

STAR SPORTS1
India v South Africa
First Test, Day 1
Live from 10:00am

STAR SPORTS2
Australia v New Zealand

First Test, Day 1
Live from 6:00am

TEN CRICKET
Pakistan v England
Third Test, Day 5
Live from 12:00pm

TEN ACTION
UEFA Europa League
Besiktas v Lokomotiv Moscow
Live from 10:30pm

Rubin Kazan v Liverpool
Live from 12:30am (Friday)

Tottenham v Anderlecht
Live from 2:30am (Friday)

TEN HD
UEFA Europa League
Napoli v Midtjylland

BCB XI v Zimbabweans
Warm-up Match

India-SA first Test starts today

AFP, Mohali

Indian captain Virat Kohli and his South African counterpart Hashim Amla on Wednesday attempted to douse the fire over dry, turning wickets that are likely to be prepared for the Test series.

The build-up to the four-match series, which opens in Mohali on Thursday, has centred around India's preference to play on rank turners to defeat the world's number one Test side.

Kohli said too much was being made of the wicket, while Amla said the tourists expected nothing less than a pitch that would help spinners when playing a Test in India.

"Pitches are never the focus when we tour abroad," said Kohli, who will go out to toss on Thursday on his 27th birthday.

Saudis to play Palestine on neutral venue

AFP, Zurich

FIFA on Wednesday ordered Palestine to play World Cup qualifying matches against Saudi Arabia and Malaysia at neutral venues because of security fears.

A FIFA emergency bureau made the decision after the Saudis announced on Tuesday they would refuse to travel to the occupied territories for their match.

Benzema held over blackmail

AFP, Versailles



French footballer Karim Benzema was held for questioning on Wednesday in connection to blackmail over a sextape featuring teammate Mathieu Valbuena, a source close to the probe told AFP.

The Real Madrid and France star arrived with a hood pulled over his head at the police station in Versailles, near Paris, early on Wednesday and was placed in detention, the local prosecutor confirmed.

Investigators are trying determine the extent of Benzema's involvement in a months-long attempt to extort money from fellow French international Valbuena after a sextape found its



France teammates Mathieu Valbuena (L) and Karim Benzema.

way into the hands of a group of blackmailers.

According to the source, Benzema mentioned the intimate video to Valbuena when the French team met for training near Paris in early October, ahead of matches against Armenia and Denmark.

One of Benzema's relatives was contacted by the suspected blackmailers with a view to involving the footballer in their scheme, the source added.

Police are seeking to determine whether Benzema was just teasing Valbuena when he mentioned the tape, or trying to make him pay the group of suspected blackmailers, who were charged and put in detention last month.

It is not the first time the French striker has been embroiled in a police investigation.

In 2009, he and teammate Franck Ribery were accused of sleeping with an under-age prostitute Zahia Dehar.

Both men were finally cleared of wrongdoing five years later, by which time Dehar had become a reality TV star and fashion designer.

Gabba renews Aus-NZ rivalry

AFP, Brisbane

Josh Hazlewood was preferred to Peter Siddle as Australia's third pace bowler on Wednesday for the opening Test against New Zealand on the bouncy Gabba wicket.

Skipper Steve Smith said Hazlewood was picked to complement Australia's two left-arm pacemen Mitchell Johnson and Mitchell Starc in the bowling attack for Thursday's first Test.

Siddle misses out despite taking six wickets in his last Test appearance against England in August, after Hazlewood was dropped for the final Test of the failed Ashes campaign.

ASIA CUP T20

BD to host qualifiers too

ESPNCRICINFO

The four-team Asia Cup T20 Qualifier will be held in Bangladesh from February 19 to 22, 2016. Afghanistan, Hong Kong, Oman and UAE will play each other to decide the one Associate who will advance to the main draw.

The format for the qualifier will likely feature a single round-robin stage with each team playing three matches and the team that finishes on top will advance to the main event. In case two teams finish with the same points, their net run rates will be used as tiebreaker.

The tournament proper is scheduled to be held in Bangladesh between February 24 and March 6, 2016.



Real Madrid defender Nacho Fernandez celebrates his all-important goal against PSG during their Champions League encounter at the Bernabeu on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Real, Man City through Rooney rescues Man United

AFP, Paris



Real Madrid and Manchester City qualified for the Champions League knock-out rounds with victories over Paris Saint-Germain

and Sevilla respectively on Tuesday. And there was relief at Old Trafford as Manchester United ended a 400-minute wait for a goal to beat CSKA Moscow 1-0.

A fortuitous goal from Nacho proved decisive for 10-time champions Real to win 1-0 despite being outplayed for the majority of the first half of their Group A game at the Santiago Bernabeu.

PSG were on top throughout the first period with Zlatan Ibrahimovic curling a shot from the left just wide of the far post and Edinson Cavani's stabbed dink over goalkeeper Keylor Navas cleared off the line by a defender.

When Toni Kroos let fly from distance just after the half hour, the ball spooned up off Thiago Silva and fell to Nacho, who had only come on

RESULTS	
Shakhtar Donetsk (Gladkyi 29, Sma 48-pen, Eduardo 55, Alex Teixeira 73)	4 - 0 Malmö
Real Madrid (Nacho 35)	1 - 0 PSG
Man United (Rooney 79)	1 - 0 CSKA Moscow
PSV (Locadia 56, De Jong 86)	2 - 0 Wolfsburg
Benfica (Jonas 52, Luisao 67)	2 - 1 Galatasaray (Podolski 58)
M'gladbach (Johnson 18)	1 - 1 Juventus (Lichtsteiner 44)
Sevilla (Tremoulinas 25)	1 - 3 Man City (Sterling 8, Fernandinho 11)

for injured left-back Marcelo two minutes earlier, inside the area.

PSG goalkeeper Kevin Trapp initially came for the looping ball but as he backtracked from no-man's land, Nacho's casual side-foot spun wickedly on the bounce and dropped inside the far post.

Real qualified from Group A thanks to Shakhtar Donetsk romping to a 4-0 win over Malmö, a result which means a win

for PSG in either of their last two matches will ensure they join Real in the last 16.

City banished memories of their recent Champions League struggles as a confident 3-1 win in Seville qualified them for the last 16 with two games to spare in Group D.

Borussia Moenchengladbach's failure to beat Juventus in Germany, where the sides played out a 1-1 draw, meant City, who now top the group, have made it to the knock-out stages for only the third time.

Raheem Sterling set them on their way with a goal after eight minutes while Fernandinho doubled the advantage three minutes later.

Frenchman Benoit Tremoulinas gave the Spanish hosts hope but Wilfried Bony's crisp low finish nine minutes from the break effectively killed the contest, giving City a third straight Group D victory since losing 2-1 at home to Juve in their opening game.

City's neighbours United laboured for long periods despite near total domination against CSKA at Old Trafford before a late Wayne Rooney header snatched a 1-0 win that puts the

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FARZANA ZAFAR SEEMA
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ANITA ZEBBA BAKHTIAR
CGPA 3.97



MD. ASIF UDDIN KHAN
CGPA 3.94



BIDOURA MOSHARRARF
CGPA 3.93



SIFAT E JAHAN
CGPA 3.92



AFRIN ANIKA
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MD. PIZAR HOSSAIN
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CGPA 3.89



SAMIN HUQ
CGPA 3.89



TAZKERA HAQUE
CGPA 3.87



RHEDIA TEHRIN PROMA ANEKA NAWAR FATEMA
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RHEDIA TEHRIN PROMA ANEKA NAWAR FATEMA
CGPA 3.86

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FAISAL BIN RASHED
CGPA 4.00



MD. KHAIRUL ALAM
CGPA 3.95



KAZI FARZANA SHOILY
CGPA 3.95



RASMITA PAUDEL
CGPA 3.90



MD. KAMAL HOSSAIN
CGPA 3.89



TAWHID AHMED CHOWDHURY
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KASHFIA AMEEN
CGPA 3.84



MD. SAIFUR RAHMAN
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CGPA 3.77



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