

What to WATCH **SONY ESPN**
Indian Premier League
Delhi v Gujarat
Live from 8:30pm

TEN 1 HD
Champions League
Atletico Madrid v Bayern Munich
Live from 12:45am (Thursday)

DAY'S EVENT
Marcel Club Cup Hockey
Venue: Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium

Abahani v Bangladesh SC
Time: 2:30pm
MSC v Wari Club

HANKS PULLS A FAST ONE
 Hollywood actor Tom Hanks has proven to be quite convincing when he takes on any role. However, Hanks is not fooling anyone with his latest performance – claiming that he put £100 bet on Leicester at the start of the season. The 59 year old actor is a big fan of Aston Villa and has been left devastated by their recent relegation, but he says he is quite pleased because he put big money on the Foxes to be crowned champions at the start of the season. "You know what I did at the beginning of the season? Put a hundred quid on Leicester so I think I'll do okay." When challenged



Dele Alli gets 3-match ban

AGENCIES, London

Tottenham midfielder Dele Alli has been slapped with a three-match ban by the FA after footage confirmed that he punched West Brom's Claudio Yacob in the stomach.

The PFA young player of the year made contact with the Baggies midfielder during a first-half set-piece in Monday's 1-1 draw.

The Football Association has acted retrospectively after studying the video and ruled his action violent.

Nadal sues ex French minister

REUTERS, London

Fourteen-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal has begun legal proceedings against former French cabinet minister Roselyne Bachelot and after she alleged that the Spaniard had failed a drug test.

The 29-year-old issued a statement through his agent on Monday saying he had filed a case for defamation against Bachelot in the Paris law courts.

"This legal proceeding was instigated after Miss Bachelot made offensive remarks last March on le Grand 8 programme on French channel D8," the statement read. "Through this case, I intend not only to defend my integrity and my image as an athlete but also the values I have defended all my career."

Nadal added: "I also wish to avoid any public figure making insulting or false allegations against an athlete using the media, without any evidence or foundation and to go unpunished."

Former world number one Nadal, who will attempt to win a 10th French Open title this year, strenuously denies ever having taken performance-enhancing substances.



Sheikh Jamal goalkeeper Mazharul Islam Himel acrobatically saves a free-kick from Jermaine Pennant of Tampines Rovers during their AFC Cup fixture at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Jamal won the game 3-2.

A first for Sk Jamal

SPORTS REPORTER

Gambian midfielder Landing Darboe struck a brace to help Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club register their maiden win in the AFC Cup as they beat Tampines Rovers 3-2 in the Group E encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Sheikh Jamal, who came into the match with four consecutive defeats, fielded two Abahani players and one Sheikh Russel player, who are registered to Sheikh Jamal's for the tournament. Jamal previously lost the away leg 4-0 to Tampines in Singapore.

There were virtually no quality players in the reserve-bench which comprised of only two defenders, one striker and one goalkeeper, hence Sheikh Jamal along with coach Shafiqul Islam Manik, pinned their hopes on the players on the pitch and they did not disappoint.

The three foreigners – Landing, Wedson Anselme and Emeka Darlington as well as Abahani winger Jewel Rana were exceptional in attack while ace goalkeeper Mazharul Islam Himel thwarted a few attacks from their Singapore counterparts to keep things even.

Sheikh Jamal nearly conceded the lead in the 15th minute, but thanks to a brilliant save from goalkeeper Himel, who tipped a close-range header off Fazrul Nawas over, the scores were kept even.

With Rana imposing a threat to the opponents from the right wing, the Dhanmondi-based club took the lead in the 20th minute when Wedson saw his header off a Jewel Rana cross come off the crossbar and following a few exchanges inside the box, the ball came to Wedson, who then cut it back for Emeka, however the Nigerian striker elected to pass to Landing who scored the opener.

One minute from the break, goalkeeper Himel made another brilliant save at the cost of a corner but the goalkeeper could not stop a Germanine Pennant curling corner which was nodded home by Mustafic Fahrudin in the 45th minute.

After resumption, Sheikh Jamal restored the lead in the 55th minute when Emeka converted a spot kick after Wedson was brought down by defender Mustafic inside the danger zone but Sheikh Jamal again threw away the lead when substitute Shahdan Bin Sulaiman equalized with a sudden 30-yard stunner in the 70th minute.

Sheikh Jamal looked like squandering the win like they did against Malaysian Selangor FA, who beat them 4-3 and 2-1 despite trailing on both occasions. However, their Gambian attacking midfielder struck the winning goal eight minutes from time with a placing shot after being set by captain Wedson.

"We are really happy to have secured the first win as many wanted us to win at least one match."

"The way the boys played today [Tuesday], we deserved the victory," said coach Shafiqul Islam Manik, who believed Sheikh Jamal could have moved into the knockout stage of the tournament had they fielded all their [registered] players from the beginning of the AFC Cup.

HILLSBOROUGH DISASTER 'Fans unlawfully killed'

AFP, Warrington

The 96 Liverpool fans who died in the Hillsborough football stadium disaster were unlawfully killed, a jury found Tuesday, blaming police for the worst tragedy in the history of British sport.

Following the longest-running inquest in English legal history, jurors concluded that policing decisions at the ill-fated match in 1989 "caused or contributed" to the deaths, and amounted to "gross negligence".

Relatives of the victims have fought a 27-year campaign to get to the heart of what happened during the disaster, and were angry at an initial inquest ruling the deaths were accidental.

They emerged from the courtroom hugging and in tears, holding pictures of their loved ones and a scarf reading "JUSTICE".

They linked hands above their heads and sang the Liverpool Football Club anthem "You'll Never Walk Alone" and chanted "Justice for the 96".

Prime Minister David Cameron paid tribute to their "extraordinary courage" in their "long search for the truth".

"Landmark day as the Hillsborough inquest provides long overdue justice for the 96

Liverpool fans who died in the tragic disaster," he said on Twitter.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), England's state prosecutors, said it would now consider whether to bring criminal charges.



Relatives of the 1989 Hillsborough disaster victims react following the conclusion of the inquest into the disaster at the coroner's court in Warrington yesterday.

outside the ground at the Leppings Lane End shortly before kick-off, David Duckenfield, the police match day commander, ordered the opening of an exit gate.

It enabled 2,000 fans to pile into the already over-full terracing pens behind the goal at that end, causing a fatal crush.

The mammoth inquest, which began in March 2014, took place in a purpose-built courtroom in Warrington, northwest England, 15 miles (25 kilometres) outside Liverpool.

Coroner John Goldring, who presided over the inquests, asked the nine-member jury to decide on 14 key points – with the issue of whether the victims were unlawfully killed the central question that caused them the most difficulty.

The jury members had to be convinced that Duckenfield had breached his duty of care to those who died.

They needed to be satisfied that his breach of duty caused the deaths and that it amounted to "gross negligence".

They concluded it was unlawful killing by a seven-to-two majority.

The jury also concluded that the behaviour of Liverpool supporters on the day did not cause or contribute to the disaster.

Atletico get chance for revenge

REUTERS, Barcelona

Bayern Munich destroyed Atletico Madrid's dreams of winning the European Cup in 1974 and are out to wreck their hopes of reaching a second Champions League final in three years when they visit the Spanish capital for the semifinal first leg.

In the final in Heysel 42 years ago, an equaliser from defender Hans-Georg Schwarzenbeck in the final minute of extra time cancelled out Luis Aragonés' opening goal and forced a replay, in which Bayern ran out 4-0 winners.

That outcome led to contrasting fortunes for both clubs – Bayern went on to win three consecutive European Cups and are now bidding for their sixth triumph in manager Pep Guardiola's last season in charge before taking over at Manchester City.

Atletico are still haunted by the memory of Schwarzenbeck's goal, which prompted the nickname "el pupas" (the cursed ones).

History repeated itself 40 years later when Atletico led Real Madrid 1-0 in the Champions League final and Sergio Ramos headed in a 93rd-minute equaliser to force extra time before going on to thrash the Rojiblancos 4-1.

Four decades after Schwarzenbeck robbed them of glory, Atletico are still chasing their first European Cup, yet are emboldened in their bid to go all the way this year after knocking out holders and favourites Barcelona in the quarter finals.

They beat Malaga 1-0 on Saturday thanks to substitute Angel Correa's second-half

strike to stay level on points with Barcelona, who top La Liga due to their superior head-to-head record.

Bayern maintained their seven-point lead at the top of the Bundesliga by winning 2-0 at Hertha Berlin with second-half goals from Arturo Vidal and Douglas Costa. A victory at home to Borussia Monchengladbach next week will see Bayern clinch a third successive title under

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STATS

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

European Cup final 1974 - Atletico Madrid 1 Bayern Munich 1
 European Cup final 1974 - Atletico Madrid 0 Bayern Munich 4

KEY PLAYERS

Bayern Munich - Tomas Muller (8 goals, 2 assists)
 Atletico Madrid - Antoine Griezmann (6 goals, 1 assist)

CL SEASON'S RECORD

Atletico Madrid - 6 wins, 2 draws and 2 defeats
 Bayern Munich - 7 wins, 2 draws and 1 defeat

Leicester a win away

AFP, London

Leicester will complete an "incredible" Premier League title triumph and be crowned champions of England for the first time in their history if they beat Manchester United at Old Trafford on Sunday.

Tottenham Hotspur, the only team who can deny the Midlands club the title, lost ground with a 1-1 draw at home to West Bromwich Albion on Monday that meant they were seven points behind with three games left to play.

Even if Leicester, 5,000/1 rank outsiders in pre-season to win the Premier League after narrowly avoiding relegation last term, slip up at Old Trafford the Foxes will still be in pole position to finish the season as champions.

This season has seen Midlands club Leicester leave established Premier League giants such as Manchester City, Arsenal and defending champions Chelsea well behind them.

Owned by Thai billionaire Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, Leicester have already qualified for the Champions League for the first time in a season where only the three promoted clubs – Watford, Norwich and Bournemouth – started at longer odds to win the Premier League.

Foxes manager Claudio Ranieri, who replaced sacked former Leicester boss Nigel Pearson in pre-season, was derided as the 'Tinkerer' when he first made his name in English football as Chelsea manager from 2000-04.

But under the Italian's guidance the likes of Algeria winger Riyad Mahrez, named last week as the Professional Footballers' Association Player of the Year, and leading scorer Jamie Vardy have enjoyed the best seasons of their careers, with the Foxes all-action game proving hard to resist in a campaign where they've lost just three league games to date.

When Leicester appointed Ranieri, lifelong Foxes fan and former England striker Gary Lineker, who started his career with his hometown club, tweeted: "Claudio Ranieri, really?"

Lineker subsequently admitted: "Oh how wrong I was, how wonderfully, spectacularly, blissfully wrong."

The only downside for Leicester's best-known supporter is that it looks as if he may have to make good on a promise to present the BBC's flagship Match of the Day football programme in his underpants if the Foxes win the title.

"I've kind of said I'll have to do it," Lineker told the Radio Times magazine in an interview published Tuesday. "I've told them many times, 'Please tell me I can't do it'."

Leicester will be without Vardy at Old Trafford after the Football Association gave him an additional one-match ban on Tuesday for improper conduct following his red card against West Ham.

Our Warmest Felicitations to His Majesty King Willem-Alexander and to the Friendly People of the Netherlands on their King's Day

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