

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

Indian Premier League

Chennai v Kolkata

Live from 8:30pm

TEN 1

UEFA Champions League

Liverpool v Porto

Live from 1:00am (Wednesday)

TEN 2

UEFA Champions League


Tottenham v Man City

Live from 1:00am (Wednesday)

MATUIDI BLASTS RACISM SCOURGE

Blaise Matuidi echoed the disillusionment of other black footballers when he said on Sunday that the events of the week suggested "this is not a world I want my children to see." Matuidi was one of the three Juventus players abused with monkey noises during a victory at Cagliari during the week. Teenage teammate Moise Kean attracted the headlines for facing the home fans as he celebrated the winning goal, but it was the second straight year that Matuidi has suffered such abuse in Cagliari. Alex Sandro was also a target. "It's sad," the World Cup winner told Canal+ in France. "It happened to me last year in this stadium and we cannot tolerate it. You can tell me: 'maybe it's not racist, they just want to unsettle you,'" Matuidi said. "No. These are things you do not say and must be punished."

—AFP



# Mane steps out of Salah's shadow

AFP, Liverpool

Sadio Mane has grown used to playing second fiddle to Mohamed Salah in the two seasons since the latter joined the Senegalese at Liverpool. However, the fact Jurgen Klopp's men top the Premier League in their quest to end a 29-year wait to win the title and face Porto in the first leg of a Champions League quarterfinal at Anfield on Tuesday, is largely thanks to Mane.

As Salah's goals dried up in an eight-game drought prior to Friday's 3-1 win at Southampton, Mane assumed the mantle as chief goal getter with 11 in his last 13 Liverpool appearances taking his tally for the season to 20.

That run included a double away to Bayern Munich last month that eased the five-time European champions past the German giants and eyeing another shot at Champions League glory.

His first goal in particular at the Allianz Arena was a demonstration in the 26-year-old's pace, skill and calmness in front of goal.

Mane controlled a raking long pass from Virgil van Dijk, rounded Manuel Neuer and then dinked the ball into an unguarded net.

"I'm going to have to watch back 500 times," admitted Klopp after the game. "It's astounding what he did."

Mane scored 10 Champions League goals in all last season, including in the final.

While Salah now carries himself with a swagger from the star status he has earned over the past two years, Mane's humble nature means he often remains under the radar for a player of his quality.

In September he was filmed helping to clean the toilets at his local mosque just hours after scoring in a vital away win at Leicester.

# Punjab pull off last-over thriller

AGENCIES, Chandigarh

Kings XI Punjab defeated Sunrisers Hyderabad by six wickets in an Indian Premier League match in Chandigarh yesterday.

KL Rahul's third fifty in four matches helped Punjab secure a last-over win. Rahul and Mayank Agarwal added 114 for the second wicket.

Then Punjab stumbled, with the chase hinging on Rahul, with the side needing six off three deliveries. Rahul then drilled a full delivery to long-off, before sealing victory off the next ball.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**

**Hyderabad:** 150 for 4 in 20 overs (Warner 70 not out, Shankar 26; Ashwin 1-30)

**Punjab:** 151 for 4 in 19.5 overs (Rahul 71 not out, Agarwal 55; Sharma 2-21)

**Result:** Punjab won by 6 wickets.

**Player-of-the-match:** KL Rahul.

# BANGAMATA U-19 WOMEN'S INT'L GOLD CUP

# Thematic video launched

SPORTS REPORTER

A thematic video for the Bangamata U-19 Women's International Gold Cup was unveiled at the BFF House in presence of renowned singer Rezwana Choudhury Bannya yesterday, two weeks ahead of the first-ever women's international football tournament where six nations will participate.

Gazi Shubhro directed the two-minute video, which highlights, among other things, the progress of women's football in Bangladesh, historic March 7 speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, women's participation in Liberation War and activities of Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib. Bannya, the famous Rabindra Sangeet exponent, gave background vocal to the video documentary.

"Women have good opportunity to shine in sports and culture and I think the Bangamata tournament is a big platform for

them to go further," said the singer during the programme.

K-Sports, the rights holders of Bangamata U-19 Women's tournament, has taken initiatives including organising a football clinic and telecasting TV dramas in a bid to aware the audience of the tournament, which is scheduled for April 22 to May 3.

"We will telecast this official video on two private satellite channels before the matches. Besides, Radio Furti will provide live commentary of the matches. We will also promote the tournament through social media as we want to create a vibe among the people to come to the venue and watch the matches," said Fahad Karim, CEO of K-Sports.

BFF vice-president Mohiuddin Ahmed, executive member Amit Khan Shuvro, K-Sports director Ashfaq Ahmed, executive director Muntasir Bhuiyan and other officials were present at the occasion.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH THE VIDEO

# Spurs plot Man City upset

AFP, London

Hugo Lloris has endured a mistake-filled season, but the Tottenham goalkeeper knows his costly blunders will be forgotten if he can lead his side to Champions League success against Manchester City.

Lloris will captain Tottenham in Tuesday's All-English quarter-final first leg showdown with City at the north London club's new stadium.

And the France star will be firmly in the spotlight on what promises to be a busy evening given City's attacking prowess.

Lloris has been well below his best for much of this term, with his latest clanger coming in the last minute of a damaging 2-1 defeat at Liverpool last weekend when he sparked a Toby Alderweireld own goal by spilling Mohamed Salah's header.

The 32-year-old has shown alarmingly bad judgement all season.

In Tottenham's 2-2 group stage draw against PSV Eindhoven, Lloris suffered a rush of blood as he needlessly sprinted outside his penalty area to foul Hirving Lozano, earning a straight red card that inspired the Dutch side to snatch a last equaliser.

Lloris had already been at fault for Barcelona's opening goal in the 4-2 group stage defeat at Wembley, which saw Tottenham fall behind with barely a minute on the clock.

The France captain was also embarrassed in last year's World Cup final by Croatia's Mario



Tottenham Hotspur striker Harry Kane takes part in a training session in London yesterday on the eve of their Champions League quarterfinal first leg tie against Manchester City.

PHOTO: AFP

Mandzukic, although that blunder was ignored as his country carried home the trophy.

In the midst of these howlers, Lloris was arrested for drink-driving in London, an offence that earned him a 20-month driving ban and £50,000 fine.

Despite such a wretched run of form, Lloris has retained the support of Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino.

Reports in recent weeks claim Pochettino has no intention of looking for another keeper at the end of the season, such is his faith in Lloris.

Part of that belief is grounded in Lloris's role as an influential figure in the dressing room.

That leadership earned him the captain's armband and was on show as he issued a rallying cry to his team-mates ahead of the City clash.

With Tottenham bidding to reach their first European semi-final since the 1984 UEFA Cup, Lloris knows the team will need the vocal backing of the home support to rattle City.

Pep Guardiola's Premier League title chasers are eyeing an unprecedented quadruple after reaching the FA Cup final and winning the League Cup already this season.

# SPORTS REPORTER



The race for becoming the top scorer heated up as Nabib Newaj Jibon scored one and set up another to power holders Abahani to a 2-0 win over Chittagong Abahani in a rain-interrupted Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Jibon put the Sky Blues ahead in the 10th minute by sliding the ball home from a through-pass from Min-hyuk Ko to raise his tally to seven goals. The national team striker then whipped in a cross for Sunday Chizoba, who headed in to double the lead in the 17th minute in the match which was halted for nearly 40 minutes due to heavy showers. It was the eighth goal for Sunday, one more than joint second-paced Jibon, Rahmatganj MFS's Siyo Zunapio and Muktijoddha Sangsad's Ballo Famousa.

"I really feel good that I am getting goals in almost all matches. I want to score more every match. Of course I will have to work hard to do this. I'm not stopping here," Jibon said after the match.

"Last season, I could hardly get a

chance to play, so I could not get goals. This time, though, coach [Mario Lemos] has kept faith in me and I am really been working hard to improve myself. I train individually in a bid to getting sharper because I won't get the opportunity if I don't deliver on the pitch," Jibon said, explaining his transformation from last season.

However, six-time champions Abahani faced tremendous pressure

ABAHANI	2 - 0	CTG ABAHANI
JIBON 10', SUNDAY 17'		
ARAMBAGH KS	2 - 1	TEAM BJMC
EMILE 4', RABIUL 8'		ILIASU 81'

after scoring the two goals within eight minutes. The Abahani defence was busy thwarting the attacks of their Chittagong namesakes on the rain-soaked pitch. The defence was exposed on one occasion in latter part of the first half when defender Tutul Hossain Badsha seemingly handled the ball inside the box while Shahed Hossain mustered a shot on target but referee MZF Naheed overlooked the incident.

After resumption, Abahani came

close twice to widening the margin but efforts from Sunday and Rubel Mia narrowly missed the target.

"It is the nature of game that the opponents will press hard once you take lead. So Chittagong Abahani pressed hard but they could not create any chances. In the second half, we established our control on the game but we were deprived of two more goals," said Jibon.

With the ninth win in 11 matches, Abahani have 27 points, closing the gap with leaders Bashundhara Kings having to one point. The league leaders, however, have played a match less. Chittagong Abahani remained in eighth position with 11 points from 10 matches.

Away at the Rafique Uddin Bhuiyan Stadium in Mymensingh, hosts Arambagh handed a 2-1 defeat to Team BJMC, with Cameroonian forward Paul Emile and local youngster Rabiul Islam scoring in the fourth and eighth minutes respectively. Samson Iliasu pulled one goal back for Team NJMC in the 81st minute.

Arambagh, with their sixth win in 11 matches, raised their tally to 19 points while BJMC remained at the bottom with three points from 10 outings.

# SHORT CORNER

## PSG's title celebrations delayed following draw

Paris St Germain's Ligue 1 title celebrations were delayed on Sunday when they dropped their first points at home this season in a 2-2 draw against Racing Strasbourg.

Victory would have given PSG their eighth Ligue 1 title after Lille earlier drew 1-1 at Stade de Reims but Sunday's draw left Thomas Tuchel's side on 81 points from 30 games. Second-placed Lille have 61 points from 31 matches.

Eric Choupo-Moting's early opener was cancelled out by Nuno Da Costa before Anthony Goncalves put the visitors ahead in the 38th minute.

Thilo Kehrer levelled in the 82nd minute but that was too little, too late for PSG, who until Sunday had won all of their 15 league matches at the Parc des Princes this season.

—REUTERS

**Sevilla's Caparros suffering from leukemia**

Sevilla coach Joaquin Caparros announced on Sunday that he has chronic leukemia but says the condition is under control and will not prevent him continuing in his job.

The 63-year-old, who took over last month after

Pablo Machin was sacked, was speaking after Sevilla's 2-0 victory over Real Valladolid in La Liga.

"I have chronic leukemia," Caparros said in the post-match press conference. "I have caught it early and can live a normal life. I want to enjoy my job and for everyone to stay calm. I've had no treatment and am grateful for the club giving me the opportunity (to continue coaching)."

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## AFP

### Sarri questions 'strange' Chelsea fixture list

Maurizio Sarri has questioned the Premier League's "strange" decision to schedule Chelsea's West Ham clash for Monday, just three days before their Europa League away match against Slavia Prague.

Chelsea, who are battling for a top-four finish, face a pivotal week, hosting West Ham before heading to Prague for Thursday's game.

"I am not able to understand the decision of the Premier League because we have to go to Prague as an English team," he said.

"So I'm not able to understand why we have to play on Monday. It's very strange. I think they could have



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Stamford University Bangladesh vice-chancellor Prof. Muhammad Ali Naqi and players celebrate with the champion's trophy after beating Independent University of Bangladesh by 19 runs in the final of the 12th ULAB Fair Play Cup on Thursday.