



Last season's Champions League finalists Paris Saint-Germain and their 222-million-euro superstar Neymar were shocked 2-1 by Manchester United, with Marcus Rashford once again netting a dramatic winner at the Parc des Princes on Tuesday. (Bottom) Lazio striker **Ciro Immobile** silenced his critics with a clinical performance against former club Borussia Dortmund, getting a goal and an assist in a 3-1 win.

PHOTO: TWITTER/PSG

Rashford silences Paris again

AGENCIES, PARIS



Ole Gunnar Solskjær was full of praise for his “excellent” Manchester United side on Tuesday after Marcus Rashford’s late strike saw them win at Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League.

Nineteen months had passed since the remarkable 3-1 comeback victory that put United into the last eight and sealed Ole Gunnar Solskjær’s ascent to the permanent job. And yet, until Bruno Fernandes’s first-half penalty, the last goal PSG had conceded at home in the Champions League was scored by United themselves.

“The performance was good and we deserved to win it. It was a better performance than last time and it shows how we have developed,” Solskjær said following the 2-1 victory at the Parc des Princes.

Rashford’s 87th-minute effort decided the encounter in United’s favour after an Anthony Martial own goal had cancelled out Bruno Fernandes’s opening goal from the penalty spot in the first half.

“You know when you go away from home against a team like this, against players like Neymar and Mbappe, top, top players in the world, that you will have to defend well and David will have to make a few saves. Sometimes you’ll get in



a foot race with Mbappe and you have to run with him and we know Axel’s qualities, he’s a top defender. It’s his first game in 10 months or something which is testament to the quality he has.”

The United boss also praised Rashford, whose dramatic last-gasp penalty at the same end had given them victory here in the last 16 in March 2019, joking that the striker “likes that side of the stadium”.

De Gea, who was named man of the match after his fine display between the sticks, added: “We had good memories of this stadium from the last time we played here. It was amazing but today we

showed again we are Manchester United. We can beat big teams like PSG, playing well and creating good chances. That’s why we are Manchester United.”

HUMILITY KEY FOR LAZIO, SAYS INZAGHI

There was little surprise elsewhere as an Alvaro Morata double gave Cristiano Ronaldo-less Juventus a 2-0 win over Dynamo Kyiv, while Lionel Messi became the first player to score in 16 consecutive Champions League campaigns when he netted from the spot in Barcelona’s 5-1 win over Ferencvaros.

There was a spot of bother for manager Ronald Koeman, who could not wrap his head around Gerard Pique’s red card that will rule him out of their next tie against Juventus, but Barcelona made another piece of history as Ansu Fati and Pedri became the first two players under the age of 18 to score in the same Champions League fixture.

Meanwhile, Borussia Dortmund crashed to a 3-1 defeat to Lazio, **Ciro Immobile** -- a player they discarded in 2015 -- scoring one and creating another either side of an own goal. “I loved the humility with which we faced a truly strong opponent, because from the midfield up they have extraordinary players with immense potential,” Simone Inzaghi told Sky Sport Italia. “We played a great game of collective sacrifice and then hurt them when we had the chances.”

Immobile, who scored thrice in 24 appearances for Dortmund and was labelled the club’s worst signing ever by German media, answered his critics with a goal and assist and said afterwards: “I always said that I arrived in Dortmund at the wrong time of my career and of the team’s generational shift. I don’t want to say anything against critics, as I pay close attention to everything. I know when I deserve praise or criticism.”

Confused Soumya fails yet again

SPORTS REPORTER



Soumya Sarkar was seen as one of the brightest prospects in Bangladesh cricket when he made his international debut in 2014, but over the years his consistency

at the highest level has been a matter of concern.

When on song, Soumya is a treat for spectators and pundits alike because of the extra time he seems to have to play the ball, his timing and the classical left-hander’s elegance in the shots he plays. But the lack of consistency has been disappointing. Despite getting enough opportunities over six years, the 27-year-old has so far failed to make the most of them and become a bonafide regular in the national team.

The ongoing BCB President’s Cup tri-series is a platform for cricketers to return to the groove after a long gap of seven months. The selectors had previously stated that more than performance, they will focus on the attitude and approach from cricketers and from that perspective, it has been a disappointing tournament for Soumya.

In the four games that he opened the innings for Najmul XI, including yesterday’s match against Tamim XI, the left-hander has managed scores of 21, 9, 8 and 7.

It was not just his lack of runs, but more importantly his batting approach looked unusual and confused -- the manner of his dismissal in all four games have raised

concerns over his mindset.

In the first game against Mahmudullah XI Soumya did all the hard work to get set at the crease at the start of a small chase of 197 runs but just when the batsman needed to play his natural game the left-hander went for a push to an away going delivery from pacer Ebadot Hossain and gave a simple catch to point.

Perhaps the most unusual knock from Soumya was in the second match against Tamim XI where the 27-year-old, in chase of a modest target of 222, looked uncomfortable right from the start.

Soumya was largely unable to rotate the strike while facing 47 deliveries before being trapped leg-before by an incoming Mohammad Saifuddin delivery, about which the left-hander seemed to have no clue whatsoever. Making it worse for his side, his dismissal put extra pressure on the following batsmen.

His lack of foot movement has been the biggest concern which cost him his wicket in the third game when he was late to react to a Rubel Hossain delivery after scoring just nine runs.

The left-hander repeated the mistake once again yesterday as he was caught at the crease as he went fishing for a wide, away-going delivery from Saifuddin and only managed to edge it to the keeper.

Every batsman goes through lean patches but what he does during those periods to rectify mistakes and think through problems makes all the difference. Soumya is no stranger to lean patches, and perhaps the most concerning aspect is that after six years at the top he is still unable to navigate them with any certainty.



A woman takes a selfie near a sculpture of Pele at an exhibition marking his 80th birthday at the Soccer Museum in Sao Paulo earlier this week.

PHOTO: TWITTER

‘Lucid’ Pele makes surprise debut ahead of 80th

AGENCIES, SAO PAULO

Days away from turning 80, Brazilian football legend Pele said he was happy for his good mental health in a video sent to the media Tuesday, hours after confirming that he would be releasing his debut single to mark the celebrations.

“I thank God for giving me the health to make it this far lucid. Not very intelligent, but lucid,” he joked in the short video, released ahead of his milestone birthday Friday. “I hope when I die God will welcome me the same way I’ve been welcomed all over the world because of our beloved football.”

Meanwhile, as befitting his pedigree, Pele has teamed up with Grammy winners Rodrigo y Gabriela in making his first foray into the musical world. “I’ve written many books, I’ve scored many goals, I’ve fathered children, I’ve planted many trees. The only thing that’s lacking is a musical memento of my life,” says the Brazilian legend.

Pele actually wrote the song, called ‘Acredita No Veio (Listen To The Old Man)’, in 2005, together with Brazilian jazz musician and arranger Rurita Duprat. “I wrote this one because when I used to play with Santos, the coach used to say that when we lost it was the players’ fault, but when we won it was the macumba (magic) had helped,” said Pele. “The song is joking about that - of course, macumba doesn’t win games at all.”

Asked why it had taken him so long to foray into the arts, Pele said: “I didn’t want the public to make the comparison between Pele the composer and Pele the footballer. That would have been a huge injustice -- in football my talent was a gift from God, music was just for fun.”

‘Starting football is main priority’

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Football Federation officials and coaches of the national team are looking forward to the two international friendlies against Nepal as a chance to resume football activities in the country instead of thinking too much about the outcomes of the matches.

Bangladesh are scheduled to host Nepal on November 13 and 17 at Bangabandhu National Stadium, which last hosted a local league match on March 15 and an AFC Cup match on March 11. The training camp will start on Friday.

The game’s governing local body has already decided to start the new domestic season from late December but the fate of international assignments, namely World Cup Qualifiers, is still uncertain. Under these

circumstances, the BFF wants to avail the FIFA window to give the players a taste of football after a long gap.

“To prepare for upcoming World Cup Qualifiers and AFC Cup, we need to play friendly matches. We will certainly play to win the matches but that is not the main objective; rather bringing football



TRAINING AND ARRIVAL SCHEDULE

Training starts on Oct 23 under local coaching staff with Covid-19 players from 36-man squad

Jamie Day, Stuart Watkiss and Jamal Bhuiyan arrive on Oct 29 They are likely to be accompanied by foreign goalkeeping coach, fitness trainer and physiotherapist

Practice venue for Bangladesh: BNS and Kamalapur stadium. Practice venue for Nepal: Sk Jamal Dhammondi Club, Kamalapur stadium.

back to the ground is the major objective,” BFF vice-president and national teams committee chairman Kazi Nabil Ahmed told a virtual press conference yesterday.

He believes they would be able to arrange the matches with the help of all quarters. “We don’t know everything and we don’t have control over everything. We have to take help from others like sports ministry, health ministry, etc. Not everything will be foolproof, but we will certainly make sure to take initiatives that will reduce the danger,” said Nabil. Head coach

Ronaldo in a race against the clock

AGENCIES, Turin

Juventus talisman Cristiano Ronaldo is in a race against the clock to be back for Barcelona, having missed out on one Champions League match already.

The Old Lady beat Dynamo Kiev 2-0 in Ukraine without Ronaldo in the squad, as the Portuguese star tested positive for coronavirus whilst on international duty.

Il Corriere dello Sport reveals it is not impossible to have Ronaldo available for the match against Lionel Messi and Barcelona in the next round of the prestigious competition, but stresses that Ronaldo faces a race against the clock.



As violence against women continues to cause anxiety in Bangladesh, girls in Lalmonirhat are turning to martial arts as a means of empowering themselves. With educational institutions still closed due to the pandemic, the girls are taking lessons under open skies. Santwana Rani Roy, who used to teach Taekwondo to female students at educational institutions before the pandemic, is offering the training voluntarily, saying she hopes it will make women stronger. Jannatul Akhtar, a college student from Namuri village, told The Daily Star that she had newfound courage. “Once upon a time, on the way to and from college, people dared to make nonsensical remarks. But now they do not dare because they know I have learned martial arts.”

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

Federer on track for AO return

REUTERS

Roger Federer is practising pain-free after undergoing two knee surgeries this year and says he expects to return to the circuit at the Australian Open in January.

The 39-year-old Swiss reached the semi-finals at Melbourne Park at the start of the year but missed the rest of the season after undergoing a second arthroscopic procedure on



his right knee.

“I’m on the right track,” the 20 times Grand Slam singles champion told German-language magazine Schweizer Illustrierte.

“I’m gradually coming back but I’m going to take my time and don’t want to put any pressure on myself. I will only take part in a tournament when I am 100% fit.

“At the moment, it looks like I can make my comeback at the Australian Open in January.”

While he has made significant progress in his recovery he says he is still not at the point where he can train as normal.

“Not yet, more than two hours with the racket are not possible at the moment,” said Federer, who is currently ranked fourth in the world and saw Rafa Nadal equal his Grand Slam haul with a 13th French Open title this month.