

# What to WATCH

## STAR SPORTS 1

ICC World T20  
Netherlands V Ireland  
Live from 3:30 pm  
Bangladesh V Oman  
Live from 8:00 pm  
STAR SPORTS HD 4  
English Premiership

## SONY ESPN

Aston Villa V Tottenham Hotspur  
Live from 10:00 pm  
La Liga  
Levante V Valencia  
Live from 5:00 pm  
Sevilla V Villarreal  
Live from 9:00 pm

## SONY SIX

Athletic Bilbao V Real Betis  
Live from 11:30 pm  
Las Palmas V Real Madrid  
Live from 1:30 am  
Serie A  
Chievo V AC Milan  
Live from 5:30 pm

## FA Cup

Palermo V Napoli  
Live from 1:45 pm  
Arsenal V Watford  
Live from 7:30 pm  
Manchester United V West Ham  
Live from 10:00 pm

## CHELSEA? I CAN'T SPELL IT

France coach Didier Deschamps has dismissed suggestions that he could move to Chelsea after Euro 2016. Italy boss Antonio Conte leads the chase to become Jose Mourinho's permanent replacement at Stamford Bridge this summer, while former Blues player Deschamps' name has also been linked with the Premier League champions, whose poor league position means they will lose their crown at the end of the season. Noel Le Graet, president of the French FA, said he did not know if Deschamps could even spell 'Chelsea' and when L'Equipe put this to Deschamps, he responded: "He made a joke. So I will, too. I might not know how to spell Chelsea, but I know how to find it." ---Goal.com



Barcelona forward Neymar (R) juggles the ball as Getafe players haplessly look on during their La Liga clash at Camp Nou yesterday. The Brazilian scored twice as Barcelona won 6-0. PHOTO: AFP

## Zidane comes to Nadal's rescue

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane has launched a staunch personal defence of Spanish tennis star Rafael Nadal after the 14-time Grand Slam champion was accused by a former French sports minister of covering up a failed drugs test. Roselyne Bachelot, France's sports minister between 2007 and 2010, claimed Nadal had faked an injury in 2012, when he missed the final six months of the season due to knee problems, to cover up a failed test.

"I feel bad for Rafa Nadal because he is a gentleman, a person that has shown the values he has and that everyone loves," Zidane said of Nadal, who is an honorary member of Real Madrid.

"He is a professional and I know him a little. I feel bad for what they have said."

"He has to leave all this to one side and think that everyone who loves sport, loves Rafa Nadal, whether they be French, Spanish or American."

Real Madrid also released a statement in defence of one of Spain's most loved and admired sportsmen. "Rafa Nadal represents the fundamental values of sport. His greatness and his incredible achievements have always been based upon a foundation of exemplary conduct, unwavering work, talent and astonishing levels of commitment."



STAR ECONOMICAL BOWLER: Leg-spinner Rashid Khan (L) bowled a miserly and devastating spell of three for 11 as Afghanistan beat Zimbabwe by 59 runs in Nagpur yesterday to book their Super 10s berth in the ICC T20 World Cup. PHOTO: AFP

## Norwich dent Man City's title hopes

AFP, Norwich

Norwich City placed a significant dent in Manchester City's Premier League title aspirations with a 0-0 draw at Carrow Road on Saturday. Manchester City enjoyed plenty of possession, but aside from a Sergio Aguero effort that was superbly saved by John Ruddy in the first half, they created precious little. It could have been worse for Manuel Pellegrini's side had Patrick Bamford's 25-yard half-volley that crashed against the woodwork just before the break been a fraction lower. Manchester City are now nine points behind leaders Leicester City, who host Newcastle United on Monday.

## Barca hit Getafe for six

AFP, Barcelona



Lionel Messi scored, provided three assists and missed a penalty as Barcelona pressed home their advantage at the top of La Liga with a 6-0 thrashing of Getafe on Saturday.

Juan Rodriguez's own goal opened the scoring before Messi saw his penalty saved by Vicente Guaita, teed up Munir El Haddadi and Neymar and smashed home his 36th goal of the season all before half-time.

Neymar and Arda Turan rounded off the scoring to seal Barca's 12th straight La Liga win after the break. A 37th consecutive game without defeat opens up an 11-point lead on second-placed Atletico, who host Deportivo la Coruna later on Saturday.

The hosts still only took seven minutes to break the deadlock as Jordi Alba's driven cross towards Messi was scooped into the far corner of his own net by Rodriguez.

Neymar was chopped down by Emiliano Velquez inside the area, and Messi took responsibility, but for the ninth time in 20 spot-kicks Barca failed to convert as Guaita dived to his left to turn the five-time World Player of the Year's effort to safety.

Guaita's intervention kept Getafe in the game for just a further nine minutes as Messi directed Andres Iniesta's through ball onto El Haddadi's head for the second.

Neymar then raced onto a brilliant Messi pass to slot home his first goal in four games.

Messi then took out his frustration at not netting from the spot to rifle home the fourth from outside the box five minutes before half-time.

The pattern continued after the break with Messi in generous mood with another clinical through ball for Neymar to sweep home his 25th goal of the season.

And Turan added a sixth just before the hour mark with an acrobatic overhead kick which left Guaita flatfooted.

## Buffon eclipses Zoff

AFP, Milan



Gianluigi Buffon's impressive unbeaten run in Serie A gave Juventus a second reason to celebrate on Friday as the champions opened up a six-point lead on title rivals Napoli with a 1-0 win over Sassuolo.

Paulo Dybala's superb 36th minute strike made the difference in Turin as Juve, bidding for a record-equalling fifth consecutive crown, took their unbeaten run to 19 games to keep the pressure on Napoli ahead of their trip to Palermo on Sunday.

Reputed giant-killers Sassuolo were unbeaten since a 2-0 home defeat to Roma in early February, Eusebio Di Francesco's men beating Lazio and AC Milan amid a recent three-game winning run.

But their winning streak came to an end when Dybala latched on to Juan Cuadrado's well-worked delivery, controlled on the right side of the area and beat Andrea Consigli at the

'keeper's far post with a superb curling drive.

Dybala's 14th strike this season saw him overtake his previous best of 13 while at Palermo, and although he admitted it wasn't "my best goal", he told Sky Sport: "It wasn't too bad either."

When Juve travel to the Allianz Arena looking to build on a shaky 2-2

TOP FIVE							
TEAM	P	W	L	D	G/F	G/A	Pts
Juventus	29	21	4	4	51	15	67
Napoli	28	18	7	3	58	23	61
Roma	28	16	8	4	59	29	56
Fiorentina	28	16	5	7	49	31	53
Inter Milan	28	15	6	7	37	26	51

draw from the first leg of their Champions League last 16 tie, they will be hoping Buffon remains impervious.

The Italy veteran started the game unbeaten over 836 minutes and, having surpassed the legendary Dino Zoff's tally of 903 minutes in the 67th minute, he went on to finish on 926 minutes unbeaten, just three behind

the 929-minute record set by Sebastiano Rossi with AC Milan in 1994.

"This win was crucial for our campaign, and for the record of Buffon who totally deserves it," said Juve coach Massimiliano Allegri.

Juve started brightly and after just 25 seconds Dybala's volley from Mario Mandzukic's lay-off skimmed the crossbar, while the Bosnian drilled wide from Dybala's pass soon after.

Allegri's patience on the touchline was stretched on 25 minutes when Sami Khedira bundled Dybala's cut-back over from close range after Mandzukic's weighted delivery into the box.

Juve had the momentum, with Dybala linking well with Cuadrado but then firing Sandro's inviting backheel over.

Dybala made amends on 36 minutes when a one-two with Cuadrado saw the Colombian draw three players and then find Dybala in space to beat Consigli with a great curling drive from 20 yards.



Juventus' veteran goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon leads his team's celebrations after yet another clean-sheet saw the Turin giants notch a 1-0 win over Sassuolo at the Juventus Stadium on Friday. PHOTO: AFP

THIS T-20 WORLD CUP 2016

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