

Foden hands Man City late advantage against Dortmund



Manchester City's midfielder Phil Foden (L) scores his team's second goal

AFP | London

Pep Guardiola said Manchester City "felt the pressure" of expectancy in the Champions League as they needed Phil Foden's 90th minute winner to take a slender 2-1 lead from the first leg of their quarter-final tie against Borussia Dortmund.

City have now won 27 of their last 28 games in all competitions to remain on course for a historic quadruple of Champions League, Premier League, FA Cup and League Cup.

But they have failed to get beyond the last eight in the Champions League in each of the Guardiola's four previous seasons in charge.

"We felt the pressure today, in this competition, at home, not knowing how we would react," said Guardiola.

"It's better to win than draw but even at 1-1 we had 90 minutes to do it."

The sides will meet again in

Germany on April 14 with the winners facing Bayern Munich or Paris Saint-Germain in the last four.

Dortmund are at serious risk of missing out on the Champions League next season after slipping seven points adrift of the top four in the Bundesliga.

However, the visitors started brightly until Emre Can gifted the ball away to Riyad Mahrez and City launched a ruthless counter-attack.

De Bruyne, Foden and Mahrez exchanged passes before the Belgian tapped home from close range.

City thought they had a great chance to double their advantage moments later when Rodrigo went down under Can's challenge inside the area and referee Ovidiu Hategan pointed to the penalty spot.

Hategan, though, rightly overturned his call on a VAR review in the first of a number of dubious decisions from the Romanian official.

Khalid bin Hamad Handball Cup match-ups set

Draw for first edition of prestigious tournament held last night, with national team stars Hussain Al Sayyad and Mohammed Ahmed present



Bahrain national team players Hussain Al Sayyad, left, and Mohammed Ahmed, selecting the names of the clubs from their pots

● **League champions Al Najma to face Al Ettihad or Al Dair in quarter-finals, after being one of five teams to get preliminary round byes**

TDT | Manama

League champions Al Najma will face either Al Ettihad or Al Dair in the

quarter-finals of the first-ever Khalid bin Hamad Handball Cup, which is scheduled to begin on Sunday.

The draw for the prestigious tournament took place last night. Present were a number of officials from the Bahrain Handball Association (BHA) and the participating clubs, along with Bahrain national team stars Hussain Alsayyad and Mohammed Ahmed.

The tournament is being held under the patronage of Supreme



The draw taking place

Council for Youth and Sports first vice-chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee president His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

It is being organised for the first time since the establishment of the BHA.

Eleven local clubs are taking part, headlined by favourites Najma. They have a bye for the preliminary round and are through straight to the last eight, as are league runners-up Barbar, Al Shabab, Al Ahli and

Samaheej.

Barbar and Al Shabab are also already through to the quarters, where they will face off in an exciting clash.

In the preliminaries, aside from Ettihad facing Dair, Bahrain Club will take on Tubli, the winner of which moves on to play Samaheej in the round of eight; Al Ettifaq will face Tadhamon, after which the victor goes on to battle Ahli.

All matches will be played at the BHA arena in Um Al Hassam.

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Bahrain drop to 99th on FIFA World Ranking

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's national football team have dropped two places on the latest edition of the FIFA World Ranking, which was released yesterday by the sport's governing body.

The Bahrainis are now in 99th position overall in the world with 1,238.89 total points, marginally up from their previous total of 1,238.

Despite this, the nationals dropped from their last rank of 97th from the previous global classification, issued in mid-February.

Amongst teams in the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), Bahrain are 17th. Japan are the highest-ranked squad in the continent at 28th in the world with 1,509.34 points, followed by Iran at 31st with 1,499.52 points.

South Korea are third in Asia at 39th globally with 1,460.25 points, followed by Australia at 41st with 1,457.49 points, Qatar at 58th with 1,397.92 points and Saudi Arabia at 65th on 1,364.39 points.

The Bahrainis are ranked



Bahrain national team midfielder Mahdi Humaidan in action during an international friendly against Jordan last month (file photo)

fifth amongst all GCC national teams, behind the Qataris, Saudis, the UAE (73rd, 1,330.16pts) and Oman (80th, 1,301.51pts), and are ahead only of Kuwait with 1,056.3 points.

Sitting atop the latest FIFA World Ranking are Belgium with 1,783.38 points, while France (1,757.3), Brazil (1,742.65), England (1,686.78) and Portugal (1,666.12) make up the top five.

The FIFA World Ranking is a ranking system for men's national teams in association football. The teams of FIFA men's member nations are classified based on their game results, with the most successful teams being ranked highest.

Babar hails Pakistan's series win in South Africa

AFP | Johannesburg

Pakistan captain Babar Azam hailed a rare series win by his team in South Africa after they defeated the hosts by 28 runs in the third and final one-day international in Centurion on Wednesday.

But he said Pakistan wanted

to continue winning when they go into a four-match Twenty20 series which starts in Johannesburg on Saturday.

"It's a confidence game and we gained a lot of confidence," he said. "We will take that and try and win the T20 series."

South Africa, stripped of five key players because of Indian

Premier League commitments, suffered two further blows when key batsman Rassie van der Dussen had to withdraw before the match with a quad injury, while captain Temba Bavuma appeared to suffer a hamstring injury, which could put his participation in the T20 series in doubt.