five clear of the relegation zone, but have lost their last five Serie A games, conceding 17 goals.



India's cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar (C) receives the Laureus Best Sporting Moment award from Australian great Steve Waugh as German tennis legend Boris Becker looks on during the Laureus World Sports Awards ceremony in Berlin on Monday. Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi and reigning Formula 1 champion Lewis Hamilton shared the Laureus Sportsman of the Year award.

PHOTO: LAUREUS TWITTER

Visiting Arambagh stun Ctg Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER

Arambagh produced the first surprise in the Bangladesh Premier League, handing a 2-1 defeat to hosts Chattogram Abahani in Chattogram while Sheikh Jamal recorded an identical 2-1 win over hosts MuktiJoddha Sangsad in Gopalganj yesterday.

Boosted with a single-goal win over Sheikh Jamal in their first match, a rejuvenated Chattogram Abahani started strongly at the MA Aziz Stadium and had more of the ball but Arambagh stunned Maruful Haque's charges by taking a lead against the run of the play.



Omar Jobe (L) and Solomon King Kanform scored one apiece as Sheikh Jamal beat MuktiJoddha Sangsad 2-1 in their Bangladesh Premier League fixture in Gopalganj yesterday.

PHOTO: BFF

CTG ABAHANI 1 - 2 ARAMBAGH
Rony 45+2', Eleta 38', 45+3'
MUKTIJODDHA 1 - 2 SHEIKH JAMAL
Emile 47', Jobe 44', Solomon 73'

Transitioning quickly from defence to attack, Didarul Haque released a through ball for Eleta Kingsley, who raced onto the pass past three Abahani players before driving an angled shot from the edge of the box past goalkeeper Mohammad Nehal in the 38th minute.

However, the lead lasted only eight minutes. Chattogram Abahani leveled one minute into stoppage time of the first half when Chinedu Mathew ran down from the right flank and squared it to unmarked

Shakhawat Hossain Rony, who tapped home. With the clock trickling into the final minute of stoppage time in the first half, Arambagh again surprised the port city outfit after a basic error from defender Shawkat Russel.

Arambagh's Egyptian midfielder released a long ball aimed at Kingsley, but found the feet of opposing right-back Russel, whose underhit pass to the goalkeeper was pounced upon by Kingsley. The Nigerian marksman made no mistake in restoring the lead with

another cool finish to the far post. After resumption, Chattogram Abahani pushed for the equaliser and Nixon rattled the crossbar before Arambagh defender Anisur Alam Sweet's attempted clearance fortunately ricocheted off his own post. Ultimately, Arambagh held their nerve and ended the game with their heads high.

FOREIGNERS POWER
SHEIKH JAMAL
Away at the Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni Stadium in Gopalganj, three-

time champions Sheikh Jamal's win over MuktiJoddha Sangsad was secured by a goal apiece from their Gambian duo of Pa Omar Jobe and Solomon King.

Sheikh Jamal looked determined to taste their first win of the new campaign against MuktiJoddha Sangsad, who are going through a players' payment crisis which even saw players not train for two days before the start of the league on February 13.

MuktiJoddha Sangsad's vulnerable backline were unable to stop Sheikh Jamal's foreign attacking lineup, who made the difference in the match. Former national winger Zahid Hossain whipped in a nice cross from the right for Jobe, who scored on the rebound after seeing his fierce header come off the crossbar in the 44th minute.

It did not take long after resumption for MuktiJoddha Sangsad to hit back and they found the equaliser from a counter attack. Midfielder Mohammad Sohel released a defence-splitting through ball for Cameroon's Paul Emile, who advanced into the attacking third before driving a shot from the edge of the box past Sheikh Jamal goalkeeper Ziaur Rahman in the 47th minute.

Sheikh Jamal restored their lead in the 73rd minute with long-serving Solomon heading home a Mozzamel Hossain cross into the box and the Dhanmondi-based outfit walked away with the full three points.

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