Time: 5:00pm, Venue: BNS

Live from 2:00am (Tuesday)

All square at the Lane

AFP, London



Wayne Rooney scored a brace as Manchester United twice came from behind to draw 2-2 at Tottenham Hotspur in an entertaining

Premier League encounter on Sunday whereas title contenders Liverpool suffered a big blow away at Hull City, losing out 3-1. However, both Chelsea and Manchester

City capitalised on Liverpool's shock defeat to leapfrog the Merseysiders and close the gap on Premier League leaders Arsenal. Chelsea recovered from conceding a goal Persie was once again unavailable due to a

inside the first minute at Stamford Bridge, when Jay Rodriguez pounced on a poor backpass from Michael Essien, to beat highflyers Southampton 3-1.

Second-half goals from central defenders Gary Cahill and John Terry, on his 400th league appearance, put Chelsea in front before substitute Demba Ba sealed victory with a 90th minute effort.

The win took Chelsea, now in second place, to within four points of Arsenal while City, who went third, were six points adrift of the leaders after another impressive home display saw Swansea beaten 3-0.

Samir Nasri scored twice after Alvaro Negredo broke the deadlock in just the eighth minute at Eastlands.

At White Hart Lane, Spurs led twice, through a Kyle Walker free-kick and then a stunning strike from Sandro, but Rooney hit back on each occasion to extend United's unbeaten record to 12 games in all competi-

David Moyes's side were thankful to leave White Hart Lane with a point, but having also drawn 2-2 at Cardiff City last weekend, this was another missed opportunity to gain ground on the top four.

Following the euphoria of the 5-0 midweek thrashing of Bayer Leverkusen in the Champions League, it was a reality check for the champions, who remain in eighth place, nine points behind leaders Arsenal.

It is now 13 games since Spurs last beat United at home, but they were unrecognisable from the team thrashed 6-0 at Manchester City last weekend and continue to trail United by only a point.

United welcomed back captain Nemanja

RESULTS

they went ahead.

Chelsea 3 (Cahill 55, Terry 62, Ba 90) Southampton 1 (Rodriguez 1)

Hull 3 (Livermore 20, Meyler 72, Skrtel 87-og) Liverpool 1 (Gerrard 27)

Manchester City 3 (Negredo 8, Nasri 58, 77)

Swansea 0 Tottenham 2 (Walker 18, Sandro 54) Manchester

United 2 (Rooney 32, 57-pen) Vidic following concussion, but Robin van

groin injury, so Shinji Kagawa reprised his role in support of lone striker Rooney. Spurs made six changes to the team that won 2-0 at Tromso in the Europa League on Thursday, with manager Andre Villas-Boas

electing to deploy Sandro, Paulinho and

Mousa Dembele in a three-man midfield. Eager to atone for last weekend's drubbing, Spurs began in purposeful fashion, with Aaron Lennon seeing a low shot saved by David de Gea, and in the 18th minute

An ill-advised challenge on Paulinho by Jonny Evans presented Spurs with a freekick just outside the box, slightly to the left of centre, and Walker drilled a low shot beneath the jumping defensive wall and past De Gea.

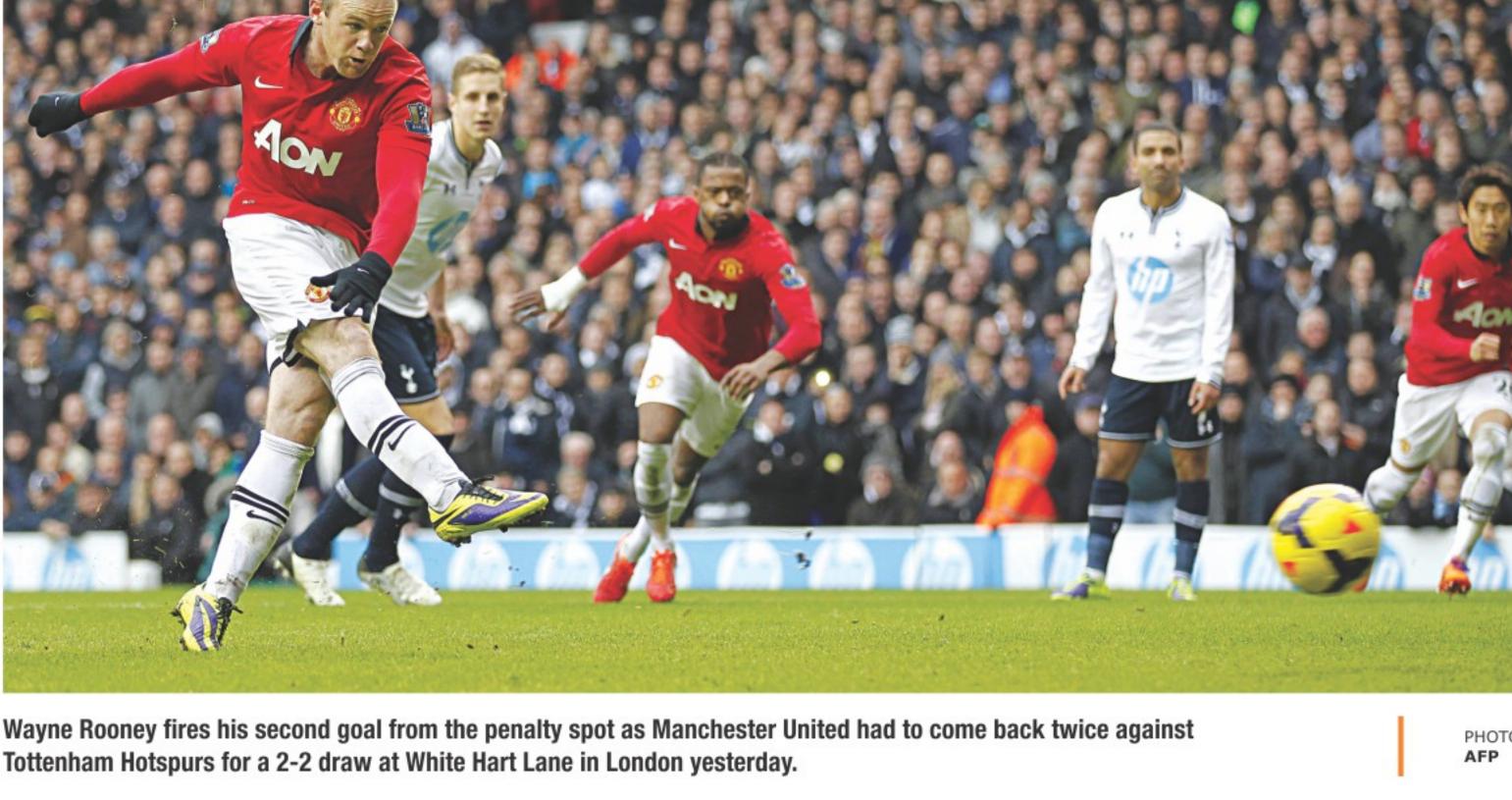
United had not carried an attacking threat, but in the 32nd minute they drew level and Walker was at fault.

United's forwards seemed closely mar shalled as Phil Jones sent a cross into the Spurs box from the United right, but in dangling out his right leg the England rightback inadvertently diverted the ball straight into the path of Rooney, who rattled home from close range.

Spurs restored their lead nine minutes into the second half with a goal from Sandro that will linger long in the memory.

However, just as in the first half, Spurs were unable to protect their lead.

Barely two minutes had elapsed when Spurs goalkeeper Hugo Lloris brought down Danny Welbeck and after referee Mike Dean pointed to the spot, Rooney drilled his penalty down the middle to tie the scores and take his tally of league goals to eight.



Tottenham Hotspurs for a 2-2 draw at White Hart Lane in London yesterday.

Brazuca for all

INTERNET

On Tuesday, December 3, Adidas will unveil the Brazuca — the ball that will be used at next summer's World Cup. And to mark the occasion, they will gift every baby born that day in host nation Brazil with a free ball (as long as the newborn's parents visit a store in one of 12 host cities within four days with a birth certificate as proof).

The company says the giveaway is part of a marketing campaign based on the notion that every Brazilian is born with a soccer ball "by its feet."

The World Cup ball is called Brazuca, an informal word often used to describe national pride in the South American nation.

Thug threatens Gerrard

INTERNET

Steven Gerrard has been attacked by a thug who threatened him and hurled abuse near his luxury home.

The England and Liverpool captain was not seriously hurt but was left badly shaken by the assault outside a convenience store.

Police are investigating the terrifying incident, which raises concerns about security for Gerrard, 33, and his family.

In a bizarre twist, a police officer was arrested soon after amid an investigation into whether an attempt was made to obtain a CCTV recording of the attack from a nearby shop. She was quizzed by detectives on suspicion of committing misconduct in a public office.

clarifications, please feel free to call us at our helpline number 09612700700 (9am - 5pm)

Milan stage comeback

AFP, Milan



Mario Balotelli scored his first league goal in over two months as struggling Serie A giants Milan secured a precious 3-1 win away to 10man Catania on Sunday.

campaign 14 points off the first Champions League qualifying place and having been rocked by the announcement that chief executive Adriano Galliani would resign after 27 years at the club. However this result, only Milan's fourth

Milan started their 14th game of the

win of the campaign, will undoubtedly prove a huge morale boost to the Rossoneri amid what has been another disappointing start to the season.

Catania, who were reduced to 10 men just after the hour when Panagiotis Tachtsidis saw red for a foul on Balotelli, started brightly and took the lead on 13 minutes when a shot by Lucas Castro deflected off Antonio Nocerino and wrongfooted Gabriel in the Milan net.

Balotelli, however, was not to be denied and finally ended his goal drought when he beat Andujar with a freekick on 63 minutes. It was his first league goal since a late consolation in a 2-1 defeat at home to Napoli on September 22. Milan pressed home their advantage after

Tachtsidis was given his marching orders two minutes after Balotelli's goal and Kaka virtually secured the points when he beat Andujar with a fine individual effort nine minutes from the whistle. Kevin Strootman rescued AS Roma's

unbeaten record in Serie A when he scored in the 90th minute to give them a 1-1 draw at Atalanta on Sunday. Davide Brivio had given Atalanta the lead

early in the second half with a free kick which went under the wall and caught Roma goalkeeper Morgan De Sanctis napping.

Inter Milan were on the wrong end of a late goal as they were held 1-1 at home to Sampdoria, Renan equalising in the 89th minute to cancel out Fredy Guarin's opener.

Sturridge woe for Liverpool AFP, London

Liverpool striker Daniel Sturridge will be out of action for up to eight weeks because of an ankle injury, manager Brendan Rogers said on Sunday.

The England forward, who suffered the injury during training on Friday, has scored 11 goals in all competitions for Liverpool this season and has linked well up front with Luis Suarez in the Anfield attack.

Rodgers told Sky Sports before his team's match at Hull: "Daniel is probably going to be out six to eight weeks."

Agents fee hike in EPL

English Premier League clubs spent almost 100 million pounds on agents fees for brokering player transfers in the past 12 months, an increase of almost 20 million pounds

on the previous year.

The total spent by the 20 Premier League clubs was 96.67 million pounds in the year from Oct.2012 until Sept.2013. They spent 77 million pounds in 2012.

London club Chelsea paid 13.7 million pounds in agents' fees, almost double

what they spent in 2012. Manchester City were the second highest spenders,

paying 11.18 million pounds, up from 10.54 million in the previous year.

Champions Manchester United spent 4.32 million pounds, while Crystal all 20 sides with a total of

"You attack integrities, you attack competence, you attack the integrity of a person, their human values, and you don't even

Palace spent the least out of 869,531 pounds.

Real Madrid's Welsh playmaker Gareth Bale celebrates all 3 of his goals in style as his first La Liga hattrick helped Los Blancos win 4-0 against Valladoid in Madrid yesterday.

The Gareth Bale show

REUTERS, Madrid



Gareth Bale struck his first Real Madrid hattrick and set up another goal in a thumping 4-0 La Liga victory over Real Valladolid on

With the injured Cristiano Ronaldo still absent, the Welshman knocked home two rebounds and slid in the third for a perfect treble at the Bernabeu having also set up their second goal with a cross for Karim Benzema to head

It was only the second hattrick ever in La Liga by a British player, with Gary Lineker scoring three for Barcelona in 1987.

"His period of adaption is now over. He now is confident and doing well," Real coach Carlo Ancelotti told reporters.

"We are on a good run and playing with personality and consistency. I don't know whether it was our best game because recently we have been playing very well."

Real are third and three points behind leaders Barcelona, who visit Athletic Bilbao on Sunday, and second placed Atletico Madrid.

Atletico have 40 points from 15 games after a 2-0 victory over Elche with Diego Costa returning from injury to continue his fine scoring run. Koke netted from close range after 63

minutes against a battling Elche and Costa Marcelo cross. struck 11 minutes later. Di Maria hit the bar with an excellent

volley from distance after five minutes and frequently delivered dangerous crosses from the left.

Valladolid played three in midfield with

RESULTS

Real Madrid 4 (Gareth Bale 33,64,89, Karim Benzema 36) Real Valladolid 0 Espanyol 1 Jhon Cordoba 31 Real Sociedad 2 (Antoine Griezmann 69, Cristian Stuani 88og) Celta Vigo 3 (Fabian Orellana 26, Borja Oubina 49, Charles 59) Almeria 1 (Suso 10)

Elche O Atletico Madrid 2 (Koke 63, Diego Costa 74) Real Betis 2 (Amaya 27, Joan Verdu 82) Rayo Vallecano 2 (Alberto Bueno 51,90+1)

the inclusion of Fausto Rossi as they looked to provide extra cover for the backline but they could do little to stop the dominant Xabi Alonso and Luka Modric.

Real peppered the goal early on without luck, Di Maria having several shots saved by Diego Marino while Benzema and Sergio Ramos missing opportunities.

They eventually turned their dominance into goals after 33 minutes when Marino could only parry a Di Maria shot into the path of Bale, who headed home.

Real struck again within three minutes when Bale's cross found Benzema, who nodded in. Bale grabbed his second goal just after

the hour when Carlos Pena's clearance fell to him, and Real's world record signing scored his third late on, finishing off a Earlier, Celta Vigo eased their relegation

fears with a first home win of the season as they came from behind to beat Almeria 3-1. Fabian Orellana, Borja Oubina and Charles Dias scored for Celta after Suso put the visitors ahead.

AVB rebukes journos one of these people is sitting over here -- and AFP, London Tottenham Hotspur man-



became involved in a terse exchange with a newspaper journalist following his side's 2-2 draw with Manchester United on Sunday. Bidding to bounce back from a 6-0

ager Andre Villas-Boas

humiliation at Manchester City last weekend, Spurs twice went ahead at White Hart Lane, through Kyle Walker and Sandro, only for Wayne Rooney to hit back on each occasion for United.

Villas-Boas had been strongly criticised in the aftermath of the defeat at City, and although he was satisfied with the improvement in his side's performance, he was angry with the nature of the criticism.

Asked if he felt he had been shown sufficient respect by the media, he told a postgame press conference: "No, I don't think

"A couple of people insult my integrity, my human values, my professionalism --

insults the success that I have achieved in other clubs. "I don't think it's fair. I think it's a lack of

respect and an attack on a person's integ-Challenged to explain his reservations by the journalist to whom he was referring, Villas-Boas replied: "You can easily under-

"You have always chased people, you attack people. You don't attack them by the front, you attack them sitting when you write.

stand. I don't need to explain.

know that person. "You never got a chance to sit down to speak about it. Only when I give you that chance, and I know you and you know me, are you able to reach the conclusions like

the ones that you did." The draw left Spurs in ninth place in the Premier League table, a point behind United and 10 points adrift of leaders Arsenal.



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