What to WATCH

SONY ESPN
Madrid Open
Live from 4:00pm
Indian Premier League
Delhi v Pune
Live from 8:30pm
TEN 1

UEFA Europa League
Sevilla v Shakhtar Donetsk
Live from 12:00am (Friday)
TEN 1 HD
UEFA Europa League
Liverpool v Villarreal
Live from 12:00am (Friday)

TONI CALLS IT QUITS

Veteran Italian striker Luca Toni will hang up his boots after a final Serie A game with Verona against Juventus on Sunday, after announcing his retirement from football on Wednesday. The 2006 World Cup winner has scored a total of 156 Serie A goals for eight different clubs throughout a storied career that also saw him star for Bayern Munich and become the Bundesliga's top scorer in the 2007-2008 season. Last season Toni, at 38 years old, became the oldest player to win Serie A's top scorer (Capocannoniere) award -- an accolade he shared with Inter Milan striker Mauro Icardi when both finished on 22 goals. "After so many years of playing football, 22 in the professional ranks, I think the time has arrived for me to say goodbye," Toni told a press conference. –AFP

'We can lift the trophy'

AFP, *Munich*

Fernando Torres is backing Atletico Madrid to lift the Champions League trophy in Milan after Antoine Griezmann's crucial away goal fired them into the final on May 28.

Atletico reached their second Champions League final in three years, despite losing 2-1 at Bayern Munich on Tuesday in the semi-final return leg as it finished 2-2 on aggregate.

"We want to win the tournament," said the 32-year-old Torres, who won the 2012 Champions League title while at Chelsea.

"We have the chance to create history and the opponent is irrelevant."

Simeone said he was stunned by his side's ability to cope with the stress in the pressure-cooker atmosphere of Munich's Allianz Arena.

"I really have to say we played against the best team I have faced in my whole career, it was unbelievable how they played," said Simeone.

"It was great to see my team play with such intensity.

"When Bayern missed their penalty, we had a good chat in the half-time break and we coped with the pressure they put on us in the second half.

"We achieved our goal, we have seen that we are a very strong team, but we were really good defensively."

FFT offices raided

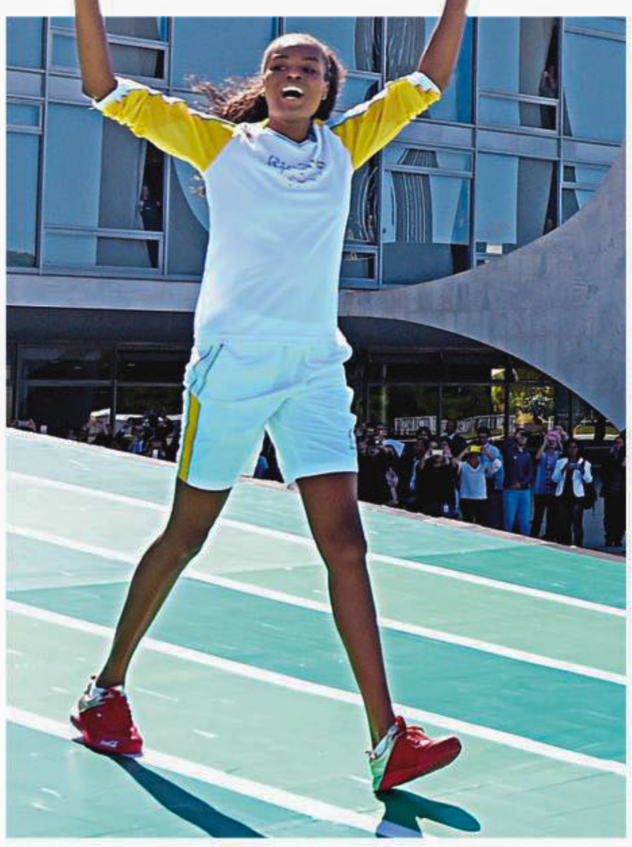
AFP, *Paris*

The French Tennis Federation's offices and the home of its president Jean Gachassin were raided Tuesday in an investigation into alleged corruption and embezzlement, sources said.

The raid was linked to the alleged illegal sale of tickets for the French Open and the "conditions of awarding of the contract for the extension of the Roland Garros stadium", France's financial prosecution service said.

The French Tennis Federation (FFT) confirmed that its offices had been raided and said that it was fully cooperating with authorities.

The raid comes after months of rumours about the existence of a ticket sale racket and long-running rows over the expansion of the Roland Garros stadium.



Brazilian volleyball player Fabiana Claudino carries the Olympic torch at Planalto Palace in Brasilia following the flame's arrival in the country on Tuesday ahead of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games in August. PHOTO: AFP

Torch starts Brazil tour

*The countdown to the 2016 Rio Olympic Games is well and truly underway with the Olympic torch having arrived in the Brazilian capital Brasilia on May 3. With 92 days remaining for the global sporting extravaganza, **Wanja Campos da Nóbrega**, Brazil's ambassador to Bangladesh has written an article, outlining the journey of the torch as well as the Olympic spirit while welcoming athletes and tourists of the world to his beautiful country. She writes:*

The Rio 2016 Olympics Torch arrived in Brazil on May 3, starting its 90-day journey through more than 300 Brazilian cities as the final countdown begins for the first Games in South America.

Since being lit at the Games' birthplace in Olympia on April 21, the torch has traveled through parts of Greece and Switzerland and arrived by plane in Brasilia, the capital city of Brazil.

In total, the torch will be carried for more than 19,000 kilometres in Brazil, passing through 26 state capitals. Each of the 10,000 bearers will carry the torch for no more than 300 meters.

The first Brazilian to carry the Rio 2016 flame was two-time Olympic volleyball champion Giovane Gavio, who represented the host nation at the flame-lighting ceremony in Olympia.

The first torchbearer in Brazil will be Fabiana Claudino, also a two-time Olympic volleyball gold medalist and a member of Brazil's current Olympic squad.

The Rio 2016 Olympic Torch is made from recycled aluminium and resin with a satin finish, it weighs only one kilogram and stands 69 centimetres tall when fully opened.

When lit, it expands into five segments with distinct colours, each representing unique features of Brazil, including its landscape, flora, fauna, people and culture.

The golden upper section represents the sun, which shines year-round in most of the country's 27 states and territories.

The intense green represents Brazil's lush vegetation, particularly the Atlantic rainforest that decorates Rio's coastline.

There are two blue sections which form waves as they open, reflecting the sky and the sea which are synonymous of the Rio's landscape.

The final segments depict the ground, especially the undulating black and white pattern of Copacabana's famous sidewalk.

The Olympic spirit - Excellence, Friendship and Respect - is represented by the Torch´s triangular shape and the Olympic rings represent the five continents of the world.

The Rio 2016 Summer Olympic Games will be held from 5-21 August, and the Paralympic Games will take place on 7-18 September.

The Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games promise to be an unforgettable event. These events are planning to be hosted on the stunning Copacabana beach and the opening and closing ceremonies to be held in the emblematic Maracanã Soccer Stadium.

The countdown to the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games has already started. Brazil welcomes the Bangladeshi and all nations' athletes and tourists to take part in this unforgettable event. The Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games are waiting for you.

Foxes' party rolls on

AFP, *Leicester*

Leicester City's heroes celebrated with lunch at an Italian restaurant on Tuesday after achieving one of the biggest upsets in sporting history by winning the English Premier League.

Thousands danced in the city's streets waving blue and white flags, while millions around the world watched in wonder as the one-time 5,000-1 underdogs sealed the title on Monday night.

After players and fans celebrated late into the night, the team including Italian manager Claudio Ranieri and top scorer Jamie Vardy dined out at the city's San Carlo restaurant Tuesday to celebrate becoming champions for the first time.

As hundreds of fans crowded the street outside, they tucked into lobster, fish and meat -- but the players skipped the champagne for now, according to the restaurant's manager.

Guardiola rues exit

AFP, *Munich*

Pep Guardiola views his three-year reign at Bayern Munich as a failure having again failed to steer the Bavarians to the Champions League final.

But the Spaniard insisted after the Bavarian giants went out to Atletico Madrid on away goals that he has "given his life" to Bayern whom he will leave at the end of the season for Manchester City.

Bayern lost the semi-final first leg 1-0 in Spain, and went out on away goals despite beating Atletico 2-1 in return match in Munich on Tuesday.

Antoine Griezmann's crucial goal for Atletico made the difference as the tie finished 2-2 on aggregate. Xabi Alonso and Robert Lewandowski netted for Bayern on a night when both teams missed penalties in Munich.

Bayern again exited the semi-finals in Europe to Spanish opponents after losing to Barcelona in 2015 and were also dumped out of the last four by Real Madrid in 2014.

Guardiola was asked if he viewed his time in Munich as a failure despite winning five trophies so far, including two German league titles. "Yes, in terms of what we have won," he replied.

"It was my goal to win the Champions League final with Bayern after doing it with Barcelona (in 2009 and 2011).

"Perhaps we have helped the players, maybe it's not enough, but it was the important thing for me.

"I've given my life for this club, I've fought and done my best, the people can say what they want, but it was really an honour to work with these players."

Bayern can become the first team to win four consecutive German league titles if they beat Ingolstadt on Saturday and then face Borussia Dortmund in the German Cup final on May 21.

But Guardiola, who will coach Manchester City next season, says the chance to win the double does not make up for the disappointment of another semi-final exit.

He hopes his replacement, Carlo Ancelotti, can now win the European title next season with Bayern.

"Of course we want to win the German Cup, we also want to win the league, but it won't change my opinion of my time here by winning the cup," said Guardiola.

"Titles are numbers, statistics are statistics.

"I wanted to reach the (Champions League) final, I haven't managed it, I hope Carlo can do it next season.

"We haven't managed it, we're sad, but we have to prepare for the league game at Ingolstadt."

Guardiola said he had no regrets in his team selection having recalled Thomas Mueller, Franck Ribery and Jerome Boateng in three changes from the side which lost the first leg.

"You are disappointed when you dont play well. When you go home feeling you have not given all. Today I dont feel like that," he said.

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Huth, Fellaini charged

AFP, *London*

Leicester City's Robert Huth and Manchester United's Marouane Fellaini were charged with violent conduct on Tuesday after clashing in Sunday's 1-1 draw at Old Trafford, the Football Association announced.

Belgian midfielder Fellaini appeared to swing his elbow into Huth's jaw after the German centre-back seemed to pull his hair in an incident missed by match referee Michael Oliver but picked up by television cameras.

After referring the matter to a panel of three former elite referees, the FA elected to charge both players.

"Marouane Fellaini and Robert Huth have both been charged for alleged acts of violent conduct which were not seen by the match officials but caught on video," the FA said in a statement on its website.

"The Manchester United midfielder and Leicester City defender were involved in an incident in the 21st minute of their game on Sunday (1 May 2016).

"Both players have until 6pm (1700 GMT) on Wednesday 4 May 2016 to reply to their charge."

Both men face three-match suspensions if found guilty.

'It will take 20 years'

AFP, *London*

Leicester City manager Claudio Ranieri believes that it will take up to 20 years for an unfancied team to emulate his side's achievement by winning the Premier League.

Leicester defied odds of 5,000-1 to prevail ahead of the division's glamour clubs, captivating fans around the world and turning their previously unheralded players into household names.

Ranieri's side are only the sixth team to have won the Premier League, as the English top tier was rebranded in 1992, and the Italian does not foresee another unlikely champion emerging anytime soon.

"Big money makes the big teams and usually the big teams win, but now we can only say 99 percent," he said, in comments published by several British newspapers on Wednesday.

"How many years after Nottingham Forest (in 1978) and Blackburn (in 1995) have another team won? Next season will be the same, for the next 10 or 20 years will be the same.

"The richest will win or who can pick up the best players to make a team. If 20 owners have the same money for the players, only one can win and three will go down. That is football."

Leicester have become particularly popular in Italy, Ranieri's homeland, and Thailand, which is where owners King Power are based, but Ranieri said he had received messages of support from around the world.

"Now the second team in Italy is Leicester," he said. "In Thailand, the first team is Leicester. I've received letters from Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil -- everywhere (saying) 'Leicester, Leicester, what a legend.'

"Everyone knows the Premier League."

The football world is slowly coming to terms with Leicester's extraordinary feat and Ranieri admitted that he, too, is still trying to fathom it.

"All the people around the world are asking for Leicester, what happened?" he said.

"But this is a moment you have to leave a little more (time) for and taste slowly like a good wine. Savour it. Maybe now is too early to think what we have done.

"Maybe one or two years could be better to understand, but now it is important to stay high in the world."

Leicester's triumph was confirmed by second-place Tottenham Hotspur's 2-2