

# What to WATCH

## STAR SPORTS 1 & MAASRANGA

ICC World T20  
South Africa v Afghanistan  
Live from 3:30pm  
Sri Lanka v West Indies  
Live from 8:00pm  
STAR SPORTS 2  
English Premiership  
Southampton v Liverpool

Live from 7:30pm  
Manchester City v Manchester United  
Live from 10:00pm  
STAR SPORTS 4  
English Premiership  
Tottenham Hotspur v AFC  
Bournemouth  
Live from 10:00 pm  
STAR SPORTS HD2

English Premiership  
Newcastle United v Sunderland  
Live from 7:30pm  
STAR SPORTS 4 HD  
Bundesliga  
FC Augsburg v Borussia Dortmund  
Live from 10:30pm  
SONY ESPN  
La Liga

Villarreal v Barcelona  
Live from 9:00pm  
Real Madrid v Sevilla  
Live from 1:30am (Monday)  
SONY ESPN HD  
La Liga  
Espanyol v Athletic Bilbao  
Live from 5:00pm  
SONY SIX

Serie A  
Atalanta v Bologna  
Live from 5:30pm  
Torino v Juventus  
Live from 8:00pm  
Napoli v Genoa  
Live from 11:00pm  
AC Milan v Lazio  
Live from 1:45am (Monday)

SONY SIX HD  
Serie A  
Frosinone v Fiorentina  
Live from 8:00pm  
La Liga  
Valencia v Celta Vigo  
Live from 11:15pm

# Sri Lanka brace for Gayle force

## South Africa look to bounce back against Afghanistan

AFP, Mumbai



Troubled champions Sri Lanka will need to tame a rampant Chris Gayle as they face the West Indies in the first major test of their defence of cricket's Twenty20 trophy Sunday.

The Jamaican, who lit up the first World T20 in 2007, showed his powers remain undimmed when he smashed a 47-ball century to lead the West Indies to victory over England on Wednesday.

Sri Lanka, on the other hand, winners of the last World T20 in Bangladesh two years ago, have been badly weakened since the retirements of star batsmen Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene.

Slumping to eighth in the T20 rankings, Sri Lanka are also in turmoil after changing their coach and captain in recent weeks and following a disastrous showing at the Asia Cup.

Sri Lanka were given a morale booster with victory over lowly Afghanistan in their first Super 10 outing on Thursday, when veteran opener Tillakaratne Dilshan smashed 83 off 56 balls.

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HEAD-TO-HEAD IN WT20			
West Indies	Played	Sri Lanka	
2	8	6	

IN ALL T20IS			
West Indies	Played	Sri Lanka	
2	8	6	

LAST MEETING	
11 November 2015 in Colombo: West Indies won by 23 runs.	

But they face a much tougher test in Gayle who unleashed a succession of sixes during the West Indies' stunning six-wicket win over England.

Captain Angelo Mathews, who replaced injured veteran bowler Lasith Malinga as skipper on tournament eve, was upbeat, saying his side was capable of "doing anything" if they worked together.

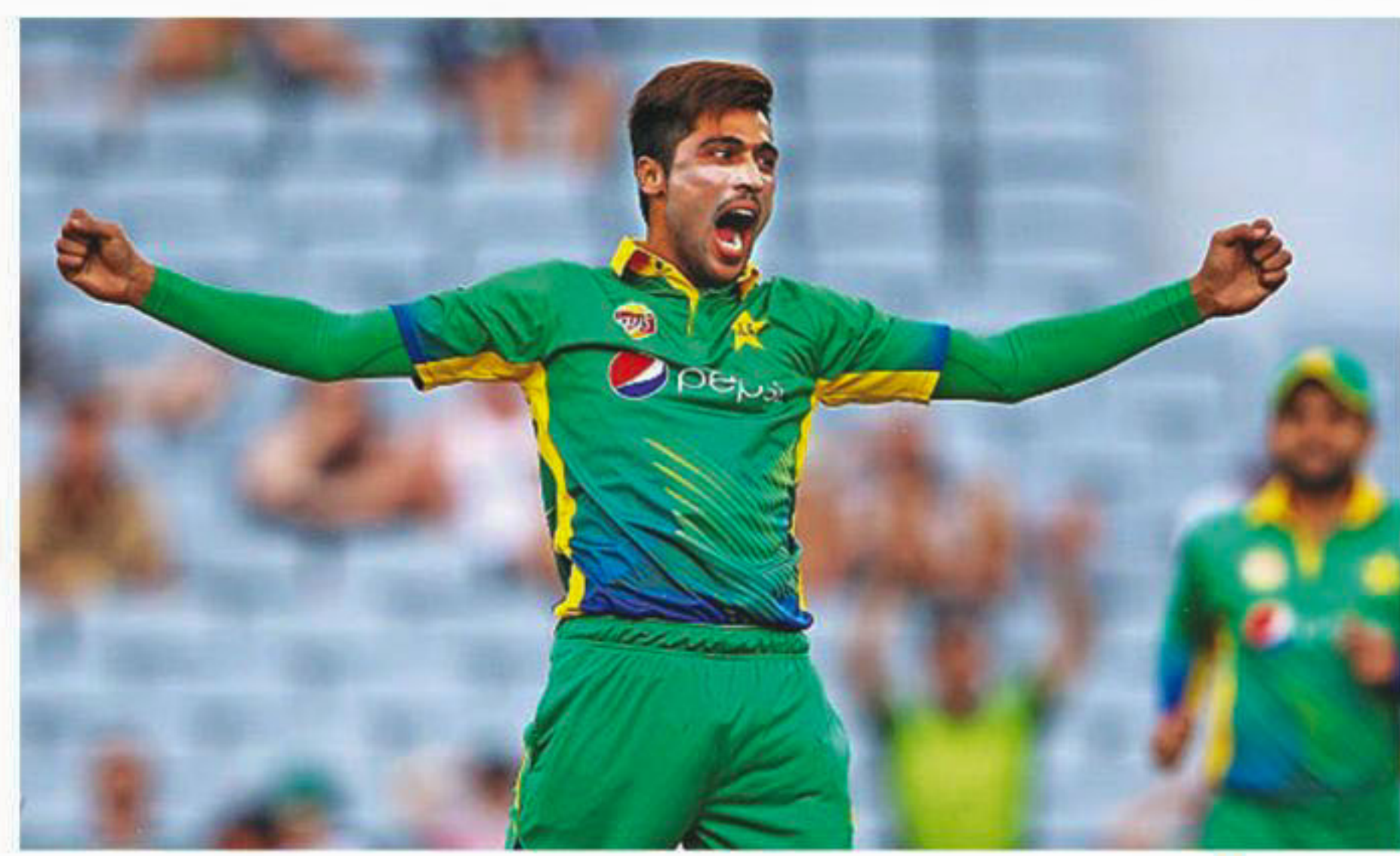
West Indies coach Phil Simmons has sounded a warning to opponents, saying he expected Gayle to bat in 15 of the 20 overs of every match at this World T20, to set the side up for victory.

Meanwhile, South Africa will be gunning to get their bid for a first international trophy back on track when they take on Afghanistan Sunday after a dramatic last-over loss to England.

The sides have only met once before -- in the 2010 World Twenty20 -- when the Proteas won by 59 runs in Barbados.

The Proteas are desperate to shed their chokers tag but on Friday showed scant evidence of the mettle required to win a major tournament as England successfully chased their imposing total.

Afghanistan, the only non-Test side left in the competition, will be looking to be no pushovers during Sunday's clash.



**STAR ECONOMICAL BOWLER:** Mohammed Amir gave away just 11 runs in three overs yesterday to give his side a chance against India. However, his miserly figures were not enough as India emerged victorious in their World Twenty20 match at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata.

PHOTO: INTERNET

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## 'Totti future must be settled'

AFP, Milan

Roma coach Luciano Spalletti has called on club president James Pallotta to settle the future of Francesco Totti by meeting the iconic captain and "making a decision" that makes "both men happy".

The 39-year-old one-club man Totti has been angling for an extra year's contract at Roma, where his playing time has been restricted this season in part due to a lengthy injury lay-off.

After telling media "this is the last time I want to talk about this", Spalletti said the Totti issue needs resolved once and for all.

"Totti and Pallotta need to meet, talk to each other without (outside) interference and then come to a decision that will make both men happy," he said.

"Then we will have to accept what has been decided."

# Foxes increase lead

AFP, London



Riyad Mahrez's 17th goal of the season sent Leicester City eight points clear at the Premier League summit as Claudio Ranieri's men won at Crystal Palace on Saturday.

The Algerian winger tucked away a cross from Jamie Vardy in the 34th minute to earn Leicester a third successive 1-0 victory and bring a staggering title triumph a step closer.

Second-place Tottenham Hotspur can trim Leicester's lead back to five points if they beat Bournemouth on Sunday, while third-place Arsenal remain 11 points off the pace despite winning 2-0 at Everton.

"It sounds good [being eight points clear]. Our fans are singing a very good song about that," said Leicester manager Claudio Ranieri, whose side were serenaded with chants of "We're gonna win the league!" by their fans.

"But we have to stay calm because the Premier League is the same as every match. You don't know what will happen. We have to continue to push a lot because the Champions League is very close to us. Maybe in the next two matches I can say something more."

Elsewhere, Cesc Fabregas scored two equalisers, the second an 89th-minute penalty, as West Ham United were prevented from climbing to fourth place in a 2-2 draw at outgoing champions Chelsea.

The result left Slaven Bilic's side in fifth place, a point below Manchester City, who entertain Manchester United on Sunday.

After losing out to Palace goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey in an earlier one-on-one at Selhurst Park, Mahrez put Leicester ahead by steering in Vardy's drilled cross from the left.

Pardew admitted that he was "frustrated" by the result, but said that Leicester would make "worthy champions".

Knocked out of the FA Cup by Watford and the Champions League by Barcelona earlier this week, Arsenal bounced back with a one-sided victory over Everton at Goodison Park.

Danny Welbeck put Arsenal ahead early on, rounding Joel Robles to score after a neat build-up, and 19-year-old Alex Iwobi scored his first goal for the club in the 42nd minute after racing onto Hector Bellerin's pass.

Victory tightened Arsenal's grip on third place, moving them to within three points of Tottenham, and manager Arsene Wenger hailed his players for putting their recent disappointments behind them.

"It was a very significant win for us and a mental test," he said. I like this group, I like the mental attitude. It has been questioned and it hurts me. When you work every day with them, you see how much effort they put in.

"We are still in (the title race) in our minds and mathematically, yes, and we want everyone to be behind the team to give us a chance. We are ready for a battle."

Robbie Brady scored as Norwich City climbed out of the bottom three with a 1-0 win at West Bromwich Albion, meaning Newcastle United and Sunderland will both be in the relegation zone at kick-off in Sunday's derby.

## Rossi to stay at Yamaha

AFP, Doha

Italian motorcycling star Valentino Rossi has signed a two-year extension with Yamaha that will keep the nine-time world champion with the Japanese team beyond his 39th birthday.

Rossi returned to Yamaha in 2013 after two unsuccessful years at Ducati and the Italian finished runner-up behind teammate Jorge Lorenzo last season.

"I am very satisfied with this decision, because it has always been my plan to compete in motorsports for as long as I can be competitive and find it enjoyable at the same time," Rossi said in a statement.

"Ever since I returned to Yamaha in 2013 I have felt like I am home again and this showed in the results. I get great enjoyment out of working with my crew and the rest of the Movistar Yamaha MotoGP team."

The new season is set to start on Sunday in Qatar.

# Leicester's Sausageman

GOAL.COM



Leicester City manager Claudio Ranieri is delighted with the impact his management is having in his adopted city, to the extent that locals are even naming food products after the eccentric Italian.

With just eight games of the Premier League season remaining, the Foxes are top of the Premier League by a margin of five points.

As a result, Ranieri-mania is reaching new heights in the East Midlands, with a local butcher inventing the 'Ranieri sausage' in the Italian's honour. Thanks to Leicester butchers W Archer and Son, who are offering the sausage to their customers, the Italian believes he has earned the right to a new nickname.

"I pay for pizza, you pay for the sausage," Ranieri beamed at Friday's press conference, referring to the meal he laid on for his players following their first clean sheet of the season against Crystal Palace in October.

"I am the Sausageman," said Ranieri, who has been rewarding his players with pizzas for clean sheets this season. "It is a good sausage. If there is enough chilli, it is good."

Despite Leicester's proximity to what would be a spectacular title victory, the former Chelsea boss insists he is taking nothing for granted.

"I think we need a little more, we need extra," he said.

"We have to put a turbo behind us and push a lot. Tottenham are a very, very strong team. Arsenal lost in the Champions League and now are free. There are teams behind us who can win all the last eight matches and get 24 points."

Ranieri's words imply the boss knows there will be no free meals from here to May. But if the Foxes keep up their form, they may well be able to go the whole hog -- and that achievement would be snout to laugh at.



Leicester City winger Riyad Mahrez (R) scored the only goal of the Foxes' Premier League clash against Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park yesterday with a fine shot from a Jamie Vardy cross. The 1-0 win stretched the Foxes' lead at the top of the table to eight points.

PHOTO: AFP

# Nadal up against Djokovic

REUTERS, California



Fourth seed Rafa Nadal survived a few anxious moments before booking his place in the semi-finals of the BNP Paribas Open with a see-sawing 6-4, 6-3 victory over Japanese Kei Nishikori in California on Friday.

The Spanish left-hander, a three-times champion at Indian Wells, will next meet top-seeded Serb Novak Djokovic, who battled past Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 7-6(2), 7-6(2) in the last of the quarterfinals.

Djokovic, the world number one and defending champion, improved his stellar record for the year to 20-1 as he seeks a fifth title at Indian Wells.

Nadal fought back from 1-3 down and 15-40 on serve in the opening set, then held off a late fightback by Nishikori in the second to prevail after a little more than an hour and a half at

the sun-baked Indian Wells Tennis Garden. "The first set was very important," 14-times grand slam winner Nadal said in a court-side interview with ESPN. "At 15-40 for one double break for him, that was the key moment and after that I started to play with higher balls, slower balls."

"I changed a little bit the rhythm of the match and I think I played well."

After leveling at 4-4 in the first set, Nadal won the next five games to take command before his fifth-seeded opponent clawed his way back with a break in the seventh to trail 3-4.

Nadal, however, immediately regained his advantage in the eighth game after Nishikori netted a backhand, and the Spaniard served out for the victory, ending the match with a forehand winner down the line.

On the women's half, Serena Williams overcame a sluggish start to forge past Agnieszka Radwanska 6-4, 7-6(1) to move into the final of the BNP Paribas Open on Friday.

The world number one, who will play Victoria Azarenka for the title, was 4-2 down in the opening set and not moving freely in the semifinal at Indian Wells.

However, after the American found her rhythm she claimed four straight games to take control of the set, she continued her run in the second to win the opening three games before her Polish opponent fought back.

Radwanska displayed the kind of tennis that will see her rise to number two in the world rankings on Monday, rallying to win the next three games to get the set back on serve.

The Pole even had a chance to win just her second career set against Williams when she broke the American to lead 6-5, but could not close out on serve.

Williams then snuffed out any hopes Radwanska had of claiming a first victory over the American, winning seven straight points to take the tiebreaker 7-1 and improve to 10-0 in their head-to-head battles.

# 'Restless' Sanchez

AGENCIES, London



Alexis Sanchez admits he has argued with Arsene Wenger over the Arsenal manager's insistence that he should take more rest.

"The manager sometimes says to me, 'Have a rest', but I don't want to rest," Sanchez told the official Arsenal website.

"I'd rather go home and do a bit of gym and exercise in my house to maintain my form."

"I always want to play and to win because football's my passion, it's my life. That's why every time we win, I'm really happy. I can't be happy with drawing or losing a match. It actually makes me really sad when that happens."

"Since I was a child I've always been annoyed if I didn't win. If I lost a match I would be annoyed and then I would just want to train so that I could win the next day."

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