

25 Halep sets up Serena showdown as Djokovic relentlessly marches on

25 Rough return as speed queen Vonn battles for winning form

27 Kyrgyz heartthrob Lux - the Asian Cup's reluctant sex symbol



MANCHESTER: Brighton's English midfielder Dale Stephens (R) and Manchester United's English midfielder Jesse Lingard (L) jump as Brighton's English goalkeeper David Button (C) claims the ball during the English Premier League football match between Manchester United and Brighton and Hove Albion at Old Trafford in Manchester, north west England, yesterday. — AFP

Liverpool defeat Palace in thriller

Man United revival continues with 2-1 win over Brighton

ANFIELD: Premier League leaders Liverpool recovered from a poor first-half display as they came from behind to beat battling Crystal Palace 4-3 in a thrilling goalfest at Anfield yesterday.

The win, secured by late goals from Mo Salah and Sadio Mane, moves Juergen Klopp's side seven points clear of Manchester City, who face bottom club Huddersfield Town on Sunday.

Palace took a shock 34th minute lead, against the run of play, when Andros Townsend slotted home a fine pull-back from Wilfried Zaha.

Liverpool equalised 47 seconds after the interval when the ball looped high into the area where Salah skilfully converted with the outside of his left foot after Virgil van Dijk's long-range effort was blocked.

Suddenly Liverpool were buzzing and it was no surprise when Brazilian Roberto Firmino put them ahead, collecting a pass from Naby Keita and beating veteran Palace keeper Julian Speroni with a slightly deflected

low shot. But Palace were not about to roll over and they fought back to level at 2-2 in the 65th when James Tomkins was left unattended to head in a Luka Milivojevic corner.

Speroni, Palace's 39-year-old third-choice, then gifted Liverpool a goal when his one-handed waft at a harmless-looking James Milner cross fell for Salah to tap in after 75 minutes.

Milner was sent off in the 89th for a second yellow card after a late challenge on Zaha before Mane added the fourth for the hosts with a solo strike in stoppage time.

There was still time for Palace to strike again with Max Meyer beating Alisson Becker with a low shot which the Brazilian keeper would have expected to save.

Meanwhile, Manchester United stretched their perfect run under caretaker manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer to seven wins from as many games in all competitions

with a 2-1 home defeat of Brighton & Hove Albion in the Premier League yesterday.

The result provisionally lifted United one place up to fifth on 44 points from 23 games, three more than sixth-placed Arsenal who were playing fourth-placed Chelsea in the 1730 GMT fixture.

United stormed into a two-goal lead through Paul Pogba and Marcus Rashford in the first half but faded in the second and served up a nervy finish to their fans after Pascal Gross pulled one back for battling Brighton.

Pogba opened the scoring with a 27th-minute penalty and Rashford made it 2-0 in the 42nd with a superb individual goal, beating his marker with dazzling footwork before hitting the top corner from a tight angle on his 150th appearance for United.

Gross reduced the arrears out of the blue in the 72nd minute, drilling in a close-range shot off the underside of the bar after Davy Propper floated in an

inch-perfect cross with the outside of his foot.

Southampton earned a crucial 2-1 win over Everton at St Mary's yesterday but had to endure a nervy finish as they boosted their battle against Premier League relegation under galvanising new manager Ralph Hasenhuettl.

James Ward-Prowse scored a superb individual goal just after the break before a Lucas Digne own goal looked to have comfortably sealed a deserved win for the Saints in the 64th minute.

Yet a goal at the start of stoppage time from Gylfi Sigurdsson gave the home fans a nervous finish as eight minutes was added on, much to Hasenhuettl's consternation, while Everton pushed for the equaliser.

The win pushed Southampton into 15th place on 22 points, three clear of the relegation zone, as they won only their second home match of the season — both coming under their new Austrian boss' stewardship. — Reuters

Lowry wins see-saw Abu Dhabi battle

ABU DHABI: Ireland's Shane Lowry won a see-saw battle with Richard Sterne, needing a birdie on the last hole to win the \$7 million Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship yesterday.

Lowry held his nerves on the back nine to make up a deficit of four shots after losing a three-shot advantage early in the final round. He closed with a one-under par-71 round for a one-shot win over Sterne, who shot a final round of 69.

It was Lowry's first win since the World Golf Championship-Bridgestone Invitational in August 2015 and he is expected to rise to number 40 in the world

ranking from his current 75. Netherland's Joost Luiten made two eagles in his round-including a hole-out second shot on the par-four ninth hole—to shoot a 65 on a windy Abu Dhabi Golf Club course to finish solo third at 15-under 273, one better than South African Louis Oosthuizen (66).

World number two Brooks Koepka (70) finished tied ninth on 277, which meant that England's Justin Rose will remain the world number one irrespective of his finish this week on the US PGA Tour's Desert Classic.

"It was an emotional roller-coaster today. I obviously went out with the lead by a few and before I knew it, I was four behind. I was brave out there today. I grounded out well and I'm over the moon," said Lowry, who received \$1.16 million for his fourth European Tour title but the first in which he led wire-to-wire.

"People looking from the outside probably thought I was gone, but I holed a couple of great putts on 12 and 13 and I knew I was in it then. "I said to my caddie

walking down 16 that (if I got) three fours on the last three holes we could have a shout here.

He said he had talked in depth with his coach Neil Manchip before the tournament "about hanging in and staying in there no matter what I do and no matter what I shoot and what shots I hit".

He added: "It definitely helped me out there today." Sterne was quick off the blocks and caught up with Lowry with birdies on his first three holes. The Irishman had also started with a birdie on the opening hole, but dropped a shot on the par-four third and found his three-shot advantage at the start of the day soon vanished.

Lowry regained the lead when he birdied his 10th par-three hole of the tournament on the fourth, but the South African chipped in for a birdie on the difficult par-four fifth hole playing into stiff headwind.

However, he did not enjoy the cushion for long and missed a par putt from a couple of feet on the sixth to

tie again with Lowry on 17-under. The tournament looked like becoming a two-horse race, with their closest rivals five shots behind at that stage, but the next two holes changed the equations completely.

Sterne birdied the par-five eighth hole to go one ahead. Lowry then hooked his tee shot straight into the water on the par-four ninth and wound up with a bogey, while Sterne made another impressive 15-foot birdie putt to go ahead by three at the turn.

The drama continued on the back nine. A bogey by Lowry on the 11th hole gave Sterne a four-shot advantage, but the burly Irishman bounced right back with back-to-back birdies on the 12th and 13th holes.

Sterne then dropped shots on the 14th and 16th and the duo headed to the 18th hole tied on 17-under par. Both found the fairway, but the South African pushed his second shot into the cart path on the right. He failed to get his up-and-down from there, while Lowry, on the green in two, two-putted for the decisive birdie. — AFP