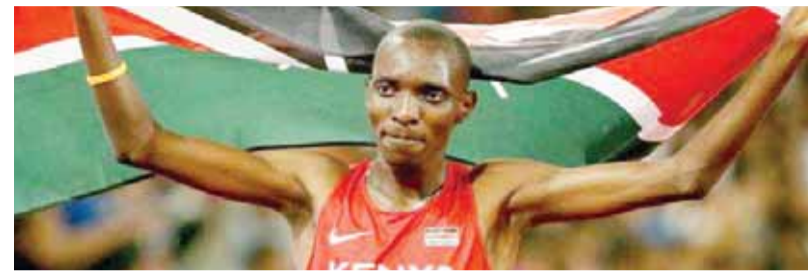


## 25 Hernandez stuns Hader as Dodgers extend winning streak to six games



## 26 Kiprop insists on innocence despite doping ban



## 27 Social media boycott as footballers in England say 'enough' over racism



MANCHESTER: Tottenham Hotspur's Argentinian defender Juan Foyth (L) vies with Manchester City's English midfielder Raheem Sterling during the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Tottenham Hotspur at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, north west England, yesterday. —AFP

# Foden fires Man City back top

## Brighton boost survival bid, Leicester at West Ham

LONDON: Phil Foden fired Manchester City back to the top of the Premier League as the young midfielder sealed a vital 1-0 win over Tottenham, while Brighton improved their survival prospects with a goalless draw at Wolves yesterday.

Pep Guardiola's side are one point clear of second-placed Liverpool after Foden's fifth-minute header exacted a measure of revenge for City's Champions League quarter-final exit against Tottenham on Wednesday.

Liverpool can regain pole position if they win at struggling Cardiff on Sunday, but City have won their last 10 league matches to keep the destiny of the title in their own hands because the champions will hold a game in hand on Jurgen Klopp's men.

"It was very important for the race for the Premier League. We know we cannot drop points. It was tight. Tottenham had more chances than the previous two games," Guardiola said.

"We have been playing for the Premier League every three days for 10 months, you can feel the pressure.

"The title is still in our hands. We are fighting until the end."

As well as Foden's crucial contribution in only his second Premier League start, Guardiola was indebted to City goalkeeper Ederson for a series of fine saves as the champions gave a nervous display at the Etihad Stadium.

And the City manager admitted it had been hard for his players to recover from their dramatic Champions League loss to Tottenham, a result that ended their bid to win an unprecedented quadruple.

"We could have lost the Premier League today-after Wednesday it was really tough. As a footballer, I could not have done what my players have done today," Guardiola said.

The only frustration for Guardiola was an injury to Belgium midfielder Kevin De Bruyne, who limped off again just before the break.

De Bruyne, only recently back from a knee problem, is unlikely to play in the midweek derby at Manchester United.

"We will see tomorrow but I think the next game

will be out," Guardiola said.

"I didn't speak to him, but he put his hands in the hamstring position."

### RODGERS RESCUED

At Molineux, fourth-bottom Brighton moved three points clear of third-bottom Cardiff after a gritty stalemate.

Chris Hughton's men, who have a game in hand on Cardiff, needed a man-of-the-match display from Australian goalkeeper Mat Ryan to avoid a fifth successive defeat.

Gerard Deulofeu's brace lifted Watford to seventh place with a 2-1 victory at relegated Huddersfield.

Deulofeu, the hero of Watford's FA Cup semi-final win over Wolves, put the Hornets ahead with a deft dink into the top corner in the fifth minute at the John Smith's Stadium.

The Spanish winger netted again in the 80th minute after Jonas Lossil saved Abdoulaye Doucoure's effort.

Huddersfield's stoppage-time reply from Karlan

from time.

"I had a couple of shots against Dortmund which were a bit NFL-like, so it was nice to score the winning goal today," Sulele told Sky. At the other end of the table, Stuttgart look doomed to a bottom-three finish after they suffered a humiliating 6-0 thrashing by fellow strugglers Augsburg.

Augsburg obliterated their relegation rivals with a delightful display of attacking football. Goals from Rani Khedira, Andre Hahn and Philipp Max saw them establish a 3-0 lead before the half-hour mark.

Max added another in the second half, and a Marco Richter double completed a disastrous display for Stuttgart. Augsburg's win lifts them ten points clear of

the relegation play-off place, and also confirms survival for Mainz, who beat local rivals Fortuna Duesseldorf 3-1. Jean-Philippe Mateta put Mainz into the lead after just 36 seconds, but Dodi Lukebakio levelled the scores with his second goal in two games. Lukebakio later missed a penalty, and Mainz took advantage of the let-off. They promptly restored the lead through Karim Onisiwo, before Mateta sealed the win a few minutes from time.

Elsewhere, Bayer Leverkusen kept themselves in the race for Europe with a 2-0 win over Nuremberg. Lucas Alario's 61st-minute header just cleared the goalline, before Kevin Volland struck late to decide a nervy game in Leverkusen's favour. — AFP

## Bayern grind out Bremen win to stay ahead of Dortmund

BERLIN: Niklas Sule's late goal saw Bayern Munich break a brave resistance from ten-man Werder Bremen to snatch a crucial 1-0 win and stay ahead of Borussia Dortmund in the Bundesliga title race. Bayern toiled in the searing Bavarian sun against Bremen, eventually

grinding out the victory to go four points clear at the top of the table overnight.

"It would have been nice if we had taken more of our chances, but we deserved to win," Bayern coach Niko Kovac told Sky. The win puts pressure on title rivals Dortmund, who need to win a tough away game in Freiburg today if they are to remain within a point of Bayern.

Bremen held Bayern at bay for much of the game, but suffered a lethal blow just before the hour mark, when Milos Veljkovic was sent off for a second yellow card. Chances came and went for Bayern as the clock ticked down, until Sule finally broke through with a deflected shot from the edge of the area 15 minutes