

Sports

# Hazard starts as Real Madrid defeat Osasuna, Atletico scrape past Elche

**MADRID:** Real Madrid held their nerve to beat Osasuna 2-0 in La Liga on Saturday as Eden Hazard made his first start since January, raising the possibility of Zinedine Zidane picking him for Wednesday's Champions League semi-final second leg against Chelsea.

Chaves missed a 91st-minute penalty in what could prove a pivotal moment in Spain's thrilling title race, with Atletico maintaining their two-point lead over Real Madrid and stretching the advantage to five over Barcelona. "We're entering a defining period and each victory is a very important step," said Atletico coach

hope it's a little thing but right now I can't say," Zidane said. The best chance fell to Hazard from a Marcelo cross but he failed to catch the volley cleanly, instead scuffing it into the ground and goalkeeper Sergio Herrera did brilliantly to save.

Benzema had already gone close and Militao had a pair of headers early in the second half that again drew Herrera into action. Hazard faded and departed with 18 minutes left. Osasuna were tiring too and finally Madrid got the breakthrough, Militao making it third time lucky, rising high to head in Isco's corner. Four minutes later it was two, Benzema driving in from the left and slipping a reverse pass through for Casemiro, who stretched to control and instead poked the ball directly into the net.



**LILLE:** Lille's forward Burak Yilmaz celebrates a goal during the French L1 football match between Lille (LOSC) and Nice at the Pierre-Mauroy Stadium in Villeneuve d'Ascq, near Lille, northern France, on Saturday. — AFP



**MADRID:** Real Madrid's Brazilian midfielder Casemiro (left) celebrates after scoring during the Spanish League football match between Real Madrid and Osasuna at the Alfredo Di Stefano stadium in Valdebebas in the outskirts of Madrid on Saturday. — AFP

After making a brief cameo off the bench in the first leg last week, Hazard played 72 minutes at Valdebebas and could now face his former club from the start in the pivotal return game at Stamford Bridge. "He was very good," said Zidane. "He played close to Karim (Benzema), they tried things and I was very happy with him."

Real Madrid have it all to do against Chelsea after drawing the opener 1-1 and they are playing catch-up in La Liga too, after Atletico Madrid had earlier scraped to a 1-0 victory against struggling Elche. Elche's Fidel

Diego Simeone.

Atletico's win meant victory for Real Madrid was essential and they had to work hard for it against a determined Osasuna side, Eder Militao breaking the deadlock in the 76th minute before Casemiro made it two four minutes later. Zidane's squad has been stretched by absences in recent weeks and he left Luka Modric and Toni Kroos on the bench, while handing Hazard his first start since January 30.

There could be a fresh concern, though, after defender Raphael Varane was taken off at half-time. "I

### Atletico edge out Elche

Elche squandered two golden opportunities to snatch a draw against Atletico. First, Antonio Barragan volleyed over from close range and then Marcos Llorente's handball gave Fidel a chance from the spot but he struck the post. "I don't believe in luck," Llorente said. "If it didn't hit the post, I think Oblak would have got to the shot. We have the points and that gives us a lot of strength going forward."

Atletico are now guaranteed to be ahead of Barca when they kick off at Camp Nou next Saturday. Real Madrid also face Sevilla at Valdebebas a day later in a crunch weekend at the top but the resistance of 18th-placed Elche against La Liga's frontrunners suggests the race may well go to the final day.

Simeone's side were denied three times in the first half, Luis Suarez missing a golden chance before they had a goal and a penalty ruled out by VAR. Finally, Atletico broke through, with Yannick Carrasco weaving through down the left before picking out the arriving Llorente, whose shot deflected off Josema Sanchez on its way in. Barragan should have equalized with five minutes left when the ball was headed back to him six yards out but somehow he volleyed over. There was more drama to come as Victor Rodriguez's cross struck the hand of the leaping Llorente in the box and Fidel stepped up to secure a point. Instead, he found the outside of the post. — AFP

## Lille stay top in France as Neymar nets in PSG win

**PARIS:** Burak Yilmaz again starred as Lille stayed on course to win the Ligue 1 title by beating 10-man Nice 2-0 on Saturday, a result that keeps the northern side a point clear of defending champions Paris Saint-Germain at the top of the table with three games left. Yilmaz and fellow Turkish international Zeki Celik scored the goals for Lille against a Nice team who played most of the second half a man short after defender Jordan Lotomba was sent off. Veteran striker Yilmaz, 35, had been the inspiration with a brace as Lille came from 2-0 down to win 3-2 at Lyon last weekend and he was also the catalyst here as Christophe Galtier's side responded perfectly after PSG had beaten Lens 2-1 earlier to move provisionally to the summit. Yilmaz scored with a pinpoint low strike into the far corner from 20 meters following a Jonathan David lay-off on 13 minutes, and he also struck the post in the second half.

After Lotomba was shown a second yellow card for a foul on Jonathan Bamba at the start of the second half, Celik volleyed in Lille's second goal in the 56th minute as he latched onto a clearance and volleyed in from just outside the box. If Lille win their final three games against Lens, Saint-Etienne and Angers, they will be champions for the first time since 2011.

"Three points, a clean sheet, it's good," captain Jose Fonte told broadcaster Canal+. "It was important to win at home because we hadn't won here for a while, and the battles goes on. We have three difficult games left and we just need to keep fighting." Neymar scored one goal and set up the other for Marquinhos as PSG edged Lens at home to claim a vital three points in between the two legs of their Champions League semi-final against Manchester City.

### Pochettino 'optimistic'

Coach Mauricio Pochettino made six changes to his team from the first leg which PSG lost 2-1 against Pep Guardiola's side, with Kylian Mbappe watching from the stands because of a slight calf injury. However Pochettino said he was confident Mbappe would be fit for the game in Manchester on Tuesday. "I am always optimistic and I still am," Pochettino told Canal+. "We think he will be there but we will make a decision before the game." Angel Di Maria was also rested but Neymar started and pounced when Argentine defender Facundo Medina gave the ball away under pressure to run through and score PSG's opener in the 33rd minute, his seventh league goal of the campaign.

Marquinhos then headed in a Neymar corner to make it 2-0 just before the hour mark, with Ignatius Ganago getting a goal back for Lens shortly after. Lens, who saw a 13-game unbeaten run ended, remain fifth, just ahead of Marseille in the fight for France's last European qualifying berth. They gave the reigning champions a run for their money and the tension got to PSG sporting director Leonardo, who was caught on camera angrily reonstrating with the officials in the tunnel at the end of the game — his mask under his chin — apparently over what he felt was some rough treatment for Neymar. — AFP

## No Haaland, no problem as Dortmund reach Cup final

**BERLIN:** Borussia Dortmund thrashed second-division Holstein Kiel 5-0 on Saturday in their German Cup semi-final even with top-scorer Erling Braut Haaland sidelined. Haaland, suffering from a thigh injury, watched from the stands at Signal Iduna Park as Giovanni Reyna started the rout with the first two goals to help put Dortmund in the final at Berlin's Olympic Stadium on May 13.

Dortmund will face RB Leipzig, who needed Emil Forsberg's 121st-minute winner at the end of extra-time to seal a dramatic 2-1 win at Werder Bremen on Friday in the other semi-final. "We were very consistent in front of goal. Almost every shot was a goal," Dortmund captain Marco Reus told ARD. "We are very happy to have reached the final."

Kiel had knocked out holders Bayern Munich on penalties in the second round in January, but any thoughts of another major upset were soon wiped out. The floodgates opened quickly as Mats Hummels released Jadon Sancho on the left, the England winger cut inside and passed to 18-year-old Reyna who hit the top corner on 16 minutes. The US midfielder grabbed a second goal six minutes later with a simple tap-in after Reus, then Raphael Guerreiro back-heeled the ball into Reyna's path. The third goal came on 25 minutes when Emre Can's pass over the Kiel defense found Reus who slammed his shot home.

At the other end, Dortmund had a lucky let off when Kiel forward Fabian Reese hit the post with goalkeeper Marwin Hitz beaten. It was just a brief respite as Dortmund forward Thorgan Hazard snatched up a loose pass from Jonas Meffert to score again on 32 minutes. Then England midfielder Jude Bellingham got on the scoresheet when his shot took a deflection to make it 5-0 at half-time. Bellingham nearly grabbed his second when he chipped just wide with the goal at his mercy, 14 minutes from time. However, the win came at a cost. — AFP



**CROTONA:** Inter Milan's Achraf Hakimi shoots on goal during the Italian Serie A football match Crotona vs Inter Milan at the Ezio Scida Stadium in Crotona on Saturday. — AFP

## Inter Milan 'toppling a kingdom' with Serie A title one step away

**MILAN:** Christian Eriksen and Achraf Hakimi scored in the second half as Inter Milan beat Crotona 2-0 to move to the brink of the Serie A title on Saturday. Antonio Conte's side are 13 points ahead of city rivals AC Milan who reclaimed second place with a 2-0 win over 18th-placed Benevento, with four games to play.

"We are succeeding in toppling a kingdom that had lasted for nine years," said former Juventus coach Conte, who led the Turin giants to the first three of their current run of nine consecutive league titles. "We're aware that we can do something extraordinary because Inter haven't won a Scudetto in 11 years, and we're breaking up a dynasty. The lads deserve this joy, congratulations to them. We're a step away from making history." — AFP

Dane Eriksen came on as a substitute in the 65th minute and scored four minutes later, firing home a shot which took a deflection off Crotona defender Lisandro Magallan, from Romelu Lukaku's lay-off. Lukaku had a goal ruled out before Hakimi struck a second in injury time. "It's an important goal because it moves us closer to the title, but we still haven't won it yet," said Eriksen of just his second goal this campaign. "If it proves to be the decisive goal, then obviously it'll be the most important one of the season. Every goal is important, but the one that takes you to your objective is extra special. Today, I came on as a substitute, and when you do this the aim is to make your mark: you want to shake things up. I'm happy that I managed to do so."

The match in Calabria pitted the Serie A leaders against the bottom team who were relegated as a result of the loss. Both sides had chances in the first half with Adam Ounas threatening early for the hosts who lost defender Arkadiusz Reca to injury before the break.

Lukaku headed onto the post off a Stefano Sensi corner after 23 minutes. There was a flurry of activity in front of the Crotona goal before the break with Alessandro Bastoni sending wide after connecting with a Nicolo Barella cross. — AFP

# Classifieds

### CHANGE OF NAME

**I, Caral** Gracy Dsouza holder of Indian passport no. K9616034 has been correcting the spelling of my name to Carol Gracy Dsouza in my passport. (C 0243)

**I, Mohamed** Oliyil, Oliyil House, Mampuram P.O., VK Padi, Malappuram holder of Indian passport no. K2098646 issued at Kuwait on 29/01/2012 have changed my name as Mohammed K, S/O Ibrahim, Kunnummal House, Karingappara, OM Achappuzha P.O., Mallapuram Dt., PIN: 676320. (C 0241)

**I, Jovin** Joseph holder of Indian passport no. R2312554 having permanent address at Olimalaputhenpurayil House Karamala P.O., Koothattukulam, Ernakulam, Kerala 686662, India residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as Given name: Jovin and Surname: Joseph Joji. (C 0242) 30-4-2021



Embassy of India  
Kuwait

### Contract for cleaning of Embassy of India premises

Embassy of India, Kuwait invites bids from interested companies by 3rd May, 2021 for awarding AMC for cleaning of Embassy of India premises in Kuwait. Detailed scope of work is available on Embassy's website: [www.indembkwt.gov.in](http://www.indembkwt.gov.in).

All offers should be in a sealed cover marked "Offer for AMC for cleaning of Indian Embassy premises- to be open by addresses only" and addressed to the "Head of Chancery, Embassy of India, Daeya, Diplomatic Enclave, Arabian Gulf Street, Safat 13015, Kuwait. The offer must be delivered at the Embassy on or before 1200 on 24th May 2021.

Embassy of India  
Kuwait



Embassy of India  
Kuwait

### Contract for Operation and Maintenance of Embassy Building

Embassy of India, Kuwait invites bids from interested companies/firms for operation and maintenance of air-conditioning, plumbing and firefighting system etc. installed in the Embassy building. Detailed scope of work is available on Embassy's website: [www.indembkwt.gov.in](http://www.indembkwt.gov.in).

All offers should be sent in a sealed cover which be marked for "Offer for Contract for operation and maintenance of Embassy Building to be opened by the Addressee only" and addressed to the Head of Chancery, Embassy of India, Daeya, Diplomatic Enclave, Arabian Gulf Street, Safat 13015, Kuwait. The offer must be delivered at the Embassy on or before 12:00 hrs on 1st June 2021. For any enquiries Pls write to [admkuwait@mea.gov.in](mailto:admkuwait@mea.gov.in).

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