

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
New Zealand v England
Second Test, Day Five
Live from 4:30am
SONY ESPN
Pakistan v West Indies
Third T20!
Live from 8:30pm

SONY SIX
South Africa v Australia
Fourth Test, Day Five
Live from 2:00pm
TEN 1
UEFA Champions League
Sevilla v Bayern Munich
Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)

TEN 2
UEFA Champions League
Juventus v Real Madrid
Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)

UNITED DESERVE SECOND PLACE: MOURINHO

Jose Mourinho insists Manchester United deserve to finish at least second in the Premier League and claims critics have been too quick to praise their rivals further down the table. United's win on Saturday moved them back into second in the table. Asked about the derby at the Etihad Stadium next Saturday, Mourinho told a news conference: "Manchester City is not important for me. What is important for me is, since we left first position and went to second, we stayed there for the whole season. We deserve to finish second, despite the criticisms you want to make. You all say third, fourth, fifth, sixth are better than us but they are not better than us because we have more points. We are going to fight every match, we are going to fight to finish second." --AGENCIES



Bayern wary of Sevilla

AFP, Seville



Bayern Munich coach Jupp Heynckes has said there were no celebrations when his players watched the Champions League draw come out but Sevilla head into Tuesday's tie as the overwhelming underdogs of the quarter-finals.

Only Roma, who play Barcelona on Wednesday, might claim to face a more formidable task in the last eight but the Italians have at least grown familiar with the competition's knock-out rounds in recent seasons.

This will be Sevilla's first ever appearance in a Champions League quarter-final.

"The team was not euphoric [at the draw]," Heynckes said. "They reacted very calmly, as though they just had a beer."

"Of course, Real Madrid, Barcelona, Manchester City are playing very well, Liverpool are playing well, but we had five English teams through and we were talking about the best league in the world - three of them are gone. So we must take these guys seriously."

Sevilla were responsible for the least expected blow landed on the Premier League after they dumped out Manchester United in the last 16 following a fearless 2-1 win at Old Trafford.

It was also the high point of a topsy-turvy three months since Vincenzo Montella took charge mid-season.

There have been the home and away victories over Atletico Madrid in the Copa del Rey and an early, thumping win at Espanyol. But there were also the five goals conceded to all three of Eibar, Real Betis and Atletico in the league, as well as a 2-0 loss at home to Valencia, which all-but ended any hopes of finishing in the top four.

Sevilla's 2-2 draw at home to Barcelona on Saturday night was, in 90 minutes, a snapshot of Montella's reign so far.

Brilliant for 87 minutes, they led 2-0 and looked certain to inflict Barca's first La Liga defeat of the season, only to throw it away in two disastrous minutes at the end.

It was a thrilling match, which could have physical repercussions when they return to the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium against Bayern.

"On Tuesday we have to try to have a lot of the ball to run less," Montella said afterwards.

For Bayern and Heynckes, it makes Sevilla a difficult threat to assess.

"The video analysts have to filter the strengths and weakness of the opponents and I'll watch three or four opposition videos," Heynckes said.

"If you watched them play against United, even after the 1-0 lead they noticed that United needed two goals and they played really good football. We can't afford to celebrate already."

While Montella is already being linked with the post of Italy's next permanent manager, there is uncertainty too around the future of Bayern's coach.

With Heynckes set to retire in the summer, Bayern are still searching for his successor after Thomas Tuchel said he had already signed for another club.

Any doubts, however, have not affected the players. Bayern hammered third-placed Borussia Dortmund 6-0 on Saturday to move 17 points clear of the top of the Bundesliga and they are looking to reach their sixth Champions League semi-final in seven years.

Manuel Neuer is back in training but this week is likely to come too soon for the goalkeeper, who has been out since September with a fractured metatarsal in his left foot.

DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE

DFA to get 1st instalment SOON

SPORTS REPORTER

The reinstatement of district football leagues remains a formality after the Ministry of Finance yesterday sanctioned Tk One 1.472 crore for the District Football Associations (DFA) in this regard.

Since their separation from government-affiliated District Sports Associations in 2008, the government stopped financing DFAs and as a result most of them failed to run football activities due to financial constraints. However, recently the government decided to sanction a fund for the DFAs to run their leagues.

The Bangladesh Football Federation, according to its general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag, will call all the DFAs for a meeting on Saturday to hand over the first instalments of the grant and ask them to start their respective leagues as soon as possible.

"We had initially asked for 4 crore taka. However, we received Tk 1.472 crore, which we knew we would. We will initially distribute one lakh taka to each of the DFAs to start their league and then release the other two instalments in phases. We hope that all the DFAs hold the league this time," said Shohag.

The majority of DFAs have not held district leagues since the completion of Nitul Tata Sheikh Kamal District Football League in 2015. However, 15 DFAs are holding their leagues regularly with their own funding.

Shohag said that once the leagues start, they would ask all the DFAs to complete the leagues within July-August.

Nadal reclaims ATP top spot

AFP, Paris

Rafael Nadal reclaimed top spot in the men's ATP rankings on Monday a day after Swiss rival Roger Federer crashed out in Miami to American John Isner.

Nadal, who hasn't hit a ball in anger since pulling out of the Australian Open quarterfinals in January, saw Federer take over top spot on February 18.

The Swiss veteran, however, slipped 10 points behind his Spanish rival and into second place after a second round defeat to Isner that saw the towering American leap eight places to ninth thanks to his eventual victory Sunday in the Masters 1000 event.

Pressure back on Real

AFP, Madrid



Zinedine Zidane said last week he wants to stay at Real Madrid but how welcome his wishes are will depend on the team's Champions League tie against Juventus.

Real face Zidane's former club in the first leg of the quarterfinal on Tuesday, knowing their season, and perhaps the Frenchman's future as coach, hinges on reaching the last four.

It was the same in the previous round against Paris Saint-Germain. Real's limp La Liga title defence, combined with their early exit from the Copa del Rey, means they now have only one shot at winning a major trophy this term.

The mood in Madrid, however, is upbeat. Real have won 10 out of their last 11 matches, a run that has seen them brush aside PSG and move to within four points of second-placed Atletico Madrid in the league. They have scored 36 goals in that period, at an average of just over three a game.

"The match comes at a good time for us," Real forward Lucas Vazquez said. "We have been doing things well for the last few months, playing better, more goals, it's a good moment and now we have to try to take advantage of it in this tie."

Zidane therefore declared his intentions on Friday from a position of strength but lose to Juventus and his pledge might look more like a plea.

Despite winning back-to-back Champions Leagues and the La Liga title last year, he is still not immune to the weight of Real's expectation.

Zidane will be returning to Turin for the first time as a manager, his last outing as a player there coming in March 2005 when Real were beaten 2-0 by the Old Lady in the Champions League last 16.

David Trezeguet's goal and an extra-time winner from Marcelo Zalayeta sealed victory for Juve, then managed by Fabio Capello, against a Real side that included David Beckham, Ronaldo and Thomas Gravesen.

Thirteen years on, Gianluigi Buffon is the only player likely to make a repeat appearance this week

but the two current teams need no introduction, their latest meeting coming in the competition's final last year.

That 4-1 victory remains the high-point of Zidane's Real tenure, not only because it earned him an unprecedented second consecutive Champions League crown but because of the sheer ruthlessness of the performance.

If Zidane uses the win in Cardiff as a reference point, it may be to the advantage of Isco, who was excellent there, having been picked ahead of Gareth Bale and Marco Asensio.

The same trio are now competing for the same spot on Tuesday, with an added competitor in Vazquez.

Isco trained on Sunday after missing Saturday's win over Las Palmas with a back problem and he may still be flying high from his hat-trick for Spain against Argentina last week.

Bale, meanwhile, played 90 minutes against Las Palmas, perhaps an ominous indicator for his prospects against Juve, but he could hardly have done more to state his case, after scoring twice in the 3-0 win.

"It's another game, another competition, we know we have to go to Juve with ambition and we have to go there to score," Zidane said.

For Juventus, who edged past Tottenham in the round of 16, it is an opportunity to avenge last year's loss and sustain hopes of an historic treble.

They have won both Serie A and the Coppa Italia for the past three consecutive seasons, but each time fell short of adding the Champions League, twice losing in the final.

"We have the ambition to beat one of the best teams in the world, Real Madrid," coach Massimiliano Allegri said. "It will be a great game, but our priority remains Serie A. We will fight against Real Madrid with realism and ambition."

Juan Cuadrado and Giorgio Chiellini both returned from injury against AC Milan on Saturday while Allegri also hopes to have Federico Bernardeschi and Alex Sandro available again.

Real defender Nacho is a doubt after he pulled his hamstring against Las Palmas but Sergio Ramos trained on Sunday after overcoming



Bangladesh striker Sabina Khatun heads on target during her team Sethu FC's Indian Women's League fixture against Rising Student Club in Shillong yesterday.

Sabina scores again in Sethu's victory

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh captain Sabina Khatun scored for the second successive game as Sethu FC notched another 2-0 victory in the Hero Indian Women's League yesterday.

The prolific striker opened the scoring in the 47th minute before Manisha doubled the lead in their match against Rising Student Club to notch their second win in three games in Shillong.

Sabina and Manisha scored in the 2-0 win over Gokulam FC in the previous game to help the Madurai side bounce back from a 5-0 defeat against KRYPHSA in their opening match.

After a barren first half which was dominated by Rising Student, Sethu FC took the lead when Sabina latched on to teammate Indumathi's pass to slot home two minutes after the break.

With the clock ticking, Rising drove forward in numbers but a goal remained elusive. With the team playing a high line

it left them vulnerable to counter-attacks, Manisha utilised one such opportunity to score in the 90th minute.

Sethu FC will face India Rush SC in their next encounter, on Wednesday.

The final round of the championship comprises seven teams, with the top four making it to the semifinals following an all-play-all league.

Sabina, who played in Maldives women's league in 2015 and scored 37 goals in five matches, said the competition in India is much stronger. "This is really very competitive football. Every team is strong and there are foreign players in all the teams. I'll have to keep performing to keep my place in the eleven," the striker said.

With only one foreign player allowed in the eleven, the other Bangladeshi player, Krishna Rani Sarkar is finding it difficult to get into the starting eleven. The former under-16 captain appeared as a second-half replacement for Sabina in Sethu FC's second match.

Pakistan take unassailable 2-0 lead

AFP, Karachi

Opener Babar Azam missed a maiden hundred by three runs as Pakistan trounced the West Indies by 82 runs in the second Twenty20 international in Karachi on Monday, taking an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Babar cracked 13 fours and a six in his 58-ball innings, reaching 97 not out to guide Pakistan to their highest-ever T20 total of 205-3 in 20 overs after Sarfraz Ahmed won the toss and decided to bat first at the National Stadium.

Paceman Mohammad Amir took 3-22 as the West Indies were dismissed for 123 in 19.2 overs, faring much better than their 60 all out in the first match which they lost by 143 runs.

The third match is on Tuesday, also in Karachi.

The West Indies showed more resistance on Monday as Chadwick Walton hit two sixes and four boundaries during his 29-ball 40 and added 39 for the second wicket with the experienced Marlon Samuels who made 12.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: 205 for 3 in 20 overs (Babar 97 not out, Talat 63; Odean 1-40)
WEST INDIES: 123 all out in 19.2 overs (Walton 40, Ramdin 21; Amir 3-22, Talat 2-12)

Result: Pakistan won by 82 runs
Player of the match: Babar Azam

CONCACAF invitation for under-15 girls

SPORTS REPORTER



As the Bangladesh under-15 girls' football team returned home in the early hours of Tuesday from a triumphant campaign in Hong Kong, they were greeted with an invitation from a much-bigger tournament.

Thanks to their rising status as a regional powerhouse in women's football, the Bangladesh team have been invited to take part in the CONCACAF Girls' Under-15 tournament, which will be held in Florida, USA in August this year.

The event will feature a number of teams from the CONCACAF region alongside two teams from UEFA and one from AFC. The AFC, Asian football body, has sent invitations to 20 countries for this event, with the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) having already replied in the affirmative.

However, with one team to be selected from among the interested candidates, it could be a long shot for the Bangladesh girls to participate in this tournament. While the BFF is not ruling out its chances, it is more keen on preparing the team for upcoming competitions.

Bangladesh are scheduled to play in the SAFF U-15 Championship, the tentative time for which is around August.

"We got this invitation from CONCACAF through AFC. We are sending our entry for the tournament. This will be a much higher competition as there will be teams like USA and Canada, who are two of the best teams in women's football," BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag told reporters yesterday.

The under-15 team, together with the under-16 and under-18 teams, will continue their long-term camp at the BFF House.



John Isner of USA kisses the Butch Buchholz trophy on Crandon Park Beach after his 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 6-4 victory against Alexander Zverev of Germany in the Miami Open final on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP