

14 Football racism 'no black and white' issue in central Europe



15 Israeli football fans clash over Abu Dhabi's royal investment



15 Moyes unhappy with 'rubbish' VAR despite West Ham's win



Manchester derby fires blanks

Newcastle's Almiron scores in 20 seconds



MANCHESTER: Manchester United's English defender Luke Shaw (left) tackles Manchester City's English midfielder Raheem Sterling (center) during the English Premier League football match between Manchester United and Manchester City at Old Trafford in Manchester yesterday. — AFP

LONDON: Manchester United failed to ease the pressure on Ole Gunnar Solskjaer after a limp display in their 0-0 draw against Manchester City, while Miguel Almiron scored in 20 seconds as Newcastle beat West Bromwich Albion 2-1 yesterday. Solskjaer faced calls for his sacking after United crashed out of the Champions League with a midweek defeat at Leipzig. The beleaguered United manager desperately needed an uplifting result in the Manchester derby to win back some support. But, with Paul Pogba restored to the starting line-up, United labored to a drab draw that left them in seventh place.

United have won just one of their last four games in all competitions and have only one win at Old Trafford in six Premier League games this term. City weren't much better than their bitter rivals and Pep Guardiola's team are one place behind United in the

table. However, in contrast to United there is not yet any sense of crisis around City—who have kept six successive clean-sheets in all competitions to equal a club record. City should have been ahead in the first half when Gabriel Jesus shot over from Riyad Mahrez's long pass.

The visitors' best chance came when Kevin De Bruyne found Mahrez, whose shot was saved well by David De Gea before De Bruyne squandered the rebound. United were awarded a penalty two minutes into the second half when Kyle Walker kicked Marcus Rashford, only for the decision to be overruled by VAR as the forward had strayed offside in the build-up. De Bruyne saw his goal-bound effort well blocked by United defender Harry Maguire and Rashford shot wide after a good break, but chances were at a premium in a dire encounter.

Quick-fire Almiron

At St James' Park, Newcastle were playing for the first time since their match against Aston Villa was postponed due to a COVID-19 outbreak in their squad. Newcastle took less than a minute to grab the lead when Almiron swept his shot past West Brom keeper Sam Johnstone. West Brom drew level five minutes into the second half at St James' Park. Matt Phillips delivered a low cross which was met by defender Darnell Furlong, who lashed an unstoppable low shot past Karl Darlow.

Newcastle clinched the points in the 82nd minute when Dwight Gayle met a superb cross by fellow substitute Jacob Murphy to head past Johnstone. Newcastle's second successive victory lifted the gloom from their virus issues, but struggling West Brom stay second bottom. Anwar El Ghazi's last-gasp

penalty fired 10-man Aston Villa to a dramatic 1-0 win against Wolves. Villa had Douglas Luiz sent off in the final minutes for two bookings after the Brazilian midfielder caught Daniel Podence with an elbow.

But Nelson Semedo's stoppage-time foul on John McGinn triggered El Ghazi's penalty before Wolves midfielder Joao Moutinho was dismissed for a second yellow card just moments from full-time in a fractious local derby. After two successive defeats, Villa will hope they are back on track with just their second win in six games. Villa have won four of their five away league matches this season, while mid-table Wolves have only one win in their last five games. In yesterday's last match, third placed Chelsea traveled to Everton knowing a win would take them above leaders Tottenham to the top of the table. — AFP

Belotti hits 100th goal for Torino

MILAN: Captain Andrea Belotti struck his 100th goal for Torino in a 3-2 defeat to Udinese which pushed the northerners to second last in the Serie A table yesterday. Torino matched their worst run of eight consecutive league defeats at home in Serie A, last achieved in 1959. Belotti has accounted for eight of his struggling side's 19 goals this season as they have garnered six points from 11 games. The skipper had rallied his side around for a pep talk at half-time, with coach Marco Giampaolo making a triple substitution.

And Torino sparked to life after an hour managing to fight back from two-goals down against their midtable rivals. Ignacio Pussetto had put the visitors ahead on 24 minutes, after Udinese's Brazilian midfielder Wallace dispossessed Soualiho Meite, with play waved on despite protests of a foul from the home side. Gerard Deulofeu sent the ball through for Argentine Pussetto to break through for a solo run to beat an outrushing Salvatore Sirigu in the Torino goal.

Rodrigo De Paul added a second for the visitors from the edge of the box nine minutes after the break, before Belotti reignited Torino hopes. The 26-year-old

picked up a Federico Bonazzoli cross on 66 minutes to finish off and repaid the favor with a back-heel kick allowing the Italian striker to get his first Serie A goal. However Udinese restored their advantage two minutes later with substitute Ilija Nestorovski finishing off a Roberto Pereyra cross. Ricardo Rodriguez missed the chance to salvage a point five minutes from time rattling the post.

Torino slump to second bottom, just one point ahead of Crotone who earlier got their first win over he season 4-1 over Spezia. Four of the goals in the game between the promoted teams were scored by Brazilians. Brazilian forward Messias struck after seven minutes, adding a second deep into injury time for the southerners. Brazilian Diego Farias pulled Spezia level after quarter of an hour after intercepting a poor Niccolò Zanellato pass as Crotone tried to play out of their own penalty area. Polish defender Arkadiusz Reca and Brazilian Eduardo Henrique added two more for the hosts within ten minutes after the break. Messias completed the rout in the final minute, picking up a cross from Nigerian Simy to slot in from an angle for the club's 10th goal this season. — AFP

Marseille start fast, beat Monaco and rise to 2nd

PARIS: Marseille climbed to second in Ligue 1 yesterday after scoring twice in the first 13 minutes and resisting late pressure to beat Monaco 2-1. Marseille slumped out of Europe on Wednesday after a disastrous Champions League campaign which ended with a defeat at Manchester City, but this was their sixth straight Ligue 1 victory. With coach Andre Villas-Boas absent, suspended after receiving a red card on the bench in the game against Nimes last Friday, Marseille pounced on two early turnovers by Monaco. "The guys were extremely tired and we came home from Manchester at 4:30 in the morning," said the Marseille coach.

"Emotionally, it was very hard with the end of the European adventure. So to give a performance like that, I say bravo to the team." After Monaco gave the ball away on the edge of their box in the fifth minute, Dario Benedetto burst down the left edge of the penalty area and chipped the ball to the far post where Florian Thauvin headed in. Eight minutes later, after Marseille won the ball back in the Monaco half, Thauvin returned the favour.



MARSEILLE: Monaco's French midfielder Enzo Millot (3rd left) fights for the ball with Marseille's Croatian defender Duje Caleta-Car during the French L1 football match between Olympique de Marseille (OM) and AS Monaco yesterday. — AFP

He swung in a left-foot cross from the right which Argentine Benedetto, running in unmarked, volleyed home.

As Monaco pressed in the second half, Thauvin dropped into his own penalty and conceded a 78th minute penalty with a dangerous high challenge on Wissam Ben Yedder. Ben Yedder sent Steve Mandanda the wrong way from the spot kick, but the Marseille goalkeeper dealt serenely with Monaco's desperate attempts in the closing minutes. "The first period was very good.

We controlled the ball," said Villas Boas. "In the second half, everyone saw that fatigue set in and we were in more trouble."

Monaco coach Niko Kovac lamented an early miss by Ben Yedder and the mistakes that led to the Marseille goals. "We gave away some soft balls and that set up two shots and two goals," said Kovac. "We dominated the second half, they defended, we tried everything." Marseille leapfrogged Lille and Lyon to move into second, one-point behind Paris Saint-Germain. — AFP