

Sports

Tottenham sink West Ham 2-0 as Son makes his point

Spurs call for action after 'reprehensible' racist abuse

LONDON: Son Heung-min produced the perfect response after being dropped as the South Korea forward came off the bench to seal Tottenham's 2-0 win against West Ham on Sunday. Son has struggled badly this season and his poor form convinced Tottenham's absentee boss Antonio Conte to axe him for the Premier League clash. Prior to this weekend, the 30-year-old had scored in only four matches this season.

But Son made his point to Conte as he came off the bench to net Tottenham's second goal after Emerson Royal put the hosts ahead in the second half. Son's ninth goal in all competitions this season mirrored his hat-trick against Leicester in September, which came after he was dropped and then introduced as a substitute. "Nobody wants to sit on the bench but it's a decision you to have accept. The decision is always made by the manager and I need to accept," Son said. "I tried my best to help the team. I got the chance and I was happy to score. The pass was really good and my first touch helped to make the goal."

Tottenham's win over their struggling London rivals lifted them one point above Newcastle into fourth place, although the Magpies have a game in hand. Conte was watching on television back home in Italy after deciding he had returned too soon following his gallbladder surgery, with assistant coach Cristian Stellini taking instructions from his recuperating manager. It was a much-needed victory for Tottenham, who were thrashed at Leicester last weekend, then lost 1-0 at AC Milan in the Champions league last 16 first leg.

Stellini has now won all three matches while deputizing for Conte this season. "The moment was important and it was the moment for Son. With the space, Son is an amazing player and we try to use him in this way," Stellini said. "Son has a goal so we are happy for him. He has to stay calm and produce his best performance. At the moment he is not 100 percent so we have to manage him."

Son shines

West Ham remain third bottom after a first defeat in four league games. Just 46 seconds had gone when West Ham went close through Jarrod Bowen, who hit a half-volley just wide. Tottenham were angered when a VAR check ruled that Richarlison's shot, which clearly struck Thilo Kehrer's out-stretched hand, was not worthy of a penalty. Tottenham struggled to find any rhythm as the half wore on and their first shot on target from Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg drew sarcastic cheers from frustrated fans.



LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur's South Korean striker Son Heung-Min (left) scores the team's second goal during the English Premier League football match between Tottenham Hotspur and West Ham United on February 19, 2023. —AFP

Richarlison has struggled to make an impact since his £60 million (\$72 million) move to Tottenham from Everton last year, scoring just two goals. The Brazilian's lack of form was evident again when he took a poor angle from Harry Kane's pass, losing his position and allowing Lukasz Fabianski to save. Richarlison shot straight at Fabianski again early in the second half, but Tottenham finally made their territorial dominance count in the 56th minute.

Ben Davies's pass split the West Ham defence and Emerson showed unexpected composure for a player with just one goal this season as the right-back drilled a confident finish past Fabianski from just inside the area. Fraser Forster preserved Tottenham's lead moments later with a fine save from Bowen's powerful drive. Son's exile ended when he came on for Richarlison in the 67th minute and he was on the scoresheet within five minutes. Kane's superb pass took two West Ham defenders out of the game and

Son's touch was perfect as he controlled deftly before slotting past Fabianski from 12 yards.

Racist abuse

In another development, Tottenham called for social media companies and authorities to "take action" after online racist abuse was directed at Son Heung-min following his goal against West Ham on Sunday. South Korea captain Son emerged from the bench in the second half to net Spurs' second goal in the 2-0 win in the London derby at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. "We have been made aware of the utterly reprehensible online racist abuse directed at Son Heung-min during today's match, which has been reported by the club," Tottenham said on the club's official Twitter feed on Sunday night. "We stand with Sonny and once again call on the social media companies and authorities to take action."

The Football Association echoed the club's call for action. "We strongly condemn the racist abuse aimed at

EPL Table

LONDON: English Premier League table after Sunday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Arsenal	23	17	3	3	51	23	54
Man City	24	16	4	4	60	24	52
Man Utd	24	15	4	5	41	28	49
Tottenham	24	13	3	8	44	35	42
Newcastle	23	10	12	1	35	15	41
Fulham	24	11	5	8	35	30	38
Brighton	22	10	5	7	39	29	35
Liverpool	22	10	5	7	38	28	35
Brentford	23	8	11	4	37	30	35
Chelsea	23	8	7	8	23	31	31
Aston Villa	23	8	4	11	28	38	28
Crystal Palace	23	6	8	9	21	31	26
Nottm Forest	23	6	7	10	18	38	25
Leicester	23	7	3	13	36	41	24
Wolves	23	6	5	12	17	32	23
Everton	23	5	6	12	17	30	21
Bournemouth	23	5	6	12	21	44	21
West Ham	23	5	5	13	19	29	20
Leeds	23	4	7	12	28	39	19
Southampton	23	5	3	15	19	40	18

Son Heung-min this evening," an FA spokesperson replied to Tottenham's tweet. "This has no place in our game and we fully support the authorities and social media companies to take the strongest possible action to tackle it." In June 2022, a group of 12 men who had been arrested for racially abusing Son on Twitter were given community service punishments and wrote apologies to the Tottenham forward.

Tottenham club officials had complained of "abhorrent racist abuse" on social media after the 3-1 home defeat to Manchester United on April 11, 2021. "Another match day and more abhorrent racial abuse suffered by one of our players," said a Spurs statement at the time. "This has again been reported to the platforms and we shall now undertake a full review alongside the Premier League to determine the most effective action moving forward." In August 2022, Chelsea banned a season ticket holder indefinitely for aiming racist abuse at Son during a 2-2 Premier League draw at Stamford Bridge.—AFP

Klopp eyes Liverpool revival ahead of Real revenge mission

LONDON: Jurgen Klopp has urged Liverpool to turn their recent improvement into a season-saving revival as the Reds eye Champions League revenge against Real Madrid. Klopp's side are showing signs of finally emerging from a dismal spell that threatened to ruin their entire campaign. Liverpool have reeled off successive victories over Everton and Newcastle to give them renewed hope of snatching a top four finish in the Premier League. Saturday's 2-0 win at Newcastle moved Liverpool to within six points of the fourth placed Magpies with a game in hand.

While it is too early to say Klopp has found remedies for everything that has ailed Liverpool throughout a traumatic season, they welcome Real to Anfield for Tuesday's last 16 first leg with morale no longer at rock bottom. Klopp will take that as a foundation from which to kick-start Liverpool's bid to win the Champions League for a second time under the German. Liverpool, six-time winners of Europe's elite club competition, would already have more Champions League triumphs in the Klopp era if not for pesky Real.

The Spanish giants beat Liverpool in the 2018 final, eliminated them in the 2021 quarter-finals and won last season's final 1-0 in Paris thanks to Vinicius Junior's goal. Liverpool haven't beaten Real since a Champions League last 16 victory in 2009. Last year's loss was especially painful at the end of their failed quadruple chase, a quest that brought just FA and League Cup success and left Klopp's players struggling mentally and physically this

season. Even greater scars were worn by the Liverpool fans traumatized after police used unnecessary force in ugly scenes outside the Stade de France before kick-off in the Champions League final. The repercussions from those incidents are still being felt and it would a cathartic moment for Liverpool if they could end Real's reign as holders. It hasn't escaped the attention of Liverpool fans that this year's Champions League final is in Istanbul, the scene of their against-all-odds victory over AC Milan in the 2005 showpiece.

'Absolutely incredible'

A return to the Ataturk Stadium would bring back sweet memories for the Reds, but first they have to get past Carlo Ancelotti's men. After a season marred by defensive problems, Klopp takes heart from Liverpool's second consecutive clean-sheet against Newcastle, a feat they had not managed in the league since October.

"Massive, 100 per cent. It explains a little bit the issues we have in the games where we can't control it better. It's so long ago we were in a situation like that," Klopp said. "It's unfortunate that football is not like cycling, always exactly on the same level. It's different. The only way you can get back on track is by winning. "We've now done it twice in a row and that feels absolutely incredible." After a wretched run that featured embarrassing defeats at Brentford, Brighton (twice) and Wolves, Liverpool have given themselves a chance to get back on track.

Darwin Nunez and Cody Gakpo were scorers against Newcastle, but he was most encouraged by the way Liverpool fought to subdue a side that threw players forward in search of a way back into the game. That togetherness, traditionally a trademark of Klopp's teams, has not always been evident this season. "We didn't score a third and that keeps the game exciting. All credit to them, they put a proper shift in, they fought really hard," Klopp said.—AFP

Troubled waters for Madrid's Vinicius

BARCELONA: When Vinicius Junior pounced in the Champions League final last year to fire Real Madrid to a 1-0 win over Liverpool and lift the trophy for a record 14th time, it seemed like a career milestone and also a platform to build on. After years of criticism for his finishing and decision making, sometimes even from his own fans, it was at once the perfect riposte and proof he belonged among the elite.

Forced to step into Cristiano Ronaldo's shoes when Madrid's all-time top goalscorer left in 2018, it seemed too much too soon for Vinicius - it would have been for almost anyone, let alone a teenager. The Brazilian forward exploded at Madrid in the 2021-22 season, hitting 22 goals across all competitions, having managed just 14 in total across the three campaigns prior.

His Champions League winning final goal should have signaled his arrival as a superstar and silenced the noise around him, but instead it transformed it into something more sinister. No longer able to scoff at his performances, this season attention from opposition fans and players has been focused on trying to shackle and diminish the winger, in any way possible. Some of the needling has been give and take, with Vinicius no stranger to giving opponents an earful, diving or winding them up.

Vinicius's tricks and flicks are also viewed in some quarters as designed to humiliate opponents - just as his compatriot Neymar was tarred with the same brush during his time at Barcelona. In exchange the forward has received increasingly rough treatment from defenders, peaking earlier in February when

Mallorca fouled him 10 times. Vinicius was engaged in a running battle with defender Antonio Raimo, with whom he has long not seen eye-to-eye with. "Let Vinicius dance but don't let him insult and disparage fellow members of the profession," said Raimo in 2022.

The player's dancing celebrations are another bone that some opponents and fans pick with the forward. "It seems like the problem is Vinicius, but the problem is what happens around him, period," said coach Carlo Ancelotti, under whom Vinicius has flourished. "It is a problem of Spanish football. I am a part of Spanish football and I think it's a problem that we have to solve because it seems that Vinicius is the culprit, but he is the victim of something that I don't understand."

Vinicius is also having to deal with far worse off the pitch - a spate of racist abuse from opposition supporters is tarring the Spanish game. A group of Atletico Madrid ultras hung an effigy of the player from a bridge near Real Madrid's training ground, a matter being investigated by police, while numerous instances of racism aimed at Vinicius have been filmed.—AFP

Today's matches

UEFA Champions League	
Liverpool v Real Madrid	23:00
beIN 4K HDR	
beIN Sports 1 HD Premium	
Eintracht Frankfurt v Napoli	23:00
beIN Sports 2 HD Premium	

Classifieds

Change of Name

I, **Syed Karimunnisa** (old name), R/O D.No. 9-376/c/b/b/4 Jandrapeta, Rajampet (T), (M), Annamayya (DT), A.P., hereby changed my name as Shaik Karimunnisa (new name) W/O. Shaik Mahammad Fayaz. (C#3162)

I, **Mohammadi**, holder of Passport No. V1970256, do hereby change my name to Mohammadi (as given name) Yusuf Ali (as Surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name Mohammadi Yusuf Ali and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents. (C#3164)

I, **Burhanuddin** S/o Sefuddin Kanbawala, holder of Indian Passport

No. Z2816264 issued at Kuwait on 07/09/2014 & Civil ID No. 268051502446 presently residing at block no. 10, street no. 10, bldg. no. 07, flat no. 15, AlSalmiya, Kuwait has changed my name from Burhanuddin to Burhanuddin Sefuddin Kanbawala in all my dealings and documents, I will be known by name of Burhanuddin Sefuddin (given name) and Kanbawala (surname). (C#3163)

I, **Taikhum Burhanuddin** s/o Burhanuddin, holder of Indian Passport No. I5938801 issued at Kuwait on 09/04/2014 & Civil ID No. 299011701039 presently residing at block no. 10, street no. 10, bldg. no. 07, flat no. 15, AlSalmiya, Kuwait has changed my name from Taikhum Burhanuddin to Taikhum Burhanuddin Kanbawala in all my dealings and documents, I will be known by name of

Taikhum Burhanuddin (given name) and Kanbawala (surname). (C#3163)

I, **Rizwan Muzhiml** S/o Muzhiml holder of Indian Passport No. M8471852 issued at Chennai, India on 27/04/2015 and Kuwait Civil ID No. 278020704941, have changed my name, address from Rizwan S/o Muzhiml No. 8, Kottai Labbai Street, Thimiri, Arcot Vellore pin-632512, Tamil Nadu - India to as per Aadhar card No. 732351842662, Riswan Shariff s/o Muzhiml Shariff, No. 23/15, Narasoji Street walajapet Ranipet - 632513 Tamil Nadu, India in all my dealings and documents. I will be known by name of Riswan Shariff (given name) and Muzhiml Shariff (Surname). (C#3165) 21-02-2023

I, **MOHAMMAD**, holder of Passport No. P1098382 do hereby change my name to

MOHAMMAD ZAKARIA (as given name) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name MOHAMMAD ZAKARIA and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents. (C#3161) - 17-02-2023

I, **SHIVA**, holder of Indian Passport No. T9188939 having permanent address Punjab, India, 143521 residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will read as under Given Name: SHIVA and Surname: MADAN LAL.

I, **LOVE PREET SINGH**, holder of Indian Passport No. P5084914 having permanent address Punjab, India, 143602 residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as under Given Name: LOVE PREET and Surname: BALKAR SINGH (C#3160) - 16-02-2023

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Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
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Kaifan	24849807
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