



Matches on TV
(Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Newcastle v Liverpool 15:45
beIN SPORTS 1 HD
beIN SPORTS 11 HD
Chelsea v QPR 18:00
beIN SPORTS 1 HD
beIN SPORTS 11 HD

ASIAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

AIHilal v Sydney Wanderers 20:30
beIN SPORTS 8 HD

SPANISH LEAGUE

Granada v Real Madrid 18:00
beIN SPORTS 14 HD
beIN SPORTS 2 HD
Atletico de Madrid v Cordoba 20:00
beIN SPORTS 2 HD
Barcelona v Celta de Vigo 22:00
beIN SPORTS 2 HD
beIN SPORTS 14 HD
Real Sociedad v Malaga 0:00
beIN SPORTS 14 HD
BeIN SPORTS 6 HD

ITALIAN LEAGUE

Napoli v Roma 17:00
beIN SPORTS 3 HD
Empoli v Juventus 20:00
beIN SPORTS 14 HD
beIN SPORTS 3 HD

GERMAN LEAGUE

Hamburger v Bayer 04 17:30
beIN SPORTS 4 HD
Bayern v Borussia Dortmund 20:30
beIN SPORTS 4 HD
beIN SPORTS 11 HD

FRENCH LEAGUE

Lorient v Paris Saint-Germain 19:00
beIN SPORTS 5 HD
Lille v Saint Etienne 22:00
beIN SPORTS 5 HD
Montpellier v Evian Thonon 22:00
beIN SPORTS 10 HD
Nice v Olympique Lyonnais 22:00

UTD SCENT CITY BLOOD IN MANCHESTER DERBY

LONDON: Scarred by a run of three games without victory, misfiring Premier League champions Manchester City will attempt to reassert their authority when they host derby rivals Manchester United this weekend. Having blown a two-goal lead to draw at CSKA Moscow in the Champions League, City fell six points behind league leaders Chelsea after losing at West Ham United and were then knocked out of the League Cup by Newcastle United. Wednesday's 2-0 loss at home to Newcastle came despite City manager Manuel Pellegrini fielding a strong team, and goalkeeper Joe Hart has called on his team-mates to raise their game against United tomorrow.

"Not everyone's exactly at their peak at the moment, but we just need a few players, myself included, to step up," the England goalkeeper, who was rested against Newcastle, told Sky Sports News. "It will come back. It's just one of those difficult patches that we've gone through many a time. Last season, we had less points and were in a worse position (at this stage of the season), and we won the league. "We've got to look to things like that, but the main thing is to get it right tomorrow."

David Silva is a doubt for City after going off against Newcastle with a knee injury, but Yaya Toure is expected to feature despite being substituted in the second half as a precaution over a groin complaint. Wayne Rooney, the leading scorer in Manchester derbies with 11 goals, has completed a three-match suspension and is set to return to the United attack despite reports he has sustained a foot injury. A 94th-minute equalizer by Robin van Persie earned Louis van Gaal's United a morale-boosting 1-1 draw at home to Chelsea last weekend. United lost 4-1 and 3-0 to City last season, but victory at the Etihad would take them to within a point of the champions.

Sakho doubtful

After edging fourth-tier Shrewsbury Town 2-1 in the League Cup in mid-week, Chelsea will look to return to winning ways in the league when they host west London rivals Queens Park Rangers today. Chelsea have taken 23 points from a possible 27 to date this season, but with QPR having recorded a timely 2-0 win at home to Aston Villa on Monday, centre-back Gary Cahill says his side cannot afford to be complacent. "We have a chance to get the right result and hopefully sit back and enjoy tomorrow (the Manchester derby), but it's never easy. You have to prepare right, rest up and make sure we're ready," said the England defender. "Last season we

English Premier League Table

English Premier League table ahead of the weekend's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Chelsea	9	7	2	0	24	9	23
Southampton	9	6	1	2	20	5	19
Man City	9	5	2	2	19	10	17
West Ham	9	5	1	3	17	12	16
Arsenal	9	3	5	1	15	11	14
Swansea	9	4	2	3	13	10	14
Liverpool	9	4	2	3	13	12	14
Man Utd	9	3	4	2	16	13	13
Everton	9	3	3	3	19	17	12
Hull	9	2	5	2	13	13	11
Tottenham	9	3	2	4	11	13	11
Stoke	9	3	2	4	8	10	11
West Brom	9	2	4	3	12	13	10
Newcastle	9	2	4	3	10	15	10
Aston Villa	9	3	1	5	4	14	10
Crystal Palace	9	2	3	4	13	16	9
Leicester	9	2	3	4	11	15	9
Sunderland	9	1	5	3	8	17	8
QPR	9	2	1	6	8	18	7
Burnley	9	0	4	5	5	16	4

struggled at times against teams people thought we were going to beat. It's never as easy as that."

Second-place Southampton, four points below Chelsea, visit Hull City today, having won 3-2 at Stoke City in the League Cup on Wednesday. Southampton have belied expectations after losing a glut of key players during the close season and manager Ronald Koeman says he is not concerned about fatigue ahead of the trip to the KC Stadium.

"If you're a real football player, you'd like to play every three days," the Dutchman told a press conference on Thursday. "We need this schedule to develop ourselves." Fourth-place West Ham could be without leading scorer Diafra Sakho for their trip to Stoke today, after he injured his shoulder in last weekend's 2-1 win over City. Today's early game sees Newcastle host Liverpool, who remain without the injured Daniel Sturridge.—AFP

CAHILL VOWS TO HOLD OFF ZOUMA IN SELECTION BATTLE

LONDON: Gary Cahill admits he feels under pressure from Kurt Zouma in his battle to remain first choice Chelsea centre-back. England defender Cahill will resume his partnership with Chelsea skipper John Terry when the Premier League leaders face west London rivals QPR at Stamford Bridge today. But having started alongside the 20-year-old Zouma in the narrow midweek League Cup victory over minnows Shrewsbury, Cahill acknowledges the young France under-21 international is pressing for more regular action.

"He's a big guy; he's strong, powerful, good in the air and a fantastic talent. He's a great guy off the pitch and every time he's been asked to play he's done really well," Cahill said. "I've always felt pushed since I've been at the club. You never feel like the shirt is yours, there's always somebody either in front of you or right behind you and that's the way it is throughout your career. "Kurt's a fantastic player and a great option for the manager to have, and obviously Branislav Ivanovic can play centre-back as well." Jose Mourinho's side stuttered against Shrewsbury before eventually dispatching the fourth tier team and the manager made it clear he was underwhelmed by the performance of some of the fringe players. Andre Schurrle and

Mohamed Salah both had a difficult time and are unlikely to make the starting line-up against a QPR side boosted by Monday's victory over Aston Villa that moved them off the foot of the Premier League table. Chelsea remain top but missed out on the chance to move six points clear when Robin van Persie's late equalizer denied Mourinho's team victory over Manchester United at Old Trafford last weekend.

Take nothing for granted

On paper, this should be the ideal game for the Blues to return to winning ways in the league, although Cahill insists they can take nothing for granted. "I thought we played well against Manchester United but obviously there was disappointment right at the end," he said. "Today it's another home game to look forward to, but QPR are coming off the back of a good result. I watched them on Monday and they were great so yet again it's another tough game in the Premier League. "We have to prepare right, rest up after the Shrewsbury game and make sure we're ready."

Chelsea striker Diego Costa is back in full training and should return to the starting line-up with Didier Drogba returning to the bench, while Cesar Azpilicueta is again suspended.—AFP

WENGER ADDS WILSHERE TO ARSENAL'S INJURY LIST

LONDON: Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger expects England midfielder Jack Wilshere to miss the Gunners' Premier League match at home to Burnley today. Wilshere is struggling with a knee injury that could also rule him out of Arsenal's Champions League match against Anderlecht next week. But veteran French manager Wenger had better news yesterday regarding compatriot Olivier Giroud, whom he said was "miles ahead of schedule" in his recovery.

Arsenal and France striker Giroud fractured his foot against Everton in August but he is on course to rejoin training next month despite having initially been ruled out until the New Year. "Olivier is miles ahead of schedule. He's doing very well," Wenger said yesterday. "He's three weeks ahead of schedule and he will join normal training after the international break. Of course it's a big boost."

Arsenal have seen Mathieu Debuchy, Abou Diaby, Yaya Sanogo, Laurent Koscielny, David Ospina, Mesut Ozil, and Giroud to injury this season and now Wilshere has joined that list. However, Wenger-whose side are currently

fifth in the table, nine points behind leaders Chelsea, expects to have Wilshere back on duty against Swansea a week on Sunday. "There is a slight problem with Wilshere. I don't think he'll be available against Burnley," Wenger said. "It's very, very short term. He got a kick on his knee. I don't know if Anderlecht on Tuesday will be too early or not. He's not training at the moment. Certainly Swansea, yes."

Walcott not ready

Theo Walcott has been out since January with a major knee problem, but Wenger said Burnley was too soon for a first-team recall despite the England winger having recently played for Arsenal's reserves. "Theo is not ready yet. He's been out for too long to start the game. If I can give him some competition I'm happy to do it," Wenger said. "He's eager to play, but that is always the period when the patience of the player is tested. "They feel ready and want to play. Usually they realise only much later they are not completely ready. "I know Theo very well.—AFP