

Aguero faces 2 weeks out

AFP, London

Manchester City striker Sergio Aguero is likely to be sidelined for two weeks after suffering a hamstring injury in the champions' 3-0 win against Stoke on Tuesday.

Aguero was forced to come off moments after scoring a penalty in the 74th minute to put Roberto Mancini's side three goals ahead at Eastlands.

City won't know the extent of the Argentina international's injury until Thursday, but assistant manager David Platt has already ruled Aguero out of the FA Cup third round tie against Watford on Saturday.

Aguero, who was City's top scorer last season and netted the goal that won them the Premier League title, is also doubtful for the crucial league clash at Arsenal on January 13.

"It is difficult to assess an injury like that, how long it is going to be," Platt said.

Aguero's absence will be a blow to City, who are currently seven points behind league leaders Manchester United.

Pepe has ankle op

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid defender Pepe had surgery on his right ankle at a clinic in Portugal on Wednesday, the club said, without giving a timeframe for his recovery.

"Pepe, after showing discomfort in his right ankle and after a medical check, was operated on this morning in Oporto... at the Espregueira Mendes Clinic. The player had an arthroscopy of the ankle," Real Madrid said in a statement online.

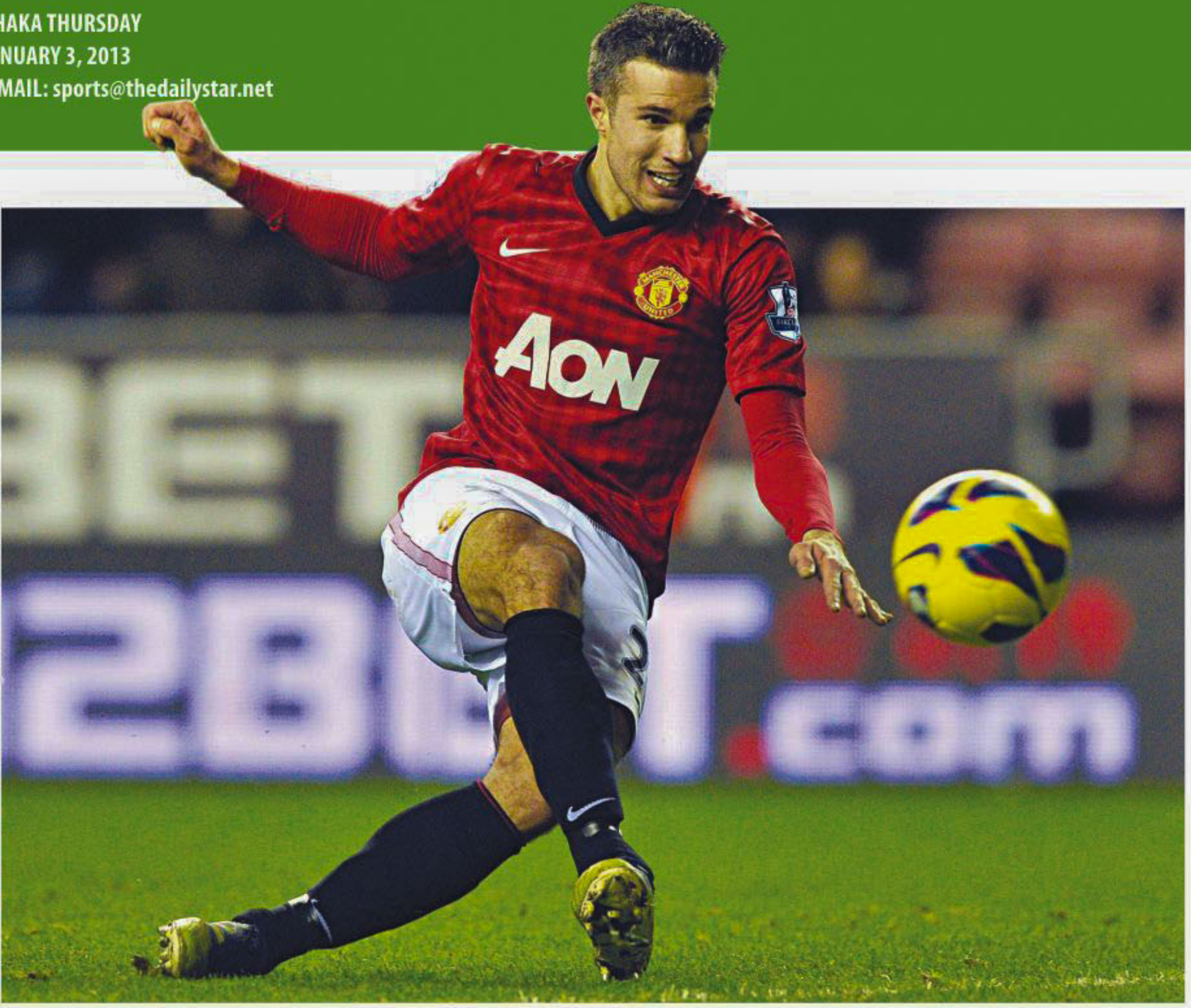
Spanish sports daily Marca said Pepe would be sidelined for about a month but he was already set to miss the game against Real Sociedad in the Bernabeu stadium this Sunday because of suspension.



- TEN Cricket**
South Africa v New Zealand
First Test, Day 2
Live from 2:30pm
- STAR Cricket**
Australia v Sri Lanka
Third Test, Day 2
Live from 5:30am (Friday)
- India v Pakistan
Second ODI
Live from 12:30pm
- STAR Sports**
Hopman Cup
USA v Spain
Live from 8:30am
- TEN Sports**
Brisbane Int'l
Quarterfinals
Live from 7:30pm
- ESPN**
Sportscentre India
Sports News



- Bangladesh Cricket League**
(Four-day match, Day-2)
Walton Central Zone v BCB
North Zone
Time: 9:15am
Venue: Shaheed Chandu Stadium, Bogra
- Islami Bank East Zone v Prime Bank South Zone
Time: 9:15am
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Mirpur
- Bangladesh Premier League**
Team BJMC v Brothers Union
Time: 4:30pm
Venue: Bangabandhu National



Manchester United striker Robin van Persie scores the fourth goal against Wigan Athletic during their Premier League encounter at the DW Stadium on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Casillas vows to return

AFP, Madrid



Real Madrid captain Iker Casillas admitted Tuesday the players are unhappy after dropping 16 points behind La Liga leaders Barcelona but denied any tensions in the changing room and vowed to fight to regain his spot after being unexpectedly left on the bench last month.

Casillas tried to calm a storm of speculation over splits in the club after coach Jose Mourinho dropped him from the starting line-up on December 23 against Malaga at La Roselada, a game Real Madrid lost 3-2. Mourinho insists the decision was taken on technical grounds alone.

Asked about any tensions in the dressing room, the 31-year-old keeper said: "The word is not ten-

sion. The situation in the league, when we have had certain defeats, is not what we want. We all want to win and when things don't turn out well we are sad because we want to win for ourselves and our fans."

In his first news conference of 2013, the Real Madrid captain said he hoped the Christmas break would help the team recover, recalling their defeat to Malaga and the number of points they have now allowed to ratch up behind the first division leaders.

"We cannot carry on like that and it is not what we expected. We must not give up. We have to carry on, to run more, train more and let the results come on the field. Now, in 2013 we have to try to catch up points and know that the situation is difficult but not impossible."

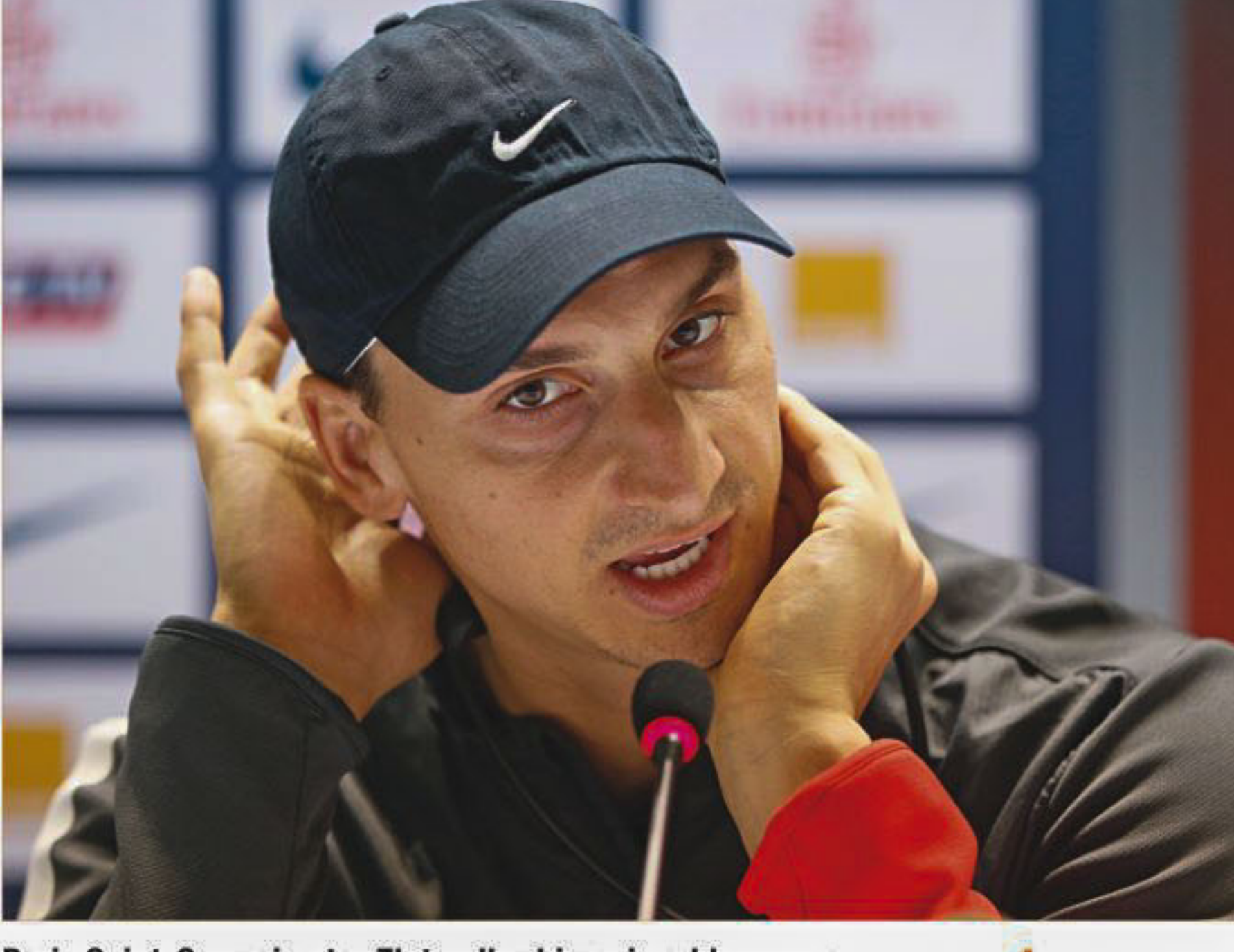
Casillas said he felt fit, however, and would battle to regain his place for Sunday's match against Real Sociedad.

"I feel fine, really. I am training. I think I have to improve every day. I am not a machine. I, too, have to learn from my mistakes and of course there are moments when you are better or worse but sincerely I feel fine," he said.

Asked if he had lost his hunger to win more titles, the Spain captain said: "When I don't have that hope I won't be sitting here."

Casillas said he agreed with Mourinho that "our aim is to have the ambition and the will. I have to fight and battle and try to regain the spot. That is the goal I have set out and I hope the coach will count on me in the starting line-up this Sunday."

The captain said he had spoken to Real Madrid defender Pepe, who fed the rumours swirling around the troubled club last week when he told a newspaper in Portugal that Portuguese players were under pressure in La Liga.



Paris Saint-Germain star Zlatan Ibrahimovic addresses a press conference at the Aspire Academy of Sports Excellence in Doha yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Ibra happy to help

AFP, Doha



Swedish superstar Zlatan Ibrahimovic on Wednesday said that Paris Saint-Germain's transformation is a work in progress, with results in all competitions this season key to attracting the best players in the world.

"Paris is a club in major transition," the 31-year-old former AC and Inter Milan striker said in the Qatari capital Doha, where the club is training during the French league's winter break.

"We have some fantastic players but this project only began a year-and-a-half ago and I have only been here six months but I have seen things advance very, very quickly."

Ibrahimovic is currently the top scorer in Ligue 1 with 18 goals and said he and his team-mates were working hard every day to improve to the standard of Europe's biggest clubs.

He added that he had "aged 10 years" since arriving at the Parc des Princes from the San Siro six months ago, given the massive scrutiny of big-spending PSG, which is owned by Qatari investors, and interest in his performances.

"For me, everything has been positive but in the end everything depends on the

results. If we win, everything will be better," he added.

Carlo Ancelotti's team go into the second half of the season joint top with Lyon and Marseille and also have a Champions League last 16 encounter with Spanish side Valencia to look forward to on February 12.

Ibrahimovic accepted that a move to PSG, whose reputation has not been matched by silverware in recent years, may have been seen as a surprise but he said the transfer was all geared towards helping the club develop.

"I knew when I came here, it would be a big thing for the media because to come to Paris was not necessarily expected for a player at the peak of his career," he added.

"If you look at the project, the people behind the club and the players who have come here, the situation is different."

"There are clubs like Paris or Manchester City who want to become big clubs and the best players will not necessarily decide to join a club based on their history, it will also come down to a new project and new excitement."

"For the rest of the season, we have to concentrate on all competitions, even the French Cup. We are training every day to achieve our goals and we want to win everything."

'Contract talks not important'

REUTERS, Madrid

Cristiano Ronaldo is to avoid public discussions of a possible contract renewal with Real Madrid and plans to focus instead on winning matches, he said on Wednesday.

"The issue has already been talked about," the Portugal forward told a news conference when asked about his contract situation after training.

"I won't talk about my renewal any more," added the 27-year-old whose deal with La Liga champions Real runs until June 2015. "It's not the most important thing, the important thing is to win out next games."

"We are fighting for La Liga, the King's Cup and the Champions League - the important thing is to be united. I am feeling very comfortable at the club and I hope to give the best of me for this shirt as I always have done."

Ronaldo, the world's most expensive player, raised eyebrows earlier this season when he said he was feeling sad "for professional reasons" and that Real officials knew why.

He did not explain further, leading to media speculation he was unhappy with the terms of his deal and wanted more money.

Some reports have suggested Ronaldo might be lured to a big-spending club like Paris St Germain or that he may return to Manchester United who sold him to Real for a record fee of 94 million euros (\$124 million) in 2009.

Real play United in the last 16 of the Champions League, with the first leg in Madrid on February 13 and the return in Manchester on March 5.

MU keep up pace

AFP, London



Manchester United kept a firm grip on the Premier League title race by sweeping to a 4-0 win at Wigan Athletic on the first day of 2013 to maintain their seven-point lead.

Champions Manchester City remain United's nearest rivals after a 3-0 success at home to Stoke City, while Tottenham Hotspur climbed to third by coming from behind to defeat second-bottom Reading 3-1 at White Hart Lane.

Javier Hernandez had already had a goal ruled out for offside at the DW Stadium when he put United 1-0 up against Wigan by tapping in after Ali Al Habsi saved from Patrice Evra in the 35th minute.

Robin van Persie got off the mark for the New Year eight minutes later, collecting a pass from Hernandez and sending Ivan Ramis to the turf with a dummy before curling the ball inside the right-hand post.

Hernandez added a third in the 63rd minute, swivelling to dispatch a half-volley when a van Persie free-kick arrived at his feet, before the Dutchman completed a brace of his own in the 88th minute with his 16th league goal of the campaign.

City dominated the early stages at home to Stoke, who had gone into the game looking to protect a 10-match unbeaten run.

Pablo Zabeleta broke the deadlock two minutes before half-time, rolling the ball into an empty net after visiting goalkeeper Asmir Begovic touched away James Milner's low cross with his foot.

Sergio Aguero was the creator of City's second in the 56th minute with a low drive that was parried by Begovic, only for Edin Dzeko to turn the loose ball home.

Aguero scored a 74th-minute penalty after Steven Nzonzi was adjudged to have tripped David Silva, but the Argentine had to leave the fray moments later after appearing to sustain a hamstring injury. City assistant coach David Platt said

that Aguero would "certainly" miss Saturday's FA Cup third-round tie with Watford and was "doubtful" for the following weekend's trip to Arsenal in the league.

Tottenham fell behind in the fourth minute against Reading when Pavel Pogrebnyak headed the visitors in front, but Michael Dawson's header meant the hosts were level within five minutes.

Spurs were dominant from then on Emmanuel Adebayor putting them in front with a powerful 51st-minute header before Clint Dempsey's fortuitous deflected strike made it 3-1.

Victory took Spurs a point clear of Chelsea, who have two games in hand and host bottom club Queens Park Rangers on Wednesday.

Arsenal were prevented from making ground on the top four after their four-game winning run came to an end in a 1-1 draw at Southampton that left Arsene Wenger's side four points below Chelsea in fifth place.

Gaston Ramirez exploited some calamitous Arsenal defending to put Southampton ahead in the 34th minute, but a Guly do Prado own goal meant the visitors were level before half-time.

The point was nonetheless enough to take Nigel Adkins' side out of the bottom three at Wigan's expense.


Aston Villa put an end to a run of three straight defeats with a 2-2 draw at Swansea City, but were denied victory by a 95th-minute goal from Danny Graham.

Christian Benteke had put Villa ahead with an 84th-minute penalty, after Wayne Routledge's ninth-minute opener for the hosts had been cancelled out by Andreas Weimann.

West Ham United were also on the up, beating Norwich City 2-1 through goals from Mark Noble and Joey O'Brien to climb to 11th.

Earlier, Fulham shook off their slumbers from 2012 to win 2-1 at West Bromwich Albion and record only their second win in 13 matches.

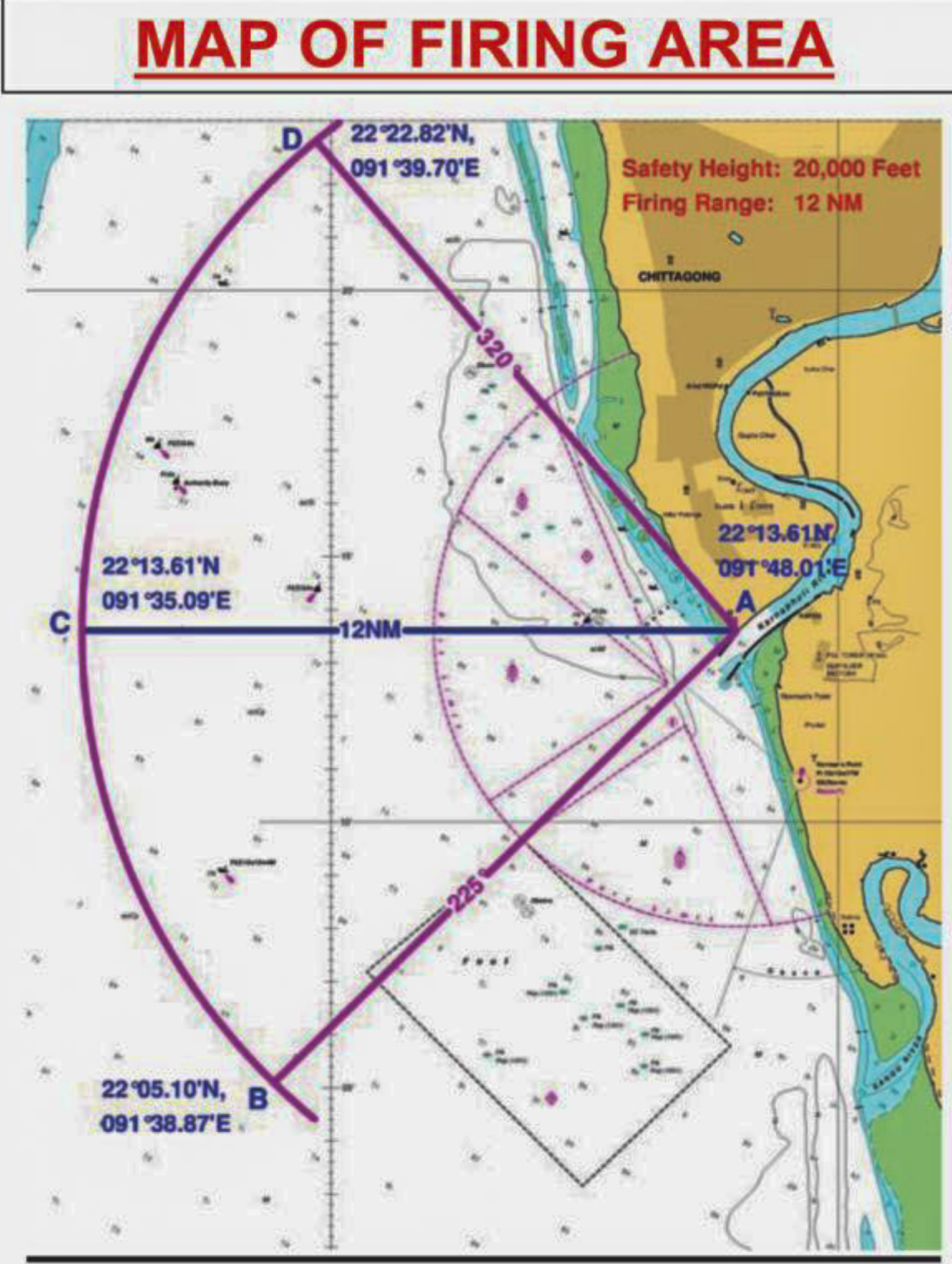
RESULTS	
Man City 3 (Zabeleta 43, Dzeko 56, Aguero 74-pen) Stoke 0	Southampton 1 (Ramirez 34)
Arsenal 1 (Guly 41-og)	Swansea 2 (Routledge 9, Graham 90)
Aston Villa 2 (Weimann 44, Benteke 84-pen)	Tottenham 3 (Dawson 9, Adebayor 51, Dempsey 79) Reading 1
West Brom 1 (Lukaku 49) Fulham 2 (Berbatov 39, Kacaniklic 58)	West Ham 2 (Noble 3-pen, O'Brien 26)
Norwich 1 (Martin 90)	Wigan 0 Man Utd 4 (Hernandez 35,



**Naval Headquarters
Banani, Dhaka-1213**

SPECIAL SAFETY WARNING

- Bangladesh Navy will carry out live firing at Chittagong Outer Anchorage from 'Coastal Defence Battery (CDB)' at Naval Academy, Patenga from 9 AM to 4 PM on Tuesday, 08 January 2013. The firing will be conducted in the area bounded by co-ordinates A, B, C and D as shown in the sketch:



- All types of ships, craft and aircraft are hereby warned and requested to refrain from entering, plying or any other activities in the area during the said period. Danger height for the firing area during the period will be 20,000 (twenty thousand) feet.
- Cooperation of all concerned is solicited in this regard.

**Director
Naval Operations
Naval Headquarters**

ISPR/NAVY/623
31/12/12
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