

sports

PSG title party delayed again

Paris Saint-Germain have to put their title party on hold after being thumped 5-1 at Lille

AFP | Paris

Paris Saint-Germain missed the chance to seal their sixth Ligue 1 title in seven years for the second week running on Sunday after a 5-1 hammering at Lille, their biggest league defeat in 10 years.

Thomas Tuchel's side could have been crowned champions in record-equalling time last weekend but failed to beat Strasbourg, and they fell short again on Sunday despite needing just a point in a match that saw them have to play with 10 men for 54 minutes and lose both captain Thiago Silva and Thomas Meunier to injury.

The loss was PSG's worst domestic defeat since going down 4-0 at Bordeaux in 2009, and the first time they had conceded five goals in the league since another 5-1 defeat at Sedan way back in 2000.

However they are still 17 points clear of second-placed Lille and if they win at Nantes on Wednesday they will still win the league with six matches to spare.

"We are going to be champions, but you have to lose in the right way," said Kylian Mbappe, who had two goals ruled out for offside.

"We can't lack personality like that, and concede three, four, five goals. Losing happens, but that is not normal."

World Cup winner Mbappe had already had one goal chalked off by the officials when a comical Meunier own goal set Lille



Paris St Germain's Kylian Mbappe in action with Lille's Zeki Celik

on their way after six minutes.

But PSG looked set to seal the title when Juan Bernat levelled soon after and Mbappe roofed what looked like his 28th league goal of the season in the 13th minute, only to see that one also rightly disallowed.

Silva left the field with a knee injury soon after and after Meunier was pulled off, Bernat was then handed a debatable straight red card in the 36th minute for

a tug on Nicolas Pepe despite a VAR check.

Attacker Pepe slotted home Lille's second five minutes after the break when he latched onto a superb Jonathan Ikone through ball and after that the floodgates opened.

Jonathan Bamba smashed home the third 14 minutes later from another Ikone assist and two fine headers from Gabriel and Jose Fonte in the final 20

minutes completed the rout and put Lille eight points ahead of third-placed Lyon.

"Putting five past PSG doesn't happen to everyone, even if they did only have 10 men, but we played well tonight," Pepe told Canal+.

"We've still got six matches left and we need to win at least three or four to be assured of the Champions League next season."



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Earlier on Sunday, Saint-Etienne closed in on Champions League football after Mathieu Debuchy scored twice in a 3-0 win over Bordeaux that moves them to within three points of Lyon.

Wahbi Khazri opened the scoring from the spot 10 minutes after the break following a VAR check of Sergi Palencia's handball before Debuchy headed home the second from a corner to seal the points 17 minutes before the end.

Debuchy then completed the win with a deflected close-range strike in the final minute to put Jean-Louis Gasset's side back ahead of Marseille, who started the day fourth and in the Europa League spot after surviving late VAR penalty drama on Saturday to scrape to a 2-1 win over Nimes.

They are two points ahead of Rudi Garcia's side and piling pressure on Lyon, who have lost two on the bounce following Friday's shock 2-1 defeat at Nantes.

Garin becomes first Chilean ATP champion in a decade

AFP | Los Angeles

Christian Garin claimed his first ATP title on Sunday, weathering a solid challenge from Casper Ruud to post a three-set win in the final of the US Men's Clay Court Championships.

The 22-year-old Garin, who is part of the ATP's next generation of stars, beat Ruud 7-6 (7/4), 4-6, 6-3 and becomes the first Chilean to win an ATP Tour title since Fernando Gonzalez in 2009.

"Casper is a great player I am sure we will play many more finals against each other," said Garin, who improved his clay court record to 11-3 in 2019. "This is my favourite tournament now and I hope to come back next year."

Pogba auctions World Cup-winning boots for charity

AFP | Paris

The football boots with which Paul Pogba effectively won the World Cup for France last year are to go under the hammer in Paris later this month, Christie's said yesterday.

The auction house estimate they could go for up to 50,000 euros (\$56,500).

The Manchester United midfielder, who scored France's third goal in 4-2 victory over Croatia, has donated them to a French charity which helps students from tough areas.

Pogba, who grew up on a deprived estate in the Paris suburbs, has also given the France shirt he wore during the team's victory over Iceland in the Euro 2016 quarter final, in which he also scored.

France eventually lost to Portugal in extra-time in the final. Two of Pogba's Juventus rigs will also auctioned at the sale on April 29.

"This organisation does great work for young people in difficulty," the star said. "Coming from where I do, I know how difficult it can be to succeed."

Shafiq Glass edge Riders

TDI | Manama

Shafiq Glass defeated Riders by 53 runs in CBA Division D T-20 Kncok out league. Shafiq Glass won the toss and elected to bat first. Yusuf (45) and Mohammed (38) put a 92 runs partnership for the 5th wicket that helped them to score 165 at the end of 20 overs. Chasing the target Tornado Riders scored only 112 runs. Vijesh (35) became the top scorer for Riders and Abbas and Ail bagged two wickets each for Shafiq Glass.

Brief Score: Shafiq Glass 165//7 in 20 overs (Yusuf 45, Mohammed 38, Reji 2/22) beat Tornado Riders 112/10 (Vijesh 35, Abbas 3/32) by 53 runs

Fog Printing 126/7 in 20 overs (Javed 28, Jayakumar 24, Rijo 2/26) beat Bulls 105/9 (Sunil 24, Reji 2/15) by 21 runs

CBA Division C T-20 Knock out Tournament

Fateh Curtain 99/3 in 9.4 overs (Zahid 53, Shabeer 2/15) beat Indian Delights 98/6 (Shabeer 34, Waseem 2/13) by 7 wickets

Alyousuf Exchange 178/9 in 20 overs (Shyam 55, Anees 35, Faizan 2/17) beat Mumbai Riders 142/10 (Faizan 39, Furqan 36, Anil 3/37) by 36 runs

Pak Eagles 125/3 in 12.3 overs (Shahzab 41, Mehboob 32, Adil 2/17) beat central Café 124/10 (Adil 22, latif 3/20) by 7 wickets

CBA Division D 25 overs league

Hempel Paints 127/10 (Tayyab 22, Antony 4/27) beat COTS CA 108/10 (Sam 39, Bally 3/10) by 19 runs

NDC Bahrain 187/10 (Balaji 53, Rahul 30, Salman 4/44) beat Suha Travels 169/10 (Tabreez 29, Husnain 28, Alex 2/13) by 18 runs

Karnataka Strikers 172/9 in 25 overs (Shoaib 45, Noor 30, latif 2/20) beat Alpha Fire Bahrain 163/8 (Thilina 62, Amila 32, Riyab 3/20) by 9 runs

Tisca 170/10 (Sameer 29, Sagar 5/23) beat Indian Super Kings 105/10 (Ashwani 26, Omer 2/7) by 65 runs

Spartans 109/5 in 19.3 overs (Shahin 38, Sheraz 23, Prashob 2/30) beat Falcon CC 108/10 (Antony 41, Zeeshan Ali 3/5) by 5 wickets

Modest XI 131/10 (Xavier 40, Jojo 4/19) beat Friends XI 111/10 (Shah Alam 42, Jamshir 3/14) by 20 runs

Matrix CC 124/9 in 25 overs (Jagan 28, Mominul 25, Thousif 3/19) beat Kooheji Contractors 90/10 (Riaz 20, Arun 3/20) by 34 runs

IMMAF president congratulate Shaikh Khalid

TDI | Manama

The international MMA community continues to show its support for HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Vice Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, Chairman of West Asian Athletics Association and Chairman of the Bahrain Athletics Federation, on the occasion of his appointment as the president of the Bahrain Olympic Committee.

After fighters and influencers from the sport sent their

congratulations. IMMAF president Kerrith Brown praised HH Shaikh Khalid's appointment and talk about his vision and leadership for the sport.

For the last three years, HH Shaikh Khalid has committed to the development of the sport also at amateur level by helping to bring the world championships to Bahrain and increasing its popularity. Kerrith Brown, president of the International MMA Federation, who has a close relationship with His Highness, congratulated him on his momentous appointment.

Meanwhile, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports second deputy chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee honorary president Shaikh Isa bin Rashid Al Khalifa also congratulated HH Shaikh Khalid.

Shaikh Isa said that the unanimous decision of national sports federations representatives during the recently-held general assembly reflects HH Shaikh Khalid's vast history of successes and achievements, in addition to significant contributions to the fields of youth and sports in Bahrain.

Smith and Warner back for Australia's World Cup

AFP | Sydney

Ball-tamperers Steve Smith and David Warner were yesterday selected for Australia's World Cup squad, but there was no room for Josh Hazlewood or Peter Handscomb.

It is the first call-up for the former captain and his deputy since the expiry late last month of year-long bans for their part in the "sandpapergate" scandal in Cape Town that rocked cricket.

They were eligible for the fi-



David Warner (R) of Winnipeg Hawks runs down the wicket during a change of ends in a Global T20 Canada match (file photo)

nal two games of Australia's recent limited-overs tour against Pakistan, but selectors preferred that they eased themselves back at the Twenty20 Indian Premier League.

Both grabbed the opportunity and have been in good touch, particularly the bombastic Warner who has made a blistering return.

It left coach Justin Langer with a dilemma on the back of the defending World Cup champions winning eight one-day internationals on the trot, against

India and Pakistan.

All the top order have been firing, and it is Handscomb who is the fall guy despite averaging 43 in 13 games this year. The decision to drop him means the team only has one wicketkeeper in Alex Carey.

"We have been extremely pleased with how the ODI squad has been building over the past six months, including the recent series wins in India and against Pakistan in the UAE," said chief selector Trevor Hohns.