



Arsenal's Aaron Ramsey put the perfect finishing touch on a dazzling move that featured all manner of improvised flicks and tricks, back-heeling into the net in a 5-1 win over Fulhan in their Premier League clash yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

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:

United fightback spares 'manhunted' Mourinho

"I am 55 years old. It is the first time I see man-hunting. There is too much wickedness in something that should be beautiful," Mourinho said of his critics after a come-from-behind 3-2 win against Newcastle on Saturday. "I can cope with it."

Messi saw something in Arthur

Barcelona fans realize that their search for a midfielder of the Xavi profile may just have come to an end but team's talisman Lionel Messi saw it first, identifying the Brazilian's talent in the summer.

Gayle signs off List A career with ton

Chris Gayle enjoyed a brilliant Cricket West Indies Regional Super50 swansong for the Jamaica Scorpions, leading the team to a 33-run victory over the Barbados Pride at Kensington Oval with a 114-ball 122.



Real Madrid players are distraught after a first home loss to La Liga lightweights Alaves in 87 years. Los Blancos have failed to score in their past four games, their longest scoring drought in over 33 years. PHOTO: AFP

Lopetegui not fearful of sack

AFP, Vitoria

Julen Lopetegui insisted it is too early to question his future despite Real Madrid suffering a shock defeat by Alaves on Saturday to make it four games without a victory. It is four games without a goal too for the European champions, their longest scoring drought since 1985, as Manu Garcia headed home in the 95th minute to send the Mendizorrotza Stadium wild. It was the first time they defeated Real Madrid at home in 87 years and Alaves fans ran onto the pitch to celebrate their 1-0 win.

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REAL CAPTAIN SERGIO RAMOS

For Real, this was another body blow and to make matters worse, Gareth Bale and Karim Benzema, their chief attacking threats, were both forced injured. Lopetegui was again asked if he felt

under pressure at the club: "It interests you but is not a question that concerns me," Lopetegui said. "We know what the life of a coach is, especially at Real Madrid, but we also know it is October and you have to keep perspective and stay calm." Captain Sergio Ramos was more emphatic. "It's other people who make those decisions but it's never good to have a change of coach," he said. "It would be crazy." "We have to move on, because the season is very long and there's a very long way to go. Whoever says Real Madrid are dead is always proved wrong in the long term."

Cox's Bazar ready to host semis

MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT

The tourist city of Cox's Bazar is all set to host its second-ever international football tournament as the two semifinals of the Bangabandhu Gold Cup will be held today and tomorrow at the Birshreshtha Ruhul Amin Stadium. Philippines will take on Tajikistan in the first semifinal today while Bangladesh will square off against Palestine in the second semifinal tomorrow, with both matches set to kick off at 2:30pm. The fifth edition of the Bangabandhu Gold Cup will be the first time that this stadium will host international matches since the Women's SAFF Championship was held here back in 2010. According to the organisers, all preparations to host the matches have been finished and the locals are excited about the prospect of watching their own players as well as the international footballers in action. The ground has been worked upon for the last two weeks. The gallery, dressing rooms, press box, VIP lounge have been refurbished for these two matches. Two other grounds will be used as practice facilities for these teams. There have been archways, billboards and banners installed across the city. 10,000 tickets worth Tk 100 and Tk 2000 are being sold through banks. There will be attractive prizes for the winners of a lottery which will be done on the tickets each matchday, informed organisers.



The Bangladesh team arrived in Cox's Bazar yesterday after the Bangabandhu Gold Cup's group stages concluded in Sylhet. They will play their semifinal against favourites Palestine at the Birshreshtha Ruhul Amin Stadium (Inset), which has undergone renovation works over the past two weeks to ensure it is up to international standards. The final will be played at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

'England doesn't appeal to Zizou'

AGENCIES, PARIS



Zinedine Zidane is unlikely to be the next Manchester United manager as the Premier League does not appeal to him, according to his agent. The former Real Madrid boss, who won three consecutive Champions Leagues at the Santiago Bernabeu, is widely considered the favourite to succeed Jose Mourinho if he leaves Old Trafford. Reports in England have claimed Zidane has been in touch with United executives and may even have been asked to snub any other job opportunities in order to wait for the chance to replace Mourinho. However, his representative, who described the former France star as "mentally exhausted" following his time at Madrid, does not expect him to move to England's top flight. "I don't think he will manage in England," Alain Migliaccio told Le Journal Du Dimanche. "It doesn't fit his style. "I talked to him. It doesn't really appeal to him. He decided to take a sabbatical year. He will not get into managing before [his sabbatical ends]."

Zidane stepped down at the end of last season after two-and-a-half years in charge of Madrid, in which he won LaLiga, the Supercopa de Espana, two UEFA Super Cups and two Club World Cups as well as his European successes. Pressure has been mounting on Mourinho following a poor run of results and reports of feuds with senior players and the club's hierarchy, although United's stirring 3-2 comeback win over Newcastle United on Saturday is likely to boost his chances of continuing at Old Trafford.

TERRY-HENRY TO MANAGE VILLA?

Thierry Henry has emerged as the leading contender to become Aston Villa's new manager, with John Terry tipped to be his number two. The Arsenal legend revealed in the summer he was preparing to enter management after ending his time as a pundit for Sky Sports. He had been combining his work in the media with his role as part of Roberto Martinez's backroom staff with the Belgium national team since 2016. Now Henry is poised to get his chance at Villa Park, with reports that he has been offered the chance to succeed Steve Bruce. Bruce was axed by the Championship club earlier this week after a woeful run of just one win from ten games. His reported number two, Terry, made 32 appearances for Villa last season after his 19-year spell at Stamford Bridge came to an end and helped them reach the Championship play-off final, where they lost to Fulham. —AGENCIES



Mahrez costs City 2 points

AFP, Liverpool



Manchester City's record signing Riyad Mahrez blazed an 86th-minute penalty over the bar to preserve Liverpool's unbeaten Premier League record as both sides failed to lay down an early marker in the title race with a disappointing 0-0 draw at Anfield. City remain top of the table on goal difference, but both teams are now locked with Chelsea -- who cantered to a 3-0 win earlier at Southampton -- on 20 points from eight games. Unlike the four enthralling encounters between the two last season when Liverpool beat the English champions three times, a highly-anticipated clash fell flat with neither side managing to register a shot on target until after the hour mark. City had the golden chance four minutes from time when substitute Leroy Sane was upended by Virgil van Dijk and referee Martin Atkinson pointed to the spot after waving away two earlier strong appeals from the visitors for a penalty. "It is not smart to dive in there," Van Dijk told Sky Sports. "It was a penalty and it shouldn't have happened, but I'm very happy we didn't concede."

"We were unlucky not to score, and lucky not to concede as well, so I think we cancelled each other out. It was a tough game against the champions and I'm happy we kept the clean sheet," he added. With Sergio Aguero replaced on the hour mark, Mahrez, a £60-million signing from Leicester in July, took responsi-



"He had the courage to take the penalty, in training he shoots perfect penalties but sometimes it happens. "The usual taker is Sergio Aguero but he wasn't there. We played so well so if you want to analyse the result it was OK. Last season we lost here, and this season we drew, maybe next season we will win."

PEP GUARDIOLA
MANCHESTER CITY MANAGER

bility but fired high over the bar to Liverpool's relief as City's wait for a first win at Anfield since 2003 continued. "We tried to win and we didn't concede at Anfield which is special," said City manager Pep Guardiola. "We had our chance and we tried to be ourselves." Speaking about Mahrez, he said:

After starting the season with seven straight wins Liverpool have now failed to win in any of their past four matches. Earlier, Arsenal dismantled Fulham 5-1 with a flowing performance that featured braces from Pierre Emerick Aubameyang and Alexander Lacazette and a sublime Aaron Ramsey strike.