

What to WATCH

T SPORTS & GTV

ICC Men's T20 World Cup
Bangladesh Vs Sri Lanka
Live from 04:00 pm
India vs Pakistan
Live from 08:00 pm

STAR SPORTS HD 1

EPL
West Ham vs Tottenham
Live from 07:00 pm
Manchester United vs Liverpool
Live from 09:30 pm

STAR SPORTS HD 2

Brentford vs Leicester City
Live from 07:00 pm
MTV India
La Liga
Barcelona vs Real Madrid

Live from 08:15 pm
Atletico Madrid vs Real Sociedad
Live from 01:00 pm (Monday)
SONY TEN 2
Koln vs Leverkusen
Live from 7:30

DAY'S EVENT

NCL (DAY-1)

RANGPUR VS DHAKA, SICS
DHAKA METRO VS RAJSHAHI,

COX'S BAZAR

SYLHET VS KHULNA, SYLHET
CHATTOGRAM VS BARISAL, ZACS

Super 12 starts with low-scoring affairs

AGENCIES

The first day of the opening Super 12 clash in the Twenty20 World Cup saw two contrasting matches - the first being a low-scoring thriller while the second was a one-sided canter yesterday.

Marcus Stoinis and Matthew Wade combined in a crucial 40-run stand to help Australia beat South Africa by five wickets in a low-scoring thriller in their opening clash.

Eoin Morgan's England signalled their title aspiration with a comfortable six-wicket victory against defending champions West Indies in the second low-scoring match.

Batting fireworks were expected in the repeat of the 2016 final but England made it a one-sided affair with their bowlers running amok at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

Moeen Ali (2-17) wrecked the West Indies top order before Adil Rashid ran through rest of the line-up to skittle out the Caribbean side for a paltry 55 inside 15 overs.

England, bidding to become the first side to hold the 20-overs and 50-overs World Cup titles at the same time, chased down the target in 8.2



overs to begin their Super 12 campaign in style.

"It's as good as it gets. To start our campaign like that, all credit to our bowling unit," Morgan said. "I think Moeen read the conditions beautifully. He took chances when his match-up was in his favour, and to take his opportunity like he has ... was brilliant," he added.

Earlier, Stoinis and Wade held their nerve superbly during an unbroken sixth-wicket stand to take Australia past their 119-run target with

the win coming with two balls remaining.

Replying to South Africa's total of 118 for nine, Australia lost three quick wickets at the top and found themselves under pressure against some accurate bowling.

But Stoinis hit 24 off 16 while Wade contributed 15 runs to shut out South Africa's chances.

"It was quite stressful. Obviously anytime you're chasing a total and it's coming down to the wire you're always going to be nervous," Australia captain Aaron Finch said.

"But Marcus Stoinis showed a really cool head there, Matty Wade did as well to get us over the line. I think that's what a little bit of experience can do at the backend of the innings."

Earlier, pace bowler Josh Hazlewood took 2-19 to help limit South Africa to 118-9 after the Aussies elected to bowl first.

"I think length was the key, hitting the right length, just on top of the stumps. Anything slightly short or fuller seemed easy, so length was key. The wicket seemed reasonably good, but it was a little bit stoppy, a little bit slow," said Hazlewood.



"We never discussed these things, about our record and past performance. These things create distractions. What matters is how we prepare and execute on that particular day, regardless of the opposition. Pakistan, according to me is a very strong team and always has been a strong side. You have to play your best cricket against them, because they have lots of talent and players who can change the game."

VIRAT KOHLI, INDIA CAPTAIN



"To be honest, what has passed is beyond us. We want to use our ability and confidence on the day of the match so that we can get a better result. Records are meant to be broken. The matches between Pakistan and India are always full of intensity so we need to perform well in all three departments of the game. The boys are excited to play the World Cup and we have a crucial match on Sunday."

BABAR AZAM, PAKISTAN CAPTAIN

INDIA-PAKISTAN blockbuster tonight

REUTERS, Dubai

Former champions India and Pakistan will face off on Sunday in a Twenty20 World Cup blockbuster in Dubai and the buzz around the game underlines the enduring appeal of the matchup between the sub-continent's feuding neighbours.

India captain Virat Kohli and Pakistan counterpart Babar Azam have called it just another game, but that is clearly not the case.

The nuclear-armed neighbours have gone to war three times since gaining independence from British colonial rule in the mid-20th century and remain at loggerheads over Kashmir.

India last hosted Pakistan in a bilateral series in 2013 and the teams now meet only in global tournaments, the last being the 2019 ODI World Cup in England.

"I was involved in the games in 2014 and 2016. If you ask me, as a player, it was always a high-pressure game," former India player Suresh Raina wrote for the International Cricket Council (ICC) website on Saturday. "In the build-up, everyone is just telling you how big it is." "The fans have enjoyed this rivalry over the years and it is cricket at its best."

The 17,500 tickets for the game were sold out hours after being put on sale and television channels in both countries are running special shows on the match. "My inbox is flooded with requests for match passes," Dubai businessman Anis Sajjan, who owned a franchise in United Arab

Emirates' domestic T10 tournament led by England captain Eoin Morgan, told Reuters. "I'd say an India-Pakistan match is bigger than the Ashes. "It may have become one-sided of late but emotions run high," Sajjan, vice president of the Dubai-based Danube Group, said referring to India's 12-0 record against Pakistan in cricket World Cups.

"The India-Pakistan clash is one of the biggest matchups in the world of sports," Sanjog Gupta, Head of Sports at Star and Disney India, said in a statement.

"The clash at an ICC event attracts core and casual cricket fans as well as viewers

Pakistan have lost all seven World Cup (50 over) clashes against India as well as five games in the Twenty20 World Cup.

who don't watch any other cricket."

For the first time in Pakistan, marketplace and retail platform Daraz is live-streaming the World Cup on its digital platform and the response has been overwhelming. "We have seen a massive surge in installs and daily active users on our platform," its managing director Ehsan Saya told Reuters.

The timing of the game poses a dilemma for fans like Debasish Sarkar who does not want to miss Sunday's other showdown between two arch-rivals, Manchester United and Liverpool.



England's Adil Rashid, who ran through the West Indies batting line-up during his spell of 2.2-0-2-4 after Moeen Ali's early strikes, celebrates one of his four wickets yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS



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SCORES IN BRIEF

SOUTH AFRICA
18 four 9 in 20 overs

AUSTRALIA
121 for 5 in 19.4 overs

RESULT
Australia won by 5 wickets.

PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH
Josh Hazlewood.

WEST INDIES
55 all out in 14.2 overs.

ENGLAND
56 for 4 in 8.2 overs.

RESULT
England won by 6 wickets.

PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH
Moeen Ali.

EL CLASICO

Messi's departure puts spotlight on rising stars

REUTERS, MADRID

The first Barcelona v Real Madrid meeting after the departure of Lionel Messi to Paris St Germain will be headlined on Sunday by two youngsters as a game typically billed as a clash of superstars instead looks to the upcoming talent of Vinicius Jr and Ansu Fati. The two players still have a lot to prove, but their talent has elevated them to a point where they are becoming the new faces of their clubs.

On Barcelona's side, Fati has been one of the few positives in a season that started with the heartbreaking loss of Messi due to a financial crisis that also led to Antoine Griezmann rejoining Atletico Madrid. Fati, who inherited Barcelona's number 10 jersey from Messi, burst onto the scene for the club at 16, when he became the second youngest player in LaLiga history.

He quickly established himself as one of the most exciting young talents in the

world, becoming the youngest player to score in the Champions League and the youngest player to net for Spain.

He is likely to provide Barcelona's main threat alongside Memphis Depay and Sergio Aguero, whose own comeback from a calf injury he suffered in pre-season continued with cameo appearances against Valencia and Dynamo Kyiv in the Champions League on Wednesday.

For Real Madrid, Karim Benzema is having probably the best season of his career and is a contender to win the Ballon D'or. He is La Liga's top scorer, with nine goals and seven assists, but despite the France international's excellent form, the headlines in the Spanish capital this week were focused on his partner up front.

The 21-year-old Brazilian Vinicius Jr scored a brace in Real's 5-0 Champions League win over Shakhtar Donetsk and with seven goals in 11 games this season, he has already improved on last season's output, when he scored six times in 49 appearances.

Liverpool test for revived Man Utd

AFP, London

Manchester United, revived by their European escape act, face a stern test against bitter rivals Liverpool in a crucial clash in the Premier League title race this weekend.

On the brink of a disastrous Champions League defeat against Atalanta on Wednesday, Manchester United staged a rousing fightback to ease the pressure on boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

United's recovery from two goals down was capped by Cristiano Ronaldo's winner, ensuring they



avoided a fifth defeat in eight matches. But the joy and relief that poured from the Old Trafford stands after that 3-2 victory will turn back to the jeers and angst of earlier in the match if United crash against old foes Liverpool on Sunday.

United are already four points behind second-placed Liverpool after failing to win their last three league games and another slip against Jurgen Klopp's in-form side would be a major blow to their bid for a first English title since 2013.



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