

In my opinion they [PSG] are the best in the world..What they are able to do with the ball, with individual actions, I haven't seen it (before).

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta after losing in the Champions League final against PSG yesterday



PSG, kings of Europe again



- Luis Enrique became only the fifth coach to win the European Cup/UEFA Champions League three times after PSG's penalty shoot-out victory over Arsenal.
 - While 21 coaches have lifted the European Cup/Champions League trophy more than once, only five have won it at least three times. The Asturian joins an elite group comprising Pep Guardiola, Bob Paisley, Zinedine Zidane and Carlo Ancelotti, whose record five titles with AC Milan and Real Madrid remain unmatched.
 - Enrique added the 2026 crown to the title he guided PSG to 12 months earlier -- the club's first -- and the one he won with Barcelona in 2015.
 - He is also one of only seven coaches to win the competition with multiple clubs, alongside Ernst Happel, Jupp Heynckes, Ottmar Hitzfeld, Jose Mourinho, Ancelotti and Guardiola.
 - Luis Enrique's flawless record in Champions League finals remains intact. He's now won all three finals he's managed in the competition, having guided Barcelona to glory in 2015 before leading PSG to successive titles.
 - Among managers to take charge of at least 50 Champions League matches, Enrique's 63.2% win ratio stands way out on top.
- Luis Enrique – 63.3%** (50 wins/79 games)
Pep Guardiola – 61.3% (117/191)
Louis van Gaal – 60.0% (57/95)
Thomas Tuchel – 59.7% (40/67)
Zinedine Zidane – 58.5% (31/53)

PSG cemented their place among Europe's modern greats yesterday, retaining the Champions League crown with a nerve-shredding 4-3 penalty shootout victory over Arsenal after a 1-1 draw at Budapest's Puskas Arena. For much of the night, it looked as though Arsenal would spoil the party. Kai Havertz, scorer of Chelsea's winning goal in the 2021 final, struck after just six minutes after a fortunate rebound off Leandro Trossard fell kindly in his path. The Gunners' notoriously stingy defence, which had conceded only six goals en route to the final, then frustrated PSG for long spells. But Luis Enrique's side eventually found a way through. After Khvicha Kvaratskhelia was bundled over by Cristhian Mosquera, Ousmane Dembele calmly converted the resulting penalty to level the score. With Kvaratskhelia later hitting the post and extra time failing to separate the sides, the final was decided from the spot. Despite being without Dembele, Kvaratskhelia, Vitinha and captain Marquinhos for the shootout, PSG held firm. Eberechi Eze fired wide and Gabriel blazed over with Arsenal's final kick, handing PSG a second successive European crown.



- PSG became just the second team this century to retain the Champions League, after Real Madrid's three straight titles from 2016-18, and the first French club to win back-to-back European crowns.
- Luis Enrique named 10 of the 11 players who started PSG's 5-0 demolition of Inter Milan in last year's final.
- PSG's 45 goals this season matched Barcelona's 1999-2000 record for the most in a single Champions League campaign.
- Kai Havertz became only the third player to score in Champions League finals for two different clubs, after Cristiano Ronaldo and Mario Mandzukic.
- Arsenal became the first team to miss the target with two penalties in a Champions League final shootout, through Eberechi Eze and Gabriel Magalhães.
- Arsenal's 24.7% possession was the lowest recorded in a Champions League final since data collection began in 2003-04, and their lowest under Mikel Arteta with 11 men on the

pitch throughout.

- At 20 years and two months, Warren Zaire-Emery became the youngest player to win two Champions League finals, eclipsing Johan Neeskens' previous record.
- Khvicha Kvaratskhelia finished level with Harry Kane and Kylian Mbappe on a competition-high 16 goal involvements. His 10 knockout-stage involvements led the tournament, while he became the first player to score or assist in seven consecutive knockout appearances in a single campaign.



Semenyo's rise from rejection to World Cup spotlight

Antoine Semenyo's journey to the World Cup has been shaped by rejection, resilience, and rapid rise. Once dropped by several academies and even stepping away from football, he rebuilt his career to become a Premier League force. Now at Manchester City and an established Ghana international, Semenyo heads into his second World Cup as a key attacking threat for the Black Stars.

****Read the full story on The Daily Star website**

Focus turns inward ahead of Australia ODIs

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh players enjoyed a rare moment of quiet during the Eid break ahead of a busy international year with plenty of cricket coming up. Following their 2 O' Test triumph against Pakistan, the majority of the stars spent time with family, but focus will soon shift to One-Day Internationals as the Tigers begin camp on June 6 to prepare for the three-match home series against Australia, starting on June 9.

The camp was pushed back due to Dhaka Premier League commitments, BCB cricket operations officials confirmed. The likes of Liton Das, who had been enjoying his time off out of the country, have also returned. Ahead of the start of preparations, chief selector Habibul Bashar relayed that all players are available for selection, bar Tanzim Sakib, who is out injured.

The ODI series will take precedence, with 2027 World Cup qualification still on the line. Pakistan, courtesy of a spin-friendly wicket, won the first ODI against Australia at Rawalpindi on Saturday. However, Bangladesh are on

a run of three consecutive ODI series wins, so the team management may prefer similar conditions to the recent 50-over series against New Zealand and Pakistan.

Travis Head will join the Australia side for the Bangladesh tour, having skipped the ongoing Pakistan ODIs. Yet Bangladesh may feel there is a pace advantage with veterans Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins missing from the Aussie squad.

The chief selector was not keen on talking about conditions and felt that a focus on Australia's strengths was not going to prove advantageous.

Asked about 50-over priorities, Bashar said: "Next World Cup is fifty overs and although all series are important.

"Even if Australia send their second-string or even lower-strength side, they would still fare well, so we can't think of Starc or Cummins not being there,

as the rest are good bowlers too. They are the world champions and we can't really concern ourselves too much with who is coming and who is not."

It could be surmised that the Tigers would be focused on what they can do well, buoyed by recent wins against New Zealand and Pakistan at home. Looking back at last year's home series against the West Indies, pitches provided a great deal of turn during the Tigers' 2-1 series win.

However, with the pace attack reaping the rewards of continued hard work, the likes of Taskin Ahmed, Nahid Rana, Shoriful Islam and Mustafizur Rahman will be raring to take the challenge to Australia's batters. The Tigers also have a formidable spin unit, forming an "overall good bowling attack".

With balance in the bowling attack, the Tigers will be hoping the batting clicks into gear, with Australia slated to arrive on June 5.

"What we want to focus on is playing good cricket."



PHOTO: SAFF

India beat Bangladesh 3-0

Lynda Kom Setro celebrates after scoring India's second goal in their 3-0 win over Bangladesh in the Group B final of the SAFF Women's Championship at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Goa, yesterday. Despite the defeat, Bangladesh still progressed to the semifinals as Group B runners-up and will face Group A champions Nepal, who defeated Sri Lanka 2-0 in the earlier match. After having stunned India twice in their previous group-stage encounters, Bangladesh endured a rare setback in a tense showdown. India dominated the first half, while Bangladesh pushed forward strongly after the break but failed to find the net. The result marked Bangladesh's first defeat in the regional tournament after a ten-match unbeaten run.



Heatwave, shock exits highlight FRENCH OPEN

AGENCIES

The first week of the French Open was shaped less by predictable form and more by extreme heat that disrupted matches and altered outcomes across both draws. High temperatures in Paris made conditions physically demanding, and several matches were decided as much by endurance as by skill, with long rallies becoming harder to sustain and recovery between points visibly affected.

One of the most notable exits was of defending champion Coco Gauff, who lost a tight three-set match to Anastasia Potapova. Gauff had chances during the contest but struggled to convert

key points, allowing Potapova to stay competitive and eventually close out the match. Her departure added to a wider pattern of early upsets that reshaped expectations for the tournament.

The men's draw was even more heavily affected. Carlos Alcaraz was already absent due to injury, and both Jannik Sinner and Novak Djokovic were eliminated in demanding conditions that highlighted the physical toll of the first week, with their exits opening up the competition significantly.

In contrast, world number one Aryna Sabalenka maintained control through the opening rounds. Her straight-sets win over Daria Kasatkina stood out as one

of the more stable performances during a period of widespread inconsistency among seeded players. Sabalenka's ability to avoid extended matches helped her manage the conditions more effectively than many of her rivals.

With top names gone, attention shifted to players who adapted better physically and tactically. Younger players also benefited from the disrupted field, with Joao Fonseca among those gaining experience in later rounds after notable wins.

As the tournament moved into its second week, weather forecasts suggest slightly cooler temperatures, which may reduce the physical strain that dominated

early matches. This shift is expected to allow matches to be decided more by sustained rallying and tactical execution rather than survival under extreme heat.

However, there seemed to be no let-up from the trend of the first week, as four-time champion Iga Swiatek was eliminated in the fourth round on Sunday, with the Polish third seed going down 7-5, 6-1 to Ukrainian 15th seed Marta Kostyuk.

The remaining rounds now focus on which players can adapt consistently in more manageable conditions and maintain performance across longer matches as the tournament approaches its final stages.

BANGLADESH TAKE OFF UNDER DOOLEY

Bangladesh players and officials pose at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka yesterday before departing for San Marino, where they will face the hosts in a FIFA international friendly on June 5. The match marks the first assignment for newly appointed coach Thomas Dooley, who named a 23-member squad featuring the return of goalkeeper Anisur Rahman Zico after 19 months. Hamza Choudhury, Shamit Shome and Zayyan Ahmed will join the team in San Marino. After three training sessions in Dhaka under Dooley, Bangladesh are scheduled to have four more in San Marino before the match.

PHOTO: BFF

