

Sports

# Everton beat West Ham to ease pressure on Marco Silva

## Bournemouth held to scoreless draw by Norwich

**LIVERPOOL:** Everton climbed out of the Premier League relegation zone yesterday with a well-deserved 2-0 victory against West Ham that eased the pressure on Marco Silva. The Portuguese boss described the match at Goodison Park as a "must-win" game following four straight league defeats and a goal from Brazil forward Bernard in the 17th minute set his side on their way. Everton dominated the match and had multiple chances to extend their lead but were forced to wait until injury time to score their second, through late substitute Gylfi Sigurdsson. Victory in early kick-off lifted Everton to the relative safety of 12th in the table, one place above struggling Manchester United, ahead of the later fixtures.

"It was a fantastic performance," Sigurdsson told BT Sport. "We had a lot of chances, especially in the second half. You never know when it's 1-0 — you always want to get more. They are dangerous going forward and their goalkeeper made some spectacular saves. I was pleased to come on and give us a bit of comfort. There was a real purpose to our game today."

Bernard made the breakthrough after latching onto a fine ball from Theo Walcott. The Brazilian declined to shoot first time as Arthur Masuaku closed him down but he cleverly cut back and wrong-footed the defender before sliding the ball under Roberto.

Richarlison went close to a second from an Alex Iwobi pass but his low shot came back off a post and Iwobi then shot at Roberto from distance. A disappointing West Ham side made it to the break trailing by just a single goal but Everton were quickly on top again in the second half.

Richarlison had the ball in the net just after the restart following a neat build-up but his well-taken effort

was ruled out for off-side. Pablo Fornals had a golden chance to equalise minutes later but he could only steer it wide of the left post, falling to his knees in disappointment. Yerry Mina twice headed too close to Roberto from corners and the Toffees went close again as Walcott rattled the crossbar with a ferocious half-volley before Iwobi wasted another chance, shooting straight at Roberto when clean through.

Despite being outplayed, West Ham were still in the game and earned a couple of late chances against an increasingly edgy Everton. Everton goalkeeper Jordan Pickford did well to keep out a deflected close-range strike from Angelo Ogbonna.

But the home side finally made the game safe when Sigurdsson curled the ball past the diving Roberto from the edge of the box.

Meanwhile, Bournemouth and Norwich City both kept their first clean sheets of the season as their Premier League clash at the Vitality Stadium finished 0-0 yesterday after a game of precious few goal-scoring chances. Bournemouth striker Dominic Solanke came closest to breaking the deadlock in the first half, but his effort in the 22nd minute was saved by Norwich keeper Tim Krul, who returned to the side following a recent back problem. Norwich suffered another injury blow when centre back Ben Godfrey, who recently had an operation for a hernia problem, had to be replaced early in the second half by Tom Trybull.

With Bournemouth wasteful in the final third, Norwich grew into the game in the second half and Aaron Ramsdale had to make a superb save for the home side to deny Norwich's in-form Finnish striker Teemu Pukki. That was to be Norwich's only effort on target of what was an end-to-end game, and though



**LIVERPOOL:** Everton's Portuguese midfielder Andre Gomes (R) is held back by West Ham United's Swiss striker Albian Ajeti during the English Premier League football match between Everton and West Ham United at Goodison Park in Liverpool, north west England yesterday. — AFP

both sides had chances from late corners, neither could get the ball over the line.

The draw gave Norwich their first away point of the

season but left them second bottom of the table on seven points from their opening nine games. Bournemouth are eighth on 12 points. — Agencies

## Di Maria, Mbappe guide PSG past nine-man Nice

**NICE:** Angel Di Maria grabbed two goals while Kylian Mbappe struck on his return from injury as Paris Saint-Germain won 4-1 at Nice on Friday to surge five points clear at the top of Ligue 1. PSG lost Neymar and the influential Idrissa Gueye to injury over the international break while Mbappe and Edinson Cavani were only fit enough to make the bench for the trip to the Cote d'Azur.

"At the start of a run of six very intensive matches, it's always good to start with a win," said PSG coach Thomas Tuchel. "We had a good first half, I was happy,

We had chances to control the match but at the start of the second half, we forgot to close it out."

A spectacular triple save by Walter Benitez kept out Presnel Kimpembe and Abdou Diallo in the opening minutes at the Allianz Riviera but PSG soon made the breakthrough. Di Maria raced on to a first-time pass from fellow Argentine Mauro Icardi before calmly guiding beyond Benitez in the Nice goal on 15 minutes.

Only Mbappe has been involved in more goals in France this year than Di Maria, who duly doubled his tally six minutes later with a sublime lob from an unfavourable angle. Marquinhos replaced PSG captain Thiago Silva at half-time and headed against the crossbar at a corner, but a mistake from the Brazilian presented Nice a lifeline on 67 minutes.

An ill-advised attempt at chesting down a cross allowed Kasper Dolberg to tee up Ignatius Ganago to blast home via the underside of the bar. Any chance Patrick Vieira's side had of salvaging a result effectively evaporated though with the dismissal of Wylan Cyprien

and Christophe Herelle in a matter of minutes.

Cyprien was shown a second yellow card for dissent with Herelle sent off following a VAR review for a petulant slap on Leandro Paredes. Tuchel threw on Mbappe, restricted to just two substitute appearances since August, for the final eight minutes and PSG made the most of their two-man advantage.

Mbappe drove low under Benitez to claim his first goal since August 11 and then laid on an assist for Icardi to tap home in stoppage time. Nantes could trim PSG's lead back to two points on Saturday when they head to bottom side Metz, while Rudi Garcia begins his reign as Lyon manager against lowly Dijon.

Garcia, 55, must win over underwhelmed fans and turn around a season that is already threatening to go off the rails after taking charge of Lyon tomorrow. He has been tasked with ending a miserable run that has left them languishing in 14th place after nine games, already seven points away from the Champions League places for which they are expected to challenge. — AFP

## Southampton end losing streak with draw at Wolves

**LONDON:** Wolverhampton Wanderers' Raul Jimenez scored from the penalty spot to cancel out a second-half goal by Southampton's Danny Ings in an entertaining 1-1 Premier League draw at Molineux Stadium yesterday.

In-form striker Ings, who came into the clash having scored four goals in three matches in all competitions, punished Wolves for their poor defending by finding the bottom left corner with a right-footed shot in the 53rd minute.

Southampton's advantage lasted only eight minutes as Wolves defender Matt Doherty was brought down in the penalty area with the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) confirming the foul, and Jimenez ended his goal drought with a crisp finish.

Jimenez earlier thought he had scored his first league goal in more than a month when he slotted past goalkeeper Angus Gunn in the 29th minute, but the referee disallowed the strike as the ball had grazed the Mexico international's arm.

The 28-year-old was unlucky again shortly before the break after finishing off a slick passing move as VAR deemed his team mate Patrick Cutrone to be offside in the build-up to the goal much to the annoyance of the home supporters. The draw helped Southampton snap a run of three straight defeats while Wolves were denied a third consecutive win. Wolves visit Newcastle United next Sunday while Southampton host Leicester City. — Reuters

## Yankees strike early against Astros, stay alive in playoffs

**NEW YORK:** DJ LeMahieu and Aaron Hicks homered as New York rocked star Houston pitcher Justin Verlander for four runs in the first inning Friday in a 4-1 win that kept the Yankees alive in the Major League Baseball playoffs. The Yankees, whose 40 World Series appearances have yielded 27 championships — the most recent in 2009 — pushed the American League Championship Series to a game six in Houston, pulling within 3-2 in the best-of-seven set.

With their backs against the wall, the first five Yankees batters produced four runs against Houston's Cy Young Award candidate Verlander. LeMahieu led off by lashing a home run to right field.

Aaron Judge then singled sharply and Gleyber Torres followed with a double. Verlander managed to strike out Giancarlo Stanton, back in the lineup as a designated hitter, but Hicks belted a three-run home run off the right field foul pole.

"I was just trying to get a pitch to hit," said Hicks, who fell behind 0-2 in the count and worked his way back to 3-2. "I was in battle mode right there." Yankees manager Aaron Boone called the first-inning outburst "just a really good string of at-bats together against obviously Justin, who, probably the best time to hopefully get to him is early."

The offensive explosion roused the crowd at Yankee Stadium, who had been quieted when Houston's George Springer scored on a wild pitch from Yankees starting pitcher James Paxton. All the scoring came in the first inning. "It was huge to get off to that start," Boone added. "Especially after they scored a run in the first inning. I think it really got our crowd into it even more so. And really Pax took it from there."

Verlander settled in to pitch seven solid innings, surrendering five hits with the four runs and nine strikeouts. "I thought he recovered great and did his best to continue to keep us in the game, because that was a great recovery after an inning that looked like it was spiraling away from him," said Astros manager AJ Hinch. "The two balls that they hit, unfortunately, went out of the ballpark." Paxton pitched six strong innings, stranding at least one baserunner in each of his next five frames. The lefthander scattered four hits and four walks while striking out nine, his 112 pitches the most by any Yankees pitcher this season.

The Astros host game six yesterday. The quick turnaround comes after weather concerns wiped out play on Wednesday, pushing back games four and five in New York. Houston, who would also host game seven if necessary today, are seeking their second World Series title in three years. — AFP



**EIBAR:** Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi (R) challenges Eibar's Portuguese Serbian goalkeeper Marko Dmitrovic during the Spanish league football match SD Eibar against FC Barcelona at the Ipurua stadium in Eibar yesterday. — AFP

## Messi, Suarez, Griezmann all on target as Barca dispatch Eibar

**MADRID:** Barcelona's 'MSG' is finally up and running as Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Antoine Griezmann all scored in a ruthless 3-0 victory over Eibar yesterday. Griezmann's place in the newly-formed attacking trident has not been secure this season but the Frenchman opened the scoring at Ipurua before teeing up Messi and then playing the crucial pass for Suarez to make it three.

An authoritative Barca display thrusts them to the top of La Liga, for a few hours at least before Real Madrid play Real Mallorca, and dismissed suggestions the players might be affected by Friday's postponement of the Clasico due to protests in Catalonia. Violence in the city of Barcelona and disruptions at El Prat airport meant Ernesto Valverde's side chose to alter their pre-match routine and embark on a 589-kilometre bus trip to the Basque County on Friday.

And all the while, discussions continued over the Clasico

against Real Madrid, which had originally been scheduled for next Saturday at Camp Nou but was postponed on Friday and is expected now to go ahead in December. Perhaps chaos off the pitch inspired Barca to unite on it.

This was their fifth consecutive victory in all competitions, a sequence which is swiftly erasing memories of their stumbling start to the season. The resurgence has coincided with Messi's return from injury but it was the fluidity and cohesion of the front three, rather than the Argentinian's familiar solo brilliance, that will have been most pleasing for Valverde.

Griezmann now has four goals since joining Barca from Atletico Madrid last summer but he has not entirely convinced so far, a series of underwhelming showings leading to Ousmane Dembele taking his starting spot against Sevilla before the international break. Dembele might even have continued had he not been sent off and suspended for this game but Griezmann certainly took his chance. This was the third time he has started alongside Messi and Suarez but the first that they have really gelled as a trio.

There was good news too for Barcelona in defence, where Samuel Umtiti came through 90 minutes in what was his first appearance of the season. Umtiti, who has been out with a foot injury, replaced the banned Gerard Pique.

The only blot on the afternoon was an injury to Sergi Roberto, who hurt his left knee and was replaced at half-time. The visiting fans chanted in support of the nine Catalan leaders imprisoned last week for their failed independence bid in 2017. — AFP

Live		Matches on TV (Local Timings)	
<b>ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE</b>			
Manchester United v Liverpool	18:30		
<b>SPANISH LEAGUE</b>			
Deportivo Alaves v Celta de Vigo	13:00		
Real Sociedad v Real Betis	15:00		
RCD Espanyol v Villarreal CF	17:00		
Athletic de Bilbao v Real Valladolid	19:30		
Sevilla FC v Levante	22:00		
<b>ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE</b>			
US Sassuolo Calcio v Internazionale Milano	13:30		
Udinese Calcio v Torino FC	16:00		
UC Sampdoria v AS Roma	16:00		
Cagliari Calcio v spal	16:00		
Parma Calcio 1913 v Genoa CFC	19:00		
AC Milan v US Lecce	21:45		
<b>GERMAN BUNDESLIGA</b>			
FC Köln v SC Paderborn 07	16:30		
TSG 1899 Hoffenheim v Schalke 04	19:00		
<b>FRENCH LEAGUE</b>			
FC Girondins de Bordeaux v Saint Etienne	16:00		
AS Monaco FC v Stade Rennais	18:00		
Olympique Marseille v RC Strasbourg	22:00		