



Liverpool striker Sadio Mane and midfielder Philippe Coutinho (R) shared three goals between them as the Reds ran riot at Anfield, putting six past Watford to go to the top of the Premier League table.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# Rampant Liverpool go top

North London Derby ends goalless; United end winless run

AFP, London



Liverpool swept to the top of the Premier League as Sadio Mane's double inspired a 6-1 rout of Watford, while Tottenham rescued a 1-1 draw at north London rivals Arsenal on Sunday.

While Liverpool dazzled, their old rivals Manchester United ended a four-match winless run in the league as goals from Paul Pogba and Zlatan Ibrahimovic secured a much-needed 3-1 victory at Swansea.

Liverpool have emerged as genuine title contenders and Jurgen Klopp's side moved one point clear of second placed Chelsea thanks to a scintillating goal spree at Anfield.

The Reds took the lead in the 27th minute when Senegal winger Mane met Philippe Coutinho's corner with a header that looped past Watford goalkeeper Heurelho Gomes.

Just three minutes later, Roberto Firmino picked out Coutinho on the edge of the penalty area and the Liverpool forward fired home.

Klopp's team were three up two minutes before half-time as Emre

Can arrived unmarked at the far post to head in Adam Lallana's cross.

The goals kept coming and Firmino added the fourth in the 57th minute, the Brazilian finishing off Lallana's cross, before Mane got his second in the 60th minute with a clinical close-range effort from Firmino's pass.

Daryl Janmaat notched his first goal for Watford in the 75th minute, but Liverpool completed the demolition in the 90th minute through Georginio Wijnaldum's tap-in.

Liverpool have won seven of their last eight league games and go into the international break with growing belief they can win the club's first English league title since 1990.

"It's better than being 10th, or whatever. It's very important to collect the points for the final third of the season," Klopp said. "On a good day, we are really difficult to play and that's the most important thing we can say."

At the Emirates Stadium, Harry Kane marked his return from injury with the equaliser as Tottenham kept their hated neighbours from the Premier League summit.

Arsenal took the lead in the 42nd minute when Tottenham

Team	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Liverpool	11	8	2	1	16	26
Chelsea	11	8	1	2	17	25
Man City	11	7	3	1	15	24
Arsenal	11	7	3	1	13	24
Tottenham	11	5	6	0	9	21
Man Utd	11	5	3	3	3	18

Team	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Arsenal	1	-	1	Tottenham	Kane 51-pen	
Hull	2	-	1	Southampton	Dawson 63	
Liverpool	6	-	1	Watford	Janmaat 75	
Swansea	1	-	3	Man United	Pogba 15, Ibrahimovic 21, 33	

defender Kevin Wimmer headed a free-kick into his own net.

But England striker Kane equalised for Tottenham from the spot in the 51st minute after a foul on Mousa Dembele by Laurent Koscielny.

The result prevented Arsenal from climbing above Chelsea and Manchester City and opening up a six-point gap over Tottenham, who

remain fifth, four points off first place.

Wenger was angered by Tottenham's penalty and said: "From where I sit, it looked harsh. It didn't look a deliberate foul or that he was dangerous to score."

After a tough period for Pogba and Ibrahimovic, United's star duo were back on song at the Liberty Stadium.

France midfielder Pogba put United ahead in the 15th minute with a sumptuous volley and Swedish striker Ibrahimovic bagged the second six minutes later with a shot that Swansea goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski might feel he should have saved.

Ibrahimovic followed his first league goal since September with another one in the 33rd minute as he lashed in from Wayne Rooney's pass.

Swansea defender Mike van der Hoorn reduced the deficit in the 69th minute and there was late frustration for Ibrahimovic when he picked up a booking that rules him out of United's next match against Arsenal.

Elsewhere, Hull staged a second half fightback to end their barren run with a 2-1 victory over Southampton at the KCOM Stadium.

# Bale double puts Real five clear

AFP, Madrid



LFP

Gareth Bale scored twice as Real Madrid extended their La Liga lead to five points with a 3-0 win over Leganes on Sunday.

Bale signed one of the most lucrative deals in football history on Monday to keep him at the European champions until 2021.

The Welshman earned his bumper new wage as he struck twice in seven first-half minutes before Alvaro Morata added a third 14 minutes from time.

Barcelona can close to within two points at the top, but face a huge challenge when they travel to fourth-placed Sevilla later on Sunday.

"An easy game doesn't exist and you saw that the first-half was difficult for us," said Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane.

"Once you score a goal it is a different game and we controlled the match much more in the second-half."

Bale also scored Real's fastest ever Champions League goal in midweek against Legia Warsaw, but his fine strike in the Polish capital was forgotten as Real blew a two-goal lead to draw 3-3.

There was to no such comeback from La Liga newcomers Leganes on their first ever league visit to the Santiago Bernabeu after Bale had awoken Madrid from their slumber in the first 30 minutes.

Bale outspurred the Leganes defence as he latched onto Isco's through ball and rounded Jon Ander Serantes before slotting home from a narrow angle.

His second was a scrappier finish as Bale pounced on a loose ball inside the area from

Toni Kroos's free-kick to bundle home from close range.

Serantes prevented Bale completing his hat-trick twice within a minute at the start of the second period.

Bale's decision to go alone with his first effort infuriated the off-colour Cristiano Ronaldo, who was waiting for the ball to be squared.

Spanish media reports on Sunday suggest Ronaldo is on the verge of sealing his own mega contract extension at Madrid.

However, he endured another frustrating afternoon as he was kept scoreless for the fifth time in eight La Liga appearances this season.

The Portuguese has now gone five games without scoring at the Bernabeu -- his longest drought since joining Real seven years ago. He was also booked early on for taking his protests towards referee Miguel Mateu Lahoz too far.

"There is nothing wrong, he is not worried," said Zidane about Ronaldo's slump in form.

"He looks good, he is motivated, he likes to score goals and even more so in this stadium, but he is calm."

Real received a huge boost ahead of a hugely demanding two-month stretch after the upcoming international break as Luka Modric made his return as a second-half substitute after a month out due to knee surgery.

Morata rounded off a comfortable afternoon for Zidane's men when he collected Kroos's pass before firing home at the near post.

And Madrid even kept their first clean sheet in 11 matches as victory stretches their unbeaten run in all competitions to 28 games.



Welsh forward Gareth Bale scored two goals for Real Madrid as they cruised to a 3-0 win over Leganes in their La Liga encounter at the Santiago Bernabeu yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Unhappy fans rush at club president

AFP, Nantes

The end of the French Ligue 1 match between Nantes and Toulouse on Saturday was marred by trouble as unhappy home supporters tried to get into the president's box.

A small group of supporters came from one end of the Stade de la Beaujoire and bypassed security as they attempted to get into the box containing Nantes president Waldemar Kita and his son Franck, the club's director general.

The Kitas and their family were immediately shepherded by police to safety into a lounge inside the stadium while riot police intervened to beat back the would-be invaders.

Spectators caught up in the trouble left their seats to seek shelter by the pitch but many would have missed the home team's 90th-minute equaliser scored by Polish striker Mariusz Stepinski as Nantes and Toulouse drew 1-1.

The incident was an example of the discontent among some Nantes supporters as their club -- eight-time French champions -- struggles to rediscover past glories.

They have not finished higher than 13th in Ligue 1 since 2004 and currently sit 15th, two points above the relegation zone.

# Pjanic strike rescues Juve

AFP, Milan



Lega Calcio

Bosnia midfielder Miralem Pjanic silenced his critics with a superb free-kick winner as injury-depleted Juventus laboured to a 2-1 win at Chievo to stretch their Serie A lead Sunday.

Roma have the chance to reduce the gap to four points later when they host Bologna at the Stadio Olimpico.

In a hard-fought encounter that saw defender Andrea Barzagli stretchered off after just four minutes, Juventus were given another reminder their bid for a record sixth consecutive league title is far from being a formality.

Although Napoli are now nine points adrift after their 1-1 draw at home to Lazio on Saturday, AC Milan maintained their purple patch with a precious 2-1 win at Palermo.

It moved Vincenzo Montella's men up to provisional second at five points behind Juventus, whose bid for glory at home and in Europe is exacting a heavy toll.

With Roma expected to reclaim second spot and Lazio in fourth place at eight points adrift, Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri was delighted with the win.

"The lads played well, we created quite a few chances and probably should have won with a bigger margin," he said.

"But it's a precious win from a difficult match that has come amid a tough month of fixtures.

"Opponents are getting tougher to beat all the time, so we can't look any further ahead than the next game."

"I asked Higuain and Mandzukic to give me everything, and they did," added Allegri.

"We needed someone to run between the lines and in the absence of Dybala, Higuain is doing a fine job."

# Ronaldo to sign five-year deal today

AFP, Madrid

Three-time World Player of the Year Cristiano Ronaldo will sign a new five-year contract with Spanish giants Real Madrid on Monday, the club confirmed on Sunday.

"The official event for the renewal of Cristiano Ronaldo's contract will take place tomorrow, Monday 7 November at 1:30pm in the presidential box at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium," Madrid said in a statement.

"The Portuguese forward will extend his contract until 30 June 2021 at the event attended by club president Florentino Perez and the player himself."

Real Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane had earlier called on Ronaldo to follow in his footsteps by retiring at the Bernabeu.

"What he has to do is finish his career here," said Zidane despite another off-colour display by Ronaldo in Sunday's win over Leganes.

"Cristiano is unique for what he has done and what he is going [to do]."

Zidane retired in 2006 after five years with Madrid. "It is his dream to end his career here. I am happy that he can renew [his contract] and finish with this white shirt like I did a long time ago."

# Murray caps rise in Paris

AFP, Paris



AFP, Paris

Andy Murray celebrated his new world number one ranking with a first Paris Masters title on Sunday after defeating American John Isner 6-3, 6-7 (4/7), 6-4 in the final.

Murray, 29, replaced Novak Djokovic at the top of the rankings on Monday and claimed his eighth title of a remarkable season after extending his winning run to 19 matches.

"This has been an incredible journey for me to get to the top of the rankings," said Murray, who will move 405 points above long-time rival Djokovic.

It is the Briton's fourth title in succession after wins in Beijing, Shanghai and Vienna and his 14th career Masters 1000 triumph.

For Isner, who was chasing a first title of the season, it was his third appearance in a Masters final after finishing runner-up at Indian Wells in 2012 and Cincinnati in 2013.

"I have to congratulate Andy, first for the title, and then for getting to number one in the world," said Isner. "That's an incredible achievement, you absolutely deserve it."

Murray entered his Tour-leading 12th final of the year having won all seven previous meetings with Isner.

The towering American had dropped serve just three times en route to the final but netted a routine volley to hand Murray break point in the fifth game.

His backhand then sailed long the following rally as Murray forged ahead, saving two break points on his ensuing service game before claiming the opening set.

Murray fought off four break points after rebounding from 0-40 at 3-4 in the second set, but Isner prevailed in the tie-break after a costly double fault from the second seed.

The Scot was then frustrated as he twice failed to convert break points during Isner's first two service games in the deciding set.

But Murray held firm and was rewarded when Isner faltered as he tried to stay in the match serving at 4-5 down.

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# Nice suffer first defeat

AFP, Paris

Table-toppers Nice suffered their first Ligue 1 defeat of the season on Sunday when they went down 1-0 after a hotly disputed penalty at Caen.

The southern side still top Ligue 1 with 29 points ahead of Monaco on 26 while champions Paris Saint Germain are third on 23 ahead of their Sunday night game at home to Rennes.

Nice have surprisingly set the pace in France this season under new coach Lucien Favre and with added zest in front of goal inspired by Italian centre forward Mario Balotelli.

But after a tough defeat in the Europa League in midweek and an away match at the very opposite end of France at Caen they suffered their first league reverse of the campaign.

The goal came from the penalty spot and was converted by the Croat Ivan Santini after the referee decided Ronny Rodelin had been fouled in the area on 42 minutes.

"We conceded just before the break and that's never good. We should have gone in 0-0 at the break," lamented Favre.

"And then we tried to do it all too quickly. We had a couple of chances and that's all you should normally need," he said.

Britain's Andy Murray capped off his coronation to the world Number 1 ranking with a crown in Paris.

PHOTO: REUTERS

