



Man City win maiden CL title

REUTERS, Istanbul

Manchester City completed a sensational season by beating Inter Milan 1-0 to win the Champions League for the first time on a Saturday night of frayed nerves at the Ataturk Stadium.

Spanish midfielder Rodri's 68th-minute goal settled a cagey contest that a far-from-fluent City dominated but they never looked comfortable against the three-time winners.

Inter almost levelled at the death when a point-blank header by substitute Romelu Lukaku was saved by Ederson.

It completed a treble for City, making them only the second English club to complete it after Manchester United also won the Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League in 1999.

City manager Pep Guardiola has now won the Champions League three times and took his trophy count with City to 12.



Manchester City players run for joy following their 1-0 win over Inter Milan in the final of the UEFA Champions League at the Ataturk Olympic Stadium in Istanbul on Saturday. A second-half strike from Rodri settled the tie and earned the English club their maiden Champions League title.

PHOTPO: REUTERS

BUSINESS

Tax-exempted firms to come under greater scrutiny

Companies that enjoy tax exemptions will come under greater scrutiny in the coming days as the tax authority seeks to scan their transactions with associated enterprises in a bid to curb profit shifting and tax evasion.

As per the proposed Income Tax Bill 2023, if a firm that enjoys tax exemption is engaged in any transactions with associated entities and tax officials find that transactions have not taken place as per open market prices and the income of the firms falls below the actual income, they would be able to impose regular tax rates.

There is a lack of clarity in the present law and tax offices can't apply rules to curb tax evasions that take place through profit shifting.

STORY ON BI

PADMA BRIDGE RAIL Jashore, Dhaka to get linked by June 2024

Railways minister says Dhaka-Bhanga section to open in September this year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The rail link between Jashore and Dhaka via the Padma Bridge will be completed by June next year, Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan said yesterday.

The minister also reiterated that the Dhaka to Bhanga section of the rail line will open in September this year.

"When it will be operational, the rail link will cut the travelling time between Dhaka and Jashore by half, giving a major boost to railway communication in the country," said the minister.

Sujan revealed the information while formally inaugurating the installation of railway track on the Bhanga-Jashore section at Faridpur's Bhanga.

Bangladesh Railway (BR) is implementing the Tk 39,246.80 crore project to build a broad-gauge rail line from Dhaka to Jashore via the Padma Bridge.

The fast-track project is being implemented in three phases -- Dhaka to Mawa, Mawa to Bhanga, and Bhanga to Jashore.

On April 4 this year, BR ran the first train on the newly constructed Bhanga-Mawa rail line through the Padma

The fast-track project is being implemented in three phases -- Dhaka to Mawa, Mawa to Bhanga, and Bhanga to Jashore.

Bridge, and on that day, Sujan announced that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the Dhaka-Mawa-Bhanga section in September this year.

Yesterday, the minister hoped that the remaining works on the Dhaka-Bhanga section will be completed by the first week of August, if not early.

Project officials said the installation of rail track on the 82km-long Dhaka-Bhanga section has been completed, except for the eight km portion, which is going to be built on viaducts.

They hoped that work on that 8km would be completed within August.

However, all nine new stations in this section may not be ready by September as the installation of the signalling system may not be completed by then.

In the first phase, three new stations -- Nimtali, Mawa, and Padma (Janjira) will be opened, an official said wishing not to be named. The old Bhanga station will be also made operational.

Even before yesterday's inauguration, authorities had installed 2 km track on the Bhanga-Jashore section.

Officials said construction of most of the bridges on this section including the Modhumoti Bridge -- a 1.22km long bridge over Modhumoti river in Narail -- has been completed.

This correspondent, as part of the minister's entourage, visited the embankment built for the installation of rail track from Bhanga to Narail and saw that the segment was ready for laying tracks.

Echoing the minister, an official said the rail line installation works of Dhaka-Jashore would be completed by June next year, but like the Dhaka-Bhanga section, the installation of the signalling system may not be completed by the deadline.

Project Director Azfal Hossain and his team members, consultants, and officials from contractor firms were present at the programme.

The government and China are jointly funding the project and a Chinese company is working as the contractor for the project.

Counteroffensive against Russia 'taking place'

Says Zelenskiy; Trudeau visits Ukraine, announces military aid

REUTERS, Kyiv

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said yesterday that Ukrainian counteroffensive operations were underway, but remained discreet on details beyond sending a message to the Kremlin that his top generals were in high spirits.

Zelenskiy shrugged dismissively at a press conference in Kyiv when asked to comment after Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday that Ukrainian forces had certainly begun their much-vaunted counteroffensive.

"Counteroffensive and defensive actions are taking place in Ukraine, but I will not say in detail what stage they are at," he said, listing Ukraine's top military brass by name.

"They are all in a positive mood. Pass that on to Putin," he said with a smile alongside visiting Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Trudeau announced new military aid for Ukraine during the unannounced trip to war-time Kyiv yesterday.

He paid his respects at a memorial site in central Kyiv to Ukrainian soldiers who have been killed fighting pro-Russian forces since 2014, and also met President Volodymyr Zelenskiy for

talks.

"We will be there with (you) as much as it takes, for as long as it takes," he said, sitting across from the Ukrainian leader in footage of the talks released by Kyiv authorities.

Ukraine has said for months it plans to conduct a major counteroffensive to recapture tracts of land occupied by Russia in the south and east, but it is enforcing strict operational silence and has denied it has begun the main operation for now.

Russia says Ukraine launched a big offensive push this week, but that Kyiv's forces failed to breach its defences and also sustained heavy casualties.

With scant independent reporting from the front lines, it has been difficult to assess the state of the fighting.

NATO member Canada, which has one of the world's largest Ukrainian diasporas, has supplied military and financial assistance to Kyiv during the full-scale invasion launched by Russia in February 2022.

"Today, I can announce that we will provide 500 million dollars in new funding for military assistance," Trudeau told reporters at a joint press conference with Zelenskiy.

Will sue Star if requirements in legal notice not fulfilled
Says DSCC Mayor Taposh's lawyer

SAFF CORRESPONDENT

A counsel for DSCC Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh has said The Daily Star's statement in response to his client's legal notice is not fully acceptable because the newspaper neither offered unconditional apology nor paid Tk 100 crore in compensation for "defamation".

Both criminal and civil cases will be filed against The Daily Star if it doesn't fulfil the requirements mentioned in the legal notice, Taposh's lawyer Mejbahur Rahman said at a press conference in his Karwan Bazar chamber yesterday morning.

"You know that The Daily Star has published a write-up in which Dhaka South City Corporation and its mayor have been implicated. In response, I sent a legal notice on June 5, seeking some remedies. On June 8, The Daily Star published its reply to the legal notice in the newspaper.

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New supernova appears in the night sky



CNN ONLINE

A sparkling new supernova has appeared in the night sky, and a telescope atop Mauna Kea in Hawaii was perfectly poised to capture the aftermath of the cosmic burst.

The supernova was first spotted within the spiral arms of the Pinwheel Galaxy by Japanese astronomer Koichi Itagaki on May 19. Itagaki, an avid supernova hunter, has discovered more than 80 of the stellar explosions using his observatory in the mountains outside Yamagata, Japan.

The supernova, named SN 2023ixf, is the closest one seen in five years. A supernova occurs when a star violently explodes at the end of its lifetime.

Cassiopeia A (Cas A) is a supernova remnant located about 11,000 light years from Earth in the constellation Cassiopeia. It spans approximately 10 light-years. This new image uses data from Webb's Mid-Infrared Instrument (MIRI) to reveal Cas A in a new light.

The Pinwheel Galaxy is in the direction of the Ursa Major constellation, about 21 million light-years from Earth. The galaxy faces Earth head-on, which showcases its stunning spiral structure and nearly 1 trillion stars.



The under-construction railway bridge over the Modhumoti river in Narail is ready for installation of tracks. The 1.22km bridge will establish direct rail communication between Dhaka and Jashore.

PHOTO: TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY



Swiatek wins French Open

AFP, Paris

World number one Iga Swiatek won her third French Open and fourth Grand Slam title on Saturday with an epic three-set victory over gallant Karolina Muchova in the final at Roland Garros.

The 22-year-old Pole came through 6-2, 5-7, 6-4 to become the first woman since Justine Henin in 2007 to win back-to-back French Opens.

However, she achieved victory the hard way, giving up a set and 3-0 lead before twice recovering from breaks down in the decider.