

STAR SPORTS 1
ICC Women's World T20
 Australia v England
 Live from 6:00am
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
English Premier League
 Bournemouth v Arsenal

Live from 7:30pm
 Wolves v Huddersfield
 Live from 10:00pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
Bundesliga
 Monchengladbach v Hannover
 Live from 11:00pm

SONY ESPN
 Sri Lanka v England
 Third Test, Day Three
 Live from 10:30am
SONY SIX
 Australia v India
 Third T20

Live from 1:50pm
La Liga
 Espanyol v Girona
 Live from 11:30pm
TEN 1
Serie A
 Lazio v AC Milan

Live from 11:00pm
La Liga
 Villarreal v Real Betis
 Live from 1:45am (Monday)
TEN 2
 Pakistan v New Zealand
 Second Test, Day Two

Live from 12:00pm
Serie A
 Genoa v Sampdoria
 Live from 1:30am (Monday)

Solari's honeymoon over at Eibar

AFP, Eibar

Santiago Solari proved the perfect caretaker but his debut as permanent coach of Real Madrid on Saturday ended in a disastrous 3-0 defeat at Eibar.

Four wins while in temporary charge earned Solari a contract until 2021 over the international break, only for Real to revert to the kind of chaotic display that cost Julen Lopetegui the sack.

This defeat also brought into focus the mind set of Madrid's players, after their captain Sergio Ramos faced allegations of an anti-doping violation on Friday night from German magazine Der Spiegel. The club denied any breach.

Eibar were stronger, more aggressive and, worryingly for Solari, appeared clearer about the plan they wanted to execute. Marc Cucurella, brilliant down the left, was instrumental in all three goals, scored by Gonzalo Escalante, Sergi Enrich and Kike Garcia.

Real's loss halts their revival under Solari and denies them a golden opportunity to make up ground on Barcelona and Atletico Madrid, who face each other at the Wanda Metropolitano later on Saturday.

"It is not about finding people to blame," Solari said afterwards. "Everything is fixable. We had won four straight, done some things very well, and we have to get back to that."

Defender Raphael Varane added: "We were not well-organised, we were not comfortable and we did not find any answers."

Eibar, meanwhile, shoot up to seventh, a reward for their first ever victory over Real Madrid at the 11th attempt, inside their tiny 7,083-capacity Ipurua.

"We could even have scored more," said their coach Jose Luis Mendilibar.

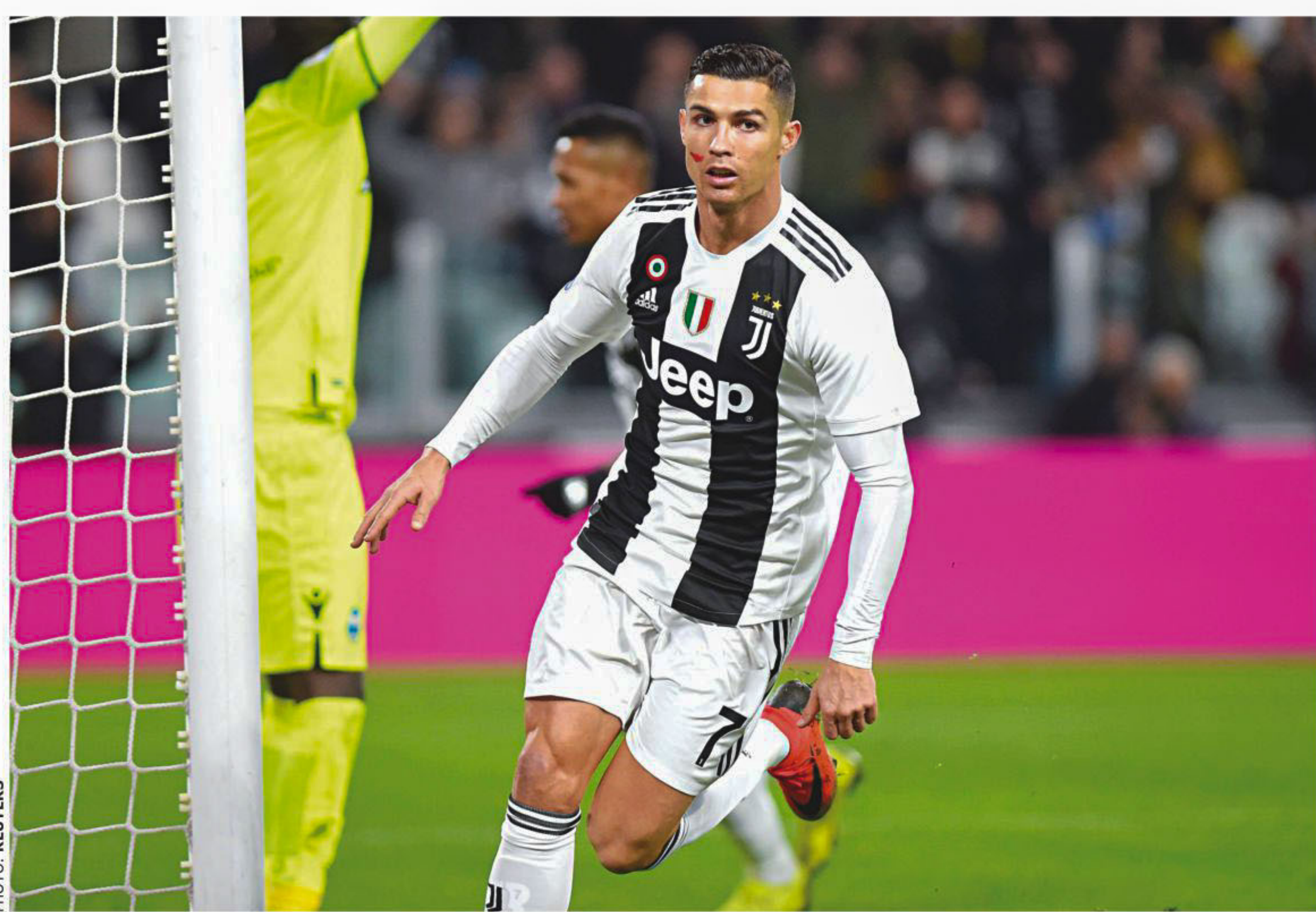
Ramos was not noticeably out of sorts, but perhaps allegations he failed to list the correct medication after the Champions League final in 2017, proved enough of a distraction for his teammates.

Solari, meanwhile, must now rally Real ahead of Tuesday's Champions League game against Roma, which is likely to decide the winner of Group G.

They started well enough and Gareth Bale looked in the mood when he swivelled and sent a stunning shot into the top corner from 25 yards, only to be ruled offside.

Karim Benzema went close, his finish cleared off the line by Jose Cote, but after surviving the early pressure, Eibar grew in confidence. Kike made the woodwork shake with a drive from 25 yards, with replays showing the dipping shot had been diverted by an excellent finger-tip save from Thibaut Courtois.

Madrid's goalkeeper came to their rescue again in the 16th minute, denying Enrich from Cucurella's cross, but this time Escalante was on hand to bundle in the rebound ahead of the stumbling Dani Ceballos.



Juventus superstar Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates his opening goal against Spal during their Serie A encounter at the Juventus Stadium yesterday. Juventus won the match 2-0. The red mark on Ronaldo's face signifies International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.



While Sunday Chizoba (inset) was still trying to come to terms with the after-effects of a malicious knock during the Federation Cup final, Abahani and Bashundhara Kings officials did their best to defuse the tension yesterday.



'No grudges' after feisty final

ATIQUE ANAM

Abahani's Federation Cup hero Sunday Chizoba could not celebrate the final victory over Bashundhara Kings on the field, but he said he harbours no grudges against the opposition's defender Nasir Chowdhury for a malicious challenge that led to the forward's injury towards the end of the high-octane match on Friday.

The Nigerian was adjudged the most valuable player of the tournament and also finished as the top scorer with six goals, including the two he scored as Abahani fought back from a goal down to beat Bashundhara Kings 3-1.

However, he only came to know about the awards and the title quite a few hours later as he was knocked unconscious following an elbow from Nasir and the subsequent knock on his head as he fell to the ground.

"I don't remember what happened from the time between the injury and later in the night. I woke up in the hospital bed, without my jersey, shoes and all. I was relieved to find out I was alive," the 29-year-old striker said as he relived the incident at the club tent yesterday, still dizzy from the after-effects of the injury.

The Nigerian, who has been plying his trade in Bangladesh football for the last eight years but only tasted success since moving to Abahani in

the 2015-16 season, said he holds no grudges against his former teammate.

"What happened on the pitch is [in the] past. We were teammates before and we know each other well," Sunday said. "Maybe he [Nasir] was mad that I scored goals against his team and that we were winning."

The malicious foul on Sunday only sparked a bigger brawl minutes later as players of the two teams engaged in an ugly scuffle on the pitch, resulting in two players of each side being sent off. Abahani's Nabib Newaz Jibon and Mamun Mia and Bashundhara Kings' Shushanto Tripura and Tawhidul Alam Sabuj - all national team players -- were guilty of assaulting opposition players and were duly punished.

However, players and officials of both sides tried to downplay the incident by saying things 'happened on the spur of the moment'.

"It was an unexpected incident. But things like these can happen when the stakes are high; you don't quite remember whether you are a junior or a senior in the side. That doesn't mean we take things outside the pitch," explained Abahani midfielder Sohail Rana, who was named the player of the final.

Although the scenes at the Bangabandhu National Stadium during that melee resembled nothing short of a brawl, team officials and coaches tried to defuse the tension by restraining

the agitated players and stopped the situation from descending into further chaos. Bashundhara Kings, the big-spending newcomers, even went out of their way to send a couple of their officials to the Abahani club yesterday to congratulate the Sky Blues with flower bouquets and sweetmeats.

"I played for Abahani at the start of my football career four decades ago. I know the culture and tradition of this club very well and I am very close to the club officials," BA Jubaeer Nipu, currently working as Bashundhara Kings' technical director, said while congratulating the Abahani team at the club tent.

"Our club also believes in friendly rivalry. Our club president did not like the things that happened on the pitch. This is a gesture from the club as we bid to initiate a culture of cordiality among the competing clubs, the Bashundhara Kings' representative added.

While it is quite refreshing to see that the animosity and ill-feeling stemming from that incident was set aside so quickly, it remains to be seen what action the game's local governing body takes regarding the players involved in the brawl. Unless there are some punitive measures taken, it will not be a surprise to witness similar scenes when these two title contenders meet again in the upcoming Independence Cup and the Bangladesh Premier League.

BPL to start from Jan 5

SPORTS REPORTER

The sixth edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) will begin from January 5 next year with defending champions Rangpur Riders taking on Chittagong Vikings in the opening game at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday announced the schedule for the T20 tournament, which will see Dhaka Dynamites face off against Rajshahi Kings in the other game of the opening day.

The final is scheduled for February 8 in Mirpur with a reserve day in place while Sylhet and Chattogram will also host each phase of the tournament.

The knockout phase will start from February 4 with the Eliminator, which will be followed by the first Qualifier on the same day.

The day game on Fridays will begin at 2:00pm local time while the second match will be under lights from 7:00pm.

The day match on weekdays and Saturdays is scheduled to start from 12:30pm while the second game of the day will start at 5:20 pm.

Shuvagata spins a web around South

SPORTS REPORTER

Shuvagata Hom spun Central Zone to a brilliant 77-run win with a sixth five-wicket haul against South Zone in the first round of the Bangladesh Cricket League at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The fourth and final day was set up to be a cracker, with South Zone requiring another 229 runs with eight wickets in hand in chase of a 266-run target.

However, Shuvagata ran riot with his off-spin and ended with figures of five for 53 from 14.3 overs as South Zone were bundled out for 188 after resuming on 38 for 2.

Left-arm seamer Abu Hider, who picked up both South Zone wickets that fell on the third day, bagged another two and finished with the figures of four for 44 from 12 overs.

South had made a positive start to the day as their two experienced overnight batsmen, Shahriar Nafees and Tushar Imran, added 82 runs for the



SHUVAGATA ... 5 for 53

third wicket.

However, pacer Robiul Haque provided the breakthrough for Central Zone by dismissing Tushar -- who made 40 off 68 balls with six fours -- before Shuvagata trapped Nafees, who scored a team-high 54, in front.

The 32-year-old then picked up another four scalps in no time as South Zone crumbled from 109 for two, losing their last eight wickets for just 79 runs.

At the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi, the game between North Zone and East Zone ended in a draw as expected.

East Zone were trailing by another 65 runs as they resumed their innings in reply to North Zone's first innings 445.

Overnight batsman Enamul Haque Jr and skipper Farhad Reza added 107 runs for the eighth wicket before the latter was dismissed after scoring a 132-ball 85 that contained 10 fours and three sixes.

East added another 19 runs before being bowled out for 443, handing North Zone a two-run first innings lead.

In reply, Forhad Hossain struck his 17th first-class ton and remained unbeaten on a 128-ball 103 that included 12 fours and a six as North reached 270 for four by the end of the game.

SCORES IN BRIEF	
CENTRAL ZONE V SOUTH ZONE	
CENTRAL ZONE: First innings 282 & second innings 264 (Liton 84, Shahidul 41, Robiul 37; Mehedi 5-72, Razzak 2-63, Shaiful 2-61)	
SOUTH ZONE: First innings 281 & second innings 188 (Nafees 54, Tushar 40, Hasan 35; Shuvagata 5-53, Hider 4-44, Robiul 1-19)	
Result: Central Zone won by 77 runs.	
Player-of-the-match: Abdul Mazid.	
NORTH ZONE V EAST ZONE	
NORTH ZONE: First innings 445 & second innings 270 for 4 (Farhad 103 not out, Sabbir 56, Junaid 51. Naem 29; Jayed 2-72, Mahmud 1-59)	
EAST ZONE: First innings 443 (Yasir 94, Farhad 85, Saifuddin 64; Ebadat 3-87, Sunzamul 3-112, Ziaur 2-56)	
Result: Match drawn.	
Player-of-the-match: Naem Islam.	

Man City, Liverpool cruise

AFP, London

Manchester City stretched a relentless winning run to eight games by thrashing West Ham 4-0 on Saturday but remain just two points clear at the top of the Premier League as Liverpool were also 3-0 victors at Watford.

Manchester United are now 14 points off the leaders as Paul Pogba was hauled off by Jose Mourinho as they failed to break down Crystal Palace in a 0-0 draw at Old Trafford.

Everton leapfrogged United to move up to sixth with a 1-0 victory over Cardiff, while Claudio Ranieri won his first match in charge of Fulham in a 3-2 thriller over fellow strugglers Southampton.

City have now won 12 of their last 13 games with the only dropped points coming in a creditable 0-0 draw at Liverpool last month.

Pep Guardiola's men had scored 13 goals in their three previous visits to the London Stadium and had another three before half-time in another dominant display.

David Silva scored for the fourth straight game when he flicked home Raheem Sterling's cross on 11 minutes.

SHORT CORNER

Hornets sting Flame Boys
 Hornets SC beat Flame Boys 44-33 in their match of the Unimed Unihealth Premier Division Basketball League at the Dhanmondi Indoor Gymnasium yesterday.
 Hornets staged a brilliant comeback after trailing the first half 19-16. Rasha netted 12 points for Hornets while Amir top-scored with 16 for Flame Boys.
 Hornets had edged past Eagles Club with a 52-50 victory the previous night. --SPORTS REPORTER

College rugby kicks off
 Govt Bangla College, Kabi Nazrul College, Haimchar Govt College and Cambrian School & College sealed semifinal places in the 9th First Security Islami Bank U-20 College Rugby Championship at the Outer Stadium in Paltan yesterday.
 Govt Bangla College will take on Kabi Nazrul College at 9:00am in the first semifinal today while Haimchar Govt College will play against Cambrian School & College in the second semifinal at 9:30am today.
 A total of 10 teams are participating in the three-day championship. --SPORTS REPORTER

National A Chess underway
 FM Mahfuzur Rahman, FM Mehdi Hasan Parag and Swadhin Sarker won their respective matches of the Omicon 44th National A Chess Championship, which got underway at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall-room yesterday. A total of 26 players are participating in the 10-round Swiss-league system event. --SPORTS REPORTER



Paris Saint-Germain's Uruguayan forward Edinson Cavani (R) scored the all-important goal against Toulouse during their French Ligue 1 match at the Parc des Princes Stadium in Paris yesterday.