

What to WATCH

BANGLA TV & BTB  
FIFA Friendly  
Bangladesh v Bhutan  
Live from 7:00pm

STAR SPORTS 1  
India v South Africa  
First Test, Day Two  
Live from 10:00am

SONY SIX  
UEFA Europa League  
Besiktas v Wolverhampton  
Live from 11:00pm  
Sevilla v APOEL  
Live from 1:00am (Friday)

SONY ESPN  
UEFA Europa League  
Feyenoord v FC Porto  
Live from 11:00pm  
Celtic FC v CFR Cluj  
Live from 1:00am (Friday)

TEN 1  
UEFA Europa League  
Wolfsburg v AS Roma  
Live from 11:00pm  
Lazio v Stade Rennais  
Live from 1:00am (Friday)

TEN 2  
UEFA Europa League  
Alkmaar v Man United  
Live from 11:00pm  
Arsenal v Standard Liege  
Live from 1:00am (Friday)

DAY'S EVENT

FIFA Friendly  
Bangladesh v Bhutan  
Time: 7:00pm

Venue: Bangabandhu  
National Stadium, Dhaka



Bayern Munich forward Serge Gnabry's return to North London was perhaps one of the best nights of his life as he scored four goals against Tottenham Hotspur in a 7-2 win, condemning last year's beaten finalists to the biggest ever margin of defeat for an English team at home in European competitions.

PHOTO: AFP

It's a message to everyone

Gnabry says after scoring four in demolition of Spurs

AFP, Berlin



After his four-goal haul, Serge Gnabry says Bayern Munich's 7-2 gala romp at Tottenham Hotspur sent a "big message" to their Champions League rivals.

Gnabry dazzled at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium on Tuesday as Bayern handed their hosts the highest-ever home defeat suffered by an English team in European competition.

The former Arsenal winger netted his four goals in a devastating second-half spell while Poland striker Robert Lewandowski scored twice as Spurs' defence capitulated.

"I think (the other teams) know we are not stopping," Gnabry said after his first Champions League goals on his 12th appearance in the competition.

"After going 3-1 or 4-2 up we could have stopped but we wanted more.

"I think it's a big message for everyone else." Germany legend and Sky pundit Lothar Matthaeus agreed that Bayern "set an example to their international competition as far as the Champions League title is concerned.

Gnabry was over the moon with his performance, saying: "It's hard to put it in words. I think the last time I scored four goals was when I was a child," he laughed.

Tottenham's early lead by Son Heung-min was wiped out 194 seconds later by Joshua Kimmich as Bayern led 2-1 at half-time after a superb Lewandowski finish.

Then ex-Arsenal forward Gnabry broke

down the left after the break, burst into the box and drilled into the bottom corner. He struck again two minutes later, firing home after Spurs' Harry Winks lost possession.

The hosts pulled back to 4-2 on the hour mark when Harry Kane converted a penalty after a foul on Danny Rose, but it was all Bayern after that.

Gnabry sealed his hat-trick on 83 minutes after getting behind Spurs' defence, yet there was still time for Lewandowski to side home a sixth for the Germans.

IT'S A SHAMBLES, SAYS POCH

Mauricio Pochettino urged Tottenham to face their problems "like a man".

Pochettino also talked about "different agendas in the squad", hinting that all was not well in the dressing room.

"I don't think Serge Aurier wants to be here, Christian Eriksen hasn't signed a new contract. There is so much going on off the pitch," he said.

"It should have been dealt with over the summer. Instead all the contract questions are still going on. It's a shambles."

It is impossible to know what Pochettino said to his players behind closed doors at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium but when he spoke to the press after the game he was measured.

"I think we are very critical of ourselves, to find always the way to fix problems," he said. "We need again to try to work, to try to move on. I think it's more psychological now."

The most important thing is to stay calm, no rushed

analysis, no rushed judgement, no rushed assessment," he added.

"You need to show your quality like a man first. To face it like a professional. This type of situation you have to show your quality, how you are strong."

Pochettino talked about how last season's Champions League run, which saw them reach the final before losing to Liverpool, was the end of a cycle and spoke of the need for a reset.

"For me after the final of the Champions League was a chapter closed and now the club is in a period that they need to open another chapter and design a project medium, long-term," he said.

Jan Vertonghen said Tottenham's players felt "ashamed".

"It was a painful night for us," the Belgium defender said. "They punished us with every single mistake we made and we let the fans and everyone at the club down with this result. Everyone is ashamed of this result. There's not too much I can say about this."

Spurs have had a rocky start to the season, winning just three of 10 games in all competitions, but Vertonghen's central defensive partner Toby Alderweireld has called on his side to be "men" in their response to the hammering.

"It is up to us to try to change it as quickly as possible," he said. "This is part of football, sometimes you are on the good side, sometimes you are on the bad side. We have to be men and take responsibility to try to change this as quickly as possible."

Alarm bells ringing for Real

AGENCIES, Madrid



Real Madrid's stuttering form has seen them slammed by the Spanish media and that trend continued after the 13-time European champions salvaged

a 2-2 draw at home to Club Brugge on Tuesday night after trailing 2-0 at half-time.

Despite earning a point, the result was ultimately disappointing for Zidane Zidane's side.

A strain again' read the front page of Madrid-based daily Marca on Wednesday, who said that the draw complicated the club's ability to remain in the competition with their next match at Galatasaray on October 22 coming four days before they travel to eternal rivals Barcelona in La Liga.

Meanwhile AS's headline simply reads: 'Alarm'. They noted Zidane's post-match quotes where he admits Los Blancos have "never had a first half like that".

Casemiro spared Real Madrid's blushes as they escaped with a point after Emmanuel Dennis's double had threatened to give Brugge a famous Champions League victory at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Humbled 3-0 by Paris Saint-Germain in their Group A opener, Real were on course for a shock defeat after 21-year-old forward Dennis twice found the net despite almost losing his footing on both occasions.



Real captain Sergio Ramos halved the deficit before the hour while Ruud Vormer's dismissal was followed by Casemiro equalising five minutes from time as the spoils were shared in a 2-2 draw.

Zidane, however, was scathing in his assessment of the goals conceded.

"The result is bad, but the reaction is good," Zidane said. "We cannot be happy with the first half because we produced a 45 minutes like never before.

"I am not happy with the point because we wanted three, but I did like the reaction. The two goals we conceded were laughable. We weren't concentrating where the opponents are at their strongest. They scored the

first goal, they went forward, and then scored the second. I insist we cannot be happy but you always have to think about the positives."

Zidane replaced goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois with Alphonse Areola at half-time and the on-loan PSG man made a superb save moments before Ramos reduced the deficit.

"Courtois is in a bad way and could not continue for the second half," he added. "He is the Real Madrid goalkeeper alongside Areola. Everyone can have an opinion; I am not going to get involved. I am not worried at all. He wants to do well."



I like Cristiano and for me he is the best player in the world. I was sad when he left Madrid and I celebrated my goals like that to show them that they lost something.  
Emmanuele Dennis  
Club Brugge forward

Club Brugge's Emmanuel Dennis pulls out the Cristiano Ronaldo celebration after scoring against Real Madrid in their Champions League match on Tuesday. PHOTO: AFP

SHORT CORNER

Murray celebrates three-hour win with nap

An exhausted Andy Murray battled into a singles quarter-final for the first time in a year on Wednesday -- and then immediately grabbed a snooze.

He outlasted fellow Briton Cameron Norrie 7-6 (8/6), 6-7 (4/7), 6-1 over nearly three gruelling hours in hot and hazy Beijing.

On the mend after a career-saving hip operation in January, Murray looked all in afterwards, and walked gingerly in and out of the post-match press conference.

Blowing out his cheeks several times, the three-time Grand Slam champion said he had slept in the 90 minutes between his victory and talking to reporters.

"I'm tired, I just had a sleep before coming. I mean, I'm really tired," he said. -- Afp

Kapil resigns as CAC chief

Former India World Cup-winning captain Kapil Dev has resigned from his post on Wednesday as chief of the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC). The decision comes after BCCI Ethics officer D.K Jain issued a letter to CAC in regards to allegations of conflict of interest.

Kapil, Anshuman Gaekwad and Shantha Rangaswamy formed the CAC. Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association life member Sanjiv Gupta had filed the complaint against the CAC members in September. In the complaint, Gupta had claimed that the CAC members don multiple cricketing roles.

Gupta said Kapil Dev is conflicted as he is a commentator, owner of a floodlight company, member of Indian Cricketers Association, besides his CAC role while he pointed out Shantha Rangaswamy's multiple roles in the Indian Cricketers Association (ICA) and CAC. -- Agencies

Kirsten to take over as England's head coach?

Ex-India and South Africa head coach Gary Kirsten is to take over the England role, The Telegraph reports.

Kirsten has reached England for the job interview and will meet Ashley Giles, England's team Director on Wednesday. His name has been making rounds since the departure of Trevor Bayliss, whose stint came to an end after Ashes 2019. --Agencies



India opener Rohit Sharma celebrates his century on the first day of the first Test against South Africa in Visakhapatnam yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

India in charge after Sharma century

AGENCIES, Visakhapatnam



Rohit Sharma answered the naysayers in style as he eased his way to his fourth Test century on Day One of the first Test against South Africa on Wednesday in Visakhapatnam, in what was his maiden innings as India's opener.

India ended the rain-interrupted day on 202 without loss, with Sharma unbeaten on 115 and Mayank Agarwal batting on 84.

Sharma extended a stellar home record in the longest format and his average of 98.22 at stumps is the same as that of Australian legend Sir Donald Bradman. This is the highest average for a batsman with 10 or more innings at home.

He said opening suited him across all formats after he hit a century in his new role in Test cricket against South Africa.

"I think it suits my game," Sharma told reporters. "Just wear the pads and go in to bat. I don't like the waiting game. You

know the bowlers who are bowling with the new ball, so the game plan is easier for you. At number six, the ball is reversing, field placement is different and you need to keep all those things in mind."

A sudden thunderstorm forced the umpires to call tea early, and no further play was possible after heavy rains lashed the coastal city.

"Opening the batting is a different ball game in red-ball cricket. Of course, mentally you have to train your mind more than anything else," he said.

"You have to challenge yourself to play the new ball and take the game forward."

Both Sharma and Agarwal -- who hit 11 fours and two sixes -- took apart the opposition bowling in the second session of play as India scored 111 runs after taking lunch at 91-0.

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: First innings 202 for no loss (Agarwal 84 not out, Sharma 115 not out)

Pakistan cruise to 2-0 series win

STAR SPORT DESK

Pakistan completed a 2-0 victory over Sri Lanka in the three-match one-day international series with a five-wicket win in the third and final match in Karachi yesterday. The hosts had won the second match by 67 runs after the first match was rained off.

The hosts rode on half-centuries from openers Fakhar Zaman and Abid Ali as well as from middle-order batsman Haris Sohail to chase down Sri Lanka's total of 297 in 48.4 overs with five wickets in hand.

Earlier, recharged opener Danushka Gunathilaka scored a career-best century to lift Sri Lanka to 297 for nine. The 28-year-old knocked a 134-ball 133 with 16 boundaries and a six for his second hundred, which lifted Sri Lanka after they won the toss and batted on a flat pitch.

Gunathilaka held the innings together with stands of 88 with skipper Lahiru Thirimanne for the second, 50 for the third with Angelo Perera and 74 with debutant Minod Bhanuka for the fourth in a brilliant display of batting.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA: 297 for 9 (Gunathilaka 133, Thirimanne 36, Shanka 43; Amir 3-30)

PAKISTAN: 299 for 5 in 48.4 overs (Fakhar 76, Abid 74, Haris 56; Pradeep 2-53) Result: Pakistan won by 5 wickets to clinch the three-match series 2-0