



# TOD announced as exclusive OTT streaming platform for FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 in MENA region

**TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK**  
DOHA

TOD, the streaming platform for MENA announced its readiness as the exclusive OTT platform streaming the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 in the region. TOD will be streaming the much-anticipated games to the entire MENA region, which for the first time in the history of FIFA is being organised in the Middle East.

TOD is a subscription-based OTT platform that delivers its subscribers exclusive access to beIN Sports unrivalled live sports content, and 35,000+ hours of premium entertainment content. A family-friendly and personalized platform, TOD offers the best blockbusters and top Arabic, Turkish, and International content, as well as children's programming. It also holds a

range of new original content productions through "TOD Originals".

Commenting on the announcement, John Paul Mckerlie, VP-Marketing, at TOD said, "It is a moment of pride for TOD to be streaming the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 TM for the entire MENA region. Football is one of the most loved sports in the region, and in less than two months, we will be bringing the most anticipated tournament to the MENA families on the screens of their choice. We have several specially crafted plans for making it an unforgettable experience for our viewers, which includes world cup specific subscription plans, discounts for Hayya card holders, to name a few.

"TOD stands out as against the other OTT platforms by respecting the region's multi-cultural nature and by offer-



ing a varied content lineup by including Arabic, Turkish and western blockbusters and series.

"The platform also celebrates the region's cultural ethos by offering particular attention to specially curated content that ensures a safe viewing environment for the MENA families," he added.

TOD will be streaming the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 TM content in 4k/UHD quality coupled with Dolby Atmos, pre-

senting vivid visuals coupled with rich, clear, and powerful sounds. The platform comes with the ability to connect up to 5 devices including streaming of 2 at any one time on certain packages and supports popular smartphones and big screens, enabling one to enjoy content anytime anywhere. The platform is also available across web, Android, and iOS devices.

Built around current customer needs, TOD incorporates latest technologies to provide

## World Cup Bonanza

- Matches to be streamed in 4k/UHD quality coupled with Dolby Atmos; platform can be connected on up to 5 devices.
- More announcements in pipeline with FIFA specific plans and discounts for Hayya Card holders.
- John Paul Mckerlie, VP-Marketing, TOD: "The platform celebrates the region's cultural ethos by offering particular attention to specially curated content that ensures a safe viewing environment for the MENA families".

an integrated and personalised experience that enhances live viewing in the region like never before, along with seamless content navigation and accessibility.

Given beIN SPORTS' second to none rights portfolio, in addition to the World Cup, it exclusively streams live and recorded sports like The UEFA Champions League, English

Premier League, LaLiga, Ligue 1, and every Grand Slam tennis tournament, NBA, and many more.

TOD is available across the entire MENA region including Qatar, UAE, Kuwait, KSA, Bahrain, Oman, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Algeria, Sudan, South Sudan, Tunisia, Morocco, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Yemen, Chad, Mauritania, and Libya.



Action from the debut Formula One Ooredoo Qatar Grand Prix held at the Losail International Circuit in November 2021.

# Qatar Grand Prix returns as FIA approves 2023 F1 calendar with record-breaking 24 races

**Qatar's second F1 Grand Prix is scheduled for October 8, 2023**

**TNN/DPA**  
DOHA

A record 24-race calendar has been confirmed by Formula 1's governing body for the 2023 season.

The F1 Grand Prix will return to Qatar after a year's absence at the Losail International Circuit on October 8, 2023.

Motorsports ruling body FIA approved on Tuesday the 2023 Formula One calendar with record-breaking 24 races.

A new race in Las Vegas and the return China makes next year the longest ever season despite the loss of the French Grand Prix.

The season begins in Bahrain on 5 March and ends in Abu Dhabi on 26 November.

Las Vegas will be the penultimate event on 18 November, while China has been given a 16 April date after a three-year absence due to the Covid pandemic.

Monaco and Belgium have retained their places after securing new contracts - Monaco's until 2025, F1 announced on Tuesday; Belgium's only for one year.

The Bahrain Grand Prix will kick-off the season on March 5, while the traditional



The seven-time world champion British Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes waves to fans at the Losail International Circuit in November 2021.

## The 2023 Formula One calendar

March 5	Bahrain	July 23	Hungary
March 19	Saudi Arabia	July 30	Belgium
April 2	Australia	August 27	Netherlands
April 16	China	September 3	Italy (Monza)
April 30	Azerbaijan	September 17	Singapore
May 7	US (Miami)	September 24	Japan
May 21	Italy (Imola)	October 8	Qatar
May 28	Monaco	October 22	US (Austin)
June 4	Spain	October 29	Mexico
June 18	Canada	November 5	Brazil
July 2	Austria	November 18	US (Las Vegas)
July 9	Britain	November 26	United Arab Emirates

Monaco Grand Prix remains in the calendar after rumours it would be excluded.

The season will end as per tradition in the past few years at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix on November 26.

New additions include the

return of China to the calendar and the brand new Las Vegas Grand Prix, which joins Miami and Austin as the third race in the United States.

The Qatar Grand Prix, which made its debut in 2021, returns after a one-year absence.

The first triple header of the season, meaning three races in three consecutive weeks, will take place in Italy, Monaco and Spain on May 21, May 28 and June 4 respectively.

The Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps in Belgium will host the last race before the summer break on July 30, with the post-holidays return set to take place in the Netherlands on August 27.

"The presence of 24 races on the 2023 FIA Formula One World Championship calendar is further evidence of the growth and appeal of the sport on a global scale," FIA president Mohammed Ben Sulayem said.

# Aspas says Spain omission hurts, still hopes for Qatar World Cup call

**STATS PERFORM/DPA**  
BERLIN

IAGO Aspas says a "stubborn" streak means he has not given up hope of winning over coach Luis Enrique before the World Cup.

The Celta Vigo striker was left out of Enrique's latest Spain squad, meaning he will play no part in the upcoming Nations League games against Switzerland and Portugal.

Those are La Roja's final

into contention for a place in the squad for Qatar 2022, but he now faces a battle to rival the likes of Borja Iglesias and Ferran Torres.

Aspas told the Cadena Ser programme 'El Larguero' that now was not the time to give up on his ambition.

"Hope is the last thing you lose, but it is true that I haven't gone (with the national team) for a while," he said. "I finished last season quite well and now I have continuity in the league.



**“**  
I have never had any problems with Luis Enrique. It hurts me not to go with the national team. I will do everything I can to go to Qatar.  
**”**  
Striker Iago Aspas

games before their World Cup squad is announced, and those that have missed out might naturally fear the worst.

Since the start of last season, Aspas has scored 23 goals and had seven assists in 43 La Liga games for Celta, with that goals return only beaten by Real Madrid's Karim Benzema (30).

Those goals have come at a rate of one every 157.96 minutes, and from an expected goals tally of 16.42, with his return suggesting he is exceeding normal performance levels with his finishing.

The 35-year-old former Liverpool player had been hoping such form would push him

"Of course it hurts not to go, I'm stubborn and I'm not going to give up until the end. If I get on the final list, all the better. They pay me to play for Celta, but I have that prize just around the corner and I'll do everything possible."

Aspas, who has six goals from 19 caps for Spain, is convinced it is a footballing issue rather than anything personal with Enrique.

"I have never had any problems with Luis Enrique. It hurts me not to go with the national team. I will do everything I can to go to Qatar.

"If not, he would have told me because the coach is up front," Aspas added.

## Quick read

### Ronaldo's Portugal team-mate Rafa Silva quits international duty

CRISTIANO Ronaldo's Portugal team-mate Rafa Silva has retired from international football having made 25 appearances for his country. Benfica forward Silva was part of the squads that won Euro 2016 and the 2018-19 Nations League, while he was also called up for the 2014 World Cup and Euro 2020. An impressive start to the club season, in which he has scored four goals in seven league matches, earned him a call-up for Portugal's upcoming Nations League fixtures against Czech Republic and Spain. But the 29-year-old has instead retired from international football, stating he was calling it quits for "personal reasons" and describing it as an "honest and right decision." Silva went on to say: "The national team will continue to bring joy to the Portuguese, from the very beginning in the League of Nations and the 2022 World Cup." (STATS Perform/DPA)

# SC signs MoU with Concordia to raise Qatar 2022 legacy projects awareness



## MoU signed by Hassan Al Thawadi and Matthew Swift in New York

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK  
DOHA

THE Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) and Concordia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to share expertise and raise awareness of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 legacy projects.

The MoU was signed during this year's Concordia Summit, which is being held on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Among the legacy programmes that will benefit from the collaboration are Generation Amazing, the B4 Development Foundation and Workers' Welfare.

HE Hassan Al Thawadi, Secretary General, SC, said: "We are very pleased to formalise our strong working relationship with Concordia. Over the years, the summit has been an invaluable platform to share the story of Qatar's FIFA World Cup, which will be a game-changer for our country and region. Over the past decade, our legacy programmes have been busy making a posi-

itive impact in Qatar and across the globe. We look forward to working with Concordia as we strive to achieve our legacy goals."

Matthew Swift, Co-Founder & CEO, Concordia, said: "We are delighted to formalise our partnership with the SC and support Qatar in its efforts to deliver meaningful impact through its various legacy programmes. With only weeks to go until the big kick-off, we are confident this edition of the FIFA World Cup will have a hugely positive impact on Qatar, the Middle East region and globally."

Al Thawadi also took part in a fireside chat at the summit titled 'Sports Diplomacy and the Legacy of the 2022 World Cup'. During the session, Al Thawadi outlined sport's power to unite people and nations.

"Qatar 2022 will unite people from all walks of life through their common love for football. It will be a chance for Qatar and the Middle East to share their passion for the beautiful game while giving people the chance to experi-



ence a new culture. It will also provide a platform for honest cultural exchanges that can contribute to dismantling stereotypes and misconceptions about the region," said Al Thawadi.

"Sport has the power to inspire and unite people, communities, nations and regions. Key to that is being able to responsibly leverage that power

to contribute positively to the world. That is why one of our greatest priorities when we won the bid 12 years ago was to ensure that the FIFA World Cup 2022 leaves genuine lasting social legacies within Qatar, but also globally," he continued.

Al Thawadi highlighted the work of Generation Amazing, which is on track to reach 1

million beneficiaries.

"Since its launch, our human and social legacy programme, Generation Amazing, has been successful in using football as a tool to teach youth and other targeted communities important life skills, like teamwork, leadership and inclusion," said Al Thawadi.

The SC's commitment to drive workers' welfare reforms

and implement behavioural science projects to improve the impact of its programmes was also discussed by Al Thawadi.

The SC also participated in other panel sessions during the event. Mahmoud Qutub, Executive Director of Workers' Welfare & Labour Rights, took part in 'The Social and Human Legacy of the World Cup', while Dr Fadi Makki, Director, B4 Development, took part in the 'Using Behavioural Insights at the World Cup' session. Generation Amazing also participated in a roundtable discussion co-organised by Laureus Sports for Good titled 'Sports for Development and Leveraging Sports Mega Events'.

Launched in 2011, the Concordia Annual Summit is a platform for influential leaders in politics and business which aims to find innovative and meaningful ways to address the world's most pressing issues. This year's summit will cover topics including environmental sustainability, human rights and social progress, innovative technology and more.

## Olunga hat-trick as Duhail thrash Al Markhiya 8-3

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK  
DOHA

AL Duhail handed Al Markhiya an 8-3 defeat in the first round match of Group B of the Ooredoo Cup 2022-2023 season at the Thani Bin Jassim Stadium on Tuesday.

The Red Knights rode on a hat-trick from their Kenyan striker Michael Olunga as they steamrolled their rivals with as many as seven of the total eleven goals coming in the second half of the match.

The goals for Al Duhail came from Ahmad Moein (8th minute), Suhaib Gannan (15'), Lotfi Madjer (19'), Michael Olunga (21', 74', 78'), Ahmed Ibrahim (82' (OG), and Rabeh Yahia Boussafi (88').

For Al Markhiya, Youssef Ramadan (48th minute), Mohamed Al Hassan (81'), and Farid Ahmed Al Marhoobi (90') found the target.

The rollick action for Al Duhail began with Ahmad Moein making good of a Suhaib Gannan pass to break in and score.

Next up Gannan himself scored after being provided with a fine pass by Lotfi Madjer while running into the box.

The third goal was another super combine. This time Michael Olunga made a precise cross from the right and a swift Madjer made a reverse kick



Al Duhail players celebrate with Michael Olunga (3rd left) after their Group B match win over Al Markhiya at the Thani Bin Jassim Stadium on Tuesday.

while in front of the goal.

Madjer did more, he produced a fine kick from near the goalline for an onrushing Olunga to register the team's fourth and his first goal.

Back after the break, Al Markhiya found some relief with Ramadan making a good header to score off a high flying corner kick.

But soon Olunga returned to latch on to a Nam Tae-Hee pass and his stretched left leg did enough for the ball to find the far right corner of the net.

Olunga's hat-trick goal came following the good work of Rabeh Boussafi who grabbed an Al Markhiya mis-pass and

fed a waiting Olunga with the ball which he lobbed into the goal.

Al Markhiya pulled a second one back with Mohamed Al Hassan battling for the ball with Youssef Farahat. While Farahat felt that the ball had fell over the line, alert Al Hassan snatched the chance to win the ball, move to his right and send it into the goal.

Rabeh Boussafi provided the icing on the cake for Al Duhail with a final strike from top of the 'D'.

**Suhail Ali scores as Al Arabi edge Al Shamal 1-0**  
Al Arabi edged Al Shamal 1-0

in their first round match of Group B of the Ooredoo Cup at the same venue on Tuesday.

Rami Suhail Ali scored late in the first half (45 +2') and Al Arabi held on well to the lead till the very end of the evenly fought match.

The successful strike was a result of Abdulla Nasser Al Muraishi's superb assist as he broke past two players and beat the challenge of Ahmed Hagana to produce the cross from the left. Rami was positioned right in front of the goal and beat the goalkeeper with a cool deflect.

**Al Gharafa beat**

**Al Rayyan 4-3**

Al Gharafa rallied twice to earn a 4-3 victory against Al Rayyan at Saoud bin Abdulrahman Stadium. Al Rayyan went ahead early with a third minute strike from Tamim Mansour, with Yacine Brahimi leveling for Al Gharafa five minutes later.

The Lions took the lead again through Khalid Ali's goal in 16th minute as Al Rayyan went into the break with a 2-1 lead.

But Al Gharafa made a strong comeback in the second half, taking the game away from Al Rayyan after goals from Ishak Belfodil (57'), Ayoub Mohamad (65') and Andri (84'), before Omar Yasani scored for Al Rayyan (90+4) in stoppage time.



France's forward Kylian Mbappe controls the ball during a training session in Clairefontaine-en-Yvelines on Tuesday as part of the team's preparation for the upcoming UEFA Nations League. (AFP)

## Mbappe prevails in image rights row as FFF vows to revise agreement

STATS PERFORM/DPA  
BERLIN

KYLIAN Mbappe has prevailed in his image rights dispute with the French Football Federation (FFF) after the governing body confirmed it will "revise" its agreement with France players. Paris Saint-Germain striker Mbappe had been involved in a disagreement with the FFF since March, when he refused to show up to a photoshoot organized for France's senior men's team.

Mbappe was eager to gain greater control of his image to avoid being associated with certain brands, but FFF president Noel Le Graet and the player's entourage were unable to reach a compromise when they met in June.

Le Graet told L'Equipe there was not enough time to make the requested changes before the World Cup - as such, Mbappe's team confirmed on

Monday he was to once again boycott a photoshoot scheduled for Tuesday after the squad reconvened for upcoming Nations League games against Austria and Denmark.

But after a subsequent meeting involving FFF officials on Monday, it was eventually decided to agree to Mbappe's demands.

"After conclusive discussions in the presence of the executives of the French team, the president, the coach and a marketing manager, the French Football Federation undertakes to revise, as soon as possible, the agreement inherent in the rights to the image that binds it to its players in selection."

"The FFF is delighted to work on the outlines of a new agreement, which will allow it to ensure its interests while taking into consideration the legitimate concerns and convictions expressed unanimously by its players."

## Osaka ends four-match losing run as Saville retires injured in Tokyo



NAOMI Osaka ended a four-match losing run in unfortunate fashion in Tokyo when opponent Daria Saville retired injured in

Naomi Osaka of Japan (R) assists Daria Saville of Australia after she injured herself during their women's singles match of the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo on Tuesday. (AFP)

only the second game of the match. The Australian's career has been blighted by injury, including long-term knee and Achilles problems, and it is only this year she has returned to the top 100. Saville yelped in pain after playing a short forehand and collapsed to the court in distress clutching her left knee.

She was able to walk away but did not risk continuing, shaking hands with Osaka after only 11 points. Osaka has had her own injury problems this year with Achilles and back issues and the former world number one had not won a match since the beginning of August. (PA Media/DPA)

# Qatar Esports Federation's Message, Vision, and Objectives unveiled

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK  
DOHA

THE Qatar Esports Federation has announced its message, vision and objectives a during a press conference held at Doha Tower on Tuesday.

The press conference was attended by the QESF President Sheikh Abdullah bin Faleh Al Thani, QESF Secretary-General Faisal Abdulrahman Khalid, QESF Assistant-Secretary General Khalifa Al Haroon, and QESF Board Members: Sheikha Abeer bint Nooh Al Thani, Sheikh Nasser bin Khalid Al Thani, Ms. Moza Al Mohannadi, and Nasser Abdulla Al Hajri.

The QESF President Sheikh Abdullah bin Faleh Al Thani stressed that launching the QESF is a dream come true to develop regulations and plans to promote esports in out community.

The QESF President also highlighted that the mission of the federation is to develop esports in Qatar, expand the base of community participation and become a leading federation that fosters the growth and development of Esports in Qatar.

In addition, the QESF signed a MoU with QUEST esports company and on his behalf, the CEO and founder of



The Qatar Esports Federation has announced its message, vision and objectives a during a press conference held at Doha Tower on Tuesday.

QUEST Mr. Elie Honain said: "Today, we have marked another important milestone in the growth of esports in Qatar. Through our partnership with the Qatar eSports Federation, we will be able to grow our lo-

cal talent pool through additional support and training, as well as increase the frequency of live competitions – both intrinsic pillars of the Qatar National Vision 2030's plans for supporting the broader sports

ecosystem and youth development. Qatar has already made significant moves in becoming the region's leading eSports hub and this collaboration is only set to enhance that."

From his part, QESF Secretary General Mr. Faisal Abdulrahman Khalid shed lights on the vision and brand of the federation. The logo concept came to place by bridging the first letter of Qatar in both English and Arabic to symbolize a joystick.

"The federation aims to establish a culture of Esports in Qatar and provide talented athletes with a clear path for professional progression to be able to represent Qatar at international level," he said.

# Egypt to host first Premier Padel P1 event in Africa

P1 tournament to be held in NewGiza from October 24-30

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK  
DOHA

PREMIER Padel will host an event in Egypt for the first time as the world's fastest-growing sport comes to New Giza for a P1 event. The competition will also be the first from Premier Padel to be played in Africa, making it a landmark moment for the growth of padel.

The NewGiza Premier Padel P1 will take place from October 24th to 30th 2022 as part of a multi-year deal with Khaled El-Shawarby, CEO of the NewGiza Sports Club, partnering up with CA Sports Marketing in collaboration with the Egyptian Padel Federation.

Premier Padel is the official global padel tour, governed by the International Padel Federation (FIP) and backed by the Professional Padel Association (PPA) and Qatar Sports Investments (QSI).

The NewGiza Premier Padel P1 will take place at the NewGiza Sports Club. The Qualifiers will take place on 22nd and 23rd October, with the main draw starting at their conclusion.

The tournament becomes the latest P1 competition on the Premier Padel calendar with previous events in Madrid and Mendoza taking place last month. Prize money for the tournament will be €250,000 – in line with other P1 events with 48 pairs qualifying for the main draw from the 24th October.

Premier Padel is the only tour to offer official ranking points to players and P1 tournaments will earn the winners 1000 points.



Luigi Carraro, President of the International Padel Federation said: "When, together with PPA and QSI, we decided to create the new global Tour – Premier Padel – we had the goal to make our sport more professional and more global every day."

"Seven months after the launch, after having organised tournaments in some of the most prestigious places in the world, we finally arrive in Egypt, on the African continent."

"We are writing another page in the history of our sport and I am sure that players and fans from all over the world will enjoy the magic experience of the NewGiza Premier Padel P1."

"I would like to thank the NewGiza Sports Club who, together with our affiliate member, the Egyptian Padel Federation, will organise this magnificent event. See you in Egypt!"

Ziad Hammoud, Premier Padel Board Member said: "This is an incredibly exciting and special moment for padel in not just Egypt but the whole Africa region. We are delighted to bring Premier Padel to NewGiza. The P1 tournament will help grow the profile of Padel and fans of the fastest growing sport in the world will see the best players in action. The fans at the NewGiza Sports Club

and the millions watching Premier Padel across the globe will be treated to some world-class action next month."

Cinto Ajram, CEO of CA Sports Marketing said: "This event marks a huge milestone for CA Sports Marketing highlighting the company's growth and reach around the world and potential for the future, we are very excited and looking forward to working jointly with all the parties involved to deliver a stunning Premier Padel P1 event in NewGiza."

Khaled El-Shawarby, CEO of the NewGiza Sports Club said: "NGSC has been driving and leading the spread of padel in Egypt since 2017 when we had less than 10 courts. Now with more than 350 courts across Egypt and with the support of the Egyptian Padel Federation, NGSC is partnering up with CA Sports Marketing to set a new milestone in the region by bringing the P1 to a magical location overlooking the magnificent Pyramids of Giza, positioning Egypt as part of the global professional padel calendar."

Ahmed Ghatwary, President of the Egyptian Padel Federation said: "We are very excited that we will be having a Premier Padel P1 in Egypt starting this year, we have seen a huge development of the sport

in Egypt over the last year and a couple of weeks ago Egypt qualified for the first time to the World Cup. We thank the NewGiza Sports Club along with CA Sports Marketing for the huge effort they have made to make this happen and we are sure it will be another huge milestone for the growth of the sport in our beloved country."

The Board of Directors of the Professional Padel Association (PPA) said: "The players are delighted to bring the fantastic new Premier Padel tour to Africa for the very first time. The NewGiza Premier Padel P1 tournament will be a historic moment for the sport in the region and the players are delighted to see our sport growing in profile, prestige and professionalism across the world under the Premier Padel tour."

Launched earlier this year, Premier Padel has so far hosted five tournaments in 2022 – including three category one "Major" events, with the Mexico Premier Padel Major at the Club Sonoma in Monterrey, Mexico to come on 28th November to 4th December. Previous Majors this season took the brand new Tour to the Ooredoo Qatar Major 2022 in March, the Italy Premier Padel Major in May, and the Paris Premier Padel Major at Stade Roland Garros in July.

The 'NEWGIZA Premier Padel P1' will be broadcast live around the world in more than 180 territories on the likes of ESPN (South America, Central America, Mexico and Caribbean), Sky Sports (Italy, UK, Ireland, Germany, Austria, Switzerland), beIN SPORTS (MENA, South East Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Turkey), Viaplay (Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Iceland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and the Netherlands), SuperSport (Sub-Saharan Africa), Canal+ (France & other global territories) and many more.

## AL TAMIMI MAKES EGYPTIAN OPEN SQUASH PRE-QUARTERS



Qatar's No.1 squash player Abdulla Al Tamimi survived a fightback from Switzerland's Dimitri Steinmann to enter the pre-quarterfinals of the Egyptian Open Squash tournament in Cairo, on Tuesday. The 27-year-old Qatari won 3-2 (11-6, 11-8, 11-13, 7-11, 11-9) after an exciting 69 minutes match. Al Tamimi looked set to go through when he took the first two games, only for Steinmann to peg him back to 2-2. Al Tamimi, however, was able to regroup and took the match courtesy of an 11-9 win in the fifth. (TNN)

## Hales leads England to historic T20I win in Pakistan

AGENCIES  
KARACHI

THE returning Alex Hales hit 53 and debutant Luke Wood took 3-24 as England claimed a six-wicket Twenty20 win over Pakistan in their first game in the country for 17 years, reports BBC.com.

Chasing 159 to win, Hales hit seven fours in a controlled and mature knock in his first England appearance since 2019, when he was dropped from the World Cup squad for off-field issues.

His fifty gave England a platform for victory, with Harry Brook making 42 not out off 25 balls in just his fifth T20 to guide the tourists home with four balls to spare in Karachi.

Earlier Pakistan made 158-7, with Mohammad Rizwan striking 68 from 46 balls, while opening partner and captain Babar Azam added 31 off 24.

Wood was supported by Adil Rashid, who took 2-27, including the key wicket of Babar

with a brilliant googly to end an 85-run opening stand.

The match was England's first in the country for 6,118 days, since a Test and one-day international tour in December 2005.

No countries toured Pakistan for six years after an attack by gunmen on the Sri Lanka team bus in 2009, with sides returning sporadically since 2015.

England were due to tour last winter, but withdrew after New Zealand's men abandoned their tour of Pakistan because of a security threat.

The second game in the seven-match series, which is a build-up to the T20 World Cup in Australia in October and November, is on Thursday.

**Scores: Pakistan 158-7 (20 overs):** Rizwan 68 (46), Babar 31 (24); L Wood 3-24, Rashid 2-27 **lost to England 160-4 (19.2 overs):** Hales 53 (40), Brook 42\* (25); Qadir 2-36. **England won by six wickets; lead series 1-0.**

### Quick read

#### Ireland name strong squad for T20 World Cup with Andrew Balbirnie as skipper

Skipper Andrew Balbirnie will lead a strong Ireland squad at this year's ICC T20 World Cup after the European nation named their 15-player squad for the upcoming tournament on Tuesday. Balbirnie will spearhead Ireland's assault on the four-week tournament as he was announced to captain an experienced squad that includes a good mix of talented veterans and promising youngsters. Opener Paul Stirling, key all-rounder George Dockrell and Balbirnie provide the experience in the 15-member squad, while star batter Harry Tector and consistent pacer Mark Adair put the polish on a well-balanced outfit.

"It's an exciting time for Irish cricket as we embark on another major global tournament. Over the last year we have been building a solid core squad, while creating more depth in our T20 cricket. I think fans have started to see the positive strides the players have been making in this format – especially with the series win over Afghanistan – and we hope we can take this momentum into the tournament in Australia," said Andrew White, Chair of National Men's Selectors. "One of the most considered

decisions we had to make was around our spin bowling options. With George Dockrell and Gareth Delany both having an impact this summer and the variation they bring to the attack, it came down to making a choice between Simi Singh and Andy McBrine. Andy can feel very unfortunate to have missed out this time. We believe this is one of the strongest T20 squads we have sent to a World Cup and wish the team and coaching staff well for the tournament ahead." Ireland will need to negotiate their way through a tricky group in the first round of the T20

World Cup, with their opening match coming up against Zimbabwe at Bellerive Oval in Hobart on 17 October. They then take on fellow European side Scotland and Caribbean giant West Indies at the same venue, with the top two teams from the group progressing through to the Super 12 stage of the event. **Ireland T20 World Cup squad:** Andrew Balbirnie (c), Mark Adair, Curtis Campher, Gareth Delany, George Dockrell, Stephen Doherty, Fionn Hand, Josh Little, Barry McCarthy, Conor Olphert, Simi Singh, Paul Stirling, Harry Tector, Lorcan Tucker, Craig Young.



England's Alex Hales (L) plays a shot as Pakistan's wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan watches during the first Twenty20I at the National Cricket Stadium in Karachi on Tuesday. (AFP)