

EUROPA LEAGUE

RESULTS

Anzhi Makhachkala (RUS) 2 (Eto'o 62-pen, 90) Young Boys (SUI) 0 Liverpool (ENG) 2 (Shelvey 23, Suarez 75) Udinese (ITA) 3 (Di Natale 46, Coates 70-og, Pasquale 72) Coimbra (POR) 1 (Cisse 47) Hapoel Tel Aviv (ISR) 1 (Damari 90+2) Atletico Madrid (ESP) 1 (Rodriguez 90+3) Viktoria Plzen (CZE) 0 Marseille (FRA) 5 (Fanni 42, Mendes 61, Remy 76, 90+3 Gignac 90) AEL Limassol (CYP) 1 (Ouon 22) Moenchengladbach (GER) 2 (L. de Jong 18, de Camargo 74) Fenerbahce (TUR) 4 (Cristian 25, 87, Raul Meireles 40, Kuyt 71) Club Bruges (BEL) 2 (Bacca 57, Vlemminck 71) Maritimo (POR) 0 Newcastle (ENG) 3 (Ameobi 16, Henrique 40-og, Cisse 49) Bordeaux (FRA) 0 Molde (NOR) 2 (Berget 58, Chima 88) VfB Stuttgart (GER) 0 Steaua Bucharest (ROM) 1 (Nikolic 83) FC Copenhagen (DEN) 0 AIK Solna (SWE) 2 (Danielsson 5, Goitom 45+1) Dnipropetrovsk (UKR) 3 (Kalinic 41, Mandzukic 74, Seleznov 83) PSV Eindhoven (NED) 3 (Lens 19, Mertens 41, Marcelo 52) Napoli (ITA) 0 FC Basel (SUI) 2 (Streller 71-pen, 85) Genk (BEL) 2 (De Ceulaer 10, Vossen 38) Videoton (HUN) 3 (Vinicio 15, F. Oliveira 21, Nikolic 35) Sporting Lisbon 0 Neftci PFK (AZE) 1 (Canales 53) Inter Milan (ITA) 3 (Coutinho 10, Obi 30, Liva 42) Rubin Kazan (RUS) 2 (Karadeniz 45, Ryazantsev 48) Partizan Belgrade (SRB) 0 Hapoel Kiryat Shmona (ISR) 3 (Shimon Abu Hazeira 7, 66-pen, Levi 51) Lyon (FRA) 4 (Fofana 17, 90+, Monzon 22, Revelliere 31) Sparta Prague (CZE) 3 (Zapotocny 26, Balaj 40, Husbauer 56-pen) Athletic Bilbao (ESP) 1 (De Marcos 73) Lazio (ITA) 1 (Ederson 62) Maribor (SLO) 0 Panathinaikos (GRE) 1 (Toche 77) Tottenham (ENG) 1 (Dawson 35) Kharkov (UKR) 2 (Edmar 66, Xavier 80) Rapid Vienna (AUT) 0 Rosenborg (NOR) 0 Bayer Leverkusen (GER) 1 (Kiessling 76) Hanover (GER) 2 (Huski 21-pen, Ya Konan 49) Levante (ESP) 1

Dinamo's bid to fill stands

AFP, Zagreb

In a bid to fill empty stands players for Croatian champions Dinamo Zagreb pooled to reward one fan who will attend the Champions League match against French side Paris Saint Germain with one million kunas (134,000 euros, \$174,000).

The idea was launched by young midfielder Mateo Kovacic who posted a video 'One Million for a Full Stadium' where he explains the idea to his teammates, on his Facebook page.

"Dear fans ... we are sad that you did not come at the stadium but I think that you will come now," the 18-year-old Kovacic says directly into the camera. He then takes the camera into the locker room to ask his teammates what they think about the plan.

"Whatever you say, if only I will fill the stadium," defender Josip Simunic says.

"It's really bad to play in front of empty stands. This (the reward) is fine. No problem," echoes midfielder Sammir while holding a mobile phone.

What to WATCH

ESPN

English Premiership
Man City v Sunderland
Live from 6:00pm
Chelsea v Norwich City
Live from 8:00pm
West Ham v Arsenal
Live from 10:30pm

STAR Sports

English Premiership
West Bromwich v QPR
Live from 8:30pm

Primera Liga
Real Zaragoza v Getafe
Live from 10:30pm
Real Betis v Real Sociedad

DAY'S EVENT

G Federation Cup
Arambagh v Soccer Club, Feni
Time: 3:30pm

Muktijoddha v Noakhali Football
Academy
Time: 5:30pm

Venue: Bangabandhu National



PHOTO: REUTERS

Newcastle striker Papiss Cisse (R) celebrates his goal against Bordeaux with Shola Ameobi during their Europa League Group D match in Newcastle on Thursday.

Newcastle cruise

AFP, Paris



Liverpool crumbled to a 3-2 Europa League defeat at Udinese at Anfield on Thursday as their roller-coaster season continued while Premier League rivals Newcastle cruised past Bordeaux 3-0.

Liverpool had been good value for a half-time lead after Jonjo Shelvey headed them in front in the 23rd minute.

But veteran striker Antonio Di Natale levelled for the Italians just after the interval before Sebastian Coates put through his own goal in the 70th minute and Giovanni Pasquale added a third two minutes later.

Uruguay star Luis Suarez curled in a free-kick with 75 minutes to go to reduce the deficit but Liverpool were unable to make a further breakthrough.

They will next face Russian side Anzhi Makhachkala who defeated Young Boys of Switzerland 2-0 to lead Group A with Samuel Eto'o scoring two second-half goals.

Shola Ameobi, with his 13th European goal, Henrique and Senegal international Papiss Cisse were all on target in Newcastle's comfortable win over French side Bordeaux.

Newcastle lead Group D with four points from two games.

Tottenham, fresh from upstaging Manchester United at Old Trafford, were held to a frustrating 1-1 draw by Panathinaikos in Athens.

Spurs were in control of their Group J fixture against a side reeling from the sacking of their captain Kostas Katsouranis after Michael Dawson's first half header.

But their Greek hosts battled back to scrape an unlikely draw after the break courtesy of Spanish striker Toche.

With Lazio beating Slovenian outfit Maribor 1-0, missing a penalty in the process, Spurs slipped to third place behind their Serie A rivals who had Ederson to thank for their win.

Champions Atletico Madrid are one of just three teams still to have a 100 per cent record after Cristian Rodriguez scored in the last minute to secure a 1-0 win over Viktoria Plzen in Group B.

English exile Joey Barton featured for Marseille in the French league leaders' 5-1 mauling of AEL Limassol while fellow French side Lyon prevailed in a seven-goal thriller in Israel against Hapoel Kiryat Shmona, Gueida Fofana bagging the injury time winner to earn a breathless 4-3 win.

No derby fever in Milan

REUTERS, Rome



The Milan derby is traditionally one of Serie A's biggest matches but this weekend the fixture could be played in a half-empty stadium due to AC Milan's poor start to the season.

Milan go into the clash with their arch-rivals in 11th place on seven points, five behind third-placed Inter and nine adrift of leaders Juventus. With top players Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Thiago Silva sold to Paris Saint-Germain, the fans have stayed away from the San Siro in their droves.

As of Wednesday only 55,000 tickets had been sold for Sunday evening's clash (1845 GMT), including 23,700 season ticket holders, an unthinkable low number for such an important game.

Only 28,000 people showed up last week to see their team win their first home game of the season, 2-0 against Cagliari.

Last season a crowd of 79,612 watched Milan beaten 1-0 by a Diego Milito goal, while the previous year 80,000 raised the roof as they destroyed Inter 3-0 on their march to the Serie A title.

The crisis has prompted the club to act, releasing an unprecedented video on their website in which captain Massimo Ambrosini and striker Stephan El Shaarawy plead with fans to show up for the match and Ambrosini saying "a derby without you makes no sense."

They hope the midweek 3-2 Champions League win at Zenit St Petersburg could revive interest, after the team showed grit to win a match they could have easily lost.

"It's the newspapers who say we're in crisis," said manager Massimiliano Allegri who has been under-fire since the start of the season.

"We come into the derby off the back of a great win... we know that the derby is strange game, a game of its own, a great game to take part in and which we will play to our best."

He will most likely start with a similar line-up to what finished the game in Russia, with Giampaolo Pazzini replacing Bojan Krkic up front alongside the impressive El Shaarawy, who scored a magnificent solo goal against Zenit.

Inter are in a healthier position, nicely tucked in third place alongside Lazio, and despite being without the injured Wesley Sneijder, strikers Antonio Cassano and Milito should give Andrea Stramaccioni's side the edge.

At least Serie A in general is shaping up to be one of the most closely contested for years with promoted Sampdoria and Torino in the top six despite suffering points deductions.

Napoli, Inter and Lazio are hot on the heels of Antonio Conte's Juve who are away at Siena on Sunday (1300GMT).

Juve look far from unbeatable this year and Walter Mazzarri's Napoli, who take on Udinese at the same time as the Milan derby, look best-placed to push the champions all the way.



Barca
wary of
C'Ron

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid face Barcelona in a make-or-break El Clasico this weekend aided by a resurgent Cristiano Ronaldo but acutely aware that defeat would see them trail their bitter enemies by a massive 11 points.

Ronaldo has hit form at just the right time, netting three in the 4-1 win at Ajax in the Champions League on Wednesday, that haul coming after his hat-trick in the 5-1 La Liga rout of Deportivo La Coruna last weekend.

The last time Real and Barcelona clashed in the league last April, Ronaldo scored the decisive goal at the Camp Nou as Madrid went on to win the league.

But this season Barcelona have begun with ominous intent to reclaim their crown with six straight victories.

Perhaps the result of basking in their own triumph, Jose Mourinho's side instead made a stuttering start with just one win from the first four games but since then they have clicked into gear and Ronaldo has looked more like his old self.

The Portuguese had looked moody

and introspective, refusing to celebrate some goals with his team-mates and declaring himself unhappy but his winner against Manchester City in the Champions League last month showed his desire was back.

And now he is fully primed to face Barca after his successive hat-tricks.

"I am very happy with the way we are playing and the victory against Ajax gives us all plenty of confidence while

bad, there is no way of hiding the fact. We are aware of the difference in points and so obviously we are going out for the victory but we need to rest and prepare," he said.

Although Barca have a 100 per cent record they have had injury worries to deal with especially in defence.

And the bad news to come from their mid-week Champions League win over Benfica was that Carles Puyol will be out of action for up to two months with a dislocated elbow.

The talismanic defender was only just returning from a lengthy layoff and is now back in the treatment room along with fellow centre-half Gerard Pique, so it is likely that Javier Mascherano and Alex Song will line up in the heart of the defence on Sunday.

Elsewhere unbeaten duo Atletico Madrid and Malaga go head-to-head while high-flying Sevilla and Mallorca, both on 11 points, are against Celta Vigo and Granada respectively.

At the other end of the table the situation remains desperate for Espanyol who have just one point and they are now away to Valladolid while Athletic Bilbao and Osasuna immediately above them face each other.

"To win will be fantastic and lose,

FIXTURES

(all times GMT)

Saturday

Rayo Vallecano v Deportivo La Coruna (1400), Valladolid v Espanyol (1600), Zaragoza v Getafe (1800), Real Betis v Real Sociedad (2000)

Sunday

Levante v Valencia (1000), Mallorca v Granada (1400), Athletic Bilbao v Osasuna (1600), Barcelona v Real

FIXTURES

(1400GMT unless stated):

Saturday

Chelsea v Norwich, Man City v Sunderland (1400GMT), Swansea v Reading, West Brom v QPR, West Ham v Arsenal (1600GMT), Wigan v Everton

Sunday

Liverpool v Stoke, Newcastle v Man Utd (1500GMT), Southampton v Fulham

Oscar have earned plenty of plaudits after their impressive early performances, it is Spanish midfielder Juan Mata who remains at the heart of their best moments.

Mata underlined his class with two goals in Tuesday's Champions League win over Nordsjaelland, but he feels both he and the team have plenty of room for improvement.

"Maybe this was one of the best weeks for me at Chelsea. I'm feeling very well but I still want to do better," Mata said.

"Last year we won the Champions League and FA Cup. Now I think we can do it better as well."

Manchester United, four points behind Chelsea in third place, travel to Newcastle on Sunday as Sir Alex Ferguson's side look to bounce back after last weekend's 3-2 home defeat against Tottenham.

United's inconsistent start to the season -- they have already lost twice in the league -- and the goals of new striker Robin van Persie have made

Japan midfielder Shinji Kagawa something of a forgotten man since his press conference move from Dortmund.

But United team-mate Tom Cleverley revealed Kagawa has made a big impact on the squad.

"We all know what Robin van Persie is about, but I've really enjoyed playing with Shinji," Cleverley said.

"He's really on my wavelength when it comes to playing one and two-touch football."

Arsenal will also be in the spotlight on Saturday as the Gunners, who dropped to eighth after their first defeat of the season against Chelsea last weekend, travel to former London rivals West Ham.

However, Gunners left-back Kieran Gibbs is convinced his side's midweek win over Olympiakos in the Champions League proved there is no hangover from the Chelsea setback.

"It was important for the players especially. We wanted to shake off a few doubts in our mind that we had. We certainly did that and we're back on the front foot now," Gibbs said.

"This is what we have to keep doing and keep pushing on from here."

Mano blasts Argentine FA

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

The Argentine FA (AFA) insulted fans by trying to stage Wednesday's friendly against Brazil in a small, provincial stadium that was cancelled by a floodlight failure, said Brazil coach Mano Menezes.

The South American Football Confederation (Conmebol) said on its website that the countries had agreed to make a new attempt to play the match, which was called off after the teams had taken the field and lined up for the anthems.

Conmebol, however, said the date and venue of a future meeting have yet to be decided.

"I haven't experienced anything like this for a long time, the last time was probably with a junior match in the interior of Rio Grande do Sul (state)," Menezes told the *Estado de Sao Paulo* newspaper in an interview.