Proud Poch wants consistency

AFP, London



Tottenham Hotspur manager Mauricio Pochettino says his players need to be consistent if they are to win the Premier League

title after outclassing Cardiff City on Tuesday. Goals by Harry Kane, Christian Eriksen and Korean star Son Heung-min inside the opening half hour saw Spurs beat the Welsh side 3-0, leapfrog Manchester City into second spot and

go six points behind leaders Liverpool. City host Liverpool on Thursday but Pochettino was keener to focus on what his team can do to deliver the London club's first league title since 1961.

"I don't want to see the table. Of course we are in a good position," he told Sky Sports. "We need to be consistent. You must be consistent during the whole season."

Pochettino, who remains the bookmaker's favourite to get the full-time job at Manchester United, said the overall performance of his team had delighted him after Saturday's damaging 3-1 home defeat to

Wolverhampton Wanderers.

"I'm very pleased, the one thing I need to say is we suffered without rest between the games and therefore from the players it was magnificent," said the 46-year-old Argentinian.

"They deserve full credit. It was a very tough period for us."

Pochettino, who despite garnering credit for developing young players is yet to win a trophy in his managerial career, says he will be able to fill the large gap that will be left with Son leaving for Asian Cup duty.

"That is football, we knew it would happen," said Pochettino.

"He will go with his national team but we have players and football is about the squad and surely we will find the solution."

Eriksen said the victory had eased the pressure on Spurs in terms of the title race.

"We put pressure on everyone and took pressure off ourselves. It'll be back on for the

next game," the Dane told Sky Sports.

"It felt like we were 18 points behind but we're not far off."



Harry Kane's opening goal in Tottenham's 3-0 win over Cardiff City was the fifth successive New Year's Day he has scored in the Premier League, equalling a record held by Andy Cole and Steven Gerrard. PHOTO: REUTERS

MSC replace Evans with Nasir

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammedan Sporting Club has recently appointed Ali Asgar Nasir as the club's coach replacing Christopher Evans ahead of the 11th

Bangladesh Premier League, which is scheduled to get underway from January 18. Evans took charge of

Mohammedan in the letter part of September last year and guided the Black and Whites in the Federation Cup before going back to England for treatment. In his absence, the Motijheel-based outfit played the Independence Cup and failed to score a single goal before being eliminated from the group stage like the Federation Cup.

Nasir, who once coached Muktijoddha Sangsad, Rahmatganj MFS, Team BJMC, Chittagong Abahani and Khulna Abahani in the professional league, has already

ULAB to sponsor Khulna Titans

become their sponsors.

48 teams: Infantino

Infantino said.

matches.

University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB)

signed a Memorandum of Understanding with

Bangladesh Premier League side Khulna Titans to

Former Bangladesh cricket team captain

Habibul Bashar, ULAB VC Professor Dr. HM Jahirul

Haque and Ms. Asmaul Roxana Sylvia, chief mar-

keting officer, were present at the signing at the

FIFA should expand 2022 World Cup to

FIFA should if possible increase the size of the

the global governing body's president Gianni

World Cup in Qatar in 2022 to 48 from 32 teams,

Last month, Infantino said a majority of

national football federations were in favour of

expanding the tournament and a decision was

expected ahead of the qualifying draw in March

Infantino, speaking on Wednesday, also said FIFA

was seeing whether it would be possible for some

He said last month that it would be "difficult"

"If you think it's a good thing to have 48 teams

to stage an expanded tournament in Qatar alone.

that's why we are analysing whether its possible to

have 48 teams already in 2022," Infantino said on

Wednesday. "The World Cup will take place in Qatar

with 32 teams. Obviously, if we can increase it to 48

Russia's Daniil Medvedev showed Andy Murray just

how much work he still has to do, when he beat

the former world number one in straight sets in

teams and make the world happy we should try

Murray outgunned by Medvedev

the Brisbane International on Wednesday.

tournaments and was out of the game for 11

"In the second set I made a few too many

"And I think when you obviously play better

his 6-3, 7-6 (7/2) win over Serbian qualifier Miomir

Kecmanovic to go with the 18 he served in the first

months with a hip injury.

to a 7-5, 6-2 win in just 80 minutes.

"And he did that tonight."

the quarter-finals.

in the World Cup, why not try four years before,

of Qatar's Gulf neighbours to host some of the

Titans' office in Dhanmondi. -- Sports Reporter



ALI ASGAR NASIR

started training with the club after having been without a job in the last three seasons.

Although the 55-year-old from Khulna is little-known at the toptier football, he did draw attention as coach of Khulna Abahani, who beat defending champions Abahani during the 2nd Bangladesh Premier League, playing without a single foreign recruit. He also held sides

SHORT CORNER

Transfers a private matter, says Solari

strategy is a private matter as he evaded questions

incomings and outgoings at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Asked if he had requested a new signing at a

Santiago Solari insisted Real Madrid's transfer

about the continued speculation over potential

press conference ahead of Thursday's trip to

Villarreal, Solari said: "I have no news to tell you

about that. What we are interested in is tomor-

row's game, and the start of this year, which we

must begin with the maximum humility and

commitment. Which we have at the moment."

Keylor Navas or Isco wanted to leave, he replied:

"I'm not working on any hypotheses. We're all

"It's not my place to talk about transfer

"They're all very happy, what we're focused on

-- AGENCIES

now is starting the year with the humility needed

to take on these three competitions we want to try

Ole has brought the buzz back, says Shaw

Luke Shaw believes the positivity of Ole Gunnar

and we are adapting to that and enjoying it and

Solskjaer has delivered a buzz back to Manchester

"Ole has a completely different style to his way

that's the main thing," Shaw told Sky Sports. "There's

"Ole is a really positive and friendly guy and

knows this club really well as he was here for many

years and he knows what the club needs. He is here

a great buzz around the place with Ole coming back

in, there's a lot of good things to look forward to.

focused on the game tomorrow.

strategies. That's a private matter.

and win."

United.

Pressed on whether he would understand if

like Brothers Union, Mohammedan and Sheikh Russel KC to draws and guided Rahmatganj to the semifinals of the Federation Cup.

"I sat idle in the last three seasons because there was no good offer from the clubs. But this time around, I accepted the offer from Mohammedan manager Amirul Islam Babu and started coaching from December 22," said Nasir.

"The Mohammedan players were once good, but they are aged now. The fitness of the players is not good and I am trying to bring them to a position so that they can fight on the pitch and entertain the spectators," said Nasir, who completed his AFC B license in 2017.

Meanwhile, departing coach Evans recently alleged that Mohammedan did not pay his two months' salary and threatened to lodge complaint with the FIFA. However, an official of the club refuted the allegation.

for six months and it's a massive thing for him to do

he wants the best for us. We have to work together

and keep doing the right things and keep smiles

Juventus have confirmed their interest in signing

Arsenal midfielder Aaron Ramsey, who will report-

edly leave the Gunners once his contract expires at

"Ramsey? He's a great player. We really like

him and he plays for a great team. His contract is

that the market offers, so we've also been alerted

Paratici told Sky Sport Italia. "I repeat, for now he's

an Arsenal player and we're not the only team who

-- AGENCIES

-- AGENCIES

expiring and we're always alerted to situations

to Ramsey," Juventus sporting director Fabio

Valverde hails competitive Messi

Ernesto Valverde lauded the competitiveness of

Lionel Messi as he named the Barcelona super-

Messi is enjoying another prolific campaign

Speaking to Barca TV, head coach Valverde said:

"What he does is not only difficult, but he does

thanks to 21 goals in all competitions, including a

"What I'd most highlight about Leo Messi is his

in every game in every competition.

amazing competitive spirit."

huge sense of responsibility for the team. It shows

it again and again . . . That takes enormous mental

strength. I have never known anyone with such an

on faces and keep winning."

the end of the season.

want Welshman."

star's finest asset.

league-high 15 in La Liga.

Juve confirm Ramsey interest

"We all back him and want the best for him as

an amazing job and that would be great for him.

"He trained the boys for barely a month. I have no problem to pay him if he is stays here and conducts training. But the club doesn't have any agreement with him [Evans]," Mohammedan's director-in-charge Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan said. "My team has been losing in tournaments while he is in England. Does the club have any obligation to send his salary without getting his service? Despite that we have already paid him one month's salary."

Lokman even alleged that Evans did not train the players regularly during his stay because of his ill health.

"If he comes back, we will talk to him," Lokman said, adding that the Englishman is likely to come to Dhaka on January 4.

FIFA had, last season, punished Mohammedan by deducting three points from their league tally while forcing the club to pay the dues it owed to its former Nigerian coach Emeka Ezeugo.

Chelsea snap up Pulisic for £58m



American international Christian Premier Pulisic, regarded as one of the hottest properties in European football, signed for Premier League side Chelsea for a reported fee of £58 million from Borussia

Dortmund on Wednesday. The 20-year-old right winger -- who has had more playing time in the Champions League this term than the Bundesliga as coach Lucien Favre generally prefers England international Jadon Sancho in that position -- has been loaned back to the

German league leaders until the end of the season. "In the summer I move on to Chelsea and to a new competition, the English Premier League," Pulisic said in a statement issued by Chelsea. "It's a privilege to have signed for such a legendary club and I look forward to working hard towards being a contributor to their team of world class players."

Chelsea director Marina Granovskaia said she looked forward to Pulisic becoming a major influence at the club for years to come.

"We are delighted to have signed one of Europe's most sought-after young players," she said.



"Christian has shown his quality during a fantastic spell in Germany and at just 20, we believe he has the potential to become an important Chelsea player for many years to come."

size of the offer the club would have been foolish to turn it down.

Premier League," said Zorc. "That's certainly got to do with his American background, and therefore we were unable to

"With this background and given the short remaining period on his contract, we decided to accept the extraordi-

Pulisic, who had also been linked with Premier League leaders Liverpool, has been at Dortmund since he was 15 and aged just 17 made both his Bundesliga debut and international debut for the United States having turned down an approach from Crotia to play for them.

A former national Under-17 captain, in November 2018 he became the youngest player to captain the United States senior side aged 20 years and 63 days.

Nadal out of Brisbane

Rafael Nadal on Wednesday withdrew from the seasonopening Brisbane International after an MRI revealed a slight strain of his left thigh.

Nadal, who had a first

round bye, was scheduled to play his second round match against Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga on Thursday. However, after conferring

with his doctors he decided to withdraw to ensure he would be fit to play the Australian Open later this month.

Nadal, the current world number two, has not played a main tour event since a knee problem forced him to retire during his US Open semi-final against Juan Martin del Potro in September.

The 32-year-old had surgery on his ankle in November to remove a loose intra-articular body and only resumed training three weeks ago.

He played the opening round at an exhibition event in Abu Dhabi last week, where he lost to South African Kevin Anderson.

"I feel good, but after a long period of time without competing, I felt the leg tightening a little bit in Abu Dhabi in the first match," he said.

"That's why I didn't play the second (match). So I came here. I did an MRI, and it shows a very small strain on

the left thigh, but it's there." Nadal said doctors were confident he would be fit to

play in Melbourne. "They say that it's a very small thing, but it can

become a big thing, because a strain in the muscle is dangerous," he said. "When you increase the

intensity on the muscle when competing, then there is a big risk to make it something bigger.

"Today it's not big. I feel better than four days ago. Probably I'm 100 per cent in five days. And then I have plenty of time to prepare for Melbourne."

Michael Zorc, Dortmund's sport director, said given the

"It has always been Christian's big dream to play in the

extend his contract.

narily lucrative offer from FC Chelsea."

Murray is making a comeback to the sport after a disastrous 2018, during which he played just six He had a comfortable first round win over James Duckworth but found the step up in class too much HEAD against Medvedev, the 22-year-old Russian cruising mistakes, and there was a period in the match from 5-5 where I lost six games in a row," Murray said. players, I mean he's 15 in the world or so, they will expose any errors that you make in your game or SOFITEL any shots that you're not hitting particularly well. HOTELS RESORTS BRISBANE CENTRAL Medvedev will meet Canada's Milos Raonic in The huge-serving Raonic fired down 21 aces in

A dejected Andy Murray takes a breather during his Brisbane International second round match against Daniil Medvedev. PHOTO: AFP

India take U-turn on **Ashwin**

AFP, Sydney

India reversed their decision Wednesday to rule out top spinner Ravichandran Ashwin from the fourth Test against Australia, with pace spearhead Ishant Sharma missing from their 13-man squad.

Indian officials had told reporters Ashwin did not recover from an abdominal strain that has kept him out of the last two Tests, and skipper Virat Kohli said the offspinner was "very disappointed" to miss the final match of the series.

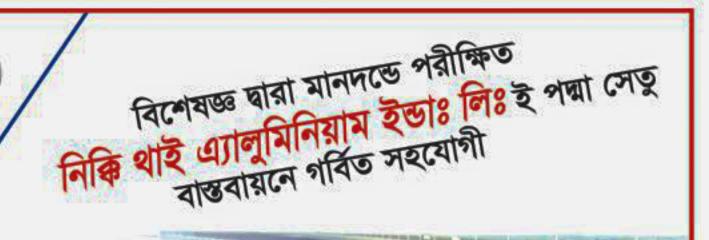
But barely an hour later, his name was on the squad list tweeted by the BCCI, India's governing body.

"A decision on R Ashwin's availability will be taken on the morning of the Test," it said ahead of what is expected to be turning wicket at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

In a surprise, Sharma was not included with fast bowler Umesh Yadav preferred.







Nikki Thai Aluminium Ind. Ltd. সর্বাধুনিক Computerized Machineries, উনুতমানের 6063 Billet, জার্মানীর প্রযুক্তিগত Anodizing পদ্ধতিতে উৎপাদিত বিশ্বমানের সেরা Aluminium Profile এবং High Cu S.S Strip দ্বারা তৈরি Stainless ফীল পাইপ বাজারজাত করছে। "নিক্সি" ব্রাণ্ড ISO (9001:2015) সন্দপ্রাপ্ত এবং BUET কর্তৃক পরীক্ষিত। "নিক্সি" PWD সিডিউলে তালিকাভুক্ত, BSTI কর্তৃক মান নিয়ন্ত্রিত ও লাইসেন্সপ্রাপ্ত প্রতিষ্ঠান।

বাজারের নিম্নমানের এ্যালুমিনিয়াম প্রোফাইল এবং এস. এস পাইপ ব্যবহার না করে গুনে ও মানে সেরা নিক্কি ব্রান্ডের এ্যালুমিনিয়াম প্রোফাইল এবং এস. এস পাইপ ব্যবহার করে আপনার স্থাপনার দীর্ঘ স্থায়িত্ব নিশ্চিত করুন।