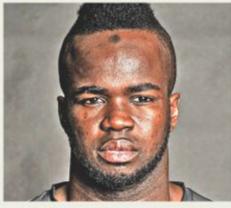


GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN



◀ The Ivorian footballer died after suffering a cardiac arrest in training for Beijing Enterprises.

CHEICK TIOTÉ
1986-2017

▶ The American one-time MotoGP World Champion succumbed to injuries from a bicycling accident.

NICKY HAYDEN
1981-2017



◀ The Wimbledon winner lost her battle with cancer at the age of 49.

JANA NOVOTNA
1968-2017

▶ The champion middleweight boxer's life was portrayed in the movie 'The Ragging Bull'.

JAKE LAMOTTA
1922-2017



◀ Australia's Golden Girl had won the 100m, 200m and 400m in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics.

BETTY CUTHBERT
1938-2017

▶ Apart from tenures at English clubs, he managed the England national team for three years.

GRAHAM TAYLOR
1944-2017



e-mail: sports@thedailystar.net
DHAKA SUNDAY DECEMBER 31, 2017,
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BREAKOUT STARS



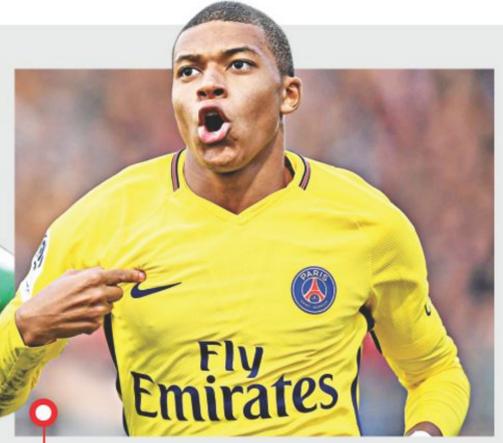
HASAN ALI

As is the case almost every year, 2017 also saw some new faces explode onto the scene in spectacular fashion. From three different sports, the players that stood out the most were French footballer Kylian Mbappe, Pakistan cricketer Hasan Ali and German tennis player Alexander Zverev.

Already showing glimpses of his promise the previous year, Mbappe stole the show in 2017 as Monaco broke up PSG's monopoly on the Ligue 1 title. The then 18-year-old also starred in the Champions League, earning a 180-million-euro move to PSG. At the Parc des Princes, he has skyrocketed to new heights, sparing not even Bayern Munich

in a Champions League match. In the cricketing world, Ali finally came of age some four years after his debut. He picked up a fiver against Australia in a ODI series in January, but while that may be the highlight for a bowler's year, Ali was just starting. He stole the show in the Champions Trophy, finishing as the highest wicket-taker with 13 as Pakistan stole the prize.

Although tennis was dominated by the old guard of Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, 20-year-old Zverev was ranked World No. 3 in November and even drew praise from Federer, who called him the 'full package'.



KYLIAN MBAPPE



ALEXANDER ZVEREV

RELIVING 2017



BOLT'S LAST STAND

The end for Usain Bolt was unlike anything that the world had envisioned. Unbeaten over the past nine years in 100m and 200m, the Jamaican finished his last individual 100m race in third position, with two-time dope offender Justin Gatlin sprinting away with the crown. Worse was yet to come in his last race, the 4X100m relay, where he failed to even finish the race with a hamstring injury, limping off the track in pain and agony.



Following a year dominated absolutely by Novak Djokovic, tennis's 'Big Two', Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal were back to their best as they shared the four Grand Slams.



Real Madrid (Top) completed an incredible year by picking up a quintuple; winning La Liga, Champions League, FIFA Club World Cup, Spanish Super Cup and UEFA Super Cup. In recognition of his dominant performances throughout those tournaments, Cristiano Ronaldo (Bottom) was recognised as world football's best player for the second year running as he picked up a record-equalling fifth Ballon d'Or.



MELBOURNE

Despite being pregnant at the time, Serena Williams won the Australian Open and surpassed Steffi Graf's record of most Grand Slam titles won in the Open Era.



Brazilian superstar Neymar (R) shocked the world as he made the switch from Barcelona to Paris Saint-Germain in the summer for a world record fee of 222 million euros.



Pakistan winning the Champions Trophy was one of the most unexpected yet refreshing stories from the cricket world. Elsewhere, Australia captain Steven Smith (C) dominated the Test batting chart with five hundreds and a double hundred at an average of 76.76 while India's Rohit Sharma (R) scored his third double century in ODIs and the joint-fastest hundred in T20Is.

