

SPORTS

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City win derby to go top

● Guardiola's Manchester City raise the bar as United suffer more misery

● Leroy Sane fires City past United to tip scales in title race

● City return to the top of the league

AFP | Manchester

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola believes his side have raised the bar in the Premier League after edging one point back ahead of Liverpool in a titanic title race with a 2-0 win at Manchester United on Wednesday.

Bernardo Silva and Leroy Sane struck for the visitors in 12 second-half minutes at Old Trafford to inflict a seventh defeat in nine games on United, who remain three points adrift of the top four.

City cannot match their record 100 points tally in romping to the title last season, but victories over Burnley, Leicester and Brighton will clinch the title on 98 points and ensure Liverpool's 29-year wait to win the league continues despite already posting a club record points tally in the Premier League era.

"We increased the level for the Premier League last season with 100 points. That's the level Liverpool are chasing. What they have done is incredible but it's in our hands," said Guar-



Bernardo Silva scores Manchester City's first goal against Manchester United at Old Trafford

diola.

"Both teams deserve the title. But it can be just one. The team that is going to lose can't have regrets because they have given everything."

City's trip to Old Trafford was billed as the last big hurdle left for Guardiola's men to clear despite United's terrible run of form.

However, Guardiola warned of the tight turnaround before a very different type of test at Burnley on Sunday.

"Normally with this kind of victory you can enjoy it the most but we have to be calm," added Guardiola.

"Now we go to Burnley and we know how tough it will be. It's important to be calm. We are still not champions with three games left -- it's incredible with the points we have and Liver-



Manchester City are a point ahead of Liverpool with three games to go

pool have.

"I told the players don't read tomorrow, don't watch the television, just rest and sleep a lot."

City the standard bearers

United boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer slammed his players' attitude after a 4-0 thrashing at Everton on Sunday and was re-

warded with a far more energetic and committed performance, even if City's greater quality eventually shone through.

"They've set the standard in the last couple of seasons. They have been the best team in the country and that's the standard we want to get to," admitted Solskjaer.

Yet, Arsenal's defeat at Wolves means the Red Devils are still very much in the race for Champions League qualification, should they beat fourth-placed Chelsea at home on Sunday.

"I'm concerned about the lack of results," added Solskjaer.

"The strange reality is that we are still in with a shout for the top four. We need more quality on Sunday because we need to win that game and, if we win it, we have two games to get those points and goals we need."

Arsenal's top-four hopes dented by defeat at Wolves

AFP | Wolverhampton, United Kingdom

Unai Emery refused to give up on Arsenal's Champions League hopes after seeing his side embarrassed by Wolves in a 3-1 defeat at Molineux on Wednesday.

Ruben Neves, Matt Doherty and the outstanding Diogo Jota scored the goals that condemned Emery's side to a third defeat in four Premier League games, severely denting their hopes of a top-four finish with just three games to go.

The Arsenal manager admitted his team were outplayed by Wolves, who scored three goals in the first half to give the visitors a mountain to climb.

Despite the chastening defeat the Spaniard said his side will keep striving for Champions League football, which they can achieve either through a top-four finish in the

Premier League or by winning the Europa League.

Defeat in the Midlands left Emery's men a point behind fourth-placed Chelsea.

"I usually am very critical with myself and I am angry with myself that we didn't do the gameplan we wanted -- not with the players," said Emery when asked if he was angry with his team.

"First it is with me and after that my style and idea is to look in front and find a solution, not who is the player who is worst."

"First I am thinking about the solution and the solution for me is to take the possibility on Sunday at Leicester and get our best performance and the best possibility to take the three points."

Neves's superb free-kick, Doherty's header and Jota's weaving run and shot did the damage for Wolves before Sokratis pulled a goal back late on for the visitors.



Wolverhampton Wanderers' Diogo Jota scores their third goal

Lagoona Beach B edge Four Seasons B

TDT | Manama

Lagoona Beach B (42/2 in 6 Overs) defeated Four Seasons B (33/1 in 6 overs) by 9 runs in the eighth Inter Hotel Charity Cricket Tournament happening at The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain. Sandeep won the title of Man of the Match by scoring 22 runs.

In the next game Marriott Executive Apartment (39/6 in 5.3 overs) lost to Diplomat Hotel (40/4 in 5.3 overs) by 2 wickets and Shijil was declared Man of the Match by taking 1 wicket



Imran from The Ritz-Carlton B team receives Man of the Match award

and scoring 18 runs.

In third match of the night

Four Seasons A (42/4 in 6 overs) lost to Best Western (45/1 in 4.1 overs) by 5 wickets, Laxman was declared Man of the Match. Following with the fourth game Le Meridien Hotel (36/3 in 6 overs) lost to At Reef Resort Hotel (37/1 in 4.4 overs) by 5 wicket, Adnan was awarded the Man of the Match award for his quick 16 runs. In a last encounter of the night, Ritz-Carlton B (68/4 in 6 overs) defeated Westin Hotel (31 for all out in 5.4 overs) by 36 runs. Imran was declared man of the match for taking 2 wickets.



Bahrain U19 team with coach and officials

Bahrain U19 cricket team prepares for ACC tournament in UAE

TDT | Manama

The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) U19 50 Overs 8 nations cricket tournament at UAE is commencing today and promise to be an adrenalin pumping exciting international competition.

Bahrain will be competing as one of the 8 teams in this prestigious international tournament and have been placed in group alongside the hosts i.e. UAE, Iran and Saudi. The other group consists of Kuwait,

Maldives, Qatar and Oman. The top two teams from each group will qualify for the semi-finals.

Under the watchful eyes of the national cricket coach Azeem Ul Haq, the carefully selected national U19 squad has been training hard, honing its skills in rigorous training sessions and weekend practice matches at the Cricket Bahrain Association's facilities and grounds.

Ul Haque believes that the team is extremely talented and

could go far. He said: "The team has been undergoing rigorous training & exercises. In addition, we've focused on skills and scenario practice matches in high pressure situations. The players are very talented and it's a pleasure working with them. We believe that we have all the ingredients required to do very well and continue the excellent performance of the previous U19 tour, where we won the first two international matches back to back"

'Bahrain is now a huge destination for MMA'

TDT | Manama

Brave Combat Federation is still reaping the benefits of Brave CF, through the vision of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, is Bahrain. The Kingdom has become a huge destination for MMA fans, MMA fighters and everyone involved with the sport in any capacity, and has also increased its profile around the world for its deep connections with the only truly global mixed martial arts promotion in the world.

In that sense, the biggest beneficiary of the inception of Brave CF, through the vision of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, is Bahrain. The Kingdom has become a huge destination for MMA fans, MMA fighters and everyone involved with the sport in any capacity, and has also increased its profile around the world for its deep connections with the only truly global mixed martial arts promotion in the world.

"It's just further proof of

Brave's accomplishments. We talk about the value of mixed martial arts, the value of a brand. What that brand has been able to add to the Kingdom of Bahrain is unbelievable. We go around the world and eyes turn to the places we go to. We're in Jordan and now everyone knows where Jordan is, what's going on in Jordan. We are giving attention to the places we go, and the biggest example is certainly Bahrain", said Shahid.