

## Dele Alli signs new Spurs deal

AFP | London

England midfielder Dele Alli has signed a new long-term contract, keeping him at Tottenham until 2024, the Premier League club announced yesterday.

The 22-year-old joined Spurs in 2015 and has scored 48 goals in 153 competitive appearances for the club.

He joins Harry Kane, Son Heung-min, Davinson Sanchez and Harry Winks in signing long-term deals at the club in recent months.

"We are delighted to announce that Dele Alli has signed a new contract with the Club, which will run until 2024," Spurs said on their website.

"The midfielder joined us as a teenager from boyhood club MK Dons in 2015 and immediately set about making an impact in the Premier League, being named PFA Young Player of the Year and earning a spot in the PFA Team of the Year in each of his first two seasons with us."

## Injured Varane out for up to a month

AFP | Madrid

Real Madrid defender Raphael Varane is set to miss up to a month with a leg injury, according to Spanish newspaper AS.

The 25-year old left the field after 45 minutes in the club's 5-1 defeat to Barcelona on Sunday.

"He's been diagnosed with a groin injury to his right leg," Real said in a statement without noting how long the French international would be out for.

AS said he would be sidelined for up to a month, meaning he could miss France's games in November against the Netherlands and possible Uruguay.

He will also miss Real's fixtures against Melilla in the Spanish Cup on Wednesday, Saturday's league match against Valladolid, and the midweek trip to Victoria Plzen in the Champions League. He will also be out for the following weekend league match against Vigo.

## Spanish FA vice president arrested

Reuters | Madrid

Spanish FA Vice President Andreu Subies was arrested yesterday morning as part of a police operation that also saw former president Angel Maria Villar resign on corruption charges.

Subies, the former president of the Catalan Football Federation (FCF), joined the FA (RFEF) in May after Luis Rubiales was appointed president.

"Subies has been detained as part of an active investigation into the diversion of money from the Catalan Football Federation to private ends," a Spanish police spokesman told Reuters.

# Guardiola digs out Wembley pitch

Reuters | London

Pep Guardiola praised his side for digging out a 1-0 win against Tottenham Hotspur on a shoddy Wembley pitch on Monday and said the poor playing surface may have saved his side.

City had failed to build on the sixth-minute lead given to them by Riyad Mahrez and looked as though they might pay when Erik Lamela sized up a great late chance.

The Argentine looked poised to equalise for Tottenham as the ball was played to him by Dele Alli but it appeared to bobble slightly and Lamela blazed the chance over.

City's sixth consecutive clean sheet in the Premier League took the champions back to the top, above Liverpool on goal difference.

"It was not football conditions to play. We reacted well. For our players and the players of Tottenham, hopefully they will sort the problem for the future," Guardiola said of a surface



Tottenham Hotspur's Belgian midfielder Mousa Dembele (L) vies with Manchester City's Brazilian midfielder Fernandinho during the English Premier League football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester City at Wembley Stadium

sporting gridiron lines, divots and a huge faded-out NFL logo in the centre circle after Sunday's NFL game between Philadelphia and Jacksonville.

"To play a football match on that pitch it's not easy. There were many mistakes that don't normally happen. It was something incredible. I don't think

the grass helped them either.

"If the grass is good then Lamela, a player of his quality with his left foot, scores. If (it) hadn't bounced (badly), not

good."

It was generous of Guardiola who was kicking the air in frustration at times, especially when David Silva wasted an open goal to make it 2-0 after halftime.

"In the first 15-20 minutes of the second half we should have the game over and the big events, like the Champions League, if we are not more clinical, sooner or later we are not going to win," the Spaniard said.

Spurs boss Mauricio Pochettino tried to play down the state of the surface at Tottenham's temporary home, although he also said it played a part in Lamela's glaring miss.

"When the ball was going to Erik I said 'goal' but no, watching the replay, the ball just bounced before his boot and that is why he missed," Pochettino said.

Had Lamela scored it would have been a morale-boosting point for a Tottenham side, who despite earning their best points haul from their opening nine Premier League matches, are clearly not firing on all cylinders this season.

## Mahrez dedicates victory to tragic Leicester City owner

AFP | London

Manchester City star Riyad Mahrez dedicated his Wembley winner against Tottenham to Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha after "heart-breaking" death of the Leicester owner.

Vichai died on Saturday when his helicopter crashed just moments after taking off from Leicester's King Power Stadium following their match against West Ham.

The football world was stunned by the tragic accident and it was especially hard to take for Mahrez, who spent over four years with Leicester and was a key figure in their remarkable Premier League title triumph in 2016.

The Algeria winger enjoyed a good relationship with the charismatic Vichai before moving to City ahead of the current campaign.



Tottenham Hotspur's Argentinian midfielder Erik Lamela (L) vies with Manchester City's Algerian midfielder Riyad Mahrez during the English Premier League football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester City

Devastated Mahrez admitted he was torn about whether to play for City against Tottenham, but went ahead because he believed Vichai would have wanted him to.

After scoring the only goal of the game in the sixth minute,

Mahrez celebrated by raising his fingers to the sky in tribute to Vichai.

"It has been very, very difficult for me. It is not easy to have this type of stuff. The 'Boss' was very special to me," Mahrez said.

## Martial has world at his feet, says Man United teammate

AFP | London

Anthony Martial can become one of the Premier League's top players if he believes in himself, according to Manchester United teammate Nemanja Matic.

Jose Mourinho's men received a much-needed shot in the arm on Sunday by overcoming Everton.

Martial's delightful curling effort proved the difference in a 2-1 victory at Old Trafford, where he was crowned man-of-the-match after also winning the penalty that eventually led to Paul Pogba opening the scoring.

The 22-year-old appears to have turned a corner at United, having struggled to earn the trust of Jose Mourinho and at times endured a testy relationship with the manager.

Martial's run of four successive starts has brought four goals and teammate Matic believes the forward has the

world at his feet.

"Anthony is a great player and he needs to understand that," the United defensive midfielder said.

"He needs more confidence. He is still young and I think if he continues to score in the next game he will get that. If he reaches his top level, he can be one of the best players in the league for sure.

"Sometimes I don't think he understands how good he is. He is quick, he is good with the ball, he can run."

Asked if senior players like himself have told Martial just how good he can be, Matic said: "The manager speaks with him about it. I have told him once. But he is a great person and a great guy, and I am happy for him that he is scoring. It is great.

"The quality is there, confidence is there now and he just needs to be more consistent. I am glad we have him in the team."

## 'Intelligent' Rayudu promises to end India's No 4

Reuters | New Delhi

Rohit Sharma struck yet another 'daddy hundred' but it was probably Ambati Rayudu's relatively modest century on Monday which pleased India captain Virat Kohli more as he seeks an end to a pesky problem seven months before next year's World Cup.

An undercooked middle order has been direct result of having an in-form trio - Rohit, Shikhar Dhawan and Kohli - at the top of India's batting order of late.

The problem has been acute at number four with Ajinkya Rahane, Manish Pandey, Lokesh Rahul and Dinesh Karthik being trialled at the crucial spot and found inadequate.

Rayudu's second 50-plus score in four matches against West Indies has filled Kohli with optimism he may not need to fret over the issue anymore.

"Rayudu has taken his opportunity with both hands," Kohli said after the team's victory in the fourth one-dayer against West Indies in Mumbai.



India's Ambati Rayudu plays a shot during a One Day International against Zimbabwe (file photo)

"We need to back him till the World Cup and give him more confidence. He is feeling good about his game and he is a very confident man."

Rayudu exhibited both sides of his batting in his 211-run stand with Rohit on Monday, first playing second fiddle to his partner and then using the long handle to good effect in his brilliantly paced knock of 100.

In the end, he matched Rohit's four sixes and also reached the 50 and 100 marks in fewer balls than his partner.