

Man United defeat Bournemouth



Romelu Lukaku of Manchester United scores their second goal (Pic courtesy: theguardian)

Manchester

Manchester United moved to within two points of securing a place in next season's Champions League with a 2-0 win at Bournemouth.

Jose Mourinho backed up his threat to drop some of his stars by making wholesale changes.

Goalkeeper David De Gea, Chris Smalling, Ander Herrera and Paul Pogba were the only ones to keep their places from the shock home

defeat to West Brom, with De Gea named captain for the first time.

Alexis Sanchez missed out on a place in the starting XI for a Premier League game for the first time since his January move from Arsenal, with Romelu Lukaku also on the bench. Mourinho said that of those rested, only Nemanja Matic was left out with Saturday's FA Cup semifinal against Tottenham in mind.

It was an uneventful first

half, but United did manage to find a way through to go in a goal up at the break.

Herrera picked out Jesse Lingard in the box with a superb pass, and he made no mistake to find Smalling with a square pass that left the defender with a simple tap-in.

Josh King has a fantastic chance to equalise 11 minutes after the restart, but he couldn't connect with a fine ball across the six-yard box. King was adamant he was

fouled by Luke Shaw, but referee Graham Scott waved away the protests.

The Bournemouth fans were getting increasingly annoyed with the decisions of the ref, and their mood certainly wasn't helped when substitute Lukaku doubled the lead in the 70th minute.

The Belgium international latched on to a perfect pass from Pogba and dinked the ball over Asmir Begovic, and there was no way back for the home side. (PA Sport)

Chelsea's Alonso banned for 3 games



Marcos Alonso (file pic)

London

Chelsea defender Marcos Alonso will miss Sunday's FA Cup semi-final against Southampton after being handed a three-match suspension for violent conduct, the Football Association (FA) said yesterday.

The 27-year-old was charged for his challenge on Southampton striker Shane Long during Chelsea's 3-2 Premier League win at St Mary's Stadium last weekend.

Saints manager Mark Hughes was furious about the failure to send off Alonso over the incident, saying:

"It was a poor tackle, and one that could have been more

severe for Shane. Thankfully he's just about okay, but he's been raked down the calf. Chelsea down to 10 men, it could have put a different complexion on things. Referees have got to get them right - maybe that's why they're not in the World Cup this year."

And Hughes subsequently added: "Clearly it was a poor challenge and should have been seen by the officials. The fourth official, assistant referee and the referee were all pretty close to it. The decision in my view would have been the boy would have been sent off and the circumstances of the game would have been different." (Reuters)

FIFA hand out fines for 'third party' deals

Manchester

FIFA have handed out a series of fines to clubs for transfer deals involving "third party influence", world soccer's governing body said yesterday.

FIFA policy on third-party ownership bans either clubs or players from entering into economic rights agreements with third-party investors. Frequently such deals involve outside investors retaining or gaining a share of ownership in a player.

Portugal's Sporting Lisbon was fined 110,000 Swiss francs (\$113,695) for "entering into

two contracts that enabled a third party to influence the club's independence as well as for failing to record an existing third-party ownership agreement".

Another Portuguese club Benfica was fined 150,000 francs for two deals involving third-parties.

Spain's Rayo Vallecano was fined 55,000 francs for a third-party deal and Celta Vigo was sanctioned 65,000 francs for a deal which FIFA said "enabled Benfica to influence the club's independence."

(Reuters)

Ronaldo rescues point for Madrid

London

Cristiano Ronaldo scored an exquisite back-heel to rescue a point for Real Madrid in their 1-1 draw against Athletic Bilbao on Wednesday.

Madrid looked to be heading for defeat after Inaki Williams opened the scoring for the visitors after 14 minutes.

But Ronaldo provided a deft flick from Luka Modric's 87th-minute drive to move Real to within three points of second-place Atletico Madrid having played one game more.

Zidane, whose side travel to Germany for the opening leg of their Champions League semifinal against Bayern Munich next week, headed into Wednesday's La Liga encounter believing his side



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo shoots on goal (Pic courtesy: AP)

could yet leapfrog city rivals Atletico. Ronaldo was one of four changes to the team which beat Malaga at the weekend, but Gareth Bale's future at the Bernabeu was thrown into

further doubt after he was again left out of the starting XI.

Ronaldo came close to netting the opener with only nine minutes gone. Dani Carvajal's cross from the right-

hand side was met by the former Manchester United forward, and while his bullet header had beaten Athletic stopper Kepa Arrizabalaga, the crossbar came to the visitors' rescue.

Real appeared to be taking a stranglehold on the match, but they were stunned after just 14 minutes when Williams struck.

Williams latched on to Inigo Cordoba's magnificent slide-rule pass before outpacing Raphael Varane and dinking a delightful chip over Keylor Navas for the opener. Madrid were quick to react and it was Ronaldo involved again when his left-footed shot on the swivel looked to be creeping inside Arrizabalaga's post only for the Bilbao stopper to turn it round for a corner. (PA Sport)

Tokyo

Brazilian Oswaldo Oliveira will take over the reins of Japan's Urawa Red Diamonds next week after the former Kashima Antlers boss was named as the replacement for sacked coach Takafumi Hori on Thursday.

The J.League club fired Hori, who was appointed last summer to replace Mihailo Petrovic, after Urawa made a dreadful start to the current campaign. The club did not

win any of their opening five matches of the season.

Tsuyoshi Otsuki had replaced Hori on an interim basis. The 67-year-old Oliveira managed the Antlers from 2007-11 and will be in charge when Urawa take on Kashiwa Reysol in their 10th J.League match of the season.

"I am honoured to have the opportunity to take command of this wonderful team backed by strong support," Oliveira said.