

Sports

Haaland embracing life out of his 'comfort zone' in Premier League

Norwegian prepares for debut away to West Ham

MANCHESTER: Erling Haaland has warned the contenders to Manchester City's title that he will only improve in the competitive environment of English football as the Norwegian prepares for his Premier League debut away to West Ham on Sunday. Haaland is the marquee arrival to the Premier League from over £1 billion (\$1.2 billion) spent by the 20 top-flight English clubs so far this summer. The 22-year-old had his pick of top clubs after scoring 86 goals in 89 games for Borussia Dortmund, but said the demands of playing under Pep Guardiola was behind his reason for choosing City.

"As a young player, playing for Pep Guardiola, playing for the best club in England, I have to keep developing and get better at a lot of things," Haaland told Sky Sports. "That's what I like a lot about football, you can always develop, you can always get better at the game." The English champions are already Haaland's fifth club after spells at Bryne, Molde and Red Bull Salzburg before joining Dortmund.

"Part of the game is to get out of your comfort

zone which is something I've been doing and something I like because then you develop more as a human being as well," he added. "I'm a player that's hungry for goals, that gives 100 per cent, that wants to win every single game. They are simple things but also really important things." After the hype around his arrival, Haaland had a debut to forget, missing a glorious chance towards the end of City's 3-1 defeat to Liverpool in the Community Shield on Saturday.

However, he said he will not let that affect him as he prepares to make his first Premier League appearance this weekend. "You are a kind of entertainer. You get judged every single week for what you do on the pitch and you have to deliver and do your best," he said. "For me as a striker, this is something I cannot stress about because if you think too much, you might end up doing things you don't want to do. It's going to be tough and this is the charming thing about the Premier League. It's a beautiful, hard competition, that's why it's the most popular league in the world." —AFP



GREEN BAY: Erling Haaland of Manchester City throws his shirt into the crowd after the pre-season friendly match between Bayern Munich and Manchester City at Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wisconsin. —AFP



INGLEWOOD: Julian Araujo #2 of Los Angeles Galaxy defends a corner kick against Omar Mireles #42 of Guadalajara Chivas in the second half during the Leagues Cup Showcase 2022 at SoFi Stadium on August 03, 2022 in Inglewood, California. —AFP

Galaxy and Club America triumph

LOS ANGELES: Honors were even between the United States and Mexico on Wednesday with Los Angeles Galaxy and Club America coming away with victories in the Leagues Cup Showcase friendly double-header at SoFi Stadium. The glitzy \$5 billion home of the NFL's Los Angeles Rams, named in June as one of the venues for the 2026 World Cup, hosted soccer matches for the first time, drawing a sellout crowd of 71,189.

Major League Soccer's Galaxy opened the evening with a 2-0 victory over Liga MX outfit Chivas Guadalajara. Then Club America edged Los Angeles FC 6-5 on penalties after their match ended 0-0. The friendlies, with more matches to be played in Nashville, Salt Lake City and Cincinnati, are a preview of next year's Leagues Cup tournament, a month-long event featuring all 47 Liga MX and MLS teams with CONCACAF Champions League berths on the line.

The stadium needs some changes to be capable of hosting World Cup matches. Wednesday's games were played on a grass pitch temporarily laid on top of the stadium's usual artificial turf. And the pitch was less than

63m wide - at least five meters narrower than FIFA prefers - but will be reconfigured for the World Cup with the removal of some seating. Dejan Joveljic and 19-year-old Jonathan Perez scored for the Galaxy to lift the MLS club to victory in the opener. Joveljic continued a strong run of form, racing onto a corner kick from Efrain Alvarez and firing into the net.

Perez sealed the win with a spectacular goal in the 62nd minute, gathering a pass from Samuel Grandsir outside the penalty area and unleashing a long-range blast that beat Chivas goalkeeper Jose Rangel. Galaxy's former Manchester United striker Javier "Chicharito" Hernandez, who began his professional career at Chivas, played the first 45 minutes before he was substituted in a stream of changes by both clubs. The second match was a lively affair with Club America forcing LAFC goalkeeper John McCarthy into a couple of diving saves and Los Angeles attackers Latif Blessing and Kwadwo Opoku threatening.

LAFC nearly went down a man late in the first half when defender Mamadou Fall was shown a straight red card after a tackle only for it to be rescinded after video review. In the shootout, each keeper made one save before, at 5-5, Club America's Emilio Lara fired his attempt past McCarthy and LAFC midfielder Jose Cifuentes blazed over the bar. LAFC star Carlos Vela entered after half-time and recent acquisition from Real Madrid, Gareth Bale, came on in the 62nd minute. —AFP

5 Premier League signings to watch

MANCHESTER: Premier League clubs have flexed their financial muscle once more in the race for the world's best talent ahead of Friday's kick-off to the 2022/23 season. AFP Sport looks at five of the biggest signings of the summer looking to make an impact.

Erling Haaland (Man City)

City have addressed their need for a central striker, and got one of the most highly sought after players in the world to do so, after beating off competition from around Europe for Haaland. The Norwegian's buyout clause from Borussia Dortmund was a bargain at £51 million (\$63 million) but the reported signing-on fee, agents fees and wages over the course of a five-year contract will reportedly set City back £190 million.

Haaland may have had a debut to forget as he missed practically an open goal in City's 3-1 defeat to Liverpool in the Community Shield on Saturday. But Pep Guardiola warned his side's challengers for the title "the goals will come". Haaland scored 86 goals in 89 games for Dortmund and although he has been signed as the final piece to get Guardiola's men over the line in the Champions League, his arrival makes the champions favorites for a fifth league title in six years.

Darwin Nunez (Liverpool)

In contrast to Haaland, Nunez had the perfect start to his Liverpool career by scoring and winning a penalty against City in the Community Shield. The Reds have banked on the Uruguayan to evolve their attacking options after the departure of Sadio Mane to Bayern Munich. Nunez cost an initial 75-million euros from Benfica (\$77 million), but that fee could rise to 100 million euros depending on his success at Anfield. Luis Diaz is expected to take the place of Mane on the left of Liverpool's front three with Nunez phasing out Roberto Firmino. His aerial presence offers Jurgen Klopp's men a different focal point in attack, but it could take some time for the Reds to adjust.

Lisandro Martinez (Man Utd)

Much of the debate over United's only big money signing has surrounded how his diminutive 5ft 9in (1.8m) presence will cope with the rigours of the Premier League. The Argentine is well-known to new United manager Erik ten Hag, who signed Martinez for Ajax. A £57 million transfer fee suggests Ten Hag sees Martinez as a regular starter at Old Trafford, but it remains to be seen in what position. Martinez played at centre-back, left-back and centre midfield during his time with the Dutch champions. Ten Hag used him most commonly at the heart of his defence, which would put United captain Harry Maguire's position under threat with French World Cup winner Raphael Varane also competing to start at centre-back.

Raheem Sterling (Chelsea)

A key player in City's first two Premier League title triumphs under Pep Guardiola, Sterling found himself slowly edged out at the Etihad by the arrival of Jack Grealish and the emergence of Phil Foden. Still a vital part of England manager Gareth Southgate's plans in a World Cup year, Sterling has moved south to become the face of Chelsea's new era. The 27-year-old was the Blues' first signing since Todd Boehly's consortium bought the club from Roman Abramovich. Chelsea badly need a goalscorer if they are to compete with City and Liverpool for the title and Sterling is the most likely member of Thomas Tuchel's squad to get 20 goals. He hit that mark three seasons in a row between 2017 and 2020 and will have the guaranteed minutes he did not get under Guardiola in the past two years to reach that tally once more.

Gabriel Jesus (Arsenal)

Jesus was another victim of the wealth of attacking talent at City as the Brazilian hopes to relaunch his career at the Emirates ahead of the World Cup. Despite winning seven major trophies at the Etihad, Jesus never became the successor to Sergio Aguero City hoped they were buying six years ago. Arsenal badly needed a striker after the departures of Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Alexandre Lacazette. Jesus already has the Gunners fans excited after scoring seven times in pre-season, including in the thrashing of Chelsea and Sevilla. —AFP

UEFA to use semi-automated offside technology

PARIS: UEFA announced Wednesday that "semi-automated offside technology" will be used from the group stage of this season's Champions League as well as in next week's Super Cup. The optical tracking system was trialed at the FIFA Club World Cup in Abu Dhabi in February and last year's Arab Cup. FIFA have confirmed it will be in place for the World Cup in Qatar.

The data-driven, limb-tracking technology uti-

lizes both dedicated and broadcast cameras around the stadium to give the exact position of players on the pitch, offering match officials precise information within seconds. "This innovative system will allow VAR teams to determine offside situations quickly and more accurately, enhancing the flow of the game and the consistency of the decisions", said UEFA chief refereeing officer Roberto Rosetti.

Specialized cameras enable the system to generate 29 body points per player. UEFA said that 188 tests have been conducted since 2020. "The system is ready to be used in official matches and implemented at each Champions League venue," added Rosetti. It will be introduced in Europe for the first time in the UEFA Super Cup between Real Madrid and Eintracht Frankfurt in Helsinki on August 10. —AFP

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

Abdul Rahim Abdul Aziz Khan (C# 2030)

I, Abdul Rahim Abdul Aziz holder of Passport No. T5332471. Do hereby inform you to add my surname Khan. I will henceforth be known as Abdul Rahim Abdul Aziz Khan. Old Name - Abdul Rahim Abdul Aziz, New Name -

I, Joyce Piedade (Civil ID No. 281070408072 / Passport No. R8665839), would like to correct my name, Old Name: Joyce Anthony Piedade, New Name: Joyce Fernandes. (C# 2033)

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Vacancies in a Luxury Wellness Resort in Kuwait

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- Culinary
- Housekeeping

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Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300

Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9
Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144

Clinics

Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088

Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401