

Spurs stumble as Chelsea succeed

● **Alonso silences Newcastle taunts as Chelsea climb to third**

● **Alli saves Spurs from another defeat to bottom club Watford**

● **Tielemans gives Leicester win but Burnley denied equaliser by VAR**

AFP | London

Tottenham narrowly avoided an embarrassing home defeat to bottom club Watford yesterday as Chelsea and Leicester leapfrogged champions Manchester City in the Premier League.

With leaders Liverpool not in action until Sunday, it was a chance for the chasing pack to press their credentials for top-four spots.

Chelsea's Marcus Alonso broke the deadlock for Frank Lampard's side at Stamford Bridge against Newcastle for a 1-0 win while Yuri Tielemans sealed a 2-1 victory for Leicester at the King Power Stadium.

But Spurs boss Mauricio



Marcos Alonso of Chelsea scores his team's first goal

Pochettino saw his side labour to a 1-1 draw at home to Watford, following a 3-0 thrashing at Brighton and a humiliating 7-2 defeat at home to Bayern Munich.

Spurs, who reached the Champions League final in June, have now won just three of their opening 12 games in all competitions and appear unable to halt their slide.

Tottenham got off to an awful

start as they fell behind in the sixth minute, Abdoulaye Doucoure finishing superbly from Daryl Janmaat's assist.

Dele Alli grabbed a late leveller for Spurs with his first goal since January. There was major confusion as it appeared as if VAR had ruled out the effort, but it was allowed to stand.

Leicester held a minute's silence before kick-off to remember their late owner Vichai

Srivaddhanaprabha, who was killed in a helicopter crash at the stadium last October.

Chris Wood put Burnley in front but Leicester's in-form forward Jamie Vardy headed an equaliser just before half-time and Tielemans completed the turnaround with just over 15 minutes to go.

Ahead of City's match at Crystal Palace, Leicester were second in the Premier League table, sev-



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en points behind leaders Liverpool, while Chelsea, also on 17 points, were third.

Matt Targett scored a goal deep into injury time as Aston Villa came back from 1-0 down to beat Brighton 2-1.

Southampton took the lead against Wolves at Molineux, courtesy of a Danny Ings goal but Raul Jimenez hit back from the penalty spot just eight minutes later after Matt Doherty was brought down.

Bournemouth drew 0-0 at home to Norwich.

Everton relieve pressure

In the early kick-off yester-

day, Everton climbed out of the Premier League relegation zone with a well-deserved 2-0 victory against West Ham that eased the pressure on Marco Silva.

A first-half goal from Brazil forward Bernard and a late second from substitute Gylfi Sigurdsson gave Everton the three points in a match in which they had 19 shots.

"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."

Manchester City were to face Crystal Palace in a late match yesterday. Pep Guardiola had left Sergio Aguero and Riyad Mahrez out of his starting line-up but there was a place on the bench for defender John Stones after an injury lay-off.

Liverpool travel to face struggling Manchester United at Old Trafford on Sunday, chasing a record-equalling 18th consecutive Premier League win while Arsenal face Sheffield United on Monday.

Sharma, Rahane help India hit back after early wobble



India's Rohit Sharma plays a shot

AFP | Ranchi, India

Opener Rohit Sharma hit his third century of the series to lead India's charge after they lost early wickets against South Africa on day one of the third Test yesterday.

Sharma, on 117, combined with Ajinkya Rahane, on 83, to put on an unbeaten 185-run stand after the hosts were wobbling at 39-3 following their decision to bat first in Ranchi.

India reached 224 for three when bad light stopped play in the final session. It began to rain as well and no further action was possible.

Sharma and Rahane ensured that India, who have already taken an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series, denied the opposition bowlers any wickets after lunch.

Kagiso Rabada got two early scalps and fellow paceman Anrich Nortje claimed his maiden Test wicket after he trapped India skipper Virat Kohli lbw for 12.

Sharma, who hit twin centuries in his debut game as an opening batsman at the start of the series, then steadied the innings along with Rahane, who

117

runs were scored by Rohit Sharma in 164 balls

completed his 21st Test fifty.

Sharma played it cool to fifty then soon launched an attack with a barrage of sixes, reaching his sixth Test hundred with his fourth hit over the fence amid loud applause from the home crowd.

The duo from Mumbai have recorded India's best fourth-wicket stand against South Africa after surpassing the 178 between Kohli and Rahane in the second Test in Pune.

In the morning session, India lost Mayank Agarwal, for 10, and Cheteshwar Pujara, for nought, to Rabada's lively spell of pace bowling and slipped to 16 for two.

Rabada nearly got his third when Sharma was judged lbw by the on-field umpire when the opener was on seven.

Bayern stunned in late draw at Augsburg

AFP | Berlin

Alfred Finnbogason scored in injury time to earn Augsburg a 2-2 draw with Bayern Munich and prevent the German champion from reclaiming the top spot in the Bundesliga yesterday.

Goals from Robert Lewandowski and Serge Gnabry had put Bayern on course to move a point ahead of Borussia Monchengladbach ahead of its late game at Borussia Dortmund, but Finnbogason ensured they dropped points for the second consecutive game and remained a point behind the league leaders.

The seven-time defending champion was stunned when Augsburg's Marco Richter scored in the first minute after a one-two with Rani Khedira.

But Gnabry crossed for Lewandowski to equalize in the 14th. It ensured the Polish striker matched Pierre-Emer-



Munich's Benjamin Pavard, left, and Augsburg's Florian Niederlechner challenge for the ball

ick Aubameyang's Bundesliga record of scoring in each of the first eight games of the season.

The former Dortmund striker managed it in 2015. Lewandowski also became the first to score in eight consecutive league games for Bayern since Dutch forward Roy Makaay in 2005.

Bayern's first-half performance was marred by many small mistakes, though both sides missed good chances to score.

Gnabry made no mistake four minutes into the second half with a fine individual goal, but the visitors were stunned again when Sergio Cordova set up

Finnbogason's late leveller.

There was further bad news for Niko Kovac's team as defender Niklas Sule was forced off early with an injury and left the dressing room on crutches.

Bayern began the game with former Germany forward Thomas Muller on the bench for the sixth consecutive game, while midfielder Javi Martinez started for the first time this season.

Union Berlin ended a run of four defeats by beating Freiburg 2-0 at home thanks to goals from Marius Bulter and Marcus Ingvartsen.

Bulter got the home side off to a flying start when he let fly inside the top right corner in the second minute, while sealed the result with a fine dipping shot under the crossbar in the 84th.

Leipzig was held 1-1 at unbeaten Wolfsburg, Hertha Berlin came back to draw 1-1 at Werder Bremen and Fortuna Dusseldorf defeated 10-man Mainz 1-0.

Champion Marquez secures his first pole at Japan MotoGP

AFP | Motegi, Japan

MotoGP world champion Marc Marquez will eye his tenth win of the season after snatching pole position yesterday in Japan.

The Honda rider clocked 1min 45.763sec for his first pole start in the premier class at Twin Ring Motegi, where he won in 2016 and last year, while coming second in 2017, 2014 and 2013.

"Finally we did it. So happy," Marquez said, after securing his 90th career pole.

He will be joined in the front row by Petronas Yamaha SRT riders Franco Morbidelli and



Repsol Honda Team rider Marc Marquez of Spain takes a corner during the MotoGP practice session

Fabio Quartararo, who came in 0.132sec and 0.181sec later.

Marquez, who finished third

in Friday practice, has already secured his sixth season win in seven years after triumphing in Thailand two weeks ago.

He also finished second in five of the season's six other races, missing the podium only once in the United States after crashing out while leading the race.

Still, the season champion was keeping his guard high, with the Yamaha duo and Andrea Dovizioso on Ducati maintaining pressure.

Marquez admitted that he and his team were yet to find the best setup for their machine, saying "tomorrow will be a tough race" as the weather has changed constantly on Friday

and Saturday.

"We will see tomorrow because Yamaha riders have good pace, Dovizioso has a good pace. We will try to do our 100 per cent," the Spaniard said.

"The main target is to finish in the podium. Then if I feel OK, try to fight for the victory," he said.

Quartararo is nipping at the Spaniard's heels after two narrow defeats to the world champion in recent races, with victory only decided on the closing laps.

"I am ready to fight. I hope to make good first laps," the Frenchman said about the Sunday race.