

Berizzo's emotional dose of inspiration

STAR SPORT DESK



Sevilla staged an incredible comeback against Liverpool, reminiscent of the famous 'Miracle of Istanbul' in their Champions League match at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium in Seville yesterday.

Three goals down heading into halftime on the back of a Roberto Firmino brace and a Sadio Mane goal, Sevilla came out with renewed vigour in the second half, which culminated in Guido Pizarro smashing home a stoppage-time equaliser and sending the crowd into frenzy.

The players immediately rushed to the sidelines in a storm of celebration and engulfed coach Eduardo Berizzo, who Sevilla confirmed after the match had been diagnosed with prostate cancer.

And although Berizzo made no statement on his health while speaking to reporters after the match, at a time when the news had not yet broken, local media reported that the coach disclosed the information to his players at half-time in a bid to fire them up for the ensuing 45 minutes.

The 48-year-old's uniquely emotional dose of inspiration worked wonders, with the players giving their

all for their beloved coach and playing their hearts out to deliver a memorable result for the Argentine, with the Albiceleste's Ever Banega saying that they had come out in the second half to play for 'the boss'.

"We had to come out with a different attitude for the fans and for the boss; he made us play like that," said Banega. "He turned the situation around in the second-half."

Spanish football has also rallied round Berizzo with numerous clubs, including his former side Celta, sending their support.

"All our strength and support for Berizzo," the Galicians posted on Twitter.

"Be strong boss, you are in the best place in the world to not give in because there they never give up," said Sevilla's legendary former sporting director Monchi.

A former centre-back for River Plate, Marseille and Celta Vigo among others, Berizzo is in his first season as Sevilla boss after three successful years in charge of Celta.

It remains to be seen whether Berizzo will need to take time away from his duties as coach to concentrate on his treatment, but even if he does step away, this result will mean more to him than anything else the players could have possibly done.



Sevilla players swamp coach Eduardo Berizzo (C) after scoring a dramatic 93rd-minute equaliser to come from 3-0 down against Liverpool on Tuesday. The Argentine manager informed his troops of his cancer diagnosis at half-time and sparked the comeback.

PHOTO: AFP



Abahani striker Sunday Chizoba (R) celebrates the first of his two goals against Mohammedan during their Bangladesh Premier League fixture at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Sunday punch fells Mohammedan

SPORTS REPORTER



Sunday Chizoba scored either side of the break as Abahani recorded their fourth straight win over Mohammedan in the Bangladesh Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

While the win gave the Sky Blues and their its fans had a moment to celebrate, the Black and Whites were left ruing their fourth straight defeat against their arch-rivals in the top-tier professional league, leaving the club's supporters furious with the club officials, players and the coaching staff.

Though the performance of the Black and Whites has fluctuated throughout the league, they dominated the initial stages of the match and created a couple of scoring chances. Kingsley Chigozie, however, wasted both chances before Abahani grew in confidence and took control of the match, eventually grabbing the lead in the stoppage time of the first half.

New-signing Sunday and Rubel Mia played a nice one-two between themselves before Sunday was brought down inside the box by Mohammedan defender Asaduzzaman Bablu. The Nigerian, Abahani's highest scorer last season, converted from the spot with ease.

Mohammedan regrouped after the break and applied heavy pressure on the Dhanmondi

giants, but Biplu Ahmed was brilliantly denied by Abahani goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohel before referee Mizanur Rahman awarded a penalty to Mohammedan in the 58th minute following a foul on Samson Iliasu. However, Chigozie, the joint top-scorer of the league, sent his spot kick wide.

Mohammedan were made to pay for this missed chance as Sunday headed in a well-judged cross from Nabib Newaj Jibon in the 72nd minute to take the game away from the

TEAM BJMC	0	-	2	CTG ABAHANI (UDOKA 31, JAFAR 90+1)
MOHAMMEDAN	0	-	2	ABAHANI (SUNDAY 45+1, 72)

Black and Whites.

The ninth win brought Abahani back in the title race, with 30 points from 14 matches, five behind leaders Chittagong Abahani while Mohammedan remained in sixth position with 17 points.

The match also saw the end of a storied career of former FIFA referee Azad Rahman.

CHITTAGONG ABAHANI KEEP WINNING Meanwhile, Chittagong Abahani strengthened their lead in the Bangladesh Premier League after notching up their 11th victory, third in a

row, with a 2-0 victory over Team BJMC at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The win takes the port city outfit points clear of second-placed Sheikh Jamal DC with 35 points from 14 matches while BJMC remained in seventh position with 17 points.

The league leaders came into the match on the back of a 1-0 win over Mohammedan SC and they looked dominated proceedings all through, but struggled to open the defence of BJMC, who however failed to have any shot on target.

The port city outfit almost grabbed the lead in the ninth minute when winger Zahid Hossain snatched the ball from a defender and darted into the box to hammer a powerful shot, which but came off the post.

The veteran winger, however, turned provider on half-hour mark with a perfect free-kick, which defender Alison Udoka nodded home. Zahid was then brilliantly denied by Team BJMC goalkeeper Ariful Islam in a one-one-one situation.

Chittagong Abahani kept their dominance on the other side of the break, but were finding it hard to penetrate the opposition. Coach Saif Bari Titu sent on Jafar Iqbal in place of Zahid with only five minutes left and the under-19 national team striker paid back his coach's faith by heading in Mohammad Abdullah's corner kick in the first minute of stoppage time.

QUICK SINGLES

The following are a few samples of stories that did not make the print edition. However, if they pique your interest, you can always read them online on The Daily Star website by simply scanning the QR codes listed below:

Prior bites back at Lyon:

'You've embarrassed yourself'

Former England wicketkeeper Matt Prior hit back at Nathan Lyon for saying Australia aimed to "end careers" in the Ashes series, warning the spinner his words could come back to haunt him.

Rakitic not 100% certain of Messi's Barca future

Barcelona midfielder Ivan Rakitic suggested that he is not certain whether club talisman Lionel Messi will remain with the Catalan club after his contract expires.

Liverpool not mentally weak: Klopp

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp defended his side's mental strength despite crumbling under the pressure of an inspired second-half Sevilla comeback to throw away a three-goal lead.

A brace and a dash for son's birth

Wigan's Ryan Colclough had an evening to remember after scoring twice for the English League One club and then dashing to hospital to make it in time for the birth of his son.

Shot clock and 16 seeds in new rules

AFP, London



Tennis chiefs have agreed to reduce the number of seeds in the four Grand Slam tournaments from 32 to 16 as part of a raft of rule changes aimed at widening the sport's appeal.

From 2019, Wimbledon and the Australian, French and US Opens will have only 16 seeded players in the men's and women's draws.

Halving the number of seeds is an attempt to make the early rounds of the majors more interesting as it will open the possibility of higher-ranked players facing off before the last 16.

There were 16 seeds at Grand Slams until after Wimbledon in 2001, when the US Open asked for 32 in the hope that stars would still be in contention in the closing rounds.

The Grand Slam Board meeting in London also approved the Australian Open's request to implement a 25-second "serve/shot clock" system in line with the scheme trialled at the 2017 US Open to speed up play.

The board has also moved to tackle the problem of play-

THE NEW RULES
Grand Slam seedings to be cut from 32 to 16 from 2019
A 25-second "serve/shot clock" system will be implemented
Shift from line judges to Hawk-Eye begins

ers withdrawing from or purposefully lacking effort in first-round matches and still getting their full prize money.

Grand Slams will now give the injured who pull out on site before their opening match 50 per cent of the first-round prize money, with the other 50 per cent going to the "lucky loser" who replaces them.

HAWK-EYE REPLACING LINE JUDGES IN ADELAIDE Adelaide's World Tennis Challenge will be the first professional tennis event to totally rely on Hawk-Eye Live camera technology -- bumping line umpires from the court.

It means the players' right of challenging line calls will be scrapped and all computer ball tracking decisions will stand.

The technology was trialled at the Next Gen ATP Finals in Milan earlier this month -- where the eight best young players of 2017 competed -- and the chair umpire was left as the sole official on the court.

Hawk-Eye Live will be used on all lines throughout every point at the WTC and when triggered it will generate an automated "Out" call.

Postecoglou leaves Socceroos

AFP, Sydney

An emotional Ange Postecoglou quit as Australia coach Wednesday, just days after guiding the team to a World Cup spot and leaving them only months to find a replacement for the tournament in Russia.

The 52-year-old Australian did not reveal the reason behind his decision, which had been widely expected after he repeatedly refused to deny reports he was about to stepping down.

His departure, at the end of a five-year contract, leaves the Asian champions in turmoil ahead of the June-July World Cup, where they will hope to improve on their three straight defeats in 2014.

Postecoglou gave no details about his future plans, beyond saying he hoped to coach a club overseas. But he said he felt it was "the right time" to leave.

"After a great deal of thought and soul-searching, I've decided that the journey for me ends as Socceroo coach," he told a press conference in Sydney.

"It's been the biggest privilege of my life and probably not the ending I had envisaged when we started, but at the same time, knowing it's the right time for me and the right decision."

Postecoglou brushed aside questions about whether he had been affected by media criticism, and denied any conflict with Football Federation Australia.



Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo kept up his incredible goalscoring form in the Champions League, netting twice against APOEL to take his tally to eight goals from five games.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Real back on song

AFP, Madrid



Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice as holders Real Madrid thrashed APOEL 6-0 to reach the Champions League last 16 on Tuesday.

Zinedine Zidane's Real bounced back from their 3-1 loss at Tottenham Hotspur last time out by crushing APOEL, with four of the goals coming before half-time.

"It was a very good evening for us," said Zidane. "We're on the right track."

Karim Benzema put worries about his recent form to bed with a double either side of a Nacho effort, before Ronaldo got in on the act after the break.

SPURS BOOT OUT DORTMUND Tottenham Hotspur striker Harry Kane hailed his side's "massive" achievement of winning their Champions League group after defeating Borussia Dortmund 2-1.

Spurs clinched top spot in Group H and consigned holders Real Madrid to second place in the group with a game left. Dortmund, with two points from five

games are tied with APOEL and they will be fighting for a spot in the Europa League.

The result also means that one unlucky team who finish top of their group will have to face reigning European Champions Real in the next round.

RESULTS				
Sevilla (Ben Veder 51, 60-pen, Pizarro 90+3)	3	-	3	Liverpool (Firmino 2, 30, Mane 22)
Spartak (Ze Luis 82)	1	-	1	Maribor (Mesanovic 90+2)
Man City (Sterling 88)	1	-	0	Feyenoord
Napoli (Insigne 56, Zielinski 81, Mertens 83)	3	-	0	Shakhtar Donetsk
Besiktas (Talisca 41)	1	-	1	Porto (Felipe 29)
Monaco (Falcao 43)	1	-	4	RB Leipzig (Jemerson 6-og, Werner 9, 31-pen, Keita 45)
Dortmund (Aubameyang 31)	1	-	2	Tottenham (Kane 49, Son 76)
APOEL	0	-	6	Real Madrid (Modric 23, Benzema 39, 45+1, Nacho 41, Ronaldo 49, 54)

Pep targets milestone

AFP, Manchester

Pep Guardiola set Manchester City the target of becoming the first English club to win all six of their Champions League group matches after they secured top spot in Group F.

Raheem Sterling struck in the 88th minute to give City a 1-0 win over Feyenoord on Tuesday, which -- allied to Shakhtar Donetsk's 3-0 loss at Napoli -- guaranteed City first place in the group.

Guardiola now wants his team to finish the job by winning away to Shakhtar on December 6 and is mindful that the Ukrainian club are still vying with Napoli for the one remaining last 16 berth.

"We respect the competition. We respect Shakhtar and we respect Napoli," Guardiola said. "We play to win the games and after we will see how we finish. We have one game left and we're going to see what happens."

"The important thing is 15 points. We are now going to finish good in Shakhtar and win the game. The draw, we'll see. Last 16, it doesn't matter which one. Always will be complicated."

Only six teams have previously won all six of their group games: AC Milan in 1992, Paris Saint-Germain in 1994, Spartak Moscow in 1995, Barcelona in 2002 and Real Madrid in 2011 and 2014.

The result means Feyenoord cannot rescue even the consolation prize of a berth in the Europa League.