



What to WATCH

T Sports and GTV
ICC Cricket World Cup
Australia vs Netherlands
Live from 2:30 pm
Sony Sports 2
UEFA Champions

League
Barcelona vs Shakhtar Donetsk
Live from 10:45 pm
Young Boys vs Manchester City
Live from 1:00 am

(Thursday)
Sony Sports 1
Feyenoord vs Lazio
Live from 10:45 pm
PSG vs AC Milan
Live from 1:00 am
(Thursday)

Bayern, Galatasaray fans brawl

AFP, Istanbul

Around a hundred Bayern Munich and Galatasaray supporters clashed early Tuesday in one of Istanbul's main bar districts ahead of their Champions League match.

Turkish media said four German fans and one Turkish fan were lightly injured but that no charges had been filed.

Street camera footage showed fans tossing chairs and various small projectiles along the main avenue of Istanbul's popular Beyoglu district.

The tourist-friendly area is filled with bars frequented by Galatasaray fans. Police intervened when fans began to target one of the Istanbul side's merchandise stores.

The IHA news agency said 70 German and 30 Turkish fans took part in the brawl.

The German consulate in Istanbul did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Bayern have gone 36 Champions League group stage matches unbeaten and top Group A going into Tuesday's game.



Sandro Tonali will be the centre of attention, like he was during yesterday's training session, as Newcastle United host Borussia Dortmund in a Champions League fixture tonight. The former AC Milan midfielder has been embroiled in a betting scandal during that has swept Italian football in recent times and a lengthy suspension might be coming his way. PHOTO: REUTERS

Yussuf Poulsen extends Leipzig contract

AFP, Berlin

Denmark striker Yussuf Poulsen on Tuesday extended his stay at RB Leipzig by two years until 2026 on the eve of the German club's Champions League match against Red Star Belgrade.

Poulsen joined Leipzig as a 19-year-old when the side were still in Germany's third division in 2013.

The Dane, now 29, was part of the side promoted to the second division in 2014 and the Bundesliga in 2016. He has become the side's record appearance holder, with 370 games, scoring 85 goals.

Poulsen said in a statement he and the Saxon club had "grown up together".

"I was basically just a young lad still when I came to Leipzig in 2013. It was a new country, a new language and a new team for me. What's happened since is pretty crazy.

"We've had two promotions, played in the Champions League and, to top it all off, we've won two German Cup titles in recent years."

Leipzig manager Marco Rose said Poulsen's time with the club had been "an unbelievable story."

"Yussi is someone who represents the club. He fully relates to the team and to Leipzig as a city," he told a press conference before Wednesday's match against Red Star Belgrade.

"He's come a long way since he's been here... We're happy that he'll be staying for a bit longer."

Milan's Maignan stands in way of old club PSG

AFP, Paris

Paris Saint-Germain's Champions League clash with AC Milan this week will see the French club come up against one of the many outstanding talents they have let slip away in recent years.

In the Italian side's goal will be Mike Maignan, who was allowed to leave Paris for Lille in 2015 and has gone on to win a Ligue 1 title, Serie A and become France's first-choice 'keeper.

PSG, meanwhile, handed the gloves to a long list of goalkeepers before signing Gianluigi Donnarumma from Milan in 2021 and making him their undisputed number one a year later.

But would the Qatar-backed club have ultimately been better off keeping faith in a young Maignan than going from Salvatore Sirigu and Kevin Trapp to Gianluigi Buffon, Alphonse Areola, Keylor Navas and then Donnarumma in their ongoing quest to win the Champions League?

Now aged 28, Maignan has become one of the world's outstanding goalkeepers and will be Milan's last line of defence against his France teammates Kylian Mbappe, Ousmane Dembele and Randal Kolo Muani in a pivotal Group F match.

Having kept clean sheets in draws with Newcastle United and Borussia Dortmund so far in the group, Maignan is set to return for Milan after sitting out the 1-0 Serie A loss against Juventus on Sunday due to suspension.

"It is always a strange feeling to go back home, whether that be to Lille or Paris," said Maignan while on France duty last week.



He missed last year's World Cup with injury but has become France's first choice since Hugo Lloris retired.

"It brings back memories. I have already played against PSG for Lille. It's the Champions League. There will be a great atmosphere. My family will be there. I need to make sure I focus on my job and not let the emotions overwhelm me."

There has been much focus in recent months on PSG's lack of Champions League success while their Qatari owners have adopted a policy of spending huge money on superstar signings.

Meanwhile they have rather neglected the young talent on their doorstep in the fertile football breeding grounds of the Paris region.

A conscious effort has been made to change the approach with the departures of Lionel Messi and Neymar and the arrivals

of exciting French talents like Normandy-born Dembele and Kolo Muani, a native of the same Paris suburb as Mbappe.

It is not just Maignan they let go over the last decade, with Kingsley Coman, Adrien Rabiot, Christopher Nkunku and Moussa Diaby all choosing to pursue their careers elsewhere.

PSG have won just four two-legged knockout ties in the Champions League since Maignan left eight years ago.

"That means nothing to me," Maignan said last season in a post-match interview when asked what he thought about PSG going out of the competition against Bayern Munich.

Having slumped to a 4-1 defeat in Newcastle three weeks ago, a failure to beat the "Rossoneri" on Wednesday would increase the risk of Luis Enrique's side not getting out of their group, which would be disastrous for a club of PSG's ambitions.

Questionable recruitment decisions have cost PSG in recent years, like allowing a 20-year-old Maignan to join Lille for a reported one million euros (\$1.1m) in 2015 having never played a top-team game.

Born in French Guiana, Maignan was eight when he moved to mainland France with his family. He joined the PSG academy in 2009.

"PSG practically threw him out, like they have done with others. You wonder what the club's policy is," former Paris and France goalkeeper Bernard Lama told sports daily L'Equipe earlier this year.

"They should have loaned him to Lille. If he stands out, then you bring him back instead of going out and buying someone else and getting it wrong."

Stokes signs on for just a year

AFP, London

Test captain Ben Stokes has signed just a 12-month extension while other England cricketers have agreed multi-year deals amid a raft of new central contracts announced Tuesday.

The England and Wales Cricket Board has changed the way it signs up leading players in an attempt to counter the threat by lucrative T20 franchise leagues around the world in a bid to make sure its stars remain available for international duty.

Top order batsmen Joe Root and Harry Brook, as well as fast bowler Mark Wood, have all agreed three-year deals that will keep them signed up by England until October 2026, while 15 more players have signed two-year contracts.

Stokes, however, remains on a standard one-year agreement despite the star all-rounder's pivotal role in transforming the fortunes of the Test side and in spearheading England's triumph in last year's T20 World Cup.

The 31-year-old also ended his one-day international retirement to feature in England's ongoing defence of their 50-over World Cup title.

Fast bowler Jofra Archer has been signed up for two more years despite lengthy injury lay-offs.

Meanwhile 41-year-old veteran James Anderson, the most successful pace bowler in Test history, has signed up for another year.

But there was no new central contract for Jason Roy, whose England career could now be over.

Rain looms over Ban-Pak series

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh women's team will play the first of the three-match T20I series against Pakistan today at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram, but rain threat looms over the series.

The Tigresses have been undergoing a training camp in Chattogram for over a week, but the last few days of rainfall has hindered both the teams' training sessions. Pakistan's practice game against BCB XI on October 23 was also abandoned due to rain. The trophy unveiling and press conference had to be moved to a hotel yesterday due to showers as well.

"Weather is not under our control. We will go to the field with the same kind of preparations that we go through all the time. If everything is fine, the match will go ahead. The wicket looks good and we always want sporting wickets where both teams get an advantage," Bangladesh skipper Nigar Sultana Joty said at the press conference yesterday.

Bangladesh's recent ODI record against Pakistan has been promising as they won four of the five recent ODIs. However, T20Is have seen a reversal of fortunes where Bangladesh beat Pakistan once in the last five matches.

Joty remained hopeful that their preparations will come good if the weather permits.

"In the last few years, whenever we have played Pakistan, either T20I or ODIs, we have been ahead. We have arrived here early to prepare and get an idea of the wickets. So if we can play better cricket on the day, something good will happen," Joty said.

Pakistan captain Nida Dar said: "Definitely Bangladesh are a very good side and got good spinners along with senior players who are always performing. We know our strength and their strength so hopefully the matches go well."

The second and third T20I are scheduled at the same venue on October 27 and 29 respectively.

Rare public joy sweeps Kabul

AFP, Kabul

Fireworks and celebratory gunfire raked Kabul's skies as Afghans celebrated their stunning eight-wicket cricket World Cup defeat of Pakistan, a rare burst of public jubilation since the Taliban takeover.

Hundreds of fans swarmed the streets of the capital late Monday, joining a morass of honking car traffic which wardens struggled to tame.

Ecstatic passengers hung off car doors as pedestrians danced and played music despite an effective ban on song and dance dictated by the Taliban government.

"Afghanistan has been through so much recently, such moments are always special and must be celebrated properly," said Kabul resident Sharifullah, who goes by one name.

"It feels like we have won the World Cup," the 25-year-old told AFP. "Sport always brings unity among the people. Today we are celebrating the victory as a nation."

A superb batting and bowling display saw Afghanistan record their highest chase in ODI cricket, with a successful pursuit of a 283-run target set by Pakistan.

It was their first ever victory over

Pakistan in eight ODIs, and came just a week after their shock victory over defending champions England.

Afghans have been glued to screens of all sizes in recent days — from mobile phones, to restaurant TVs and a small number of big screens broadcasting in public parks.

Afghanistan and Pakistan have



had fractious relations since the Taliban returned to power in August 2021, with Islamabad claiming Kabul is failing to rein in militants plotting strikes on its soil.

Authorities recently pledged to evict 1.7 million undocumented Afghan migrants who have crossed into the country over the past several

decades during successive conflicts.

Opening batsmen Ibrahim Zadran, with 87, was awarded player of the match and dedicated the win to "people who are sent from Pakistan back home to Afghanistan".

Although records show cricket being played in Afghanistan more than a century ago, most of the country's top players learned the game in refugee camps in Pakistan.

"We had never witnessed such an amazing performance," said 23-year-old Taliban government employee Noor Ahmad.

"Tonight Afghanistan's people are enjoying it, and Pakistan's people are crying.

"We want to celebrate all night. We are going to live and enjoy the moment till morning," he said.

Afghanistan's win was hailed by the Taliban government, which has enforced an austere imagining of Islam squeezing women out of public life and effectively barring their participation in sport.

"We congratulate the national cricket team, cricket board, and all Afghans on this victory," said Maulawi Abdul Kabir, political deputy of the prime minister's office.



Pakistan women's cricket team captain Nida Dar and her Bangladesh counterpart Nigar Sultana Joty hold the T20 trophy during a trophy unveiling ceremony at a hotel in Chattogram yesterday ahead of a three-match T20I series, starting today. PHOTO: BCB