



Real Madrid's Gareth Bale (R) watches anxiously as his late strike hurtles towards the back of the Al Jazira net during their Club World Cup semifinal at the Zayed Sports City Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## GOETZE WRITES CHILDREN'S BOOK

Germany's World Cup winner Mario Goetze has started a sideline career as an author after releasing his illustrated children's book "Mario's Big Dream" on Tuesday to raise money for charity. "I have so much to thank football for and it is my wish to give something back to others and share something with them," the Borussia Dortmund midfielder told SID, an AFP subsidiary. "Children are very important to me, because they are the future, so I decided to write a children's book about respect, tolerance and open-mindedness." Goetze read his book to a group of school children at Germany's Football Museum in Dortmund, near where the book with which he scored the winner in the 2014 World Cup final is on permanent display. Goetze says he will donate any profits from the book to the Munich-based foundation "Kids to Life" for disadvantaged children and youths.



—AFP

## Bale strike saves Real's blushes

AFP, Abu Dhabi



Gareth Bale came off the bench to book Real Madrid's place in the Club World Cup final as the European champions recovered from the shock of going behind to beat Emirati champions Al Jazira 2-1 on Wednesday.

Despite dominating throughout, Madrid trailed at half-time to Romarinho's opener in a match also marred by use of the video assistant referee (VAR) that ruled out a goal for both sides.

Madrid's pressure finally paid off 10 minutes into the second half when Cristiano Ronaldo levelled before Bale broke Al Jazira's resistance with his first touch eight minutes from time.

Madrid could easily have scored more but for some exceptional goalkeeping from Ali Khaseif.

Benzema also had a goal ruled out for a push by Ronaldo in the build-up, but Madrid thought they had finally gone ahead when Casemiro's header deflected off an Al Jazira

head and looped over Khaseif. However, after a four-minute delay for the VAR referral, Brazilian referee Sandro Ricci disallowed the goal due to Benzema being in an offside position despite the fact the Frenchman was arguably not interfering with play.

Madrid were shocked four minutes before the break when the hosts caught the Real defence cold on the counter-attack.

A poor clearance from Nacho gifted away possession inside the Madrid half and Romarinho showed great composure to cut inside and curl his shot inside Keylor Navas' far post. A monumental upset looked on when Al Jazira had the ball in the net for a second time two minutes into the second half.

However, this time VAR came to Madrid's rescue as Mbark Boussoufa was offside by the finest of margins before slotting home.

Eight minutes later, Ronaldo was played in by Modric and smashed a shot past Khaled Al Senaani, who had replaced the injured Khaseif moments earlier. Benzema was eventually replaced by Bale, and the Welshman made an instant impact as he slotted home Lucas Vazquez's cutback to Real's relief.

## Burnley move up to fourth

We're not in title race, says Conte

REUTERS, Burnley



Burnley's Ashley Barnes fired a last-gasp winner as his off-colour side climbed to the heady heights of fourth in the Premier League with a fortuitous 1-0 win over struggling Stoke City on Tuesday.

There was little to warm the home crowd on a wet and windy night but those who braved the weather were celebrating in the 89th minute as Barnes seized on a ricochet off team mate Scott Arfield and fired past Stoke goalkeeper Jack Butland.

Burnley moved above Tottenham Hotspur, Arsenal and Liverpool -- all of whom play on Wednesday -- and

are the highest they have been in the top flight since 1975.

Sean Dyche's side have exceeded expectations this season and despite managing only two shots on target against the team with the worst defence in the league, they found a way to get a ninth win from 17 games.

Burnley manager Sean Dyche said he was "the proudest man in Proudsville".

"I'm very proud, I'm super proud, I'm the proudest man in Proudsville," Dyche, who took over in 2012, told reporters.

Burnley have conceded just 12 league goals this season, behind only the top two, Manchester City and Manchester United, and Dyche's side have won four of their last six games.

While the prospect of ending the season in a Champions League spot might be pushing the boundaries of credibility, Dyche was quick to point out that Burnley would not be the first unfancied club to ruffle the feathers of the big boys.

"Football is about realities but also about dreams. It's a tough task for us winning games at this level but Leicester blew the roof off dreams in football -- there's no bold statement from me on that," Dyche said of the surprise 2016 champions.

"We've got an aligned thinking here, there's no superstars, no favourites from me. I believe in all of them."

Meanwhile Chelsea manager Antonio Conte denied he was being negative when he said the club were

not in the Premier League title race and insisted, after Tuesday's 3-1 win at Huddersfield Town, that he was simply being realistic.

Although a comfortable victory leaves Chelsea 11 points behind Manchester City, Conte does not believe it is realistic to talk of catching Pep Guardiola's side.

"This is the truth. Manchester City in 16 games they have won 15 and drawn one. In 17 games, we have lost four games," said the Italian.

"When you have a competitor like Manchester City that every game they are winning, it is very difficult to think that you can fight for the title. You can say it's negative or this is positive but it's bullshit," said Conte.

## 'Looks like my grandma'



AGENCIES, Kolkata

Move over Cristiano Ronaldo, there's a new statue to ridicule.

A 12-foot bronze statue of Argentina legend Diego Maradona, unveiled at a football club in Kolkata this week, has become the butt of jokes on social media, with commenters comparing it to former England manager Roy Hodgson, Susan Boyle or someone's grandmother, as it has little resemblance to the man himself.

The statue shows Maradona proudly holding the World Cup trophy Argentina won in Mexico in 1986.

The figure's voluminous permed hair, round face, crinkled eyes and oversized trophy prompted many Twitter users to poke fun at it.

A number of critics compared the statue's look to that of a grandmother or older woman, presumably because of the permed hair. One user commented: "[It's] supposed to be Maradona... looks more like someone's gran."

The bronze figure invited comparisons to a much-maligned sculpture of Real Madrid star Ronaldo that was unveiled earlier this year. That work was criticized so heavily that a new one bearing a greater likeness to the star was eventually created as an alternative to the first.

Another person tweeted: "Good to see the chap that did the Ronaldo one is still in business."

## Arnab to be awarded Tk 3 lakh

SPORTS REPORTER

16-year-old shooter Arnab Sharar will be awarded Tk 3 lakh by the Bangladesh Shooting Sports Federation (BSSF) for winning a silver medal in the just-concluded 10th Asian Airgun Championships in Wako City, Japan. The young shooter grabbed the silver medal with a fantastic performance and missed out on the gold by just 0.5 points in the youth category of men's 10-metre air rifle event.

BSSF announced the cash award for Arnab, who also directly for next year's Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires due to this performance.

"We will hold a reception on December 16 to hand over a cheque of Tk 3 lakh to Arnab for his brilliant performance," informed chief operating officer of the BSSF Mostaque Waiz. "This award is part of our regulation which says gold medallists in any international meet would get Tk 5 lakh each while silver medallists and bronze medallists would receive Tk 3 and Tk 1 lakh each respectively."

While Arnab brought laurel for the nation, he was the only shooter for Bangladesh to shine in Japan as all the others failed to even make it to the final round in their respective individual and team events.

The 15-member Bangladesh team including 12 shooters and three officials returned home in the early hours of Wednesday.

## Bengal take lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Bengal Chess Club led the points table at the end of the fifth round of SA Premier Division Chess League, which is being held at the NSC Tower Auditorium Lounge.

In the fifth round, Bengal CC beat Golden SC by 3-1 game points to collect nine game points overall.

Defending champions Saif SC were in second position with eight points having played four matches so far.

They beat Leonine CC by 4-0 game points in yesterday's matches. Bangladesh Navy Chess Team and Sheikh Russel CC were joint-third with seven points each.

## Jose defiant, Pep apologetic

AFP, Manchester



Jose Mourinho has dismissed claims his Manchester United players were in the wrong during the chaotic post-match confrontation that overshadowed Sunday's Manchester derby at Old Trafford.

England's Football Association is investigating claims around 15 people were involved in a physical altercation after Mourinho complained about the volume of Manchester City's dressing-room celebrations.

Mourinho had a carton of milk thrown at him before a melee ensued involving players and staff in which City coach Mikel Arteta was left with a cut below his eye after being hit by a plastic bottle.

Asked about reports the bottle that

hit Arteta was thrown by United striker Romelu Lukaku, Mourinho said: "Accuse? Prove? Show evidence and punish him."

City manager Pep Guardiola, whose side won the game 2-1, has also defended his players, although he has offered an apology to United.

Mourinho said he was certain his players had not done anything untoward.

"I know," said the United manager. "I am not confident: I know."

When a reporter asked Mourinho if he feared punishment over the brawl, he responded: "I think you work for another club and not for the press."

Mourinho says his current side are restrained, pointing to the way they celebrated their recent 3-1 win at Arsenal.

"What we did in the Arsenal stadium, you know? It was completely

diverse (different)," he said. "What we did, what happened after that match, the way we behaved as winners."

Guardiola had earlier admitted he "encouraged" his players to celebrate, but denied their behaviour was provocative.

"We won a derby. If we offended United -- not just one player, not just Jose, (but) Manchester United -- then I apologise," he said.

"Sometimes United made a lot of celebrations in the past over City. All the managers celebrate sometimes. We have to enjoy those moments."

"What happened in the locker room happened. Hopefully it is never going to happen again. "If we were not correct, then I apologise to all of Manchester United. Our intentions was not that. It was to celebrate inside the locker room. If the people cannot understand that, then I'm sorry."

## QUICK SINGLES

The following are a few samples of stories that did not make the print edition. However, if they pique your interest, you can always read them online on The Daily Star website by simply scanning the QR codes listed below:

### Zidane delighted to call on "world's best"

**Ronaldo**  
Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said he was delighted to be able to call on the "best player in the world" in Cristiano Ronaldo as his side gear up to defend their Club World Cup title.



### 'Virushka' wedding photos sold for charity

According to a report, the pictures from Kohli and Anushka's wedding ceremony have been sold to a leading American fashion magazine. The money generated from this will be given to a charity.



### World changed after Stokes incident: Cook

Senior batsman Alastair Cook says the world has changed for English cricket in the wake of the damaging Ben Stokes affair, and warned the team cannot afford any more "mistakes".



### Rangpur to get Tk 2 crore for BPL

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza led-Rangpur Riders will receive two crore taka after clinching their maiden Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) title.



Monaco striker Radamel Falcao netted from an audacious effort, shooting perfectly over the head of a backpedalling Caen goalkeeper from about 50 yards out as his side ran out 2-0 winners in the French League Cup encounter on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

BEOL | adani wilmar

**30 RIDERS** **1 CAUSE**

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