

GTV
Bangladesh v New Zealand
Second Test, Day 2
Live from 9:00am

TEN Sports
UEFA Champions League
Arsenal v Borussia Dortmund
Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)

TEN Action
UEFA Champions League
AC Milan v Barcelona

Bangladesh v New Zealand

Second Test, Day 2

Time: 9:00am

Spurs move to fifth

AFP, Birmingham



England breakthrough star Andros Townsend continued his fine form by inspiring Tottenham Hotspur to a 2-0 win at Aston Villa in the Premier League on Sunday.

The 22-year-old winger, who starred as England booked their place at the World Cup earlier this week, scored the opening goal with a 31st-minute cross that crept past Villa goalkeeper Brad Guzan.

Roberto Soldado added a second after half-time as Spurs moved up to fifth place in the table, three points below leaders Arsenal, and began to atone for their shock 3-0 home defeat by West Ham United.

It was a first defeat in four league games for Paul Lambert's Villa, who now find themselves 13th, but it was a marked improvement on their 4-0 capitulation to the same side in the League Cup last month.

Villa had last season's top scorer Christian Benteke on the bench following a hip injury, with Nathan Baker replacing Ciaran Clark in the only change to the side that drew 0-0 at Hull City last time out.

Spurs manager Andre Villas-Boas brought Lewis Holtby into his team in place of Christian Eriksen, awarded Vlad Chiriches his debut at centre-back, and handed Sandro a first league start since January.

Villa forward Gabriel Agbonlahor put a

half-volley over the bar from an early Leandro Bacuna cross, but heavy rain made for a slippery surface and the game suffered as a result.

Sandro shot straight at Brad Guzan from 30 yards and Spurs goalkeeper Hugo Lloris had to scramble away a free-kick from Ashley Westwood, before the visitors made the breakthrough.

Townsend claimed the goal, but it owed to a certain degree of fortune.

Picking up the ball wide on the right, he cut onto his left foot and attempted to pick out a team-mate in the centre, but his cross eluded both Holtby and Soldado, only to sneak in at the far post.

There was an unsavoury incident in the aftermath of the goal when assistant referee David Bryan was struck by a flare apparently thrown from the Spurs supporters' section, but after a brief delay, play continued.

Andreas Weimann flashed a shot just wide as Villa pushed for an equaliser, but Spurs came close to going 2-0 up in first-half stoppage time when Guzan produced a smart low stop to thwart Townsend.

Another fine save from the American prevented Paulinho from doubling the visitors' advantage early in the second period.

Paulinho's intelligent first-time pass freed Soldado and the Spain striker took a touch before lifting the ball over Guzan to claim his third league goal in a Spurs shirt.



Tottenham Hotspur striker Roberto Soldado (R) is ecstatic after scoring the second goal against Aston Villa during their Premier League match in Birmingham on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

FFF summons Evra over remark

REUTERS, Paris

France defender Patrice Evra has been summoned by the French federation president Noel Le Graet and coach Didier Deschamps to explain himself after calling his critics "bums" on Sunday, the FFF has said.

"Following his remarks in an interview with (French TV show) Telefoot (...) Noel Le Graet and Didier Deschamps (...) have decided to ask Patrice Evra to come and explain some comments he made towards some TV pundits," the FFF said in a statement on its website.

In an interview with TV channel TF1 aired on Sunday, Evra called several TV commentators and pundits, including former France internationals Bixente Lizarazu and Luis Fernandez, "bums". He also said they were trying to "tarnish" his image.

Atletico look to rebound

AFP, Vienna

Atletico Madrid will be looking to regain their winning ways Tuesday when they face Champions League rookies Austria Vienna who are still chasing their first group stage goal.

After 10 wins in 10 games in all competitions this season, Diego Simeone's Atletico suffered their first defeat on Saturday, going down 1-0 to Espanyol.

But they travel to Vienna with a comfortable lead in Group G and should face little danger from a team that is still in awe of making it this far, let alone confident of winning a game.

"The fact we could have become leaders (of La Liga) is just an anecdote," Atletico captain Gabi said after Saturday's loss.

"We will go to Vienna with the winning mentality we have, because if we win it could be decisive for qualification from the group."

Brazilian centre-back Miranda is a doubt for the game due to a muscular strain and striker Leo Baptistao, who scored against Zenit St Petersburg on matchday one, is also out with an ankle injury.

But Atletico will be strengthened by the return up front of Diego Costa, following a four-match European ban he picked up last season.

EUROPEAN PLAY-OFF DRAW HELD It's C'Ron v Ibra

AFP, Zurich

Continental giants Portugal and Sweden were drawn together in the pick of the World Cup qualifying play-offs in Europe made by football's governing body FIFA on Monday.

Former champions France were given a favourable pairing as they travel to Ukraine for the first leg on November 15 while Greece will host Romania and Croatia play their first leg in Iceland.

Former World Cup semi-finalists Portugal and Sweden were the first two countries pulled out of the hat as Cristiano Ronaldo will defy Zlatan Ibrahimovic in what will be a battle of star-studded line-ups.

Didier Deschamps' French side, who were narrowly beaten to top spot in their pool by defending champions Spain, travel to the Euro 2012 co-hosts where they defeated Ukraine 2-0 in group play.

"We were not seeded and could have played Portugal or Croatia who have a long history, but Ukraine is not a simple draw either," Deschamps told Eurosport tv.

"They are on a run of seven matches without defeat and they concede very few goals as well as a long trip over there," he continued.

"It's good to have the return leg at home but one team will qualify and the other will be staying home for the World Cup."

"We have to have a lot of confidence and respect the opposition," added the 1998 World Cup winning captain.

The return leg will be played on November 19.

Ukraine's key player Artem Fedetsky of Dnepropetrovsk believes in his side's chances despite a tough draw.

"We've already been buried after the poor start in the qualifying campaign.

"However, we managed to come back and reach the play-off stage. After that every single match for us was like the final, like a do-or-die mission.

"Now we have serious experience of playing the most important matches. We are a cohesive team now and, I believe, we have fair chances to go through," he added.

Romania are bidding to return to the final stages for the first time since 1998 and will fancy their chances against goal-shy Greece, who were beaten to top spot in their pool by Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Finally, Iceland look to qualify for the first time in their history against a Croatia side coming off back to back defeats against Scotland and in the midst of a managerial change.

The four winners will qualify for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil from June 12 to July 13.

The draw for the eight groups of four that will feature in the first round of the tournament will take place on December 6 in Bahia, Brazil.



Crunch double-header

AFP, London

Arsene Wenger believes Arsenal's Champions League double-header against Borussia Dortmund will be "decisive" in the race to qualify from Group F.

Wenger's side host last season's runners-up on Tuesday before heading to Dortmund for the return on matchday four.

Wenger knows another three points on Tuesday will leave Arsenal in pole position to reach the knockout stages, but he is also well aware that Dortmund could deliver a major blow to his side's qualification hopes.

"Dortmund have grown a lot and they look a different proposition now, maybe they were a bit impressed by us in the first group games when we met them in 2011, but this time they have gained confidence,"

Wenger told UEFA.com.

"I feel we are stronger as well this season, so I think it will be very interesting."

"It is already a very important tie because usually matchday three and four usually are decisive, so that could be the key for us to qualify."

Wenger, whose side are two points clear at the top of the Premier League following Saturday's 4-1 win over Norwich, has a wealth of options to ponder in midfield, with the return to match fitness of Santi Cazorla following an ankle injury.

Aaron Ramsey started on the bench against Norwich but replaced Mathieu Flamini just before half-time after the French midfielder suffered double vision following a clash of heads with Alex Tettey, leaving him rated as doubtful for the Borussia tie.

"We have a squad that is, number and quality wise, very, very good. After that in January we are not desperate (to buy) now," Wenger said.

Milan seek perfection

AFP, Milan

Only a "perfect" AC Milan will allow the depleted Serie A giants to emerge with an "important" result from their Champions

League Group H clash with Barcelona, says coach Massimiliano Allegri.

Barcelona visit the San Siro on Tuesday and are widely expected to capitalise on the Rossoneri's domestic woes to secure their third successive win in the group having already beaten Ajax (4-0) and Celtic (1-0).

In what may be construed as a boost for the hosts, the Spanish giants were held to a scoreless draw by Osasuna on Tuesday -- the first time Barcelona had failed to score in the league since January 2012.

But in spite of welcoming Brazilian playmaker Kaka back from a month on the injury sidelines, Milan are far from being able to field their strongest side against the Catalans.

Barcelona will make their fourth visit to the San Siro in as many seasons, having accounted for the Italians in the group stages in 2011, in the quarterfinals in 2012 and in last season's last 16 knockout phase.

Milan had hoped for Balotelli to return in time for Udinese following a three-game league ban but he was diagnosed with a thigh problem shortly after Italy's final World Cup qualifier against Armenia.

"According to our medical staff, it will be difficult for Balotelli and Abbiati to be ready in time for Tuesday," club vice-president Adriano

Galliani was quoted as saying by Sky Sport Italia earlier Sunday.

Abbiati will be replaced by number two goalkeeper Marco Amelia, who was rested on Saturday when third-choice Brazilian Gabriel, not included in Allegri's Champions League squad, won plaudits for his performance.

Four other first-team regulars are unavailable, including versatile defender Mattia De Sciglio.

Although Kaka believes "the team is getting stronger and stronger", he knows the importance of a strong collective performance having rejoined Milan on a free transfer from Real Madrid.

"We need to be a solid group if we're to win... as individuals we can't do it," said Kaka, who is expected to start on the bench having come on late in the second half against Udinese.

Martino, meanwhile, made light of Saturday's slight setback by his side.

"I would be worried if I saw a deterioration in the performance of the team, but I didn't see that," said

"It is obviously a big week with firstly Milan then Madrid (next weekend), but I am not annoyed because I am happy with the performance of the team."

India lining up Henry, Pires

AFP, Mumbai

Former football superstars Thierry Henry, Robert Pires and Hernan Crespo are being lined up to play in a new Indian tournament aimed at cashing in on growing domestic interest in the sport, organisers said Monday.

Fredrik Ljungberg, Dwight Yorke and Louis Saha are among other foreign players in the fray for the franchise-based event organised by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and its commercial partners IMG-Reliance.

The Indian Super League is scheduled to be held between January and March across India and feature eight city teams whose squads will comprise nine foreign and 13 Indian players.

"The idea of the league is to revolutionise Indian football," said a spokesman for IMG-Reliance, a joint venture between global events management group IMG and Indian conglomerate Reliance.

"The Indian youth follows a lot of European football. So we definitely want to bring in their expertise, experience and fan following," the spokesman told AFP.

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