

# What to WATCH

**STAR SPORTS 1**  
India v South Africa  
First Test, Day Five  
Live from 10:00am  
**STAR SPORTS SELECT 1**  
English Premier League

Man City v Wolves  
Live from 7:00pm  
Newcastle v Man United  
Live from 9:30pm  
**STAR SPORTS SELECT 2**  
English Premier League

Arsenal v Bournemouth  
Live from 7:00pm  
**TEN 1**  
Serie A  
Bologna v Lazio  
Live from 7:00pm

**TEN 2**  
Serie A  
Fiorentina v Udinese  
Live from 4:30pm  
AS Roma v Cagliari  
Live from 7:00pm

Torino v Napoli  
Live from 10:00pm  
Inter Milan v Juventus  
Live from 12:45am (Monday)



Liverpool's James Milner (C) celebrates after scoring a last minute penalty to help his side secure a desperate 2-1 win over Leicester City in an English Premier League encounter at Anfield yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Milner rescues L'pool from Foxes

AFP, London



James Milner scored a stoppage-time winner as Liverpool moved eight points clear at the top of the Premier League with a thrilling 2-1 victory over Leicester, while Mauricio Pochettino's problems mounted after Tottenham's 3-0 loss at Brighton on Saturday.

Liverpool won for the 17th consecutive league game thanks to Milner's dramatic contribution to a thrilling clash at Anfield.

Jurgen Klopp's side ruined Leicester manager Brendan Rodgers' first return to Liverpool since being replaced by the German in 2015.

By extending their remarkable winning streak, Liverpool have piled pressure on second-placed Manchester City ahead of their home game against Wolves on Sunday.

"It was a super game. We upped the tempo. The football we played was so important," Klopp said.

"Without luck we cannot win the amount of games we have won, but over the 90 minutes we deserved it. James Milner held his nerve and that was superb."

Liverpool took the lead in the 40th minute when Milner's long ball was misjudged by Leicester defender Jonny

Evans and Sadio Mane clinically slotted in his eighth goal of the season.

Mane has scored exactly 50 goals in 100 Premier League games for Liverpool, making the Senegal winger the 10th player to reach that milestone for the Reds.

James Maddison snatched third-placed Leicester's equaliser in the 80th minute when he collected Ayoze Perez's pass and drove his shot under Adrian's weak attempted save.

But five minutes into stoppage time, Marc Albrighton took the ball away from his own goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel and then clipped Mane, with Milner converting the penalty after a VAR review.

At the Amex Stadium, Tottenham's crisis deepened as they turned in a desperate performance, while Hugo Lloris suffered a serious arm injury after another howler.

Tottenham keeper Lloris dropped the ball on the goal line and hurt himself in the process in only the third minute, allowing Neal Maupay to open the scoring.

It only got worse after that as Aaron Connolly's double gave the impressive Seagulls a deserved three points.

It ranked as one of the worst performances of Pochettino's reign and, following on from Tuesday's 7-2 Champions League humiliation to Bayern Munich, the dark clouds are mounting over the club.

## Osaka sets up final clash with Barty

REUTERS, Doha



Australia's world number one Ash Barty beat eighth seed Kiki Bertens of the Netherlands 6-3 3-6 7-6(7) in Beijing yesterday to set up a China Open final with Japan's Naomi Osaka, who won her respective semifinal match against Caroline Wozniacki in straight sets.

Both Barty and Bertens saved a match point in a thrilling third set tiebreak before the Australian top seed wrapped up the encounter in two hours 20 minutes.

It was Barty's 19th win in a three-

setter this year and her third in a row after beating Zheng Saisai in the last 16 and seventh seed Petra Kvitova in the quarter-finals, with both matches lasting more than two hours.

"I enjoy those moments. I enjoy when it's tight, when your back's against the wall," Barty said after her fifth career win over Bertens. "That really brings out the fun for me."

In a see-saw match, both players dropped serve three times with little to separate the two until the tiebreak in the decider.

Bertens first saved a match point with a long rally to tie the score at 6-6 in the tiebreak before Barty fought back to 7-7. She then forced the Dutchwoman into an error and won

the match on her next match point to advance.

Fourth seed Osaka beat defending champion Caroline Wozniacki in straight sets in the other semifinal, coming away with a 6-4 6-2 victory in one hour and 24 minutes.

The reigning Australian Open champion smashed 30 winners and saved all seven break points she faced, which included six in the second set.

She also broke Wozniacki three times for her first win over the Danish 29-year-old in three attempts.

Sunday's final will be the fourth meeting between Barty and Osaka, with the Australian leading 2-1 in head-to-head encounters.



Naomi Osaka (L) beat defending champion Caroline Wozniacki 6-4, 6-2 in their China open semifinal encounter in Beijing yesterday. Osaka will now face World No.1 Ashleigh Barty in the final today.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Novak thru' to final

AFP, Tokyo

World number one Novak Djokovic yesterday cruised into the Japan Open final, thrashing David Goffin 6-3, 6-4.

In the final, Djokovic will face Australian qualifier John Millman, who squeezed past American opponent Reilly Opelka 6-3, 7-6 (7/4).

The Serbian star dominated his semi-final, starting strong by winning the first three games, picking up an early break while fending off fierce attempts by the Belgian to fight back.

Djokovic again picked up an early break in the second set, and survived all the four break points through the match.

Djokovic won points on 87 percent of his successful first serves and never committed a double fault in the roughly 90-minute contest.

Goffin fought bravely, but Djokovic kept up the pressure with deep shots and quick footwork to fend off any threat.

"I trained with ninjas before this tournament," Djokovic quipped, when asked about his apparent omnipresence on the court, during a post-match interview in front of cheering Japanese fans.

"This has been a wonderful week for me on and off the court," he said. "Hopefully I will be able to crown this week with a trophy tomorrow."

In the final, he will face the 80th-ranked Millman, who is making his first career appearance in the final of an ATP 500 event.



NSU forward Ibrahim Mridul (R) scored a hatrick as his side thrashed State Univeristy 8-1 in the Faraaz Inter-University Gold Cup football tournament in Kamalapur yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## BRAC, NSU advance

SPORTS REPORTER

BRAC University won a five-goal thriller against ULAB while North South University (NSU) thrashed State University 8-1 as both the teams confirmed their quarterfinal places in the ongoing United Group Faraaz Inter-University Gold Cup football tournament at the Bishreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Fahim Bakhtiar scored a brace while Raiyan Mahbub netted the other for BRAC in their 3-2 win over ULAB. Rakib and Sayan Ahmed scored one apiece for ULAB.

In the other game, NSU beat State University won 8-1, courtesy of a brilliant hatrick from Ibrahim Mridul.

## Platini's ban to end next week

AFP, Lausanne

Former UEFA president Michel Platini is finally free to return to football next week when his four-year ban for ethics violations ends, although he remains linked to a corruption investigation in his home country relating to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

The former France captain and national coach went on to become one of the game's most prominent administrators when he was elected president of European football's governing body in 2007.

A triple Ballon d'Or winner, Platini was expected to succeed Sepp Blatter as FIFA president in 2016 but fell spectacularly from grace a few months earlier.

He was banned from football for receiving a two-million Swiss francs

payment from the head of the world game, with Blatter banned for eight years, later reduced to six, for his part.

The payment, made in 2011 when Blatter was seeking re-election as president, was related to work carried out by Platini between 1999 and 2002.

The pair were found guilty of "abusive execution" of their powers and a conflict of interests.

Platini, now 64, has been battling to clear his name ever since, although his ban was reduced to four years from an initial six, leaving him free to work in football again when the suspension expires on Monday.

Gianni Infantino, once Platini's right-hand man at UEFA, became FIFA president in February 2016. The Swiss-Italian was re-elected in June this year.

## Olympic champ disqualified for false start

AFP, Doha

Olympic champion Brianna McNeal of the United States was disqualified from the heats of the 100m hurdles in the World Athletics Championships yesterday.

McNeal exited the track at the Khalifa Stadium tearfully after she was shown a red flag for a fractional false start.

McNeal, 28, protested the decision but was shown a replay on a monitor at trackside which confirmed her disqualification.

It was a disappointing exit for McNeal, who had been hoping to add a world crown to the 2016 Olympic crown she won in Rio de Janeiro.

## Real Madrid win six-goal thriller

AFP, Madrid



Eden Hazard ended the wait for his first Real Madrid goal but his team had to resist a spirited second-half comeback from Granada to seal a thrilling 4-2 victory in La Liga on Saturday.

Karim Benzema put Real ahead in the second minute at the Santiago Bernabeu before Hazard opened his account with a delightful lifted finish towards the end of the first half.

Luka Modric's bending long-range effort on the hour looked to have confirmed the win but Granada scored twice in quick succession through Darwin Machis and Domingos Duarte, the first from the penalty spot, to set up a tense last 12 minutes.

James Rodriguez, on as a substitute, ended the rally by scoring his first goal since May 2017 in injury-time to wrap up an unexpectedly dramatic contest between the league's top two.

Granada stay second, for now, after suffering only their second defeat of the season.

Madrid had been in complete control, their fluency and tempo contributing to arguably the best hour of football they have played this season.

Yet a hectic 20-minute period in the second half took some of the gloss off a performance that at least gets Zinedine Zidane's side back to winning ways following their 2-2 draw at home to Club Brugge in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Hazard had become a growing concern after five underwhelming matches, the patience granted to him after his injury in pre-season beginning to run out after his 100 million euros (\$109 million) move from Chelsea.

The Belgian still looks some way short of his best but his goal here was timely, not just for him but also Real, who will go into international break top of the table, despite their own bumpy start to the season.



Dalilah Muhammad poses for a photo next to the results board after winning gold in the 400m hurdle event with a record time of 52.16 seconds in the World Athletics Championships in Doha yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS