



On his senior debut for Real Madrid, wunderkind Vinicius Jr stole the show with a dazzling performance in a 4-0 win on Santiago Solari's bow against lightweights Melilla on Wednesday.

REAL MADRID FORWARD VINICIUS JR

Solari, Vinicius make a mark

AFP, Madrid

Santiago Solari's reign as interim Real Madrid coach got off to an encouraging start on Wednesday as the European champions made light of third-tier hosts Melilla in the Copa del Rey.

Goals from Karim Benzema, Marco Asensio, Alvaro Odriozola and Cristo Gonzalez earned the 19-time champions a 4-0 win on their first visit to this Spanish enclave on the north African coast.

Solari was promoted from boss of Real's Castilla B team on Monday after the sacking of Julen Lopetegui only 139 days after his appointment.

Sunday's 5-1 Clasic humbling by Barcelona proved the last straw for Real president Florentino Perez, who will nevertheless have been warmed by the team's display in this last 32 first leg clash.

"In tough times, we are all pulling in the same direction," said Solari. "We have a team of great champions who know what to do to

get the job done."

Defending champions Barcelona, meanwhile, needed a stoppage-time header from French international Clement Lenglet to secure a 1-0 win at third division Cultural Leonesa.

Melilla may not be Barca or Manchester City but there was plenty to like about Real's performance, not least the bright debut of highly-touted Brazilian teenager Vinicius Junior.

After catching the eye in Solari's Castilla side the 18-year-old Flamengo recruit was handed his first team starting debut, and was one of Real's best players.

His superb pass set up Asensio for Real's second on the stroke of half time, after Benzema playing as a central striker had tapped in Odriozola's assist from close range on 28 minutes.

"This is my style," he told Fox Sports after the Melilla game. "Take on my man and be effective and direct, while always looking for the goal. I like to start the game from the beginning and to help Real Madrid to win. It was a very important game for me, a milestone in my career. I have to say thanks to everyone at the club for making me feel at ease and who

have helped me a lot with my adaptation."

At the restart Solari made two changes, introducing Nacho for Sergio Ramos with Benzema replaced by Federico Valverde.

Vinicius almost marked his first team arrival with a goal, his shot thudding off the crossbar.

Solari said on Tuesday he was open to becoming Real coach on a long term basis, and as a statement of intent he could not have asked

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for much more from his first game in charge.

Madrid have sounded out Antonio Conte but initial talks have reportedly not gone smoothly. Belgium boss Roberto Martinez and the Guti have also been linked.

But if Solari continues to impress he may well find himself signing a full time contract as he seeks to emulate another former Castilla coach -- Zinedine Zidane.

Chamily flies to capital today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The Rajshahi district administration will have former national women's team cricketer Chamily Khatun flown to Dhaka today to receive treatment at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), under a directive from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The former national team cricketer has been lying uncared for ever since she received an injury during training eight years ago and has recently developed a crippling illness.

Alamgir Kabir, ADC (General) of Rajshahi, informed yesterday that she would be flown abroad as well if necessary.

Karate C'ships in November

SPORTS REPORTER

The 17th All Asia Open Karate Championships will be held from November 9 at the Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur with approximately 60 karatekas from 18 countries taking part in the two-day meet.

President Abdul Hamid is expected to declare the championship open while the state minister for youth and sports, Biren Shikdar, is expected to be present.

Participants from Bangladesh, Japan, Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Macao, Mongolia, Myanmar, Bahrain, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Sri Lanka will feature in the tournament, which is being organised by Kyokushinkai, the Bangladesh branch of the International Karate Organisation, informed speakers at an official press conference yesterday.

10 archers selected for training

SPORTS REPORTER

Keeping their ambitious target for the 2020 Olympics in mind, the Bangladesh Archery Federation (BAF), in association with sponsors City Group, selected 10 archers from the 2,555 participants in a talent hunt programme to strengthen the pipeline for the national archery team.

Under the 'Teer Go For Gold' project, the game's local governing body launched the programme in July across 12 different districts.

Two archers -- a boy and a girl -- were selected from each of the participating districts for a training camp in Dhaka, which was completed in two phases over two months at the Master Ahsanullah Stadium in Gazipur.

Bangladesh coach Fredrick Martin then chose the final 10 archers, which features

one girl, for long term training on Wednesday.

"There were different stages of grooming the archers. Firstly, they were beginners who needed time to grow and needed experience of competing at the international level. These [the 10 archers] are talented ones who possess the physical strength to play archery. But it is also a mental game and we now need to groom their mental strength, motivation and personality to help them grow," said Martin, adding that Germany had taken 12 years to win a silver medal after launching their talent hunt programme.

BAF president Lt Gen (rttd) Mainul Islam, BOA secretary Syed Shahed Reza, City Group executive director Shoeb M Asaduzzaman and BAF general secretary Kazi Razibuddin Ahmed Chapal were, among others, present during the distribution of training certificates among the 24 archers.

SHORT CORNER



Lionel Messi (L) and son dressed as skeletons for Halloween on Wednesday.

South Korean banned over fake military service docs

South Korea's World Cupper Jang Hyun-Soo was banned for life from the national team for submitting false documents for his military

service exemption, the Korea Football Association said on Thursday.

The defender has 58 caps, including an appearance in the 2016 Olympics.

Jang will be permanently banned from playing for the country and fined 30 million won (\$26,000) for "tarnishing the dignity" of the team.

CFA ban Tardelli for rubbing face during anthem

The Chinese Football Association (CFA) has handed a one-game ban to Shandong Luneng's Brazilian midfielder Diego Tardelli for rubbing his face during the Chinese national anthem before a game.

Tardelli was looking down and rubbing his face with his hand as the anthem played before the game against Shanghai SIPG on Sunday.

"Tardelli's manners were not solemn when the national anthem was played and sung, causing adverse social impact," the CFA said in a punishment notice published on Wednesday.

The ruling shocked some fans.

"Touching his face is undignified behaviour? That's a bit of exaggeration," wrote one person on China's Twitter-like Weibo microblogging website.

Indian cricket team say no to beef for Australian tour

Ahead of India's two-month long tour of Australia, the BCCI, according to a report in the Mumbai Mirror, has specially requested Cricket Australia to keep beef off the menu.

A team from the BCCI had travelled to Australia to inspect the venues and made this request. The officials asked for this to be included as a clause in the MoU between BCCI and CA.

"Players often complain about the blandness of food served in Australia," an unnamed official was quoted as saying by the tabloid. "There are a few vegetarians in the team who really struggle at the grounds. The inspection team has also roped in an Indian restaurant to supply curries to the boys."

Peever quits as CA chief

Cricket Australia (CA) chairman David Peever quit Thursday after coming under intense pressure over the ball-tampering scandal.

He was only voted in for a new three-year term last week, days before an independent review sparked by the cheating row slammed the governing body. His deputy Earl Eddings was appointed as interim chairman and said: "We have a way to go to earn back the trust of the cricket community."



Paris Saint-Germain players may have fun in training, as they did yesterday, but striker Edinson Cavani believes more teamwork is needed on the pitch as well.

Need teamwork to win CL, says Cavani

AFP, Monaco

Uruguayan striker Edinson Cavani says PSG's team of dazzling individuals including Neymar and Kylian Mbappe need to work more as a team if they are to win the Champions League.

In an exclusive interview with AFP, Cavani said the importance of winning the Champions League for the French club was drummed into him even before he signed from Napoli in 2013.

"It's an objective that the club discussed with me before I signed the contract," said ahead of Tuesday's Champions League Group C clash in Naples. "It is in my head. It flows through my veins. I want to win it because that is the job that was presented to me when I came [to PSG]."

PSG's domination of Ligue 1 -- they have won five of the past six titles -- allows them to prepare well for their ultimate goal of winning Europe's premier club competition. But the Champions League has produced nothing but heartbreak for PSG and their Qatari owners, who have plunged millions in the club in the hope of creating one of the continent's top sides.

PSG's hopes ended at the quarterfinals four years in succession from 2013-2016, and at the last 16 in the past two campaigns.

Cavani cited Atletico Madrid and Juventus as clubs who play together with the kind of robust, disciplined teamwork that new coach Thomas Tuchel is trying to instil into PSG.

"That does not mean that we [PSG] do not work together," said Cavani, whose star has declined since fellow strikers Neymar, the world's

most expensive player, and teenage sensation Mbappe joined him in attack.

But Cavani denied there was friction.

"We are a work in progress," he said. "That does not mean I don't get on with Neymar or Mbappe. I hope that work with the new coach can give the perfect structure to produce a big season -- all together."

After defeat at Liverpool and being held 2-2 by Napoli last time out, a win at the San Paolo stadium will be crucial if PSG are to make it past the group stages.

But before facing his former club, Cavani said: "It will be good match to show that we have moved up to a higher level, and that we are able to deal with this kind of pressure -- because if we lose, that will make it tough for us to get out of the group stage."

Azhar quits ODIs

ODI STATS						
Match	Runs	HS	Avg	SR	100	50
53	1845	102	36.90	74.45	3	12

Senior Pakistani batsman Azhar Ali Thursday announced his retirement from ODIs to allow youngsters more chances for the national team while he focuses more on his Test career.

The 33-year-old had been dumped from Pakistan's one-day side since a flop series in New Zealand in January, where he earned just 12 runs in three matches -- including a duck at Dunedin, that proved to be his last match.

Azhar will be remembered as a Test batsman, having scored a triple and a double hundred in the last two years.

"I feel that the time is right for me to announce my retirement from the one-day international format so that I can focus with my full energy on Tests and serve Pakistan longer," Azhar told a press conference.

Azhar's tally of runs in 53 ODIs stood at 1,845 runs at an average of 36.90 including three hundreds and 12 fifties.

"I feel honoured that I represented the country in 53 ODIs -- 31 as captain -- and I have some fond memories of leading some incredibly talented players.

"As a former ODI captain I wish the team the very best for what is an incredibly important season ahead of the World Cup," said Azhar. "There are some talented young batsmen who are part of the set-up now and I am supremely confident that they will serve Pakistan cricket with distinction."

Proud Lampard loses on Chelsea return

AFP, London

Chelsea dumped Frank Lampard's Derby out of the League Cup on Wednesday despite a valiant effort by the Championship side to battle back from a defensive Halloween horror show.

Maurizio Sarri's much-changed side eventually emerged 3-2 winners, with all five goals coming in a helter-skelter first half, on a night when there were also fourth-round victories for Arsenal, Tottenham and Middlesbrough.

Two astonishing early defensive errors at Stamford Bridge from Fikayo Tomori -- on loan from Chelsea -- and Richard Keogh either side of a Jack Marriott equaliser gave the home side a 2-1 lead.

Undaunted, Lampard's side levelled shortly before the half-hour through Martyn Waghorn before Cesc Fabregas restored order for the Premier League high-flyers.

Lampard, one of Chelsea's greatest-ever players, received a rapturous reception on his first return to Stamford Bridge as a manager, soaking up the atmosphere before kick-off.

"I'm so thankful to the Chelsea fans. They know how I feel about them," Lampard, the club's all-time top scorer, told Sky Sports. "I sort of slipped out the back door when I left. That upset me a bit at the time, but it doesn't matter now. I've got nothing but great memories and to come back here and be treated like that, I'm a lucky man."

Buoyed by his side's win at Old Trafford against his former boss Jose Mourinho in the previous round, he was dismayed to witness the errors from his side.

Tomori sliced into his own net in the fifth minute, miscuing a clearance when attempting to deal with an innocuous-looking Davide Zappacosta cross. Midway through the half, lightning struck twice when Keogh failed to deal with another Zappacosta delivery, haplessly steering the ball into his own net.

But the visitors played a full role in a frantic first half, looking sharp as they came forward and were back on level terms before Fabregas scored what turned out to be the decisive goal.

"I'm proud. I'm not upset at all. I saw that performance and it just makes me happy," Lampard said. "Talking to the Chelsea players and their staff on the pitch, they were saying how good the way we were playing was. You know I respect this club but I'm proud of the Derby County players."

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