

# What to WATCH

**STAR SPORTS SELECT 1**  
**Indian Premier League**  
 Bangalore v Delhi  
 Live from 4:30pm  
 Rajasthan v Kolkata  
 Live from 8:30pm

**STAR SPORTS SELECT 2**  
**English Premier League**  
 Everton v Arsenal  
 Live from 7:05pm

**SONY ESPN**  
**Serie A**  
 Inter Milan v Atalanta  
 Live from 10:00pm

**SONY SIX**  
**La Liga**  
 Real Valladolid v Sevilla  
 Live from 8:15pm  
**TEN 2**  
**FA Cup**

**Watford v Wolves**  
 Live from 9:00pm  
**Serie A**  
 Napoli v Genoa  
 Live from 12:30am (Monday)

## DAY'S EVENT

**Dhaka Premier League**  
 Abahani v Legends of Rugganj  
 Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Dhaka

Sheikh Jamal v BKSP  
 Venue: BKSP-4, Savar  
 Prime Doleshwar v Uttara SC

Venue: Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium, Fatullah  
**Bangladesh Premier League**  
 Mohammedan v Bashundhara Kings

Time: 4:00pm  
 Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhaka  
 Sheikh Russel v Muktijoddha

Time: 6:30pm  
 Venue: Sylhet District Stadium, Sylhet

# Brothers end losing streak

SPORTS REPORTER



Brothers Union snapped a seven-match losing streak in the Bangladesh Premier League with a goalless draw against Rahmatganj MFS as the league resumed following a one-month break.

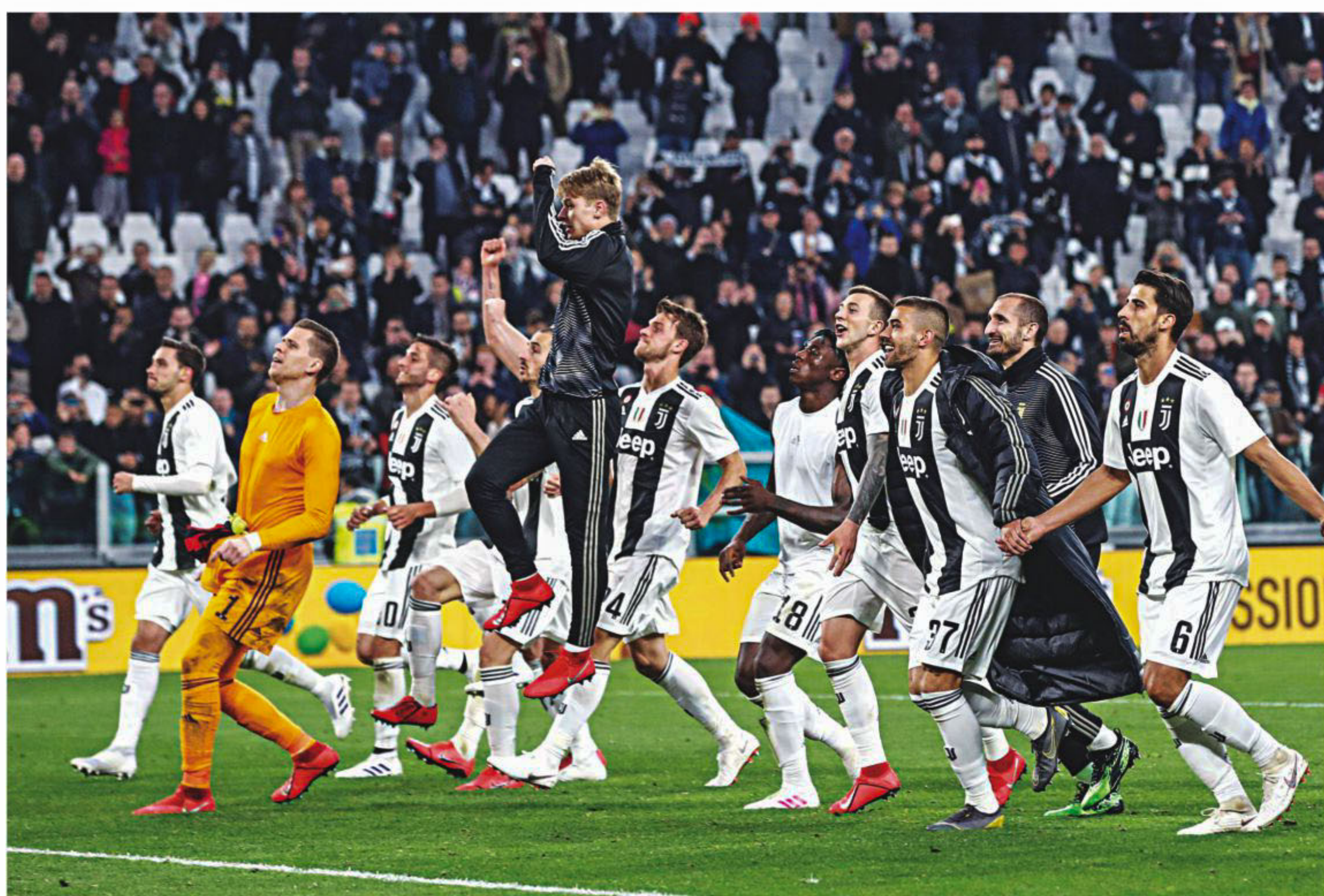
The falling giants from Gopibagh, who had endured a record seven match losing streak in the professional league since their 1-0 win over Mohammedan in their second match, kept the Old Dhaka outfit at bay to earn a valuable point which took them off the bottom of the table.

With four points from 10 matches, Brothers are now in 12th position, a point above Team BJMC, who will play their 10th match against Arambagh KS tomorrow in Mymensingh. Rahmatganj, on the other hand, remained in ninth position with nine points from 10 matches.

Meanwhile, Saif Sporting Club moved to 20 points from 10 matches and are now in fourth position following a 1-0 win over newcomers NoFeL SC at the Rafiq Uddin Bhuiyan Stadium in Mymensingh in the other match of the day.

Korean forward Park Seung-Il scored the all-important goal in the 12th minute, slamming home a left-footer after a well-worked free-kick from the edge of the box. Following the defeat, NoFeL SC remained in 10th position with eight points.

<b>BROTHERS UNION</b>	<b>0 - 0</b>	<b>RAHMATGANJ MFS</b>
<b>SAIF SPORTING CLUB</b>	<b>1 - 0</b>	<b>NOFEL SPORTING CLUB</b>



Juventus players celebrate at the end of their Serie A encounter against Milan in Turin yesterday. Juventus won the match 2-1. PHOTO: AFP

# Kean winner puts Juventus on the brink of title

AFP, Milan



Teenage sensation Moise Kean scored the winner to put Juventus one step away from an eighth consecutive Serie A title on Saturday as a 2-1 comeback win over AC Milan pushed the champions 21 points clear on top of the league.

Kean -- the victim of racist abuse last week in Cagliari -- came on as a substitute and fired in the winner after 84 minutes for his fifth goal in as many Serie A appearances.

The Turin giants will seal a 35th 'Scudetto' on Sunday with a seven games to spare -- the earliest any team has won Serie A -- if second-placed Napoli lose at home against Genoa.

Krzysztof Piatek had put visiting AC Milan ahead five minutes before the break with his 21st goal this season. Paulo Dybala pulled the hosts level from the spot after an hour.

The Turin giants were playing without injured striker Cristiano Ronaldo, recovering from a thigh injury, as they prepare for their Champions League quarter-final, first leg game against Ajax

on Wednesday.

For Milan, the defeat further damages their Champions League ambitions with just one point from their last four Serie A games.

Gennaro Gattuso's side are fourth but can be overtaken by Atalanta, who are just a point behind and travel to third-placed Inter Milan on Sunday.

Roman sides Lazio and Roma are four points behind.

The visitors had come out firing.

Piatek missed a chance after two minutes heading wide from a nice cross by Spanish midfielder Suso. Franck Kessie was also off target early.

Sami Khedira came on for the first time since heart surgery a month ago, replacing fellow German Emre Can who went off early with an ankle injury.

Milan were denied a penalty when Alex Sandro handled intercepting Hakan Calhanoglu's cross. The referee deciding it was unintentional after a VAR viewing.

Minutes later Piatek broke through to beat fellow Pole Wojciech Szczesny following a blunder from former Milan defender Leonardo Bonucci, who had been under fire for comments he made over the Kean's racist abuse in Cagliari.

Tiemoué Bakayoko pounced on the sloppy pass to burst through for Piatek who finished off.

Mario Mandzukic almost grabbed the equaliser before the break but Pepe Reina, at full stretch, tipped clear the Croat's acrobatic bicycle kick.

A reckless Mateo Musacchio foul on fellow Argentine Dybala allowed the hosts pull level on the hour.

Kean came on after 65 minutes to replace Dybala and 20 minutes later the 19-year-old delivered the winner to the delight of the home crowd.

Torino were held to a goalless draw at Parma with Roma travelling to European rivals Sampdoria later on Saturday, to try and close the gap on AC Milan.

# Bayern humiliate Dortmund

AFP, Berlin



Robert Lewandowski humiliated his old club on Saturday as Bayern Munich obliterated Borussia Dortmund with a scintillating 5-0 win to reclaim their spot at the top of the Bundesliga.

Bayern began the day under immense pressure, having slipped two points behind Dortmund in the title race a week earlier.

They ended it on cloud nine, after a masterful first-half performance left Dortmund in the dust and put Bayern on course for a seventh successive league title.

The champions are now just a single point ahead of Dortmund in the title race, but the two teams were separated by a gargantuan gulf in quality at the Allianz Arena.

Mahmoud Dahoud struck the post early on for the visitors, but two quick goals from former Dortmund players put a dominant Bayern firmly in the driving seat.

Hummels landed the first blow on ten minutes, rising high at a corner to head in the opener for Bayern.

Lewandowski then pounced on a mistake by Dortmund centre-back Dan-Axel Zagadou to double the lead.

Having robbed Zagadou of possession, Lewandowski then looped the ball over goalkeeper Roman Buerki and scissor-kicked it into the open net.

Buerki kept a furious Bayern at bay for a short while, denying Lewandowski, Hummels and Thomas Mueller with a series of saves.

But the Dortmund keeper could do nothing to stop the Bavarians' third, a blistering strike from the edge of the area from Javi Martinez.

With their defence in disarray, Dortmund could only watch on as Serge Gnabry headed in Bayern's fourth just before half-time.

Lewandowski rubbed salt in the wound by netting his second goal just before full-time.

The win leaves the title race finely poised on paper, but with Dortmund in the doldrums and Bayern bouncing, Niko Kovac's side are now firm favourites to finish first.



Dignitaries and recipients pose with the Kool-BSPA Sports Award at a ceremony in the grand ballroom of a local hotel yesterday. Shooter Abdullah Hel Baki won the Sportsman of the Year award. PHOTO: COLLECTED

# CSK spin past Punjab

AGENCIES, Chennai



Led by the seasoned Harbhajan Singh, Chennai Super Kings spinners put on a dominating show to help the side reclaim the top position with a 22-run win over Kings XI Punjab in an Indian Premier League match in Chennai yesterday.

Defending 160 for three, Chennai restricted Punjab to 138 for 5 despite half centuries from KL Rahul (55) and Sarfaraz Khan (67).

The visitors scored at a low pace and required to score 26 off the last over, bowled by IPL debutant Scott Kugeleijn. The Kiwi pacesman had no trouble defending those runs and also dismissed Sarfaraz.

Harbhajan was the best bowler for the hosts with the figures of 4-1-17-2. In a brilliant spell, he bowled a maiden and grabbed two wickets, including that of the 'universal boss' Chris Gayle.

Ravindra Jadeja (4-0-24-0) and Imran Tahir (4-0-20-0) also helped Chennai put the brakes on the rival batsmen. They, along with Harbhajan, conceded only 61 runs in 12 overs even as the required run-rate kept mounting.

Kugeleijn did not start very well, being hit for a six off his very first ball, but did well to finish with 2 for 37 in his 4 overs.

Harbhajan struck a huge blow to rivals by dismissing the Gayle, having him caught behind by M S Dhoni for 5 in the second over.

Two balls later, he had the stylish Mayank Agarwal, caught by Faf du Plessis near the boundary with the batsman going for a big hit. Harbhajan started off with a double wicket maiden to put Kings XI on the backfoot early.

In the 13th over, Rahul's missed sweep saw Dhoni flick the ball on to the stumps but the bails didn't come off though the LED lights lit up, ensuring the batsman survived despite being short of his crease.

The century partnership for the third wicket between Rahul and Sarfaraz was a productive one but they consumed a lot of balls and stymied Punjab's chase as the Chennai bowlers kept things tight.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**CHENNAI:** 160 for 3 in 20 overs (Du Plessis 54, Dhoni 37 not out, Watson 26; Ashwin 3-23)  
**PUNJAB:** 138 for 5 in 20 overs (Khan 67, Rahul 55; Harbhajan 2-17, Kugeleijn 2-37)  
**Result:** Chennai won by 22 runs.

**Player-of-the-match:** Harbhajan Singh.

## SHORT CORNER

### Table tennis championship underway

Faridpur, Pabna, Cox's Bazar, Gaibandha, Dhaka, Magura and Jagannath University registered victories in the men's fixtures on the opening day of the 38th National Senior Table Tennis Championship which got underway at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium in Paltan yesterday.

Dhaka beat Meherpur in 3-1 sets while all the other winners recorded 3-0 set victories.

Some 260 players from 44 men's teams and 13 women's teams are expected to vie in seven events during the six-day meet.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Zahid Ahsan Rassel inaugurated the championship as chief guest where Ashiqur Rahman Miku, deputy general secretary of Bangladesh Olympic Association, was present as special guest along with the high officials of Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation. --SPORTS REPORTER

### Maradona to leave Dorados over 'referee bias'

Argentina great Diego Maradona said he will quit his job at Mexican second-division club Dorados at the end of the season over perceived refereeing bias against his team.

The 58-year-old Maradona made the decision on Friday following a 1-1 draw with Venados, claiming his touchline presence led to decisions going against his team.

"Once it (the Clausura) is finished, I will leave Dorados," Maradona said at a news conference. "I'm very sorry about it, but that's my decision."

Maradona, who won the 1986 World Cup with Argentina, said he would ask for a meeting with the club president to notify him of his decision and the reason behind it.

At the root of his anger on Friday was a "very clear" penalty that was not awarded to his side.

"Do you know why the referee didn't give it? Maradona asked reporters. "Because you're going to say tomorrow that it's because it's Maradona team." --AFP

### India earn top FIFA seat, eye 2026 World Cup

India set their sights on qualifying for the 2026 World Cup as Praful Patel became their first representative on the powerful FIFA Council on Saturday.

Patel, one of six Asian delegates elected to the Council at the Asian Football Confederation Congress, said the World Cup was the next big step

for India after making great strides in recent years.

India's confidence has grown after a positive Asian Cup in January, where they returned to the tournament after eight years and were unlucky not to reach the second round.

"I personally feel that among all the countries in Asia there is a tremendous goodwill for India, and (also) China should be much more involved in the game and also the AFC and FIFA," Patel said in Kuala Lumpur. --AFP

### De Bruyne unsure if he can finish season at his best

Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne is unsure if he can get back to his best for the reigning Premier League champions after injuries restricted his playing time this season, the midfielder said on Friday.

The 27-year-old has had a stop-start season with two knee injuries and trouble with his hamstring limiting him to only nine Premier

"I don't know what my level is going to be but to be fair I don't really care," De Bruyne told reporters.

"Now it's the business end (of the season), I just need to do what I can do to help the team win games. If that means playing five games or 10 games, I'll take it all. It's been that kind of season." --REUTERS

### Thauvin slams 'useless' Marseille after defeat

Olympique de Marseille midfielder Florian Thauvin lashed out at his own team following their 2-0 defeat by Girondins de Bordeaux in Ligue 1 on Friday, saying they were 'useless'.

Marseille have not won in the top flight at Bordeaux since 1977 and the latest loss left them eight points from third place, the last qualifying spot for the Champions League.

"We must stop looking for excuses," the



Argentina legend Diego Maradona, coach of Mexican second-division club Dorados, yells at his players during a match against Venados in Culiacan on Friday. PHOTO: AFP

League starts this season while City chase an unprecedented quadruple.

The Belgian was one of the favourites for the player of the year award last season, with eight goals and 16 assists in City's league title-winning campaign, but has scored only two league goals this season.

French international was quoted as saying by French media on Saturday.

"We just have to shut up and acknowledge the fact that we're useless. We were useless, we have to admit it," said Thauvin.

Marseille are fifth in Ligue 1 on 48 points with seven games remaining. --REUTERS

# Zizou vague on Bale's future

AFP, Madrid

Zinedine Zidane refused to guarantee Gareth Bale's future at Real Madrid after the Welshman struggled again in a 2-1 victory over Eibar on Saturday.

Karim Benzema scored twice at the Santiago Bernabeu as Madrid came from behind after Marc Cardona, starting only after an injury to Pedro Leon in the warm-up, gave Eibar a surprise lead.

But Madrid improved and a pair of Benzema headers ensured the groans and whistles that had soured the atmosphere for much of the opening hour turned to cheers and applause at the end.

Much of the frustration was again directed at Bale.

Asked afterwards if Bale would be at Real Madrid next season, Zidane said: "We'll see, I'm not going to tell you what's going to happen. Gareth is a Real Madrid player, he has two years left on his contract. We will see. It is not the time to talk about this."

**OUTLETS**  
 BANANI  
 GULSHAN  
 BARDHANA  
 JIP  
 ULTRA  
 DHANMONDI  
 MIRPUR  
 BALAKA  
 SHAKANTO