

## Korean booter kills himself

AFP, Seoul

A South Korean footballer who was banned for life over a match-fixing scandal has taken his own life, police said Monday, the third suicide linked to the controversy that erupted last year.

Lee Kyung-Hwan, 24, was Saturday found critically injured in front of an apartment building in the city of Incheon, west of Seoul, after apparently jumping off the building, a city police official told AFP.

He was pronounced dead on his way to hospital, he said.

The former midfielder played from 2009 to 2011 for Daejeon Citizen and Suwon Samsung Bluewings of the K-League until he received a life ban last year after admitting involvement in widespread match fixing.

Prosecutors in 2011 charged 57 people -- 46 current and former players and 11 criminal gang members and bookmakers -- for fixing the results of 15 matches in 2010.

The players were charged with fixing games after taking bribes from betting rings. All of them, including Lee, were banned for life by the country's football association. Lee received three years' probation in court.

Last October, Lee So-cheol, a former coach of the military football club was found dead in an apparent suicide after being sentenced to two years in prison with probation for his involvement in match fixing.

## FA calls for goal-line tech

AFP, London

English football's governing body The Football Association has again called for the introduction of goal-line technology after a disputed goal in the FA Cup semifinal between Chelsea and Tottenham.

The call came after Chelsea went 2-0 up in Sunday's tie when Juan Mata's low shot hit a tangle of bodies on the Spurs' goal-line. Referee Martin Atkinson awarded a goal but television replays appeared to show that the ball had not crossed the line.

The sport's world governing body FIFA will soon begin testing versions of the technology and the International FA Board is to decide on July 2 whether to introduce it.

The FA said it hoped it would give the green light to its use, saying that it "has led the calls at IFAB for the introduction of goal-line technology for over a decade and we reiterate our desire to see it introduced as soon as possible".

"No other single body has called as strongly for its introduction as the FA," it said in a statement.

Chelsea eventually won the match 5-1, setting up a final tie with Liverpool, who beat Merseyside rivals Everton 2-1 on Saturday.

A number of Chelsea players, including captain John Terry, admitted that the second goal should not have been given, while Spurs manager Harry Redknapp said the incident demonstrated the need for technology to determine disputed calls.

"We can't keep going on like we're going at the moment with important decisions not being correct," Redknapp said.



Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo kicks the ball during a training session in Madrid yesterday on the eve of their Champions League semifinal match against Bayern Munich. PHOTO: AFP

# All or nothing for Bayern

AFP, Munich

Germany star Bastian Schweinsteiger has insisted Bayern Munich must make home advantage count against Real Madrid in Tuesday's Champions League semifinal first-leg.

"It's all or nothing on Tuesday," said the Germany star, with Munich's Allianz Arena set to also host this year's Champions League final on May 19.

"We have to go to the limits and beyond, but we can do it with our fans behind us.

"It won't be easy, and it comes down to mental strength. I hope we show that mentality which is a Bayern trademark."

Real warmed up for Munich with a 3-1 win over Spanish league strugglers Sporting Gijon on Saturday with Cristiano Ronaldo scoring his 41st league goal of the season, a record achievement currently matched only by Barcelona's Lionel Messi.

In contrast, Bayern were held to a goalless draw in Munich by mid-table Mainz which effectively handed the German league title to Borussia Dortmund with Bayern eight points behind with three games left.

Coach Jupp Heynckes, who took Real Madrid to the 1998 European title, paid the price for resting his stars with captain Philipp Lahm, midfielder Thomas Mueller, wing Franck Ribery and striker Mario Gomez all starting on the bench.

Real fielded virtually their full strength side at the Bernabeu, even with Sporting second from bottom of the Spanish league.

Madrid will certainly provide Munich with their toughest test of the season so far, but Bayern have already beaten Premier League giants Manchester City 2-0 at home in the group stages.

And they set a new record with their 7-0

hammering of Basel in the Round of 16 at the Allianz Arena.

History favours the Germans as the clubs have met in four previous European Cup semifinals with Bayern prevailing three times (in 1976, 1987 and 2001) to Madrid's single success in 2000.

Goalkeeper Iker Casillas is the only survivor of the most recent clashes.

Bayern have an impeccable home record in this European campaign and boast an overall unbeaten record at home against Madrid with eight wins and one draw over the years.

"We will pull out all the stops and fight for both Champions League and the German Cup," said Bayern's Thomas Mueller with Bayern to face Dortmund in the domestic cup final on May 12.

"There is no problem with motivation, we will do everything we can to reach the final."

France striker Karim Benzema and Argentina forward Angel di Maria are expected to make the Real starting line-up having begun on the bench against Sporting.

Likewise, Heynckes is expected to start with wingers Arjen Robben and Ribery firing crosses for Gomez, who has scored 39 goals in all competitions this season, including four in the rout of Basel.

The match pits Heynckes against Jose Mourinho, who engineered Bayern's downfall at the hands of Inter Milan in the 2010 final at Madrid's Bernabeu.

Between them the teams have 13 European Cups but both are hungry to add to their haul with Bayern, four-times winners, seeking a first title since 2001 and Madrid their first since 2002 and a record 10th overall.

Bayern hold the upper hand with 10 wins to Madrid's six from the clubs' 18 past matches.

The most recent meeting came in the 2006/07 Round of 16 when Bayern prevailed on away goals, losing 3-2 in Spain, but winning the return leg 2-1 in Munich.

## Rooney leads MU

AFP, London

Two goals from Wayne Rooney, including a controversial penalty won by Ashley Young, helped Manchester United reclaim a five-point lead in the Premier League following a 4-0 win over Aston Villa.

With United owners the Glazer family making a rare appearance at Old Trafford, Danny Welbeck and Nani were also on the mark as Sir Alex Ferguson's team closed in on a 20th English league title.

Should United and second-placed neighbours City achieve the same results in their next fixtures, on Sunday, then Ferguson would see his club make mathematically certain of that title with victory in the Manchester derby at the Etihad Stadium on April 30.

Before Young's early intervention, United survived a scare inside the opening minute as Stephen Ireland's through ball sent Andreas Weimann bearing down on goal only for the Austrian to shoot too close to United goalkeeper David de Gea who saved comfortably.

But as United quickly gathered steam, there was a sense that Villa might be left to rue such a miss and, just six minutes into the game, that certainly appeared to be the case.

Former Villa winger Young skipped into the area and tripped, theatrically, over

Ciaran Clark's outstretched leg.

Young, who found himself at the centre of a similar controversy after a disputed penalty against QPR last week, clearly made contact with Clark.

But questions will be asked of the manner in which he fell to ground and the haste with which referee Mark Halsey pointed to the spot.

Rooney had little interest in the debate, however, and confidently placed his penalty past the dive of Shay Given into the bottom right-hand corner for his 30th goal in 39 games for United this season.

Rooney appeared greedy to add to his tally and he appeared on the end of a Young corner, helped on by Michael Carrick, to head just wide after 24 minutes before Antonio Valencia created an opening for Welbeck which struck James Collins.

Villa had moments that concerned United -- Clark headed just wide from a free-kick and Ireland curled a shot just wide -- but the remainder of the first half belonged to the home side.

Veteran Paul Scholes sent a spectacular 20-yard volley whistling just wide, connecting directly from a Young corner, and Valencia's cross was met by Welbeck whose point-blank shot was somehow kept out by Given.

United's second goal arrived two minutes from half-time, via an attack mounted after good midfield play by Carrick and Rooney.

## Police arrest Diouf

AFP, Manchester

Senegalese footballer El-Hadji Diouf was arrested and Premier League defender Anton Ferdinand questioned following a brawl in a Manchester nightclub, police confirmed on Monday.

Doncaster Rovers striker Diouf, a former player with Bolton, Liverpool and Rangers, was arrested on suspicion of violent disorder following the fight at The Circle Club in the early hours of Sunday morning.

QPR's Anton Ferdinand, the brother of Manchester United and England star Rio, is understood to have been interviewed under police caution but not arrested.

Diouf and Ferdinand were team-mates when both played for Sunderland.

A spokesman for Greater Manchester Police said: "A fight had taken place and a 33-year-old man was injured."

"Six men were arrested on suspicion of violent disorder, five of whom have been bailed until May 23 pending further police inquiries."

## Sociedad hold Malaga

AFP, Madrid

Malaga were held 1-1 by battling 10-man Real Sociedad on Sunday, which prevented them from taking advantage of Champions League qualification rivals Valencia's 4-0 thrashing at Espanyol earlier in the day.

It looked to be going Malaga's way when Isco put them ahead after 19 minutes with a fine shot from 25 yards that flew into the top corner and Real Sociedad's Mikel Gonzalez was then dismissed before the break after receiving a second yellow card.

However, Xabi Prieto brought Real Sociedad level after 48 minutes with an excellent volley from the edge of the area and although Malaga pressed forward for the winner, they could not put the ball in the back of the net.

The Andalusian club's Qatari owner, Abdullah Al-Thani, has invested heavily, bringing in players like Santi Cazorla and Martin Demichelis in the search for Champions League football, but they have lacked consistency this season and are now a point

behind Valencia in fourth.

A disappointing Valencia crashed at Espanyol, who kept their own European hopes alive with their first win in almost a month.

Valencia had been in good form recently, having picked up a point at the Bernabeu against Real Madrid and qualified for the semifinals of the Europa League, but they caused little danger against Espanyol, who took their chances well.

Following a slow start with little danger at either end, Espanyol took the lead after 25 minutes, with Cristian Gomez slotting the ball home inside the area after good work from Sergio Garcia on the right wing.

Valencia had little time to respond as just four minutes later they fell further behind, with Joan Verdu firing a delightful left-foot shot into the top corner from 25 yards.

An error from Valencia goalkeeper Vicente Guaita led to substitute Alvaro Vazquez adding another for Espanyol in the second half and then Kalu Uche finished clinically with 11 minutes left to complete the scoring.

Later, a Fernando Llorente header after 12 minutes gave Athletic Bilbao a 1-0 win over Real Mallorca.

RESULTS	
Espanyol 4 (Gomez 26, Verdu 30, Vazquez 58, Uche 80)	Valencia 0
Malaga 1 (Isco 19)	Real Sociedad 1 (Prieto 48)
Real Betis 1 (Ruben Castro 34)	Osasuna 0
Villarreal 1 (Perez 46)	Racing Santander 1 (Acosta 90+4)
Real Zaragoza 1 (Dujmovic 6)	Granada 0
Athletic Bilbao 1 (Llorente 13)	Real Mallorca 0
Rayo Vallecano 0	Atletico

## Chelsea thrash Spurs

AFP, London

Chelsea thrashed Tottenham Hotspur 5-1 to set up an FA Cup final showdown with old rivals Liverpool after a Wembley semifinal tinged by controversy here on Sunday.

Goals from Didier Drogba, Juan Mata, Ramires, Frank Lampard and Florent Malouda saw Chelsea romp into their fourth FA Cup final in six years, with Tottenham's lone strike coming from Gareth Bale.

The win was the perfect preparation for Chelsea ahead of their Champions League semifinal first-leg meeting with Barcelona at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday.

But the occasion was marred by controversy before and during the match, with sections of Chelsea's support chanting and jeering during a minute's silence prior to kick-off to mark the anniversary of the 1989 Hillsborough disaster.

Chelsea were also the beneficiaries of a deeply controversial decision by referee Martin Atkinson for their second goal, scored by Mata, which replays suggested should not have stood.

Bale briefly gave Tottenham hope of a fightback with a goal on 56 minutes to make it 2-1 but a sublime finish from Ramires, a stunning 35-yard free-kick from Lampard and a late effort from Malouda took Chelsea out of sight.

Earlier, Tottenham appeared to be the likeliest to break the deadlock in a first half that was slow to get going, only to be denied by the woodwork and a goal-line clearance from Terry.



Chelsea striker Didier Drogba (L) is challenged by Tottenham Hotspur defender Ledley King during their FA Cup encounter at Wembley on Sunday. PHOTO: AFP

**SPORTS POLL**  
**WEEKLY QUESTION**  
 Which Tiger will perform better in the IPL?  
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**SET Max**  
 Indian Premier League  
 Rajasthan v Deccan  
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 Bangalore v Pune  
 Live from 8:30pm

**ESPN**  
 Sportscenter India  
 Sports News  
 Live at 8:30pm

**TEN Cricket**  
 West Indies v Australia  
 Second Test, Day Three  
 Live from 8:00pm

**TEN Action**  
 UEFA Champions League  
 Bayern Munich v Real Madrid

**DAY'S EVENT**  
 Bangladesh Premier League  
 Team BJMC v SK Russel  
 Time: 3:45pm