

Ibrahimovic's quickfire double gives Milan 2-1 derby win



Zlatan Ibrahimovic

Reuters | Milan

AC Milan's Zlatan Ibrahimovic, recently recovered from a COVID-19 infection, scored an early brace to secure a 2-1 win over neighbours Inter in the Serie A derby yesterday.

The 39-year-old Swedish striker put Milan in front after 13 minutes, tapping the ball in from the rebound after his penalty was saved by Samir Handanovic, and struck again three minutes later to give his side their first league win over their neighbours since January 2016.

Romelu Lukaku pulled one back for Inter in the 29th minute, the first Serie A goal Milan have conceded this season, and had a penalty revoked by VAR for offside in the second half.

Milan have won all four games in Serie A this season and lead with 12 points while Inter have seven after their first defeat.

The first half was an end-to-end affair but the pace dropped considerably in the second half as mis-takes crept in and the match became increasingly niggly.

Liverpool denied derby win by VAR as Chelsea held in six-goal thriller

Liverpool denied by Everton and VAR in wild Merseyside derby draw

● Sloppy Chelsea punished as Vestergaard rescues Saints

● Raheem Sterling goal gives Manchester City comfortable win over Arsenal

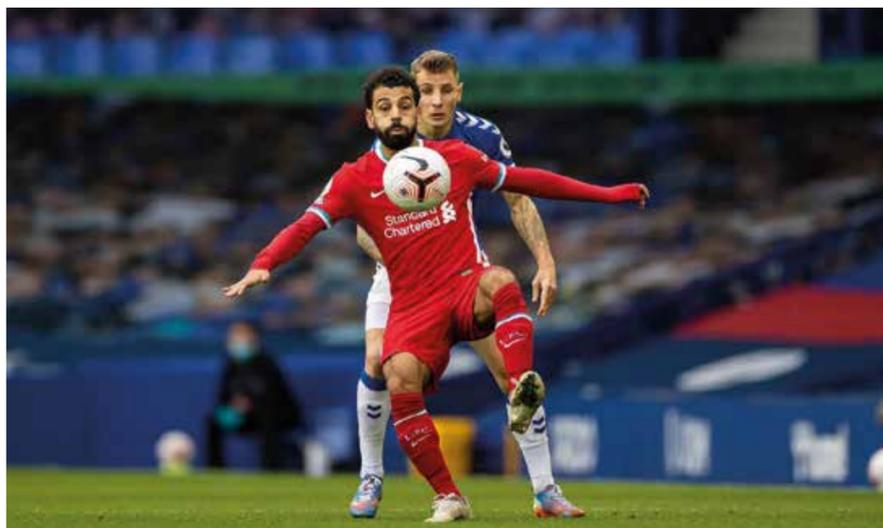
AFP | London

Liverpool were denied a cathartic victory against Premier League leaders Everton by VAR and Chelsea drew 3-3 with Southampton on another day of breathless drama in the English top-flight yesterday.

Manchester City beat Arsenal 1-0 as Pep Guardiola got the better of former assistant Mikel Arteta, while misfiring Manchester United prepared to take on Newcastle in the late kick-off.

Jürgen Klopp's champions were desperate to atone for their 7-2 mauling against Aston Villa before the international break but were forced to settle for a 2-2 draw after Jordan Henderson's late strike was chalked off for offside.

Everton, who have not beaten Liverpool since 2010, remain three points clear of their Merseyside rivals at the top of the table after a number of controversial calls went their way at



Mohamed Salah of Liverpool controls the ball

Goodison Park.

But Klopp was mystified that Henderson's potential winner in added time against 10-man Everton was ruled out for a barely perceptible offside decision against Sadio Mane.

He was also at a loss to explain how Everton goalkeeper Jordan Pickford had not been dismissed and had not conceded an early penalty for a knee-high challenge on Virgil van Dijk.

"There were a number of big moments in the game," said a baffled Klopp. "The only situation I saw back is the Henderson goal and I didn't see offside. The picture I saw is no offside, but it

was off-side because somebody decided it."

Everton manager Carlo Ancelotti was delighted with his side's performance, even though they were denied a fifth straight Premier League win.

"We competed with them," he said. "We were 1-0 down and equalised, 2-1 down and equalised. It was a good test and I have a good feeling."

"To know we can compete with the champions of the last season it gives us more confidence for the future."

Sadio Mane, who missed the Villa Park mauling after testing positive for coronavirus, put

Liverpool ahead in the third minute.

But the pivotal moment in the match came when Van Dijk was on the receiving end of a dangerous late lunge from Pickford inside the box minutes later.

However, no penalty was awarded after a VAR review because Van Dijk had been marginally off-side and Pickford was lucky to avoid a red card.

The Dutchman was substituted and his towering presence was missed at the other end as Michael Keane equalised in the 19th minute.

Mohamed Salah put Liverpool back in front 18 minutes from

time but Dominic Calvert-Lewin netted his 10th goal of the season to pull Everton level again.

Richarlison was shown a straight red card for a dangerous tackle on Thiago Alcantara in the 90th minute and Everton were grateful for the intervention of VAR in the final seconds.

Chelsea looked to be in total control after cruising into a 2-0 lead against Southampton at Stamford Bridge, courtesy of new signing Timo Werner's first Premier League goals.

But a goal from Danny Ings shortly before half-time and a second-half strike from Che Adams wiped out their lead.

Frank Lampard's side rallied immediately to regain the lead, Werner teeing up Kai Havertz for a neat dinked finish to make it 3-2.

But Southampton were not to be denied and Jannik Vestergaard bludgeoned home an added-time equaliser for Saints from a free-kick that Chelsea failed to clear.

Lampard said his side had to tighten up at the back after conceding three goals for the second time this season.

"We are seeing lots of goals across the league and no manager is happy" he said.

"I don't know why it is. There are attacking players in this league and maybe pre-season and lack of working time plays a part. But we have to get better at it."

Dhawan hits first IPL ton to keep Delhi top of the table

AFP | Dubai

Shikhar Dhawan hit his first Indian Premier League century yesterday as Delhi Capitals beat Chennai Super Kings to go back top of the table.

South African veteran AB de Villiers produced another blistering batting display meanwhile to take Royal Challengers Bangalore to victory over Rajasthan Royals and keep them in the playoff race.

India opener Dhawan batted through the Delhi innings as they chased Chennai's 179-4 in which Faf du Plessis made 58 and Ambati Rayudu an unbeaten 45.

Dhawan made 101 off 57 balls with 14 fours and one six but his partners Shreyas Iyer (23) and Marcus Stoinis (24) hit the boundaries that kept Delhi in the hunt. The surprise IPL contenders needed 15 off the last over and it was spin bowler Axar Patel who blasted three sixes to secure the win with a ball to spare.

"It feels very special," said the 34-year-old.

"At the start of the season also I was hitting the ball well but I wasn't converting those 20s into 50s. Once you do that, you take that confidence into the next game."

Delhi now lead reigning champions Mumbai Indians by two points while M.S. Dhoni's three-time winners Chennai have only three wins from nine games and are slumbering in



Shikhar Dhawan (R) of Delhi Capitals runs between wickets as MS Dhoni of Chennai Super Kings looks on

101

runs were scored by Shikhar Dhawan off 57 balls with 14 fours and one six

sixth place in the eight team league. Mumbai play King's XI Punjab on Sunday.

In the opening game of the day, De Villiers hit an unbeaten 55 off 22 balls taking Bangalore from the verge of defeat -- needing 35 off 12 balls -- to a stunning

seven wicket victory that kept Virat Kohli's side in fourth place and the final playoff spot.

The 36-year-old's latest power hitting left both sides in awe. He hit three straight sixes off the penultimate over by Jaydev Unadkat and overtook the target 177-6 with another six off Jofra Archer with two balls to spare. Bangalore made 179 for three with Kohli also making 43.

"I said to a few of the Rajasthan boys, I know you lost but sometimes it doesn't matter which side you're on, you can only go wow," said de Villiers' South African teammate Chris Morris.

India coach Ravi Shastri said this week that de Villiers should

come out of his international retirement. After a 55 off 24 balls in a win over Mumbai and a devastating 73 off 33 balls against Kolkata, de Villiers now has the IPL's best strike rate and only Sanju Samson is up with his 19 sixes.

De Villiers said he was always "very nervous" going into such a run chase. "I try to hide it. I get very stressed. I'm proud of my performances. Want to perform for my team, have an impact to win games."

Bangalore coach Simon Katich called de Villiers a "freak" but knows he will need more sixes from the South African if the team are to win their first IPL title.

Lewandowski, Mueller doubles send Bayern second with Bielefeld win

AFP | Munich

Robert Lewandowski and Thomas Mueller both scored twice as Bayern Munich banished their early-season blues with a thumping 4-1 win over Bundesliga minnows Arminia Bielefeld yesterday after a "crazy" first half.

Treble winners Bayern started the day in mid-table following a shock defeat to Hoffenheim last month, but victory in Bielefeld was enough to propel them back up to second place.

The champions burst out of the blocks and had an early penalty appeal turned down

before Mueller bundled in the opener on eight minutes.

Lewandowski doubled the lead shortly afterwards, smashing the ball in from the edge of the area after a sharp cross from Leon Goretzka.

The Poland striker linked up with Mueller to make it 3-0 just before half-time, and returned the favour after the break with a pinpoint cross to set up Mueller's second.

"The first 45 minutes were crazy, we played really well. We knew that the first game after the international break would be really important,"

Lewandowski told Sky.

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