

'Kane can't shoulder Spurs goalscoring burden alone'

AFP | London

Harry Kane is not a "machine" and it is only a matter of time before he is back among the goals, according to Tottenham teammate Erik Lamela.

The under-fire England striker endured another frustrating game on Tuesday as Spurs slumped to a late 2-1 Champions League defeat at Inter Milan.

The England captain has now gone five games for club and country without scoring.

He missed a good opportunity at the San Siro, but Lamela insists Kane should not be the only player to carry the scoring burden for Spurs.

"Harry is not a machine. He scores a lot. He always scores," Lamela said, in comments car-



Harry Kane rounds Samir Handanovic but fails to hit the target against Inter Milan

ried by the British press yesterday.

"Here he didn't and for two or three games he didn't. But he will score again.

"It's not like Harry needs to score every single game. Christian (Eriksen) scored, I scored in the last game. Sonny (Son Heung-min) will score. Lucas (Moura) will score. All the pressure is not on Harry.

"All the attacking players need to score."

Lamela says there is no crisis of confidence at Tottenham, even though the defeat by Inter means they have lost three games in a row for the first time under Mauricio Pochettino.

"I don't think we're losing our confidence," he said. "We believe in each other in this team. That's why we always fight until the end of the season."

Ethan Ampadu signs long-term Chelsea deal

AFP | London

Wales international Ethan Ampadu has signed a new five-year contract with Chelsea, the Premier League club announced yesterday.

Ampadu, who signed from Exeter in 2017 with the fee agreed by tribunal, has impressed since moving to Stamford Bridge.

"I'm really proud and happy, I'm looking forward to the next five years," said the 18-year-old, who can play in defence or midfield.

Ampadu has made seven Chelsea appearances so far and could be involved in Thursday's Europa League clash at PAOK in Greece.

Kyrgios 'pep talk' umpire suspended

AFP | New York

The US Open umpire criticised for giving Australia's Nick Kyrgios a pep talk has been hit with a two-week suspension, reports said Tuesday.

Swedish official Mohamed Lahyani triggered controversy last month after coming down from his chair to give advice to Kyrgios during his second round game against Pierre-Hugues Herbert.

The US Open later said Lahyani "went beyond protocol" with his conduct.

"I want to help you," Lahyani could be heard telling Kyrgios, who was a set and 3-0 down at the time.

"This isn't you. I know that. I have seen your matches. You are great for tennis."

Kyrgios subsequently captured 19 of the next 25 games, claiming a 4-6, 7-6 (8/6), 6-3, 6-0 win.

Wawrinka on song in Saint Petersburg

AFP | Saint Petersburg

Three-time Grand Slam champion Stan Wawrinka advanced to the quarter-finals of the St Petersburg Open yesterday with a win over Russian fourth seed Karen Khachanov in two tie-break sets.

The 33-year-old Swiss star Wawrinka, a wildcard entry, knocked off world number 24 Khachanov 7-6 (12/10), 7-6 (7/1) and awaits the winner between defending champion Damir Dzumhur and Guido Pella.

"I'm really happy as the level of my play was really good today," Wawrinka said. "We both played really well, really aggressive."

"I was expecting a tough match and it was really tough. My level was great and I'm really happy with everything that took place on the court today."

Wawrinka, the former world number three, who is now down at 88 after a battle with injury, started confidently breaking his rival's serve early.

Boateng wants clear-the-air talks with Bayern bosses

AFP | Berlin

Germany defender Jerome Boateng wants clear-the-air talks with Bayern Munich bosses Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and Uli Hoeness after his off-season transfer to Paris Saint-Germain fell through.

"I think we should talk again in the near future - that's what we have set out to do - it's important for me to make it clear once again that I'm fully focused on FC Bayern," Boateng told the Munich-based newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung.

"And on the other hand, I don't think it's nice when things are said about me everywhere and then you do not get any public support from the club."

In the off season, both Rummenigge and Hoeness said Boateng could leave for the right price.

The burly centre-back was annoyed when Bayern chairman Rummenigge first fuelled rumours of a possible switch



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has a market value of around 45 million euros (\$52.6m).

Instead, PSG last month signed Germany Under-21 centre-back Thilo Kehrer for a reported 37m euros.

The 30-year-old, set to play at Benfica in Bayern's opening Champions League group match, has also bemoaned a lack of support from the club's senior bosses in the wake of Germany's World Cup disaster.

to PSG on the eve of the World Cup, where Germany crashed out after the group stages.

The defender admits a switch to Paris was "a concrete option" and even talked with PSG's head coach Thomas Tuchel about a move, but the deal reportedly collapsed because of Bayern's asking price for Boateng, who

Stokes, Hales picked for England ODI series against Sri Lanka

AFP | London

Ben Stokes and Alex Hales were named in England's one-day squad to tour Sri Lanka yesterday despite being charged with bringing cricket into disrepute.

The pair face a disciplinary panel hearing in London in December following a brawl outside a nightclub in the southwestern city of Bristol in September 2017.

Stokes, 27, was last month cleared of affray following a seven-day trial related to the incident. Hales, 29, was with his England teammate during the altercation but was not charged.

Warwickshire fast bowler Olly Stone, 24, has been called



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into the 16-man squad for the first time as a replacement for Yorkshire's Liam Plunkett.

Plunkett, who is getting mar-



Ben Stokes

ried, will be available again for the last two ODIs of the five-match series.

Stone, who has struggled with injury problems in recent years, has impressed selectors with his consistent performances this season.

Indian players visit Hong Kong dressing room after close game



Indian players visit Hong Kong team's dressing room

Cricketnext | Dubai

India survived a mighty scare before recording a 26-run win over Hong Kong in their opening match of the Asia Cup on Tuesday. Chasing a stiff 286-run target on a slow wicket, Hong Kong's opening pair of Nizakat Khan (92) and skipper Anshuman Rath (73) stitched a record 174-run partnership to raise the hopes of a major upset before both their dismissals resulted in a collapse of the batting order, eventually managing just 259 for eight at the end of 50 overs.

After the game, members of the Indian team visited the Hong Kong dressing room and met the promising cricketers. They posed for pictures and

some of them also talked to the players, sharing their knowledge about the game.

While clicking a picture with Indian captain Rohit Sharma and former Indian captain MS Dhoni, Ehsan Khan, who dismissed the Indian wicketkeeper for a duck in the innings, said, "I have been waiting for this moment for the last ten years. It is a dream come true moment for me."

After meeting with the players, Bhuvneshwar Kumar said, "We got together with the Hong Kong players and shared our experience with them - DK (Dinesh Karthik), (KL) Rahul, me and Dhoni. We loved talking to them, and I wish them well for the future matches."

Nadal to miss tournaments in Asia due to knee injury

AFP | Paris

World number one Rafael Nadal has announced his withdrawal from upcoming tournaments in Beijing and Shanghai due to the right knee injury that forced him to retire from the US Open earlier this month.

Nadal had to pull out during his semi-final against Juan Martin del Potro in New York and also missed Spain's Davis Cup defeat by France last weekend.

The 32-year-old said he visited doctors in Barcelona on Monday and has subsequently made the decision to play neither the ATP 500 event in Beijing nor the Masters 1000 in Shanghai.

"While the annoyances on my knee are nothing new, we have decided together with my medical and technical team not to participate in the Asian tour to recover the knee the way we have always done," Rafael Nadal said yesterday.