

# BATTLE OF THE SURVIVORS

More secured Valverde and Zidane out to prove supremacy in season's first Clásico



AFP ■ BARCELONA

Zinedine Zidane and Ernesto Valverde might have been fearing for their jobs if they had lost a Clásico back in October but its postponement means that today they can face each other feeling more secure.

Stalling in the autumn, Real Madrid and Barcelona have rolled through the gears in the lead-up to Christmas, meaning the winner of today's crunch meeting at Camp Nou will move seven points clear of third place.

More importantly, in what increasingly looks like a two-pronged title chase, the winner will pull three ahead of the loser, with one round Liga matches left before the two-week winter break.

Yet even for the loser, providing defeat is not a humiliation, the consequences will not be so grave.

The gap in the table will be small and considering where both these teams were only a few weeks ago, when every week brought a new name linked with coaching jobs and every goal conceded planted another seed of doubt.

For Real Madrid, Jose Mourinho was out of work and in the public eye, his increasingly frequent media showings even appearing to irk the usually immovable Zidane.

For Barcelona, Ronald Koeman had surged into view after the Dutch Federation confirmed a clause in his contract that allows him to join Barca after Euro 2020 next summer.

But if the rumours were an irritation, form on the pitch was a real



concern. Barcelona's malaise was short-lived. They won only two of their opening five games. Results improved but performances were ponderous

and the weaknesses all-too familiar, the kind that had also gone unfixed before, only to prove costly later in the season.

In that sense, Valverde was carrying the weight of previous disappointments and he was blamed for a leaky defence, lack of style and failure to get the best out of Antoine Griezmann.

Barca vs Real Madrid  
Live from 12:30am IST  
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Zidane also shouldered burdens from last season. Even if it was not his team that limped its way through the final months, he was in charge and some wondered why nothing had changed.

Suspicion grew when Madrid drew two of their first four league games and were thrashed away at Paris Saint-Germain.

When they lost away at newly-promoted Mallorca, a week before the Clásico was meant to be played, it felt like results might unravel.

"We must have consistency," said Zidane. "We have to have more life in our game."

Madrid did that as Zidane found a more settled side including the dynamic midfielder he has long wanted in Fede Valverde as well as an 18-year-old gem in Rodrygo and arguably the world's most in-form striker in Karim Benzema.

Eden Hazard got fit too and sparked in spells before injuring his ankle earlier this month, which will rule him out until the new year.

As Madrid hit their stride, Barcelona accelerated to keep up and the uncertainty around Valverde, although not gone, has, for now at least, faded.

Their improvement cannot be entirely credited to the return of Lionel Messi, but his eight goals, including two hat-tricks, and four assists in six games have certainly helped. Griezmann is finding his feet too, with three goals in his last five. Judgement on Zidane's second coming will be guided by Madrid's staying power in the league while Valverde, success will hinge on Europe, where recapturing the trophy after four barren seasons seems now to be the minimum for Barcelona.

Storms may lie ahead but as La Liga approaches its halfway point, Zidane and Valverde are still intact. This Clásico is a battle of leaders, but survivors too.

## Real only focused on football: Zidane

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Zinedine Zidane has said he is not worried about today's Clásico between Real Madrid and Barcelona being overshadowed by Catalan independence protests.

The fixture was originally scheduled for October 26 but had to be postponed and there are renewed fears of unrest at Camp Nou, where Madrid and Barca will be playing for first place in La Liga.

"I am not worried about anything," said Zidane in a press conference on Tuesday.

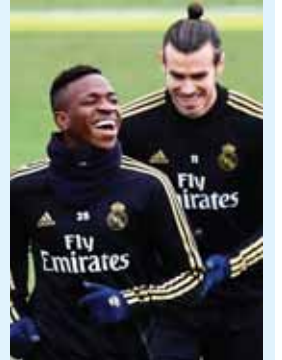
"I am happy we are about to play a Clásico. It was the same when I was a player, these are the matches you live for, and you are focused only on what happens on the field."

Democratic Tsunami, the protest group in favour of Catalan independence, has called publicly for its supporters to gather at the stadium four hours before kick off at 19:00 GMT.

A large-scale safety operation will be deployed around the match involving 3,000 security personnel while both teams have been instructed to travel to the stadium from the same hotel.

"It's something different but the rules are the rules," said Zidane. "They said we have to leave together so we're leaving together."

Zidane added: "We never thought this game would not go ahead. What we have to do is put all our energy into the match because the rest, we could spend



a week talking about it." Barcelona and Real Madrid sit first and second in La Liga and level on points, with Barca only ahead on goal difference.

Both teams have found form in recent weeks, in part due to the excellent form of their strikers. Madrid's Karim Benzema has nine goals in his last eight games while Lionel Messi has scored 14 in 12.

"We know we are facing a very good team, we know the player they have in Messi, but we also have our weapons," Zidane said.

Eden Hazard, Marcelo, James Rodriguez, Lucas Vazquez and Marco Asensio will all miss the match through injury. Gareth Bale is fit again but has not started since Madrid's win over Alaves on November 30.

"Bale is with us, he is training well," Zidane said. "He is an important player and tomorrow, he will be prepared like everyone else."

## Pogba's recovery hit by illness: Ole

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has a fresh Paul Pogba headache, revealing illness has delayed the midfielder's return from injury ahead of today's League Cup quarterfinal against giant-killers Colchester.

The France World Cup winner has been sidelined for most of the season with an ankle injury, playing just six times for United after a summer of speculation following his statement that it could be time for a "new challenge".

But after the United manager spoke, videos appeared on social media of Pogba dancing and showing few ill effects at his brother Florentin's wedding.

Pogba, 26, had been due to resume first-team training this week but Solskjaer said: "Of all things he's struck down ill now."

"He's been off for two or three days, three days probably, so that's not beneficial. That's probably set him back quite a bit," the Norwegian boss said, looking ahead to the meeting with fourth-tier Colchester.

"As I've said so many times, Paul's a top, top player that we want to see playing his best football at Man United," Solskjaer said.

"We just need to get him fit and match fit. It might be half an hour, 45, 60, 90 — who knows, the first game. We're working hard to get him back but now he's ill."

Pogba reportedly had permission from the club to attend his brother's wedding over the weekend, with United drawing 1-1 with Everton in his absence.

## Jurgen Klopp laments Club WC timing



AFP ■ DOHA

Jurgen Klopp insists Liverpool are fully focused on winning this week's Club World Cup ahead of their semi-final against Monterrey of Mexico but hit out at the timing of the competition and questioned FIFA's plans to expand the tournament in future.

"We are here now and we are completely focused on it, but if you had asked me beforehand if I think that there should be a Club World Cup in the middle of our season, I would say no, in my honest opinion," Klopp told journalists at the Khalifa International Stadium, where Liverpool face Monterrey today.

The Anfield club had to take time out from their seemingly relentless march towards the Premier League title to travel to Qatar for the tournament, in which they are Europe's representatives

thanks to their Champions League triumph last season.

If Liverpool win against the Mexicans, they will advance to a final on Saturday against either Flamengo of Brazil or Saudi side Al Hilal, while even if they lose their semi-final they will remain in Qatar for a third-place play-off at the weekend.

After the competition concludes, they will rush back home to prepare for a trip to Leicester City — their closest title challengers — next Thursday.

FIFA recently confirmed plans to expand the current seven-team Club World Cup played in December to a 24-team competition which will start in China in 2021 and will be played in June and July — that means a clash with the next Africa Cup of Nations, to be held at the same time.

The existing format is particularly unloved in Europe, even if European clubs have won the last six editions.

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Sl. No.	Tender Id	Name of work/service	Tender Value in ₹
1	2019_MCL_158238_1	Procurement of Ground mounted High Mast Lighting Towers along with installation and commissioning for different areas of MCL	41991760.00
2	2019_MCL_158170_1	Hiring of 1 no. Bolero or equivalent AC diesel jeeps having min seating capacity 7 (6plus1), max run 4200 km/month for 2 years/863 working days/2049 working shifts i.e. 3 shifts/day for Patrolling duty at Kanha PS with 3 drivers/day i.e. 1 driver/shift	1901472.00
3	2019_MCL_158616_1	Supply of Industrial Gas for maintenance of HEMM at Lingaraj OCP	202311.00
4	2019_MCL_158556_1	Maintenance of day to day activity of EnM department for 90 days within a period of one year in CWS IB Valley.	205301.00
5	2019_MCL_158650_1	PROCUREMENT OF SPARES FOR GUARDIAN MODEL GT4D OIL FILTRATION MACHINE	347788.00
6	2019_MCL_158655_1	PROCUREMENT OF HEAVY DUTY MINING TAPE AND CPRI TESTED SELF-FUSING HT INSULATION TAPE FOR LKP OCP	196352.00
7	2019_MCL_158687_1	Supply of Seat Belt Reminder kit (Retro Filament) for Dumpers.	132954.00
8	2019_MCL_158669_1	Installation, Commissioning and maintenance of 306 numbers air Coolers of 230 Volt, 150 Watt, 1430 RPM capacity including transportation/handling charges from your establishment to GM Establishment, Central Hospital, SOCP and LOCP of IB Valley Ar	1455874.00
9	2019_MCL_158701_1	Procurement of Human Anatomical Models for MRS MCL Talcher Area.	362280.00
10	2019_MCL_157509_1	Procurement of spares for BGA EP for MRS MCL Talcher Area.	1465514.00
11	2019_MCL_158596_1	Annual maintenance of B type and C type quarters in case of change in occupancy at CWS IBV colony	601014.00
12	2019_MCL_158702_1	Construction of drain along both side of road of Jamunali village under CSR works of Hingula Area.	881722.00
13	2019_MCL_158622_1	Courier Service from MCL HQ, Burla, Sambalpur to CIL Head Office, Kolkata and MCL Desk Office, Kolkata and back service to MCL HQ	1075593.00
14	2019_MCL_158621_1	Procurement of Spares for Rana make Drill machine for Nandira Colliery MCL Talcher Area.	19446.00
15	2019_MCL_158546_1	Construction of approach road, bathing ghat (male and female separate) on the bed of IB River near sand bandha at villages of Budhipadar (CSR head).	983086.00
16	2019_MCL_158482_1	Hiring of 02 (Two) Covered Jeep (Bolero) / Sumo or equivalent vehicle (Diesel) 6 plus 1 seater with AC fitted for 12 hours duty for use at Subhadra Area for 682 days in 02(two) years.	1909600.00
17	2019_MCL_158625_1	Making kitchen shed for landless people at Khadam-I rehabilitation site under BOCM of Lakhnapur Area.	254145.00
18	2019_MCL_158548_1	Transportation of Mining Timber from different depots of WBFD, West Bengal to Talcher and Nandira Colliery through Regional Store, Talcher Area Inclusive of collection, Loading, Transportation, Unloading and Stacking charges.	344322.00
19	2019_MCL_158367_1	Providing Temporary Field Office, Canteen, Rest Shelter, Cycle shed and MTK Office at Mine Site of Garjanbhal OCP of Basundhara Area.	18566127.00
20	2019_MCL_158610_1	Annual cleaning and upkeeping of VIP guest house, Sr. guest house and outer portion of IB house under IB Valley Area for a period of two years.	3401009.00
21	2019_MCL_158343_1	Supply of Hoses for D-355 Dumpers at Lingaraj OCP	210799.00
22	2019_MCL_158566_1	Replacement of hydraulic door closure float valves, damaged aluminium door and windows, wire mesh mosquito net and other miscellaneous civil works at Central Hospital under IB Valley Area.	1609847.00
23	2019_MCL_158599_1	Supply of spares for Lubrication system of BH-60 Dumpers at Lingaraj OCP	1281130.00
24	2019_MCL_158531_1	PROCUREMENT OF HYDRAULIC AND STERLING CYLINDER FOR WIRTGEN SURFACE MINER	505103.00
25	2019_MCL_158489_1	Supply of Seal Kit for EX 1200 Hyd Excavator	1053555.00
26	2019_MCL_158496_1	Supply of Spares for Tata Hitachi EX-1200 Hyd. Excavator	146746.00
27	2019_MCL_158470_1	Hiring of a Xylo/Scorpio or equivalent Covered Vehicles with A/c fitted (Diesel) for 24 hours duty for use at Subhadra Area for 682 days in 02(two) years	1539956.00
28	2019_MCL_158614_1	Hiring of 01 (One) No. of minimum 32plus1 seater bus on 12 Hours duty per day maximum run 120 KM per day for a period of 2 years (683 working days) at Kanha Area with deployment of 01 driver-skilled and 01 helper-unskilled	2485437.00
29	2019_MCL_158506_1	Hiring of an Indigo/Swift Dzire/Elios or equivalent Car (Diesel) (with AC fitted) for 12 hours duty (In General Shift) for use of Subhadra Area for 682 days in 02(two) years.	923428.00
30	2019_MCL_158522_1	Electrical Metering in Executive Quarters and Shopping Complex of CWS IB Valley Colony.	272856.00
31	2019_MCL_158509_1	PROCUREMENT OF PUMP PISTON FOR TATA-1200 HYD. EXCAVATOR	920295.00
32	2019_MCL_158410_1	Procurement of spares for Vishwa make Gear Box (T-1090, 90/110KW) for belt conveyor.	1051611.00
33	2019_MCL_158231_1	SUPPLY OF HOSE ASSEMBLIES FOR DUMPERS	86946.00
34	2019_MCL_158075_1	PROCUREMENT OF AED (Bi-Phase) DEFIBRILLATOR FOR OPERATION THEATER	582400.00
35	2019_MCL_158373_1	PROCUREMENT OF SPARES OF ZW220 FEL	1018515.00
36	2019_MCL_158177_1	Construction of 04 nos. class rooms at High school campus of Nisha village under CSR works of Hingula Area, MCL	2339614.00
37	2019_MCL_158401_1	Procurement of Cement capsule for Nandira Colliery MCL Talcher Area.	165200.00
38	2019_MCL_158362_1	PROCUREMENT OF FILTERS FOR TATA-1200	231809.00
39	2019_MCL_158257_1	Procurement of Pneumatic Concrete Cutter for MRS, OA	837000.00
40	2019_MCL_158227_1	SUPPLY OF OIL SEALS FOR Pnh SHOVEL	113915.00
41	2019_MCL_158181_1	PROCUREMENT OF DIESEL ADDITIVE	377600.00
42	2019_MCL_158251_1	Providing approach road (615 metre) to boreholes for stabilisation work under Deulbera Colliery	1797317.00
43	2019_MCL_158060_1	PROCUREMENT OF PRIMARY CRUSHER	601800.00
44	2019_MCL_158092_1	Miscellaneous repair works i.e glass renewing replacement of CGI sheet of motor cycle stand and extension of ladies toilet and extension of motor cycle stand etc at MEETI of CWS(X) Talcher (ReTender)	1106222.00
45	2019_MCL_158106_1	Supply of Spares for BD355EG and BD155 Dozer.	1138786.00
46	2019_MCL_158138_1	PROCUREMENT OF SPARES FOR DC CONTROL DRIVE OF MODEL LC100L, HEC MAKE LATHE MACHINE FOR CWS_XTALCHER.	829422.00
47	2019_MCL_158094_1	Supply of Spares for WIRTGEN make Surface Miner	530632.00
48	2019_MCL_158109_1	Supply of Spares for RT-880 TIL Crane	482474.00
49	2019_MCL_158209_1	PROCUREMENT OF PORCELAIN KIT KAT FUSE	56016.00

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