



(FROM L) After just 18 months since he took charge of Real Madrid, Zinedine Zidane lifted the Champions League trophy for the second time, breaking the holders' curse as Real Madrid became the first club to retain the trophy, which they celebrated with fervour. At the other end, Juventus stalwart Gianluigi Buffon, on the verge of tears at the final whistle, had to walk past Europe's greatest prize with a runners-up medal around his neck for the third time.

PHOTOS: REUTERS

Ronaldo fires Real to 12th crown: A heavenly feeling

REUTERS, Cardiff

Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice as Real Madrid beat Juventus 4-1 in a memorable Champions League final full of attacking verve and brilliant goals on Saturday as the Spaniards won the title for the third time in four years and 12th in all. The Portugal forward hit Real's first and third goals to become only the second man to score in three European Cup finals and take his career tally to 600 for club and country. Few of those will have matched Mario Mandzukic's spectacular overhead equaliser for Juventus, which was eventually in vain for the Italian side who had the best of the first half before being swept aside in the second. A long-range deflected effort by Casemiro and a neat finish by the irrepressible Ronaldo within four minutes effectively settled one of the most entertaining finals for years, with a late tap-in by substitute Marco Asensio adding the gloss. The victory means Real are the first team to successfully defend the trophy in the Champions League era. AC Milan were the last team to retain Europe's top prize when they triumphed in 1989 and 1990. "It's been a spectacular year, you

couldn't dream of anything better," said Real coach Zinedine Zidane. "We won the [Spanish] league on the very last day. It's very difficult to reach the Champions League final two years running, but we did that. The first half was difficult, but in the second we were quickly superior. We pressed a lot more and physically we won the game there too, so I'm very happy." It was heartbreak again for Juve, however, who were seeking a treble after winning the Italian league and cup. They came away as losers for the seventh time in nine European Cup finals having also lost to Barcelona in 2015.

Juventus looked the more adventurous side in the first 20 minutes but it was Real who struck first after the sort of trigonometric build-up that coaches write books about. Ronaldo was at the heart of it, playing the ball into the path of Dani Carvajal who cut it straight back to allow the Portuguese forward to sweep the ball sweetly into the far corner. That made Ronaldo the second man to score in three finals, after Alfredo Di Stefano, who netted in five in a row for Real in the 1950s. Ronaldo's effort was eclipsed seven minutes later by one of the all-time great final goals.

Juve centre back Leonardo Bonucci drove a long diagonal ball which Alex Sandro reached and cushioned back across the box. With another volley Gonzalo Higuain knocked it to Croatia striker Mandzukic, who took a touch on his chest and, with his back to goal, struck a stunning bicycle kick that looped over Real keeper Keylor Navas. The ball did not touch the ground between leaving Bonucci's boot and hitting the net. It was a different story after the break, however, and though Juve's drilled defence initially kept Real at arm's length, they were undone by a two-goal salvo. "Again, I've had an amazing season," said Ronaldo. "Me and my team mates have done the double. The numbers don't lie. I'm very happy -- an amazing season, we've won trophies. This is one of the best moments of my career -- I have the chance to say this every year." After a positive start it turned into a hugely frustrating night for Juventus and their coach Max Allegri. "My only criticism of my team is that after the second goal we should have found a solution to stay in the game," he said. "But Real Madrid have important players and when they have a player who wins the Ballon d'Or [Ronaldo] it's a huge advantage."

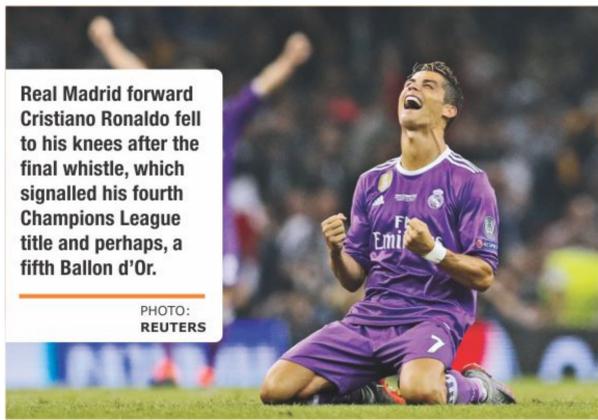
AL-AMIN from Cardiff

Cristiano Ronaldo's Real Madrid created history at Cardiff's Municipality Stadium on Saturday as his two goals presented his side with a 4-1 win against Juventus in the final and enabled the Spanish giants to become the first team to retain the UEFA Champions League title. Real Madrid's victory against the Italian giant has already been well-documented. So instead of focusing on the technical details of a pulsating final in front of the 74,500 capacity crowd, it's better for someone who is an outcast between the two rival fanbases, to savour his own historic Champions League moment. If you are sitting in row 10 of the L9 entrance of the magnificent stadium, you are one of the lucky few who will see the manager's technical area from hand-shaking distance. You will also find yourself just behind the reserve bench and closest to the dug-out. It was actually a mixed zone where both Real and Juventus fans shared glory and pain side by side. Entry into the stadium nearly three hours before kick-off can be mundane, but a Champions League final is the exception. The deafening roars of 'ole, ole Juve', followed by the counter roars from the opposite end give you a heavenly feeling inside that closed venue covered by a retractable roof. It was so loud that it even drove away the few doves, who live in the cozy comfort of those metallic arches of the roof. You are also not going to miss anything as two giant screens

ensure you see your two beloved teams entering the stadium and all the way to the dug-out. The sight of a Zinedine Zidane, Ronaldo, a giant Buffon, a pint-sized Marcelo, an extremely skilful Paulo Dybala or a reclined Leonardo Bonucci from very close is something that gives you an unearthly feeling. Is it real? It was. Ronaldo was dashing down menacingly and fell after slipping the ball past Bonucci. Huge uproar for a penalty and over-ruled. A beefy attempt and a brilliant save by Keylor Navas in the other half. In the 20th minute Ronaldo found a bit of space and pushed the ball wide to Dani Carvajal before finding space on the edge of the box. The return ball was perfect, and the forward dipped it past the outstretched hands of Buffon. Buffon has everything -- even a second division title for Juve -- save for a Champions League title, but he failed to protect his right-hand post four times in the match. Seven minutes later, the audience united in one voice: "wow!" A magnificent overhead kick from Mario Mandzukic saw the scores leveled. After the break, a wicked deflection and a horrible misspasm one can ill-afford against team like Real and a predator like Ronaldo ensured the game as a contest was all but over. A Real Madrid fan, sitting just in front of this reporter, was wearing full-sleeved shirt and on the back it read "MR PERFECT". It was indeed a perfect Ronaldo match. Another Real fan who was instructing the players throughout the game said with a voice of authority before the game: "We don't come to play a final. We come to win it."

Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo fell to his knees after the final whistle, which signalled his fourth Champions League title and perhaps, a fifth Ballon d'Or.

PHOTO: REUTERS



'Masters of the universe' Spanish press hail 'Unreal Madrid'

REUTERS, Cardiff

Real Madrid dominated the front and back pages of Spanish newspapers on Sunday after they beat Juventus 4-1 to win their 12th European Cup. "Masters of the universe," ran the headline on the front page of Spanish sports newspaper Marca, which added: "Real Madrid thrash Juve to win the 12th!" "The 12th for the insatiable," read a wrap-around cover on AS, which hailed the decisive Cristiano Ronaldo as the most valuable player of Saturday's final and said he was "a step away from his fifth Ballon d'Or". The Portuguese striker scored twice to become the Champions League top scorer with a total of 12 goals in the competition, reaching a milestone 600th career goal. Even media in Barcelona found it within themselves to praise Madrid, with Diario Sport calling them "Just champions" on their cover, while Mundo Deportivo acknowledged Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane's part in the triumph, labelling the Frenchman "historic". On Saturday, both publications had openly expressed their desire for Juventus to win at the Principality Stadium but they acknowledged Madrid's triumph with more grace on Sunday.

"Kings 12 times," splashed La Razon, while Spain's oldest newspaper, ABC, wrote "Real Madrid without limits". El Pais said "Real Madrid enter a new golden era," referencing their third Champions League triumph in four seasons. The praise spread further afield, with France's L'Equipe labelling the winners "Unreal Madrid", while Portugal's E Bola featured a picture of Ronaldo leaping in celebration with the headline "Jump to eternity".



Nadal, Djokovic into quarterfinals Mladenovic ousts Muguruza

AFP, Paris

Nine-time champion Rafael Nadal and title-holder Novak Djokovic surged into the French Open quarter-finals for a record-equalling 11th time yesterday, but reigning women's champion Garbine Muguruza crashed out in the last 16. Nadal continued his ruthless form at Roland Garros by dispatching Spanish 17th seed Roberto Bautista Agut 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 to match Roger Federer's mark of last-eight appearances in Paris. The 14-time major winner has dropped just 20 games in four matches as he strives to become the first man to win 10 titles at a single Grand Slam. The fourth seed will meet compatriot Pablo Carreno Busta, through to his first Slam quarter-final, for spot in the last four after the latter stunned Canada's Milos Raonic. Djokovic also became an 11-time quarter-finalist as he sauntered past Spain's Albert Ramos-Vinolas 7-6 (7/5), 6-1, 6-3. The Serb needed 75 minutes to clinch the opening set but then outclassed the 19th seed to set up a showdown with Dominic Thiem. Austrian sixth seed Thiem thrashed Argentina's Horacio Zeballos 6-1, 6-3, 6-1 to reach the quarters for a second straight year. Japan's Kei Nishikori, who faces Fernando Verdasco next, fought off a fierce challenge from South Korea's Hyeon Chung in an all-Asian tussle held over from Saturday following rain to clinch a place in the last 16. Chung quickly forced the contest into a fifth set as play resumed on Sunday, but the world number 67 double faulted on match point to gift Nishikori a 7-5, 6-4, 6-7 (4/7), 0-6, 6-4 victory. Karen Khachanov will play Andy Murray in the fourth round after the giant Russian beat American 21st seed John Isner 7-6 (7/1), 6-3, 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (7/3). Kristina Mladenovic ensured the host nation will have two women in the quarter-finals for the first time since 1994 after dumping out fourth seed Muguruza 6-1, 3-6, 6-3. The French 13th seed is through to just her second Slam quarter-final -- after the 2015 US Open -- and will face Switzerland's Timea Bacsinszky for a spot in the last four. The Swiss 30th seed, a 2015 semi-finalist, defeated 2002 runner-up Venus Williams 5-7, 6-2, 6-1 to guarantee a first-time major champion will be crowned next Saturday.

KINGS OF EUROPE

Real Madrid have scored in every single match of the 2016-17 season across all competitions.	Zinedine Zidane is the first manager to win back-to-back titles in the Champions League era. The last person to win successive European Cups was AC Milan coach Arrigo Sacchi (1989-90).
Real Madrid became the first team to score 500 goals in the Champions League.	Juventus conceded one more goal (4) in yesterday's final than they did in the rest of the tournament (3).
Juan Cuadrado became the third player to be sent off in a Champions League final, after Jens Lehmann and Didier Drogba.	Mario Mandzukic became the third player to score in a European Cup/CL final for 2 different teams after Velibor Vasovic and Ronaldo.
Buffon was the third oldest player to play a European final (39y 126d) after Dino Zoff and Edwin van der Sar.	

REDOUBTABLE RONALDO
Cristiano Ronaldo finished as the top scorer in the Champions League for the 5th straight year.
Ronaldo reached the 10-goal mark for the sixth straight season in the Champions League. No other player has done it in more than two straight seasons.
With six goals, Ronaldo has scored more Champions League goals against Gianluigi Buffon than any other player in history.
Ronaldo joins Iniesta and Seedorf with four wins in the final of the Champions League.
Ronaldo has scored at least twice as many Champions League goals as any other player in the quarterfinals (20), semifinals (13) and finals (4).
Ronaldo has now scored in three Champions League finals, more than any other player.
Yesterday was Ronaldo's fifth European Cup final. Only Maldini, Gento (8) and Di Stefano (7) have played in more.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Written Test for the posts of Senior Officer & Officer

The Written test for the posts of Senior Officer & Officer will be held on **Friday 09 June 2017, 03:30 p.m.** Details of the test will be available in the Admit Card. The candidates are requested to download and print their Admit Cards for the Written test from the website of the Bank: www.pubalibangla.com/career.asp Admit Cards will be available at the website only for the short-listed candidates.

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