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YANKEES CONTINUE TO THRIVE WITH WIN AGAINST RED SOX

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LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur's South Korean striker Son Heung-Min (L) vies with Chelsea's Belgian striker Michy Batshuayi during the English Premier League football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Chelsea at Wembley Stadium in London, yesterday. — AFP

ALONSO RUINS SPURS' WEMBLEY HOUSE-WARMING

	Tottenham	1
	Chelsea	2

LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur made a losing start to life as Wembley's full-time tenants after Marcos Alonso's double earned Premier League champions Chelsea a 2-1 victory yesterday. The Spaniard struck either side of a late Michy Batshuayi own goal to get Chelsea back to winning ways after their opening 3-2 loss at home to Burnley and end Spurs' club-record run of 14 successive home wins.

Spurs went unbeaten throughout their final league campaign at White Hart Lane, but struggled at Wembley in the Champions League and have now lost eight of the last 10 matches they have played there. Mauricio Pochettino's men appeared to have avoided the worst when Batshuayi put through his own goal in the 82nd minute, only for Hugo Lloris's feeble attempt at a save to gift Alonso the winner two minutes from time. For Spurs, who are playing at Wembley while White Hart Lane is rebuilt, it was a first home defeat in the league since a 2-1 loss to Southampton in May 2016. Having endured a deeply trying start to the season, Chelsea manager Antonio Conte will hope victory over the team his side pipped to the title last season will bring some much-needed positivity back to Stamford Bridge.

The Italian celebrated Alonso's winner with characteristic abandon on the touchline, thoughts of his side's transfer window struggles and his long stand-off with want-away striker Diego Costa seemingly banished. Chelsea's list of absentees-suspended pair Gary Cahill and Cesc Fabregas, injury victim Eden Hazard and the exiled Costa-moved Conte to adopt an unfamiliar 3-5-1-1 system, with David Luiz anchoring the midfield. He also gave a debut to £40 million (\$51.5 million, 43.8 million euros) new signing Tiemoué Bakayoko, who produced a leggy 90-minute showing in his first appearance since arriving from French champions Monaco.

KANE HITS POST

Alvaro Morata should have crowned his full

Chelsea debut with an early goal, only to head wide from seven yards when Cesar Azpilicueta's cross picked him out unmarked, but in the 24th minute his side did go ahead. Chelsea were awarded a free-kick after Dele Alli clipped Luiz and from a position 25 yards from goal, slightly to the right of centre, Alonso arced a magnificent shot into the top-right corner. Harry Kane, Alli and Mousa Dembele had all threatened for Spurs prior to Chelsea's opener and after falling behind, they dominated the rest of the first half. Kane bent a shot against the base of the right-hand post after cutting inside Andreas Christensen from Alli's pass, while Ben Davies saw a swerving effort from range clubbed away by the diving Thibaut Courtois. The hosts could count themselves unfortu-

nate to be behind, but they were also a little lucky to keep 11 men on the field after Eric Dier and Jan Vertonghen escaped with yellow cards for ugly fouls on Luiz and Victor Moses. With Chelsea's back three becoming more of a back five, they successfully held Spurs at bay in the second half and came close to adding a second goal when Willian's low drive came skidding back off the post. Spurs thought they had rescued a point with eight minutes remaining when Batshuayi, who had only been on the pitch for four minutes, inadvertently headed Christian Eriksen's free-kick into his own net. But six minutes later, Alonso picked up a loose ball in midfield and swapped passes with substitute Pedro before drilling a low shot beneath Lloris to give Chelsea victory. — AFP

INDIA POWER TO 9-WICKET ODI WIN OVER S LANKA

DAMBULLA: Opener Shikhar Dhawan's blazing century and a disciplined effort by the spinners powered India to a nine-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the first one-day international yesterday. Chasing a modest 217 for victory, India rode on an unbeaten 197-run stand between Dhawan, who smashed 132, and skipper Virat Kohli, who made 82, to canter home in 28.5 overs. The left-handed Dhawan hit the winning runs off a boundary and later received the man of the match award for his 90-ball blitz in

Dambulla. But it was the spinners, led by Axar Patel, who set up the opening win for the visitors in the five-match series after bowling out Sri Lanka for 216 in 43.2 overs. India, who last week achieved their first clean sweep in an overseas three-Test series, lost an early wicket after Rohit Sharma was run out for four. The partnership between Dhawan, who hit his 11th ODI century, and Kohli made sure India had no more hiccups in their road to victory. "We really enjoyed batting together, me and Shikhar... The good

thing is that he is cashing in on his good form," Kohli said of his swashbuckling opener. "He is in a good state of mind and we make sure we do everything to keep him in that zone because he is a match winner. When he plays like that he will win you games of cricket and that's why we back him so much," added Kohli. Dhawan was in marauding form, hitting 20 fours and 3 sixes, but Kohli also attacked the opposition during his 70-ball stay at the crease. New limited-overs captain Upul Tharanga rotated his bowling

options at Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium but failed to stop the onslaught. It was a forgettable 200th ODI for veteran pacer Lasith Malinga, who was not only stuck on 298 wickets but was carted for 52 runs in his eight overs. Earlier put into bat, opener Niroshan Dickwella's 74-ball 64 took Sri Lanka to 139-1 in the 25th over before their batting imploded. Patel claimed three wickets with his left-arm spin to return career-best figures of 3-34. Fellow spinners Yuzvendra Chahal, Kedar Jadhav and paceman Jasprit Bumrah took two wickets each. "At 139-1 (in Sri Lanka's innings) we surely had a bit to think about but again the way the bowler came back into the game and got us those breakthroughs along with our fielding really made the difference," said Kohli. Off-spinner Kedar Jadhav then struck twice to get two important wickets of Dickwella and Tharanga, who made 13. Patel bowled Kusal Mendis for 36 and Chamara Kapugedara's run out by a direct throw from Kohli made the hosts slip further. Former captain Angelo Mathews tried to stick around with the lower-order but eventually ran out of partners to be stranded on 36. Bumrah combined with the spinners to wipe off the tail. "We started really well and after that we didn't capitalise. The middle order collapsed. One stage, we were thinking of 300," said a disappointed Tharanga. "If you want to score 300 in an ODI, someone has to get a big score and that is what we are lacking in the last one or two years. We have to learn from the mistakes," he added. Sri Lanka must win at least two games in the series to gain direct entry into the 2019 World Cup. The second ODI is scheduled for Thursday in Pallekele. — AFP



DAMBULLA: India's wicketkeeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, left, stumps out Sri Lanka's Lasith Malinga, right, during their first one-day international cricket match in Dambulla, Sri Lanka, yesterday. — AP

SCOREBOARD

DAMBULLA, Sri Lanka: Final scoreboard of the first one-day international between Sri Lanka and India in Dambulla yesterday:

Sri Lanka	
N. Dickwella lbw b Jadhav	64
D. Gunathilaka c Rahul b Chahal	35
K. Mendis b Patel	36
U. Tharanga c Dhawan b Jadhav	13
A. Mathews not out	36
C. Kapugedara run out (Kohli)	1
W. Hasaranga c Jadhav b Patel	2
T. Perera b Bumrah	0
L. Sandakan lbw b Patel	5
L. Malinga st Dhoni b Chahal	8
V. Fernando b Bumrah	0
Extras (lb6, w10)	16
Total (all out, 43.2 overs)	216
Fall of wickets: 1-74 (Gunathilaka), 2-139 (Dickwella), 3-150 (Mendis), 4-166 (Tharanga), 5-169 (Kapugedara), 6-176 (Hasaranga), 7-178 (Perera), 8-187 (Sandakan), 9-209 (Malinga), 10-216 (Fernando)	
Bowling: Kumar 6-0-33-0, Pandya 6-0-35-0, Bumrah 6.2-0-22-2, Chahal 10-0-60-2, Jadhav 5-0-26-2, Patel 10-0-34-3.	
India (target 217)	
R. Sharma run out (Kapugedara)	4
S. Dhawan not out	132
V. Kohli not out	82
Extras (w2)	2
Total (1 wicket, 28.5 overs)	220
Fall of wickets: 1-23 (Sharma)	
Did not bat: L. Rahul, K. Jadhav, M.S. Dhoni, H. Pandya, A. Patel, Y. Chahal, J. Bumrah, B. Kumar.	
Bowling: Malinga 8-0-52-0, Fernando 6-0-43-0, Mathews 2-0-9-0, Perera 2-0-18-0, Sandakan 6-0-63-0, Hasaranga 4.5-0-35-0.	
Result: India won by nine wickets	
Series: India lead the five-match series 1-0	