

What to WATCH

SONY SIX & TEN 3
INDIA VS ENGLAND
Second Test (Day 4)
Live from 4:00 pm
PTV SPORTS
PAKISTAN VS WEST INDIES
First Test (Day 4)

Live from 9:00 pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1 & STAR SPORTS 3
ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE
Newcastle vs West Ham
Live from 7:00 pm
Tottenham vs Manchester City

Live from 9:30 pm
MTV LA LIGA
Celta Vigo vs Atletico Madrid
Live from 9:30 pm
Barcelona vs Real Sociedad
Live from 12:00 am (Monday)
Sevilla vs Rayo Vallecano

Live from 2:15 am (Monday)
T SPORTS THE HUNDRED
WOMEN'S
Trent vs Manchester
Live from 8:30 pm
MEN'S Trent vs Manchester
Live from 12:00 am (Monday)

Man Utd kick off season with a blitzkrieg

REUTERS, MANCHESTER



Bruno Fernandes scored his first hat-trick in English football in front of a raucous Old Trafford as Manchester United thrashed Leeds United 5-1 to get their Premier League season off to a flying start on Saturday.

French midfielder Paul Pogba also starred with four assists - one more than he managed in the whole of last season in the league - to help United run riot in front of their first full crowd in 17 months.

Fernandes got the goalscoring underway on the half hour mark, before a Luke Ayling thunderbolt out of nowhere levelled things up three minutes into the second half.

It was only a short reprieve for Leeds, however, as Man United livewire Mason Greenwood fired the hosts back in front before Fernandes added a quickfire third to put Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side in command. Fernandes completed his treble

with another fine finish on the hour mark, before Brazilian Fred got in on the act to complete the rout and cap a memorable afternoon for the hosts, who laid down an early marker in the Premier League title race.

"My objective every season is being better than the last," Fernandes told BT Sport. "Every performance I do, I want to do better and better. I've

started with three goals but it's a long way to go. "We know the quality of the players who have come in, but the team was already very good. We showed it last season. We didn't win trophies, but the team was growing up. Our focus has to be game by game. We'll achieve something with this mentality."

Pogba missed a glorious chance to open the scoring, slotting wide with the goal at his mercy, and the Yorkshire side then grew into the match with Mateusz Klich forcing a fine save from home goalkeeper David de Gea before striker Rodrigo headed wide.

The hosts began to look nervy with the pressure of an expectant crowd, anticipating their first sustained league title challenge since Sir Alex Ferguson's final season in 2012-13, seemingly weighing upon them.

But their top goalscorer from last season, Fernandes, came up with the goods once more to settle the nerves, collecting a perfect pass from Pogba before slotting under onrushing Leeds keeper Illan Meslier.

HIGHLIGHTS

The home fans were on their feet even before a ball was kicked to welcome Raphael Varane as the French centre-back was paraded on the pitch following his arrival from Real Madrid for a reported 40 million (\$55 million). Varane was not registered in time to make his debut, while United's other big money signing of the summer Jadon Sancho started on the bench.



Manchester United's Bruno Fernandes celebrates with Fred, the Brazilian who scored the fifth goal, after completing his hat-trick in his side's 5-1 win over Leeds yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Chelsea coast past Palace

REUTERS, LONDON

Chelsea eased to a 3-0 home win over a toothless Crystal Palace on Saturday as the European champions made a strong statement of intent in their opening game of the Premier League season.

Spanish left back Marcos Alonso fizzed a free kick into the top corner to put Chelsea in charge in the 27th minute while U.S. forward Christian Pulisic followed up on the rebound to double their lead five minutes before halftime.

Chelsea's homegrown defender Trevoh Chalobah then completed a dream Premier League debut in the second half when he smashed a distance shot in off the post to score his first goal for the club he joined as an eight-year-old.

The defender, who has spent the last three seasons on loan in England and France, dropped to his knees after scoring to further delight the home fans in the biggest Stamford Bridge crowd since the coronavirus pandemic struck in March 2020, with more than 38,000 turning out.

The Chelsea faithful gloated of their status as Champions League holders throughout the game while



Chelsea's Trevoh Chalobah celebrates with Mason Mount after scoring his side's third goal against Crystal Palace yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Kai Havertz, scorer of the only goal in their victory in the final over Manchester City, was given a hero's reception when he came off the bench.

Palace were out-classed in their first league game under coach Patrick Vieira and needed over an hour to have their first attempt on target, a tame header by Christian Benteke which goalkeeper Edouard Mendy caught comfortably.

'Australia can push really hard to win the title'

REUTERS, Melbourne

Australia lack depth in their squad but will be a title contender at this year's Twenty20 World Cup in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) when several frontline players return to the side, former captain Ricky Ponting said.

Batting mainstays Steve Smith and David Warner as well as pace spearhead Pat Cummins are among several first-choice players who skipped the recent tours of West Indies and Bangladesh.

Australia's Twenty20 squad suffered identical 4-1 defeats on both tours, the low point being bundled out for 62, their lowest score in this format, by Bangladesh.

"It just goes to show the depth around Australian cricket right now is not where it needs to be. There's work to do there," Ponting said on SEN radio.

"The T20 World Cup is not far away (but) with everyone fit and healthy in the UAE, I still think the Australian team can push really hard to win that title that's eluded us."

Skipper Aaron Finch, who underwent a knee surgery on Thursday, is expected to lead the side in the tournament scheduled in October-November.

Most of the Australians also play in the Indian Premier League (IPL), which has now been rescheduled to take place in the UAE and this will serve as ideal preparation for the returning players, Ponting said.

"Those guys that haven't played for three or four months now, they need to get back into the groove of playing high-quality cricket against the best players in the world," said Ponting, who coaches Delhi Capitals in the IPL.



England captain Joe Root is ecstatic after scoring his 22nd Test hundred on the third day of the second Test against India at Lord's yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Red-hot Root continues his supremacy

AGENCIES



England captain Joe Root smashed his second hundred of the series to steer his team to 314-5 at tea on day three of the second Test against India on Saturday at Lord's.

Root became the second English batsman after Alastair Cook to score 9000 Test runs en route to his 132 not out. His 22nd Test hundred was studded with 12 fours. It was a significant turnaround from 23-2 in reply to India's first innings total of 364 when Root walked out to bat on Friday.

Having added 85 runs with Rory Burns to arrest the slide, Root forged a century partnership with Jonny Bairstow to further consolidate England's position.

They batted throughout the morning session, much to the frustration of the Indian bowlers who tried all they could but just could not separate them.

While Root, who scored 64 and 109 in the drawn series opener in Nottingham,

maintained his red-hot form, Bairstow regained his mojo with a fighting 57, his first test fifty in 20 innings.

Mohammed Siraj had Bairstow caught in the slip after cramping him for room as the batsman tried to pull a short-pitched delivery from round the wicket.

Root, who has scored more than 27% of England's runs in 2021, brought up his hundred with a tight single off Jasprit Bumrah.

The 30-year-old took off his helmet and soaked in the applause from the crowd before being embraced by Jos Buttler.

Ishant Sharma dismissed Buttler for 23, nipping one back to hit the top of the off-stump from a perfect length.

Moeen Ali was batting on 20 at the break with England 50 runs behind but fancying a first innings lead.

Former England cricketer Michael Vaughan called Joe Root as the best role model. He wrote on twitter: "The best role model we have had ... @root66 is a delight ... hope all kids are trying to emulate the way he is & goes about his business..#ENGvIND"



KINGS START TRAINING IN MALE

Bashundhara Kings players trained at the Henveiru Stadium in Male yesterday ahead of their AFC Cup campaign. All the members of the squad had tested negative in the first round of Covid tests on Saturday after reaching the Maldivian capital on the previous day. The Bangladesh Premier League champions will start their Group D campaign against Maziya S&RC of Maldives on August 18 before taking on the winners of the playoff between Bengaluru FC of India and Club Eagles of Maldives on August 21. The Bangladesh champions will wrap up their group campaign on August 24 against ATK Mohun Bagan, with the top team of the four-team group moving to the inter-zone playoff semifinals.

PHOTO: FACEBOOK



জাতীয় শোক দিবস

১৫ আগস্ট
জাতীয় শোক দিবসে
হাজার বছরের শ্রেষ্ঠ বাঙ্গালী
জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান
ও তাঁর পরিবারের সদস্যদের প্রতি
বিনম্র শ্রদ্ধা

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