

### Carrick on brink of permanent Man Utd job: reports



Michael Carrick reacts after a match (file photo)

AFP | London

Michael Carrick is expected to be recommended as Manchester United's permanent manager by club chiefs after overseeing a dramatic improvement in the club's fortunes, it was widely reported yesterday.

The 44-year-old took over for the rest of the campaign in January following an acrimonious end to Ruben Amorim's rocky Red Devils reign.

United clinched Champions League qualification with three matches to spare after being out of the competition for two seasons.

Carrick, appointed on January 13, has won 10 of his 15 matches in charge in all competitions, losing just twice, to guide United from seventh to third in the Premier League table.

The Athletic reported that chief executive Omar Berrada and director of football Jason Wilcox would recommend to co-owner Jim Ratcliffe that Carrick be offered the role at an executive meeting this week.

United have explored other options but Carrick has long been considered the frontrunner for a job that he has been publicly backed for by a number of players.

# City Keep Title Hopes Alive

TDT | Manama

Manchester City beat Crystal Palace 3-0 yesterday at the Etihad Stadium, keeping their title push firmly alive with another controlled performance. The result leaves Guardiola's side sitting second in the Premier League, just two points behind Arsenal, with both sides having played 36 matches.

City opened the scoring on 32 minutes with a goal built on quick combination play and Phil Foden's creativity. Receiving the ball with his back to goal just outside the box, Foden produced a brilliant improvised backheel that slipped Antoine Semenyo into space. Semenyo stayed composed and finished first time past Dean Henderson, giving City a deserved lead after a slow start.

The second goal arrived on 40 minutes and underlined City's attacking fluidity. Rayan Aït-Nouri delivered a teasing cross from the right flank, Foden got a delicate touch to redirect the ball into a dangerous central area, and Omar Marmoush reacted instantly. He spun sharply away from his marker and un-



Savinho celebrates scoring Man City's third goal of the night

leashed a powerful first-time strike into the net to make it 2-0 before half-time.

City completed the scoring in the 84th minute when Savinho added a third. After sustained pressure and possession dominance, the ball broke inside the box and he finished calmly and

low, sealing a comfortable win.

For Palace, the defeat adds weight to their upcoming schedule, as they now face Arsenal in the Premier League next. That match carries huge implications for the title race, with Arsenal leading the table and City breathing down their neck

in the closing stages. It also comes just three days before Palace's UEFA Europa Conference League final, leaving them with a difficult balancing act between chasing a major European trophy and potentially influencing the destination of the Premier League title.

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