



ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

- Tottenham v Arsenal** 15:45
beIN SPORTS 2 HD
- Newcastle v Bournemouth** 18:00
beIN SPORTS
- Chelsea v Stoke** 18:00
beIN SPORTS 9 HD
- Swansea v Norwich** 18:00
beIN SPORTS
- Southampton v Sunderland** 18:00
beIN SPORTS
- Everton v West Ham** 18:00
beIN SPORTS
- Man City v Aston Villa** 18:00
beIN SPORTS 2 HD
- Watford v Leicester** 20:30
beIN SPORTS 2 HD

SPANISH LEAGUE

- Real Madrid v Celta de Vigo** 18:00
beIN SPORTS 3 HD
- Villarreal v Las Palmas** 20:15
beIN SPORTS
- Getafe CF v Sevilla FC** 22:30
beIN SPORTS

TOMORROW

- Deportivo v Malaga** 0:05
beIN SPORTS

ITALIAN LEAGUE

- Hellas Verona v Sampdoria** 20:00
beIN SPORTS
- Napoli v Chievo Verona** 22:45
beIN SPORTS 4 HD

GERMAN LEAGUE

- Werder Bremen v Hannover** 17:30
beIN SPORTS
- Wolfsburg v Monchengladbach** 17:30
beIN SPORTS 5 HD
- Augsburg v Bayer 04** 17:30
beIN SPORTS 4 HD
- E Frankfurt v Ingolstadt 04** 17:30
beIN SPORTS
- Stuttgart v Hoffenheim** 17:30
beIN SPORTS
- Koln v Schalke 04** 17:30
beIN SPORTS
- Dortmund v Bayern Munich** 20:30
beIN SPORTS 5 HD

FRENCH LEAGUE

- PSG v Montpellier** 19:00
beIN SPORTS 6 HD
- Angers v Saint Etienne** 22:00
beIN SPORTS
- Girondins v Ajaccio** 22:00
beIN SPORTS
- Lille OSC v Stade de Reims** 22:00
beIN SPORTS
- OGC Nice v ES Troyes** 22:00
beIN SPORTS
- Bastia v Lorient** 22:00
beIN SPORTS

CHELSEA CAN SECURE TOP 4 FINISH: MATIC

LONDON: Nemanja Matic claims Chelsea can still secure a top four finish if they can secure a fourth successive Premier League win when Stoke visit Stamford Bridge today. The Blues' win at Norwich this week moved last season's champions into the top half of the table for the first time since August and within eight points of fourth placed Manchester City. While their progress may look modest when measured in league places, Guus Hiddink's team are undeniably on the rise and remain unbeaten in domestic competition since December.

The manner of recent performances has drawn comparisons to some of last season's better displays and with the second leg of the Champions League last 16 tie with Paris Saint Germain to come next week, they have hit form at exactly the right time. Chelsea interim manager Hiddink is remaining guarded about his side's Premier League ambitions. Blues midfielder Matic, though, believes that with the side now lying 10th, they can close the gap to the Champions League places if they can win all of their remaining 10 league games.

"It is very important to win games. We are a big team and have to keep doing this if we are to get closer to the first four," Matic said. "I know it's very difficult to catch them but we will give our best to win every game from now on. "I know that is very hard, maybe impossible, but in football anything can happen." Chelsea will undoubtedly have one eye on the meeting with PSG when they will attempt to overturn a one-goal first leg deficit.

Big games

But centre-back Gary Cahill insists the impressive form of striker Diego Costa since Hiddink took charge means the club is more than capable of competing on all fronts. "It is perfect timing to have Costa back to his very best with the big games we have coming up. He's scoring goals and long may that continue," Cahill said. "I'm sure for a striker if you start scoring goals, you think you will score every time you get on the pitch. He is in that mind-set now.

"People aren't talking about him not scoring for three-four games or whatever any more like earlier in the season. His record is great at the minute, so he feels confident. "Ultimately for us if we have Diego in form and scoring goals, it's great for the team." Stoke arrive at Stamford Bridge in confident mood, having moved above Chelsea and up to seventh by beating Newcastle 1-0 on Wednesday. That was a third successive victory for Mark Hughes' side, who are only five points outside the Champions League positions. Hughes spent three years at Chelsea as a player, and actually featured the last time they lost at home to Stoke, in a 1995 League Cup tie.

The Potters have not won a league match at Stamford Bridge since 1974, and their manager is keen to put that right. "I had a great time as a player there when they were a mid-table team. You could see things were starting to roll in the right direction as I left," Hughes said. "Going back there, we haven't had the best of times. We're looking to change that. It will be a good match up. "We've gone there in recent seasons and really haven't tested them enough." Stoke

are stretched defensively as Phil Bardsley faces several weeks out with a calf injury, Geoff Cameron has an ankle problem and Ryan Shawcross is in Germany seeing a specialist about his back injury.— AFP

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	28	16	9	3	51	31	57
Tottenham	28	15	9	4	49	22	54
Arsenal	28	15	6	7	44	28	51
Man City	27	14	5	8	48	31	47
Man Utd	28	13	8	7	37	26	47
West Ham	28	12	10	6	42	31	46
Stoke	28	12	6	10	30	33	42
Liverpool	27	11	8	8	41	36	41
Southampton	28	11	7	10	35	28	40
Chelsea	28	10	9	9	42	38	39
Everton	27	9	11	7	49	36	38
Watford	28	10	7	11	29	29	37
West Brom	28	9	9	10	29	36	36
Crystal Palace	28	9	6	13	31	37	33
Bournemouth	28	8	8	12	32	44	32
Swansea	28	7	9	12	27	37	30
Sunderland	28	6	6	16	34	53	24
Norwich	28	6	6	16	31	53	24
Newcastle	27	6	6	15	27	50	24
Aston Villa	28	3	7	18	22	51	16

POCHETTINO TAUNTS ARSENAL AHEAD OF DERBY SHOWDOWN

LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur manager Mauricio Pochettino has warned Arsene Wenger that Arsenal's wealth of experience will count for nothing in the pressure-packed Premier League title race. Pochettino's side host the Gunners today in one of the most eagerly anticipated showdowns between these bitter north London rivals for decades. With second-placed Tottenham currently three points behind shock leaders Leicester City and three ahead of third-placed Arsenal, the latest battle for north London supremacy will have a significant influence on the outcome of both teams' title bids.

After finishing below Arsenal for the last 20 years, Tottenham are finally in position to turn the tables as they look to win the English title for the first time since 1961 and such is the clamour to see the fixture that tickets are changing hands for up to £800 (\$1,135; 1,035 euros) - nearly 10 times the most expensive face-value price. Arsenal, who last lifted the Premier League trophy in 2004, are the only side in the top three to have gone through the highs and lows of a title race in recent seasons.

But Pochettino, whose side saw their six-match winning run ended in a 1-0 loss at West Ham United on Wednesday, dismissed the theory that experience could be decisive as he pointed to Arsenal's successive defeats against Manchester United and Swansea City this week. "It's difficult to know. If they have players that have the advantage to win the title, what happened against Manchester United or Swansea?," Pochettino said. "Different clubs sometimes sign a player or a manager with a big background or big trophies behind them. Sometimes they have success and sometimes not. "You never know. Football is not an ordinary business. Anything can happen."

Arsenal appear more vulnerable than ever and the absence of injured duo Petr Cech and Laurent Koscielny will strengthen Tottenham's

belief that the balance of power in north London is about to change. Alexis Sanchez hardly helped Arsenal's predicament when the Gunners winger publicly questioned his team-mates' hunger for success following the dismal Swansea defeat. "I think we can win the Premier League with the players we have. That said, we lack a certain hunger," Sanchez said. "We need to step out onto the pitch as if we're already 1-0 up. We lack self-belief, that we can actually be champions."

Contrasting emotions

Following a week of contrasting emotions, Leicester head for Watford today back in the driving seat in the title race. The disappointment of a 2-2 draw at home to West Bromwich Albion on Tuesday was followed by the welcome bonus of seeing title rivals Tottenham, Arsenal and Manchester City all lose 24 hours later. The upshot was that the Foxes travel to Vicarage Road with only 10 games standing between them and the completion of arguably the most unlikely title triumph in English football history.

"It is a going to be a really tough place to go," Leicester winger Marc Albrighton said of facing Watford. "They have got some great players, some firepower up top, but we will be confident as ever. "The season we have had is fantastic. We are not going to let a point at home dampen our confidence." Manuel Pellegrini has warned his City stars there can be no repeat of their woeful defeat at Liverpool if they are to revive their slender title hopes against Aston Villa.

City's 3-0 loss was their third league defeat in a row and even though the League Cup winners have a game in a hand, bridging a 10-point gap between themselves and Leicester will be a monumental task "Of course, we cannot play in the way we did. Not only did we concede three goals but we didn't shoot once," Pellegrini said.—AFP

PELLEGRINI WARNS HIS MISFIRING CITY STARS

MANCHESTER: Manuel Pellegrini has warned his Manchester City stars there can be no repeat of their woeful defeat at Liverpool if they are to revive their slender Premier League title hopes against Aston Villa. City's 3-0 loss at Anfield was their third league defeat in a row and even though they have a game in a hand, bridging a 10-point gap between themselves and leaders Leicester City over the final two months of the season will be a monumental task.

The worrying statistic for City is that, despite looking good in cup competitions, they have won just one of four league matches since boss Pellegrini announced on February 1 that he would be leaving at the end of the season to make way for Pep Guardiola. A home game against bottom club Villa today ought to provide the opportunity to begin collecting league points again and Pellegrini has made clear that a repeat of Wednesday's performance will not be accepted. "Of course, we cannot play in the way we did.

Not only did we concede three goals but we didn't shoot once at the Liverpool goal," Pellegrini said. "I think it was because we were not fresh. I am not thinking about the title and not thinking about trying to qualify for the next stage of the Champions League. "The most important thing is to recover our level of performance in the Premier League because we have lost the last three. "I am surprised by this. We didn't expect to lose 3-0 at Liverpool." The match against Villa will be City's fifth in 14 days, a sequence that has brought mixed results. The highlights were undoubtedly a 3-1 away win over Dynamo Kiev that leaves Pellegrini's side well placed to reach the Champions League quarter-finals for the first time in their history, and the penalty shoot-out victory over Liverpool at Wembley in the League Cup final.—AFP