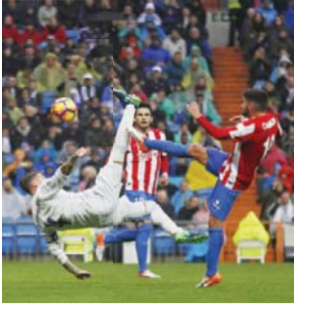


# Sports

Hamilton will still be champion in his heart



Ronaldo double extends Real lead over Barcelona



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2016

## JEONBUK HYUNDAI WIN ASIAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

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LONDON: A free kick from Tottenham Hotspur's English defender Eric Dier (L) clears the wall over Chelsea's Brazilian defender David Luiz (C) to go over the bar during the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur at Stamford Bridge in London yesterday.—AFP

### MOSES DOWNS SPURS TO LEAD CHELSEA BACK TO SUMMIT

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	Chelsea	2
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**LONDON:** Chelsea stormed back from behind to end Tottenham Hotspur's unbeaten Premier League record with a 2-1 victory yesterday that propelled Antonio Conte's soaring side back into top spot. Chelsea had seen Liverpool and Manchester City steal past them earlier in the day and fell behind in the 11th minute when Christian Eriksen became the first player to score past them in seven games. But Pedro Rodriguez's glorious curler and a Victor Moses tap-in either side of half-time gave Chelsea a seventh successive win—their longest such run within one season since January to April 2007. Chelsea, who visit City next weekend, restored a one-point advantage over second-place Liverpool and left London rivals Tottenham seven points below them in fifth place. It marked a rotten end to a disappointing week for Spurs, who were knocked out of the Champions League by Monaco in mid-week and have won only one of their last 10 fixtures in all competitions.

Their run of games without victory at Stamford Bridge, where their title challenge last season ended in May, now stands at 30, their last victory there having come in February 1990. Missing Toby Alderweireld and Danny Rose, Spurs were patched up at the back, where centre-back Kevin Wimmer filled in at left-back and Eric Dier partnered Jan Vertonghen in the centre.

But the return to a 4-2-3-1 formation, after dalliances with a back three and a 4-3-2-1 system, helped them get their press in order and they had Chelsea on the back foot in the first half. After a couple of early threats, including a Harry Kane effort that was chalked off for offside, Mauricio Pochettino's men took the lead with a fine goal.

Breaking from midfield, Dele Alli took the ball to Eriksen and from outside the box the Dane let fly with a vicious left-foot shot that soared past Thibaut Courtois's outstretched right hand.

#### UNLUCKY 13

It was the first goal Chelsea-unchanged for the sixth game running—had conceded in 601 minutes of football, since a 3-0 defeat at Arsenal on September 24. The visitors were playing with an intensity last seen in their impressive 2-0 win over Manchester City in early October and their rediscovered confidence was expressed by their willingness to shoot.

Victor Wanyama, Kane, Eriksen and Mousa Dembele all chanced their arm from range, although only Kane worked Courtois.

The Chelsea goalkeeper also had to save from Kyle Walker after the England right-back had lifted the ball over Marcos Alonso and tried his luck from an angle. Chelsea's initial efforts to respond, via a David Luiz free-kick and an Eden Hazard shot, were comfortably held by Hugo Lloris.

But on the stroke of half-time Pedro levelled with a magnificent goal, deftly turning and then wrapping his right foot around the ball to send it curling into the right-hand upright.

N'Golo Kante signalled Chelsea's second-half intent by ramming a shot at Lloris and within six minutes of the restart, they were in front. Diego Costa was the architect, working his way to the byline on the left and crossing low for Moses, whose shot flicked off Lloris's right boot, struck Vertonghen's knee and ricocheted into the net. Marcos Alonso should have made it 3-1 shortly after, following more byline burrowing by Costa, but from 10 yards out the Spaniard ballooned a shot over the bar with his weaker right foot. Kane created a chance for Eriksen to equalise, but the Spurs number 10 could only volley straight at Courtois as the last unbeaten team in the division finally succumbed to defeat on their 13th outing.—AFP

### GERMANY TO FACE CHILE AT CONFEDERATIONS CUP

**KAZAN:** World Cup winner Germany will play South American champion Chile in the group stage of next year's Confederations Cup.

The Germans will also take on Australia and the African champion, to be determined in February, in Group B.

European champion Portugal will face hosts Russia in Group A, along with Mexico and New Zealand. Russia will play New Zealand in the opening game in St. Petersburg.

The tournament runs from June 17 to July 2 next year in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Kazan and Sochi, and is a warmup event for the 2018 World Cup in Russia. It's a key test for some of the trickier areas of Russia's preparations, including the costly and much delayed 69,000-seat St. Petersburg stadium. The Confederations Cup's future after 2017 is uncertain, with FIFA president Gianni Infantino saying earlier yesterday that the format could be changed and "we are putting everything on the table."

That's because the 2022 World Cup in Qatar will be held in November and December, meaning the Confederations Cup would cause severe

disruption to the club calendar if held in its traditional slot a year before the bigger tournament. Infantino said FIFA officials are discussing questions such as "Shall we play it in June? Shall we play it in November? Shall we think about the format?"

Last year, then-FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke said the 2021 tournament would be moved from Qatar and played elsewhere in Asia. The Confederations Cup features many of the best teams in world football - with FIFA's six continental champions, plus the World Cup holder and the following year's World Cup host. But it has struggled to build a distinct identity beyond being simply a test event for a larger tournament.

Germany coach Joachim Loew plans to leave out some of the World Cup holder's established players to focus on youth at next year's tournament in Russia, but Infantino insisted that didn't devalue the competition.

"I'm sure that Joachim Loew and his team ... they take the Confederations Cup very, very seriously," Infantino said.—AP