



PHOTO: REUTERS

Chelsea almost exacted revenge for their 6-0 hammering at Manchester City's hands earlier this month when the two sides met in the League Cup final last night. Unfortunately, despite pushing Pep Guardiola's side to penalties, they could not get the job done, losing 4-3 in the shootout.

## Dybala lifts Juventus

REUTERS, Bologna

Paulo Dybala came off the bench to give unbeaten Serie A leaders Juventus a 1-0 win away to a brave Bologna side who had the better of the match and hit the post in stoppage time on Sunday.

Dybala was brought on in the 59th minute and settled the game eight minutes later as the Turin side bounced back from Wednesday's Champions League defeat at Atletico Madrid.

Juventus have 69 points from 25 games, 16 ahead of Napoli who were away to Parma later on Sunday.

"There was still a bit of a hangover from Wednesday, there's no use hiding it," said Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri. "Today, it was important to win and to suffer. The lads did well."

Relegation-threatened Bologna, who are 18th in the 20-team table, were out of luck again in stoppage time when Sansone's brilliant curling effort was tipped onto the post by goalkeeper Mattia Perin.

## Kepa flashpoint marks cup final

AFP, London

Manchester City retained the League Cup by edging Chelsea 4-3 on penalties on Sunday after an incredible bust-up between Chelsea boss Maurizio Sarri and goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga.

The Italian tried to replace the world's most expensive player towards the end of a cagey 120 minutes that ended 0-0.

Kepa had received treatment for an injury in the final stages, but also has an inferior record of saving spot-kicks than Willy Caballero, who Sarri attempted to introduce.

City goalkeeper Ederson denied Jorginho and David Luiz hit the post in the shootout before Raheem Sterling smashed the winning penalty past Kepa.

Until that flashpoint, the afternoon had been a success for Sarri just two weeks on from Chelsea's worst defeat since 1991 in a 6-0 thrashing at the hands of City in the Premier League.

The chances of Sarri losing his job were only heightened by a FA Cup elimination at the hands of Manchester United on Monday.

With his back to the wall, it was perhaps understandable then that Sarri adopted a far more cautious approach.

Gonzalo Higuain was dropped to the bench to leave Eden Hazard to plough a lone furrow up front -- as the Belgian did

when Chelsea beat City 2-0 in December.

Sergio Aguero scored a hattrick in the Etihad mauling a fortnight ago, but the Argentine could only volley over with the best chance of a first half with precious few opportunities.

City were dealt an injury blow as Vincent Kompany had to replace Aymeric Laporte at half-time, and Hazard routinely exposed his Belgian international teammate's lack of pace after the break.

Chelsea had an anxious wait just before the hour mark for VAR to confirm Aguero was offside after he found the net, but most of the second half action came at the other end.

An extra 30 minutes also failed to muster a goal with City regaining some control.

Aguero had one final chance to win it three minutes from time, but Kepa made his best save of the game low to his left before refusing to make way for Caballero.

A visibly furious Sarri even started making his way towards the tunnel before turning back to take his place on the touchline.

Arrizabalaga did save Leroy Sane's spot-kick, but should have done better when Aguero's penalty slipped underneath his body.

Ilkay Gundogan also found the net for City before Sterling sealed the start of a potential quadruple of trophies this season by drilling his penalty in off the underside of the bar.

## Klopp rues missed opportunity

AFP, Manchester

Jürgen Klopp admitted Liverpool's 0-0 draw at injury-hit Manchester United felt like a missed opportunity. Klopp's side moved one point clear at the top of the Premier League after their stalemate at Old Trafford on Sunday. But it was a frustrating afternoon for Liverpool, who wasted a chance to go three points above title rivals Manchester City.

The Reds managed only one shot on target and Klopp felt their erratic display was largely due to the number of injuries suffered by both teams. Liverpool lost Roberto Firmino to a first half injury, while United saw Ander Herrera, Juan Mata and Jesse Lingard limp off before the interval.

"It was a strange game. We started really well, exactly like we wanted. Then the injury crisis started and that obviously cost us the rhythm. It was like 'what's going on'," Klopp said. "In the end we have to admit United played with a completely new midfield and couldn't get it back."

"It was an intense situation. It was a point United wanted and we lost two. Some days United are beatable. You have to do it and we didn't do it."

Klopp conceded Liverpool had lacked composure at critical moments

and he called on them to bounce back against Watford in midweek.

"I'm not here to be frustrated. I always take what I get from the boys. It doesn't feel world-class in the moment. That's OK," Klopp said. "We didn't play a lot of wonderful balls in the final third. The build-up from deep was OK, but then you need to be more flexible."

United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer was impressed with the way

his players kept Liverpool at bay despite so many injuries.

"Everything that could have gone wrong in the first half went wrong. We had four injuries - we had to keep Marcus Rashford on - it seemed like it was going to be a tough afternoon," he said. "I can't remember Liverpool having a chance. Even though they had possession, I can't remember David de Gea making a save."



Manchester United defender Luke Shaw (R) put in a man-of-the-match performance against Liverpool, who could muster only one shot on target in the 90 minutes despite having 65 per cent possession. PHOTO: REUTERS

### SHORT CORNER

#### Tasdid wins bodybuilding award in India

Bangladeshi trainer bodybuilder Tasdid Hasan clinched silver medal in the 70kg weight category of prestigious Sheru Classic Pro Qualifiers Series, which concluded in Bengaluru, India yesterday, said a press release from Bangladesh Bodybuilding Federation. A total of 17 international bodybuilders took part in the competition.

"I'm super happy. This is a recognition for the bodybuilders of the country," Tasdid told Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha.

Tasdid, who started his bodybuilding career in 2007, won the Mr Dhaka competition in 2010.

-- SPORTS REPORTER



managed to stabilise Hoddle, who was then taken to hospital.

The 61-year-old had a quadruple heart bypass before returning home to recuperate and is now on the way to making a full recovery.

"I just thank god I was in the studio at that time with Simon [Daniels] and a defibrillator there. I could have been on my own and I wouldn't be sitting here today," Hoddle said. "I can't remember much, I can't remember the air ambulance - although what a job they do. Thankfully the doctors kept me going until they found out I needed a quadruple bypass."

"When you are in hospital and on medication I wasn't taking everything in but I knew I was a lucky man. Not just lucky with the synchronisation of the timing, there was something going on for quite some time."

-- AFP

#### Morata off the mark for Atletico

Alvaro Morata poked fun at VAR after scoring his first goal for Atletico Madrid on Sunday as Barcelona's challengers kept up the chase with a 2-0 win over Villarreal.

Since joining Atletico on loan from Chelsea last month, Morata has twice had goals ruled out by VAR so when this one finally stood at the Wanda Metropolitan, he celebrated by imitating a referee putting a finger to his ear.

Saul Niguez added a late second for Atletico, whose victory means they reduce the gap behind Barca to seven points at the top of La Liga. Real Madrid, now five behind their city rivals, play Levante later on Sunday.

Morata's first league goal in almost four months was a deserved reward for another lively performance, which followed up his excellent display off the bench in the midweek win over Juventus.

-- AFP

## Kings survive Arambagh scare

SPORTS REPORTER

Newcomers Bashundhara Kings survived a scare to take solo lead in the Bangladesh Premier League with a hard-fought 3-2 win over a spirited Arambagh KS at the Sheikh Kamal Stadium in Nilphamari yesterday.

Big-spenders Bashundhara now have 19 points from seven matches, one more than six-time champions Abahani, who however played a match more than the Independence Cup championship. Arambagh, on the other hand, stayed in fifth position with 12 points.

After being held to a goalless draw by Team BJMC in Noakhali in their previous match, Bashundhara looked a bit nervous against giant-killers Arambagh on their home soil as the charges of Oscar Bruzon were forced to make mistakes against the charges of Maruful Haque. Arambagh were unlucky not to secure at least one point, thanks a couple

of good saves from Bashundhara goalkeeper Anisur Rahman Zico and an Arambagh effort that came off the post in the latter part of the game.

Arambagh, who went on to take on title contenders Bashundhara on the back of a win over NoFEL SC, put huge pressure and earned the lead in the 23rd minute, with promising winger Arifur Rahman tapping in a well-judged cross from Chinedu Mathew.

But Arambagh were able to hold on to the lead for only two minutes as Nigerian defender Kingsley Nkuremeh fired put the ball into his own net while attempting to clear a free-kick from Costa Rican Daniel Colindres in the 25th minute.

After scoring a gifted goal, Bashundhara came out with their true colour and scored two goals in the span of nine minutes. On-form striker Matin Mia did not hesitate to provide the lead to Bashundhara when Arambagh defender Mohammad Rocky mistakenly deposited the ball to his feet. The young forward darted into the box to drive a low shot past the Arambagh goalkeeper in the 34th minute.

Then fit-again Mohammad Ibrahim whipped in a good cross from the left flank and Brazilian Marcos Vinicius rose high to head Bashundhara to a 3-1 lead two minutes before the break.

After resumption, Arambagh gave a run for the money to their superior opponents and reduced the margin

## Australia beat off last ball

AFP, Visakhapatnam

Glenn Maxwell hit a half-century as Australia edged India by three wickets in a thrilling last-ball finish at the first T20I on Sunday.

Pat Cummins hit a four and took two runs to complete a nervous 127-run chase after his fellow pacesman Nathan Coulter-Nile restricted India to 126-7.

Maxwell, who made 56, put together 84 runs with D'Arcy Short for the third wicket to put Australia on course before Jasprit Bumrah hit back with three wickets.

But the day belonged to Coulter-Nile who returned figures of 3-26 in his four overs, receiving the man of the match award.

KL Rahul, who hit 50, forged a 55-run second wicket stand with skipper Virat Kohli to give India a brisk start but the hosts lost momentum after losing three quick wickets.

#### SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: 127 for 6 (Rahul 50, Dhoni 29; Coulter-Nile 3-26)  
AUSTRALIA: 127 for 7 in 20 overs (Short 37, Maxwell 56; Bumrah 3-16)

Result: Australia won by three wickets and lead the two-match series 1-0.  
Player-of-the-match: Coulter-Nile



Fans converged on the Sheikh Kamal Stadium in Nilphamari to watch Bashundhara Kings in action against Arambagh. PHOTO: BFF