

SONY ESPN
Indian Premier League
 Mumbai v Delhi
 Live from 4:30pm
 Punjab v Hyderabad
 Live from 8:30pm

STAR SPORTS 2
English Premiership
 Man United v Bournemouth
 Live from 8:00pm
STAR SPORTS 4
English Premiership

Arsenal v Aston Villa
 Live from 8:00pm
SONY SIX
 Serie A
 Lazio v Fiorentina
 Live from 12:45am (Monday)

SONY SIX HD
 Serie A
 Palermo v Verona
 Live from 12:45am (Monday)

Green Delta Premier Div Hockey
 S Bima v Bangladesh SC
 Time: 2:00pm

Ajax v Mariners
 Time: 4:00pm
 Venue: Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium



Barcelona players celebrate their 24th La Liga title at the end of their match against Granada at the Nuevo Los Carmenes Stadium yesterday.

Suarez seals it

AFP, Madrid



LFP

Barcelona sealed their 24th La Liga title as Luis Suarez took his tally for the season to 59 goals with a hat-trick in a 3-0 win at Granada to hold off Real Madrid's late-season surge.

Real registered their 12th consecutive La Liga win, 2-0 at Deportivo La Coruna thanks to Cristiano Ronaldo's double, but finished a point behind their bitter rivals.

Suarez's treble also sees him become the first player in seven years other than Ronaldo and Barca teammate Lionel Messi to win the Pichichi award for La Liga's top goalscorer with 40.

Barca had seemed set to cruise to the title until a run of three consecutive defeats for the first time in 13 years last month.

However, they bounced back like champions as, inspired by Suarez's 14 goals, they scored 24 times without reply in the last five games to win the title.

"We played very well over the course of the season. We were top for many weeks and the most consistent team wins the title," said Barca boss Luis Enrique.

"We have won six of the last eight titles, which shows the club has a winning mentality. We must value each title win because each one is very difficult."

Barca were put under pressure early on as Ronaldo struck after just seven minutes to

put Madrid in front in La Coruna.

Gerard Pique was twice denied by Andres Fernandez from corners, whilst the Granada goalkeeper also tipped over Messi's driven effort from the edge of the area.

Barca's nerves were settled by a brilliant team move on 22 minutes as Neymar freed Jordi Alba down the left and his low cross was turned into an empty net by Suarez at the back post.

Suarez then doubled Barca's advantage when he nipped in ahead of Fernandez to head in Dani Alves's cross at the near post.

Fernandez made excellent saves from a Messi free-kick that was arrowing towards the top corner and Neymar to keep Granada in the game after the break.

And the Andalusians had the chance to set up a nervy finish but former Barca winger Isaac Cuenca's shot was beaten away by Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

However, fittingly Suarez sealed a stunning season when he completed his hat-trick from Neymar's unselfish square pass.

"Six leagues from the last eight speaks of the cycle of success we continue to maintain and have to try to extend as long as possible," added Barca captain Andres Iniesta.

Madrid's record 12-game winning streak to end the season wasn't enough to overcome the 12-point deficit they faced to Barca back in March.

"I am very proud of the players and what we have done," said Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane.

Siddikur on top

3rd Asian Tour title beckons in Mauritius

SPORTS REPORTER



Siddikur Rahman surged to a one-stroke lead in the AfrAsia Bank Mauritius Open after a three-under-par (69) in the penultimate round yesterday. The 31-year-old Bangladeshi golfer, who started the day tied for third and four strokes behind the overnight leader, enjoyed another excellent day out on the Four Seasons Golf Club as he exchanged four birdies for a single bogey to go top of the leaderboard with an aggregate score of seven-under-par (209).

The two-time Asian Tour winner, who has endured a rather patchy season thus far with the BTI Open of the PGTI tour being the only successes of the season, will be looking to remain consistent in the fourth and final round and end a two-and-a-half month drought on the Asian Tour circuit.

Speaking to the Asiantour.com at the end of the day's play, Siddikur said his driving was better than before thanks to using a new driver and that the birdie at the 16th hole yesterday was the best of the week for him.

"I really enjoyed my round today. It was a very special day for me. I hit some great shots out there, especially on the 16 which was awesome for me. I have been driving the ball really solid this week. It's a new driver in

the bag. I am hitting it straighter and longer," Siddikur said. "The highlight today and possibly the highlight for me so far this week is on 16. I had a great drive and I hit my second shot with my three-wood from 225 yards into the wind from left to right before sinking an eight-footer for birdie. That was by far my best birdie of the week."

Having made the cut in five events out of seven and with a 35th position in the Bashundhara Open being the best of the season so far, Siddikur will certainly be happy with a top-five finish in this one-million-pound event, co-sanctioned by the Asian Tour, the European Tour and the Sunshine Tour. However, a win here will more importantly break the mental jinx for the Bangladeshi golfer as well as bring him into certainty of qualification for the Olympic Games.

"I am very inspired to play tomorrow [Sunday] now that I am in the lead. I won't put pressure on myself. I am very excited and I will try to enjoy myself tomorrow. I will try and play the same way as I did for the last few days," said the two-time Asian Tour winner.

The challenge for Siddikur on the final day is likely to come from Jeunghun Wang of Korea, who is one stroke behind the leader, and Nicolas Colsaerts of Belgium sitting four strokes behind as well as Andrew Dodt of Australia, who relinquished the top spot after enduring a horrendous back nine in the third round.

Murray strolls into final

AFP, Rome

Britain's Andy Murray qualified for his first Rome Masters final on Saturday after cruising past Frenchman Lucas Pouille 6-2, 6-1 in their rain-interrupted semi-final.

Murray, the second seed in the Italian capital, swept past Belgium's David Goffin on Friday to make the last four for only the second time after 2011.

Pouille, a lucky loser, had reached his first Masters semi-final on a walkover after quarter-final opponent Juan Monaco of Argentina pulled out on Friday before their match.

Pouille had caused a shock when he ousted Spanish ninth seed David Ferrer in the third round on Thursday.

But facing world number two Murray was a step too far for the 22-year-old, who had 25 unforced errors in a one-sided encounter that was interrupted early in the second set.

Murray could now meet world number one Novak Djokovic in Sunday's final if the Serbian star overcomes Japan's Kei Nishikori in the second semi-final later Saturday.

Djokovic beat Murray in the final of the Madrid Masters last Sunday.

Pep signs off with title

AFP, Berlin



BUNDESLIGA

Pep Guardiola signed off his three years in the Bundesliga with a 'beer shower' on Saturday as Bayern Munich lifted a fourth straight German league title after Saturday's 3-1 win over bottom-side Hanover.

Bayern's 28th win in 34 league games triggered party scenes at the Allianz Arena as the Bavarians celebrated their 26th German league title.

This was Guardiola's 20th trophy as a coach after 14 in four years with Barcelona and now six in three years in Munich before leaving to coach Manchester City next season.

It was only a matter of minutes after the final whistle before he was soaked in beer as his players emptied over-sized glasses over the Spaniard in the traditional title celebrations.

"It's cold, it stinks, but it was nice," was Guardiola's verdict following his 'beer shower' after Manuel Neuer, David Alaba and Douglas Costa all emptied their 3-litre glasses of beer over their coach.

"Of course, it's been a great day," added Guardiola.

"Normally games like this are unpleasant and boring, because the concentration is lacking a bit, but that was a great game with lots of intensity."

"Now we'll celebrate for a day before getting ready to play Borussia Dortmund next Saturday."

Guardiola's final game as Bayern coach is next Saturday's German Cup final against Borussia Dortmund in Berlin where his side could send him off with the domestic double.

The Spaniard received a standing ovation after a presentation from the 75,000 sold-out crowd at the Allianz Arena as Bayern became the first club to win the German

league four times in a row.

Poland hot-shot Robert Lewandowski finished as the Bundesliga's top scorer after claiming his 30th league goal of the season.

No other foreign striker has ever scored so many goals in a single Bundesliga season. Mario Goetze then netted twice in what could be his last Bundesliga game for Bayern.

According to reports, the German World Cup winner has been told to find a new club by Bayern's in-coming coach Carlo Ancelotti, who will replace Guardiola next season.

Lewandowski opened the scoring on seven minutes before Goetze doubled the hosts' lead on 28 minutes when he beat the Hanover defence, then chipped home to get the party started.

He claimed his second after the break after Hanover made a hash of defending a corner. Hanover, playing their last game before relegation, pulled a goal back when Poland international Artur Sobiech got in behind the Bayern defence on 66 minutes.

Bayern finish 10 points clear after second-placed Dortmund drew 2-2 at home to Cologne, with Germany winger Marco Reus equalising for the hosts.

VfB Stuttgart, the 2007 champions, were relegated, joining Hanover in the second division next season, after their 3-1 defeat at Wolfsburg.

Andre Schurrle boosted his chances of making Germany's Euro 2016 squad on Tuesday with two goals as Wolfsburg caught Stuttgart on the counter-attack.

Stuttgart forward Daniel Didavi sparked a late fightback with a 78th minute goal but his side finished 17th -- second from bottom.

Werder Bremen stay up after Senegal defender Papy Djilobodji, on loan from Chelsea, scored their dramatic 88th-minute goal to seal a 1-0 win at home to Eintracht Frankfurt.

FIFA lifts ban on Indonesia

AFP, Mexico City

FIFA on Friday lifted Indonesia's year-long ban from international competitions but confirmed the suspensions of Kuwait and Benin over government interference in the sport.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino said at a congress in Mexico City that Indonesia was reinstated after the government sent a letter notifying that it had lifted sanctions on its national football body.

Indonesia's sports ministry had frozen the national football association and the Southeast Asian nation's football competition following a row over which teams could play in the top league.

But the FIFA congress voted to confirm the suspensions of Kuwait and Benin.

"We must protect our associations from government interference," Infantino said.

FIFA suspended the Kuwait Football Association (KFA) last October after finding the government had interfered in the group's affairs, leading to three World Cup qualifying match forfeits. The International Olympic Committee also banned the country for the same reasons.



Bolt not a fan of LVG

AFP, George Town

World's fastest man Usain Bolt says he still dreams of playing for Manchester United -- as long as Louis Van Gaal is not the manager.

Bolt, who owns the 100-meter world record at 9.58 seconds and the world 200m record of 19.19, spoke Friday on the eve of his opening race of the 2016 campaign in the Cayman Invitational.

The Jamaican superstar has long been critical of Van Gaal's stewardship of Manchester United, saying he has not used players in the proper positions and that has led to disappointing performances by the English Premier League club.

"I supported Manchester United for years," Bolt said. "I would still love to play for them, but if Louis Van Gaal is the coach, not so much," Bolt said.

Manchester United stands fifth in the Premier League with 18 wins and 9 drawn from 37 starts entering Sunday's season-

ending matches, two points behind fourth-place Manchester City.

Bolt, who predicted he will open his season by running the 100 in 9.91, will face only two sub-10 sprinters at the Truman Bodden Sports Complex -- Jamaica's Kemar Bailey-Cole and Kemar Hyman of Cayman Islands.

Last week, Bolt told TV2 Norway of his thoughts about Manchester United's season.

"It has been up and down. I wouldn't say I'm happy. I think a lot of players don't want to come to the team under Van Gaal. I think players don't want to play for him," Bolt said.

"He plays a different style of football which Manchester United doesn't really play. We are more of an attacking team and he likes to pass the ball. I'm not saying he's not a good coach but, personally, I just think he's not right for Manchester United."



Bayern Munich players celebrate with the Bundesliga trophy at the end of their match against Hannover in Munich yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP