

GTV & MAASTRANGA
ODI Tri-series
Ireland v West Indies
Live from 3:45pm

SONY SIX
England v Pakistan
Second ODI
Live from 4:00pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
Bundesliga
Leipzig v Bayern Munich
Live from 7:30pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
Bundesliga
Dortmund v Dusseldorf
Live from 7:30pm

TEN 2
Serie A
Cagliari v Lazio
Live from 10:00pm
Fiorentina v AC Milan
Live from 12:30am (Sunday)

Klopp hopeful of Salah return

AFP, Liverpool



Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp hopes to have Mohamed Salah, Andy Robertson and Jordan Henderson fit for Sunday's Premier League finale against Wolves as the Reds aim to end a 29-year wait to win the title.

Klopp's men trail Manchester City by one point at the top of the table and need the champions' 13-game winning run to come to an end at Brighton if they are to win the league.

Liverpool are in high spirits after a stunning 4-0 win over Barcelona on Tuesday booked their place in a second consecutive Champions League final.

Klopp confirmed Roberto Firmino remains out with a groin tear as Wolves visit Anfield. Klopp said he hopes the Brazilian will be ready for the Champions League final against Tottenham on June 1.

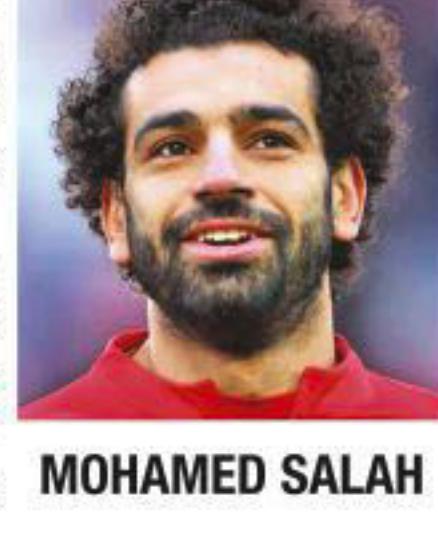
Salah missed the Barcelona game after suffering concussion in a 3-2 win at Newcastle last weekend.

"Mo looked good around the celebrations after the game, to be honest," said Klopp.

"The day before yesterday and yesterday he was running outside and will be part of training today."

Robertson had to be replaced at half-time against Barca and Henderson required a pain-killing injection at the break after taking a kick on the knee late in the first half.

"The famous three words of this week in the dressing room: 'It's only pain,'" added Klopp.



MOHAMED SALAH



Arsenal's hattrick hero Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (L) celebrates with teammates at the end of their Europa League semifinal second leg encounter against Valencia at the Mestalla on Thursday. Arsenal won the match 4-2 for a 7-3 aggregate win.

PHOTO: AFP

SHORT CORNER

Djokovic in semis as Cilic withdraws

Novak Djokovic walked into the semifinals of the Madrid Masters on Friday when ninth-seeded Marin Cilic withdrew before their match with stomach problems, officials said.

Cilic tweeted his regrets.

"I am sorry to announce that I must withdraw from today's match. I have had a terrible night dealing with a case of food poisoning," he wrote.

"I am extremely disappointed to have my time in Madrid end in this way. Thank you for the support."

In the semifinal on Saturday, top-seeded Djokovic will face either Roger Federer or 2018 finalist Dominic Thiem who meet later on Friday in their quarterfinal.

Djokovic won the Madrid title in 2016 and 2011. —AFP

Suarez to miss Copa del Rey final

Luis Suarez will be out for four to six weeks after undergoing surgery on a knee injury, Barcelona announced on Friday.



Suarez will miss the Copa del Rey final against Valencia on May 25 and also faces a fight to be fit for the Copa America in Brazil next month.

Uruguay's first game is against Ecuador on June 16, just over five weeks after Suarez had the operation on Thursday.

"Suarez was subjected last night to an arthroscopy on the right knee due to an internal meniscal injury," read a club statement released on Friday. "His approximate time out will be between four and six weeks."

Suarez has a better chance of playing in

Uruguay's second and third group games, against Japan on June 20, and defending champions Chile on June 24. —AFP

Sterling preparing for biggest game of his life

Raheem Sterling says he is preparing for the biggest game of his life after receiving the Football Writers' Association player of the year award.

A stunning season with Manchester City and England has been backed up by impressive work off the pitch in the fight against racism.

Sterling's form has earned him the Professional Footballers' Association young player of the year award and the writers' trophy, which he collected in London on Thursday.

Manchester City head to their final game of the season at Brighton on Sunday a point clear of Liverpool, who host Wolves, at the top of the Premier League.

In his acceptance speech at the FWA dinner he said: "Right now, being here and getting voted the writers' player of the year is amazing and on Sunday I have the biggest game of my life to go and win. It's very special." —AFP

Chennai to battle

Mumbai for title

Chennai Super Kings booked a final showdown with fellow three-time Indian Premier League champions Mumbai Indians by winning the second qualifier by six wickets against Delhi Capitals at Vishakhapatnam yesterday.

Choosing to field first, Mahendra Singh Dhoni's side restricted Delhi to 147 for nine, with Rishabh Pant top-scoring for the Capitals with a 25-ball 38. Chennai's bowlers were brilliant in the middle overs, arresting Delhi's momentum with tight bowling that produced wickets from release shots. Chennai veteran Dwayne Bravo shone brightest with figures of two for 19 from four overs.

In chase, the majority of the work was done by 81-run opening stand between Faf du Plessis and Shane Watson, who each struck 50. Fittingly, it was four leg byes when Bravo was batting that won Chennai the match with an over to spare.

—STAR SPORT DESK

England rule European stage

AFP, Paris



The Premier League has marked its return to prominence on the European stage as stunning Champions League comebacks from Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur to make the final was followed by Arsenal and Chelsea booking their place in the Europa League final.

For the first time ever all four finalists will come from the same country, prompting concerns on the continent over the Premier League's wealth and status thanks to huge television rights deals.

Only twice before in European football -- the 1972 UEFA Cup and 2008 Champions League -- had two English teams contest a final.

But now two will take place in the space of four days as Arsenal and Chelsea square off in a London derby, 4,500 km (2,800 miles) from home, in Baku on May 29 before Liverpool and Tottenham clash in Madrid on June 1.

Liverpool, last year's runners-up to Real Madrid, ended Spain's five-year grip on the continent's top club prize as they shocked Lionel Messi and Barcelona with a stunning 4-0 win at Anfield to overturn a 3-0 first leg deficit.

Tottenham drew inspiration from the Reds to

also come back from a 3-0 aggregate deficit as Ajax led 2-0 on the night in Amsterdam before Lucas Moura's second half hattrick sent Spurs into their first Champions League final.

"We enjoyed a lot watching the tie against Barcelona. They are heroes too and, of course, it is going to be an amazing final between two English teams that for sure we are going to enjoy," said Spurs boss Mauricio Pochettino.

Despite record broadcast deals bringing in billions from around the globe, English clubs have been out-thought and out-played at Champions League level over the past decade.

However, the Premier League now have the world's best managers to go with the best players.

Jurgen Klopp is in his fourth season at Liverpool and Pochettino near the end of season five at Spurs.

Arsenal's Unai Emery is a Europa League specialist having won the competition three times before at Sevilla and despite being questioned during his first season at Stamford Bridge. Chelsea's Maurizio Sarri is still coveted for jobs in Serie A should he wish to return to Italy.

"An English lesson," wrote Italian sports paper Gazzetta dello Sport. "The money flowing and the best coaches: that's how the Premier

League takes it all."

"Here the level is very high. To get to the final in the League Cup we beat Liverpool and Tottenham who are in the Champions League final, and in the final we played against the best team in Europe in my opinion, Man City," said Sarri.

"At the moment the Premier League is the best championship in Europe and as a consequence, in the world."

Chelsea needed a penalty shoot-out to beat Eintracht Frankfurt in their Europa League semifinal, while a Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang hattrick took the Gunners to a 4-2 win over Valencia for a 7-3 aggregate.

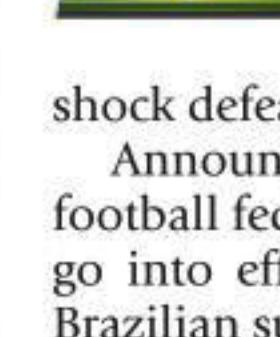
Valencia's defeat ended Spanish participation in both competitions. La Liga sides had won nine of the past 10 combined Champions League and Europa League titles.

"La Liga had devoured the European elite," wrote Madrid sports daily Marca. "However the Premier League has rebelled and the final at the Metropolitano will speak English. The same will be the case in Baku where Chelsea and Arsenal will fight for the Europa League."

Barcelona, Juventus and Bayern Munich have dominated at home in recent years, but no club has retained the Premier League title since 2009.

Neymar gets 3-match ban

AFP, Paris



Paris Saint-Germain striker Neymar was banned for three matches Friday with a further two-match ban suspended for lashing out at a fan following the club's shock defeat in the French Cup final.

Announcing the ban, the French football federation said the sanction would go into effect from May 13 allowing the Brazilian superstar to appear for the French champions against Angers in Ligue 1 on Saturday.

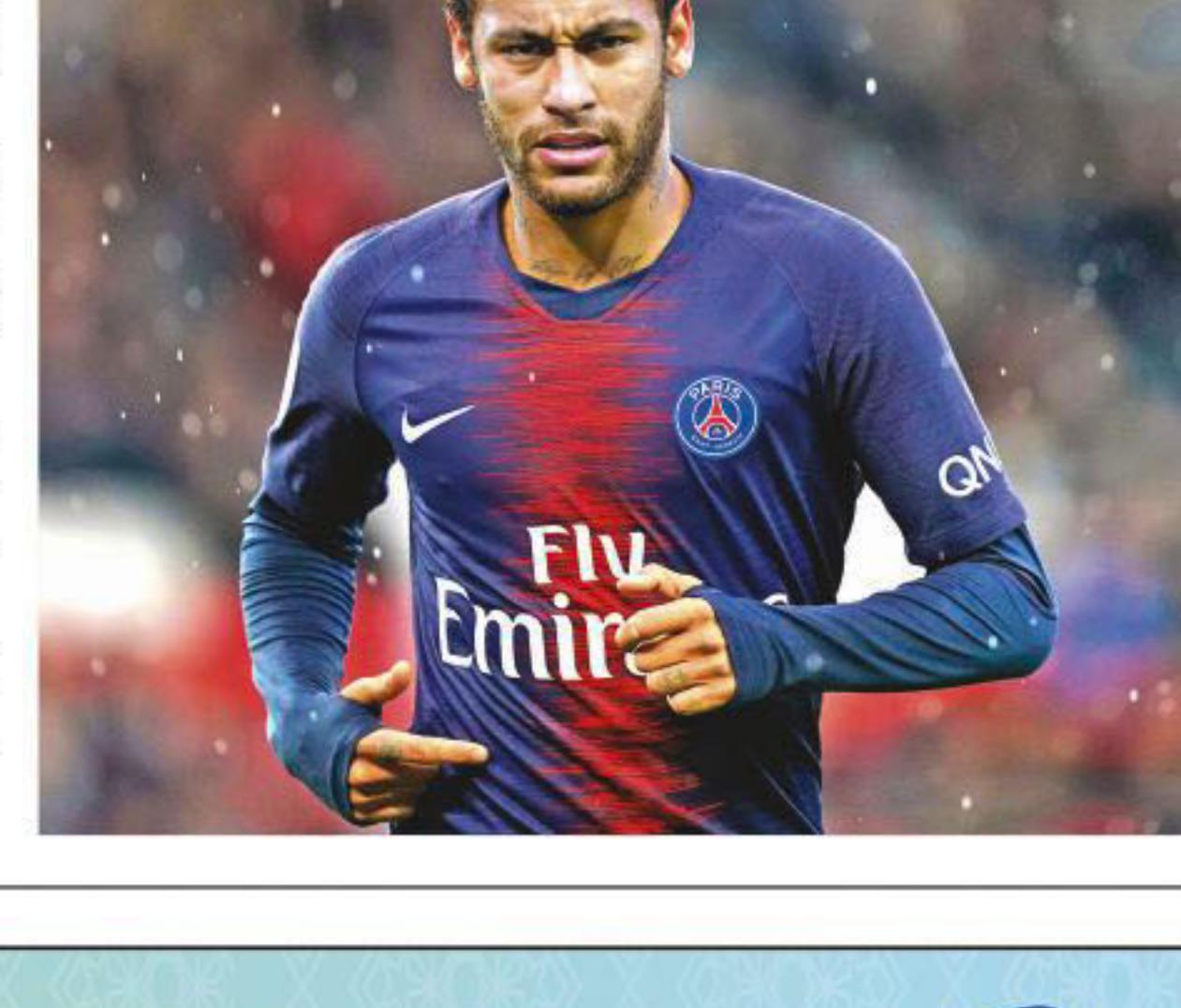
But he will miss the last two games of the domestic season and the French

Champions Trophy pitting PSG against their cup final conquerors winners Rennes in Shenzhen, China in August.

Neymar swung at an abusive opposing fan while climbing the steps to receive his French Cup final losers' medal following the shock defeat to Rennes on penalties last month.

On a nightmare night for PSG, Rennes came back from 2-0 down to 2-2 at the end of regulation time, forcing extra time and penalties.

Meanwhile, Neymar has appealed against another ban, this time a three-match Champions League ban imposed by European football's governing body UEFA.



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