

Racism in football: What Vini's story tells us

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For centuries, racism has been a stain on the character of European soccer. But a string of high-profile instances in recent years has led to calls for firmer action from football's governing organisations.

In the second half of Real Madrid's game against Valencia on May 21, Vinicius Jr was subjected to terrible racial taunts during a LaLiga match, which has outraged the footballing world. The incident shed light on the not-so-beautiful side of the beautiful game, especially on European soil, bringing to light deeply established racial behaviour and attitudes on and off the field.

Last May, Vinicius Jr scored the winning goal in Real Madrid's 14th European Cup, and his brilliance has continued to light up the team's Champions League campaign this season. The extremely gifted 22-year-

Racist taunts against players from various origins have included racial slurs, gestures, and even physical assault. Players and spectators who do not adhere to the criteria promoted by far-right beliefs are forced to live in a hostile and unwelcoming environment as a result of their acts. Also, social media platforms have made it possible to transmit racist and vile sentiments, which has the potential to strengthen and spread far-right views. As a result, it has become simpler for individuals to plan and orchestrate racist attacks during football games.



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PHOTO: REUTERS

old, widely regarded as one of the world's top players, has scored six goals in seven European matches and eight more in LaLiga. But he has also been a recurring target of "hate crimes" in Spain. However, Vinicius Jr's case is not the first time when Europe's bigotry and recklessness regarding the waves of racism in soccer has been revealed, which ultimately exposes the underlying racism across European society. Despite numerous campaigns, initiatives, and movements aiming to tackle racism in football, figures from inclusion and diversity charity Kick It Out have shown that cases of racist abuse rose by 53 percent between 2019-2020. Besides, LaLiga has disclosed to CNN Sport 12 distinct incidents of racial abuse directed towards Black footballers dating back to January 2020, which it had reported to local authorities. If the sport is viewed as a microcosm of society, current storylines mirror the situation of race relations in society.

Against such a backdrop, it's critical to understand that racism is a problem that transcends political beliefs, even though the

growth of far-right politics has facilitated the rise of racism in football. Racism can take many different forms and be impacted by a variety of elements, such as cultural biases, socioeconomic inequalities, and historical prejudices.

Football, racism, and Vinicius Jr

The most recent incident involving Brazilian star Vini Jr occurred during Real Madrid's 1-0 loss to Valencia in a recent match, when the game was momentarily halted after the striker claimed he was abused by a supporter from behind one of the goals at Mestalla Stadium. After the game, Vinicius Jr criticised LaLiga on social media for their continuous silence, saying that racism is common in LaLiga and that this incident was not the first, second, or third of its kind. He claims that the federation and the competition both view this as normal and even promote it. Ahead of the derby against Atletico Madrid in January, an effigy of Vinicius was hanged from a bridge in Madrid, while racist slurs have been caught on camera during Real's matches at Osasuna, Mallorca, Real Valladolid, and Atletico.

The footballing community, which was understandably stunned by the events of May 21, has reacted quickly to rally around Vinicius Jr. Neymar Jr, a fellow countryman, wrote a post on Instagram in his support. Kylian Mbappe also sent him a note of unity, saying, "You're not alone; we're with you and we support you." Xavi Hernandez, manager of Barcelona, has denounced the incident of racism that Vinicius encountered on Sunday at Valencia's Mestalla. The Terrassa coach thinks that football needs to take decisive action and declare that enough is enough in order to prevent situations like this from happening again.

Even the political world has been rocked by the occurrence. During the G7 Summit in Japan, at a press conference, Brazilian President Luis Enacio Lula de Silva offered his take. In particular, he hoped LaLiga and Fifa would take serious action to prevent the rising incidents of racism and fascism at football stadiums.

Long-term causes of racism in soccer

Indeed, the recent surge of far-right movements in Europe has had an effect on

a number of societal facets, including LaLiga and other competitions. Politics on the far right frequently promotes xenophobic, nationalistic, and racist viewpoints. These philosophies are inciting bigotry and intolerance towards people of other racial, religious, or national backgrounds. Besides, this can take many forms, including violent attacks against players and spectators, racist slurs, and discriminatory chants. There have also been occasions where far-right political rubrics have contributed to the nurturing of racism within football communities, despite the fact that not all incidences of racism in football can be traced back to them directly.

Racist taunts against players from various origins have included racial slurs, gestures, and even physical assault. Players and spectators who do not adhere to the criteria promoted by far-right beliefs are forced to live in a hostile and unwelcoming environment as a result of their acts. Also, social media platforms have made it possible to transmit racist and vile sentiments, which has the potential to strengthen and spread far-right views. As a result, it has become simpler for individuals to plan and orchestrate racist attacks during football games.

Can football do more?

Numerous parties, including clubs, players, supporters, and football regulatory organisations, have contributed to the response to racism in football. There have been initiatives to increase awareness about the issue, impose harsher penalties for racist behaviour, and encourage diversity and inclusion in the sport. But combatting racism in football requires a multifaceted strategy that includes law, education, and the shifting of societal attitudes. This pernicious spectre continues to cast its ominous shadow, tainting the sport we love. And we must face this issue as impassioned advocates of the beautiful game, not as casual bystanders.

To address the impact of racism on the game and on affected victims, football must adopt a proactive approach. Efforts must be made to create a zero-tolerance atmosphere against such prejudices. Eliminating racism in football demands a collaborative approach from all parties. Together, we can build a footballing landscape that welcomes diversity, supports inclusion, and reflects the genuine essence of the game. In this case, anti-racism looks to be gaining traction through social movements such as #BlackLivesMatter and #TakeAKnee. While measures to promote race equality have helped, recent occurrences illustrate that there is still a long way to go.

Improving our management of disasters



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Bangladesh is a country that is both vulnerable to climate change and is disaster-prone. The country is prone to various natural disasters due to its flat topography, density of population, and socioeconomic environment.

Simultaneously, the introduction of the concept of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) changed the DRM approach from having "reactive relief-based" measures to a proactive integrated management approach. The basic cycle of the DRR mechanism is: preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery.

Besides, the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action (1990-1999), Standing Order on Disasters (SoD) in 1997, Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA, 2005-2015), and the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) through the Comprehensive Disaster Management Program (CDMP) helped Bangladesh in becoming a pioneer in DRM.

Water-related hazards

More than 80 percent of the population is at risk of facing floods, earthquakes, and droughts, while more than 70 percent is at risk of facing cyclones. Every three years on average, a powerful tropical cyclone strikes the nation, and every year, floodwaters cover around 25 percent of the country's geographical area. Every four to five years, 60 percent of the land mass is flooded severely. It is estimated that our GDP might decrease by as much as nine percent in the event of catastrophic flooding. At the same time, average tropical cyclones cost Bangladesh about \$1 billion annually.

However, with the improved disaster response capacity, death tolls during floods declined radically. While 17 people died in the 2014 floods, a similar round of flooding in 2007 had killed 1,110 people, a flood in 1998 had claimed 1,050 lives, and one in

1988 had claimed 2,379 lives.

The Early Warning System (EWS) is one of the important aspects among the 44 sources of resilience listed in the Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities (FRMC). According to an assessment, 96 percent of people are currently receiving early alerts and 93 percent of respondents claimed they got enough time to prepare, which helped to lower the severity of the loss and damage. In terms of the EWS, Bangladesh is viewed as a role model.

Bangladesh made tremendous efforts to lessen its vulnerability to disasters in the wake of the deadly cyclones of 1970 and 1991, and as a result of its significant long-term investments in safeguarding lives, it is now regarded as a global leader in coastal resilience. For instance, the government made substantial preparations to deal with the situation in light of the concern

of the 19 coastal zones have been built in such a way that they can be used as storm shelters in an emergency.

Another crucial point to address is the condition at the Bhasan Char. Bangladesh has taken the initiative to move 100,000 Rohingyas from Cox's Bazar to Bhasan Char, of whom over 30,000 have already been relocated, in order to improve their livelihoods and relieve strain on the makeshift camps of Kutupalong and Teknaf. International rights organisations expressed concern about the long-term viability and vulnerability of the Char to natural disasters. Since the relocation began in December 2020, the island has already witnessed a number of cyclones with almost zero impact, demonstrating the endurance of the well-planned infrastructure project.

Further areas to focus on

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that Cyclone Mocha might have caused devastation along the coast. Numerous projects, in addition to the government's initiatives, have been working to raise public awareness regarding cyclone.

Previously, coastal residents had no faith in the EWS, and many stayed in their homes rather than going to shelter houses, causing the death toll to climb. People in coastal areas are more informed now, thanks to the precision of meteorological updates, and they follow government directives during natural disasters. Furthermore, another important step in disaster safety management has been the use of public schools, model mosques, and dedicated cyclone centers as shelter facilities. The basements of the model mosques in 147 upazilas

Bangladesh has exhibited the best global practices in disaster risk management and serves as a voice for climate-vulnerable countries. In 2009, Bangladesh was among the first to adopt a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, which has served as a model for other climate-vulnerable countries. The government has implemented a number of proactive policies and initiatives to increase resilience against climate-related disasters, supporting community-led action. This has resulted in the building of coastal embankment systems that safeguard over 6,000 kilometres of vulnerable coastline, as well as an early warning system for cyclones with over 76,000 volunteers. However, more has to be done.

The level of devastation will increase with more floods and

and maintenance of embankments. With the changing nature of global warming and climate change, the frequency and scale of natural disasters will increase. As a result, considerable preparations should be made to deal with natural disasters.

Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited				
(A State Owned Organization)				
116, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1205				
www.bscl.gov.bd				
Re-Tender Notice				
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh				
01	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology.		
02	Agency	Posts and Telecommunications Division.		
03	Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited.		
04	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.		
05	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.		
06	Invitation Ref No.	14.39.0000.012.07.004.22.269		
07	Date	25/05/2023		
08	Procurement method	Open Tender.		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
09	Budget and source of funds	Company's own fund.		
10	Tender Package No.	BSCL/2022-23/PG-20		
11	Tender package name	Capacity enhancement of BSCL head office Monitoring Center (Re-Tender for Lot-2).		
12	Tender publication date	28/05/2023		
13	Tender last selling date	11/06/2023 Time: 04:00pm		
14	Tender closing date and time	12/06/2023 02:05pm		
15	Tender opening date and time	12/06/2023 02:15pm		
16	Name & address of the office(s)	Address		
	-Selling tender document (principal)	Managing Director, Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited		
	-Selling tender document (others)	SEL Rose-N-Dale, Level-07, 116, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka.		
	-Receiving tender document			
	-Opening tender document			
17	Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer	As stated in the tender document.		
18	Brief description of service	Capacity enhancement of BSCL head office Monitoring Center (Re-Tender for Lot-2).		
19	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk 1000 (one thousand Taka only).		
20	Lot No.	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)
02	Lot-2: Prepare Glass room for server, Supporting Wall for TV installation & Electrical Activity and Supply & Installation of Air Conditioning System	SEL Rose-N-Dale, Level-08, 116, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1000.	15,000/- (fifteen thousand only)	As per the 'Supply/Work Schedule (Section 6)' of tender document
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
21	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Shafiqul Islam		
22	Designation of official inviting tender	Managing Director		
23	Address of official inviting tender	Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited, SEL Rose-N-Dale, Level-07, 116, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1000.		
24	Contact details of official inviting tender	0241030091-93	<Fax No. >	procurement@bscl.com.bd
The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings.				
(Signed) Md. Shafiqul Islam Managing Director				
GD-931 Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited				