

STAR SPORTS 1
English Premiership
Swansea v Liverpool
Live from 5:00pm
Man United v Leicester
Live from 7:05pm

Southampton v Man City
Live from 9:30pm
SONY ESPN
Indian Premier League
Gujarat v Punjab
Live from 4:30pm

Pune v Mumbai
Live from 8:30pm
La liga
Valencia v Villareal
Live from 12:30am (Monday)
SONY SIX

Serie A
Lazio v Inter Milan
Live from 12:45am (Monday)
MONDAY
STAR SPORTS 1
English Premiership

Chelsea v Tottenham
Live from 1:00am (Tuesday)
STAR SPORTS 2
Bundesliga
Werder Bremen v Stuttgart
Live from 12:15am (Tuesday)

BD girls romp into final

Thrash Tajikistan 9-1 to set up today's final against India

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Bangladesh stormed into the final of the AFC U-14 Girls' Regional (South & Central) Championship after handing a 9-1 defeat to hosts Tajikistan in the semifinal at the Aviator Stadium in Dushanbe yesterday.

Midfielders Tohura Khatun and Monica scored hatricks while striker Anuching Mogini scored a brace. Midfielder Akhi Khatun, who came on as a second-half substitute, scored the other goal in this goalfest. After Tohura had given Bangladesh a 6th minute lead, the defending champions added four more goals in the opening half before scoring four more at the other side of the break.

Tajikistan skipper Abdul Haieva Nilufar scored from the spot in the 58th minute to give the hosts a consolation goal.

Bangladesh will play in the final tomorrow against India, who edged past Iran by 4-3 goals in the other semifinal of the day.

Bangladesh coach Golam Rabbani was ecstatic with this victory, especially with the way the players performed consistently through the tournament. "We are happy that we have made it to the final. The girls have shown consistency in their performance which is why we are in the final. Hopefully the girls will continue their consistency and win



The Bangladesh players and officials pose for a group photo after their resounding 9-1 victory against Tajikistan at the Aviator Stadium in Dushanbe yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

the final against India as well," Choton said in his reaction. Bangladesh had beaten their Indian counterparts 3-1 in their opening group game fixture on April 26. The final will kick off at 5:00pm Bangladesh time.

Neymar buys a plane for 7.8m euros

INTERNET

Not satisfied with all the riches he already possesses, it's been revealed that Barcelona attacker Neymar has splurged on a private Cessna 680 for 7.8 million euros.

Neymar Sport and Marketing signed the deal through a mortgage with Bir Participacoes even with the Brazilian Treasury suing the player for around 14m euros worth in tax evasion after he signed for Barcelona.

Last February, the Brazilian Court got control of Neymar's goods to ensure that the attacker will pay the money he allegedly owes.

Neymar is the proprietor of a helicopter, a yacht and another plane amongst those goods which can be used but not sold after the Court's decision.

Bayern made to wait

AFP, Berlin



Pep Guardiola's Bayern Munich must wait to have their historic fourth consecutive Bundesliga title confirmed after being held to a 1-1 draw at home to Borussia Moenchengladbach on Saturday.

The champagne had to be put back on ice at the Allianz Arena after Thomas Mueller's first-half header for Bayern was cancelled out by Andre Hahn's superb second-half strike for Gladbach.

Second-placed Borussia Dortmund romped to a 5-1 win at home against Wolfsburg to trim Bayern's lead at the top to five points with two games left.

Bayern are away to mid-table Ingolstadt next Saturday, then host relegated Hannover on the final day of the season in a fortnight.

The draw with Gladbach comes three days before Tuesday's crunch Champions League home semi-final against Atletico Madrid with Bayern having lost the first leg 1-0 away last Wednesday.

Bayern were punished for sitting back

after Mueller's sixth-minute headed opener. Gladbach, one of only two clubs to beat Bayern in the German league this season, hit back when Hahn slotted home on 72 minutes having gone close just moments before.

A superb pass from Lars Stindl put Hahn in behind the Bayern defence and he wrong-footed Medhi Benatia before firing his shot past Manuel Neuer.

There was some good news for Bayern as Jerome Boateng played his first game since January.

The Germany defender is now in line to face Diego Simeone's Atletico with a place in the Champions League final on May 28 at stake.

In Dortmund, Borussia hammered Wolfsburg with Japan midfielder Shinji Kagawa scoring their first, and creating their second, before Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang came off the bench to score twice.

The Gabon striker now has 25 league goals this season, leaving him two short of Bayern's Robert Lewandowski.

Dortmund took the lead when Henrikh Mkhitaryan's bullet pass was deflected home by Kagawa, who then set up Ramos to leave Dortmund 2-0 up inside nine minutes.

Zlatan's best season yet

REUTERS, Paris

Paris St Germain's Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored two goals and set up another as the runaway Ligue 1 champions thrashed Stade Rennes 4-0 on a wet evening in Paris on Friday.

Four second-half goals at the Parc des Princes allowed PSG to equal their own record for the most points in a Ligue 1 season - 89 -- with two games remaining.

Ibrahimovic joined in a second-half scoring frenzy when he picked up a cross from Argentine Angel di Maria and sent it beyond the reach of goalkeeper Benoit Costil in the 54th minute.

Four minutes earlier, the Swedish striker had helped to set up Maxwell for the opening goal and Ibrahimovic scored again himself with a left-footed drive in the 78th to take his league-leading tally to 34, his best ever in a season.

Edinson Cavani added the fourth goal in injury time as PSG, who won the League Cup for the third consecutive time last weekend, all but extinguished the seventh-placed visitors' hopes of playing in Europe next season.

Bale the hero again

Griezmann fires Atletico

AFP, Madrid



Gareth Bale's thunderous header 10 minutes from time inspired an under-strength Real Madrid to a hard-fought 1-0 win at Real Sociedad on Saturday.

However, Real remain a point behind Atletico Madrid of La Liga after Antoine Griezmann scored a minute after coming on as a substitute to hand them an equally nervy 1-0 win over Rayo Vallecano.

In the absence of the injured Cristiano Ronaldo and Karim Benzema, Bale stood out with a brilliant individual display capped by the winner to register Madrid's 10th straight La Liga win.

As well as the absent Ronaldo and Benzema, Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane rested Marcelo, Dani Carvajal and Toni Kroos with one eye on the return leg of their Champions League semi-final against Manchester City on Wednesday.

Without the other two members of Madrid's star "BBC" frontline, Bale was charged with finding the goals and the Welshman did everything but score in a fine first-half display.

Bale pulled his first effort wide on his weaker right foot before James Rodriguez wasted the chance to open the scoring on a rare start in recent months as Geronimo Rulli turned away the Colombian's effort at his near post.

Madrid then began to show their power from set-pieces as captain Sergio Ramos and Bale saw headers fly just wide from corners

before another powerful Bale header from Rodriguez's inch-perfect cross also fell just the wrong side of the post as Madrid completely dominated the hosts before the break, but Rulli looked set to end their title hopes as the Argentine made brilliant save to deny Bale from another fine Rodriguez cross.

Yet, a week after leading Real back from a two-goal deficit at Rayo Vallecano, Bale made the difference again when he got across his marker to bullet home a header from Lucas Vazquez's cross.

Sociedad had barely offered any threat on goal during the 90 minutes, but nearly snatched an equaliser in stoppage time as David Zurutuza's header was saved low to his right by Keylor Navas.

Atletico boss Diego Simeone also showed his priorities lie with the second leg of their Champions League semi-final against Bayern Munich in midweek as he made seven changes to the side that beat the German champions 1-0 on Wednesday.

Angel Correa was one of those handed a rare start and his low drive forced Juan Carlos into an outstanding save after just six minutes.

However, Atletico's youngsters struggled to create anything more of note before Griezmann rode to the rescue early in the second-half.

Indeed, Rayo could even have gone in front but for fine saves from Jan Oblak to deny Miku and Javi Guerra.

Griezmann made a sensational and instant impact after coming off the bench as he controlled a loose ball on the edge of the area before thrashing a volley into the bottom corner for his 30th goal of the season.



Real Madrid winger Gareth Bale celebrates his all-important goal against Real Sociedad during their La Liga encounter at the Anoeta Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Krohn-Dehli faces long layoff

AFP, Madrid

Sevilla midfielder Michael Krohn-Dehli faces seven to eight months out after undergoing surgery for a serious knee injury sustained in Thursday's Europa League semi-final first leg against Shakhtar Donetsk.

The Denmark international came on as a 59th-minute substitute in the 2-2 draw in Lviv but was stretched off just 13 minutes later with what was later diagnosed as a fractured kneecap.

"The player has been operated on...for a displaced fracture of the left kneecap. The operation was performed without incident," Sevilla said in a statement.

The club added Krohn-Dehli, who joined Sevilla from Celta Vigo last July, would miss "between seven and eight months" depending on his recovery, meaning the 32-year-old may not return to action until 2017.

Sevilla host Shakhtar in the return leg next Thursday as the Spaniards chase a third successive Europa League title. Unai Emery's side are also through to the Copa del Rey final against Barcelona on May 22.

Arsenal move to third

AFP, London



A quick-fire goal from substitute Danny Welbeck united squabbling supporters as Arsenal defeated Norwich City 1-0 on Saturday to advance their pursuit of a Premier League top-four finish.

Fans protesting against long-serving Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger were drowned out by supporters backing him before Welbeck's 59th-minute strike settled proceedings, keeping Norwich in the bottom three.

Arsenal established a provisional eight-point cushion over the teams below the Champions League places, ahead of next weekend's high-stakes trip to Manchester City, who trail them by three points ahead of their trip to Southampton on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Andros Townsend scored a stunning free-kick as Newcastle United edged Crystal Palace 1-0 to escape the relegation zone at the expense of northeast rivals Sunderland.

In a pre-planned protest at the Emirates Stadium, a smattering of fans held up A4 posters bearing the words "TIME FOR CHANGE" in the 12th minute of the game, in a nod to Arsenal's 12-year league title drought.

In response thousands of fans chanted "There's only one Arsene Wenger!", with some holding aloft placards in support of the under-fire Frenchman, who has been in place since 1996.

However, with Norwich creating the best of the first-half chances, there were boos at the half-time whistle.

Injury forced Wenger to send on Gabriel for centre-back Per Mertesacker early in the second half, but it was his second change that was to prove decisive.

Welbeck replaced Alex Iwobi in the 56th

minute, drawing more boos, but less than three minutes later Olivier Giroud nodded Hector Bellerin's cross into his path and the England striker slashed home the winner.

Norwich finished the day two points from safety, but with a game in hand on fourth-bottom Newcastle, who beat Palace courtesy of Townsend's memorable strike and a Karl Darlow penalty save from Yohan Cabaye.

"The victory means a lot. It gives us momentum, confidence and a connection with the fans," said Benitez, who succeeded Steve McClaren as Newcastle manager last month.

"We still have to play another two games. We will enjoy this weekend because we won and then we will focus on the next one against Aston Villa, which will be a tough one."

Townsend broke the deadlock in the 58th minute at St James' Park, the one-time England winger sending a free-kick from wide on the right whistling into the top-left corner.

Twelve minutes later, Cabaye had a chance to equalise, but the France international, who angered Newcastle fans by leaving for Paris Saint-Germain in 2014, saw his penalty brilliantly turned away by Darlow.

Jermain Defoe scored a stoppage-time penalty to rescue a 1-1 draw at Stoke City for Sunderland.

Although Sam Allardyce's side were left a point behind Newcastle in the bottom three, they, like Norwich, have a game in hand.

West Ham United captain Mark Noble scored twice for the second game in succession as his side won 3-0 at West Bromwich Albion to replace Manchester United in fifth place, with Cheikhou Kouyate also on target.

'Money isn't everything'

AFP, London

Leicester City's surge to within touching distance of the Premier League title is proof that money does not always yield success, according to manager Claudio Ranieri.

Seven points clear of second-place Tottenham Hotspur, 5,000-1 outsiders Leicester will be crowned champions on Sunday if they win at Manchester United, who are fifth in the table despite a heavy pre-season away.

United spent £25 million (\$36.5 million, 31.9 million euros) on Memphis Depay and an initial £36 million on Anthony Martial, while Leicester's total spending was less than £30 million.

"Once in the life it can happen," Ranieri said, in comments published by British newspapers on Saturday. "That is football. Once every 50 years a little team with less money can beat the biggest ones."

"If there are 20 teams who spend millions of pounds at the end of the season, one will win the title and three will go down."

"Now there are very special circumstances. The big teams don't have the consistency and normal teams have the consistency during the season."

Leicester one step away from becoming champions

AFP, London



Leicester City can bring their fairytale pursuit of glory to a suitably spectacular conclusion on Sunday by beating Premier League standard-bearers Manchester United at Old Trafford to capture the title.

Seven points clear of second-place Tottenham Hotspur with three games remaining, Leicester, the 5,000-1 outsiders, will be champions for the first time in their 132-year history if they prevail at the home of United, the dominant force of the Premier League era.

But although Leicester are now so close to the trophy that they can smell the silver polish, manager Claudio Ranieri is determined to make sure that his players do not lose sight of the task in hand.

"We have to fight a lot," the Italian told a packed King Power Stadium media room during his pre-game press conference.

"It will be a fantastic match, but tough. We have to stay calm and stay hungry. I want to see that."

"For the first time in the club's life, they can win the title. It is unbelievable. It is history."

After a sequence of nervy, narrow wins and a fraught 2-2 draw with West Ham United, the title swam into pin-sharp focus for Leicester this week when their breezy 4-0 victory over

Swansea City was followed by Tottenham losing ground in a 1-1 draw with West Bromwich Albion.

It means that Leicester can drop points at United and still be crowned champions, as long as Mauricio Pochettino's Tottenham do not better their result when they visit outgoing champions Chelsea a day later.

And with a home game against Everton followed by their own trip to Chelsea still to come, Leicester possess ample room for error.

While Ranieri continues to proceed with caution, the city of Leicester is now firmly on a title footing.

Fans sporting Leicester shirts and blue face-paint queued for photographs with the Premier League trophy in a city centre bank on Friday and local landmarks have been lit up blue in anticipation of the team's first major silverware since the 2000 League Cup.

It is a while since Old Trafford hosted a title party, with a solitary Community Shield the only trophy of note that the club have won since Alex Ferguson retired as manager in 2013.

But Louis van Gaal's United side are far from ideal candidates for the role of sacrificial lambs on the Leicester title altar.

Fifth-place United boast the strongest home record in the division, having lost only twice on their own patch all season, and have conceded only seven goals in their 17 home games to date.

They are currently on a run of six

successive home wins, which has helped to keep their challenge for a Champions League place alive, and with Manchester City and Arsenal guaranteed to take points off each other when they meet next weekend, Van Gaal's men are not short of incentives in their pursuit of a top-four finish.

"We have to beat them because we are still in the race for fourth position," Van Gaal said.

"We cannot allow them to be champions this weekend at Old Trafford. They shall be champions a week later. We don't spoil the party, only postpone it a little bit."

Leicester have not won at Old Trafford in seven attempts, since a 1-0 league victory in January 1998, and will again be without 22-goal top scorer Jamie Vardy, who completes a two-game ban stemming from his dismissal for diving against West Ham.

His Argentine understudy Leonardo Ulloa is expected to continue up front despite sustaining a minor back problem after scoring twice against Swansea, while Ranieri must decide whether to keep faith with Jeff Schlupp on the left wing or recall Marc Albrighton.

United, who beat Everton at Wembley last weekend to reach the FA Cup final, are close to full strength, with left-back Luke Shaw (broken leg) and midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger (knee) their only absentees.