

Treble-chasing Bayern delay celebrations despite title win

Bundesliga champions postpone traditional festivities as focus shifts to cup and Europe

● Bayern win 35th Bundesliga title

● Beat Stuttgart 4-2 after comeback

● Lead by 15 points at top

● Treble ambitions remain strong

AFP | Munich

Despite sealing their 35th Bundesliga title on Sunday, Bayern Munich put the celebrations, including the traditional beer showers, on ice as they continue to chase a treble this season.

Bayern came from a goal down to beat Stuttgart 4-2 to move into an unassailable 15-point lead over second-placed Borussia Dortmund with just four games remaining.

While images of players chasing each other across the grass holding large glasses of beer are synonymous with Bayern's almost annual celebrations, the club delayed the festivities with Wednesday's German Cup semi-final at Bayer Leverkus-



Rather than engaging in the traditional beer showers synonymous with a Bundesliga title win, Bayern players headed straight to the dressing room to begin recovery for their crucial DFB-Pokal semi-final against Bayer Leverkusen

en in mind.

Bayern are also through to the semi-finals of the Champions League, where they face holders Paris Saint-Germain.

Luis Diaz had two assists and Jamal Musiala one in the first-half, but both were subbed off at half-time ahead of the final phase of the season.

"I think it's coming -- yes, it's coming," Musiala told DAZN of the traditional beer shower celebrations.

"I think we're planning a proper celebration, probably at the last home game.



Bayern Munich's Belgian head coach Vincent Kompany celebrates after winning the match

"We're going straight to the changing rooms. I don't think much is going on right now, but definitely for the last game."

Bayern striker Harry Kane, who has two Bundesliga titles and a Supercup since joining the Bavarian giants in 2023, said the celebrations would be sweeter

with more silverware.

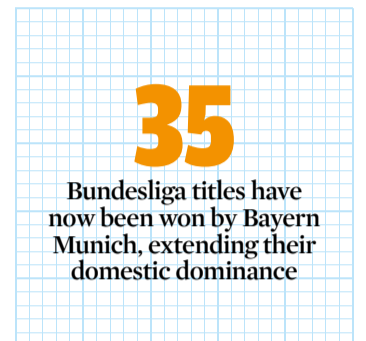
"I think it's still important to celebrate, and I will with my family and friends and the guys in the players' lounge, but it's a little bit different to last year.

"We weren't in any other competitions, so we had the chance to really celebrate and enjoy a

big night together.

"That probably won't happen yet, but we'll find time for that... For now we enjoy tonight, but then obviously the full focus will be on Wednesday."

Before the game, Bayern coach Vincent Kompany told DAZN: "We're now at a stage in this sea-



son where we can all live with waiting a little longer before we celebrate."

After the game, Kompany turned his attention to the two other trophies on offer.

"We've had very few losses this season. So many successes are possible. We're going to Leverkusen. We know it's a football match, anything can happen," Kompany said.

"But we simply have the belief that we can do it. That's worth a lot in football."

Joshua Kimmich, who was captain for the match with Manuel Neuer rested, praised his side's ruthless title defence, but warned rivals the Bavarian giants were not done yet.

"The way we won the title was special. We've rarely won as consistently and convincingly as we did this year.

"But we still have a few goals this season."

Magic shock Pistons as Thunder and Celtics win big in NBA playoffs

AFP | Los Angeles

The Orlando Magic stunned the Detroit Pistons 112-101 on Sunday as the reigning champion Oklahoma City Thunder and Boston Celtics opened the NBA playoffs with big wins.

The Thunder, trying to become the first team since Golden State in 2017 and 2018 to repeat as champions, came out firing in a 119-84 victory over the Phoenix Suns. The Celtics, seeded second in the Eastern Conference behind Detroit, dominated the Philadelphia 76ers 123-91.



Oklahoma City's Jalen Williams celebrates a dunk

And San Antonio star Victor Wembanyama made a triumphant playoff debut, scoring 35 points as the Spurs beat

the Portland Trail Blazers 111-98.

Oklahoma City looked rested and recharged after a week off since they locked up the Western Conference top seed and best record in the league.

But Eastern Conference top seeds Detroit looked rusty and the Magic, who battled through the play-in to bag their playoff berth, took advantage.

Paolo Banchero scored 23 points and Franz Wagner scored 11 of his 19 in the fourth quarter as the Magic withstood a 39-point performance from Pistons star Cade Cunningham.

Joksimovic Era Begins for Bahrain Volleyball



Joksimovic puts pen to paper as Bahrain head coach

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Volleyball Association has officially appointed Montenegrin coach Ivan Joksimovic as the new head coach of the national men's volleyball team for the upcoming period. The agreement was reached in coordination with the management of Dar Kulaib Club, where Joksimovic currently serves as head coach.

The appointment comes amid Bahrain's preparations for the 4th Gulf Games, set to take place in Doha from May 11 to May 22.

Joksimovic arrives in strong domestic form, having guided

Dar Kulaib Club through a dominant 2025-26 Isa Bin Rashid Bahrain Volleyball League campaign. The team remains unbeaten with 23 wins and is firmly positioned as one of the leading contenders for the national title.

Under his leadership, Bahrain will begin its Gulf Games campaign on May 16 against Oman. The team will return to action the following day against the United Arab Emirates, before facing Kuwait on May 19.

A key fixture in the group stage comes on May 20, when Bahrain meets hosts Qatar, before concluding its campaign against Saudi Arabia on May 22.

Bahrain Announce Basketball Squad for 4th Gulf Games

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Basketball Association has unveiled a preliminary 15-player squad for the men's national team ahead of the 4th Gulf Games, scheduled to take place in Doha from May 11 to May 22.

The selection draws on domestic talent from the Zain Bahrain Basketball League, which concluded earlier this week with Muharrar crowned champions after a dominant campaign. Several players from runners-up Manama also feature, alongside other standout performers from across the league.

The squad includes Mohamed Bu Ali, Ahmed Salman, Ali Hus-

sain, Ali Jaber, Ahmed Bindayneh, Mahmood Abbas, Nader Ali, Ahmed Al Durazi, Hassan Ghareeb, Omran Hassan, Nader Shaker, Mohamed Sami, Mohamed Ghazi, Hassan Fahad, and Mohamed Nasser.

Basketball is one of 19 sports featured at the Gulf Games, with competitions staged across multiple premier venues in Doha, including Aspire Dome, Qatar Sports Club, and the Khalifa International Complex, among others.

The multi-sport event will also feature athletics, swimming, boxing, fencing, taekwondo, squash, handball, volleyball, and several other disciplines, bringing together athletes from across the region.

Bahrain enters the tourna-



Ahmed Salman during Bahrain's 2021 Asia Cup qualifiers

ment with a strong recent record in regional multi-sport competitions. At the 2022 edi-

tion, the Kingdom secured 64 medals, including 20 golds, while it claimed 43 medals in 2015 and 19 medals in 2011, eight of which were gold.

The national team will use the Gulf Games as the opening stage of a busy competitive calendar. Following the tournament in Doha, Bahrain will compete in the Asian Cup qualifying rounds in the United Arab Emirates from August 24 to September 1.

Further international commitments include participation in the Asian Games in Japan from September 19 to October 4. Bahrain may also face a second qualification window for the Asia Cup later in the year, scheduled from November 23 to December 1, depending on their progress in the opening stage.