

Chelsea sack Lampard with Tuchel set to take charge



Frank Lampard attends a training session (file photo)

AFP | London

Chelsea sacked manager Frank Lampard yesterday after 18 months in charge, with former Paris Saint-Germain boss Thomas Tuchel hotly tipped to replace him at Stamford Bridge.

Lampard signed a three-year deal in July 2019, leading Chelsea to the FA Cup final and a fourth-placed Premier League finish in his first season in charge.

Chelsea cruised into the last 16 of the Champions League and briefly topped the Premier League table in December after an impressive start to the season but they have now slumped to ninth after five defeats in eight matches -- 11 points behind leaders Manchester United.

Sunday's 3-1 FA Cup fourth-round win against Championship side Luton was not

1.67 is Lampard's average points-per-game which is the lowest for any Chelsea manager since Abramovich arrived at Stamford Bridge in 2003

enough to save the former England midfielder.

The club said it had been a "very difficult decision" to part ways with the 42-year-old, who is their all-time record goalscorer.

"We are grateful to Frank for what he has achieved in his time as head coach of the club," Chelsea said in a statement.

"However, recent results and performances have not met the club's expectations, leaving the club mid-table without any clear path to sustained improvement."

Bagautinov eyes world title glory in Flyweight tournament

Ali Bagautinov is the latest addition to BRAVE CF Flyweight tournament's lineup

● Bagautinov has set his eyes on facing off against Dustin Ortiz, another big name confirmed for the tournament

TDT | Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation's prestigious Flyweight World Title Tournament is shining the brightest of lights on one of the most underappreciated weight-classes in mixed martial arts. The historical tournament has been boosted by the addition of a world-class fighter, a familiar face to MMA fans from all over the world.



Ali Bagautinov

After a successful BRAVE Combat Federation debut in his home country of Russia, at BRAVE CF 46, Ali Bagautinov was confirmed by BRAVE CF President Mohammed Shahid as the new addition to the tournament's lineup.

A two-time combat sambo world champion, and with an extensive and victorious career in MMA, Ali Bagautinov is eager for the chance of finally holding a world title in the sport he

loves. A winning campaign in the biggest Flyweight tournament in MMA will definitely put his name in the history books.

He will now join names such as Jose "Shorty" Torres, Zach Makovsky, Dustin Ortiz, and his fellow countryman Velimir Alkhasov in the Flyweight World Title Tournament, which will place him potentially only three wins away from the ultimate glory. Right after his win over a tough Oleg Lichkovakha, Bagautinov set his eyes on facing off against Dustin Ortiz, another big name confirmed for the tournament. Both are accomplished wrestlers with heavy hands and amazing grappling, which would make for a very even and exciting fight in the first round.

Sibley and Buttler steer England to Sri Lanka Test sweep

AFP | Colombo

Dom Sibley and Jos Buttler anchored a run chase after a jittery start as England beat Sri Lanka by six wickets in the second Test to sweep the series 2-0.

Sibley and Buttler put on an unbeaten 75-run stand as England, who were struggling at 89-4, got to their target of 164 in an extended final session on the fourth day in Galle.

The result gave England a second successive Test whitewash in Sri Lanka after winning all three matches in the island nation in 2018.

"Really proud of how calm we were," skipper Joe Root said after being named man of the man

and series for knocks of 228 and 186 in the first and second Test respectively.

"Credit to the bowlers for putting Sri Lanka under pressure. We are on an upward curve as a team and looking to get better."

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