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## Liverpool late show sinks Palace

Wolves punish 10-man Bournemouth to extend unbeaten run



LONDON: Liverpool's Brazilian midfielder Roberto Firmino (2nd L) watches his shot go wide during the English Premier League football match between Crystal Palace and Liverpool at Selhurst Park in south London. — AFP

LONDON: Liverpool showed once again why they are kings of the late winner at Crystal Palace yesterday as Jose Mourinho made an instant impact as Tottenham boss, masterminding an end to the club's dismal away record in the Premier League against rivals West Ham.

Hosts Palace were denied a shock first-half opener when James Tomkins' header was disallowed after VAR adjudged that Jordan Ayew had fouled Dejan Lovren.

Liverpool looked set to drop points for just the second time this season after Wilfried Zaha cancelled out Sadio Mane's opener but Roberto Firmino poked in after a goalmouth scramble to seal a 2-1 win.

Elsewhere, second-half goals from Ayoze Perez and Jamie Vardy earned Leicester City a convincing 2-0 Premier League win over Brighton & Hove Albion at the Amex Stadium yesterday. After failing to score with any of their first 11 attempts on goal, Leicester returned from the half-time break to punish Brighton

twice and stay second in the table.

Perez, whose three previous league goals for Leicester came in a 9-0 rout of Southampton last month, found the net from close range after Vardy broke through on the right flank.

Vardy slotted home a penalty at the second attempt. The English striker's initial attempt from the spot was saved but James Maddison's rebound was chalked off by VAR for encroachment. The visitors controlled possession from the kick-off and came close to a breakthrough twice inside five minutes, with Perez hitting the crossbar before Vardy's header forced a diving save from Brighton goalkeeper Mat Ryan. It was only after a change of approach from manager Brendan Rodgers that Leicester could capitalise on the break and record a seventh win in their last eight league matches.

Southampton took an early lead at the Emirates when Danny Ings fired them in front after Ryan

Bertrand's quick free-kick. Alexandre Lacazette levelled in the 18th minute after strike partner Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's shot was blocked by Bertrand.

Norwich lifted themselves off bottom spot in the Premier League with a 2-0 victory away to Everton while Burnley beat struggling Watford 3-0.

Manchester City are playing Chelsea in the evening kick-off, with Pep Guardiola desperate for a win to breathe new life into his team's title challenge after three defeats in City's opening 12 games.

But Frank Lampard's in-form side are not the visitors Guardiola would have picked as he looks to keep Liverpool in his sights, with six league wins on the bounce for his young side.

Meanwhile, Wolverhampton Wanderers continued their sparkling run of form in the Premier League with a 2-1 victory over 10-man Bournemouth at the Vitality Stadium yesterday. The visitors dominated the early exchanges and took the early lead inside 20 minutes

after Joao Moutinho curled a sublime free kick beyond Bournemouth goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale for his first goal of the season.

Portuguese midfielder Moutinho created the second with a quick free kick to release Adama Traore, whose low cross was stroked home by Raul Jimenez for his 14th goal of the season in all competitions.

Bournemouth's hopes of a comeback suffered a blow after Simon Francis, who was shown a yellow card for a foul on Diogo Jota, brought down on the Spanish striker again to receive his marching orders.

Bournemouth manager Eddie Howe introduced Jefferson Lerma and Arnaud Danjuma Groeneveld at the interval to try to gain the hosts a foothold in midfield before defender Steve Cook pulled one back with a glancing header from a corner. But it was too little, too late for Bournemouth as Wolves held on to extend their unbeaten run to eight matches in the competitions. — Agencies

## Shiffrin claims slalom gold after Vlhova crashes out at Levi

HELSINKI: American superstar Mikaela Shiffrin secured a record-breaking fourth slalom World Cup win at Levi yesterday, in a dramatic contest which ended when her Slovakian rival Petra Vlhova went flying at the third gate.

Despite a small error at the top of the second run, Shiffrin claimed her first victory of the season with an aggregate time of 1:57.57, comfortably ahead of second-placed Wendy Holdener of Switzerland by 1.78 seconds.

Austria's Katharina Truppe took third place with 1:59.51. Shiffrin's win at Levi, in Finland, makes her the first Alpine skier to take four World Cup victories at the Arctic Circle resort, breaking the previous record

of three held by German Maria Hoefl-Riesch and Austrian Marcel Hirscher.

"I wasn't thinking about the record," said the 23-year-old. "It was a great day and I just really enjoyed my skiing, I was laughing and joking before both runs," said the often nervous Shiffrin. "It was just nice to be here today."

The contest came to an electrifying end as Shiffrin's rival, Petra Vlhova, who went last because she was leading after the first run, made an uncharacteristic mistake close to the top of the course and tumbled out of the race.

In the first run, Vlhova snatched first place from the Shiffrin with a time of 58.65 seconds. She began her descent slower than favourite Shiffrin, but gained time over the second half of the run to knock 0.13 seconds off the American's pace.

Shiffrin praised the Slovakian's "strong skiing": "That's tough but she'll be back very fast. I feel a bit lucky with this win but I also feel good with my skiing so I'm happy," Shiffrin said after the second run.

Wendy Holdener's second-place brings her tally of slalom podium finishes to 23, which remains the record for most World

Cup podiums in a single event without ever standing on the top step. The win re-establishes Shiffrin's dominance after she was knocked into second place by 17-year-old New Zealand sensation Alice Robinson in the season-opening giant slalom three weeks ago in Soelden, Austria.

Shiffrin's victory takes her closer to eclipsing the career achievements of her countrywoman Lindsey Vonn, who bowed out earlier this year with 82 World Cup victories. Already a three-time overall champion, Shiffrin has notched 61 World Cup wins and is on track to pass not just Vonn's 82 but the record of 86 set by the Swede Ingemar Stenmark.

After the race Shiffrin was awarded her fourth reindeer — the traditional winner's trophy which is kept and looked after in Lapland throughout the year. She said she has not yet chosen a name to go with the previous years' Rudolph, Sven and Mr. Gru. Conditions on the floodlit slope at Levi — where the sun currently rises for just four hours a day — were described as "optimal" by the organisers, despite fog and mist at the top of the descent. — AFP



KITTILA: First-placed Mikaela Shiffrin from the US poses on the podium with Santa Claus after winning the FIS Alpine Ski World Cup women's slalom event at the Levi ski resort in Kittila, Finnish Lapland yesterday. — AFP