



**Cristiano Ronaldo did not miss a beat upon his return to Real Madrid, scoring a quick-fire double against APOEL Nicosia on Wednesday to ensure the holders made a winning start to their Champions League title defence.**

PHOTO: AFP

### REMARKABLE RONALDO

Cristiano Ronaldo surpassed Lionel Messi as the scorer of most Champions League penalties with his 20th yesterday.

With 55 goals, Ronaldo also crossed Messi as the scorer of most Champions League goals at home. He extended his record as the Champion League's all-time record goalscorer with his 107th. He has more goals than 116 teams who have played in the Champions League.

Incredibly, Ronaldo did not score until his 30th game in the competition.

## Booters hit all-time low in rankings

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh football team hit rock-bottom as they were ranked at an all-time low of 196th by the world's governing body in the latest FIFA Rankings.

The men in red and green dropped seven places despite playing no games the past month as other teams moved ahead of them. There are only nine active teams below Bangladesh in the rankings, while six others are inactive. In April of 1996, Bangladesh reached their highest-ever place in the rankings as they climbed to 100th. By the end of 2010 they were 159th.

Since 2010 they played 45 matches that were taken into FIFA's consideration, having

won nine of them. They drew a further 11 and racked up 24 losses, more than half their games.

Bangladesh have not played a match under consideration so far in 2016. As a result their ranking may worsen over the coming months. However, as of yet Bangladesh are not the lowest-ranked team in the Asian Football Confederation - Mongolia (197th), Sri Lanka (198th) and Pakistan (200th) - are lower.

On the international front, Germany overtook Brazil at the top of the rankings while Gareth Bale's Wales have moved ahead of England, who are 15th, to grab British bragging rights.

Argentina's troubled campaign saw them slide to fourth place, with Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal moving up to third.

### BANGLADESH SINCE 2010

YEAR	RANK	P	W	L	D
2017	196	0	-	-	-
2016	185	9	1	6	2
2015	182	15	3	9	3
2014	165	3	1	0	2
2013	164	5	1	3	1
2012	168	3	0	1	2
2011	157	10	3	5	2

## Ronaldo returns with a brace

AFP, Madrid



Cristiano Ronaldo wasted no time in showing Real Madrid what they have been missing during his five-game domestic suspension, by scoring twice as the holders began their Champions League defence with a routine 3-0 win over APOEL Nicosia on Wednesday.

Ronaldo, banned for pushing a referee after being sent off in the first leg of the Spanish Super Cup, opened the scoring after just 12 minutes from Gareth Bale's 10th goal.

The Portuguese doubled his tally from the penalty spot before Sergio Ramos's overhead kick rounded off the scoring. Real moved to the top of Group H alongside Tottenham Hotspur, who ended their Wembley hoodoo with an impressive 3-1 win over Borussia Dortmund.

Ronaldo has now struck 12 times in his last six Champions League games. "He is the best in the world. We know he will always score goals," said Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane.

"With a bit more luck today he could have scored four.

Ronaldo described the length of his ban as "persecution" on the part of the Spanish football federation and his absence has been felt by Real in profligate performances in being held at home by Valencia and Levante.

"We are on a run of games without scoring many goals, but you can't trash them all the time," said Ramos.

"Cristiano has so many goals in him and we feel it. "Hopefully he stays in form. You can't question the levels he reaches every year."

Zidane admitted that the club's failure to replace Alvaro Morata had left his striking options limited, particularly in the absence of Karim Benzema through a hamstring injury.

However, with Bale excelling back on the left, Ronaldo filled that void as he swept home at the back post from the Welshman's cross.

Ronaldo then headed into the side-netting from a similar position from another Bale delivery moments later. Real suffered an injury setback midway

through the half as Mateo Kovacic limped off to be replaced by Toni Kroos.

And the hosts' rhythm was disrupted as they struggled to create more clear-cut chances against the dogged Cypriot champions before the break.

Ronaldo thought he had doubled his tally a minute into the second half as his volley from Dani Carvajal's pinpoint cross came off the underside of the bar, but didn't cross the line despite his protests.

Madrid's luck turned moments later when Roberto Lago was very harshly penalised for handball from Bale's deflected cross and Ronaldo smashed home the resulting penalty. Ronaldo showed his hunger for more goals as he retrieved the ball from the net and raced back to the halfway line.

However, it was Ramos who struck next in acrobatic fashion from point-blank range.

Ronaldo thought he had bagged an eighth Champions' League hat-trick when he swept home Luka Modric's cross.

But he was denied by the offside flag for Real had to settle for three as they beat their quest for a 13th European Cup.



Tottenham Hotspur striker Harry Kane found the back of the net twice as the Londoners defeated Borussia Dortmund 3-1 at the Wembley Stadium on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP

### QUICK SINGLES

The following are a few samples of stories that did not make the print edition. However, if they pique your interest, you can always read them online on the Daily Star website by simply scanning the QR codes listed below:

**Alghan spin star Rashid to play in Australia's BBL**  
Alghan's spin sensation Rashid Khan will play for the Adelaide Strikers in Australia's Twenty20 Big Bash League later this year, the club said. The 18-year-old, who was one of the most successful bowlers in this year's Indian Premier League, will become the first Afghan to feature at the tournament.

**Dhawan to miss first three Australia clashes**  
India opening batsman Shikhar Dhawan will miss the first three one-day internationals against Australia to be with his ailing wife, the Indian cricket board said.

**Few runs and cons before SA Test tour**  
Bangladesh's last Test tour in South African soil came in 2008 when Bangladesh lost the two-Test tour 2-0. The margin of both defeats were huge as South Africa won the first Test by an innings and 129 runs and the second Test by an innings and 48 runs.

**Kohli best left alone, warns Gillespie**  
Former Test captain quick Jason Gillespie has told his compatriots to not get carried away by their sliding routine and to not get into verbal jostling with India skipper Virat Kohli when the two teams face each other in five ODIs.

## Sacchi weeps for Italian clubs

AFP, Milan



Former Champions League winning coach Arrigo Sacchi said there was nothing to do but cry after all three Italian clubs failed to win their opening Champions League games. Serie A champions Juventus were whipped 3-0 by Barcelona on Tuesday, while Napoli were beaten 2-1 by Shakhtar Donetsk on Wednesday.

Roma's point in a goalless draw against Atletico Madrid was the only one won by Italian sides in the first match day.

"I'm sorry, we just have to weep," former Italy manager Sacchi said. "We get one point in three games. "Napoli never understood the movement of the Ukrainians in midfield. I saw a confused team with no ideas. They lacked legs. If you play in Europe like you do at Bologna then you're going to lose, Shakhtar Donetsk deserved to win."

"I really like following Napoli, they're the team who excite me most because they will thank to collective movement which raises the level of the individuals. Last night though the collective play was missing, as was the fluidity."

## Spurs best Dortmund, Liverpool held

AFP, London



Both Manchester United and Chelsea had successful outings in Europe in the Champions League's first matchday on Tuesday and the English clubs looked to keep a 100 per cent record on Wednesday, but it was not to be.

Despite Tottenham Hotspur downing Borussia Dortmund 3-2 and Manchester City handing Feyenoord their heaviest European defeat, the English clubs were let down as Liverpool were held to a 2-2 draw by Sevilla at Anfield.

**'WEMBLEY CURSE IS DEAD'**  
Mauricio Pochettino says Tottenham's 3-1 Champions League victory over Borussia Dortmund has finally killed off the Wembley curse.

Pochettino's side opened their Group H campaign with an impressive display at their temporary Wembley home as Harry Kane's double and a Son Heung-Min strike sealed the points. It was only Tottenham's third win in their last 13 matches at Wembley during their first season.

"I hope that can help us to stop the talk of the

hoodoo and everything. It's fantastic to start well in the competition, but also to stop everything that was around the team here," Tottenham coach Mauricio Pochettino said.

**NO MAGIC SOLUTION FOR US: KLOPP**  
Jurgen Klopp says the transfer market is not the magic solution to Liverpool's woes after familiar players returned to team this side-against Sevilla.

Dejan Lovren's slip allowed Wissam Ben Yedder to score early at Anfield but goals from Roberto Firmino and Mohamed Salah appeared to have put the hosts in control. But with 18 minutes to go the defence switched off and Joaquin Correa equalised.

"I know you are always looking for this thing - the defence was always something being talked about: 'We didn't sign this or that,'" said Klopp. "If these problems could be solved by one player you can imagine we would have put all our money into it and say: 'Let's do this.'"

**STONES THE HERO FOR CITY**  
Manchester City thrashed Dutch champions Feyenoord 4-0 as defender John Stones scored

### RESULTS

Maribor	1 - 1	Spartak Moscow
Bihar 85		Samedeo 59
<b>Liverpool</b>	2 - 2	<b>Sevilla</b>
Firmino 21, Salah 37		Ben Yedder 5, Correa 72
<b>Feyenoord</b>	0 - 4	<b>Manchester City</b>
		Stones 2, 63, Aguerro 16, Jesus 25
<b>Shakhtar Donetsk</b>	2 - 1	<b>Napoli</b>
Taison 15, Feyenoza 58		Milla 72 gen
<b>RB Leipzig</b>	1 - 1	<b>Monaco</b>
Harlekin 33		Toulmond 24
<b>Porto</b>	1 - 3	<b>Besiktas</b>
Teich 21-og		Galica 13, Iscan 28, Babek 86
<b>Real Madrid</b>	3 - 0	<b>APOEL</b>
Ronaldo 12, 5, pen, Ramos 61		
<b>Tottenham</b>	3 - 1	<b>Dortmund</b>
Son 4, Kane 15, 80		Yarmolenko 11

twice to get Pep Guardiola's side off to a flying start. Stones headed home on two minutes after a sublime chip by skipper David Silva, and as Sergio Agueero and Gabriel Jesus had made the win safe, the England centre-back capped off the evening with a second powerful header for a brace.

## Sheikh Russel edge BJMC

SPORTS REPORTER



Sheikh Russel registered their third win in this season's Bangladesh Premier League as they secured a narrow 1-0 win over Team BJMC at the Bangabandhu National

Stadium on Thursday. Young forward Mohammad Julfikar scored the winner in the second half, which took Sheikh Russel to fifth position. They now have 11 points from eight matches, while BJMC's fourth of the season saw them remain in ninth place, with six points from eight matches.



Sheikh Russel forward Mohammad Julfikar (R) celebrates after scoring the all-important goal against Team BJMC in their Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

The league will now be suspended until preparation time for the national Under-18 team, who will participate in the SAFF U-18 Championship in Bhutan from September 18 to 27.

Chittagong Abahani lead the eight-team table going into the break after the eighth round of matches concluded. They have 22 points and are two clear of second-placed Sheikh Laam.

Newcomers Saif Sporting Club are in third position with 17 points while title holders Abahani have the same number of points but are fourth due to an inferior goal difference.

Sheikh Russel could have gone ahead as early as the 23rd minute, but BJMC's were given a reprieve by Cameroonian defender Bayback Essai's goal-line clearance to deny Kewest Ali Babu, who had shot from just inside the box following a fine cross from Gambia's Dawda Ceesay.

However, Russel did eventually go ahead, finding the back of the net in the 55th minute after BJMC keeper Ariful Islam's stop from a powerful Ceesay free-kick ricocheted straight to Julfikar, who headed home from close range.

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**EU mootung team awarded "Best New Team" in Washington DC, USA**

Eastern University Mooting Team was awarded 'BEST NEW TEAM AWARD' in the International Rounds of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, 2017 in Washington DC, USA held on 8 to 15 April 2017.

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