

What to WATCH

NEO PRIME

French Open

Men's & Women's

First Round

Live from 3:00pm

DAY'S EVENT

Premier League

Abahani v Ctg Abahani

Time: 5:30pm

Venue: BNS



Real Madrid players celebrate the Decima atop an open top bus at Madrid's Cibeles Square after winning the Champions League final against Atletico Madrid 4-1 in Lisbon on Saturday. (Inset) Captain Iker Casillas (R), who could have been the villain had Sergio Ramos (L) not made up for his horrible goalkeeping error with an injury time equaliser, enjoys his moment.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Ronaldo's record

REUTERS, Lisbon

Cristiano Ronaldo became the first player in the 59-year history of the European Cup to score for two different winning teams when he netted Real Madrid's fourth goal in their 4-1 win over Atletico Madrid on Saturday.

The 29-year-old Portugal captain also scored for Manchester United when they won the Champions League in 2008 in Moscow and capped an astonishing season with his 17th Champions League goal of this campaign at the Stadium of Light.

His penalty conversion contrasted with his miss in the final shootout against Chelsea six years ago.

Ronaldo had already broken the European Cup record of 14 goals in a season established by Jose Altafini of AC Milan 51 years ago and by his rival Lionel Messi of Barcelona in 2011-12 and has now set a new benchmark in the competition.

Ronaldo, the FIFA World Player of the Year, has scored 52 goals in 51 Champions League games for Real and, together with his goals at United, has 67 in the European Cup in total.

That ties him in second place with Messi, while both players are four goals behind Raul who tops the all-time list with 71.

## Kranjcar a WC concern

AFP, Zagreb

Croatia midfielder Niko Kranjcar is a World Cup doubt due to an injury he sustained in QPR's Championship play-off win over Derby at Wembley.

"He received initial therapy and on Monday he will travel to Zagreb for an MRI scan," Croatian football federation spokesman Tomislav Pacak reported on Sunday.

"After that we will now how serious his injury is," he added.

Kranjcar was replaced in the 33rd minute of Saturday's clash at Wembley with a left leg injury.

## Beginning of Ancelotti era

REUTERS, Lisbon

When Real Madrid's team of Zinedine Zidane-inspired "galacticos" won the Spanish club's ninth European crown in 2002 it was supposed to mark the beginning of another golden era of European domination.

As it turned out, and despite hundreds of millions of euros spent on players, it took the world's richest club by income another 12 years to win the coveted 10th title, or "decima", a record-extending feat they finally achieved with Saturday's 4-1 extra-time win against Atletico Madrid in the Champions League final in Lisbon.

This time around, big-spending Real president Florentino Perez will be desperate to consolidate the club's position at the summit of European soccer and avoid the mistakes that led to him stepping down in 2006 after a poor run of results.

Since the construction magnate's return in 2009, Real have splashed more than 600 million euros (\$818 million) on the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo and Gareth Bale, both of whom scored in Saturday's showpiece.

The massive investment finally paid off and in coach Carlo Ancelotti, Perez also appears to have found the right man to lead his project for European domination.

The Italian succeeded in winning the Champions League in his first season in charge, outdoing predecessor Jose Mourinho, whose Real team were eliminated in the semi-finals in Europe during each of his three seasons in charge.

Ancelotti, whose Real side also won the King's Cup by beating arch rivals Barcelona in the final, has brought a sense of tranquility back to the club after the divisive Mourinho years and has wasted little time in moulding his expensively-assembled squad into an impressive unit.

A Champions League winner with AC Milan as both a player and a coach, the 54-year-old has fostered a harmonious atmosphere at Real that allows Ronaldo, Bale and their team mates to perform and he showed against Atletico he has the tactical sense to outwit his rivals.

Real were struggling to create chances against some typically resolute Atletico defending so Ancelotti threw on attacking midfielder Isco and zippy fullback Marcelo and the game immediately turned in their favour.

With Ancelotti at the helm and almost limitless resources to splash in the transfer market he will be confident that this time will be different and the 11th European crown is just around the corner.

## Record breaking Decima

REUTERS, Lisbon



There was something magical surrounding this season's Champions League showpiece even before Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid produced one of the great finals at Benfica's Stadium of Light on Saturday.

Spanish media estimated 100,000 people made the trip across the border to Lisbon but only around 40,000 of those had tickets to see Real beat Atletico 4-1 after extra time in the first final between two teams from the same city.

"It was a special night, you could just feel something in the air," Real manager Carlo Ancelotti told reporters of the memorable final littered with records.

"I was not sure it was so magical when we were losing with time running out, but you felt something magical might happen in this stadium and in this city, and luckily for us it did."

It was the highest-scoring final since Liverpool's 3-3 draw with AC Milan in Istanbul in 2005 as Real became the first team to score four in a final since the Italians beat Barcelona 4-0 in 1994.

It was also the first final since Manchester United beat Benfica 4-1 in 1968 that a side had scored three times in extra time to win the European Cup after the game finished level at 1-1 after 90 minutes.

Extra time was needed after Benfica's Eusebio wasted a chance to win it with seconds remaining at the end of normal time at Wembley before United prevailed 4-1 to become the first English winners of the European Cup.

A year earlier, in the only other final to be played in Lisbon before Saturday's match, Celtic became the first British team to win it when they beat Inter Milan 2-1 at the

National Stadium.

But while Celtic's survivors of that night, known as the 'Lisbon Lions', were feted in the Portuguese capital this week, Eusebio's absence was felt.

The all-time great of Benfica and Portugal's most loved player died earlier this year as did Mario Coluna, another pillar of the Benfica side that won the European Cup in 1961 and 1962 when they beat Real Madrid 5-3.

That was one of the 13 European Cup finals Real have now taken part in and while Saturday's eventually ended in glory with the elusive "La Decima", or 10th victory, it followed a familiar pattern.

In five of their 10 victories, including Saturday's, Real have fallen behind and had to turn matches around to win.

In the first final in 1956 they trailed Reims 2-0 before winning 4-3 and in 1960 they fought back to beat Eintracht Frankfurt 7-3 after the Germans took the lead.

On Saturday, a goal deep into additional time at the end of 90 minutes from Sergio Ramos levelled the scores at 1-1 and sent the game into extra time, where Gareth Bale, Marcelo and Portugal's current poster boy, Cristiano Ronaldo, scored to give Real victory.

History also repeated itself for Atletico, who suffered heartbreak in their only other final in 1974.

European Cups, a feat no-one has achieved since Milan in 1989 and 1990 when current Real coach Carlo Ancelotti played in their wins over Steaua Bucharest and Benfica.

Ancelotti made history of his own on Saturday by becoming the first man since Liverpool's Bob Paisley (1977, 1978, 1981), to win three European Cups as a coach.

## History Atleti's nightmare

INTERNET, Lisbon

There was a sad sense of deja vu for the Vicente Calderon side as its defeat in Lisbon mirrored the frustrating loss to Bayern Munich in Belgium.

The jubilation and euphoria shared among players and fans of Real Madrid following the club's Champions League triumph will be matched by the abject misery felt by its counterpart across the city.

Atletico lost in Lisbon when it appeared it had one hand on the famous trophy: a shattering blow. But for those familiar with their club's background, it must have been like history repeating itself.

When Sergio Ramos powered his equalizing header past Thibaut Courtois seconds from the end of Saturday's biggest ever derby clash, it would have brought back some numbing memories of events 40 years before, in Atleti's only previous appearance in the premier European club final.

At the Vicente Calderon, the Madrid side defeated Celtic 2-0, setting up a final at the Heysel Stadium in Brussels against Bayern Munich, a team that contributed the core of the West German national team.

In the final, both teams cancelled each other out through 90 minutes and well into extra time. Atletico though, eventually broke the deadlock just seven minutes from time when (the legendary) Luis Aragonés swept a free kick past Sepp Maier.

However, thereafter things went horribly wrong for Atleti. Just 20 seconds from the end, central defender Georg Schwarzenbeck lumbered forward to become the unexpected goal hero, outdoing the normally prolific Gerd Müller in much the same way as stopper Ramos trumped Cristiano Ronaldo.

Forty years ago, the final went to a replay (played two days later at the same venue), which Bayern won 4-0, with Müller and Uli Hoeness scoring two apiece. On Saturday night, Real Madrid also bagged four, once Gareth Bale and Ronaldo got their act together.

It's easy to see why some Atletico fans across the generations are experiencing deja vu on Saturday.

Of course, they may soon forget events in Lisbon. Remember that 1974 was a World Cup year, and Schwarzenbeck went on to play his part in helping West Germany become champion of the world. Who can say Sergio Ramos won't do the same later this summer for Spain?

It just might be difficult for Atletico fans to feel that much empathy over the coming weeks.



FIDE Master Fahad Rahman recently became brand ambassador of Prime Bank for the next one year. Here, Fahad is seen with Prime Bank's managing director (current charge) Ahmed Kamal Khan Chowdhury during the agreement signing ceremony at the bank's head office on May 22.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## Simeone feels bitter

INTERNET, Lisbon



Atletico Madrid coach Diego Simeone was devastated that his side was defeated in extra time by Real Madrid, while he avoided criticizing the referee or Raphael Varane despite a late clash.

Simeone stressed he was bitter but not sad after Atletico Madrid was defeated 4-1 in the Champions League final by Real Madrid on Saturday.

"I don't feel sad," the Argentine told reporters after the match. "It's bitterness that I feel for not reaching my goal. The match ends when the referee wants, I've nothing else to say on the matter."

"Real Madrid were better in the second half of the game" he added. "We were all tired but they got a little better. I tried to tell my team that they remained competitive throughout the match and I am always

proud of my players — they fought until the end with a lot of humility.

"We were locked in the middle of the pitch with nowhere to go and that makes things very difficult. Football is marvellous for that. At times, it teaches us that winning is everything and it is the most important. Losing is not worthy of a tear, we need to keep our heads up and prepare for next season. It is part of the game but obviously you have the two situations. But we gave everything and other people know that Atletico can compete."

Simeone also defended his decision to start Diego Costa, who has been struggling with fitness issues in recent weeks, after the forward had to be brought off after nine minutes.

"The responsibility to play Costa was mine," he added. "I was wrong but he was not in the good condition that we saw yesterday."