

SPORTS

sports

United outclass Chelsea

● Manchester United dump holders Chelsea out of FA Cup to pile pressure on Maurizio Sarri

● Ander Herrera and Paul Pogba headed first-half goals to claim a 2-0 win that sets up a quarter-final with Wolves

AFP | London

Paul Pogba drove Manchester United into the FA Cup quarter-finals and pushed Chelsea manager Maurizio Sarri closer to the sack as the troubled holders crashed to a 2-0 defeat on Monday.

Pogba set up United's opening goal for Ander Herrera with a majestic cross and the France star added the second himself as Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side produced a commanding display at Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea's lacklustre fifth round exit -- their first FA Cup defeat since the 2017 final -- was another painful blow for Sarri, who is facing a fight to save his job following a dismal debut season.

Chelsea suffered their heaviest defeat for 28 years when they were thrashed 6-0 at Manchester City earlier this month, an indignity that came just weeks after a humiliating 4-0 loss at Bournemouth.



Paul Pogba of Manchester United beats Antonio Ruediger (2) and Cesar Azpilicueta of Chelsea as he scores his team's second goal

Amid claims Sarri has lost the support of his players, the former Napoli boss watched ash-en-faced as Chelsea collapsed again for a fifth defeat in their last 10 games.

Sarri was subjected to chants of "you don't know what you're doing" and "you're getting sacked in the morning" from frustrated Chelsea fans, who called for their former star Frank Lampard, now in charge of Derby, to replace the Italian.

It was the worst possible start to a defining period for Sarri, whose stubborn tactics and dubious man-management have come under intense scrutiny.

Chelsea, currently outside the Premier League's top four, return to action against Malmö in the Europa League last 32

second leg holding a 2-1 lead on Thursday.

Assuming he hasn't been axed by demanding Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich before then, a shock defeat against Malmö would be catastrophic for Sarri ahead of next Sunday's League Cup Final date with Manchester City.

United are through to the last eight for a fifth consecutive season as they look to win the FA Cup for a record-equalling 13th time and first since 2016.

Ending United's nine-game winless run at Chelsea was another feather in Solskjaer's cap as his team bounced back from last week's Champions League last 16 first leg loss to Paris Saint-Germain.

Solskjaer went unbeaten in his

first 11 games and the interim boss showed his tactical skills by out-witting Sarri with his switch to a midfield diamond formation.

Fatal flaws

Even Solskjaer's risky decision to select reserve goalkeeper Sergio Romero in place of David De Gea paid off.

In a frantic opening, Romero was called into action when David Luiz drilled a dipping free-kick over the United wall.

Romero kept out Luiz's effort and scrambled to his feet to save Pedro's powerful shot from the rebound.

Gonzalo Higuain should have opened the scoring from Cesar Azpilicueta's teasing cross, but the Argentine striker headed



Paul Pogba has been directly involved in 15 goals since Ole Gunnar Solskjaer took charge

wide.

Those misses proved fatal for Chelsea, whose early pressure was rendered irrelevant by another lapse of concentration in the 31st minute.

Mata picked out Pogba on the left wing and the United midfielder, unchecked by the slow-to-react Antonio Rudiger, unfurled a sublime cross that looped towards the far post.

Herrera timed his run perfectly to meet Pogba's delivery in stride and Marcos Alonso fatally lost his man as the Spanish midfielder planted a close-range header past Kepa Arrizabalaga for his first goal since December.

Pogba was only just getting warmed up and he single-handedly ripped Chelsea part to double United's lead on the stroke of half-time.

Playing an incisive pass down the right flank to Rashford, Pogba surged into the Chelsea area and muscled his way above Azpilicueta to meet his teammate's pin-point cross with a diving header that Kepa couldn't keep out.

Brave signs exclusive broadcast deal with TV5 in the Philippines

TDT | Manama

Brave CF, the flagship global MMA promotion based in the Kingdom of Bahrain, announced the signing of an exclusive broadcast deal with TV5 in the Philippines, prior to its first event in the country, Brave 22, in March.

Property of MediaQuest Holdings and founded in 1960, TV5 is the flagship broadcaster in the country and home of ESPN5, the Filipino version of the "world-wide leader in sports". TV5 will join Abu Dhabi Sports, the official broadcaster of Brave CF, and the Brazilian conglomerate Globo, among others, as one of the official homes of Brave in broadcast television.

Shaikh Khalid announces new boxing challenge

TDT | Manama

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa announced the launch of a new challenge, namely a 100-round-boxing fight.

Part of the First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of Bahrain Athletics Association and Honourary President of Bahrain Mixed Martial Arts Federation's humanitarian and sports initiatives, the event will take place next November and its proceeds will be dedicated to the families of the martyrs of duty and the injured veterans.

On this occasion, HH Shaikh Khalid expressed his delight at announcing this initiative in which he will be participating.

Indian Club to organise 6s Hockey Tournament

TDT | Manama

Indian Club has announced that it will be organising a one day international 6 a side hockey tournament.

The Indian Club Syril Mack Memorial International 6s Hockey Tournament powered by BMMI is scheduled to be held on 22nd Feb 2019 at the Club's premises.

A total of 10 teams, local and international, will be participating in this prestigious tournament and will be vying for the coveted trophy.

Don Bosco Kuwait, Saudi Legends, Bhusaval Tigers and Naqi Strikers are some of the teams taking part in this tournament.

Back-to-back days of exhilarating experiences at BIC this weekend

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) is set to host a packed weekend of on-track action and mesmerising thrills.

On Friday, motorsport enthusiasts can enjoy a series of unique activities in the Ultimate Track Experience while on Saturday, the public can attend an Open Track Day.

Both offerings are amongst the most popular for race fans at BIC. This weekend, they will each be taking place along the Sakhir circuit's 2.55-kilometre Inner Track.

Friday's Ultimate Track Experience will be held from 8am



A car on track during an Open Track Day at BIC

to 1pm. It is set to include drives in a Clio Cup sports car and in a Radical SR1 prototype, as well as passenger rides in the Clio Cup and an ultra-quick Radical SR3. The Radical SR1 prototype

features a 1,340cc engine which can generate 185bhp. It launches from zero to 100kph in 3.6 seconds. This drive costs BD126, and completing the Clio Cup drive is a prerequisite to taking part in the SR1 experience.

Then, on Saturday, Open Track Day will be held from 9am to 4pm. It is expected to draw in scores of participants and their sports cars and motorbikes, some of which are rarely ever seen hitting the streets. Many of these top-of-the-line automobiles will be coming from all over the Gulf, including from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, the UAE and Bahrain.

Lantern edge Infonas

TDT | Manama

Lantern Z XI beat Infonas by 157 runs in a CBA Division C 25 overs League match.

Lantern won the toss and elected to bat first. Openers Zakil (110) scored a brilliant century and Ajay's (51) half century helped Lanterns to score 209 at the end of 25 overs. In second innings Infonas finished for 152 runs and lost the game to Lantern by 57 runs. Amir became the top scorer with 56 runs for Infonas while Rashed took two wickets for Lanterns XI.

Brief Score: Lantern Z XI 209/3 in 25 overs (Zaki 110, Ajay 51) beat Infonas 152/6 (Amir 56, Rashed 2/24) by 57 runs

Other Match Results

Bnl Titans 169/5 in 25 overs (Ershad 50, Ibrar 31, Shyju 2/19) beat SNCS TransFast 150/10 (Anu 38, Shakeel 36, Ratan 3/30, Mohan 2/19) by 19 runs

FOG Printing 166/9 in 25 overs (Hardeep 53, Shyam 25, Sanito 6/18) beat Rebel CC 125/10 (Naresh 30, Hardeep 2/15) by 41 runs

Tornado Riders 145/5 in 22.3 overs (Vijesh 44, Sonu 27, Anil 2/10) beat Indian Delights 144/9 (Jerin 26, Vijesh 3/20) by 5 wickets



Ershad - Titans



Hardeep - Fog

Rebel II 96/6 in 22 overs (Ajith 31, Nafees 2/10) beat Azeem CC 98/10 (Qadeer 47, Umair 5/16) by 4 wickets.

Alyousuf Exchange 167/7 in 25 overs (Suresh 64, Anoop 37, Hamza 2/22) beat Bassali Tigers 128/10 (Numair 34, Sujith 3/24) by 39 runs.



Saleh Isa bin Hindi Al Mannai, The King's Advisor for Youth and Sport Affairs, Reyadh Sater, BBK Chief Executive and Bahrain Tennis Federation officials with winners of 24th BBK Juniors Open Tennis Championship during the closing ceremony. Mohammed Al Khadem won the Unisex Under 8 while Hashim Al Tobli won Unisex Under 10 and Jaber Abdul Aal won Under 14 Boys Singles.