

L'pool rout Swansea

AFP, Liverpool



Adam Lallana fired Liverpool to their biggest home win of the season as the England midfielder's brace inspired a 4-1 rout of Swansea on Monday.

Brendan Rodgers' side scored four for the first time since March thanks to Lallana's second half double after Alberto Moreno had put the Reds ahead in the first half at Anfield.

Jonjo Shelvey's own goal completed the demolition of lacklustre Swansea, who had briefly threatened a revival when Gylfi Sigurdsson struck to reduce the deficit to 2-1.

As a result of their goal spree, the hosts climbed above Swansea into eighth place -- five points behind fourth placed Southampton in the race to qualify for the Champions League.

With one defeat in their last 10 matches in all competitions and Lallana finally showing the class that persuaded Rodgers to pay £25 million (32 million euros, \$38 million) to sign him from Southampton, Liverpool head into the new year with renewed belief that they can salvage a troubled campaign.

Rodgers had gambled by leaving out captain Steven Gerrard, Kolo Toure and Lazar Markovic and bringing in Moreno, Emre Can and Javier Manquillo as he tinkered with the team that earned a narrow win at Burnley on Boxing Day.

But Liverpool started brightly and Martin Skrtel towered above his marker at the far post to head straight at Swansea goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski.

The Reds threatened again as Raheem Sterling's volley from Moreno's cross drew a

good stop from Fabianski but, when the rebound fell to Lallana, he blazed wildly over the crossbar from close-range.

While Liverpool were forcing Swansea back, they were still searching for the cutting edge that has been missing for much of the season and Philippe Coutinho could only produce a weak shot from the edge of the penalty area that was easily gathered by Fabianski.

Swansea enjoyed a sustained period of possession that ended with Wayne Routledge's deep cross being met by Nathan Dyer, but the winger's header was easy for Simon Mignolet to pluck from the air.

Rodgers' side finally made the breakthrough in the 33rd minute with a flowing move started and finished by Moreno.

The Spanish left-back advanced to pick out Lallana, who in turn slipped Jordan Henderson into space on the left.

Moreno had carried on his run and met Henderson's low cross into the six-yard box with a half-volley that crashed off Fabianski and into the net.

Coutinho fired into the side-netting from a tight angle after a mazy run as Liverpool pushed for a second goal.

Swansea midfielder Shelvey was fortunate to escape punishment from referee Andre Marriner before half-time when he caught Can in the face with a flailing elbow.

Liverpool have struggled to kill off opponents this season but they were gifted a second goal in the 51st minute.

Fabianski took an age on the ball after a back pass and his clearance smacked into Lallana and bounced over the embarrassed Swansea goalkeeper and into the net.



Liverpool midfielder Adam Lallana celebrates one of his two goals with teammate Jordan Henderson during their Premier League encounter against Swansea at Anfield on Monday.

PHOTO: AFP

ZLATAN'S DEADLY SHOT

Zlatan Ibrahimovic is currently vacationing in Sweden and has been spending time hunting. In a story that resembles a classic Zlatan myth, Zlatan is said to have killed a massive 500 pound moose with his very first shot of the day. Although hunting is legal in Sweden, animal rights activists have been unhappy with the publicity this story has been given by newspapers across Sweden.



2014 YEAR END SPECIAL: FOOTBALL

Germany on top of the world



AGENCIES, London

A superb World Cup featuring one of the greatest upsets in the sport's history, Germany's fourth title and the duel between Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo to be the world's best were among the soccer high-lights of 2014.

Real Madrid's long-awaited tenth European crown -- 'la decima' -- secured after they equalised late in normal time before winning the Champions League final 4-1 after extra time against Atletico Madrid in Lisbon was another dramatic moment.

But far too often in a turbulent 12 months, the headlines made for unsettling reading.

Allegations surrounding corruption within FIFA never end with world's soccer's tarnished governing body lurching from one drama to another over the decision it took in 2010 to award the 2018 World Cup to Russia and the 2022 finals to Qatar.

A report into alleged corruption has only created more problems for the game's rulers with FIFA president Sepp Blatter, 78, unwilling to make the findings public.

Racism and match-fixing also blighted the game but, unless sweeping changes are made next year and Blatter is voted out of office when he seeks a fifth term as president in May's elections, it is hard to see where real reform will come from.

Luckily for the millions of fans,

though, the problems affecting the men who run the game were not apparent on the field when the World Cup kicked off in June.

Brazil beat Croatia 3-1 in a thrilling opener that set the tone for a fantastic tournament in which invisible spray, the innovation to mark distances at free-kicks and goalline technology, made their debuts.

The civil unrest that marred the Confederations Cup, the 2013 dress rehearsal tournament, was not repeated and Brazil's progress to the semifinals played its part in

liant extra-time winner.

The losers in Brazil included Uruguayan Luis Suarez, banned for four months for biting Italian defender Giorgio Chiellini, Argentina skipper Messi and Portugal captain Ronaldo, whose rivalry in Spain for Barcelona and Real Madrid respectively continues unabated.

Ronaldo picked up winners medals with Real winning the European Cup and King's Cup, while Messi set scoring records in Spain and in the Champions League.

Uruguay striker Luis Suarez was banned for four months for biting Italian defender Giorgio Chiellini during a World Cup match.

Barcelona and Argentina superstar Lionel Messi became the all-time leading scorer in La Liga (253 goals) and the Champions League (74 goals).

keeping rioters off the streets.

Coach Luiz Felipe Scolari had pledged Brazil would win the World Cup as hosts to eradicate the painful memory of losing out at home in 1950 to Uruguay, but a traumatic defeat ended that dream as Germany, already 1-0 up, scored four goals in six minutes to lead Brazil 5-0 after 29 minutes before winning 7-1.

Five days after one of the greatest upsets in the game's history, Germany beat Argentina 1-0 in the final at the Maracana with substitute Mario Goetze scoring a bril-

l Messi, in typically breathtaking fashion became the all-time leading scorer in La Liga and the Champions League with two hat-tricks in the space of four days.

Three goals against Sevilla took his La Liga total to 253, before a treble against APOEL Nicosia set a Champions League scoring record of 74 goals.

The four-times World Player of the Year surpassed the previous La Liga mark of 251 set by former Athletic Bilbao striker Telmo Zarra in 1955 and the Champions League record of 71 he jointly held with

former Real Madrid striker Raul.

It was a superb way to crown a year in which he won the Golden Ball award for best player at the Brazil World Cup having led Argentina to the final.

Two men who dominated the European Cup in a previous era passed into history, with all-time greats Alfredo Di Stefano, who played in Real's five winning finals from 1956-60, dying at 88 a few months after his old rival, Eusebio of Benfica, 71, the top scorer in the 1966 World Cup, who died in January.

Tom Finney, one of England's greatest players, passed away aged 91 in February, while South Africa captain and keeper Senzo Meyiwa, 27, was murdered in October. Peter Biaksangzuala, 23, also died after falling on his head attempting an acrobatic somersault goal celebration in India in the same month.

Among the losers in 2014 were David Moyes, who was sacked as Manchester United manager less than a season into a six-year contract at Old Trafford where Ryan Giggs, 41, ended his 24-year playing career after 963 appearances for the club.

San Marino, while not finishing the year as winners also did not end it as losers like they had for the previous two decades. In November, they ended a run of 61 straight defeats when they held Estonia to a goalless draw in a Euro 2016 qualifier.

Whatmore confirmed as Zim coach

AFP, Harare

Zimbabwe Cricket has appointed Australia's former international Dav Whatmore as national coach ahead of the 2015 World Cup, a top union official announced Tuesday.

Whatmore replaces Stephen Mangongo who was fired less than two weeks ago over the national side's poor showing during a recent tour of Bangladesh.

"His initial assignment is to see us through to the World Cup," Wilson Manase, Zimbabwe Cricket chairman said, "and thereafter we shall work out another long term contract."

"He has a wealth of experience at the highest level of coaching."

Whatmore, 60, who has previously coached Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, will be assisted by former Zimbabwe international Douglas Hondo who will also be the bowling coach, Manase said.

Barca appeal rejected

AFP, Lausanne



The main international sport appeal court on Tuesday backed a one year transfer ban against Barcelona in a major blow to the Spanish football giants.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) "dismissed" a Barcelona appeal against the ban imposed by FIFA in April for breaching rules on signing players aged under 18.

Barcelona cannot buy players during the transfer window that opens on January 1 and for the summer transfer period before the 2015-16 season.

They can only open the cheque book again in January 2016.

The team said it would consider a new appeal to a Swiss federal court. The CAS and FIFA are based in Switzerland.

Barcelona were also fined 450,000 Swiss francs (\$455,000, 375,000 euros). The Spanish federation was also reprimanded by FIFA and fined.

"The panel found in particular that FC Barcelona had breached the rules regarding the protection of minors and the registration of minors attending football academies," said the statement.

Barcelona said it "totally disagrees" with the sanction which it called "disproportionate" and "excessive".

The club acknowledged making "errors" but said these were caused by "conflict between FIFA regulations and Spanish legislation." Barcelona said it would study the full CAS ruling and could make an

appeal to a Swiss federal court.

FIFA announced the ban in April this year after an investigation into several players aged under 18 who were registered and played for Barcelona between 2009 and 2013. It found that Barcelona and the Spanish federation were guilty of a "serious" infringement of rules for 10 players.

Barcelona made a first appeal to the FIFA disciplinary committee and the sanction was suspended enabling them to make major signings such as Luis Suarez from Liverpool for 95 million euros (\$115 million).

They also bought defenders Thomas Vermaelen from Arsenal and Jeremy Mathieu from Valenica, midfielder Ivan Rakitic from Sevilla and goalkeepers Claudio Bravo from Real Sociedad and Marc-Andre ter Stegen from Borussia Monchengladbach in a summer spree of more than 150 million euros.

FIFA's appeal committee upheld the ban in August and Barcelona then went to the CAS.

Barcelona aggressively fought the ban at the start, calling it a "grave injustice" and a threat to its 'Masia' academy which nurtured the likes of Lionel Messi and Andres Iniesta. But it has since admitted errors in the cases of the 10 young players.

The ban is a new blow to the club's image. It already faces criminal proceedings in Spain over alleged tax avoidance in the signing of Brazilian star Neymar in 2013. Argentine striker Lionel Messi also faces a possible trial over tax avoidance.

Podolski interest 'a joke'

AFP, London

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger on Tuesday described Inter Milan's reported interest in Lukas Podolski as "a joke" and said he wants the out-of-favour Germany international to stay at the club.

Podolski has expressed unhappiness at his lack of playing time this season and Inter coach Roberto Mancini recently told the Italian media that he is monitoring the 29-year-old's situation.

But Wenger dismissed the reports and said he had no intention of allowing his squad to be weakened during the January transfer window.

"That is a joke. Inter Milan is not serious," the Frenchman told his weekly press conference. "It is nothing serious. They talk, there is only talk."

With Olivier Giroud serving a three-game ban and Danny Welbeck having injured his thigh during Sunday's 2-1 win at West Ham United, Podolski could have more opportunities to play in the weeks ahead.

হিমালিকা প্রকল্প উদ্বোধন

বান্দরবান পার্বত্য জেলা পরিষদ মিলনায়তন | ১ জানুয়ারি ২০১৫

প্রধান অতিথি : বীর বাহাদুর উশৈসিং, এমপি
মাননীয় প্রতিমন্ত্রী,
পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রাম বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়

বিশেষ অতিথি : নব বিক্রম কিশোর ত্রিপুরা
সচিব, পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রাম বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় ও
ডেপুটি জেমস মোন্ডেন, মহা-পরিচালক
সমন্বিত পর্বত উন্নয়নের আন্তর্জাতিক সংস্থা(ইসিমোড)

সভাপতি : ক্য শ্বে হ্লা
চেয়ারম্যান, বান্দরবান পার্বত্য জেলা পরিষদ

অ্যাডভেঞ্চার ক্যাম্প, ট্রেকিং ও মাউন্টেন বাইকিং
তারিখ: ১ ও ২ জানুয়ারি, ২০১৫
স্থান: বান্দরবান সদর ও রুমা হাই স্কুল মাঠ
বান্দরবান পার্বত্য জেলা।

আয়োজনে: বান্দরবান পার্বত্য জেলা পরিষদ, ইসিমোড ও পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রাম বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়