

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

MAASRANGA TV & SET MAX

Indian Premier League

Mumbai v Bangalore

Live from 8:30pm

STAR SPORTS2

Serie A

Florentina v Sassuolo

Live from 11:00pm

Napoli v Cagliari

Live from 1:00am (Wednesday)

STAR SPORTS4

English Premiership

Man United v Hull City

Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)

Bangladesh Cricket League

(Four-Day Match, Day 4)

Walton Central Zone v BCB North Zone

Venue: BKSP-3

Wenger vows to stay

AFP, London

Arsene Wenger celebrated Arsenal's Champions League qualification by making it clear there is no chance he will quit the Emirates Stadium.

Wenger's side booked their place without kicking a ball when Everton lost to Manchester City on Saturday and the Gunners maintained the feelgood factor 24 hours later with a 1-0 win over West Bromwich Albion.

With fourth place wrapped up and a chance to end Arsenal's nine-year trophy drought coming soon in the FA Cup final against Hull, Wenger's future was the only issue that threatened to cast a cloud over an upbeat end to the campaign.

But the Gunners boss insisted he plans to sign an extension to a contract which expires at the end of the current campaign.

"I've said many times my word is my word. I'm from a period where you didn't need a pen to commit. You will see me again," Wenger said.

"It's not linked to the FA Cup final. It was important, of course, to be in the Champions League -- that's for sure.

"I've had no moments of doubt. If I had moments of doubt it would have been a few years ago when I had to say no to many offers and commit to this club and I was under a lot of pressure."

Mizanur's gold in Mt Everest Taekwondo

SPORTS REPORTER

SA Games gold medallist Mizanur Rahman bagged a gold medal in the Second Mount Everest International Taekwondo Championship in Kathmandu, Nepal, said a press release yesterday.

Mizanur won the gold in +87kg category but it was not mentioned whom he defeated in the final.

Apart from Mizanur, Shahanz Kathun and Anwar Hossain won silver medals in -67kg and -68kg categories respectively while Sraboni Biswas and Usman Reaz Ramisa won silver medals in -73kg and -49kg categories respectively.

Rafa honoured

AFP, Madrid

The city of Madrid declared world number one Rafael Nadal as its adopted son on Monday in honour of his trophy-laden tennis career.

"Today is a very special day for me" said Nadal, who wore a grey suit and blue tie, at a ceremony at Madrid city hall which voted unanimously to give him the honour last year.

Declaring someone an adopted son or daughter is the highest award which Madrid city hall can award.

"I believe in respect for my opponents, humility, discipline, hard work and enthusiasm. Those are some of the values I believe and that is how I understand not only sports but life as well," said Nadal.

Madrid mayor Ana Botella heaped praise on Nadal, who was born on the Balearic Islands and who is in the Spanish capital to defend his Madrid Masters title, calling him "generous, warm and authentic".

"You have the admiration and permanent and sincere affection of the entire city," she added.

Nadal, who began playing tennis at age four coached by his uncle Toni Nadal, has been champion in 13 Grand Slam tournaments.



PHOTO: AFP

AC Milan midfielder Nigel de Jong (C) heads in the winning goal against Inter Milan during their Seria A encounter at the San Siro on Sunday.

AC win Milan derby

AFP, Milan



A second-half header from Nigel De Jong secured a 1-0 derby win for AC Milan over Inter Milan for the first time in three years on Sunday.

Milan, sitting 10th overnight, hosted Inter at their shared San Siro ground desperate for three points to maintain their Europa League bid following wins earlier in the day by direct rivals Torino and Parma.

The hosts dominated an opening half in which Kaka struck the bar with a superb half-volley, but it took De Jong's bullet header from a Mario Balotelli free kick in the 65th minute to finally spark the game into life.

Milan scored their first derby win since April 2011, when coach Clarence Seedorf still played at the club, to move up to provisional eighth, one point behind Torino in the first Europa League qualifying spot, ahead of Verona's visit to Lazio on Monday.

Milan had the best of the opening exchanges although after a half-chance from distance by Adel Taarabt went astray Inter came close to breaking the deadlock.

Rodrigo Palacio skewed a shot wide of Christian Abbiati's upright after being sent through by Jonathan and then Yuto Nagatomo danced past two defenders at the left byline before delivering low for Palacio, with Abbiati down quick to block at his nearpost.

Milan almost had the breakthrough

when Taarabt threaded a superb ball through the Inter defence for Paolo De Sciglio, but the right back's first-timer was into the side-netting.

De Jong was giving a battling performance in midfield and after stealing possession, set up Balotelli only for the striker to shoot wide from distance.

From an innocuous looking long ball from midfield on 41 minutes, Kaka held off two defenders to send a half-volley over Samir Handanovic and off the bar.

Kaka then saw his speculative angled shot from 20 metres fly just wide and the Brazilian then held off Esteban Cambiasso to send Taarabt clear on the right.

Although the Moroccan's cross missed Balotelli, Kaka came in late to send a first-timer just over.

Inter shaded the start to the second half with Matteo Kovacic a constant threat around the area, the Croatian unleashing one drive that was blocked by teammate Mauro Icardi.

Milan came close again on the hour when Phillipe Mexes headed just wide from Kaka's corner.

Eyebrows were raised minutes later when Balotelli stepped up to take an indirect free kick from a tight angle after Taarabt had been fouled.

But in a crowded area De Jong somehow found space to squeeze through and send a powerful header past Handanovic.

Alves wants leniency

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Brazilian-born Barcelona defender Daniel Alves said Sunday he wanted some leniency for the Spanish fan banned for throwing a banana near him during a game.

"There does have to be a punishment, but I don't believe in paying evil with evil," Alves told broadcaster Globo.

"People have to educate. You can't do it in this way," said Alves, after Liga outfit Villarreal last week handed a life ban to the fan who threw the fruit.

Alves won widespread credit for his cool response -- he simply peeled the fruit and ate it before taking a corner.

The response won acclaim, with even Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff tweeting her admiration for "a daring and strong response" to an incidence of racism.

"It is the strong who forgive," Alves said.

Kolkata stunned

AGENCIES



Yet another good allround performance from Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan went in vain as the Kolkata Knight Riders suffered a dramatic collapse to lose to the Rajashtan Royals by ten runs at Ahmedabad yesterday.

The day's other game saw the Chennai Super Kings overcome a mammoth 178 to post an eight-wicket win over the Delhi Daredevils in Delhi.

In one of the most dramatic turnarounds in the history of IPL, Rajasthan bowlers took Shane Watson and Pravin Tambe, who took a hat-trick, rammed through Kolkata's batting order with six wickets in two overs, to spoil Kolkata's century opening stand between Gautam Gambhir and Robin Uthapa, in their chase of 170.

Quick half-centuries at the top got the job half done for Kolkata, but they then lost six wickets for just two runs to give away the game. Shakib battled hard with a 14-ball 21, but could not finish off the game at the end. He had a decent time with the ball as well, finishing with figures of 1 for 25.

In the day's other game, Delhi, led by Dinesh Karthik's 51 off 36 helped them post a decent 178. Dwayne Smith and Suresh Raina took control of Chennai's chase. With 52 runs needed of the last five, the batsmen swung into full gear, unleashing a series of boundaries. They brought the equation down to 16 off 12, after which they eased to a win

SCORES IN BRIEF

RAJASTHAN: 170 for 6 (Nair 44.;Narine 2-28, Shakib 1-25) KOLKATA: 160 for 6 (Uthapa 65, Gambhir 54, Shakib 21 not out; Watson 3-21) Result: Rajasthan Royals won by 10 runs. DELHI: 178 for 5 (Karthik 51, Vijay 35; Jadeja 1-23) CHENNAI: 181 for 2 in 19.4 overs (Smith 79; Parnell 1-25) Result: Chennai won by eight wickets.

Sk Russel's injury worry

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Russel KC held their first training session in Colombo yesterday after reaching Sri Lanka on Sunday to take part in the AFC President's Cup which starts on Wednesday at the Sugathadasa Stadium in Colombo.

Sheikh Russel's Montenegrin coach Dragan Djukanovic worked on game situation with his charges and played a thirty-minute match during their one-and-a-half hour training at Kalani Football Complex amid scorching heat, according to a message received here yesterday.

However, Djukanovic believes his charges would not face much trouble to get adjusted to the conditions there before their first match against Pakistan's champions side KRL Football Academy on Wednesday. The coach is worried though about the injury of striker Mithun Chowdhury and Serbian defender Ivan Kurtusic.

Captain Biplob Bhattacharjee was optimistic about qualifying for the second round and urged the best from his teammates.

"We have a youthful side with a good combination. If we can put our best, we can beat all opponents to emerge group champions," said Biplob after the training session.

Sheikh Russel will play their second match against Sri Lanka Air Force SC on May 9 and the third match against Ugyen Academy FC of Bhutan on May 11.

Niaz finishes fifth

SPORTS REPORTER

Grandmaster Niaz Murshed finished fifth in the Capablanca Chess Festival which concluded in Pretoria, South Africa on Sunday.

Niaz drew with GM Sergey Kasparov of Belarus in the ninth and final round to earn five points from nine matches. A total of 10 players including 4 GMs and 4 IMs from seven countries participated in the event, said a press release.

Double delight for Suarez

AFP, London



Liverpool striker Luis Suarez completed a notable 'double' on Monday after it was announced he'd been voted the 2014 Footballer of the Year by England's Football Writers' Association.

Suarez's 30 goals have kept Liverpool in sight of their first English championship title in 24 years and this latest honour comes after he was named Player of the Year by his peers in England's Professional Footballers' Association.

Uruguay international Suarez, 27, topped a poll of more than 300 journalists ahead of Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard and will receive the FWA award, which has been running since 1948 at a gala dinner at London's Lancaster Hotel on May 15.

FWA chairman Andy Dunn, of the Sunday Mirror, said: "Those members who have been fortunate enough to be working at a match involving Luis Suarez have witnessed an astonishing talent first-hand.

"Tireless endeavour allied to extraordinary imagination makes an irresistible combination. Add ingenious, impudent finishing and you have a footballer who truly quickens the pulse.

"Luis is a remarkably gifted addition to the long and distinguished list of winners of our award."

Charles Buchan, one of the founders of the FWA, said the award should be presented "to the professional player who by precept and example is considered by a ballot of members to be the footballer of the year".

And there will be those who argue that, for all his goals, Suarez has failed to live up to the standards of Buchan's words given he started the season completing a 10-game ban for biting Chelsea's Branislav Ivanovic -- a punishment which itself came a year after he received an eight-game suspension for racially abusing Manchester United's Patrice Evra.

Nevertheless, Suarez gained 52 percent of a ballot in which votes were cast for 10 players in all, with Gerrard the runner-up and Ivory Coast midfielder Yaya Toure, a key figure in Manchester City's Premier League title-charge, in third place.

Real's title hopes dented

AFP, Madrid



Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti believes his side struggled physically as their La Liga title hopes were dented by a 2-2 draw at home to Valencia on Sunday.

Atletico Madrid's 2-0 defeat away to Levante earlier in the day had opened the door for Real to close to within three points of their city rivals with a game in hand to come.

However, despite Cristiano Ronaldo's stunning injury time equaliser, Real could only manage a point which leaves Atletico needing just four points from their remaining two games to take the title for the first time in 18 years.

Real had come into the game on a high having thrashed Bayern Munich 4-0 to progress to the Champions League final for the first time in 12 years on Tuesday.

Ancelotti, though, thinks both his players and Atletico paid for their exertions in overcoming the German champions and Chelsea respectively in midweek.

"I think it was physical tiredness more than anything," explained Ancelotti.

"You saw Atletico and Chelsea have had the same problem, it is difficult to give your maximum physically days after the intensity of a Champions League semi-final."

Real are back in action on Wednesday when they travel to



PHOTO: AFP

Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo (R) heads the ball during their Primera Liga match against Valencia at the Santiago Bernabeu on Sunday.

relegation threatened Valladolid and Ancelotti knows his side must now win their remaining three games to maintain any realistic hope of winning the league.

"The team is not happy and that is normal because we tried to win until the end, but we will have the same desire and will to fight until the last game.

"To have a chance we need to win all three games and it won't be easy because we play two away from

home against teams that are fighting themselves."

Despite the disappointment, Ancelotti did still take time to marvel at Ronaldo's backheeled finish deep into stoppage time to register his 50th goal of the season.

"It was a great goal and a very important goal one because to lose this game meant losing the league and the goal at least gives us a chance until the end.

"We have lost an opportunity today,

but not a huge one because winning today meant Atletico had to win both games. As it is they still have to get four, including a draw at Barcelona."

And Atletico boss Diego Simeone is determined to enjoy the final three weeks of an enthralling season as his side face Malaga and Barca before meeting Real in the Champions League final on May 24.

"We have three fantastic weeks ahead, including the game on the 24th."