

What to WATCH

- GTV**
Bangladesh v Pakistan
Second ODI
Live from 2:30pm
- Sony Max**
Indian Premier League
Rajasthan v Chennai
Live from 4:30pm
Bangalore v Mumbai
- Star Sports 1**
La Liga
Vallecano v Almeria
Live from 4:00pm
FA Cup
- Live from 8:00pm**
Serie A
Inter v Milan
Live from 12:45am (Monday)
- Star Sports 2**
Premier League
Man City v West Ham
Live from 6:30pm
Newcastle v Tottenham
- Star Sports 4**
La Liga
Villarreal v Cordoba
Live from 11:00pm
Eibar v Celta Vigo

DAY'S EVENT

Second ODI Bangladesh v Pakistan Time: 2:30pm Venue: SBNCs

Hazard the difference

AFP, London

Champions-elect Chelsea took a significant step towards the Premier League title as Eden Hazard's first-half goal secured a clinical 1-0 home win over in-form Manchester United on Saturday.

United were seeking a seventh consecutive league win, but despite bossing possession, it was Chelsea who prevailed after Hazard sped through to score his 13th goal of the campaign in the 38th minute at Stamford Bridge.

The Belgian's strike left his side 10 points clear of second-place Arsenal, who welcome Jose Mourinho's side to the Emirates Stadium next weekend, when another Chelsea win will bring a first title since 2010 within reach.

United's recent surge had prompted talk of an improbable title tilt, but with Louis van Gaal's men 11 points below Chelsea having played a game more, automatic Champions League qualification is now their only objective.

And while United's football suggested there are better days ahead at Old Trafford, it is League Cup winners Chelsea, whose last seven wins have all been by a one-goal margin, who are on the brink of another coronation.

A calf injury to Michael Carrick obliged

Wayne Rooney to drop into midfield for the visitors, but it was to the United captain that the first chance of the match fell on a warm, sunny afternoon in west London.

From Ashley Young's pass, the overlapping Luke Shaw cut the ball back for Rooney, but the United number 10 shot's hit the stanchion to the left of the goal and bounced back into the net, fooling the travelling fans at the other end into thinking the deadlock had been broken.

United goalkeeper David de Gea had to toe the ball behind for a corner after Hazard's pass sent Cesc Fabregas scampering into the box, but for most of the first half, the away team looked serene.

With Ander Herrera assuredly anchoring the midfield, Van Gaal's men were finding passing triangles all over the pitch and they demonstrated their confidence when Paddy McNair advanced and saw a shot deflected wide.

An uninformed observer would perhaps have been forgiven for thinking it was United, and not Chelsea, who were on the verge of the title, but seven minutes before half-time, the hosts went in front.

A United move broke down when Radamel Falcao failed to control Chris Smalling's pass and within seconds Chelsea were in, Oscar's back-heel freeing Hazard to motor through and beat De Gea left-footed at the near post.



Chelsea winger Eden Hazard (back) celebrates his all-important goal with teammate Didier Drogba during their Premier League encounter against Manchester United at Stamford Bridge yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Delhi's 2nd on the trot

AGENCIES

Skipper Jean-Paul Duminy led from the front with a brilliant all-round display as Delhi Daredevils pipped Sunrisers Hyderabad by four runs in a thrilling Indian Premier League match here on Saturday.

Duminy first smashed 54 off 41 balls as Daredevils scored a decent 167 for four and then chipped in with four wickets as the visitors kept their nerves in the crucial stages of the nail-biting contest to restrict Hyderabad to 163 for eight and record their second successive win.

Meanwhile, in the day's second match Kolkata Knight Riders beat Kings XI Punjab by 4 wickets.

Put into bat after losing the toss Punjab skipper George Bailey top scored with 60 as his team put on 155 runs on the board. Chasing this target, Andre Russell smashed a quickfire 66 to lead Kolkata to a comfortable victory.

400 up for Messi

AFP, Barcelona



Lionel Messi scored the 400th goal of his Barcelona career as the Catalans beat Champions League-chasing Valencia 2-0 to move five points clear of Real Madrid at the top of La Liga on Saturday.

Luis Suarez got Barca off to a flying start as he slotted home the opener after just 54 seconds from Messi's through ball.

However, it was Valencia who enjoyed the majority of the chances thereafter and they were left to rue Dani Parejo's missed penalty in the first half.

And Messi made sure of all three points with the final kick of the game after Diego Alves had saved his initial effort.

Madrid can move back to within two points of the leaders when they host Malaga later on Saturday.

Defeat, meanwhile, leaves Valencia still a point adrift of third-placed Atletico Madrid, who are in action away to Deportivo la Coruna.

Suarez scored two wonderful individual goals as Barca all but secured their place in the Champions League semi-finals with a 3-1 win away to Paris Saint-Germain on Wednesday.

And he took less than a minute to pick up from where he left off in the French capital as Sergio Busquets fed Messi and his pass was fired low past Diego Alves by Suarez for his 12th goal in as many games.

However, Valencia went on to dominate the remainder of the opening 45 minutes and were desperately unlucky still to be behind at the break.



Rodrigo flashed a shot just wide before he was deemed to have been brought down inside the area by Gerard Pique.

Parejo's penalty was poorly struck, though, and Bravo made a comfortable save low to his right.

Paco Alcacer then had a hat-trick of chances to grab a deserved equaliser as he turned Andre Gomes's dangerous cross wide, saw a goalbound effort blocked by Pique and struck the outside of the post.

However, it could have been even worse for the visitors had Messi not sliced wide a great chance on his weaker right foot five minutes before half-time.

Barca boss Luis Enrique introduced Ivan Rakitic for Adriano at half-time in a tactical rejig to gain more control in midfield and Valencia found chances much more difficult to come by in the second period.

Messi was first to threaten after the break as he sent a dipping free-kick off the crossbar 25 minutes from time.

Luis Enrique then took the slightly surprising decision to replace Suarez with Pedro Rodriguez to keep the former Liverpool striker fresh for the return leg against PSG on Tuesday.

Ibrahimovic ban reduced

AFP, Paris

Paris Saint-Germain striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic on Friday had his four-match domestic suspension reduced to three games by the French League.

The league's decision follows a recommendation from the French Olympic Committee (CNOSF), to whom PSG had appealed their case in an attempt to have the suspension reduced.

The Swedish striker was banned following an extraordinary outburst after PSG's 3-2 defeat at Bordeaux last month, when he appeared to insult a match official as he left the field.

And he went on: "In 15 years, I have never seen such a referee. In this shit country, this country does not deserve PSG. We are too good for this country."

Amid a political furore, Ibrahimovic quickly made a video apology for the comments.

The reduction of his ban means he still misses Ligue 1 games against Nice, Lille and Metz but will now be available to feature at Nantes at the start of next month.

BFF plans June friendlies

'Should target home qualifiers against Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan'

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) are planning to arrange two friendly matches for the national team ahead of their first two qualifiers of the FIFA World Cup and AFC Asian Cup in June, informed BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag yesterday.

Bangladesh will host Group B opponents Kyrgyzstan on June 11 and Tajikistan on June 16 -- both at 3:00pm at the Bangabandhu National Stadium -- in their first two of matches of the 2nd round of the joint qualification for those two events. But before that the football governing body is planning to arrange two matches and therefore open a window of twenty days at the end of the first leg of the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League.

"The first leg matches of the BPL were supposed to be completed by May 27, with a window from May 7 to 14 reserved for the Indo-Bangla Games. Now that the games have been postponed, we will try to end the first leg by May 20 and use the next twenty days ahead of the qualifiers to hold a training camp at the Savar BKSP and also play a couple of friendly matches against international sides," informed Shohag.

Although no teams have been confirmed for the friendly matches yet, the BFF general secretary informed that they have

approached Afghanistan and Myanmar football associations so far to see whether they will be able to play in that time period, be it at home or away, even though no response has been received as yet.

Bangladesh head coach Lodewijk de Kruijf, who was asked by BFF president Kazi Salahuddin to come here to start preparations for the qualifying matches right after the draw was held last week, is expected to return in a week's time from Netherlands, according to the BFF general secretary.

De Kruijf's deputy, Saiful Bari Titu, feels the best chance for Bangladesh to collect points would be from the two home matches against Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

"Since we will be playing at home and in climatic conditions very unlike those of Tajikistan or Kyrgyzstan, we will try to attain as many points as possible from these two matches," said Titu, adding that de Kruijf was trying to bring Bangladesh-born attacking midfielder Raisat Khaton, who is currently with a top-division club in Philippines, to have a trial for the national team.

Meanwhile, the football associations of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Australia, who will host Bangladesh on September 3 in Perth, have contacted the BFF about the terms of television broadcasts of the home and away matches involving these countries. Jordan are the other side in the five-team Group.

Djokovic knocks out Nadal

AFP, Monte Carlo

Novak Djokovic reached his fourth final at the Monte Carlo Masters on Saturday as he held off Rafael Nadal 6-3, 6-3.

Top seed Djokovic, title-winner in 2013, will aim for his fourth trophy of 2015 and 52nd overall on Sunday, taking on Tomas Berdych.

The sixth seed booked his place as Frenchman Gael Monfils came back to earth in a 6-1, 6-4 loss after a pair of big-match wins in previous rounds.

Djokovic trails Nadal 20-23 in their career series but has now won five of their last six meetings. They last played in the 2014 Roland Garros final, won by Nadal.



Colombian pop singer and Barcelona defender Gerard Pique's wife Shakira, and son Sasha attend their Primera Liga match against Valencia at the Nou Camp yesterday.

Holder holds on to draw

Anderson becomes top England bowler

AGENCIES, Antigua



England did everything possible to win the first Test against West Indies which ended in a draw in Antigua on Friday, captain Alastair Cook said.

They failed to bowl the hosts out after reducing them to 162 for five at lunch, West Indies' Jason Holder hitting an unbeaten 103 to leave England frustrated again after their dismal World Cup campaign.

"We knew it was going to be hard work and it proved to be," Cook told Sky Sports. "Getting three wickets in the first session was a great effort. Credit to Jason Holder, we couldn't have done any more. I can't fault the lads' effort."

The England skipper had a disappointing match with the bat, scoring 11 and 13 to extend his long run without a test century which dates back nearly two years.

Earlier, Holder struck his maiden first-class century to lead the hosts to a draw after James Anderson had become England's leading Test wicket-taker.

Denesh Ramdin and Holder shared a resolute seventh-wicket stand of 105. Ramdin became Anderson's 384th Test victim in the final session of what was already a celebratory 100th Test for the 32-year-old seam bowler, but the hosts did enough to ruin England's hopes of going 1-0 up in the three-match series.

Anderson surpassed Sir Ian Botham's tally of 383 Test victims when he had Ramdin caught by Cook at first slip for 57.

"My immediate emotion [when I took the record-breaking wicket] was we were back in the game. We were hoping to get the win," Anderson told Sky Sports after the match.

"I'm hugely proud, great to have my family here as well and taking over from an English legend is a hugely proud moment for me."

Botham initially tweeted his congratulations, saying: "Great moment for Jimmy and his family.... Congratulations you deserve it Awesome!!"

The all-round great, writing in his column for Britain's Daily Mirror, added Anderson was the "complete bowler".

TOP 10 ENGLISH BOWLERS

Bowler	Wickets
James Anderson	384
Ian Botham	383
Bob Willis	325
Fred Trueman	307
Derek Underwood	297
Stuart Broad	267
Graeme Swann	255
Brian Statham	252
Matthew Hoggard	248



Discord at Bayern

AFP, Berlin

Fingers are being pointed at Pep Guardiola after Bayern Munich's doctor of almost 40 years, Hans-Wilhelm Mueller-Wohlfahrt, left the club in the wake of their 3-1 Champions League quarterfinal first-leg defeat to Porto.

The 72-year-old, who had been at Bayern since 1977, resigned along with his medical staff on Thursday night saying they had been held responsible for team defeats, and that there had been a deterioration in confidence in the backroom.

Catalan coach Guardiola has deflected questions at press conferences in recent weeks by saying "ask the doctor", and with stars Franck Ribery, Arjen Robben, Philipp Lahm and Bastian Schweinsteiger all in the sickbay on Wednesday, tension between the two was reportedly at breaking point.

Guardiola said on Friday he had the greatest respect for the departed doctor and refused to apportion any blame.

"When a player gets injured it's not the doctor's fault," he told a press conference.

PHOTO: AFP