

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

TEN 1

UEFA Europa League

Ludogorets v Inter

Live from 11:55pm

TEN 2

UEFA Europa League

Club Brugge v Man United

Live from 11:55pm

SONY ESPN

UEFA Europa League

Cluj v Sevilla

Live from 11:55pm

SONY SIX

UEFA Europa League

Copenhagen v Celtic

Live from 11:55pm

Bangladesh Premier League

Bangladesh Police v Bashundhara Kings

Time: 3:30pm

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Rahmatganj v Sheikh Russel

Time: 6:30pm

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

# Simeone’s Atletico stifles Liverpool

REUTERS, Madrid

There have been plenty of doubts aired this season about whether Atletico Madrid were capable of reproducing their past glories, but on Tuesday against an all-conquering Liverpool, Diego Simeone’s side returned to their roots.

Their 1-0 win in the Champions League last-16 first leg was akin to a greatest hits set, containing all the ingredients of what has made Atletico so compelling in the last eight years under Simeone.

The cacophony of flares that greeted the team’s bus was their opening track, Saul Niguez’s fourth minute goal the smash hit, while Simeone, as usual clad in his all-black suit, was the excitable frontman, whipping up the crowd like Mick Jagger.

“I don’t know if Diego saw a lot of the game because he was constantly animating the crowd,” said Liverpool coach Jurgen Klopp, partly in bewilderment but mostly in admiration.

Liverpool and Klopp’s previous club Borussia Dortmund are renowned for their atmospheres on European nights but the German coach was impressed.

“We speak about Anfield and the power a stadium can have and tonight we saw it,” he added.

Simeone added: “You don’t ever forget nights like this, one of the best teams around coming here and us winning. I can remember few nights like this in my eight years here. It was truly exciting.”

Atletico have built a reputation on upsetting the apple cart but they have endured a terrible season, losing to a third division team in the Copa del Rey, suffering numerous injuries and falling 13 points behind leaders Real Madrid in La Liga.

“Lagging behind in the league, out of the Copa and (former captains) with Diego Godin and Gabi gone, everything pointed to the end of an era,” said newspaper AS.

“Then suddenly, no. Against the hardest test of all, the best team in Europe, Simeone’s Atletico rose again and produced one of their best performances in years.”

El Pais added: “Even champions like

Liverpool end up begging for mercy when faced with a dentist like Atletico.”

Atletico were euphoric after the final whistle, but they know the hardest part is still to come, 90 minutes at Liverpool’s coliseum. Klopp was talking up the power of his side’s stadium, warning ‘Welcome to Anfield’.

Liverpool’s 4-0 comeback win over Barcelona in last year’s semifinal will be in the back of Atletico’s minds, as will their own side’s 3-0 defeat to Juventus last season after beating the Italians 2-0 in Spain.

Simeone, though, was not willing to discuss the threat of Anfield, insisting: “Sincerely, I’m not thinking about that.”

This, after all, was a night to savour, the night his side were backed into a corner but came out swinging.



**Energetic as always, Diego Simeone orchestrated Atletico Madrid to a vintage performance in a 1-0 win over Liverpool in their Champions League Last 16 fixture in Madrid on Tuesday.**

PHOTO: AFP

## ‘Welcome to Anfield’

AFP, London

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp expects a very different atmosphere at Anfield will help turn his side’s Champions League last 16 tie with Atletico Madrid around after a 1-0 first leg defeat in the Spanish capital on Tuesday.

Saul Niguez’s early strike inflicted just Liverpool’s second defeat of the season in all competitions with a senior team.

The holders were frustrated by the hosts’ playacting and Polish referee Szymon Marciniak’s performance as Atletico boss Diego Simeone whipped the Wanda Metropolitanano crowd into a frenzy.

“Wow, that’s energy!”

Klopp told BT Sport when asked about Simeone’s touchline antics.

“I don’t think I have to do that much to be honest (in the second leg), I hope I can be focused a little bit more on the game.

“Our people will be ready. Welcome to Anfield! It’s not over yet.”

The visitors were riled by the celebrations of Simeone and some of his players at full-time after they secured a victory that could kickstart at faltering season.

“They’ve celebrated as if they’ve won the tie after the game, so let’s see,” said left-back Andy Robertson.

“We’ve got a couple of weeks, Premier League business to take care of, and then we’re coming back to Anfield.

“We know our fans will be there, we’ll be there, so it’s up to them to come as well.”



**Dortmund’s Norwegian sensation Erling Braut Haaland might have not scored from this header, but he scored two superb goals as the Germans beat starstudded Paris Saint-Germain in the first leg of their Last 16 tie of the Champions League in Dortmund on Tuesday.**

PHOTO: REUTERS

# Haaland outshines PSG superstars

REUTERS, Dortmund



Borussia Dortmund’s lethal teenage striker Erling Haaland scored twice in eight minutes to lead them to a 2-1

win over Paris St Germain in their Champions League last 16, first leg on Tuesday.

The Norwegian, 19, who joined in the last transfer window and has eight goals in five Bundesliga matches, stabbed in from close range after a quick-fire passing move in the 69th minute.

He then thundered home an unstoppable shot for his second goal in the 77th, two minutes after PSG’s Brazilian forward Neymar had levelled for the French champions.

Haaland, the first Dortmund player to score in his first league, German Cup and Champions League matches, has reached 10 goals in seven games in Europe’s elite competition this season, including eight for Salzburg in the group stage, faster than anyone.

He is only the second teenager to net 10 Champions League goals, after Kylian Mbappe, and is the first teenager to score 10 in a single

campaign in the competition.

He is also the first player to score with two different teams in the same season in the competition.

“I still need to improve, keep working,” Haaland said. “I want to go far in the Champions League. With the second goal I enjoyed the moment.”

PSG, who were eliminated at this stage of the competition in the previous three seasons, had fit-again Neymar and French striker Mbappe back in the starting lineup but were almost completely shut out by an efficient Dortmund backline.

“Obviously, maybe we deserved the draw but Dortmund were very good,” said PSG defender Thomas Meunier.

“They didn’t lose one game here at home this season and we saw today it is so difficult. We thought they had defensive problems, but we didn’t create many chances.”

In a cautious first half the French side had the slight advantage in possession but Dortmund carved out the only real chance after 27 minutes with a curled shot from Jadon Sancho.

Mbappe and Neymar were kept under tight surveillance,

with Dortmund defenders Mats Hummels, Lukasz Piszczek -- on his 350th appearance for the club in all competitions -- and Dan Axel Zagadou denying the pair any space to manoeuvre.

The Germans’ main source of firepower, the livewire Haaland, was also shackled for about an hour before finally finding some space to instinctively round off a quick Dortmund move.

PSG, who will be without midfielder Marco Verratti and Meunier for the return leg after they picked up bookings, drew level through Neymar, who found the net after a fine run down the right by Mbappe. The Brazilian also later hit the post.

But the visitors could do nothing when 17-year-old substitute Giovanni Reyna found Haaland on the edge of the box and the prolific forward released a fiercely struck left-foot shot that gave PSG goalkeeper Keylor Navas no chance.

“Everyone played an outstanding game,” Dortmund midfielder Emre Can said. “But it was important that we all defended extremely well. It was a big statement from the team, but we know it is not the end, it is just halftime.”

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