



Manchester City midfielder Bernardo Silva (R) curled home expertly following a sweeping move as the defending champions defeated Arsenal 2-0 in their Premier League opener at the Emirates Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Slick City spoil Emery's bow

AFP, London



Manchester City ruined the start of the Unai Emery era at Arsenal as the champions signalled their intent to retain the Premier League title with a stylish 2-0 win on Sunday.

Pep Guardiola's side swept to the title last term with a record 100 points and they were quickly back in the groove at the Emirates Stadium.

Raheem Sterling opened the scoring with a clinical finish early in the first half and Bernardo Silva's thunderous strike capped a City success that served as a resounding warning to their title rivals.

No team has successfully defended the English title since Manchester United in 2008-09. But on the evidence of this composed display, City have every chance of emulating their rivals' achievement.

Picking up where they left off last term, City had too much class for Arsenal and easily repelled the hosts' few dangerous moments.

City's excellence underlined the size of the task facing new Arsenal boss Emery as the Gunners begin life without Arsene Wenger.

Arsenal were playing a competitive match without Wenger in charge for the first time since September 1996.

Spaniard Emery will need time to

make his mark on a moribund club and, while Arsenal couldn't be faulted for effort against City, there was precious little quality about their play.

LIVERPOOL LIVE UP TO THE HYPE

In one of the day's earlier matches Mohamed Salah opened his account for the new campaign as Liverpool backed up pre-season hype they can challenge champions Manchester City for the Premier League title by sweeping aside West Ham 4-0 at Anfield.

Sadio Mane scored twice and Daniel Sturridge added a late fourth in an impressive display by Jurgen Klopp's men as £65 million goalkeeper Alisson Becker kept a

clean sheet on debut.

Liverpool haven't been crowned champions of England since 1989/90 and finished 25 points behind City last season.

But after reaching the Champions League final last season and spending more than anyone else in the off-season, there is belief that wait can come to an end in May.

RESULTS			
Arsenal	0 - 2	Man City	Sterling 14, B Silva 64
Liverpool	4 - 0	West Ham	Salah 19, Mane 45+2, 53, Sturridge 88
Southampton	0 - 0	Burnley	

SARRI'S ORAL FIXATION

Maurizio Sarri loves nicotine so much that he's resorted to chewing cigarettes on the touchline during Chelsea's win over Huddersfield today. After being well beaten by Manchester City in the Community Shield at Wembley last week, the Italian saw his side run out 3-0 winners away at Huddersfield in his first ever Premier League game. But being the 'chain smoker' he is, the former Napoli boss was absolutely dying for a cig on the bench. However with English football grounds having a strict no-smoking policy, the 59-year old was unable to smoke at the John Smith Stadium this afternoon. So to ensure he still gets his buzz, Sarri chomped on some unlit cigs on the side of the pitch as he watched his team get off to a very impressive start. Sarri is known as a real character in the game and hit headlines last season for smoking in the tunnel while accompanied by personal bodyguards. -- AGENCIES



U-15 Girls seeking maximum points

Defending champions take on Nepal tonight

SPORTS REPORTER



Fresh from an emphatic 14-0 win over lightweights Pakistan, Bangladesh will attempt to secure a semifinal spot with maximum points

in the SAFF U-15 Women's Championship when the defending champions take on Nepal in their last group match at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu tonight.

Bangladesh's decimation of their Pakistani counterparts may have surprised many, but the fact is that the girls in red and green have established their supremacy in this region and become a nearly invincible team at this stage since late 2015 -- when they beat hosts Nepal 1-0 to clinch the now-defunct AFC U-14 Girls' Regional (South and Central) Championship.

The following year they retained the trophy by defeating India in the final before triumphing in the newly-introduced SAFF U-15 Women's Championship at home last year.

Although the Nepal men's national team are now better than their Bangladeshi counterparts, the girls in red and green have made light work of their Nepalese counterparts at this stage with 9-0 and 6-0 wins over the Nepal U-15s in 2016 and 2017 respectively. Golam Rabbani Choton's charges are now gearing up for another convincing victory that will help them collect the maximum of six points from their two games and move into the semifinals on a high.

"Both teams have already confirmed their semifinal spots after Nepal beat Pakistan [4-0], but our target is to emerge as group champions with the full six points," said head coach Choton over the phone from Thimphu yesterday. "We don't only

want to secure the three points, but we also want to perform better than we did against Pakistan."

Choton's charges had three days to prepare for tonight's match and aside from training they also watched Saturday's match between Nepal and Pakistan to get an idea about their opponents.

"Nepal never beat Bangladesh at this stage although our senior side lost to Nepal's senior side during the 2015 SAFF Women's Championship. However, Nepal have improved technically since their 0-6 defeat to Bangladesh last December. They also have a good collection of players with tall physique but we are looking forward to winning the match by establishing our authority as we did against Pakistan," said Choton.

Striker Sara Ban Tahura and defender Anai Mogini were also confident of a win.

"In the last SAFF U-15 Championship, I hit a hattrick against Nepal and I want to get goals against Nepal again because I was on target with a brace against Pakistan," said Tahura.

"We watched them against Pakistan and analysed their strengths and weaknesses. Now we have to play according to our game plan and give our full effort because we want to be group champions," added Ani after a practice session at the Changjui Turf Bhutan Football Academy in Thimphu.

However, coach Choton added that the girls needed to play with more pace than they showed against Pakistan.

"They played better and did everything they wanted to do. A lot of players got goals and I am happy but I think the girls need to increase their pace against Nepal," said Choton, who rejected the notion that his girls had failed to use the flanks against Pakistan.

O Fenomeno recovering in hospital

AFP, Madrid

Retired Brazilian striker Ronaldo said Sunday he is in hospital with a "bad flu" in Ibiza but reassured fans that he will be out in a day.

"Guys, I had a bad case of flu here in Ibiza. I was hospitalised on Friday, but everything is under control! Tomorrow I'll be discharged and I'll go home! Thank you all for the messages and affection!" he tweeted.

The 41-year-old was admitted to the intensive care unit of the Can Misses Hospital on the island on Friday where he was diagnosed with pneumonia, local daily newspaper Diario de Ibiza reported.

Several hours later Ronaldo asked to be transferred to a private hospital called Clinica Nuestra Senora del Rosario, the newspaper added.

The former Barcelona and Real Madrid player remains in intensive care but was "evolving favourably", unnamed hospital sources told the newspaper.

Contacted by AFP, a hospital spokeswoman said she was unable to give any information for privacy reasons.

Ronaldo is a regular visitor to Ibiza, where he owns a house.



'There are things I can't say without being fined'

AFP, London



Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho, saying he could not express himself for fear of being fined.

The 25-year-old -- who scored a superb goal in France's 4-2 victory over Croatia in the World Cup final -- was credited with a 'monster performance' by Mourinho in United's opening 2-1 Premier League win over Leicester City on Friday.

However, Pogba -- who cost United a then-world record £89 million in 2016 to prise him away from Juventus -- is known to be upset by Mourinho's remarks about his performances at the World Cup compared to those for his club last season.

Mourinho had implied Pogba -- whose agent Mini Raiola has reportedly been talking with Barcelona -- had flourished under Didier Deschamps at the World Cup because he could not be distracted by his entourage or by his commercial obligations.

"There are things that I cannot say otherwise I will get fined," Pogba told the British press after the Leicester match in a rare occasion he has stopped to speak with them.

Pogba, who was given the captaincy by Mourinho on Friday, summed up what it meant for him to be happy and comfortable.

"If you're not happy, you cannot give your best," said Pogba. "You have to know one thing: a player that gets chosen and is happy, you always feel more comfortable than when he's not happy. That's all I say."

Pogba, who was dropped by Mourinho for both legs of the Champions League last-16 loss to Sevilla last term, said there were differences between playing for France and United.

"I am the same, but it's a different team, obviously," said Pogba. "I still enjoying playing football but like I said, when you are comfortable or confident and are good in the head, it's going to be easier."

Pogba said "everybody was on the same page" in the France dressing room, from Deschamps to the staff and players -- that has not necessarily been the case at United with several players at different times singled out for public criticism by Mourinho.

"When you have everybody with you, everybody next to you, you know they want to fight for you, obviously it's going to be easier," he said.

Neves makes his mark on debut

AGENCIES, London



Premier League teams are soon going to learn that you simply

cannot allow Ruben Neves to raise his eyes after he played a key role in helping Wolves to a come-from-behind 2-2 draw with Everton.

Everton did not have the luxury of being able to close the Portuguese midfielder down after Phil Jagielka was sent off in the first-half at the Molineux Stadium and from that moment forward, Neves used his superfluous ability to pick out glorious passes in a varied manner.

Whether it be the sweeping cross-field ball to spread the play, recycling possession in defence or splitting the lines through midfield -- the 21-year-old did it all. He completed 78 of his 93 passes in the end, also completing 10 of his 15 long ball attempts.

Neves' role was instrumental in calming down a Wolves team reeling after Everton's £50m record signing Richarlison struck twice on debut to put the Toffees ahead -- and this showed in the statistics, given he had more touches of the ball than any other players on the pitch (111).

Wolves Portuguese midfielder Ruben Neves stole the show in his Premier League debut against Everton, pulling the strings and scoring one of his sensational trademark free-kicks on Saturday.

PHOTO: REUTERS



Not only that, he was directly involved in both the goals that dragged Wolves to an eventual 2-2 draw.

He scored the first, showing once again how dangerous he is from direct free-kicks. This one, 20 yards from goal, suited the right-footed Neves as he curled the ball out of Jordan Pickford's reach into the top corner. It was his seventh goal for Wolves, all seven of which have come from outside the penalty box.

The Portuguese international then

set-up the second. In this instance, Everton allowed him far too much space near the corner of the penalty area, giving Neves time to pick out a smart back-post run from Raul Jimenez. The perfectly weighted cross reached Jimenez in stride, allowing him to use the pace of the ball to head home.

While Wolves would have hoped for all three points after playing for most of the game with a man advantage, Neves could not have started the season any more brightly.

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:

Spalletti gives up on Modric
Inter Milan manager Luciano Spalletti expects Luka Modric to remain with Real Madrid. "It's not easy to get these type of players. Modric may not come but our directors still did a great job, so let's see," Spalletti said on Sunday.

Two-goal Mane praises 'strong' teamwork
Senegal's Sadio Mane said Liverpool's free-scoring is due to good teamwork after his brace helped last season's Champions League finalists to an impressive 4-0 thrashing of West Ham in their Premier League opener on Sunday.

ADMISSION OPEN

AUTUMN 2018

APPLICATION DEADLINE

August 28, 2018

ADMISSION TEST

August 31, 2018

MBA & MBM

- Master of Business Administration(MBA), [Regular & Executive]
- Master of Bank Management(MBM)

ADMISSION REQUIREMENT

GPA 2.50 in each exam of SSC, HSC & Degree/Honors (total GPA 7.50) or Combined GPA 8.00 (in case of total GPA 6.00 in SSC & HSC or Equivalent Examination, but not less than 2.00 in any above Exam)

- Generous financial assistance for meritorious and needy students
- 50% waiver on admission fee for IIUC graduates
- Transport facility available

আন্তর্জাতিক ইসলামী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় চট্টগ্রাম

International Islamic University Chittagong

Academic Affairs Division (ACAD)

Kumira, Chittagong

Phone: IIUC PABX 03042 -51154-61, Ext: 317, 390
Cell: 01720478621, 01844072082

APPLY ON LINE

through www.iiuc.ac.bd