

## Sports

# Man Utd crash out of League Cup, Spurs, Chelsea advance

**LONDON:** Manchester United crashed out of the League Cup as West Ham avenged their painful loss to Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side with a 1-0 win at Old Trafford, while Chelsea and Tottenham survived penalty shoot-outs to reach the fourth round on Wednesday. The Hammers suffered a gut-wrenching 2-1 defeat against United in the Premier League on Sunday when David De Gea saved Mark Noble's stoppage-time penalty after Jesse Lingard's late winner.

But David Moyes' men got a measure of revenge three days later as Manuel Lanzini's first half goal dumped United out in the third round. Solskjaer made 11 changes and Moyes opted for 10 alterations, with West Ham's understudies making the most of their moment in the spotlight. Ryan Fredericks ghosted past Alex Telles and cut back for Lanzini to sweep past United goalkeeper Dean Henderson in the ninth minute.

That was enough for Moyes to secure a first win over United since they sacked the Scot after less than a season in charge in 2014. It was also West Ham's first victory at Old Trafford since 2007, earning them a home tie against holders Manchester City in the last 16. Solskjaer criticized his team's tentative opening, saying: "A slow start again and that needs addressing. 'I've never actually won this tournament, so that hunt will keep going. But we have to make the decisions to have the squad up to speed for the rest of the season. Sometimes you have to take risks.'"

At Stamford Bridge, Chelsea won 4-3 on

penalties after a 1-1 draw against Aston Villa. Much-maligned German forward Timo Werner headed Chelsea into the lead in the 54th minute, finishing off Reece James' cross for his first goal in 11 games. With Villa fan Prince William watching from the stands, 19-year-old striker Cameron Archer equalised in the 64th minute with a close-range header from Matty Cash's cross. James scored Chelsea's winning penalty in the shoot-out after Ashley Young and Marvelous Nakamba missed for Villa.

### Kane back on track

Harry Kane ended his goal drought as Tottenham boss Nuno Espirito Santo knocked out his former club Wolves 3-2 on penalties after a 2-2 draw at Molineux. Tanguy Ndombele gave Tottenham a 14th-minute lead when he charged down Conor Coady's clearance and shot past John Ruddy. Kane, without a goal in his four previous games, increased Tottenham's advantage after 23 minutes. Dele Alli's perfect pass sent Kane clear and the England captain found the bottom corner. Leander Dendoncker pulled one back for Wolves seven minutes before the break when he headed in Rayan Ait-Nouri's corner. Daniel Podence levelled 13 minutes into the second half from Dendoncker's pass. In the shootout, Dendoncker, Ruben Neves and Coady all missed for Wolves. "He has much more to give and it's about the game, improving and growing together," Nuno said of Kane.



**MANCHESTER:** Manchester United's Ivorian defender Eric Bailly (left) reacts to a challenge from West Ham United's English midfielder Mark Noble during the English League Cup third round football match at Old Trafford on Wednesday. — AFP

Arsenal eased to a 3-0 win against third tier AFC Wimbledon at the Emirates Stadium, setting up a last 16 clash with Leeds. The Gunners, featuring 10 changes from the weekend win at Burnley, went ahead in the 11th minute. Gabriel

Martinelli was fouled by Nesta Guinness-Walker and Alexandre Lacazette slotted home the penalty. Emile Smith-Rowe doubled the lead in the 77th minute and Eddie Nketiah's impudent flick wrapped up the win three minutes later. — AFP

## Asensio bags hat-trick as Real Madrid hit Mallorca for six

**MADRID:** Marco Asensio scored his first hat-trick for Real Madrid on Wednesday against Mallorca, his boyhood club, as Madrid cruised to a 6-1 win to go top of La Liga. Karim Benzema capitalised on an early Mallorca mistake at the Santiago Bernabeu before three goals in five minutes put Madrid 3-1 ahead, two Asensio strikes coming either side of a curling effort from Mallorca's Lee Kang-in.

Asensio completed his treble with a bending shot of his own in the second half and went off to a standing ovation, leaving Benzema to add his second and Isco to tap in Madrid's sixth late on. Benzema's second goal was his 200th in La Liga, making him only the 10th player to reach the milestone. "Clearly Karim is playing very well," said Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti. "Not just himself but for the team. He is a complete striker."

Victory lifts Real Madrid two points clear of Atletico at the top of La Liga, with Sevilla up to third after they had earlier eased past Valencia 3-1. Asensio was born in Palma and began playing for Mallorca aged 10, only to join Real Madrid in 2016. He declined to celebrate any of his three goals but will have made an impression on Ancelotti, who was giving the 25-year-old his first start of the season. "Asensio did very well. It is true that from that position he can hurt the opponent, between the lines he has a lot of quality," Ancelotti said.

Benzema now has eight goals this term and there were noteworthy displays too from Eduardo Camavinga, the hugely exciting 18-year-old midfielder, as well as Madrid's two central defenders,



**MADRID:** Real Madrid's Spanish midfielder Marco Asensio scores his team's third goal against Real Mallorca at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium on Wednesday. — AFP

David Alaba and Eder Militao, whose distribution was instrumental in almost all the goals. Despite scoring two late goals to beat Valencia on Sunday, Ancelotti criticised his team for again being too open at the back. Mallorca had chances but they were blown away by Madrid's revitalised attack.

The first goal, though, was a gift, as Josep Gaya failed to control a routine pass across the defense and then slipped trying to recover, allowing Benzema to race clear and finish. Militao instigated the second with a driven pass out to Vinicius, whose angled pass sent Rodrygo in behind. His deflected cross was prodded out by Mallorca goalkeeper Manolo Reina, for Asensio to finish. Lee hit back almost immediately, weaving past Militao and Alaba and curving a shot into the bottom corner. But hope of a comeback was brief, as Asensio scored his second, latching onto a slick Benzema touch before sliding home. — AFP

## Lewandowski drops hint on his future

**BERLIN:** Robert Lewandowski has hinted he could finish his career at Bayern Munich as the Bundesliga leaders prepare for today's away match at bottom side Greuther Fuerth. Lewandowski won Europe's "Golden Shoe" on Tuesday as top scorer in European football after he scored a Bundesliga record 41 goals in 29 games last season. The Poland forward is already the German league's joint top-scorer this season alongside Dortmund star striker Erling Braut Haaland with seven goals in five league games.

The 33-year-old Lewandowski has a Bayern contract until June 2023 and despite having often been linked to a move to Real Madrid in the past, he told reporters that he "doesn't need to prove myself in another league". "I can compete with the best from other leagues in the Champions League. I'm 100 percent focused on Bayern Munich - I don't think about anything else, but my team," he added.

Lewandowski caused a stir when he brought his newly-won Golden Shoe award to training on Wednesday and his Bayern teammates queued up for photos with the trophy. The Bavarian giants grabbed top spot in the Bundesliga last weekend with a 7-0 demolition of Bochum. Bayern have chalked up 38 goals in their first eight games this season in all competitions and more goals are expected at Fuerth on Friday. Since winning promotion last season, Fuerth have taken one point from a home draw against Bielefeld in their first five Bundesliga games. — AFP