

Diaz ends goal drought as Liverpool move 7 points clear

AFP, LIVERPOOL: Liverpool moved seven points clear at the top of the Premier League as Luis Diaz ended his goal drought to spark a tense 2-1 win against struggling Wolves on Sunday.

Arne Slot's side got back on track after an unexpectedly poor week thanks to Diaz's first goal in 2025 and yet another Mohamed Salah strike. Diaz opened the scoring early in the first half at Anfield as the Colombian forward finally scored for the 13th time this term after 10 games without a goal.

While Diaz has struggled to find the net, Salah is in red-hot form and his penalty before the interval took the Egypt star to 28 goals in all competitions this season.

Mathias Cunha netted in the second half for fourth-bottom Wolves, but although Liverpool looked tired in a disjointed, nervous, climax, they held on for a valuable victory. Liverpool had gone two games without a win: an embarrassing FA Cup fourth



Liverpool's Dutch defender #04 Virgil van Dijk heads the ball away from a free-kick by Wolverhampton Wanderers' English midfielder #20 Tommy Doyle (right) during the English Premier League match at Anfield in Liverpool, England on Sunday

round loss at second tier Plymouth last weekend and the stormy 2-2 draw at Everton on Wednesday.

Arsenal's 2-0 win at Leicester on Saturday had applied a little more pressure on Liverpool.

The Reds responded to Arsenal's challenge as they moved a step closer to a record-equalling 20th English

title. Liverpool, who last won the Premier League in 2020, will be within touching distance of the crown if they take maximum points from trips to Aston Villa and Manchester City before hosting Newcastle over the course of the next 10 days.

Liverpool boss Slot was in the dug-out despite being charged with abusive

behaviour after angrily approaching referee Michael Oliver on the pitch following the Merseyside derby.

Slot was furious that James Tarkowski's stoppage-time equaliser was not disallowed because of a possible push by Toffees striker Beto on Reds defender Ibrahima Konate. Slot had urged Liverpool

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE RESULTS

Liverpool 2 (Diaz 15, Salah 37-pen) Wolves 1 (Cunha 67), Saturday: Aston Villa 1 (Watkins 69) Ipswich 1 (Delap 56), Crystal Palace 1 (Mateta 47) Everton 2 (Beto 42, Alcaraz 80), Fulham 2 (Smith Rowe 15, Bassey 62) Nottingham Forest 1 (Wood 37), Leicester 0 Arsenal 2 (Merino 81, 87), Manchester City 4 (Marmoush 19, 24, 33, McAtee 84) Newcastle 0, Southampton 1 (Sulemana 72) Bournemouth 3 (Ouattara 14, Christie 16, Tavernier 83), West Ham 0 Brentford 1 (Schade 4), Friday: Brighton 3 (Mitoma 27, Minteh 38, 63) Chelsea 0

to use their "anger" from the painful end to the Everton game as fuel to get back on track against Wolves.

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES

| | | | |
|---------|--|---------------|---------|
| Mar 22: | Kolkata Knight Riders vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru | Kolkata | 7:30 PM |
| Mar 23: | Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Rajasthan Royals | Hyderabad | 3:30 PM |
| Mar 23: | Chennai Super Kings vs Mumbai Indians | Chennai | 7:30 PM |
| Mar 24: | Delhi Capitals vs Lucknow Super Giants | Visakhapatnam | 7:30 PM |
| Mar 25: | Gujarat Titans vs Punjab Kings | Ahmedabad | 7:30 PM |
| Mar 26: | Rajasthan Royals vs Kolkata Knight Riders | Guwahati | 7:30 PM |
| Mar 27: | Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Lucknow Super Giants | Hyderabad | 7:30 PM |
| Mar 28: | Chennai Super Kings vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru | Chennai | 7:30 PM |
| Mar 29: | Gujarat Titans vs Mumbai Indians | Ahmedabad | 7:30 PM |
| Mar 30: | Delhi Capitals vs Sunrisers Hyderabad | Visakhapatnam | 3:30 PM |
| Mar 30: | Rajasthan Royals vs Chennai Super Kings | Guwahati, | 7:30 PM |
| Mar 31: | Mumbai Indians vs Kolkata Knight Riders | Mumbai | 7:30 PM |
| Apr 01: | Lucknow Super Giants vs Punjab Kings | Lucknow | 7:30 PM |
| Apr 02: | Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Gujarat Titans | Bengaluru | 7:30 PM |
| Apr 03: | Kolkata Knight Riders vs Sunrisers Hyderabad | Kolkata | 7:30 PM |
| Apr 04: | Lucknow Super Giants vs Mumbai Indians | Lucknow | 7:30 PM |
| Apr 05: | Chennai Super Kings vs Delhi Capitals | Chennai | 3:30 PM |
| Apr 05: | Punjab Kings vs Rajasthan Royals | Chandigarh | 7:30 PM |
| Apr 06: | Kolkata Knight Riders vs Lucknow Super Giants | Kolkata | 3:30 PM |
| Apr 06: | Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Gujarat Titans | Hyderabad | 7:30 PM |
| Apr 07: | Mumbai Indians vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru | Mumbai | 7:30 PM |
| Apr 08: | Punjab Kings vs Chennai Super Kings | Chandigarh | 7:30 PM |
| Apr 09: | Gujarat Titans vs Rajasthan Royals | Ahmedabad | 7:30 PM |
| Apr 10: | Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Delhi Capitals | Bengaluru | 7:30 PM |
| Apr 11: | Chennai Super Kings vs Kolkata Knight Riders | Chennai | 7:30 PM |
| Apr 12: | Lucknow Super Giants vs Gujarat Titans | Lucknow | 3:30 PM |
| Apr 12: | Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Punjab Kings | Hyderabad | 7:30 PM |
| Apr 13: | Rajasthan Royals vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru | Jaipur | 3:30 PM |
| Apr 13: | Delhi Capitals vs Mumbai Indians | Delhi | 7:30 PM |
| Apr 14: | Lucknow Super Giants vs Chennai Super Kings | Lucknow | 7:30 PM |
| Apr 15: | Punjab Kings vs Kolkata Knight Riders | Chandigarh | 7:30 PM |
| Apr 16: | Delhi Capitals vs Rajasthan Royals | Delhi | 7:30 PM |
| Apr 17: | Mumbai Indians vs Sunrisers Hyderabad | Mumbai | 7:30 PM |
| Apr 18: | Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Punjab Kings | Bengaluru | 7:30 PM |
| Apr 19: | Gujarat Titans vs Delhi Capitals | Ahmedabad | 3:30 PM |
| Apr 19: | Rajasthan Royals vs Lucknow Super Giants | Jaipur | 7:30 PM |
| Apr 20: | Punjab Kings vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru | Chandigarh | 3:30 PM |
| Apr 20: | Mumbai Indians vs Chennai Super Kings | Mumbai | 7:30 PM |
| Apr 21: | Kolkata Knight Riders vs Gujarat Titans | Kolkata | 7:30 PM |
| Apr 22: | Lucknow Super Giants vs Delhi Capitals | Lucknow | 7:30 PM |
| Apr 23: | Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Mumbai Indians | Hyderabad | 7:30 PM |
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| Apr 30: | Rajasthan Royals vs Mumbai Indians | Jaipur | 7:30 PM |
| May 1: | Gujarat Titans vs Sunrisers Hyderabad | Ahmedabad | 7:30 PM |
| May 2: | Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Chennai Super Kings | Bengaluru | 7:30 PM |
| May 3: | Kolkata Knight Riders vs Rajasthan Royals | Kolkata | 3:30 PM |
| May 4: | Punjab Kings vs Lucknow Super Giants | Dharamsala | 7:30 PM |
| May 5: | Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Delhi Capitals | Hyderabad | 7:30 PM |
| May 6: | Mumbai Indians vs Gujarat Titans | Mumbai | 7:30 PM |
| May 7: | Kolkata Knight Riders vs Chennai Super Kings | Kolkata | 7:30 PM |
| May 8: | Punjab Kings vs Delhi Capitals | Dharamsala | 7:30 PM |
| May 9: | Lucknow Super Giants vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru | Lucknow | 7:30 PM |
| May 10: | Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Kolkata Knight Riders | Hyderabad | 7:30 PM |
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| May 18: | Lucknow Super Giants vs Sunrisers Hyderabad | Lucknow | 7:30 PM |
| May 20: | Qualifier 1, | Hyderabad | 7:30 PM |
| May 21: | Eliminator, | Hyderabad | 7:30 PM |
| May 23: | Qualifier 2, | Kolkata | 7:30 PM |
| May 25: | Final | Kolkata | 7:30 PM |

sportspopup

Gardner, Priya power Gujarat Giants to 6-wicket win

VADODARA: Skipper Ashleigh Gardner starred with both bat and ball, leading Gujarat Giants to a comprehensive six-wicket win over UP Warriorz in their Women's Premier League match, here, on Sunday. Gardner (2/39) claimed two wickets and then scored a stylish 32-ball 52, her second consecutive fifty, as Gujarat registered their first win of the third edition of the tournament, following a loss in the opening game to Royal Challengers Bengaluru. Opting to bowl, Gujarat produced a clinical effort with young spinner Priya Mishra returning impressive figures of 4-0-25-3. Skipper Gardner, Deandra Dottin (2/34), and Kashvee Gautam (1/15) also played key roles in restricting UPW to 143 for nine. Chasing 144 to win, the Giants were reduced to 22 for 2 with opener Beth Mooney and Dayalan Hemalata back in the pavilion after UPW introduced spin at both ends.

ISL: East Bengal FC win 3-1

KOLKATA: East Bengal FC defeated Mohammedan SC 3-1 in an Indian Super League match, here, on Sunday. East Bengal FC were clinical in converting their chances, scoring off three out of the six shots that they took on target. They have 21 points from 20 games and are placed 11th in the table now. East Bengal FC will play their next game against Punjab FC on February 22, whereas Mohammedan SC are set to feature against Jamshedpur FC on February 20. Result: East Bengal FC 3 (Mahesh Naorem Singh 27, Saul Crespo 65, David Lalhlansanga 89) Mohammedan SC 1 (Franca 68).

CT: Two 'relatively fresh strips' reserved for 3 India games in Dubai

NEW DELHI: India might not have to play their

Champions Trophy league games in Dubai on slow and worn out end-of-the-season tracks as two 22-yard strips in relatively fresh condition have been kept for the most followed side in global cricket. India play all their three league matches at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium (DICS) against Bangladesh on February 20, Pakistan on February 23 and New Zealand on March 2. There has been a fair amount of cricket being played at the DICS after last year's Women's T20 World Cup, which was followed by the men's U-19 Asia Cup and the popular IL T20 league which is a flagship event of the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB).

India men beats Spain 2-0 in FIH Pro League

BHUBANESWAR: The Indian men's hockey team made a brilliant comeback to beat Spain 2-0 in a return leg match of the FIH Pro League, here, on Sunday. India lost to Spain 1-3 in their first leg match on Saturday despite taking the lead through Sukhjeet Singh's goal. On Sunday, however, it was a completely different-looking Indian side as they dominated for most part of the match and scored two field goals through Mandeep Singh (32nd minute) and Dilpreet Singh (39th) to pocket all the three points. The Indian men will next play Germany here on Tuesday.

India women lose 1-2 in shoot-out against England in FIH Pro League

BHUBANESWAR: The Indian women's hockey team fought back twice before going down 1-2 in shoot-out against England after both the teams finished 2-2 in regulation time in their FIH Pro League match, here, on Sunday. Paige Gillot (40th minute) and Tessa Howard (56th) scored from two penalty corners for England in the regulation timer, while India's goals came from Navneet Kaur (53rd) and Rutuja Dadaso Pisal (57th). Kaur scored

off a penalty stroke while Rutuja struck a field goal. In the shoot-out, only Navneet scored for India while the likes of skipper Salima Tete, Sunelita Toppo and Lalremmsiami faltered. For England, Lily Walker and skipper Sophie Hamilton were on target in the shoot-out. The win gave England a bonus point. India had earlier defeated England 3-2 in the first leg here on Saturday. The Indian women will next play Spain here on Tuesday. In another match, Spain secured a narrow 2-1 victory over Germany in an intense contest. Third-quarter strike from Luciana Molina proved to be the difference as Spain held on to claim full points.

Pakistan pacer Rauf recovers from injury, will be available for CT opener

KARACHI: Pakistan fast bowler Haris Rauf has recovered from his injury and will be available for his side's ICC Champions Trophy opening match against New Zealand on Wednesday, according to sources. A source close to the Pakistan team confirmed to PTI on Sunday that Haris, who sustained a muscular strain in his lower chest wall during the recent tri-series tournament, has recovered and will play in the Champions Trophy opener in Karachi. "Haris is okay now and the rest given to him after the first match of the Tri-Series has helped him recover well," the source said, adding that Pakistan have no fitness issues with any other player.

Mumbai Indians sign Mujeeb in place of injured Ghazanfar

MUMBAI: Five-time champions Mumbai Indians on Sunday announced the signing of Afghanistan off-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman as a replacement for Allah Ghazanfar who has been ruled out of the IPL 2025 due to an injury. The 18-year-old Afghan spinner had suffered a fracture in the L4 vertebra, specifically in the left pars interarticularis, and he will miss the upcoming Champions Trophy as well.

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