

CHANNEL 9 & SET MAX
Indian Premier League
 Kolkata v Rajasthan (D/N)
 Live from 4:30pm
 Delhi v Bangalore (D/N)

STAR SPORTS1
Serie A
 Napoli v Sampdoria
 Live from 12:45am
 (Monday)

STAR SPORTS2
Primera Liga
 Malaga v Deportivo
 Live from 4:00pm
 Almeria v Eibar

Sevilla v Vallecana
 Live from 11:00pm
 Celta de Vigo v Real Madrid
 Live from 1:00am

STAR SPORTS4
English Premiership
 Everton v Man United
 Live from 6:30pm
 Arsenal v Chelsea

Barca go four clear

AFP, Madrid



Neymar and Lionel Messi were on target as Barcelona produced a sensational first-half performance to take a huge step towards the La Liga title with a 2-0 win at local rivals Espanyol on Saturday.

The visitors dominated from the off and two goals in eight minutes sealed the win as Neymar and Messi rounded off excellent team moves.

Barca were reduced to 10 men early in the second period as Jordi Alba was given his marching orders for taking his protestations towards referee Mateu Lahoz too far, but Luis Enrique's men held on comfortably and could have even added to their lead had Neymar not blazed a glorious chance over 25 minutes from time.

Victory takes Barca four points clear of Real Madrid at the top of the table with Los Blancos not in action until Sunday when they travel to Celta Vigo.

Espanyol 'keeper Kiko Casilla kept his side in the game early on as he made two great saves to deny Neymar and Luis Suarez at the end of moves started by fine crossfield passes by Messi.

The Argentine then fed Neymar with a fine ball over the top, but there was just too

much purchase on the Brazilian's finish as it looped over Casilla and over the bar.

There was nothing Casilla could do to prevent Neymar opening the scoring on 17 minutes as another stunning pass from Messi fed Alba on the left and his cross was dummied by Suarez to allow Neymar the simplest of finishes.

Barca doubled their advantage eight minutes later in controversial circumstances as Andres Iniesta's pass found Suarez in an offside position, but the flag wasn't raised and he picked out Messi at the back post, who squeezed the ball past Casilla at his near post.

That goal took Messi, Neymar and Suarez's combined tally for the season to 97 and they could even have reached a century on the day had their finishing been more precise.

Casilla made two more terrific saves to deny Neymar after good work from Suarez just before and after the break.

The visitors were then reduced to 10 men as Alba was sent-off in innocuous circumstances for his protestations towards the referee after he awarded Espanyol a goal-kick.

Barcelona still enjoyed the best of the chances with 10 men as Messi saw a shot deflected onto the post before Neymar blazed over with the goal at his mercy from Suarez's unselfish cut-back.



Barcelona striker Neymar celebrates his opening goal against Espanyol during their Primera Liga encounter at the Cornella-El Prat Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Nishikori reach final

AFP, Barcelona

Reigning champion Kei Nishikori booked his place in the Barcelona Open final with a 6-1, 6-2 thrashing of Slovakia's Martin Klizan on Saturday.

Klizan had won the only previous meeting between the two in a shock straight sets win over an injury-plagued Nishikori at last year's French Open.

However, there was never any danger of a repeat in the Catalan capital as the Japanese romped through the first set in just 28 minutes.

Klizan offered some more resistance at the start of the second set as he held onto his serve in a marathon opening game that included eight deuces.

Nishikori, though, won the next five games to take him to the brink of victory before serving it out comfortably.

The world number five will face either David Ferrer or Pablo Andujar in Sunday's final.

Mumbai, Punjab post easy wins

AGENCIES



Pace bowlers Lasith Malinga and Mitchell McClenaghan came up with stellar bowling display to help Mumbai Indians defend a modest score and beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 20 runs in their IPL match here Saturday.

Malinga grabbed his season's best four for 23, including three wickets in his last over, while McClenaghan picked up three for 20 that included top scorer Shikhar Dhawan's scalp, to restrict the Sunrisers to 137 for eight, chasing a target of 158.

Earlier, electing to bat, MI rode on opener Lendl Simmons's 51 off 42 balls and some useful contributions from skipper Rohit Sharma (24) and West Indian Kieron Pollard (33) to reach a total of 157 for eight.

In the day's second match Chennai Super Kings thrashed Kings XI Punjab by 97 runs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

MUMBAI: 157 for 8 in 20 overs (Simmons 51, R Sharma 24, Pollard 33; Kumar 3-26, Steyn 2-38)

HYDERABAD: 137 for 8 in 20 overs (Dhawan 42, Rahul 25; Malinga 4-23, McClenaghan 3-20)

Result: Mumbai won by 20 runs

CHENNAI: 192 for 3 in 20 overs (McCullum 66, Dhoni 41 no)

PUNJAB: 95 for 9 in 20 overs (Vijay 34; Nehra 2-16, Jadeja 3-22, Ashwin 2-14)

Result: Chennai won by 97 runs

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Tangail Football Academy will face newcomers Bangladesh Ansar & VDP (Dhaka Range) in the final of the Dhaka City Corporation Pioneer Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today. The match, to be held at 4:30pm, will be preceded by the third-place deciding match between Surjo Torun Sangha and Bangladesh Football Supporters' Forum at the same venue.

Earlier on Wednesday, Ansar & VDP beat Bangladesh Football Supporters' Forum in tiebreakers while Tangail Football Academy edged Surjo Torun Sangha by 2-0 in the two semifinals.

Gladiators to meet Dhumketu in final

Dhaka Gladiators and Dhumketu Club moved into the final of the Citycell Basketball Federation Cup, which will be held at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium at 4:00pm today.

Dhaka Gladiators, who had emerged champions of Group A, beat Group B runners-up BKSP by 80-70 points in the first semifinal yesterday. Binod netted highest 30 points for the winning side.

In the second semifinal held later in the day, Group A runners-up Dhumketu Club overcame Group B champions Hornets SC by 90-68 points, with Tareq caging highest 36 points for the winning side.

Sabina reveals better offers from Maldives

Bangladesh national women's team's prolific striker Sabina Khatun revealed that she has received offers from several clubs of Maldives for the women's football championship after her extraordinary performance for Maldives Police in the futsal championship, named 'Maldives Women's Football Fiesta' recently. The Bangladesh striker, who became the highest scorer in the championship scoring 37 goals in six matches, claimed that she has got offers which are much higher than what she received during her inaugural stint.

"Everyone there was happy with my performance. I have got several offers including one from the Maldives Army, who offered me 1500 dollars. However, I have told them I will only decide after discussing with our women's football wing," said Sabina during a press conference arranged at the

MSC bounce back

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammedan SC snapped a two-match losing streak in the Manjavar Bangladesh Premier League with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over relegation-threatened Farashganj SC at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The Black and Whites, who had suffered consecutive defeats at the hands of Sheikh Russel KC and Brothers Union after two wins in their opening two matches, never looked any more convincing than their beleaguered opponents, who are yet to open their account, yet managed just as much to confirm their third win in five matches.

The win lifted the Motijheel outfit to joint fifth position on nine points from five matches alongside Sheikh Russel, who will play their fifth match against defending champions Sheikh Jamal DC tomorrow.

The Black and Whites took the lead in the 40th minute of the match through former national forward Tawhidul Alam Sabuj, who slid the ball in past Farashganj goalkeeper Shahan Shah after running on to a through ball from winger Mobarak Hossain. Sabuj's third goal of the campaign gave the supporter-based side a 1-0 lead, which they relinquished six minutes after the break.

The goal came from Farashganj's

Nigerian recruit Peter Akinyele, who finished a brilliant solo effort by rounding off the Mohammedan goalkeeper before slotting the ball home.

But Farashganj's joy proved short-lived as Mohammedan regained the lead within less than 60 seconds. This time Ismael Bangoura, the Guinean centre-forward, headed home a cross from Jewel Rana, leaving Shahan Shah rooted to his spot.

There were a few more sporadic attacks from either side through the rest of the match, but none of those proved to be too threatening to alter the scoreline.

FENI OPEN THEIR ACCOUNT Meanwhile, strugglers Feni Soccer Club got off the foot of the 11-team table with their

RAHMATGANJ	0 - 1	FENI SOCCER
MOHAMMEDAN	2 - 1	FARASHGANJ

first points of the campaign, thanks to 1-0 victory over

Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society in the day's first match. A superb strike in the 40th minute from midfielder Shahrhan Hawlader, who unleashed a powerful left-footed shot from outside the box, separated the two sides in a very open affair.

Although chances fell at both ends, it was the Feni outfit which looked more like increasing their lead rather than conceding. But Rahmatganj 'keeper Samiul Islam Masum produced a string of fine saves on the hour-mark and another valiant one in the stoppage time to keep his side from suffering further humiliation at the hands of the strugglers.



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Didar boli celebrates after winning the century old wrestling competition Jabbarer Boli khela in Chittagong yesterday.

Jose takes swipe at Arsene

AFP, London

Jose Mourinho ramped up his long-running war of words with Arsene Wenger on Friday as the Chelsea manager hit back at criticism from his Arsenal counterpart.

Mourinho and Wenger have engaged in numerous verbal jousts during their time as Premier League rivals and there is no sign of any thaw in their frosty relationship ahead of their latest meeting at the Emirates Stadium on Sunday.

Mourinho's Chelsea will be virtually assured of winning the English title if they defeat the second-placed Gunners, who already trail their London rivals by 10 points with six games remaining.

But Wenger is unimpressed by the manner of several of Chelsea's recent performances, claiming on Friday that "it is easy to defend" as he reflected on the Blues grinding out narrow wins against Manchester United, QPR, Hull and Stoke.

England cruising towards victory

AFP, Grenada



England were cruising to victory at 65 for one at tea in pursuit of a modest target of 143 on the final day of the second Test against the West Indies on Saturday.

James Anderson starred with the ball and in the field, triggering a collapse which saw the home side losing eight wickets for 83 runs, and being dismissed for 307 just after lunch.

His country's leading wicket-taker in Tests, Anderson made full use of the second new ball in the morning session, removing obdurate opening batsman Kraigg Brathwaite for 116 and then adding the other key wickets of Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Marlon Samuels to finish with four for 43 off 22 overs.

He also held two catches at mid-off and ran out Jason Holder, the man whose maiden first-class century denied England victory in the first Test in Antigua a week earlier, with a direct hit of the stumps at the non-striker's end.

That dismissal effectively ended any realistic chance the West Indies had of saving the match and it was left to off-spinning all-rounder Moeen Ali to finish off the innings by taking the last three wickets.

There was one ray of hope for the Caribbean side when England started their run-chase as Jonathan Trott played on to Shannon Gabriel before he had scored.

However skipper Alastair Cook (37 not out) and Gary Ballance (26 not out) were well-placed at the interval against a West Indies team fast running out of enthusiasm.

SCORES IN BRIEF

WEST INDIES: First innings 299
ENGLAND: First innings 464
WEST INDIES: Second innings 307 for 10 (Brathwaite 116, Bravo 69, Samuels 37; Anderson 4-43, Ali 3-51)
ENGLAND: Second innings 65 for 1 (Cook 37 not out,

Didar wins 10th title

MINHAJ UDDIN, Chittagong

Didar boli clinched the title of century old wrestling competition Jabbarer Boli khela in Chittagong yesterday (Saturday) afternoon.

With a win in 106th edition of the event, Didar, a popular wrestler from Ramu upazila of Cox's Bazar, has secured the title three times in a row. Overall, this is his tenth title -- five alone and five jointly -- in the wrestling competition that has been organised every year since 1909.

Didar defeated his opponent Oli Hossain Boli of Naryanganj, who was the champion in 2012, in a fight that lasted 4.38 minutes at Laldighi Moydan.

"The game attracts me very much. That is why I come to participate in the competition every year. Hopefully I can continue to participate and win in the future," said

Didar, who has been taking part since 2001, said.

More than a century ago, a rich businessman of Badarpati in Chittagong, Abdul Jabbar Sowdagor, initiated the competition on Baishakh in the Bengali year 1316.

In the past, wrestlers from southern Chittagong, Arakan, India and Myanmar used to take part in the event. Although two French wrestlers took part in the 1962 edition, mentioned history researcher Abdul Haque Chowdhury in his book "Sahar Chattagramer Itikotha".

Like every year, the event was held in two sessions. In the first session, a total of 74 amateur wrestlers fought each other. While in the second session the four champion wrestlers took part in the semi-finals and final. The one-hour competition ended at 5:00 pm.

Tottenham keep Saints in check

AFP, London



Tottenham Hotspur remain a point above Southampton in the Premier League's Europa League qualifying race after twice cancelling out goals by Graziano Pelle in a 2-2 draw on Saturday.

Pelle exploited mistakes by Ryan Mason and Ben Davies to poke hosts Southampton in front in the 29th minute, but Erik Lamela equalised just before half-time when Eric Dier's cross hit his arm and flew past Kelvin Davis.

Pelle restored the visitors' lead with a thumping header from substitute Shane Long's cross 20 minutes into the second half, only for Nacer Chadli to level five minutes later after running onto a pass from Dier.

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