

What to WATCH

SONY ESPN & SONY SIX
Indian Premier League
 Pune v Punjab
 Live from 4:30pm
 Delhi v Bangalore
 Live from 8:30pm

TEN 1HD & TEN 3
 West Indies v Pakistan
 3rd Test, Day-5
 Live from 7:30pm
TEN 2
 La Liga
 Las Palmas v Barcelona
 Live from 12:00am (Monday)

TEN 1
 Serie A
 Inter Milan v Sassuolo
 Live from 4:30pm
 Torino v Napoli
 Live from 7:00pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT HD1
 English Premiership
 Crystal Palace v Hull City
 Live from 5:00pm
 West Ham v Liverpool
 Live from 7:15pm
 Tottenham v Manchester United
 Live from 9:30pm

Title in the bag, Conte sets sights on double

REUTERS, London

Premier League

Antonio Conte spent the immediate aftermath of Chelsea's title-winning 1-0 victory at West Bromwich Albion on Friday being bounced skywards by his players but once back on terra firma his mind was already focusing on the next target -- the double.

In claiming the Premier League title at the first time of asking Conte matched the feat of Chelsea predecessors Jose Mourinho in 2004-05 and Carlo Ancelotti in 2009-10.

Ancelotti went on to win the FA Cup as well and one suspects the insatiable Conte will feel a sense of anti-climax if his side do not beat Arsenal at Wembley Stadium on May 27.

"My players show me a great attitude to try to do something great this season," Conte said after the title triumph.

"We were not lucky, we did a great job. It's important to rest. It is a great season but now we can win the FA Cup."

The Italian, winner of three Serie A titles as Juventus manager, has transformed Chelsea from flops to champions in one season with largely the same group of players.

Yet there were moments back in the autumn when things looked in danger of unravelling as defeats by Liverpool and Arsenal threatened to undermine a bright start to the season.

Conte said the drubbing by Arsenal, a game in which he switched to a three-at-the-back system midway through when his side trailed 3-0, was a turning point.

"That decision changed our season. We had to change and find a new suit for our team," he said.

"In my mind there was this



Chelsea players celebrate after becoming the English Premier League champions for the sixth time at the end of their match against West Bromwich Albion at the Hawthorns on Friday. PHOTO: AFP

He did it again on Friday and once more his touch turned to gold with Belgian misfit Michy Batshuayi, a 76th-minute replacement for Pedro, scoring the goal six minutes later that meant Chelsea's title party could start in earnest.

"Michy paid me a lot with this change!" Conte said.

"It was great. It wasn't easy for me to arrive in England and try different habits, a different language and inherit players after a bad season."

TRIVIA

- N'Golo Kante becomes the second player to win back-to-back Premier League titles with different clubs.
- Antonio Conte has won the league title in four successive seasons as a club coach. The previous three came with Juventus.
- Italian managers have won the Premier league in the past two seasons -- Claudio Ranieri with Leicester and Conte. Alongside that, the managers of German, Russian and Italian champions are also Italian.
- Conte becomes the fourth manager to lift the PL trophy in his first season in England (Jose Mourinho 04-05, Carlo Ancelotti 09-10, Manuel Pellegrini 13-14).
- Antonio Conte becomes the fourth Italian manager to win the English top-flight title after Ancelotti, Roberto Mancini and Ranieri.
- Chelsea have won their sixth top-flight title and fifth in the Premier League era. Only Man Utd (13) have won more Premier League era titles than the Blues.
- Over the last 14 seasons Zlatan Ibrahimovic has only failed to win the league twice -- both times when he came up against Antonio Conte.
- Cesc Fabregas spent eight seasons at Arsenal without winning the Premier League. He has won two in three seasons at Chelsea.



Man City let off the hook

AFP, Manchester

Premier League

Riyad Mahrez's disallowed penalty allowed Manchester City to take a significant step towards Champions League qualification with a 2-1 victory over Leicester City on Saturday.

All of the goals came in the first half at the Etihad Stadium, with David Silva's opener for the home side allowed to stand despite a strong suggestion of offside.

Gabriel Jesus's penalty increased their lead, before Shinji Okazaki pulled one back with a spectacular volley.

The oddest moment of the match, though, came in a scrappy second half, when Mahrez slipped as he converted a penalty that would have made it 2-2 and touched the ball twice.

According to the laws of the game, a penalty taker cannot touch the ball again until another player has done so, leaving referee Robert Madley with no choice but to rule out the goal.

As a result, City climbed above Liverpool to third place, edging them closer to securing a top-four berth.

City manager Pep Guardiola's decision to leave fit-again top scorer Sergio Aguero on the bench raised eyebrows, but his unchanged line-up overcame Leicester's early resistance to score twice before half-time. Initially, it looked as if it might be a slog for Guardiola's team.

Fernandinho headed just wide from an early corner, but Jamie Vardy's pace on the break tested Nicolas Otamendi at the other end.

Proud to pass torch to compatriot: Ranieri

AGENCIES, London

Premier League

Former Leicester boss Claudio Ranieri says he is proud to pass the Premier League torch to a fellow countryman as Chelsea's Antonio Conte became the fourth Italian to win the title.

Revived by Conte after finishing 10th last term in defence of the title won in 2014-15, the Blues clinched the trophy with a 1-0 win at West Brom on Friday night thanks to a late Michy Batshuayi goal.

Conte has now followed in the footsteps of Roberto Mancini, Carlo Ancelotti, and Ranieri, who was sacked in February after Leicester slid down the table following their incredible success last season.

"I am proud to pass the torch of the Premier League to Antonio Conte: from one Italian to another, a great recognition of our school of management," Ranieri told La Gazzetta dello Sport.

"After the fairytale of my Leicester, this splendid Chelsea adventure. It was not easy to get it at the first attempt, but Conte passed

NATIONAL HOCKEY DEB, Navy in semis

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Education Board (DEB) and Bangladesh Navy moved into the semi-finals of the 31st ATN Bangla National Hockey Championship yesterday.

DEB beat Bangladesh Police 5-1 in the first quarterfinal at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium, thanks to a brace from Debashish and a goal each from Promod Dewan, Shawon Sheikh and Porimol Mardi.

In the other quarterfinal, Navy outplayed Bangladesh Air Force by the same margin. National team's Krishno Kumar scored twice while Rasel Mahmud Jimmy, Deen Islam and Roman Sarkar scored one apiece for Navy.

In the two quarterfinals today, Mymensingh will take on Dhaka while BKSP will play against Bangladesh Army.

INDEPENDENCE DAY TENNIS

Hyderabad into playoffs

PTI, Kanpur

IPL

Defending champions Sunrisers Hyderabad cruised into the Indian Premier League play-offs with an easy eight-wicket victory over Gujarat Lions riding on a thoroughly professional team performance.

After pacer Mohammed Siraz and Afghan leg-spinner Rashid Khan played a key role in dismissing Lions for a paltry 154 in 19.2 overs despite a century opening stand, skipper David Warner (69, 52 balls) and Vijay Shankar (63, 44 balls) anchored the chase to perfection with 11 balls to spare.

Sunrisers thus finished their league campaign with 17 points from 14 games.

Gujarat Lions' forgettable season after a questionable team composition for the better part of the tournament saw them finish the engagements at second last place with 8 points.

It was a 133-run third wicket stand between Warner and Tamil Nadu one-day captain Shankar that sealed the issue after Shikhar Dhawan (18) and Moises Henriques (4) were dismissed cheaply.

They never showed any urgency yet got their boundaries without ever letting the scoreboard pressure bother them. Warner hit nine boundaries while Shankar also smashed nine fours, matching his skipper stroke for stroke.

In fact, such was the ease that Sunrisers batsmen didn't hit a single six but the 23 boundaries were enough for their successful run chase.

Pradeep Sangwan was easy pickings for Shankar as the Sunrisers batsman hit him for some impressive pull shots whenever he pitched it short.

Leg spinner Ankit Soni (0/31 in 2.1 overs) -- one of the questionable selections this season -- was hammered whenever he pitched it short. Soni, who couldn't even make it to Mumbai U-23 squad, looked out of place throughout the tournament.

Fittingly, Warner disdainfully smashed him over his head to finish off the match.

In the day's other match Mumbai Indians cemented their place at the top of the table by beating Kolkata Knight Riders by 9 runs. Defeat saw Kolkata miss out on the number two spot and they remain in third position.

SCORES IN BRIEF

MUMBAI: 173 for 5 (Rayudu 63, Tiwary 52; Boult 2-30)

KOLKATA: 164 for 8 (Pandey 33, Grandhomme 29; Pandya 2-22, Kumar 2-31)

Result: Mumbai won by 9 runs.

Player of the Match: AT Rayudu

GUJARAT: 154 all out in 19.2 overs (Smith 54, Kishan 61; Siraj 4-32, 3-34)

HYDERABAD: 158 for 2 in 18.1 overs (Warner 69 not out, Shankar 63 not out; Kumar 2-22)

Result: Hyderabad won by 8 wickets.

Player of the Match: Mohammed Siraj.

Tribune win Media Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Tribune clinched the title of the Marcel-BSJA Media Cup football tournament after defeating Channel I in a tiebreaker at the Shaheed Captain M. Mansur Ali Handball Stadium yesterday.

The match rolled into tiebreakers after regulation time ended in a 1-1 tie.

Dhaka Tribune's Fazole Rabbi, who scored in the final, was named the player-of-the-match, while Channel I's Abdullah Al Naufel was recognised as the player-of-the-tournament.

Pogba's father passes away

AGENCIES, Paris

Manchester United star Paul Pogba's father passed away on Friday at the age of 79.

Fassou Antoine Pogba, father to Saint-Etienne's Florentin Pogba, Sparta Rotterdam's Mathias Pogba and the Manchester United star, was battling illness before his death.

The family confirmed the news to Le Parisien on Friday evening.

In late March, the world's most expensive player posed for a photo with his father on a hospital bed as he presented his dad with a birthday cake.

Fassou was seen in the stands at Euro 2016, supporting Paul.

Rafa solves Novak puzzle

AFP, Madrid

Rafael Nadal snapped a seven-match losing streak against Novak Djokovic in commanding fashion as he romped into the final of the Madrid Masters 6-2, 6-4 on Saturday.

The Spaniard looks in ominous form with just over two weeks to go till the start of the French Open as he stretched his perfect record on clay this season to 14-0 with a dominant display.

Nadal will look to seal his fifth title in Madrid in Sunday's final against either Austrian Dominic Thiem or Uruguay's Pablo Cuevas.

"Rafa was obviously a better player today," said Djokovic.

"He deserved to win. He controlled the game from beginning to the end.

An open era record 50th meeting between Nadal and Djokovic served to highlight the Serb's dramatic dip in form since they last met in Rome almost exactly a year ago.

Djokovic's straight sets win in that encounter meant he had won his last 15 sets stretching back to the 2014 French Open final against the 14-time Grand Slam champion.

However, that run was emphatically ended as Nadal, willed on by a fervent home support including Cristiano Ronaldo in the VIP boxes, made the perfect start by breaking the Djokovic serve to love.

Indeed Djokovic could only muster four points in the opening four games as Nadal raced into a 4-0 lead.

He did salvage some pride by seeing off more pressure on his serve to



Rafael Nadal of Spain celebrates his victory over Serbian Novak Djokovic during their Madrid Open semifinal yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

at least hold twice and force Nadal to serve out to take the first set in 40 minutes.

"It wasn't a very high quality of tennis from my side. I made a lot of unforced errors," added Djokovic.

"His quality was very high. He managed to do whatever he wanted really, especially in the first set."

Djokovic was playing his first tournament in Madrid since parting company with his long-term coach Marian Vajda.

And on this evidence he needs new guidance as quickly as possible if he is to defend his French Open title as two more forehand errors gifted Nadal another break at the start of the second set.

Djokovic showed his resistance of old to break back when Nadal netted after being stretched out on the backhand side to level at 2-2.

But his fight back was temporary as he handed the break straight back as he fired wide with a backhand after a brilliant Nadal passing shot had set up a fresh break point opportunity.

Again Djokovic's level improved as the set wore on to make Nadal serve it out.

Nadal was forced to save a break point with a drop shot Djokovic couldn't get back over the net and when he then fired long with a volley, Nadal sank to his knees in celebration.

Victory also ensured Nadal closes the gap on Djokovic's lead in their head-to-head record to 26-24.

Delwar wins men's title

SPORTS REPORTER

Delwar Hossain of Narshingdi Tennis Club beat Arif Hossain of American Club in straight sets to clinch the men's singles title of the Swiss Paper Independence Day Tennis Tournament, which concluded at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday.

Delwar won the final rubber 6-4, 6-0 to complete a comprehensive victory.

Afrana Islam Prity of BKSP had, on the previous day, beaten Popy Akter of the same institution in three sets (5-7, 6-0, 6-3) to clinch the women's singles title.

The prize distribution ceremony was held after the men's final where deputy sports minister Biren Sikder MP distributed prizes among the winners of all 10 events.

Mirallas signs new deal

AFP, London

Belgian winger Kevin Mirallas has signed a new three-year contract with Everton, the Premier League club announced on Friday.

The 29-year-old Belgium international signed from Greek side Olympiakos in August 2012 and has made 171 appearances, scoring 39 goals.

"This contract is very important for me and my family."

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