

SPORTS

PSG to face fifth-tier Pontivy in French Cup

AFP | Paris

Holders Paris Saint-Germain were drawn at Pontivy from the fifth tier in the last 64 of the French Cup on Monday.

The Parisians have won their last 42 domestic cup matches, a record stretching back to February 2014.

Elsewhere, the lowest side left in the competition, Entente Crest-Aouste from the eighth level, will welcome Nancy from Ligue 2 if the minnows beat Le Puy in a postponed game from the previous round.

Aiglon du Lamentin are only the third club in the history of the competition from the Caribbean island of Martinique to reach this stage and will become only the second side from an overseas territory in almost 30 years to reach the last 32 if they overcome Orleans from Ligue 2.

Chelsea ban fans over alleged racial abuse of Sterling

Reuters | London

Chelsea said on Monday they had banned four supporters from matches pending an investigation into alleged racial abuse of Manchester City forward Raheem Sterling.

The incident involving the 24-year-old England international occurred during City's 2-0 Premier League defeat at Stamford Bridge on Saturday.

Chelsea said they were "fully supporting" a police investigation launched after a video posted online showed Sterling being shouted at by a fan as he went to collect the ball from behind the goal.

Asked about the remarks the fan made, Sterling told journalists on Sunday he "had to laugh" because he expected no better, adding that newspapers were "unacceptable" in their portrayal of young black players.

The Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) said harsh treatment that Sterling was receiving from the media was fuelling racism on the terraces, reports of which had increased from last season.

India keen to carry momentum

Reuters | Adelaide

Having become the first Indian team to win a test series-opener on Australian soil, Virat Kohli's side are determined to keep the momentum rolling into the second clash in Perth and inch closer to a breakthrough series triumph Down Under.

India were made to work harder than expected in the 31-run win at Adelaide Oval, and their bowlers will have only three days' rest before taking to the field again at Perth Stadium on Friday.

Despite the quick turnaround, Kohli suggested the tourists were leaping out of their skins to land another blow on Tim Paine's shaky side in the four-match series.

"They are at their peak, all of them together and it's something that we as batsman look at as an opportunity to put in good performances," Kohli said of his attack, rated India's most potent in years.

"We will be, in every test match, gunning for a result."

Compared to his counterpart Paine, weighed down by a sore index finger and a long list of concerns, Kohli heads to Perth



India's Jasprit Bumrah (L) celebrates with captain Virat Kohli after dismissing Australia's captain Tim Paine on day five of the first test match between Australia and India at the Adelaide Oval

with a spring in his step.

India's Ishant Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami enjoyed a stellar debut as a pace unit in Australia, sharing 14 of the 20 wickets at Adelaide Oval, bowling with sustained pressure and limiting the hosts to a single 50-run partnership.

Kohli's batsmen got off to a shaky start and needed man-of-the-match Cheteshwar Pujara's glittering 123 to achieve a modest first innings total of 250.

However, after Australia were bowled out for 235, they were quick to seize the momentum and build valuable partnerships

to all but bat Australia out of the game.

Though beaten and vulnerable, a chastened Australia can be expected to fight back hard on a wicket likely to suit their classy pace attack.

Kohli will hope for more from the recalled opener Murali Vi-



Virat Kohli had struck four centuries in the 2014-15 tour of Australia

jay, who has struggled to justify his place in the side this year. He managed only 11 and 18 in Adelaide, undone by Australia's pace spearhead Mitchell Starc both times.

With sidelined young opener Prithvi Shaw seen limping around Adelaide Oval after his ankle injury during a tour match, the veteran Vijay should have another chance to stake his claim.

Kohli, who struck four centuries in the 2014-15 tour of Australia, is also due a score after being dismissed for three and 34 in Adelaide.

The India skipper noted that his team's tail-end batting was trumped by Australia's as their last five wickets could only muster 25 runs in the second innings.

Australia look for quick fix ahead of second Test

AFP | Adelaide, Australia

Australia skipper Tim Paine admitted there was little time to regroup after the first Test defeat to India, but said he had no doubt under-fire fast bowling spearhead Mitchell Starc would bounce back in Perth.

Australia skipper Tim Paine admitted there were shortcomings in Adelaide, but he was largely happy with how the team performed.

"There was a number of reasons why we lost," he said.

"We thought we could have cleaned them up on day one for 200-210 and we let that slip a bit. Clearly we'd like to score more than 230 in a first innings in Australia. There's things we do need to tighten up."

Starc received some criticism for some wayward spells, including a string of costly byes, in India's second innings in Adelaide. But Paine said the left-arm paceman would come good.

"He didn't set the world on fire but I think, for a long time,



Australia's Peter Handscomb (R) celebrates with wicket-keeper captain Tim Paine (file photo)

there's been a really big gap between Starc's best and his worst," said Paine.

"And from what I'm seeing, that is getting closer and closer every day. Was he at his best? Probably not. But I still thought he played his role."

One key area of concern is opening batsmen. Debutant Marcus Harris scored 26 in each innings and showed enough to warrant another crack, but one-day specialist Aaron Finch

failed both times, out for a duck and then 11.

Paine acknowledged the top order must start delivering, but indicated they are likely to stick with the same line-up although there could be further discussions with coach Justin Langer before Friday's team is named.

"Justin's the coach and he's got a fair say," Paine said. "So I imagine if he wants to talk about it, it will be on the agenda when

we get to Perth."

On what is expected to be a bouncy and seam-friendly pitch at the new Perth Stadium, similar to the WACA Ground it has replaced, spin great Shane Warne said he would like to see all-rounder Marcus Stoinis replace middle-order batsman Peter Handscomb.

"Perth, given what we are hearing, it's going to be a nice, fast bouncy pitch, so I would be making one change and that would be to bring in Marcus Stoinis who got 85 in the last (Sheffield) Shield match and a 60 in the Shield game before," said Warne.

"But mainly it would be for his all-round capabilities, just to relieve a little pressure on Starc who might be able to bowl one less spell and be a little bit better."

Paine himself is a slight doubt after being on the right finger by a Mohammed Shami delivery -- the same finger that has required several operations in the past.

Stop retirement talk, Rummenigge tells Coman

AFP | Berlin

Bayern Munich chief Karl-Heinz Rummenigge has told Kingsley Coman to stop all talk of retiring from "aggressive" modern-day football and focus on returning to the fray with his morale intact.

Injury-plagued Coman, who has started only three Champions League games for Bayern since joining the club in 2016, said in a recent television interview that back-to-back injuries had left him pondering his future in the game.

Rummenigge, speaking before Bayern's trip to Amsterdam where they will face Ajax in the Champions League on Wednesday, said it was unthinkable for the 22-year-old Frenchman to be considering quitting.

"I would advise him not to get carried away and stop thinking about ending his career," said Rummenigge.



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Vietnam gain upper hand after draw with Malaysia

Reuters | Hong Kong

Malaysia fought back from going two goals behind to secure a 2-2 draw with Vietnam in the first leg of the Asean Football Federation Championship final yesterday.

Vietnam go into Saturday's return leg in Hanoi's My Dinh Stadium as favourites, however, thanks to their two away goals.

Both nations are attempting to win the regional title for only the second time.

After weathering a strong start by the hosts the Vietnamese raced into a two-goal lead by the 25th minute.

Phan Van Duc hit the Malaysians on the break when he latched on to Doan Van Hau's lofted pass before sending in a low centre that eventually end-

ed up at the feet of Nguyen Huy Hung, and he slotted his deflected shot beyond goalkeeper Farizal Marlias.

Pham Duc Huy made it 2-0 soon after when his shot from distance gave Farizal little chance.

With the vociferous backing of the majority inside the Bukit Jalil Stadium, Malaysia found a way back into the game nine

minutes before the interval when Shahrul Saad charged into the six-yard box to head Saymer Kutty Abba's curling free kick home.

Malaysia were level on the hour as Safawi Rashid stepped up to curl a free kick from the edge of the area around the wall and beyond the outstretched arms of Dang Van Lam.