

TEN ACTION

Europa League  
Bordeaux v Liverpool  
Live from 11:00pm  
Tottenham v Qarabag

TEN CRICKET

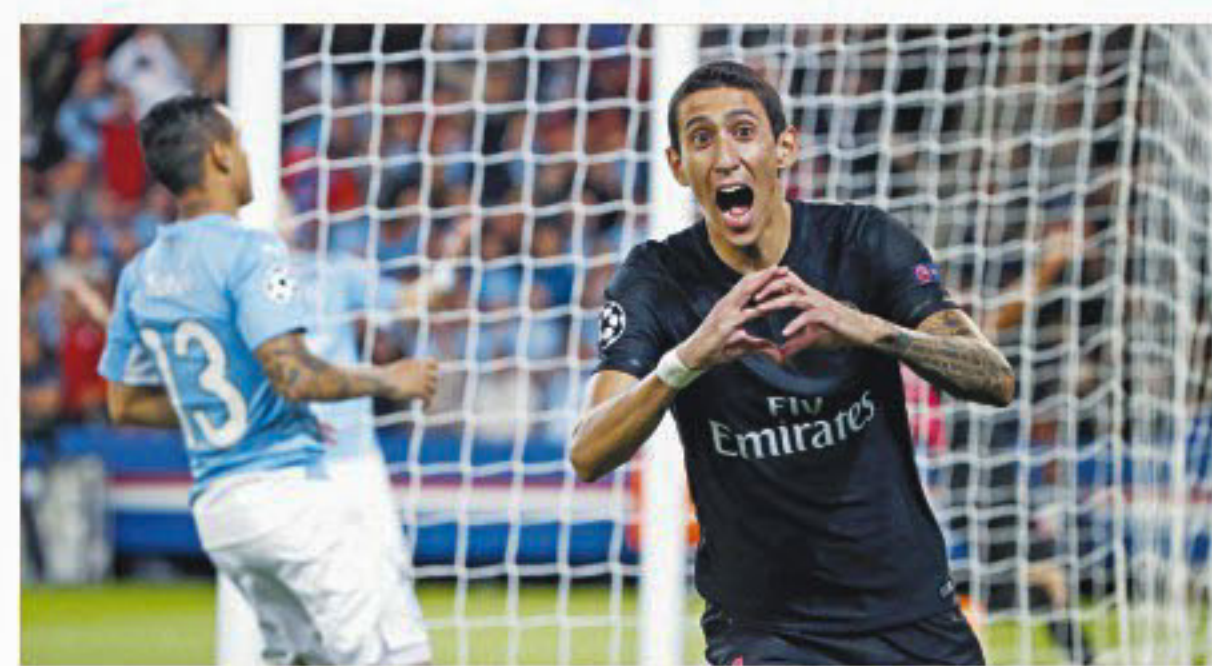
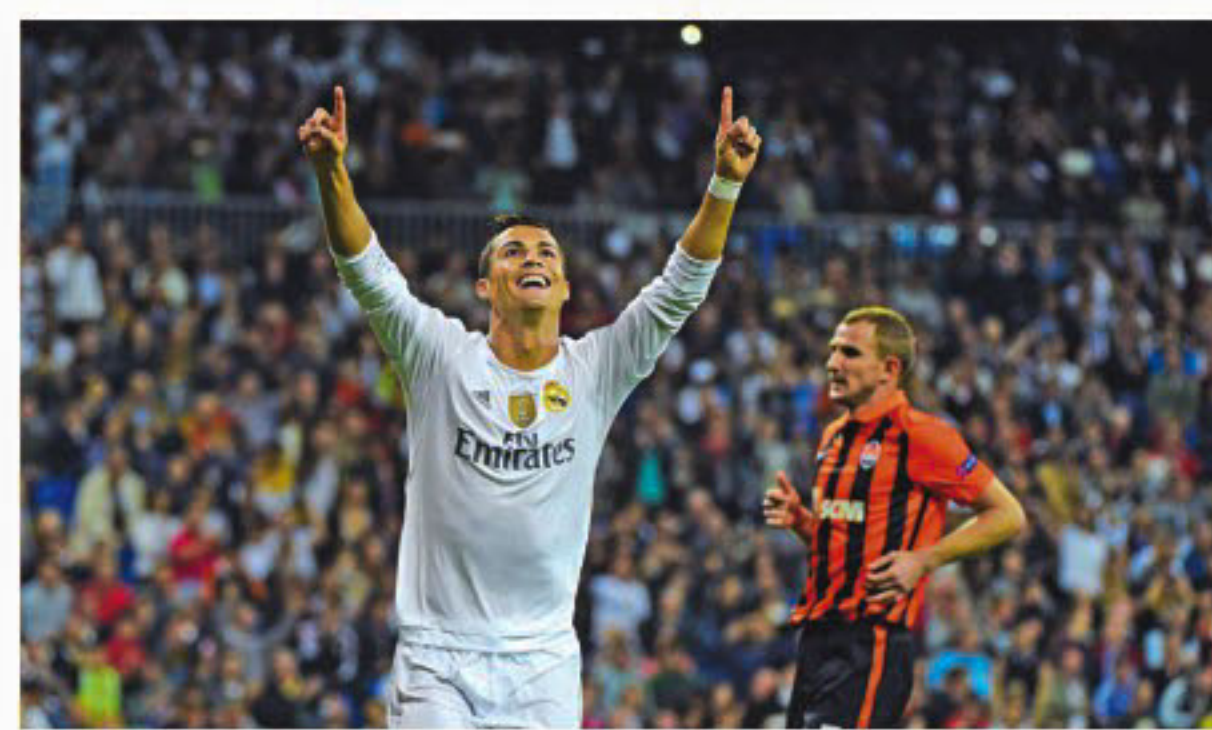
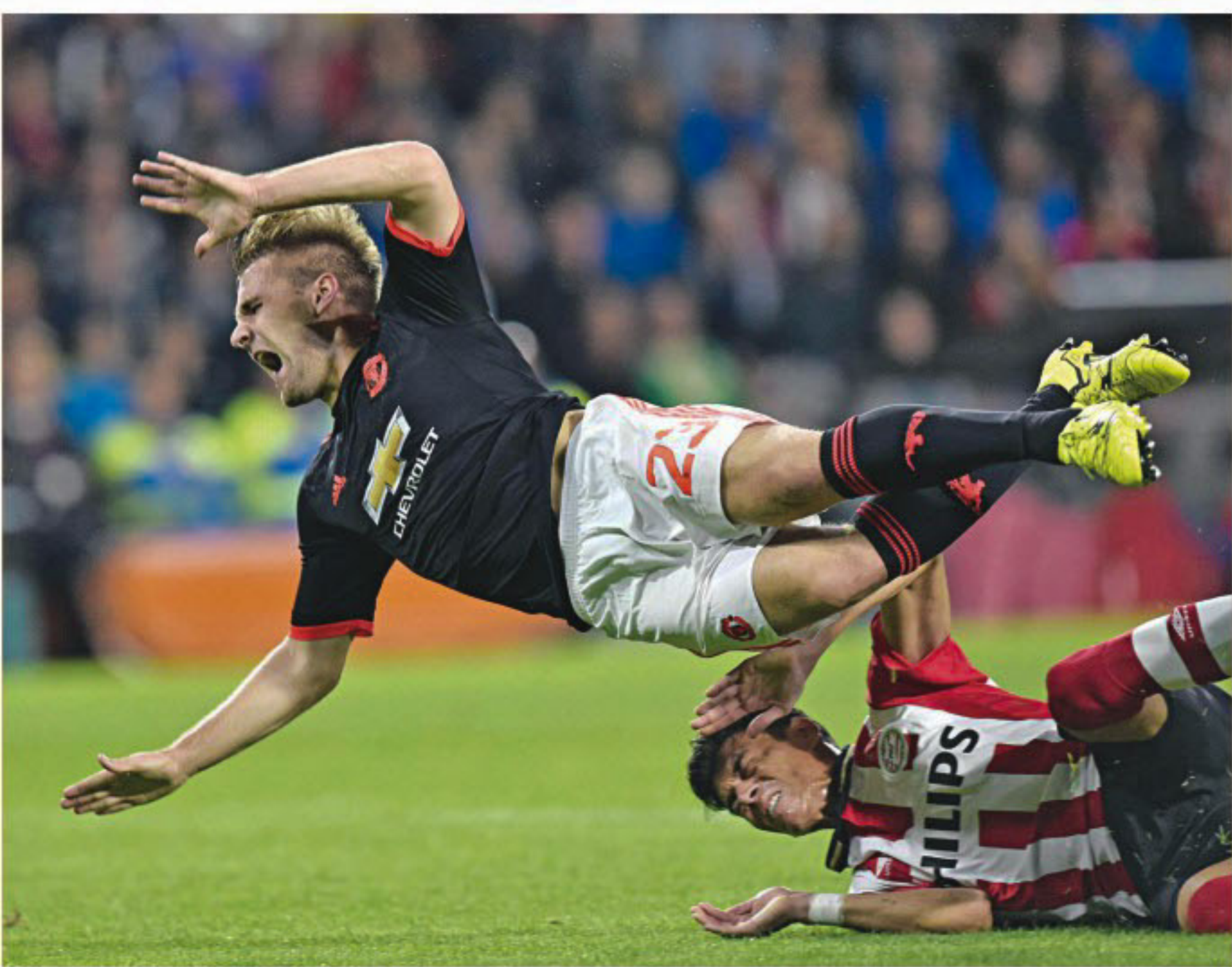
Europa League  
Napoli v Club Brugge  
Live from 11:00pm  
Anderlecht v Monaco

TEN SPORTS

Europa League  
Ajax v Celtic  
Live from 11:00pm  
Fiorentina v Basel

ASPAS KNOWS ONE WORD

Iago Aspas reportedly learned how to speak just one English word during his year-long spell at Liverpool. The Spaniard struggled to make an impact at Anfield following his arrival in 2013, and sealed a move to Sevilla this summer following a season-long loan at the club. In a feature by Marca, the linguistic skills of Spanish footballers who have moved to England were looked into, including Aspas, who is said to have only learned how to say 'yes' in English during an entire year in



# A dark night for MANCHESTER

AFP, Paris



It was a dreadful night in Manchester as perennial European under-achievers City lost 2-1 at home to last season's finalists Juventus.

City took the lead at the Etihad Stadium in controversial fashion as Vincent Kompany pressured Giorgio Chiellini into scoring an own goal on 57 minutes.

Juve had been holding on at times but Mario Mandzukic touched home Paul Pogba's cross to equalise on 70 minutes.

And nine minutes from time, Alvaro Morata pounced on an error from Aleksandar Kolarov to snare the winner.

The result was all the more surprising as City had won five from five league games so far while the Old Lady of Turin had drawn one and lost two of their three Serie A fixtures.

Manchester United suffered a miserable return to the Champions League after a 12-month hiatus as full-back Luke Shaw suffered a double fracture to his leg during Tuesday's 2-1 defeat at PSV Eindhoven.

Real Madrid had no such trouble as Cristiano Ronaldo scored a hat-trick in a 4-0 thrashing of 10-man Shakhtar Donetsk.

But the main talking point in the Netherlands was Shaw's terrible injury that saw him taken to hospital, and will now require an operation.

The England international was surging into the box when he was crunched by a dangerous tackle from Mexico international Hector Moreno.

Shaw received treatment for eight minutes on the pitch.

Memphis Depay gave United the lead against his former club with a sublime goal on 41 minutes.

But Moreno, who was perhaps lucky just to still be on the pitch, let alone to have not even given away a foul for his challenge, equalised through a deflected header from a corner just before the break.

If that equaliser was against the run of play, PSV's second had an element of smash-and-grab about it as Luciano Narsingh headed home a deep cross from Maxime Lestienne.

United dominated in terms of possession, territory and chances but simply could

not find another goal.

In Madrid, France striker Karim Benzema gave the hosts a 30th minute lead, although Gareth Bale had already gone off for Real with a calf injury.

Taras Stepanenko then got sent off for a second booking five minutes into the second period and Ronaldo took over.

He scored two penalties and then headed in a third to take his tally of goals within the week to eight following five in La Liga at the weekend.

It also took him three goals clear of great rival Lionel Messi in the all-time Champions League top scorers chart with 80.

At the Parc des Princes, Angel Di Maria

## RESULTS

Paris Saint-Germain (Di Maria 4, Cavani 61)	2-0	Malmö
Real Madrid (Benzema 30, Ronaldo 55-pen, 63-pen, 81)	4-0	Shakhtar Donetsk
VfL Wolfsburg (Draxler 40)	1-0	CSKA Moscow
PSV Eindhoven (Moreno 45+2, Narsingh 57)	2-1	Manchester United (Depay 41)
Galatasaray	0-2	Atletico Madrid (Griezmann 18, 25)
Benfica (Gaitan 51, Mitroglou 62)	2-0	Astana
Manchester City (Chiellini 57-og)	1-2	Juventus (Mandzukic 70, Morata 81)
Sevilla (Gameiro 47-pen, Banega 66-pen, Konoplyanka 84)	3-0	Borussia M'gladbach

started paying back his 63 million euros (\$68.9 million) price tag with his first goal for PSG after just four minutes.

He ran onto Marco Verratti's pass before beautifully finishing past Johan Wiland in the Malmö goal.

Uruguay striker Edinson Cavani added a second on the hour mark as he headed home a Zlatan Ibrahimovic flick from Maxwell's left-wing cross.

PSG should have won more handsomely but Ibrahimovic, in particular, was wasteful.

French forward Antoine Griezmann scored twice within seven first-half minutes to give Atletico Madrid a 3-0 win at Galatasaray.

## Ariful & BKSP's gold spree on

SPORTS REPORTER

Ariful Islam grabbed four more gold medals to lead Bangladesh Kirira Shikha Protishthan's (BKSP) medal haul at the end of the second day of the Mir Akhter Hossain Ltd 31st Age-Group Swimming Competition at the Mirpur National Swimming Complex yesterday.

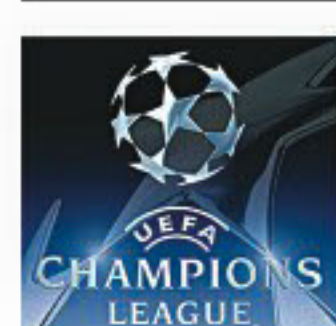
Ariful, who grabbed five gold medals including three in record timing on the opening day, grabbed four more gold and a silver medal yesterday, including two in record time. The 19-year-old swimmer, who recently returned after participating in the Youth Commonwealth Games in Samoa, won gold in 200m breaststroke, 100m freestyle, 200m backstroke, 1500m freestyle while grabbing a silver medal in the 100m butterfly event to take his individual medals tally to nine gold and one silver for the event.

Ariful was beaten to 47th of a second in the 100m butterfly by his teammate Titu Mia. Another of Ariful's teammates, Zahidul Islam, grabbed five gold and four silver medals in the 15-17 year age-group category while the same institution's Sonia Khatun led the girls' 18-20 year age-group category with eight gold medals.

A total of six new records were set out of 34 completed events on the second day as BKSP was comfortably leading the medals tally with 49 gold, 41 silver and 23 bronze followed by Bangladesh Ansar, who got 18 gold, 18 silver and 10 bronze medals.

# Shaw undergoes surgery

AFP, Manchester



Surgeons on Wednesday operated on Manchester United defender Luke Shaw after he suffered a horrific double leg fracture in the Champions League defeat to Dutch side PSV Eindhoven, the English club said. The 20-year-old spent the night in an Eindhoven hospital after being taken there during Tuesday night's 2-1 loss to PSV in their opening Group B game.

United said in a statement that the England defender would stay in the Dutch hospital "to continue his early recovery."

"Manchester United are grateful for the excellent care he is receiving and would like to thank everyone who has sent messages of support," the statement went on.

The England left-back, whose participation at Euro 2016 next year is now in jeopardy, faces a lengthy layoff after the sickening clash with PSV's

Mexican defender Hector Moreno in the first half.

Moreno slid in with a challenge, trapping Shaw's leg which then buckled under the pressure.

Incredibly, the foul was not even punished with a free-kick or caution from the Italian referee Nicolas Rizzoli.

"I just feel really bad because I was involved in the accident," Moreno told journalists.

"I'm really sorry. I think I played the ball."

"I just hope he'll be back as soon as possible."

United manager Louis van Gaal looked on in horror as Shaw was stretched off the pitch breathing through an oxygen mask to loud applause from the PSV and United fans, and the Dutchman was visibly moved.

"It's horrible. When he was going in the dressing room, he was with the oxygen mask, he was crying," van Gaal said after the match.

Asked how long he thought Shaw's recovery would take, van Gaal said: "I

am not a doctor, so I can't say. A double fracture, it generally takes six months, but you can never say in advance."

A potential return in March would give the former Southampton player a chance of being included in Roy Hodgson's England squad to go to the European Championship in France in June.

Shaw's United teammates rallied round and declared their support for the stricken defender but said it did not have a decisive bearing on the result.

Captain Wayne Rooney, who missed the trip to Eindhoven because of a hamstring injury, posted on Instagram: "Gutted for my teammate @lukeshaw23. Wishing you a speedy recovery mate, keep positive!"

Goalkeeper David de Gea tweeted: "Defeat hurts, but @LukeShaw23's injury hurts even more. We hope you come back even stronger!"

Winger Ashley Young wrote: "Very disappointing night for us. Wish @LukeShaw23 a speedy recovery, gutted for you, stay strong mate."

## 'Where are the fans?'

AFP, Berlin



Wolfsburg returned to the Champions League after a six-year absence with a win over CSKA Moscow on Tuesday, but sporting director Klaus Allofs was left fuming as many fans stayed away.

Germany international Julian Draxler's first-half goal, his first for the club since moving from Schalke, sealed a 1-0 victory over the Russian side, but just 20,126 spectators turned up at the Volkswagen Arena.

Capacity for European matches is 26,500 and the gate figure was boosted because Wolfsburg had invited 1,200 refugees to watch the match for free.

"I didn't hear the Champions League anthem before the game, because I was busy looking where our fans were," fumed Allofs.

Allofs gave a simple answer when asked where the problem lay, "in a city of 125,000 inhabitants", but while the German Cup holders are used to capacity crowds in domestic matches, the visit of CSKA appeared to hold less appeal.

A sell-out 30,000 crowd watched their 3-0 Bundesliga win over Schalke on a Friday night a fortnight ago with the capacity set higher for German league matches.

There is, however, a very practical explanation to the low crowd.

The local Volkswagen car plant is just 500m from the stadium, but the factory's late shift started at 2200 local time (2000 GMT) and the game was due to finish soon after.

In 2009, Volkswagen, who sponsor Wolfsburg, changed the shift times so their fans could see their team play in the Champions League.

Wolfsburg will hope sell-out crowds turn out for their next two home games in Group B against PSV Eindhoven and Manchester

## Ramos suffers shoulder injury

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid defender Sergio Ramos is a major doubt for Saturday's La Liga clash at home to Granada after suffering a shoulder injury in Madrid's 4-0 win over Shakhtar Donetsk.

"The player has been diagnosed with a dislocated acromioclavicular joint in his left shoulder. His condition will be evaluated," the club said in a statement on Wednesday.

"Always with a smile, whatever happens. Working hard to come back stronger," Ramos posted on his Twitter account.

# Ronaldo leads arch-rival Messi

AGENCIES, Madrid



Cristiano Ronaldo moved in front of Lionel Messi as the top goalscorer in Champions League history with a hat-trick in a 4-0 Real Madrid rout over 10-man Shakhtar Donetsk on Tuesday.

Ronaldo scored twice from the penalty spot before heading home to complete his second hat-trick in four days and take his tally in the competition to 80, three ahead of his Barcelona rival.

"I am very happy. I thank my teammates for the confidence they have given me," said Ronaldo.

"We knew that the pre-season was less important, that we needed to start well in La Liga and the Champions League."

"We started a little badly in La Liga with a draw, but since then we have been good, more consistent and we're on a good run."

It was another memorable night for Ronaldo after his five against Espanyol on Saturday to close to within two of Raul's record of 323 for Real Madrid. But as has been the case so often in the past, he was helped by the award of two highly-controversial penalties.

Of his five goals against Espanyol at the weekend, only one came from the spot and it was a clear penalty as Gareth Bale was hacked down in the box, but against Shakhtar neither should have been given.

Ronaldo's two penalties mean he has now netted 11 in the Champions League - more than any other player in the history of the competition. His first had seen him draw level with former team-mates Luis Figo and Ruud van Nistelrooy; his second sends him clear as the player with the most spot kicks converted in the tournament.

Only at Real since 2009, Ronaldo has now scored a massive 60 (out of 67) penalties for Los Blancos - a little less than a fifth of his 321 goals which see him within touching distance of Raul's record.

During his 16 years at the Bernabeu, Raul netted 323 (in 741 appearances), but only five of those came from the penalty spot and of his 71 Champions League strikes for Real, none were penalties.

Penalties or no penalties, Ronaldo's record is incredible: 321 goals in just 304 games since moving to Madrid from Manchester United for a record €94 million in 2009. The spot kicks have helped, but even without them he would likely have gone on to beat the tally of the Spanish striker at some stage.

## Ballon d'Or ceremony on Jan 11

AFP, Paris

The winner of this year's Ballon d'Or will be announced at a ceremony in Zurich on January 11, 2016, FIFA announced on Wednesday.

Real Madrid and Portugal superstar Cristiano Ronaldo won the award for football's world player of the year last year, but his old rival Lionel Messi will hope to wrestle the prize back after an outstanding year with Barcelona.

The ceremony will also see the winner of the women's world player of the year announced along with the prizes for the top coaches in men's and women's football and the winner of the Puskas award for the best goal of the year.

## Pogba pokes fun at City

AFP, Milan

Juventus star Paul Pogba has poked fun at big-spending Manchester City after their English giants' 2-1 Champions League defeat to the Italians on Tuesday.

Pogba, formerly of City's local rivals Manchester United, posted a message on his Facebook page which said: "Qatar City 1-2 Juventus. Great win. Thank you for your support."

Pogba may have mistaken the reference -- City's owner, Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, is actually from the ruling family of Abu Dhabi -- but the meaning of the French midfielder's post is unequivocal. Thanks to Sheik Mansour's financial clout, City are now one of the world's richest clubs.