

England confirm dates for white-ball tour of Sri Lanka



Players celebrate during a match

AFP | London

England confirmed yesterday the dates for a white-ball tour of Sri Lanka in January and February next year that will serve as part of their preparations for the 2026 T20 World Cup.

Harry Brook's men will play the first of three one-day internationals on 22 January – two weeks after the scheduled fifth day of the fifth Ashes test in Sydney, a match in which the multi-format batsman, now England's white-ball captain, is set to feature.

The ODI series in Sri Lanka ends on 27 January with a three-game T20 campaign starting on 30 January and ending on 3 February.

The venues for each match are to be confirmed by Sri Lanka Cricket.

The T20 World Cup will be jointly hosted by India, the reigning champions, and Sri Lanka in February and March.

Paris FC sign Germany goalkeeper Trapp



Kevin Trapp

AFP | Paris

German international goalkeeper Kevin Trapp returned to France for a second spell yesterday, signing for newly-promoted Paris FC from Bundesliga outfit Eintracht Frankfurt.

The 35-year-old, capped nine times, has signed a three-year contract with Paris FC, who are backed by the Arnaults, one of the world's wealthiest families.

They opened their campaign -- their first in France's top flight in 46 years -- in disappointing fashion with a 1-0 defeat away at Angers on Sunday.

"Paris FC is proud to welcome Kevin," the club said in a statement.

Trapp previously played for their city rivals Paris Saint-Germain from 2015 to 2018, and was a regular in the side that won the Ligue 1 title in 2016 before gradually falling out of favour.

He returned to Eintracht -- for whom he had played from 2012 to 2015 -- on loan in 2018 before signing permanently.

Trapp played in the side that won the Europa League in 2022, and was man of the match in the final against Rangers. He then helped Eintracht finish third in the Bundesliga last term, the first time they had made the top three since 1993.

Isak pushes for Newcastle exit

Isak posts on Instagram about broken promises and lost trust with Newcastle

● Isak wants to leave Newcastle

● Cites broken promises and lost trust

● Liverpool's £110m bid already rejected

● Newcastle demand £150m record fee

AFP | London

Alexander Isak believes his departure from Newcastle is "in the best interests of everyone" after breaking his silence on the saga of the Premier League transfer window amid speculation over a move to Liverpool.

The Swedish international, who was the second-highest goalscorer in the Premier League last season, has not featured for the Magpies in pre-season or their opening game of the campaign, a 0-0 draw away at Aston Villa on Saturday.

Liverpool have reportedly had a £110 million bid (\$149 million) rejected for the 25-year-old, with Newcastle holding out for a British transfer record fee of up to £150 million.

Isak released a statement on Tuesday after deciding not to appear at the Professional Footballers' Association awards event despite being selected in the Premier League 2024/25 team of the year.

"I've kept quiet for a long time while others have spoken.

That silence has allowed people to push their own version of events, even though they know it doesn't reflect what was really said and agreed behind closed doors," Isak posted on Instagram.

"The reality is that promises were made and the club has known my position for a long time. To now act as if these issues are only emerging is misleading.

"When promises are broken and trust is lost, the relationship can't continue. That's where things are for me right now - and why change is in the best interests of everyone, not just myself."

According



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ALEXANDER ISAK

reports, Isak had been promised an improved contract only

for northeast side Newcastle to hold off due to pressures of meeting financial sustainability rules.

Newcastle responded with a statement late Tuesday saying that while they were saddened by Isak's comments, they could yet welcome the 25-year-old back into the squad.

"We are disappointed to have been alerted to a social media post by Alexander Isak this evening," the club wrote. "We are clear

in response that Alex remains under contract and that no commitment has ever been made by a club official that Alex can leave Newcastle United this summer.

"We want to see our best players, to understand players their own wishes - we listen to their

statement added:

"This is a proud football club with proud traditions and we strive to retain our family feel. Alex remains part of our family and will be welcomed back when he is ready to re-join his teammates."

Isak has Alexander Isak



Alexander Isak, despite being named in the Premier League Team of the Year, chose not to attend the awards event, instead releasing an Instagram statement about his desire to leave Newcastle due to "broken promises."

scored 62 goals in 109 appearances since joining from Real Sociedad in 2022, including the winner against Liverpool in the League Cup final earlier this year that ended Newcastle's 70-year wait to win a domestic trophy.

Liverpool have already spent around £300 million overhauling a squad that romped to the Premier League title last season.

But they have also recouped over £200 million in sales and are still in the market for attacking options after the departures of Luis Diaz and Darwin Nunez and tragic death of Diogo Jota.

Any deal is unlikely to be done before the two clubs face off in their next Premier League game on Monday at St James' Park.

Bahrain Complete Group Sweep with Win Over Palestine

U18s take maximum points to top Group B ahead of quarterfinals

● Bahrain beat Palestine 3-0 in final group match

● Faidutti's side advance with 9 points from 3 games

● Quarterfinals begin Friday after rest day

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's under-18 volleyball team wrapped up the group stage of the 17th Arab Junior Volleyball Championship in style, beating Palestine in straight sets 25-19, 25-17, 25-12 at the Palace Gymnasium in Amman. The result confirmed Bahrain's place in the quarterfinals as Group B winners with a perfect record of three wins from three.

Dominant Finish

Santiago Faidutti's side controlled the match throughout, asserting themselves early and maintaining rhythm and pressure across all three sets. Solid blocking and consistent attack-



Action from the match

ing saw them gradually pull away from a Palestinian team that struggled to keep pace.

Perfect Group Stage

Bahrain finish the preliminary round with 9 points, having

beaten Kuwait, Iraq, and now Palestine.

Rest Day, Then Knockouts

All eight qualified teams will rest Thursday before resuming play on Friday in the quarterfi-



nals. Bahrain will be aiming to carry their momentum into the knockout rounds as they chase their first Arab Juniors title in over a decade.

The championship runs until August 26 and is organised by

the Arab Volleyball Association, chaired by Bahrain Volleyball Association president Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa. Bahrain's delegation is led by BVA vice-president Mohammed Al Thawadi.