

<div>what to WATCH</div> <div>DAY'S EVENT</div>	MAASRANGA TV & SET MAX Indian Premier League Punjab v Hyderabad	LIVE FROM 8:30PM TEN SPORTS UEFA Champions League	Atletico Madrid v Chelsea Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)
	Nat'l Cricket League (Four-Day Match, Day 4) 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 Sk Jamal v Brothers Union Time: 5:30pm Venue: BNS

Ronaldo races to regain fitness

REUTERS, Madrid

Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo completed a full training session on Monday as he races to regain fitness before Wednesday's Champions League semifinal, first leg at home to holders Bayern Munich.

The Portugal captain, who has missed Real's last four matches with knee and muscle problems in his left leg, is the top scorer in Europe's elite club competition this term with 14 goals, equalling the record for one edition.

"Cristiano Ronaldo ... completed the entire session with the group," Real, chasing a record-extending 10th continental crown, said on their website.

Wales winger Gareth Bale was unable to train due to a bout of flu, the club added without specifying whether he was expected to recover for the match at the Bernabeu.

Messi keeps title hopes alive

AFP, Madrid



Barcelona maintained their slim chances of retaining their La Liga title as they came from behind to beat Athletic Bilbao 2-1 at the Camp Nou on Sunday.

Aritz Aduriz's opener five minutes into the second-half had Barca on course for a fourth consecutive defeat in all competitions.

However, the Catalans showed fine spirit to respond as two goals in as many minutes from Pedro Rodriguez and Lionel Messi handed them all three points.

Victory lifts Barca into second place, two points ahead of Real Madrid having played a game more, but still four points adrift of leaders Atletico Madrid with four games remaining.

With Jordi Alba and Neymar added to Barca's growing injury list, coach Gerardo Martino made four changes to the side that lost the Copa del Rey final to Real Madrid on Wednesday.

Pedro was one of those to come into the side and he wasted the first opening of the game as he placed his shot too close to Gorka Iraizoz when clean through before the Athletic goalkeeper also smothered an effort from Messi.

It was the visitors who nearly went in front in spectacular style on the half hour, though, as Aduriz sent a stunning overhead kick crashing off the inside of the post and Jose Manuel Pinto reacted well to parry Markel Susaeta's follow-up effort.

Barca were shocked into action by that scare and should have been in front moments later when Alexis Sanchez turned Pedro's low cross onto the crossbar.

Iraizoz then made two more comfortable saves from Pedro and Sanchez to send Athletic in level at the break and things got even better for the Basque side five minutes after the break when Aduriz's low strike this time found the bottom corner of the net.

Barca then laid seige to the Athletic goal as Pedro again shot straight at Iraizoz when clean through before Messi also wasted a great chance when he pulled his shot wide of the target.

The hosts did finally find a way through 18 minutes from time in somewhat fortunate circumstances as Sanchez's intended shot fell perfectly into the path of Pedro to tap home his 19th goal of the season.

Two minutes later Barca had turned the game on its head as Messi was felled on the edge of the area by Oscar de Marcos and picked himself up to thump the resulting free-kick low into the far corner.



PHOTO: AFP

Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi scores the winning goal from a free-kick during their Primera Liga encounter against Athletic Bilbao at the Nou Camp on Sunday.

Barca rumours 'groundless'

AFP, Saint Petersburg

Zenit St Petersburg manager Andre Villas-Boas on Monday dismissed out of hand rumours linking him with Spanish giants Barcelona.

"All the rumours about my negotiations with Barcelona representatives are completely groundless," former Chelsea, Tottenham and FC Porto coach told reporters.

"I've signed the contract with Zenit and I'm set to stay here until its expiry date."

The 36-year-old Portuguese said he was completely focused on his work with Zenit adding he was happy with the club's plans to strengthen the squad.

"My work with Zenit is my top priority," Villas-Boas stressed.

Bielsa to take over at Marseille

AFP, Marseille

Slumping French giants Marseille announced Monday that they have reached "an agreement in principle" with Marcelo Bielsa to take over as coach.

The 58-year-old Argentine, who has coached Chile and Athletic Bilbao, has long been the long-time favourite to succeed caretaker boss Jose Anigo.

"There is an agreement in principle with Bielsa," said Marseille president Vincent Labrune after Sunday's 0-0 draw with Lille.

"The agreement will be submitted to the contracts department but we can state that we are relatively confident that things will be finalised in the coming days."

Anigo took charge of the Marseille first team in December following the sacking of Elie Baup but will return at the season's end to his primary role of sporting director.

He had been involved in the search for a new coach and Bielsa, whose last job was in charge of Athletic Bilbao, was the frontrunner having spent the last two weeks in France studying his prospective new employers.

Atletico face Chelsea test

AFP, Madrid



Atletico Madrid may be in uncharted territory as they prepare for their first Champions League semifinal in 40 years, but they will meet a familiar face in Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho when the Londoners travel to the Spanish capital on Tuesday.

Mourinho won his first eight meetings against Atletico in a three-year spell in charge of Real Madrid.

Then last May Los Rojiblancos exacted revenge by beating Real for the first time in 14 years in the Portuguese's last competitive game in charge of Los Blancos to win the Copa del Rey last May.

Atletico have built on that success and are on course for the greatest season in their history as they are just three games away from winning both La Liga for the first time in 18 years and a first ever Champions League.

Both sides' success this season has been built upon a solid defensive base and Atletico captain Gabi is not expecting a goal-fest over the two legs.

"Without a doubt Mourinho's teams are very well prepared tactically and they are going to come here to play their usual game, to not leave any space at the back, to play on the wings and in the air, it's similar to what we

do here," he said on Sunday.

"It's going to be a very competitive game of two teams with very similar styles. We are very excited about the game and we have to play well at home because that could determine the second leg.

FACTFILE

Coaches

Atletico Madrid: Diego Simeone (ARG) - 43 yrs

Chelsea: Jose Mourinho (POR) - 51 yrs

Leading scorers in all competitions

Atletico Madrid: Diego Costa (35 goals)

Chelsea: Eden Hazard (17 goals)

Domestic league performance

Atletico Madrid: First in La Liga with four games to go, six points ahead of Real Madrid but having played one game more.

Chelsea: Second in the Premier League, five points behind leaders Liverpool with three games left

Route to the semifinals

Atletico Madrid: Winners of Group G ahead of Zenit St. Petersburg; beat AC Milan 5-1 on aggregate in last 16; beat Barcelona 2-1 on aggregate in quarterfinals.

Chelsea: Winners of Group E ahead of Schalke; beat Galatasaray 3-1 on aggregate in last 16; progressed on away goals against Paris Saint-Germain after scores tied at 3-3 in quarterfinals.



Chelsea players jog during a training session in Cobham yesterday on the eve of their Champions League semifinal against Atletico Madrid.

PHOTO: AFP

CSK crush Delhi by 93 runs

SPORTS REPORTER



A fine all-round performance from the Chennai Super Kings led their side to a thumping 93-run win over the Delhi Daredevils at the Abu Dhabi yesterday. Batting first Chennai, buoyed by Suresh Raina's 41-ball 56 and MS Dhoni's 15-ball 32, posted a decent 177. Chennai's fielding effort seemed as good as their batting as their brilliant display helped them bowl out Delhi for just 84 runs.

Chennai's start was not the best. Dwayne Smith was struggling to get the ball away and ended up scoring a 28-ball 29 before getting bowled. The other opener, Brendon McCullum too was dismissed cheaply for a ten-ball nine.

The aggression came in the form of

Raina, Faf du Plessis and Dhoni. Raina hit a six and five fours in his 41-ball knock. Plessis was a touch-bit more aggressive, hammering 24 off 17.

Dhoni traditionally came in late in the order and added his bit with two sixes and two fours.

Hits in the last over, helped them get past 170.

On the field, almost every player from Chennai played their part. Du Plessis took two brilliant catches, spinners Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja took two scalps each and the four pacers finished the game with all of them entering the wickets column.

Delhi were in trouble right from the start as they lost their top half with just 50-odd runs on the board after the first ten overs. JP Duminy, who took Delhi home in the last game, was bound to

play a major role in the game, but he was trapped in front for a tame 15 in the ninth over. Captain Dinesh Kartik, attempted a similar strategy as that of the first game by starting slow. Unlike the previous encounter against the Kolkata Knight Riders, however, he failed to carry on after the start and was bowled by Ashwin in the 13th over for a 22-ball 21. James Neesham attempted a comeback with a couple of boundaries, but he too departed soon after.

At the end they were dismissed in just 15.4 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

CHENNAI: 177 for 7 (Raina 56, Dhoni 32; Unakdat 3-32, Neesham 1-29)

DELHI: 84 all out in 15.4 overs (Neesham 22; Ashwin 2-3, Jadeja 2-18, Pandey 2-23)

Result: Chennai won by 93 runs

Simeone dismisses MU link

AFP, Madrid

Atletico Madrid boss Diego Simeone refused to acknowledge whether he would be interested in joining Manchester United should David Moyes lose his job in charge of the English champions.

Several national newspapers reported on Monday that Moyes was set to leave United at the end of the season after a disastrous campaign which sees them lying seventh in the Premier League and with no chance of qualifying for next season's Champions League. Simeone is one of Europe's most in demand coaches thanks to the sterling job he has performed in taking Atletico to the Champions League semifinals and top of La Liga with just four games remaining.

However, the Argentine insisted his thoughts were solely focused on the first leg of his side's semifinal against Chelsea on Tuesday.

"With all due respect to the question and I understand the situation, but the match tomorrow is a very important match for us and I am not thinking about anything which is not my players and Chelsea."

Capello sets out WC objective

AFP, Moscow

Russia manager Fabio Capello on Monday set the quarterfinals as his team's minimum objective at their first World Cup finals since 2002.

The Italian also revealed that he planned to retire after the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

On his hopes for the upcoming 2014 edition Capello quoted by R-Sport news agency said: "We want to reach the quarterfinals in Brazil but sometimes if you play really well any surprises are possible.

"Just remember that nobody expected us to finish top of our qualifying group but we did it."

He added: "Russia's players are completely focused on the World Cup.

"After 12 years of absence at the world football feast they want to perform at their best, to win something. And they're ready to show their best to achieve a top-class result in Brazil."

'Suarez thrives in adversity'

AFP, Sao Paulo



Liverpool and Uruguay striker Luis Suarez is pigheaded but used that trait to overcome an error-ridden start to his career and become the great striker he is today, claimed national coach Oscar Tabarez on Sunday.

The 27-year-old, who on Sunday became the first Liverpool player to score 30 league goals in a season since Ian Rush in the 1986/87 campaign, loves rising to challenges, said Tabarez, and he faced quite a few in his early days at Under-20 level.

"Suarez would miss easy chances, lose possession and was jeered at times," Tabarez told a group of foreign journalists in an interview published in Sao Paulo newspaper Folha de Sao Paulo.

"But I noticed something about him: he thrived in adversity and accepted challenges. He always tried to put the ball past his opponent and then run onto it in front of goal, something he started succeeding in doing on more occasions and in the process made fewer mistakes.

"Also being a pigheaded character it helped him to persevere and ultimately succeed."

Tabarez, who with a side including Suarez coached Uruguay to the 2011 Copa America title a year after they got to the World Cup semifinals where the striker was suspended, said he had made relentless progress since then.

Uruguay, who Tabarez will be taking to a third World Cup finals, have been drawn in Group D at the World Cup with Italy, England and Costa Rica.

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