

<div> <div>What to WATCH</div> <div>DAY'S EVENT</div> </div>	Maasranga TV Indian Premier League Rajasthan Royals v Kings XI Punjab Live from 8:30pm	Star Sports 1 <i>La Liga</i> Almeria v Celta Vigo Live from 4:00pm	Star Sports 4 English Premiership Norwich City v Liverpool Live from 5:00pm	Hull City v Arsenal Live from 7:05pm Everton v ManUtd Live from 9:10pm	<i>La Liga</i> Barcelona v Athletic Bilbao Live from 1:00am (Monday) <i>Neo Prime</i> Bundesliga	Nuremberg v Bayer Leverkusen Live from 7:30pm Stuttgart v Schalke Live from 9:30pm
	Nat'l Cricket League (Four-Day Match, Day 2) Khulna v Dhaka	Venue: Cox's Bazar Dhaka Metro v Rajshahi Venue: Chittagong	Sylhet v Chittagong Venue: BKSP-3 Rangpur v Barisal	Venue: Fatullah Stadium Premier League MSC v Muktijoddha	Time: 5:30pm Venue: BNS	

Atletico go 6 clear

AFP, Madrid



Atletico Madrid took another step towards their first La Liga title for 18 years as two goals in the last 20 minutes handed them a 2-0 win over Elche at the Vicente Calderon on Friday.

After a poor opening period from the hosts, they wasted a great chance to go in front 10 minutes after the break as David Villa's penalty was saved by Manu Herrera.

The league leaders did eventually make the breakthrough 19 minutes from time when Miranda headed home Jose Sosa's cross and Diego Costa converted a second Atletico penalty of the night late on after Christian Sapunaru was sent-off for Elche.

Victory moves Atletico six points clear of Real Madrid at the top of the table and within three wins of sealing the title.

In contrast to their recent displays at home, Atletico were very slow out of the blocks and were thankful to Thibaut Courtois for being level at half-time.

The Belgian international flew to his left to turn Javi Marquez's low drive behind midway through the half and, from the resulting corner, Courtois made an even more impressive stop as he parried Sapunaru's header from point-blank range.

Filipe Luis then had a good chance to put the hosts ahead as he scuffed his shot after a fine run and cross from Arian Lopez, but Elche were soon back on the attack and Carles

Gil should have done better when he blasted over under no pressure inside the area.

Atletico's best opening of the first-half came three minutes before the break when Juanfran's cross was flicked on at the near post by Diego Costa and side-footed inches wide by Villa.

Diego Simeone introduced Raul Garcia on for Adrian at half-time and he made an instant impact as he was dragged down inside the area by Sapunaru.

David Villa assumed the penalty taking duties after Costa had missed against Getafe last week, however the Spanish international was also denied as Manu Herrera sprung to his left to turn the ball behind.

Villa then had a goal rightly ruled out for offside and Garcia headed just over as the pressure began to build from Atletico.

And the goal finally arrived when Sosa's corner was met by a brilliant header from Miranda to sent the ball back across goal into the corner of the net.

Costa had a great chance to kill the game off as he raced onto a fine through ball from Diego Ribas two minutes from time, but Herrera made a fine low save with his legs.

Two minutes later, though, Costa was bearing down on goal again when Sapunaru bundled him over and was shown a straight red card for denying a clear goalscoring opportunity.

Costa dusted himself down and rolled home the penalty to register his 35th goal of the season and sent Atletico into their Champions League semi-final, first leg with Chelsea on Tuesday in high spirits.



Atletico Madrid star Diego Costa scores the second goal from a penalty during their Primera Liga clash against Elche at the Vicente Calderon Stadium on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

Full points for Zia

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman beat 2630-rated GM Abhijit Gupta of India in the second round to earn two points from two rounds of the Asian Continental Chess Championships in Sharjah, UAE.

Zia played with white pieces and beat Abhijit after 46 moves in the match on Friday.

In the women's section, WFM Nazrana Khan Eva lost against Shymgys Kzyz Aijarkyn of Kyrgyzstan and is without any points after two rounds.

Falcao gets WC green light

AFP, Lisbon

Colombia striker Radamel Falcao will go to the World Cup but risks not being 100 percent fit, the surgeon who operated on the Monaco star's ruptured knee ligaments said Friday.

"I believe he will go to the World Cup. But at the highest level, at the start of the competition, Falcao will not be 100 percent," Jose Carlos Noronha told the Lusa news agency.

Falcao, seen as key to Colombia's hopes at the World Cup, suffered the injury in a French Cup match on January 22 and went under the knife three days later in Porto.

Klopp denies Barca rumours

AFP, Berlin

Borussia Dortmund's charismatic coach Jurgen Klopp has poured cold water on rumours linking him to Spanish giants Barcelona with the 46-year-old insisting he is happy where he is.

Klopp, whose present contract ties him to the German side until 2018, has enjoyed great success steering Dortmund to back-to-back German league titles in 2011 and 2012, plus last season's Champions League final.

They are currently a distant second in the Bundesliga.

There has been speculation in the Spanish media linking the German to Barcelona and newspaper Marca reported that 31.3 percent of their readers would like to see Klopp coach them.

Neymar vows to recover in time

AFP, Rio de Janeiro



Brazilian football star Neymar said Friday he would be well enough to play in the World Cup in June despite a foot injury that could force him to miss the rest of the club season.

The 22-year-old Barcelona player injured his left foot Wednesday during a 2-1 defeat to Real Madrid in Spain's Copa del Rey final.

FC Barcelona said Thursday he would be benched for four weeks and could miss the rest of the club season.

With less than two months to go, Neymar however promised to be healthy on time to play in the World Cup.

"I always had a bit of fear" that the injury would force me to "stay out ... of the World Cup," Neymar told GloboTV.

"But within the next three weeks I'll be back and I hope to play Barcelona's last

game," he said.

Brazil coach Felipe Scolari plans for Neymar to lead his country's hopes for a sixth World Cup title on home soil in June.

In the meantime Neymar will stay in shape by exercising with weights and in the pool, the medical department of Brazil's national team said after talking with Barcelona.

"It's horrible to be out, without training, without playing, and to see your comrades playing and training," he told Globo.

Neymar will be the second-youngest player to wear the number ten shirt for the Selecao at a World Cup.

Pele famously made the shirt his own as a 17-year-old at the 1958 finals and again in 1962 before another crown in 1970.

In an April 4 interview with Lance sports daily, Neymar said that "no match will be easy" in the World Cup as Brazil, who lost the final to Uruguay when they last staged the tournament at home back in 1950, take on the Croatians, Mexico and Cameroon in their pool.

Sunderland stun Chelsea

AFP, London



Sunderland condemned Chelsea to their first home Premier League defeat under Jose Mourinho with a stunning 2-1 victory on Saturday that took Liverpool a step closer to the title.

Chelsea were bidding to take over from Liverpool at the summit, but their loss to the league's bottom club means that Brendan Rodgers's side can now open up a five-point lead if they win at Norwich City on Sunday.

Samuel Eto'o put Chelsea ahead after only 12 minutes, but Sunderland equalised quickly through Connor Wickham and claimed victory thanks to an 82nd-minute penalty from on-loan Liverpool striker Fabio Borini.

Having held third-placed Manchester City to a 2-2 draw in mid-week, Sunderland have emerged as this season's kingmakers, and victory at Stamford Bridge gave their chances of avoiding relegation a sizeable boost.

RESULTS

Aston Villa 0 Southampton 0
Cardiff 1 (Whittingham 51-pen) Stoke 1 (Arnautovic 45-pen)
Chelsea 1 (Eto'o 12) **Sunderland 2** (Wickham 18, Borini 82-pen)
Newcastle 1 (Ameobi 23) **Swansea 2** (Bony 45, 90-pen)
Tottenham 3 (Paulinho 35, Kane 48, Kaboul 62)
Fulham 1 (Sidwell 37)
West Ham 0 **Crystal Palace 1** (Jedinak 59-pen)

Gus Poyet's side, who had previously gone nine games without a win, finished the day three points from safety and also have a game in hand to play.

Chelsea took the lead in the 12th minute, Eto'o volleying in from Willian's left-wing corner, but it took Sunderland only six minutes to draw level.

Mark Schwarzer, deputising in goal for the unwell Petr Cech, spilled a long-range shot from Marcos Alonso and Wickham pounced to clip home the rebound.

Chelsea's response was not slow in coming and visiting goalkeeper Vito Mannone had to produce smart saves to thwart Branislav Ivanovic, Nemanja Matic, Mohamed Salah and Willian before half-time.

Chelsea's frustrations told when Ramires lashed out at Sebastian Larsson with his arm, catching the Sunderland midfielder in the face, but referee Mike Dean appeared not to see the incident.

The Chelsea onslaught continued in the second half, with Eto'o curling just wide and substitute Demba Ba miscuing from Willian's cut-back, but the goal would not come and there was worse to follow.

In the 81st minute, Cesar Azpilicueta was penalised for sliding in on Jozy Altidore and Borini, a former Chelsea striker, calmly beat Schwarzer from the spot.

It may prove to be the goal that delivers the title to Anfield and Chelsea's anger was clear, with assistant coach Rui Faria needing to be restrained as he berated Dean.

WC ticketing centres open

AFP, Rio de Janeiro



World Cup ticketing centres opened in Brazil on Friday allowing fans who have managed to purchase match tickets for the June 12 to July 13 extravaganza to claim them.

Centres opened in ten of the 12 host cities -- fans will only be able to pick tickets up in the capital Brasilia and the southern city of Porto Alegre from next month.

More than 2.5 million -- or three quarters of those available -- have been sold to date via the FIFA web platform set up for the purpose and each bears the name of the buyer in an attempt to limit scalping.

Dozens of fans queued up at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro, venue of the final, after the centre opened at midday (1500 GMT).

Joao Bosco, 67, and Vanderson Balbino, 27, were both in place by 9 a.m to ensure they were first in line.

"I have tickets for four matches -- including two at the Maracana," Balbino told reporters.

"As I want to see a Brazil game I am going to try (to get a ticket) in one of the cities where they are playing. I'll go with my brother so I'll have to pay double.

"I've already spent double 8,000 reais (\$3,000 2,575 euros)."

Bosco, collecting two tickets bought as birthday gifts for his daughter, Andrea, will watch Spain play Chile on June 18 at the Maracana where his father, now in his 90s, saw Brazil lose the 1950 final against Uruguay.

"My dream would be to see Brazil win in the Maracana, but it will be difficult," Bosco told AFP.

C'Ron back in training

REUTERS, Madrid

Real Madrid top scorer Cristiano Ronaldo returned to training with his teammates on Friday as he battles to regain fitness before Wednesday's Champions League semifinal, first leg at home to Bayern Munich.

The Portugal captain has been suffering from knee and thigh muscle problems and missed Real's last four matches, including Wednesday's King's Cup final victory over Barcelona, since limping off during the Champions League quarterfinal, first leg against Borussia Dortmund two weeks ago.

Ronaldo is the leading marksman in La Liga and the Champions League this season and Real coach Carlo Ancelotti will be desperate to have him back to face holders Bayern as Real seek the 10th European crown that has eluded them since their last triumph in 2002.

Real said on their website Ronaldo and Brazil left back Marcelo, who has also been sidelined by injury, had completed part of Friday's session with the rest of the squad before doing individual work.

The return leg against Bayern is in Munich on April 29 and the winners will play Atletico Madrid or Chelsea in the final in Lisbon on May 24.

Eng turn back to Moores

AFP, London



Peter Moores has been given a second chance as England head coach, after the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced his appointment on Saturday.

The 51-year-old, the first man to twice be appointed England coach, replaced Andy Flower after he stood down following the team's 5-0 Ashes thrashing in Australia.

In a two-year spell from 2007 to 2009, Moores led England in seven Test series, starting with a 3-0 win over West Indies, after replacing Duncan Fletcher.

However, he was forced out in 2009 following a rift with Kevin Pietersen that cost the star batsman the England captaincy, although the ECB ended Pietersen's international career after the recent Ashes debacle.

Moores's recall means there is no longer a position in the hierarchy for limited-overs coach Ashley Giles after England decided they wanted one man in charge across all three formats.

Moores joined Lancashire in February 2009, having previously guided Sussex to the County Championship title in 2003.

Lancashire had not won the championship outright since 1934 but their long wait ended in 2011.

Moores, flanked by England captain Alastair Cook and ECB managing director Paul Downton, told a news conference at Lord's on Saturday: "It's great to be back.

"I feel very excited, very proud to get this opportunity -- it's a great chance to work with Alastair, an outstanding player and person and try to build something.

"I'm very enthusiastic and want to get stuck into the challenge ahead."

"Coaches have to develop and I think I've done that, and I'm looking forward to bringing that back here. You learn from mistakes, you develop."

Cook added: "For me it's a very exciting time. I've been in limbo over the last couple of months, since Andy Flower stepped down."



Players and officials of the East West University celebrate becoming champions of the Clemon Indoor Uni-Cricket 2014 by beating Jahangirnagar University in the final at the Shaheed Sohrwardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur on Thursday.

PHOTO: COURTESY