

Manchester City secure crucial win in Champions League chase

De Bruyne bids farewell as Marmoush, Silva and Gonzalez push City to third

AFP, MANCHESTER: Manchester City gave Kevin De Bruyne a fond farewell in a vital 3-1 win over Bournemouth on Tuesday to boost their chances of Champions League football next season.

Goals from Omar Marmoush, Bernardo Silva and Nico Gonzalez lifted City up into third in the Premier League heading into Sunday's final round of matches.

Mateo Kovacic's red card 20 minutes from time could have given Bournemouth hope, but Lewis Cook was also sent off just minutes later for a lunge on Gonzalez.

There was further cause for celebration for City late on when Ballon d'Or winner Rodri made his first appearance since September as a substitute after suffering a serious knee injury.

City's victory means a point when they travel to Fulham on the final day will be enough to secure a top-five finish thanks to their much superior goal difference to that of sixth-placed Aston Villa.

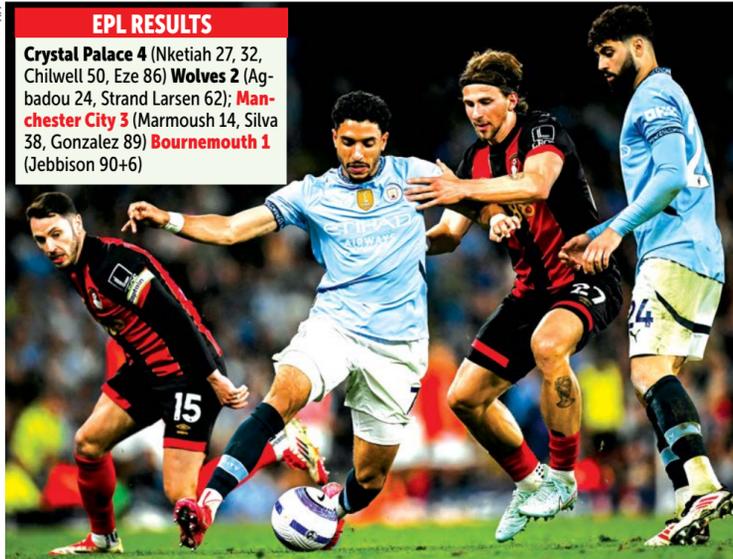
Just three days on from the disappointment of losing the FA Cup final to Crystal Palace, City had to raise themselves on an emotional night at the Etihad in De Bruyne's final home match.

Earlier in the day City had unveiled a mosaic and named a road at the club's training ground after the Belgian.

De Bruyne, who won six



De Bruyne received a lifetime season ticket, signed keepsakes and his own road/mosaic - while a statue outside the stadium has also been commissioned



Bournemouth's defender Adam Smith, Manchester City's striker Omar Marmoush, Bournemouth's defender Illia Zabarnyi and Manchester City's defender Josko Gvardiol fight for the ball at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester

EPL RESULTS

Crystal Palace 4 (Nketiah 27, 32, Chilwell 50, Eze 86) Wolves 2 (Agbadou 24, Strand Larsen 62); Manchester City 3 (Marmoush 14, Silva 38, Gonzalez 89) Bournemouth 1 (Jebbison 90+6)

Premier League titles and the Champions League during his decade in Manchester, was greeted by a huge banner reading "King Kev" as he led the teams out.

"I want to bring joy to people, play offensive football, be creative, that is what I am on the pitch and I want to have fun," said De Bruyne.

"I think we had a lot of fun over the 10 years."

Marmoush saw a penalty saved in City's defeat at Wembley on Saturday which ensured they will end the season without a major trophy for the first time since Pep Guardiola's debut season in 2016/17.

Missing out on the Champions League would arguably be an even bigger blow for a club who have not failed to qualify for Europe's elite competition in 14 years.

Marmoush made amends for his Wembley woe in stunning fashion when he crashed home a long-range effort off the inside of the post on 14 minutes.

The moment an expectant crowd had been waiting for looked set to appear moments later when Marmoush squared to give his captain an open goal.

Yet, De Bruyne could only

spoon the ball onto the crossbar from point-blank range much to his own disgust.

Guardiola's men did double their advantage before the break.

Ilkay Gundogan's clever reverse pass found Silva, who slammed home at the near post to spark jubilant celebrations from an animated Guardiola.

The City boss was furious

when a slack pass from Josko Gvardiol played in Evanilson and he was brought down by Kovacic, denying a clear goalscoring opportunity.

The red card hastened De Bruyne's goodbye as he was replaced by Gonzalez to a standing ovation.

The numbers were evened up just six minutes later as Cook caught Gonzalez on the shin with his studs.

The cheer for Rodri's return came close to matching De Bruyne's departure.

The loss of the Spanish midfielder has played a huge part in City's decline this season.

Gonzalez was bought in January to mitigate Rodri's absence but has struggled to hold down a place in Guardiola's side.

The Spaniard curled in his first Premier League goal with a fine finish on 89 minutes before Daniel Jebbison pulled a goal back deep into stoppage time.

Defeat ends Bournemouth's challenge to qualify for Europe for the first time as they remain down in 11th and now cannot catch eighth-placed Brighton.

Palace shrugged off the hangover after celebrating their first ever major trophy to beat Wolves 4-2 at Selhurst Park.

Eddie Nketiah made the most of a rare chance to start with a double, while cup final hero Eberechi Eze was also among the scorers.

Guardiola warns he'll quit if Man City squad too large

AFP, MANCHESTER: Pep Guardiola has said he could quit his position as Manchester City manager if he is given too large a squad next season as he can no longer bear to leave out large numbers of fit players from his team.

This season has seen City's unprecedented run of four successive top-flight English titles come to an end, while their defeat by Crystal Palace in last weekend's FA Cup final meant they will finish without a major trophy for the first time in eight years. Injuries have hit City hard this season but Guardiola, always in favour of a smaller group of players, insisted: "I said to the club I don't want that (a bigger squad)."

"I don't want to leave five or six players in the freezer. I don't want that. I will quit. Make a shorter squad, I will stay."

"It's impossible for my soul to (tell) my players in the tribune that they cannot play."

The Spaniard added: "Now it happened to add players immediately. Maybe for three or four months we couldn't select 11 players, we didn't have defenders, it was so difficult. After, people come back but next season it cannot be like that."

"As a manager I cannot train 24 players and every time I select I have to have four, five, six, stay in Manchester at home because they cannot play. This is not going to happen. I said to the club I don't want that."

Despite the injury problems suffered this season -- notably the lengthy absence of Rodri, who made his first appearance since September as a second-half substitute on Tuesday -- Guardiola said he would rather bolster his squad with academy players.

SHOW CANCELLED

Due to urgent maintenance work the show of **MOG ASUM** at Ravindra Bhavan schedule for Today stands cancelled. Inconvenience caused is regretted.

Vailankani Boys, Ilhas Veterans and Alto Santacruz clinch titles

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PANJIM: Vailankani Boys Mercers, Ilhas Veterans and Alto Santacruz emerged champions in their respective categories at the inaugural Santacruz Cup, organised by Creative Peoples Sports & Cultural Club, Santacruz and played at the artificial turf ground in Santa Cruz.

SANTACRUZ CUP

In the open category final, Vailankani Boys Mercers delivered a dominant performance to defeat Agnelites Pillar, 3-1. Agnelites conceded as early as the 3rd minute when Suraj converted a free-kick. From then on, Vailankani Boys took firm control of the match, with Dishant adding another and Suraj netting his second of the evening. Aryan pulled one back for Agnelites, but it was not enough to turn the tide. The champions were awarded Rs 1 lakh and trophy, while the runners-up received Rs 65,000 and a trophy.

The veterans (50+) final between Ilhas Veterans and Vasco Veterans ended in a 1-1 draw in regulation time. Francis Colaco gave Ilhas the lead before Uday equalised for Vasco in the dying minutes. In the ensuing penalty shootout, Ilhas proved superior, clinching the title. They received Rs 40,000 and a trophy, with



Vasco Veterans taking home Rs 30,000 and a trophy. In the first final of the evening, Alto Santacruz were crowned inter-ward champions after edging past St Sebastian Bandh, 1-0. Harshad Surlikar scored the only goal of the

Fondegal edge past Eklate on penalties to enter semi-finals

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RAIA: Fondegal Youth Club edged out Eklate Football Club, 4-3, in a penalty shootout to book their place in the semi-final of the Fondegal Youth Club 9-a-side inter-ward football tournament 2025, held at the St Alex Church ground, in Curtorim.

The third quarter-final saw both teams adopt an attacking approach from the outset. In the 15th minute, Mario Mascarenhas gave Fondegal Youth Club the lead with a well-taken goal. However, the advantage was short-lived, as Sheldon Sardinha equalised for Unjirim United just five minutes later. Both sides con-



tinued to create chances, but the first half ended 1-1.

In the second half, Aleeward Mascarenhas struck with a powerful shot to restore Fondegal's lead. Unjirim responded in the 45th minute when Floyd Antao netted a brilliant goal to level the

score once again, bringing the match to 2-2 at full-time.

The contest was decided on penalties, where Fondegal Youth Club held their nerve to triumph 4-3.

Albert Dias of Fondegal Youth Club was named man-of-the-match.

9-year-old visually impaired boy swims across Mandovi river

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PANJIM: In a powerful display of courage and inclusion, 9-year-old Burhanuddin Haaziq, who is visually impaired, successfully swam across the Mandovi River alongside his 16-year-old cousin, Hamza Haaziq. The feat was completed under the guidance of senior coach Dayanand Patil from Campal Swimming Pool, Panjim, with support from Swim India.



9-year-old Burhanuddin Haaziq and 16-year-old Hamza Haaziq is seen along with senior coach Dayanand Patil

The event, aimed at promoting inclusion in sport, was lauded as a milestone and received formal recognition from the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Government of Goa.

Burhanuddin, speaking after his achievement, said: "I may not be able to see, but I can feel the rhythm of the water and the strength in every stroke. It wasn't always easy, but with my cousin beside me and my coach guiding me, I believed in myself. I want to swim more rivers and show other children like me that nothing is impossible."

GOA DIARY

2-A-SIDE TIE-BREAKER AT MAPUSA
MAPUSA: St Jerome Boys, Mapusa, will organise a 2-a-side and 1-a-side tie-breaker tournaments near Bodeswar Temple, Mapusa, on May 24, at 10 pm. The 2-a-side winner will be richer by Rs 12000 plus trophy while the runners-up will have to settle for Rs 8000 plus trophy while 1-a-side winner will receive Rs 2000 plus trophy and runner-up Rs 1000 plus trophy. For details contact Aires.

TODAY'S SPORTS

Fondegal Youth Club 9-a-side inter-ward football tournament (quarter-final): Cumborda Sports Club vs Novovaddo Sports Club, at St Alex Church ground, Curtorim, at 5 pm
Calangute Panchayat Cup: St Savio Sports Club, Calangute vs Peddem Bomm, Anjuna, at Poriat ground, at 4.30 pm

Avertano elected AWES president for 2025-28

PANJIM: Avertano Furtado has been elected as the new President of the Association for the Wellbeing of Elder Sportspersons (AWES) for the 2025-2028 term.

Padma Shri Brahmanand Shankwalker has been appointed as mentor. The vice-presidents elected are Derrick Pereira, Vinod Parkot, Savio Medeira and Joe Dias.

Jennifer Gonsalves will serve as honorary general secretary, assisted by Adlear D'Cruz and Lector Mascarenhas. Jacinto Fernandes takes over as treasurer, with Sanjeev Nagvenkar as assistant treasurer.

Other members elected to the committee are Patwin Fizardo, Willy D'Souza, Concepcion Martins, and Schubert Furtado. Co-opted members include Jonathan De Souza, Sunil Naik, and Marcus Mergulhao.

RAIN OR SHINE... SHOWS WILL GO ON

NEVIA PRODUCTION PRESENTS: **TIATR**

24TH MAY 3:30 PM RAVINDRA BHAVAN CURCHOREM FOR TICKETS CONTACT-72620 58021

25TH MAY 3:30 PM KALA ACADEMY A/C HALL PANJIM TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE COUNTER

26TH MAY 3:30 PM RAVINDRA BHAVAN MARGAO TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE COUNTER

SASUMAIM, DHUVU SUN?

CONTACT: 7020703816 / 9925204147

AFTER SHOWING BUMPER HIT TIATR LAST KISS

NOW PRESENTS TEQUILA SHOTS

PLEASE BRING YOUR CHILDREN ALONG WITH YOU TICKETS SALE STARTED EVERYWHERE TIATR

Milagres De Chandor

TEQUILA SHOTS

WILL BE DIRECTED BY MILAGRES DE CHANDOR FIRST FOR TODAY'S GENERATION...

RELEASING ON **24TH MAY 7:30 PM GANDOLIM**

TICKETS AVAILABLE WITH SANTAN - 9765508312 RAVINDRA BHAVAN

25TH MAY 3:30 PM VASCO SUNDAY

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT RODRIGUES TAILOR, VASCO RAVINDRA BHAVAN

27TH MAY 7:30 PM MARGAO

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE COUNTER KALA ACADEMY A/C HALL PANJIM

8TH JUNE 7:30 PM PANJIM

RUSH FOR THE TICKETS BEFORE ITS GETS HOUSEFULL

AMAZING KONKANI FILM

AFTER SHOWING AT IFFI 2023, DUBAI, LONDON, MANGALORE NOW BY PUBLIC DEMAND

TOMORROW

23rd MAY 3:30PM

CONFERENCE HALL RAVINDRA BHAVAN MARGAO

29TH MAY 3.30 PM PAI HALL MARGAO

AIR.M.ASA. Production

TIATR

Tiatr by Comedian Anita

SMILE PLEASE

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE COUNTER FROM 22 MAY