

What to WATCH

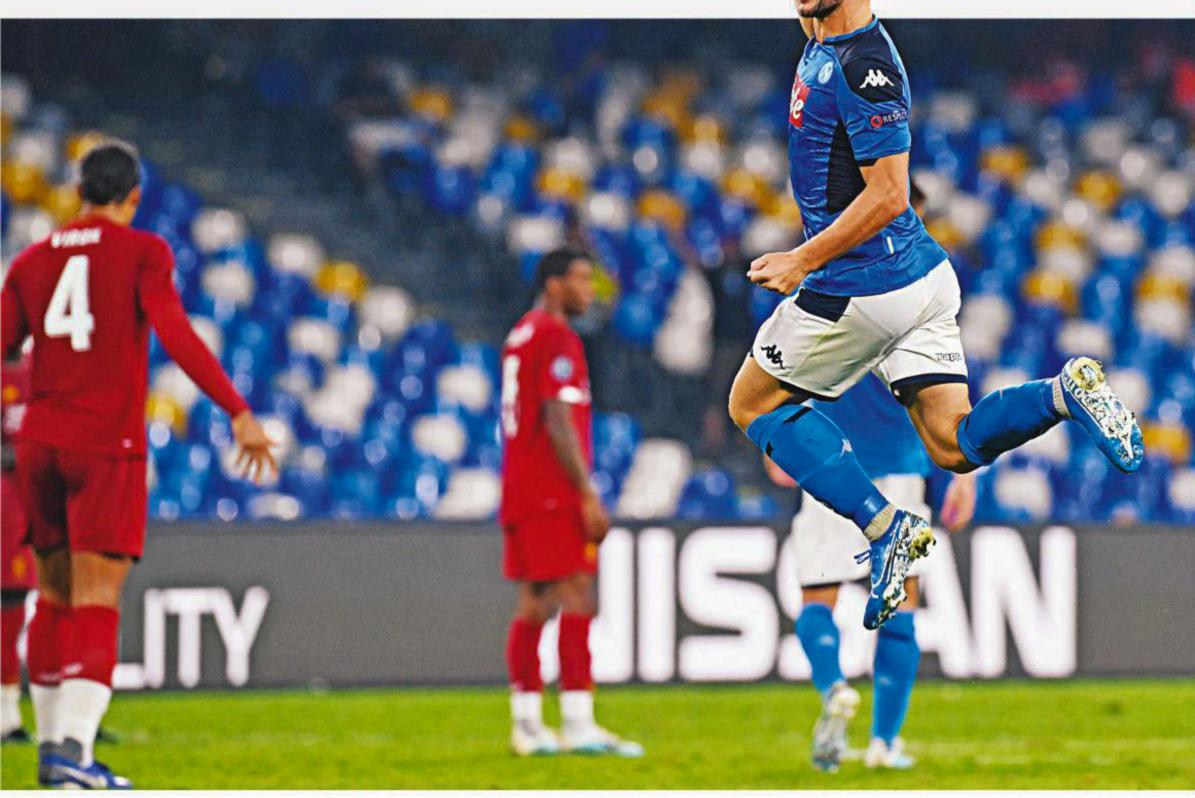
TEN 1
Europa League
Roma v Istanbul Basaksehir
Live from 1:00am (Friday)

TEN 2
Europa League
Eintracht Frankfurt v Arsenal
Live from 11:00pm
Man United v Astana
Live from 1:00am (Friday)

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Napoli forward Dries Mertens celebrates after opening the scoring in a Champions League game against Liverpool from a contentious penalty on Tuesday night. The Partenopei defeated the European Champions 2-0. PHOTO: AFP

Nine-goal defeat for U-16 girls

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh put up a dismal performance in the AFC U-16 Women's Championship, suffering a 9-0 defeat against Japan at the Chonburi Stadium in Thailand yesterday.

The second defeat in two matches means the girls in red and green are out of running for the semifinals, and will end their campaign with the match against Australia on September 21.

Following a disappointing 1-0 defeat against Thailand in their opening match, Bangladesh team promised to fight back against the three-time champions. But it proved to be a complete humiliation for Bangladesh, similar to the one they had endured in a 9-0 defeat against North Korea two years ago.

Even though Bangladesh had given a brave fight against Japan in 2017 in an eventual 3-0 defeat, the current charges of Golam Rabbani Choton were helpless against the Japanese, who came into the match on the back of a goalless draw against Australia.

Bangladesh looked vulnerable in every department and never looked organised either in defence or in attack. Goalkeeper Rupna Chakma looked helpless throughout the match and the Japanese

girls took advantage of her lack of height with shots from outside the danger zone and succeeded most of the time.

Manaka Hayashi opened the scoring in the second minute with a diagonal shot from outside the box, finding the net off the far post. Momoko Nebu doubled the margin with another diagonal shot four minutes later. Bangladesh ended the first half with a five-goal deficit before conceding four more goals in the second half.

"A defeat against Japan was expected and our hope was to perform well, especially after losing 1-0 against Thailand. But the girls could not even replicate the level of performance they showed against Thailand," Choton said at the post match press conference.

"The girls actually broke down mentally and lost their confidence after conceding the early goals against a strong Japan side, who came here after playing a lot of practice matches. However, the girls tried to perform but they could not do so according to our expectation," said the long-serving coach.

Choton, however, wants to look forward and end the campaign with a good outing against Australia.

"We will motivate our girls in next few days so that they can perform well against Australia, a side we fought well in the last edition of the championship," said Choton.

Penalty drama dominates first matchday

Liverpool, Chelsea beaten; Ter Stegen rescues Barcelona

AGENCIES

Holders Liverpool began their defence of the Champions League trophy with a defeat against Napoli on Tuesday, while one missed spot-kick condemned Chelsea to defeat against Valencia and another came to Barcelona's rescue.

Liverpool survived a 1-0 defeat in Naples in the group stage last season to go on and win their sixth European Cup, and this time a 2-0 reverse at the San Paolo made them the first reigning champions to lose their opening game in the competition since 1994.

Both sides had chances in the Group E clash before the hosts won a late penalty with barely 10 minutes remaining when Jose Callejon went down under an Andy Robertson challenge.

Dries Mertens beat Adrian from 12 yards and substitute Fernando Llorente -- who played for Tottenham Hotspur against Liverpool in last season's final -- then took advantage of a rare defensive lapse by Virgil van Dijk to make it 2-0 in stoppage time.

"I don't think it's a penalty. What can I say, for me, it is clear and obvious no penalty," Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp said of the spot-kick to BT Sport. "What can I

say, for me, it is clear and obvious, no penalty. He jumps before any contact, we can't change that."

Carlo Ancelotti insisted that there was no sense of "euphoria".

"Euphoria at what? We won the first match, it was a good test and we come out of this match aware that this team can do well," said Ancelotti. "It was just one victory, but yes it has given us confidence, being able to match Liverpool is impressive as for me they are the best team in Europe at the moment."

Liverpool must now bounce back in two weeks when they host Austrian champions Salzburg, who made a stunning return to the group stage as teenage forward Erling Braut Haaland netted a hat-trick in a 6-2 demolition of Genk. Haaland, whose father Alf-Inge played for Manchester City, gave Salzburg a second-minute lead and netted twice more before half-time.

Aged just 19 years and 58 days, Haaland is the third-youngest player to score a Champions League hat-trick behind Wayne Rooney and Raul.

Meanwhile, Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde said his team had goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen to thank after they escaped with a 0-0 draw at Borussia Dortmund in their Champions League

RESULTS		
Napoli Mertens 82-pen, Llorente 90+2	2 - 0	Liverpool
Salzburg Haaland 2, 34, 45, Hwang 36, Lucumi 40, Samatta 52	6 - 2	Genk Szoboszlai 45+3, Ulmer 66
Inter Barella 90+2	1 - 1	Slavia Prague Olayinka 63
Dortmund Lyon	0 - 0	Barcelona
Depay 50-pen	1 - 1	Zenit Azmoun 41
Benfica Seferovic 84	1 - 2	RB Leipzig Werner 69, 79
Chelsea Rodrigo 74	0 - 1	Valencia
Ajax Promes 18, Alvarez 50, Tagliafico 62	3 - 0	Lille

saved a penalty from Dortmund captain Marco Reus and repeatedly frustrated the hosts as his own side struggled.

"It was a difficult game today and I think the result is fair considering what happened," Ter Stegen told Sky, and commiserated with Germany teammate Reus. "Marco played really well today, and really hurt us."

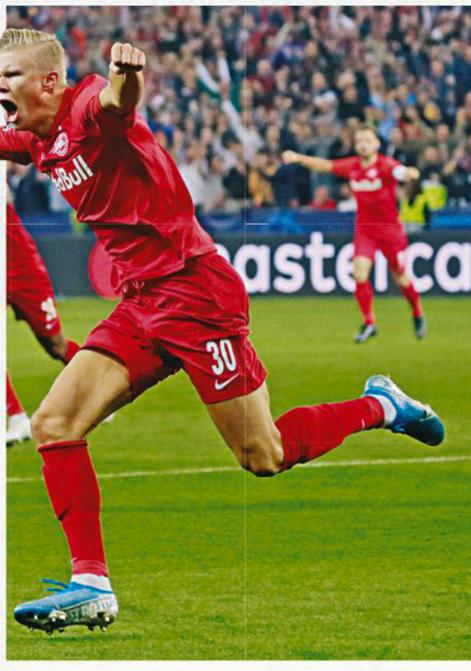
Dortmund and their captain, however, were left to rue several missed chances.

"We had four or five chances, and if we had taken one of them, we would have won," he told Sky. "We said after the draw that we wanted to qualify for the knockout stages. If we continue to play like we did today then there shouldn't be a problem."

"We played brilliantly in the second half, and it feels a bit like we have lost two points," Dortmund defender Mats Hummels told Sky.

Last season's Europa League winners Chelsea ensured it was two defeats out of two on the night for English sides as they lost 1-0 at home to Valencia.

"It's a harsh lesson of Champions League football, a game we've played pretty well in and we lose it," said Chelsea boss Frank Lampard. "The good thing is we have five more games to turn it around."



Salzburg striker Erling Braut Haaland became the third-youngest player to score a Champions League hat-trick as the Austrian champions romped to a stunning 6-2 win over Genk on Tuesday. PHOTO: REUTERS



BSSF urges for shooting's inclusion in 2022 CWG

SPORTS REPORTER

Two-time Commonwealth Games gold medallist Abdullah Baki urged authorities to restore shooting into the roster of the 2022 Commonwealth Games, which will be held in Birmingham, England.

The 2022 Games' Organising Committee decided to drop the discipline from the games' roster, citing security issues regarding movement of arms and ammunition.

"As a shooter I am sad that the discipline has been dropped from the Commonwealth Games. This was a regular medal event for us. This will be a big setback for us if it stays like this. However, I hope the discipline will be restored, if not in the 2022 edition, then in the next edition," Baki told reporters at a programme at the Bangladesh Shooting Sport Federation (BSSF) yesterday.

Baki won silver medals in 10m air rifle event of 2014 and 2018 edition and a bronze medal in 10m air rifle pairs event along with Asif Hossain Khan at the 2010 edition. In fact, shooting is the only discipline that has won medals for Bangladesh in this global sporting extravaganza, earning two gold, four silver and two bronze medals between 1990 and

2018.

The BSSF feels that there is still opportunity to restore the discipline in the 2022 Commonwealth Games roster, hence it has started campaigning for shooting's inclusion after India and Australia -- two of the superpowers of shooting at these games -- did so.

"We are in contact with the National Rifle Association of India and Shooting Australia in this regard. It will be a big loss for Bangladesh if shooting is not included. The State Minister for Youth and Sports has already sent a letter to the authorities to the UK minister to consider shooting's inclusion," BSSF general secretary Entekhabul Hamid told reporters.

Meanwhile, the BSSF spokesman appraised the reporters regarding its preparations for the upcoming South Asian Games and next year's Olympic Games.

"We will send a shooting team to Qatar in November to the Asian Championship, which will be the last opportunity for earning Olympic quota places. We have sent Baki to Germany in July and he will go there again for training. There are a few shooters currently taking a one-month training in South Korea. All these are part of our preparation ahead of the Olympics. The South Asian Games is also in our agenda," Hamid said.

U-16 boys lose 2-0 against Qatar

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh went down to a 2-0 defeat against Qatar in their opening match of the AFC U-16 Championship Qualifiers in Doha last night.

Despite being on the backfoot for most of the match, Robert Ryles' charges defended bravely and kept the Qataris at bay in the first half.

Qatar had the lions' share of possession, but thanks to a goalline save from Saiful Islam Saeed in the 21st minute, Bangladesh remained unscathed. In fact, the best chance of the half came to Bangladesh when Moinul Islam found acres of space inside the opposition box on a through-ball, but his tame effort failed to trouble the Qatar goalkeeper.

Bangladesh conceded the lead 10 minutes after restart when Rashid Al-Abdullah found the far corner of the net with a grounder. Qatar scored their second in the last minute of regulation time from a well-worked move.

Bangladesh had beaten Qatar 2-0 in the last edition of the qualifiers two years ago.

The boys in red and green would take on Bhutan in their next Group E match tomorrow before playing against Yemen two days later.

Kohli powers India to seven-wicket win

REUTERS, New Delhi

India captain Virat Kohli led from the front with an unbeaten 72 to help secure his team's comprehensive seven-wicket victory over South Africa in the second Twenty20 International on Wednesday.

After disciplined Indian bowling restricted the touring side to a below-par 149-5, Kohli and Shikhar Dhawan (40) helped the hosts chase down the target with an over to spare in Mohali.

After the series opener in Dharamsala was washed out, Quinton de Kock made his debut as South Africa's Twenty20 captain as they explore leadership options before the 20-overs World Cup next year.

The left-hander top-scored with 52 and Temba Bavuma contributed 49 but the subsequent South African batsmen could not capitalise on the decent start.

Andile Phehlukwayo dismissed Rohit before Kohli and Dhawan effectively killed off the contest, Kohli hitting three sixes in his 52-ball knock.

Bengaluru hosts the third and final match on Sunday before the teams clash in a three-test series next month.

SCORES IN BRIEF:
SOUTH AFRICA: 149 for 5 (De Kock 52, Bavuma 49; Chahar 2-22)
INDIA: 151 for 3 in 19 overs (Kohli 72 not out, Dhawan 40; Phehlukwayo 1-20)
Result: India won by 7 wickets and lead the lead three-match series 1-0



Team Europe lined up for their official photo in Palexpo with coach Bjorn Borg (C) flanked by stalwarts Roger Federer to the right and Rafael Nadal. PHOTO: AFP

U-18 FOOTBALL Abahani dump out MSC

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Abahani emerged Group C champions to move into the quarterfinals of the Walton U-18 Football Tournament after handing a massive 5-1 defeat to archrivals Mohammedan at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Abahani, who had played out a goalless draw against Bashundhara Kings in their opening match, dominated the match to take a 3-0 first-half lead before adding two more goals in the second half, thanks to a hat-trick from Iqbal, who scored in the 17th, 58th and 68th minutes.

Rakib and Sakir netted in the 24th and 28th minutes respectively. Imran reduced the margin for Mohammedan in the 43rd minute.

In Group B, Arambagh beat Sheikh Jamal 1-0 to become group champions, leaving Sheikh Jamal behind them as both teams came into the match after confirming their quarterfinal berths following wins over Rahmatganj.

Rahul Talukdar scored the decisive goal in the 53rd minute.