



Tottenham Hotspur striker Jermain Defoe scores his second goal against Maribor during their Europa League encounter at White Hart Lane on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

Defoe on the treble

AFP, Paris



England striker Jermain Defoe helped himself to three clinically-struck goals and moved Tottenham Hotspur a step closer to the Europa League knockout stages with a 3-1 win over Maribor of Slovenia on Thursday.

With Group J leaders Lazio beating Panathinaikos 3-0 in Rome, Spurs are now two points clear of Maribor in the race for the second qualifying spot.

Defoe's first came after just 22 minutes, knocking home a Gareth Bale cross at the near post, but Spurs appeared to have shot themselves in the foot with a dreadful defensive blunder five minutes before half-time.

Kyle Naughton hit a sloppy back pass and French goalkeeper Hugo Lloris failed to react as Robert Beric slipped in and knocked the ball home.

But Defoe was on hand again four minutes after the break with a left foot effort after an incisive through ball from Thomas Carroll and cropped up again with a quarter-of-an-hour to go to slot home Bale's low

cross from the left.

It could have been a good deal worse for Maribor if Emmanuel Adebayor had taken any of the string of chances presented to him on a plate.

Lazio swept into the qualifying round with a comfortable win over the Greeks with goals from Libor Kozak, in the 23rd and 40th minutes, and Sergio Floccari after 59.

Holders Atletico Madrid came a cropper in Portugal, beaten 2-0 by Academica Coimbra, but with three wins already under their belt, are safely through to the knockout stages.

A goal in each half from Wilson Eduardo, the second from the penalty spot, gave Academica a comfortable win but it was little more than consolation as they bowed out of the competition.

The goalscoring performance of the night came in Naples where Uruguay's Edinson Cavani hit all four of Napoli's goals against Ukrainian outfit Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk to bring them back from the brink after they found themselves 2-1 down after 52 minutes in their Group F tie.

It was revenge for the surprise 3-1 defeat in Ukraine a fortnight ago and the Italians' cause was further helped

by PSV Eindhoven slipping up in Sweden, going down 1-0 to AIK Solna, who had held them in the Netherlands two weeks ago.

There is still everything to play for in Group A, where Anzhi Makhachkala moved to the top, leapfrogging Liverpool with a 1-0 win thanks to a lone Lacina Traore goal in freezing temperatures in Moscow.

Having beaten Anzhi 1-0 at Anfield two weeks ago, Liverpool surrendered a two-point lead over their Russian rivals and are now a point adrift after four games.

Liverpool's under-fire manager Brendan Rodgers said afterwards: "I feel for the players, I thought they were outstanding."

"The first half we were tactically terrific for 44 minutes and 50 seconds but then switched off and made a mistake right at the end.

Speaking on ITV4, he added: "It was a terrific team performance against players of top quality on a difficult pitch, but at this level you get punished when you make mistakes."

His opposite number Guus Hiddink commented: "We didn't finish it off in the second half, we had two big opportunities, but it was an interesting game on a very bad pitch. They tested us so we have to be happy with this result."

AFP, Madrid



Cristiano Ronaldo is adamant this season's La Liga title will once again be a tale of two teams, despite his Real Madrid side sitting in third position, eight points behind leaders Barcelona and five from Atletico Madrid.

"I'm sure it will be just the two of us, I don't want to rule out anyone else, but I think it will be between us and Barca again," he said.

"I don't remember in the last ten years a rivalry like the one we have, it's good for the game."

"Football fans are enjoying something unique, players from the past say that this league is harder than ever so I think the Spanish league is the best in the world right now, with the best two teams and the best players," he told CNN.

On Sunday, Madrid face a tough trip to Levante as they attempt to close the gap on Barca, who must quickly recover from the midweek Champions League defeat at Celtic with an away game at Mallorca.

Levante has proven to be a difficult place for Madrid in recent seasons, having lost 1-0 last term after a 0-0 draw there in 2010.

And Ronaldo may be asked to play as the lone striker as Jose Mourinho's side go into the game with key strikers Gonzalo Higuain and Karim Benzema definitely out.

Higuain limped from Madrid's Champions League draw with Borussia Dortmund at half-time last Tuesday, shifting the focus of his side's injury problems from defence to attack.

Players in contention for a rare start in attacking positions for 'los blancos' are Jose Callejon, who impressed as a second-half substitute against Borussia, and reserve team striker

Alvaro Morata.

Portuguese full-back Fabio Coentrao is back in training and could play some part after a long absence.

Spain international Gerard Pique may start for Barca after seven weeks out with an ankle injury.

The centre-half played the final 20 minutes in Glasgow on Wednesday.

MU seek to extend lead

AFP, London



After securing a slot in the Champions League last 16 in mid-week, Manchester United will look to drive home their advantage in the Premier League when they visit Aston Villa on Saturday.

United moved to the top of the pile by beating Arsenal 2-1 last weekend and with nearest rivals Chelsea and Manchester City both in action on Sunday, victory at Villa Park would put Alex Ferguson's men four points clear.

Having beaten Chelsea and Arsenal in their last two league outings, United now embark upon a kinder run of fixtures that includes a trip to Norwich City before home games against QPR and West Ham.

Wednesday's 3-1 win over Braga in Portugal means

Ferguson can afford to rest players in United's two remaining Champions League group games, so the domestic title race will now be the number one priority.

Villa are just one place above the relegation zone, and United striker Wayne Rooney says his side should show no mercy as they bid to stretch their lead at the summit.

FIXTURES

(1500GMT unless otherwise stated)

Saturday

Wigan Athletic v West Bromwich Albion, Southampton v Swansea City, Stoke City v Queens Park Rangers, Reading v Norwich City, Everton v Sunderland, Arsenal v Fulham, Aston Villa v Manchester United (1730GMT)

Sunday

Manchester City v Tottenham Hotspur (1330GMT), Newcastle United v West Ham United, Chelsea v Liverpool

Abate out for a fortnight

AFP, Milan

AC Milan will be without Ignazio Abate for at least two weeks after the defender was diagnosed with a right thigh muscle injury, the Serie A side said Thursday.

Abate lined up for Milan's Champions League match at home to Malaga on Tuesday but was replaced after six minutes.

Milan said Abate would be sidelined "for at least 15 days" after which time the club would "undergo further checks".

It means he is likely ruled out for the trip to Anderlecht on November 21, and possibly the final group game at home to Zenith.

After their worst start to the league season Milan, champions in 2011 and runners-up last year, sit 10th after 11 games on just 14 points.



STAR Cricket

Australia v South Africa

First Test, Day 2

Live from 6:00am

TEN Cricket

Sri Lanka v New Zealand

4th ODI

Live from 3:00pm

ESPN

English Premiership

Arsenal v Fulham

Live from 9:00pm

Aston Villa v Man United

Live from 11:30pm

Serie A

Pescara v Juventus

Live from 2:00am (Sunday)

STAR Sports

English Premiership

Everton v Sunderland

Live from 9:00pm

La Liga

Espanyol v Osasuna

Live from 11:00pm

Zaragoza v Deportivo

Live from 1:00am (Sunday)



National Cricket League

(Four-day match, Day-2)

Rajshahi v Rangpur

Venue: Rangpur Cricket Garden

Khulna v Chittagong

Venue: Shaheed Chandu

Stadium, Bogra

Sylhet v Dhaka

Venue: Sylhet Divisional Stadium

Barisal v Dhaka Metro

Juve look to rebound

AFP, Milan



Fabio Quagliarella says champions Juventus will be fired up for the trip to newly-promoted Pescara on Sunday despite lining up for their third game in the space of a week.

Quagliarella is vying with several top Juve strikers for more playing time this season but came off the bench Wednesday to score the fourth goal in a 4-0 Champions League rout of Danish champions Nordsjaelland.

As well as boosting Juve's knockout phase chances, the win ended a nine-game streak of draws in Europe and made amends for a first defeat in 50 games after the Turin giants lost to Inter Milan last Saturday.

Quagliarella's chances of playing are slim as Juve are set to welcome back Montenegrin striker Mirko Vucinic following a short absence.

But Quagliarella told www.juventus.com: "Playing every three days means there's no time to look back, the defeat along with yesterday's (Wednesday) victory are now firmly behind us."

"We're all looking ahead to Pescara."

Inter's 3-1 win at Juventus reduced the Nerazzurri's deficit to Juventus to just one point.

Andrea Stramaccioni's side, however, face another Nerazzurri (black and blue) in Atalanta who showed last week, in a 2-1 win away to Sampdoria, that they can cause surprises.

That is not all 36-year-old Stramaccioni has to deal with, however.

Inter have nine players injured but were in good heart in the Europa League with a 3-1 win over Partizan Belgrade on Thursday night.

But the youngest coach in Serie A is keeping a mature head on his shoulders.

EUROPA LEAGUE

RESULTS

Anzhi (RUS) 1 (Traore 45) L'pool (ENG) 0
Udinese (ITA) 2 (Di Natale 47, Fabbri 83)
Young Boys (SUI) 3 (Bobadilla 27, Farnerud 65, Nuzzolo 73)

Academia Coimbra (POR) 2
(Wilson Eduardo 28, 70 pen) Atletico Madrid (ESP) 0

Viktoria Plzen (CZE) 4 (Kolar 23, 76, Stipek 40, Bakos 84) Hapoel (ISR) 0
Fenerbahce (TUR) 2 (Kuyt 11, M. Sow 41) AEL Limassol (CYP) 0

Marseille (FRA) 2 (Barton 54, A. Ayew 67) Moenchengladbach (GER) 2
(Hanke 20, Arango 90+3)

Bordeaux (FRA) 1 (Bellion 16) Maritimo (POR) 0
Club Brugge (BEL) 2 (Trickovski 14, Jorgensen 19) Newcastle (ENG) 2

(Anita 42, Ameobi 43)
FC Copenhagen (DEN) 0 VFB Stuttgart (GER) 2 (Ibisevic 76, Hamik 90+2)

Molde (NOR) 1 (Chukwu 56) Steaua (ROM) 2 (Chipciu 21, Latovlevici 37)

AIK (SWE) 1 (Bangura 12) PSV (NED) 0
Napoli (ITA) 4 (Cavani 7, 77, 88, 90+3) Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk (UKR) 2

(Fedetsky 34, Zozulya 52)
Basel (SUI) 1 (Streller 80) Videoton (HUN) 0

Sporting Lisbon (POR) 1 (Wolfswinkel 64) Genk (BEL) 1 (Plet 90+1)

Neftri PFK (AZE) 0 Rubin Kazan (RUS) 1 (Dyadun 16)

Partizan Belgrade (SRB) 1 (Tomic 90+1) Inter Milan (ITA) 3 (Palacio 51, 75, Guarin 87)

Athletic Bilbao (ESP) 2 (Herrera 48, Aduriz 55-pen) Lyon (FRA) 3 (B. Gomis 22, Gourcuff 45+1, Lacazette 63)

Shmona (ISR) 1 (Tasevski 3) Sparta Prague (CZE) 1 (Kweuke 24)

Lazio (ITA) 3 (Kozak 23, 40, Floccari 59) Panathinaikos (GRE) 0

Tottenham (ENG) 3 (Defoe 22, 40, 77) v Maribor (SLO) 1 (Beric 40)

Leverkusen (GER) 3 (Hegeler 4, Schürle 53, Friedrich 65) Rapid (AUT) 0

Metalist Kharkov (UKR) 3 (Taison 4, Xavier 70, Torres 90+3) Rosenborg (NOR) 1 (Dockal 42)

FC Twente (NED) 0 Levante (ESP) 0

BAY CRUISE INTERNATIONAL LTD.

Cox's Bazar -St.Martin-Cox's Bazar

Direct Catamaran Ship Service

Only 2½ Hours Each Way



Thrilling Sea Voyage - Safe & Quick

First Time in Bangladesh by Our Own Ship

Commenced Operation From 10th November 2012

Point of Sale & Ticket

• Cox's Bazar office:

Hotel Mishuk, Sea Beach Road
Laboni Point, Cox's Bazar.

Tel: 0341-63113

Cell: 01776-284602

• Hotel Sea Palace Ltd. -01714-652227

Sea Hill Top Tours & Travels

01715-879117

• Ocean Paradise Hotel & Resort

01938-846758

• Corporate Office Dhaka:

House # 13/1, Road # 12,
Baridhara Diplomatic Zone,

Dhaka 1212 Tel: 02 - 8417547

Cell: 01776-284601

• Bonanza Travels Ltd. - House#10/B,

Road#103, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212

Tel: 02-8881661 Mobile: 01727-650176

• Lameek Travels Ltd. -01819-350236

• www.welcome-bangladesh.com

Hot Line: 01975-650000
01711-591127, 01911-350085



a sister concern of Bonanza Group

www.baycruisebd.com