

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

Indian Premier League

Kolkata v Chennai

Live from 4:30pm

Hyderabad v Delhi

Live from 8:30pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

English Premier League

Crystal Palace v Man City

Live from 7:05pm

Liverpool v Chelsea

Live from 9:30pm

TEN 2

Serie A

Torino v Cagliari

Live from 4:30pm

Fiorentina v Bologna

Live from 7:00pm

Chievo v Napoli

Live from 10:00pm

Frosinone v Inter Milan

Live from 12:30am (Monday)

# Abahani edge Sk Jamal in high-scoring encounter

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Premier League champions Abahani warmed up for their next AFC Cup fixture with a 4-3 win over Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The Sky Blues, who got their continental campaign off to a good start with a 1-0 win away to Manang Marshyangdi on April 3, will be hosting Minerva Punjab from India at the BNS on Wednesday.

With rain forecast for the next few days in Dhaka, it was a good warm-up for the Dhanmondi giants as the game was halted for 84 minutes after 36th minutes of play before eventually being completed amid constant showers on a water-logged surface.

Abahani did not start the game well though as they conceded the opening goal in the 27th second, the



Abahani forward Kervens Belfort is tailed by two Sheikh Jamal players during their Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. The Haitian hitman scored in the 63rd minute of the keenly contested match, which the Sky Blues won 4-3.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

SHEIKH JAMAL 3 - 4 ABAHANI

PEREZ 1', ZIKU 80', 90'

SAIGHANI 10', MANIK 27' (OG), BELFORT 63', JIBON 70'

TEAM BJMC 0-0 BROTHERS

fastest goal of the league, when Sheikh Jamal's Argentine forward Luciano Perez sidefooted the ball into the net on a cross from Shakhawat Hossain.

However, the Sky Blues equalised nine minutes later, with Afghan defender Masih Saighani heading in a curling free-kick from Nabib Newaz Jibon.

The Dhanmondi outfit then took the lead in the 27th minute, thanks to

an own goal from Sheikh Jamal defender Manjur Rahman Manik, who tried to clear a long throw-in from Abahani defender Raihan Hassan, instead heading it into his own net.

A thunderstorm struck the match in the 36th minute, and once play was resumed, Abahani were on the ascendency.

Even though they took a slender lead into the second half, the Sky Blues increased the margin 18 minutes after restart with Kervens Belfort chipping the ball calmly over Sheikh Jamal goalkeeper Mohammad Nayeem after receiving a pass from Sunday Chizoba.

Jibon made it 4-1 in the 70th

minute, tapping in Sunday's header from in front of goal to take himself to the top of the scorers' chart alongside Sunday with eight goals.

Sheikh Jamal did however launch a late comeback, thanks to two goals from substitute Jakir Hossain Zulu, who made it 4-2 in the 80th minute, poking home a rebound before placing the ball past Abahani goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohel in the last minute of regulation time.

They did not get a fourth goal though as the high-scoring encounter ended in favour of the six-time professional league champions. The win took Abahani to 30 points from 12 matches, one behind leaders

Bashundhara Kings while Sheikh Jamal remained in eighth position with 13 points from 11 matches.

Meanwhile, Team BJMC and Brothers Union, the two bottom-placed sides of the league, shared the spoils of a goalless draw at the Shaheed Bulu Stadium in Noakhali yesterday.

Team BJMC had the chance to bag all three points at their home venue but Samson Iliasu failed to beat Brothers goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharjee from the spot in the 76th minute.

The draw means Brothers are in 12th position with five points from 11 matches while Team BJMC are in 13th position with four points.

# Lucas destroys Terriers

REUTERS, London

Tottenham Hotspur's Brazil forward Lucas Moura struck a superb hat-trick in a 4-0 win over relegated Huddersfield Town on Saturday to bolster the home side's hopes of a top-four finish in the Premier League.

Spurs were without the injured Harry Kane and Dele Alli but Lucas's treble, which included two goals in the final few minutes, and an early Victor Wanyama goal, were just reward for a dominant display against the league's bottom side.

Lucas, who celebrated with his one-year-old son Miguel on the pitch at the end, said: "I practise all the time and I'm so happy today because I did very well, good passes, good finishes and if we play like this as a team we can win a lot of things."

The win in the early game took Spurs up to third place, a point ahead of Chelsea and four points clear of fifth-placed fellow London rivals Arsenal, who have a game in hand.

Tottenham made seven changes from the side that beat Manchester City 1-0 at home in the Champions League in mid-week, with an eye on the quarter-final

second leg on Wednesday.

"It's so important because seven changes I think builds up confidence in the squad and confidence in the team," Spurs manager Mauricio Pochettino told reporters. "It's going to be a tough race to the end (to finish in the top four)".

Wanyama put Spurs ahead after 24 minutes with a fine individual goal after dribbling around goalkeeper Ben Hamer and tucking the ball into an empty net from a Ben Davies pass.

Three minutes later the hosts scored again thanks to a fierce right-foot drive by Lucas that flew underneath Hamer after the excellent Moussa Sissoko set him up on the break.

Spurs' Fernando Llorente hit the bar after halftime and was unlucky not to get on the scoresheet after a lively display. Huddersfield's Juninho Bacuna had a late free kick tipped on to the bar before Christian Eriksen hit the post on the counter.

Six minutes later Lucas controlled Eriksen's cross and fired into the bottom corner past the helpless Hamer before rounding off the win by smashing into the top corner in stoppage time after being fed by substitute Son Heung-min.



Tottenham Hotspur forward Lucas Moura (L) scored a hat-trick against Huddersfield Town during their Premier League encounter in London yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

# SPAL stun Juve

AFP, Milan

Teenager Moise Kean scored his sixth goal in as many games but champions Juventus slumped to a shock 2-1 defeat at SPAL on Saturday to put their Serie A title celebrations on hold.

Massimiliano Allegri's side had needed just a point to claim a 35th Scudetto with a record six games to spare and Napoli a distant second.

Kean opened for the scoring for the visitors when the 19-year-old stuck his foot out to direct a Juan Cuadrado effort into goal after half an hour in Ferrara.

But Kevin Bonifazi (49) and Sergio Floccari (74) came back with precious goals which eased SPAL's fight for top-flight football next season.

Juventus have a 20-point advantage on Napoli and can still seal the title on Sunday if Carlo Ancelotti's side fail to win at bottom club Chievo.

No team has ever won the title so early.

The previous best was five games to spare achieved by Torino in 1947-1948, Fiorentina in 1955-1956 and Roberto Mancini's Inter Milan in 2006-2007.

Allegri rotated his squad with an eye towards Tuesday's Champions League quarterfinal, return leg fixture against Ajax in Turin, after a 1-1 draw in Amsterdam.

Portuguese star Cristiano Ronaldo was rested after returning from injury to score in the first leg against Ajax, with forwards Federico Bernardeschi and Mario Mandzukic also starting on the bench.

Mattia Perin replaced Wojciech Szczesny in the Juventus goal with Kean getting his second start alongside Paulo Dybala up front.

Cuadrado and Andrea Barzagli returned from lengthy injury lay-offs with youngsters defender Paolo Gozzi, 17, and midfielder Grigoris Kastanos, 21, given their debuts.

Kean opened after half an hour with Joao Cancelo pushing through the right with his shot going wide before the teenager stuck out his foot to redirect the ball home.

# Perez heads Magpies closer to safety

AFP, Leicester

Newcastle took a huge step towards securing their Premier League survival as Ayoze Perez sealed a 1-0 win against Leicester on Friday.

Rafael Benitez's side moved 10 points clear of the relegation zone thanks to Perez's first half header at the King Power Stadium.

Newcastle's first away league win since December ended a run of four games without a victory which had threatened to drag them into the relegation dogfight.

They should be assured of maintaining their top-flight status after a difficult season.

OUTLETS

BANANI

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BARIDHARA

JIP

UTTARA

DHANMONDI

MIRPUR

BALAKA

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# Daffodil University won two gold medals in the badminton competition of the Bangabandhu Inter University Sports Champs 2019 at the East West University campus on Friday. Jashore Science and Technology University, North South University and Islami University won 1 gold medal each.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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