

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

T SPORTS & GTV

Bangladesh vs Pakistan 3rd T20I

Live from 02:00 pm

T SPORTS

Sri Lanka vs West Indies 1st Test (Day 2)

Live from 10:30 am

Abu Dhabi T10

Deccan Gladiators vs Delhi Bulls

Live from 08:00 pm

Chennai Bravers vs Team Abu Dhabi

Live from 10:00 pm

La Liga

Rayo Vallecano vs Mallorca

Live from 02:00 am (Tuesday)

NCL (Round 6, Day 2)

Dhaka vs Khulna, BKSP-3

Rangpur vs Sylhet, BKSP-4

Chattogram vs Dhaka Metro, Sylhet

Rajshahi vs Barishal, SICS Academy



Messi ‘really wanted’ THE FIRST GOAL

AGENCIES

Paris Saint-Germain boss Mauricio Pochettino has revealed he did not have any concerns about Lionel Messi's Ligue 1 goal drought prior to the forward opening his account in the competition against Nantes.

Messi had made five league appearances for the capital club without scoring before netting the third goal in the 3-1 victory at the Parc des Princes on Saturday with his 20th shot in Ligue 1.

The six-time Ballon d'Or winner has scored in the Champions League for PSG, however, netting three times in three games so far.

Pochettino explained that

neither he nor Messi had any doubt that the goals would start to flow domestically, too, and also made a point of praising the team as a whole.

"I don't think Messi was worried about not having scored in the championship, he's a great champion, the best player in the world," Pochettino said after the game.

"He knows how to go through the most difficult times, he has patience, and it's good that he scored.

"We showed our character, but also showed the quality of the team -- we played a very good first half.

"The progress of the MNM [Messi, Neymar, Kylian Mbappe]? I always said it was about making connections, spending time together, and also playing competitive matches.

"But it was the whole team that played a good game, as a whole, to allow these talented players to often find themselves in a position to create chances. Too bad we didn't score more goals in the first half."

Messi expressed his delight at opening his Ligue 1 account, finding the back of the net with a sweet strike from outside the box after receiving the ball from Mbappe.

"I am happy with this first goal, I really wanted it," Messi said to Amazon Prime. "I had several chances before in this match and in previous matches. "I am very happy with this first goal in the championship, I had already scored in the Champions League. There had been chances, but I had not converted, so I am very happy."

What next for Man Utd?

AFP, London



Manchester United once again have to press the reset button after Ole Gunnar Solskjaer became the fourth manager to be shown the door since Alex Ferguson stepped down in 2013.

United have fallen a long way in those eight years, watching from the sidelines as their fiercest rivals, Manchester City and Liverpool, have become the new dominant forces in the Premier League.

David Moyes, Louis van Gaal and Jose Mourinho all came and went before beloved former United striker Ole Gunnar Solskjaer was appointed as caretaker boss in December 2018 with a brief to restore the club to former glories by tapping into its DNA.

United rediscovered their spark in a honeymoon period under the Norwegian, summed up in a breathless Champions League comeback against Paris Saint-Germain -- a result that helped persuade club bosses to hand him a permanent deal.

Despite persistent concerns over his lack of experience and technical nous, Solskjaer has come agonisingly close to delivering the club's first silverware since 2017, losing on penalties in last season's Europa League final and finishing second in the Premier League.

Club bosses were confident enough in the direction of travel to hand him a new three-year contract in July.

Former United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel said in his recent autobiography that his former team-mate had brought the "heart and soul back" to the club after the divisive Mourinho reign but in the end that did not prove enough.

Solskjaer, 48, said after his side's chastening 4-1 defeat to lowly Watford on Saturday that he felt for the fans and understood their pain after they vented their fury at Vicarage Road.

"We've had a hard time since Sir Alex (Ferguson) left the club and fans who have been with us the last few years since I came in, they've been unbelievable, they've

understood the situation," he said.

"The signings this summer with Rafa (Raphael Varane), Jadon (Sancho) and Cristiano (Ronaldo) of course raised everyone's expectations, rightly so, because we brought some top players."

The question is, who do United turn to now to take the club forward?

A club statement on Sunday stated the intention to hire an interim manager till the end of the season with former midfielder Michael Carrick in the hotseat for the forthcoming games.

By delaying Solskjaer's departure, one prominent candidate is now off the market as Tottenham snatched up a former Premier League winner in Antonio Conte.

United have been consistently linked with Paris Saint-Germain boss Mauricio Pochettino and the Argentine may well be the motivation for waiting till the summer.

Former Real Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane, Leicester manager Brendan Rodgers and Ajax coach Erik ten Hag have also been linked with the role.



United, for so long a byword for stability under Ferguson, have been reluctant to sack their managers until they feel their hand is forced.

That tipping point has now been reached, with the club seventh in the Premier League, already six points off the top four and out of the title race after just 12 games.

Whoever does take over at Old Trafford will have a richly talented but bloated and unbalanced squad to work with.

Any new manager will also have to work under the American owners, the Glazer family, who remain intensely unpopular among a large section of the club's fanbase.

One thing is for certain -- whoever is next in through the door will face enormous expectations that will not be satisfied until United are top dogs again.

Victories for Mohammedan, Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER

Former Argentina international Joaquin Menini slotted a hatrick as Mohammedan began their Super Five campaign in Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League with an 8-2 win over Bangladesh SC at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Mohammedan, who beat the same opponents 6-0 in the first meeting of the league, broke the deadlock through Rajib Das before Menini doubled the lead with a reverse hit in the next minute.

However, Bangladesh SC brought some excitement back in the match by scoring twice through Krishna Kumar and Harshukhpreet Sing by the 22nd minute.

But Menini made it 3-2 in the 25th minute through a reverse hit as the Black and Whites went into the second break with a slender lead.

Mohammedan did not look back from there on as Menini completed his hatrick in the 53rd minute before his compatriot Gonzalo Peilat scored a brace while Ajit Kumar and Aminul Islam added one goal each.

With 11th win in 12 matches, Mohammedan are on 33 points, three behind leaders Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club while Abahani joined Mohammedan on 33 points from 13 matches with a 5-2 win over Sonali Bank, thanks to a hatrick from Khorshedur Rahman.

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