

# Atletico advance on penalties

## Stalemate sees Manchester City through

AFP, Madrid

Juanfran's winning penalty sent Atletico Madrid into the Champions League quarter-finals on Tuesday, clinching an agonising 8-7 penalty shoot-out win over PSV Eindhoven after neither side could manage a goal in 210 minutes across the two legs of the tie.

The first 14 spot-kicks of the shootout were converted in clinical fashion before PSV's Luciano Narsingh struck the bar.

Juanfran then stepped up to convert the winning penalty and keep Atletico's hopes of a first ever Champions League victory alive.

It is the second consecutive season that Diego Simeone's men have progressed to the last eight on penalties.

"It was an enormous celebration for the whole stadium," said Simeone. "The spectacle you see in the stands was tremendous. We won't ever stop believing, that is for sure."

And despite Atletico's efficiency from the spot, Simeone insisted they hadn't practised penalties beforehand. He said

credit should go to his assistant German Burgos for deciding which players should take the responsibility.

"We don't practise penalties. It isn't the same to do it with all the fans behind the goal, the tension of the game and 120 minutes in the legs," he added.

Meanwhile, injuries to centre-backs Vincent Kompany and Nicolas Otamendi overshadowed proceedings as Manchester City reached the Champions League quarter-finals for the first time after drawing 0-0 with Dynamo Kiev.

Leading 3-1 from last month's away leg, Manuel Pellegrini's side completed the job in forgettable fashion, with Jesus Navas's shot against the post for City the nearest either side came to breaking the deadlock.



He may have had a bad day with the bat in the World T20 match against Pakistan in Kolkata yesterday, but Soumya Sarkar displayed astonishing skill while conjuring a wicket out of a sure six. Mohammad Hafeez hit a powerful slog-sweep towards midwicket and all eyes were on the crowd to see where the ball lands. But Soumya leapt up and plucked the ball out of thin air, lost his balance, tossed the ball high milliseconds before he stepped out of bounds, stepped back in and completed the catch, teetering on the edge again before turning with a big smile on his face. PHOTO: AFP

# Decimated booters leave for UAE

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh national football team left for Abu Dhabi last night for a practice match against the United Arab Emirates as part of their preparation for next week's World Cup and Asian Cup qualifier against Jordan.

Even though the match against Jordan will be the booters' last match of the second round of the joint qualifiers, the two upcoming matches have been hogged more by

the suspension on some of the key players on disciplinary grounds handed by the game's governing body last month.

The suspension of four players including Mamunul Islam, the warning of three other players and the lack of form and injury issues have seen only 11 players survive for these two matches from their home match against Jordan last September. The 23-member current squad will play the friendly match against UAE on Friday before taking on Jordan on March 24 under the guidance of new coach Ganzalo Sanchez Moreno.

Defender Rezaul Karim and midfielder Jamal Bhuiyan have been named as the captain and the vice captain respectively.

The pre-departure press conference at the BFF House focussed more on team's disciplinary issues than the any expectations regarding the team's performance.

"There have been interruptions, discomfort and happiness in the training. The discomfort was due to the ban on some players; the interruption was due to the fact that we could not conduct training sessions with all the players for Sheikh

Jamal's international commitment, and the happiness was from unprecedented steps taken by the federation for the World Cup qualifiers over the last 10 months," BFF vice-president and team leader Badal Roy said at the press conference.

"I have said before that I believe the performance that the players put up in recent international tournaments was not the real picture. This time we will be expecting them to play to their potential and play with sincerity and discipline and that they will start a new era in country's football," Roy added.

# Redknapp to guide Jordan

AFP, London

Derby's newly appointed managerial advisor Harry Redknapp is to double up as coach of Jordan for two World Cup qualifiers next month, British media reported on Wednesday.

The Sun newspaper revealed the move which will see Redknapp guide Jordan through ties against Bangladesh and Australia on the same day as he starts his new job at the Championship club.

Redknapp, 69, told the paper: "It's going to be a tough couple of weeks, that's for sure."

"I'm friends with Prince Ali (Prince Ali bin al Hussein, Jordanian football supremo) and wanted him to take over from Sepp Blatter. He asked me if I'd manage the team for a couple of matches and I agreed."



STAR ECONOMICAL BOWLER: Although most of the Bangladesh bowlers were clobbered around the Eden Gardens by Pakistan batsmen, occasional leg-spinner Sabbir Rahman was an exception as his two overs cost only 11 runs and yielded a wicket. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

# Lanka face Afghan challenge

AFP, Kolkata

Afghanistan will try to exploit the disarray in the ranks of holders Sri Lanka in the World Twenty20 in Kolkata Thursday, with their destructive opener Mohammad Shahzad looking to extend his trail of carnage.

The mood in the camps could not be more contrasting, with Sri Lanka in turmoil after changing their captain and coach in recent weeks and Afghanistan on a high after cruising through the preliminary round.

Afghanistan pulled off a comprehensive 59-run win against Zimbabwe in the qualifiers last week to storm into the Super 10s while Sri Lanka have been grappling with a slump in form, having won just four of their 14 fixtures since their 2014 World T20 victory.

# Man United in L'pool crosshairs

AFP, Paris



Five-time European champions Liverpool will aim to finish off eternal rivals Manchester United when England's two most successful sides clash in the Europa League last 16, second leg at Old Trafford on Thursday.

Leading 2-0 from the first leg at Anfield, Liverpool are well placed to reach the quarterfinals of a competition that realistically represents the best chance for either club to qualify for next season's Champions League.

Borussia Dortmund will seek to protect a 3-0 lead as they head to Tottenham Hotspur on the back of their biggest win against an English side.

Spurs paid the price for resting Harry Kane and leaving Mousa Dembele and Erik Lamela on the bench as they were outclassed by Thomas Tuchel's German title challengers.

Gary Neville's Valencia must overcome a 1-0 deficit at home to fellow Spanish outfit Athletic Bilbao.

The former Manchester United and England defender was furious after his side crashed to a 1-0 defeat against local rivals and La Liga's bottom side Levante over the weekend.

Holdings Sevilla return to Spain following a goalless draw against Swiss champions Basel, whose St-Jakob Park will stage this year's final, as they continue their quest for a fifth title in the past decade.

Villarreal go to Bayer Leverkusen with a 2-0 advantage from the first leg, while 2009 champions Shakhtar Donetsk head to Anderlecht following a 3-1 victory in Ukraine.

Fenerbahce take a narrow 1-0 lead to Portuguese side Braga, while Lazio, who were charged by UEFA for racist chanting after last week's 1-1 draw in the Czech Republic, return home for their second leg against Sparta Prague.