

<h3>What to WATCH</h3> <p>DAY'S EVENT</p> <p>Bangladesh Premier League Venue: BNS Sk Jamal v Muktijoddha</p>	<p>SONY MAX Indian Premier League Mumbai v Bangalore Live from 4:30pm Chennai v Rajasthan</p>	<p>STAR SPORTS 1 Premier League Man City v QPR Live from 6:30pm Chelsea v Liverpool</p>	<p>Serie A Lazio v Inter Live from 12:45am (Sunday)</p>	<p>STAR SPORTS 4 La Liga Villarreal v Elche Live from 9:00pm Almeria v Malaga</p>	<p>Celta Vigo v Sevilla Live from 1:00am (Sunday)</p>	<h2>RONALDO DONATES £5M</h2> <p>Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo has donated 7 million euros (£5m) to help the aid effort in Nepal. The 30-year-old handed the sum to 'Save the Children', which is helping survivors of last month's earthquake. Ronaldo also called upon his Facebook following of 100 million to donate to the charity when disaster struck. Ronaldo is known for compassion. Back in 2004 he flew to the aid of Indonesian tsunami victims after he saw footage of a young man wearing a Portugal shirt with his name on</p> 
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Barca march on towards glory

AFP, Madrid

Pedro Rodriguez scored a stunning overhead kick as Barcelona took another step closer to a 23rd La Liga title with a 2-0 win over Real Sociedad to move five points clear of Real Madrid at the top of the table.

Sociedad goalkeeper Geronimo Rulli kept the visitors in the game during the first-half, but he was finally beaten when Neymar headed home the opener early in the second-half.

And Pedro, who has seen his opportunities limited this season, secured all three points with a sensational acrobatic effort five minutes from time.

Madrid can close back to within two points of the league leaders with victory over fourth-placed Valencia at the Santiago Bernabeu later on Saturday.

Barca have now won 28 of their 30 matches since losing to Sociedad in January, but they were made to work for the three points once more by David Moyes's men.

Luis Enrique made four changes to the Barca side that moved to the brink of the Champions League final with a stunning 3-0 win over Bayern Munich in the first-leg of their Champions League semi-final on

Wednesday.

However, the star front three of Lionel Messi, Neymar and Luis Suarez were retained and they put Rulli to work early on.

The Argentine youngster made a fine stop to prevent his compatriot Messi heading home the opener and then spread himself well to deny Neymar from close range.

Barcelona were utterly dominant in possession, but couldn't find a way through in the opening 45 minutes as Rulli made another good stop from Gerard Pique before Suarez headed wide when he ought to have scored from an enticing Messi cross.

Rulli continued to frustrate the hosts with another save from Marc Bartra two minutes into the second period.

However, he was helpless moments later when Messi's cross was flicked on by Sociedad defender Mikel Gonzalez and Neymar was on hand to head home his 35th goal of the season.

Enrique brought on Sergio Busquets, Andres Iniesta and Pedro in the final half an hour to help see the game out.

And it was the latter who struck the decisive blow when another Messi cross was only half-cleared and he connected sweetly with an overhead kick that flew high past Rulli.



Barcelona forward Pedro Rodriguez (L) celebrates his goal with teammates during their Primera Liga encounter against Real Sociedad at the Nou Camp yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Man Utd break losing streak

AFP, London

Manchester United moved to the brink of the Champions League qualification with a 2-1 win at Crystal Palace on Saturday, while Burnley's relegation from the Premier League was confirmed.

Juan Mata put United ahead with a 19th-minute penalty after Scott Dann was adjudged to have handled the ball, before Luke Shaw, who took a blow to the face, and Wayne Rooney, who appeared to hurt his thigh, were forced off.

Jason Puncheon equalised with a 57th-minute free-kick that nicked off Daley Blind, but 12 minutes from time Palace goalkeeper Julian Speroni got caught beneath Ashley Young's left-wing cross and Marouane Fellaini headed in the winner.

The victory took United seven points clear of Liverpool, who will be unable to overhaul Louis van Gaal's side if they lose at freshly crowned champions Chelsea on Sunday.

Even if Liverpool do prevail at Stamford Bridge, United will need only three points from their final two games at home to Arsenal and away at Hull City to rubber-stamp a top-four finish.

While United ended a run of three straight defeats, they were once again indebted to goalkeeper David de Gea, who produced a pair of stunning point-blank saves to thwart Glenn Murray either side of Fellaini's winner.

Burnley were relegated despite winning 1-0 at fellow strugglers Hull, which left them seven points from safety with only two games remaining.

Promoted from the Championship last season, Burnley gave themselves hope of avoiding the drop by stunning defending champions Manchester City 1-0 in March, but they subsequently went six games without winning, losing five.

Danny Ings stopped the rot with a 62nd-minute winner at the KC Stadium, crashing home left-footed after Hull failed to clear a corner to end a 1,036-minute goal drought for Sean Dyche's side, but it was to no avail.

"We did what we had to do today, but we have not done it enough over the course of the season," said Burnley manager Dyche. "Of course relegation is disappointing, but I believe we're in decent shape to bounce straight back."

L'pool face Chelsea test

AFP, London

Liverpool must reluctantly subject themselves to the after-glow of Chelsea's Premier League title triumph on Sunday as they seek to keep their slim hopes of Champions League qualification flickering.

A year ago, the teams were vying for the title and despite Chelsea puncturing Liverpool's late-season momentum with a 2-0 win at Anfield, it was Brendan Rodgers' side who finished higher in the table.

Now, it is Chelsea who are champions, after last weekend's 1-0 win over Crystal Palace, with Liverpool a huge 22 points behind them and in the unfortunate position of having to give their rivals a guard of honour.

Rodgers's men go into the weekend four points adrift of Manchester United, who occupy the fourth and final Champions League qualifying berth ahead of their trip to Palace on Saturday.

Victory for United there would effectively oblige Liverpool to condemn Jose Mourinho to only the second home league defeat of his time as Chelsea manager in order to remain in top-four contention, but Rodgers remains optimistic.

"We're going into the game at the weekend looking to win," said the Liverpool manager.

"Chelsea are obviously deserved champions. They've been the best team, but all we can do is control the last three games, look to win those and see where we end up. I'm purely focused on the game.

"I congratulated (Mourinho). They're the deserving champions and to win it with a few games to go is obviously pleasing for him.

"But it doesn't take away from what we're looking to do and we want to finish the season strong."

Rodgers will take encouragement from his side's performance on their last visit to Stamford Bridge, when Chelsea needed an extra-time header from Branislav Ivanovic to secure victory in the League Cup semi-finals.

Mourinho may also elect to rotate his squad, but he has set his players the target of finishing the campaign on 92 points by winning their last three games.

"We want to win our matches," said Mourinho, whose side are unbeaten in their last seven encounters with Liverpool.

"We have three difficult games. We don't need to win, but we want to try to win points.

"For many months we had no defeats, but I can't do anything. I can just enjoy the title, which is the most important thing."

Sunday's game will be the final time Mourinho comes up against Steven Gerrard in a Liverpool shirt before the Anfield club's captain leaves for the Los Angeles Galaxy at the season's end.

Gerrard's slip against Chelsea 12 months ago sparked Liverpool's finishing-straight collapse and the 34-year-old has endured a frustrating campaign, compounded by the recent loss to Aston Villa in the FA Cup semi-finals.

But Mourinho paid a handsome tribute to the former England skipper in his pre-match media conference, describing him as "one of my favourite enemies" and revealing that he had tried to sign him for Chelsea, Inter Milan and Real Madrid.

Gerrard has started three of Liverpool's last four matches and will hope to do so again as he gears up for an emotional Anfield send-off against Palace next weekend.

Rodgers revealed on Friday that Daniel Sturridge will be out until September after undergoing hip surgery, but fellow striker Mario Balotelli could make his return against Chelsea following a foot injury.

Zidane gains UEFA licence

AFP, Paris

Zinedine Zidane was granted his UEFA Pro Licence coaching badge on Friday, paving the way for the French great to move into a top-level job.

"Very proud to have received my coaching diploma. Mission accomplished," the World Cup winner wrote on his Instagram account.

Friday's award ends a long-running saga over Zidane's coaching credentials after he was suspended for three months by the Spanish football federation for coaching without the correct qualification.

He was reinstated and returned to work as coach of Real Madrid's reserve team.

Cavani fires hat-trick

AFP, Paris

A hat-trick from the in-form Edinson Cavani propelled Paris Saint-Germain to a comprehensive 6-0 win against Guingamp on Friday that allowed them to close in on a third consecutive French title.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic, with a brace, and Maxwell were also on target as PSG made it seven straight Ligue 1 wins and moved six points clear of nearest rivals Lyon before their match at Caen on Saturday.

Even if Lyon win their remaining three matches, Laurent Blanc's Paris side require only four more points to retain the title, and they should have little trouble getting the job done on current form.

Far from letting their Champions League quarterfinal exit to Barcelona last month have an adverse affect on performances, PSG -- with the League Cup in the bag and French Cup final to come -- have appeared determined to go on and secure what would be an unprecedented domestic treble.

The form of Cavani and the return from suspension of his strike partner Ibrahimovic have both been key for the capital club, and they now have 58 goals between them in all competitions this season.

Cavani in particular has looked like a different player in the last month and his first hat-trick in French football means he has now scored 10 times in six matches in domestic competition.

IN A NUTSHELL

Haddin, ANU studying bats

AGENCIES, Canberra

A group of scientists from the Australian National University (ANU) have teamed up with the country's Test wicket-keeper Brad Haddin to unlock the secrets behind a good cricket bat.

They are studying what makes English willow the best bat-making material in the world, compared to other materials, such as Kashmir willow.

Lead scientist Dr Mohammad Saadatfar said the research is the first of its kind anywhere in the world.

"This is actually at the cell scale, micron scale, and using the machines in the lab here, we can see inside the wood and compare," he said.

"We are hoping that by comparing all these materials, from a mechanical perspective, from the structural perspective, we'll be able to tell if we can actually find a substitute for the English willow."

Dr Saadatfar said the search for a substitute for English willow could make quality cricket bats more affordable.

"It's too expensive, and it's just one small part of the world that is producing it," he underlined.

Haddin was on hand to speak to the scientists about the difference between English willow and Kashmir willow from a batsman's point of view.

Haddin spent 15 minutes batting with both English and Kashmir willow bats before delivering his verdict.

"The power areas are greater in this one [the English willow]," the 37-year-old said.

"You've got to hit that one [the Kashmir willow]. You've got a smaller area where you can hit that without the vibration, where as you've got a bigger centre with that one [the English willow]."

Haddin said the blade made from English willow was clearly the superior bat. But the wicket-keeper said he does not agree with concerns about bat sizes.

Kohli buys limited-edition Audi

AGENCIES, New Delhi

India's star batsman Virat Kohli is known for his play-hard attitude and a 'full throttle' approach to his game. The current best batsman in the Indian



setup hit a new gear in his love speed, taking delivery of a limited edition Audi R8 LMX - touted as the fastest Audi ever.

"I am delighted with my new limited edition super sports car Audi R8 LMX. I am especially proud and excited to be one of only 99 owners of this special car. I have always loved automobiles and have been an admirer of Audi. I already own an Audi R8 and Q7. I am looking forward to some exciting drives with this new machine," Kohli said.

Kohli has often been regarded as the heir apparent to batting legend Sachin Tendulkar. Coincidentally, Tendulkar too, is a very big car enthusiast.

KKR, SRH win thrillers

SPORTS REPORTER

Kolkata Knight Riders moved to the top of the table with the first one-wicket win in IPL history, off the penultimate ball against Kings XI Punjab. In chase of 183, KKR were reduced to 83 for four in the 11th over as the situation seemed bleak. However, Yusuf Pathan and Andre Russel revived their hopes with a 53-run partnership.

Piyush Chawla was the ninth batsman to fall but he levelled the scores before doing so. That brought in the brilliant Sunil Narine, who ran the winning run -- albeit on a leg-bye.

In the day's second match Sunrisers Hyderabad won a thriller against Delhi Daredevils by 6 runs. Needing 16 runs to win in the final over Dehli could only knock off 9.

SCORES IN BRIEF
PUNJAB: 183 for 5 in 20 overs (Maxwell 43, Vohra 39; Narine 4-19)
KOLKATA: 184 for 9 in 19.5 overs (Russell 51, Pathan 29; Gurkeerat 2-17)
Result: KKR won by one wicket
HYDERABAD: 163 for 4 in 20 overs (Henriques 74 not out; Coulter-Nile 2-25)
DEHLI: 157 for 4 in 20 overs (de Kock 50, Jadhav 63 not out; Sharma 2-12)
Result: SRH won by 6 runs



PSG striker Edinson Cavani celebrates one of his three goals against Guingamp during their League One tie in Paris on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP