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# Bayern settle for a draw

REUTERS, Berlin



Last season's Bundesliga top scorer Robert Lewandowski scored his first competitive goal for new club Bayern Munich but the champions had to settle for a 1-1 draw at Schalke 04 on Saturday.

Despite having new signing Xabi Alonso in the Bayern team 24 hours after he joined on a two-year deal from Real Madrid, they looked far from their best as Schalke got their first point to snap a two-game losing run with a gutsy second-half performance.

Lewandowski opened his account when he flicked in a pass from Sebastian Rode in the 10th minute as Bayern dominated.

The visitors, despite missing half a dozen players through injury, overran their opponents in the first half with World Cup winner Alonso, who had more touches than any other Bayern player, confidently dictating their game from the back.

However, Bayern took their foot off the gas in the second half, with Schalke pressing higher and earning a deserved equaliser when captain Benedikt Hoewedes bundled the ball over the line to leave Bayern with four points from two games.

Bayer Leverkusen are top on six points after conceding an own goal and twice coming from behind to beat Hertha Berlin 4-2 and make it two wins out of two games.

It was a terrible afternoon for former European champions Hamburg SV, who were crushed 3-0 at home by newcomers Paderborn and are still looking for their first win of the season.

Borussia Dortmund edged Augsburg 3-2 on Friday.



Manchester United's record signing Angel di Maria (R) is tackled by Burnley defender Michael Duff during their Premier League encounter at Turf Moor yesterday.

#### Torres set for Milan

AFP, London

Chelsea striker Fernando Torres is set to end his miserable spell at Stamford Bridge by joining AC Milan on loan for the next two seasons.

Torres has endured a difficult time with the Blues since his then-British record £50 million (63m euros, \$82.9m) move from Liverpool in January 2011.

The 30-year-old Spain international was unable to repeat his prolific Liverpool form in west London and has scored just 45 goals in 172 appearances in all

competitions for Chelsea. He was believed to be Blues boss Jose Mourinho's third-choice striker behind new signings Diego Costa and Didier Drogba this season, and that drop down the pecking order has persuaded him to

consider Milan's offer. "Chelsea Football Club and AC Milan have agreed terms for the two-year loan deal of Fernando Torres to the Italian club," a statement on Chelsea's website

announced. "The move is now subject to Fernando agreeing personal terms with AC Milan and passing a medical examination."

## Chelsea thrash Everton

City stunned, United held

AFP, London



Chelsea overpowered Everton 6-3 in a remarkable game on Saturday to preserve their 100 percent record in the Premier League, after Manchester City were stunned by Stoke City.

Jose Mourinho's Chelsea led 2-0, 3-1, and 4-2, but Everton kept coming back at them and it was not until Diego Costa made it 6-3 with his second goal in the last minute that the home side finally admitted defeat at an enraptured Goodison Park.

Chelsea were 2-0 up inside three minutes, with Diego Costa tucking away a pass from Cesc Fabregas after only 36 seconds before Ramires teed up Branislav Ivanovic to drill a low shot past Everton goalkeeper Tim Howard.

But Kevin Mirallas reduced the arrears with a fine header on the stroke of half-time and when Everton right-back Seamus Coleman slid an Eden Hazard cross into his own goal in the 67th minute, it heralded a flurry of five goals in 10 minutes.

Two minutes later Steven Naismith hit back for the hosts to make it 3-2 and although Nemanja Matic then restored the visitors' two-goal cushion, Samuel Eto'o marked his first Everton appearance since leaving Chelsea by heading home.

Ramires gathered a pass from Matic and toed the ball past Howard to make it 5-3, and after Mirallas had hit the post, Costa exploited an error from Everton substitute Muhamed Besic to complete the scoring with a classy finish.

The result left Chelsea as one of only two teams to have won their first three games,

### RESULTS

Burnley 0 Manchester United 0 Everton 3 (Mirallas 45, Naismith 69, Eto'o 76) Chelsea 6 (Costa 1, 90, Ivanovic 3, Coleman 67-og,

Matic 74, Ramires 77) Manchester City 0 Stoke 1 (Diouf 58) Newcastle 3 (Janmaat 37, Aarons 73, Williamson 88) Crystal Palace 3 (Gayle 1, Puncheon 48, Zaha 90+5) QPR 1 (Austin 45) Sunderland 0

Swansea 3 (Dyer 2, 71, Routledge 24) West Brom 0 West Ham 1 (Noble 27) Southampton 3 (Schneiderlin 45, 68, Pelle 83)

along with Swansea City, although Tottenham Hotspur can emulate them with victory over Liverpool on Sunday.

Senegalese striker Mame Biram Diouf scored a memorable solo goal as Stoke condemned defending champions Manchester City to their first defeat of the season with a shock 1-0 win at the Etihad Stadium.

British-record signing Angel di Maria made his Manchester United debut earlier on Saturday, but was unable to inspire his new side to victory as they drew 0-0 at promoted Burnley.

A £59.7 million (\$98 million, 75 million euros) acquisition from Real Madrid, Di Maria started the game and produced some probing passes and darting runs, but he could not illuminate United's path to goal against Sean Dyche's side.

After a loss to Swansea, a draw at Sunderland and a 4-0 humiliation by third-tier Milton Keynes Dons in the League Cup, new United manager Louis van Gaal has now gone four competitive games without recording a win.

# in four

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club won their fourth consecutive Women's club title after they defeated Abahani Limited by 77 runs in the final of the sixth edition of the Metropolitan Women's Cricket League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Mohammedan's Rumana Ahmed made an unbeaten 100 off 91 balls to lead her side to 204 in 40 overs. In reply, three wickets apiece from Salma Khatun and Eti Mondal restricted Abahani to 127 for seven. Mohammedan won the tournament in 2013, 2012, 2011 and

2009. Abahani all-rounder Lata Mondol meanwhile dominated the individual performance list. She was the tournaments' highest run scorer with 311 from eight matches. She was also the competition's top wicket taker with 18 and was adjudged the player of the tournament.

# MSC women nake it four Juve edge Chievo



Massimiliano Allegri silenced the doubters as champions Juventus beat Chievo 1-0 in the former AC Milan coach's first Serie A game in charge of the Old Lady of Turin. Juventus, who replaced three-time

Scudetto winning coach Antonio Conte Allegri in the close season, outclassed Eugenio Corini's men but could only manage a sixth minute Cristiano Biraghi own-goal.

New boss Allegri -- an unpopular signing with many bianconeri fans -- gave 18-year-old summer signing from Paris Saint-Germain, Kingsley Coman, a surprising start as he partnered Carlos Tevez in attack. Pleasingly, the youngster took full advantage with a confident display in Verona.

His strike partner Tevez had the first opportunity of the match as poor marking by the Chievo defence left the Argentinian free in the penalty area, but he could only drag his shot wide of Francesco Bardi's right-hand post.

Coman then got in on the action, following some splendid control from a Paul Pogba long ball, he tested Bardi with a fizzing shot from the left, but the former Inter goalkeeper easily tipped the ball away for a corner. It was from another corner that Juventus took the lead.

Tevez floated the ball in from the left and a poorly positioned Bardi was stranded as Martin Caceres rocketed a header against the defender and into the net. Chievo, who were feeling the pressure as waves of Juve

attacks had to be thwarted. First Claudio Marchisio smashed an effort over the bar, then Nicholas Frey cleared an Arturo Vidal shot off the line.

The home side did have one chance of note midway through the first half as Valter Birsa burst into the Bianconeri half on the left, his through-ball sending Ezequiel Schelotto in on goal, but the 25-year-old's long range effort trickled wide of Gianluigi Buffon's right-hand upright.

Just before the break Juventus should have doubled their advantage. First Tevez hit the crossbar from six-yards, though he was stretching to connect with a low Stephan Lichtsteiner right-hand cross, then Leonardo Bonucci hit the woodwork again with a looping header.

#### 3-on-3 b'ball concludes

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Navy and Dhaka All Stars emerged champions in the men's and women's group of Citycell 3-on-3 Basketball Championship respectively, which concluded at the Dhanmondi basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

Navy beat Bangladesh Army by 21-16 points in the men's final, with Mithun scoring highest 10 points and Rasheduzzaman scoring seven points. In the women's final, Dhaka All Stars defeated Wild Cats by 10-6 points. Natasha Kalam scored all 10 points for All Stars.

Secretary of National Sports Council Shibnath Roy witnessed the finals as chief guest and distributed prizes.

### Age level swimming from Monday

SPORTS REPORTER

Cotton Group National Age Level Swimming Competition starts at the National Swimming Complex and the Bangladesh Army Diving pool in Dhaka on Monday. A total of 378 boys and 163 girls from 52 teams including 15 district sports associations, 34 swimming clubs, BKSP, Ansar and one educational board will take part in the three-day competition.

The total budget for this event has been estimated at Tk 18 lakh, out of which Tk 13 lakh will be borne by the sponsors, said a press release from Bangladesh Swimming Federation yesterday.

The participating swimmers and officials will stay at the Mirpur sports village and swimming complex dormitory.

#### Tennis team off to Bangkok

SPORTS REPORTER

Five tennis players of different schools from across Dhaka, accompanied by a trainer, will leave here for Thailand tomorrow to take part in the training programme of the ITF/ATF U-14 JTI Development Training Camp, which will be held in Bangkok from August 31 to September 13, said a press release from the Bangladesh Tennis Federation yesterday. All the expenditure of the touring party will be borne by the ITF and ATF.

**DALEY BLIND** 

AFP, London



midfielder.

Manchester United announced on Saturday that they have reached an agreement to sign versatile Netherlands international

Daley Blind from Ajax. "MUFC has reached agreement with Ajax said. to sign Daley Blind, subject to a medical and personal terms," United said in a statement on the club's official Twitter page. "A further

process is complete." Blind, 24, was in United coach Louis van Gaal's World Cup squad in Brazil, where he helped Holland reach the semi-finals, and can play at left-back and as a defensive

Subject to agreeing personal terms and passing a medical examination, Blind is poised to become United's fifth closeseason signing, as Van Gaal seeks to restore Trafford. the club's flagging fortunes.

United have already spent over £130 million (\$215 million, 165 million euros) on new players, including a British-record transfer fee of £59.7 million to sign Argentina winger Angel di Maria from Real Madrid.

They have also signed England left-back Luke Shaw from Southampton, Spanish midfielder Ander Herrera from Athletic Bilbao, and Di Maria's international teammate Marcos Rojo from Sporting Lisbon.

Dutch newspapers confirmed that a deal for Blind's transfer was imminent.

"Last (Friday) night, the 19-time international and his business manager Rob Jansen

were in deep discussions about a five-year contract with Manchester United," the

popular broadsheet De Telegraaf reported. "If Ajax and Van Gaal's club agree over a fee... the Dutch international is packing his suitcase and by Monday he'll report to (new) Dutch national coach Guus Hiddink... as a United player," the paper

A transfer fee has not been made public, but Dutch media reports say Blind will cost United between 18 million (\$23.6 million, announcement will be made when the £14.2 million) and 20 million euros.

> The son of former Dutch international defender Danny Blind, Daley impressed at the World Cup and played a key role as Van Gaal's side took third place behind Germany and Argentina. A product of the famed Ajax youth acad-

emy, he can play in a variety of positions, and is familiar with the 3-4-1-2 playing system that Van Gaal has introduced at Old That versatility is attractive to Van Gaal,

who has seen his new side make a stumbling start to the season with a home loss to Swansea City and a draw at Sunderland in the league followed by a disastrous 4-0 League Cup loss to third-division Milton Keynes Dons.

Van Gaal is expected to sell a number of players before the transfer window closes on Monday as he seeks to restructure his squad.

England midfielder Tom Cleverley is in talks with Aston Villa, Japan playmaker Shinji Kagawa has been linked with Valencia and former club Borussia Dortmund, and Mexican striker Javier Hernandez is a reported target for Juventus.

## MU agree Blind deal Jose baffled by seedings



Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho admits he is baffled by the "strange" system used by UEFA to determine the Champions League seedings.

The draw for the group stage of Europe's elite club competition was made on Thursday, with questions raised about the way the make-up of each group is influenced by dividing the

32 teams into four pots beforehand based on their previous European performances. But Mourinho, whose side were drawn with Sporting Lisbon, Schalke and Maribor, doesn't believe clubs who haven't won a league title in years should be ranked higher

than reigning domestic champions. Arsenal, for example, were one of the top seeds despite having not won the Premier League in a decade and finishing fourth last season, whereas title-winners like Paris St

Germain, Juventus and Manchester City were ranked lower. There was also some disquiet that Portuguese club Benfica, Europa League runners-up in 2013 and 2014, were including in the first pot of seeds despite a mediocre

Champions League record in recent years. "Maybe what they have to look at is the criteria to qualify teams for different pots," Mourinho said on Friday.

"I know Roma, for example, have not played in Europe for a few years, but they are runners-up in Italy so to be in the fourth pot is hard.

"On the other hand, teams that don't win titles for a long, long time, they are in the first, second and third seeds. "Also, I think it's not fair that the points you make in the

Europa League help you make a coefficient for the Champions League.

"You go in the Europa League, you win more matches, you make more points and then become protected by these points."