

**Live** Matches on TV  
(Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE	
Norwich City V Sunderland	14:45 beIN SPORTS
Everton V Southampton	17:00 beIN SPORTS
Man United V Aston Villa	17:00 beIN SPORTS 2 HD
Newcastle V Swansea	17:00 beIN SPORTS
West Brom V Watford	17:00 beIN SPORTS
Chelsea V Man City	19:30 beIN SPORTS 2 HD
SPANISH LEAGUE	
Getafe V Real Madrid	17:00 beIN SPORTS 3 HD
Las Palmas V Sporting Gijon	19:15 beIN SPORTS
SD Eibar V Real Sociedad	21:30 beIN SPORTS
Celta de Vigo V Real Betis	23:05
ITALIAN LEAGUE	
Bologna V Torino	16:00 beIN SPORTS
Carpi V Genoa CFC	19:00 beIN SPORTS
Internazionale V Napoli	21:45 beIN SPORTS 4 HD
GERMAN BUNDESLIGA	
Werder Bremen V Wolfsburg	16:30 beIN SPORTS
Bayer 04 V Eintracht	16:30 beIN SPORTS
Augsburg V Stuttgart	16:30 beIN SPORTS
Hoffenheim V Hertha Berlin	16:30 beIN SPORTS
Darmstadt V Ingolstadt 04	16:30 beIN SPORTS
Bayern Munich V Schalke	19:30 beIN SPORTS 5 HD
FRENCH LEAGUE	
PSG V Caen	18:00 beIN SPORTS 6 HD
Lorient V Toulouse	21:00 beIN SPORTS
Girondins V Angers	21:00 beIN SPORTS
Troyes AC V Stade de Reims	21:00 beIN SPORTS
GFC Ajaccio V Lille OSC	21:00 beIN SPORTS
Bastia V Saint Etienne	21:00

# MAN CITY SLICKERS AIMING TO BUILD ON EURO MOMENTUM

**LONDON:** When Manchester City go to Stamford Bridge today on a high as newly-qualified Champions League semi-finalists, opponents Chelsea may well be thinking 'what might have been?'. While Chelsea went out of the Champions League in the last 16 to Paris Saint-Germain to confirm a trophy-less season for the defending Premier League champions, City knocked out the French club in midweek to reach the last four for the first time in their history. And key to City's success was Kevin De Bruyne—a player Chelsea sold in 2014 after barely giving the Belgium international a chance in London.

De Bruyne was signed by Chelsea from Genk in January 2012 but played just three Premier League games under former manager Jose Mourinho before being sold to Wolfsburg two years later following loan spells back at Genk and with Werder Bremen. After starring in the Bundesliga, where he was player of the year in 2014-15, City paid a club record £54 million (\$76 million, 67 million euros) to sign De Bruyne last year and, with the possible exception of Sergio Aguero, he has been their outstanding player so far this season.

Despite spending more than two months out with a knee injury, the 24-year-old has scored 15 goals and created 13 others, with his stunning finish against PSG on Tuesday giving City a 1-0 second-leg win to secure their place in Friday's draw for the Champions League last four. "He is a very good player and a very good person," said City team-mate Fernandinho. "When he was out injured, we missed him a lot because he has a lot of good qualities. "Every game he creates chances to score, as well as scoring goals, and he's very important for us. "I'm very happy for him. He scored a historic goal for the

club. I think he deserved it as he's a great person as well." Had De Bruyne avoided injury, City would certainly have put up a better challenge for the Premier League title, rather than finding themselves in fourth place and 15 points behind leaders Leicester City.

### A NEW ERA

Manuel Pellegrini's side therefore need to stay focused on domestic duties before they resume their pursuit of European glory at the end of April. "We are waiting for the draw but now we have to play three games for the Premier League," Pellegrini said. "For me, it is very important to try and qualify for the Champions League for next year." City captain Vincent Kompany is close to a comeback from injury, but winger Raheem Sterling remains out with a groin problem.

For Chelsea, the remaining weeks of the campaign are little more than a countdown to the start of a new era under current Italy coach Antonio Conte next season. Last weekend's defeat at Swansea City ended their 14-game unbeaten league record under Guus Hiddink and the interim manager has made it clear he intends to use the final weeks to give more opportunities to the club's youngsters. They, like everybody else in a squad that has under-achieved so badly this season, must now attempt to catch the eye of Conte, who will take charge after Euro 2016.

And full-back Cesar Azpilicueta insists the pressure to deliver success will be even greater next season after falling short this term. "We have Premier League games to win and our motivation is to finish as high up the table as possible because for Chelsea it's not enough to be fight-

## English Premier League table

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

Leicester	33	21	9	3	57	31	72
Tottenham	33	18	11	4	60	25	65
Arsenal	32	17	8	7	55	33	59
Man City	32	17	6	9	58	33	57
Man Utd	32	15	8	9	39	30	53
West Ham	32	13	13	6	52	40	52
Southampton	33	14	8	11	44	34	50
Liverpool	31	13	9	9	50	42	48
Stoke	33	13	8	12	37	43	47
Chelsea	32	11	11	10	49	42	44
Bournemouth	33	11	8	14	40	55	41
Everton	32	9	13	10	52	43	40
Swansea	33	10	10	13	34	42	40
West Brom	32	10	10	12	31	39	40
Watford	32	10	8	14	31	37	38
Crystal Palace	33	10	8	15	35	42	38
Norwich	33	8	7	18	35	57	31
Sunderland	32	6	9	17	36	57	27
Newcastle	32	6	7	19	32	61	25
Aston Villa	33	3	7	23	23	64	16

Note: Top four teams qualify for Champions League; teams finishing 5th-6th qualify for Europa League; bottom three teams relegated to Championship.

ing in mid-table," Azpilicueta said. "We haven't won any trophies this season but we want to win as many games as we can and prepare to lift trophies again next season. "I've been here four seasons. In two sea-

sons, I won trophies and in two I didn't win. So hopefully we will get back to winning trophies again next season. "I think we will improve and for Chelsea the only target is to win." — AFP

# LEICESTER PROMISE NO LET-UP IN TITLE PURSUIT

**LONDON:** Leicester's Danny Drinkwater has insisted there will be no change in the club's approach as they eye a remarkable Premier League title success. The Midlands club were 5,000/1 outsiders to be crowned champions of England before the season started. Yet they now lead England's top flight by seven points from second-placed Tottenham Hotspur and head into this weekend's match at home to West Ham needing just three wins from their final five league games this season to complete a stunning title success.

Foxes manager Claudio Ranieri has fostered a strong bond within the squad at the King Power Stadium, but Drinkwater—one of several Leicester players to have gained England

recognition on the back of the club's performances this season—said there was no great mystery to the team's unity. "There isn't a secret to the dressing-room camaraderie, it's just that we're a bunch of lads that get along," said the 26-year-old former Manchester United trainee.

"We're all willing to work hard for each other on the pitch and it shows by how well we graft out results," he added, with Jamie Vardy's late double sealing a 2-0 victory against Sunderland last time out. "We're guaranteed a top-four place and that's massive," the midfielder explained. "A lot of the lads probably didn't realize how close we were to it and it's just another step closer to our ultimate dream.

"People talk about three wins

needed now, but one thing I was taught as a youngster at Manchester United was to keep focused on the job. "We're taking it game by game and I can't see that changing anytime soon." Three Leicester players—Vardy, Riyad Mahrez and N'Golo Kante—made up 50 percent of the six-strong shortlist announced this week for the Professional Footballers' Association Players' Player of the Year award. The trio are all set to be in action against a West Ham side who will be looking to revive their top four ambitions following the disappointment of an FA Cup quarter-final replay defeat by Manchester United at Upton Park in midweek. Tottenham, should Leicester win, could find themselves 10 points adrift by the time they kick-off away to Stoke on Monday. — AFP

## UNITED RETURN TO TOP-FOUR CHASE AFTER CUP PROGRESS

**MANCHESTER:** Fresh from keeping alive their hopes of winning a first trophy since 2013, Manchester United return to their bid to secure a place in next season's Champions League when they host Aston Villa today. United will play Everton in the FA Cup semi-finals at Wembley on April 23 thanks to their 2-1 win at West Ham United in their quarter-final replay in midweek as they look to win the competition for the first time since 2004. As 11-time winners, United will regard that gap as too long and lifting the Cup would bring some comfort to under-pressure manager Louis van Gaal following a difficult second year at Old Trafford.

But playing in the Champions League has to be United's highest priority for the rest of the season and, with a four-point gap to Manchester City in the Premier League's fourth qualification place, they have to keep winning. Van Gaal's side may well have to take maximum points from their final six games to have any chance of catching City, or third-placed Arsenal, and they certainly can't afford to drop any points when bottom club Villa visit Old Trafford. With their relegation set to be confirmed, Villa won't fancy facing United striker Marcus Rashford, whose superb winning goal at West Ham underlined the potential of a player who has been the success story of United's under-achieving season. "It's incredible. It's so good to see young lads come in, do well and take their chance," said United midfielder Michael Carrick of the 18-year-old forward who has scored six goals since making his first-team debut at the end of February. "Not in his wildest dreams could he have predicted the last two or three months that he's had. "He's still got his feet on his ground though. He doesn't change and he works hard and listens. "He's willing to learn and I think he's got a great chance of staying at the top for a long time. "I don't think it's a flash in the pan, in and out. I think he's here to stay."

### Low spirits

United captain Wayne Rooney could start after returning from two months out with a knee injury as a substitute against the Hammers on Wednesday. Villa fans will head for Old Trafford in low spirits, knowing their club's inevitable relegation will be confirmed before kick-off if Norwich City avoid defeat to Sunderland in the day's early fixture. A Sunderland victory at Carrow Road would prolong the agony for Villa, whose fate would still be rubber-stamped today unless they then win at Old Trafford—a feat they have achieved just once in 31 visits. — AFP