



Bashundhara Kings forward Bakhtiyar Duishobekov (C) celebrates with teammates after scoring the all-important goal against Abahani in a Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Kings bag 'massive win'

SPORTS REPORTER

Leaders Bashundhara Kings went seven points clear of nearest contenders Abahani with a single-goal victory in a make-or-break Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Kyrgyz forward Bakhtiyar Duishobekov scored the all-important goal from a free-kick in the first half to help Bashundhara Kings remain unbeaten in the race and consolidate their lead with 40 points from 14 matches.

Despite a morale-boosting 3-2 win over Chennaiyin FC in the AFC Cup four days ago, Abahani failed to transfer their international performance into domestic circuit against leaders Bashundhara Kings, who got a jolt before the game as centre-back Nasir Chowdhury sustained an injury during warm-up.

Spanish coach Oscar Bruzon was forced to send Duishobekov in defence which prompted the newcomers to adopt a counter-attacking strategy against Abahani, a team they defeated 3-0 in the first leg in Nilphamari.

Six-time champions Abahani enjoyed better possession but they could hardly expose the solid defence of Bashundhara, who kept the

opposition forwards away from having shots on target.

However, Abahani could have taken the lead on the half-hour mark had either Sunday Chizoba or Masih Saighani connected to a curling free-kick from Mamunul Islam. It was a wake-up call for Bashundhara, who took the lead against the run of play in the 37th minute.

Midfielder Sohel Rana unnecessary fouled Masuk Mia Jonny to give away a free-kick before Duishobekov's dipping shot from 30 yards found the back of Abahani net evading the wall,

**Abahani 0 - 1 Bashundhara**  
Duishobekov 37'

sending the Bashundhara fans into rapture.

After resumption, Abahani established their full control on the game and launched attacks, with Sunday getting a brilliant defence-splitting through-pass from Kervens Belfort in the 50th minute, but the Nigerian wasted the chance while Bashundhara goalkeeper Anisur Rahman Zico denied Sunday from a point-blank position on the hour-mark. Three minutes later, Belfort

was denied by Mohammad Ibrahim from the goalline while Bashundhara squandered a good opportunity from a counter-attack as Alamgir Kabir Rana narrowly missed the target in the 68th minute.

In the last 10 minutes, the game became very exciting as both sides came close to scoring a few times. Sunday missed the target from the six-yard box in the 87th minute before Belfort saw his header on a Mamunul cross come off the crossbar in the next minute. Bashundhara also exposed the Abahani defence twice, but Raihan Hassan made a goalline save against Daniel Colindres, who later squandered another opportunity in the stoppage-time from a counter-attack.

"Now it is very difficult for us to get back in the title race. We can't depend on Bashundhara Kings dropping points. We will have to do our job and secure full points from the remaining matches," said Abahani coach Mario Lemos after the match.

"We still have a long way to go to ensure the title because we have a few away matches. However, we are on the right track to our objective," said Bashundhara Kings coach Oscar Bruzon.

### OZIL HAS IFTAR WITH ERDOGAN

Arsenal's German midfielder Mesut Ozil dined with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan during an iftar in Istanbul Saturday, a move likely to cause a backlash after previous meetings caused controversy. Images in Turkish media showed a smiling Ozil and model fiancée Amine Gulse, sitting at a table on either side of Erdogan at the Ottoman-era Dolmabahce Palace. The iftar was also attended by young Turks ahead of Youth and Sports Day on Sunday, a national holiday in Turkey. Ozil, who has Turkish roots, was criticised in March after inviting Erdogan to his wedding.

-- AFP



## A fitting end to a disastrous year

Bale unused in rumoured final game for Real

AFP, Madrid



LaLiga

Real Madrid delivered a suitably dreadful end to their miserable season, and Gareth Bale was not even given the chance to say a likely goodbye, as Zinedine Zidane's side were beaten 2-0 at home to Real Betis on Sunday.

Zidane had indicated this could be Bale's final game ahead of an expected summer departure but the Welshman was left on the bench, made to watch on as three substitutes came on ahead of him at the Santiago Bernabeu.

None were able to revive another dreary and disjointed Madrid performance, which concluded both the season and first phase of Zidane's much-hailed return as coach.

As the players saluted the fans at the end, they were greeted by a chorus of whistles. By then, Bale was already off down the tunnel, perhaps aware that any attempt at a farewell could be given an even colder reception.

When the referee's final whistle blew, Bale received a hug from Betis coach Quique Setien and strode off.

Zidane will not be held culpable for most of Madrid's failings this season, including finishing third in La Liga, 18 points behind Barcelona, not to mention crashing out of the Champions League in the last 16.

He will also not be blamed for their league total of 68 points, their lowest in 17

years, nor the 12 defeats. Real have not had more in a league campaign since 1974.

But even if few expected the deep-rooted problems to vanish after Zidane's arrival in March, most Madrid fans would have hoped at least for signs of improvement.

Instead, they have now won five of his 11 games in charge and out of the last five have won one and lost three. Some of the displays, including this one, were as bad as anything seen under either Julen Lopetegui or Santiago Solari.

Zidane has promised change over the summer and many in his squad here could be elsewhere next season including goalkeeper Keylor Navas, who was the subject of several affectionate chants during the game, as well as Nacho, Sergio Reguilon, Isco, Marcos Llorente and Bale.

If this was to be Bale's last appearance after six seasons, in which there have been numerous injuries but several trophies too, including four in the Champions League, it seemed a sorry way not to say goodbye.

Betis looked dangerous, with Dani Carvajal lucky only to be cautioned for preventing Junior Firpo from sprinting clear. But the warning went unheeded as Andres Guardado was next to race through and he provided the perfect pass to Loren.

Lo Celso might have made it two before Jese finally did. For the last time this season, the home fans made their feelings known at the final whistle.



Record signing Gareth Bale did not seem too upset to be left on the bench by Zinedine Zidane in Real Madrid's final league game of the season yesterday. Los Blancos did not fare too well however, as they were beaten 2-0 by Real Betis.

PHOTO: TWITTER



PSG forward Kylian Mbappe netted twice in his first game after a three-match ban, becoming the first Frenchman to score 32 goals in a Ligue 1 season since Philippe Gondet in 1965-1966 with Nantes.

PHOTO: PSG

## Pep's City hailed as England's best ever

AFP, London



Manchester City's treble winners have been hailed as English football's greatest ever team after an FA Cup demolition of Watford completed a historic campaign.

Pep Guardiola's side became the first English club to win the Premier League, FA Cup and League Cup in the same season thanks to their swagging 6-0 success at Wembley on Saturday.

Equalling the record margin of victory for an FA Cup final was the perfect way to cap a remarkable year for City, who followed their record-breaking Premier League triumph in 2017-18 with an even more astonishing run this term.

They are the first English top-flight side to register 50 wins in all competitions in a single season. Guardiola's men also scored a record 169 goals in 61 games this season, beating their own previous best of 156.

City now rank high on the list of the greatest English teams of all-time.

Only a select few can claim to be on a par with City, an elite group that

includes Arsenal's 2004 'Invincibles', Manchester United's 1999 vintage, who won the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup, and the Liverpool team of 1984, who lifted the old First Division, the European Cup and the League Cup.

The world's media united in praise for Guardiola's men, who have won five of the last six domestic trophies.

BBC Sport's Phil McNulty wrote: "The club once loftily dismissed as 'noisy neighbours' by then-Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson confirmed they now exert a domestic dominance that speaks eloquently on their behalf with a crushing, brutal 6-0 dismissal of Watford.

"This may have been a victory lap completed with embarrassing ease, with early Watford body blows parried in comfort before a form of footballing torture ensued, but this was arguably the greatest day in City's history as this treble was won ruthlessly, spectacularly."

Eurosport labelled City as the country's greatest ever.

The Guardian's Barney Ronay summed up City's majestic form over



## Kompany walks away from City

REUTERS, London

Vincent Kompany said Sunday he would be leaving Manchester City and joining Anderlecht as player-manager after helping the Premier League club become the first team to win an English domestic treble.

"City has given me everything. I've tried to give back as much as I possibly could. How often does someone get the chance to end such an important chapter, in such a great fashion?" he wrote.

the last year.

"Manchester City's historic FA Cup final win was almost swamped by the glowing list of statistics piling up around them - but nothing can disguise the scale of this achievement and the brilliance of Pep Guardiola's team," he wrote. "Welcome to the new order. Domestic games: played 51, won 43. Domestic trophies: three out of three. Five-goal hauls: 11. Defeats since Christmas: one.

"Scan the history books, fan back to the big city clubs of Victorian times, linger on the red-shirted eras of the last 50 years. English domestic football has never seen anything quite like this single-season hit from Manchester City. It turns out we really do all live in a sky blue world now."



Manchester City players celebrate winning the FA Cup on Saturday, which made them the first team to win the domestic treble.

PHOTO: REUTERS

মুক্তিযুদ্ধের চেতনা ও মুক্ত চিন্তার প্রত্যয়ে সৃষ্ট, গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার এবং UGC অনুমোদনপ্রাপ্ত, আয়তনে বাংলাদেশের সবচেয়ে বড় বেসরকারী শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান এবং UGC এর আন্তর্জাতিক External Peer Review কর্তৃক পরীক্ষিত IQAC মান পরীক্ষায় GOOD সনদপ্রাপ্ত -

**গণ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে**  
**GONO BISWABIDYALAYA**  
পো: মির্জানগর ভায়া সাভার ক্যান্ট: সাভার, ঢাকা-১৩৪৪ (জাতীয় স্মৃতি সৌধের সন্নিকটে)  
ই-মেইল: gbidyalay@ymail.com website: www.gonouniversity.edu.bd

গণ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের প্রস্তাবিত উপাচার্য একজন প্রথিতযশা মেডিকেল শিক্ষক এবং গনস্বাস্থ্য সমাজভিত্তিক মেডিকেল কলেজের প্রাক্তন প্রিন্সিপাল। তার বিভিন্ন গবেষণা প্রবন্ধ বিশ্ব স্বাস্থ্য সংস্থার (WHO) প্রকাশনার অন্তর্ভুক্ত।

গণ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের উপাচার্য মহোদয়া একজন বিশিষ্ট মুক্তিযোদ্ধা। তিনি সরাসরি শ্রদ্ধেয়া সাজেদা চৌধুরী MP এর সাথে মুক্তিযুদ্ধে অংশ গ্রহণ করেছিলেন এবং ১৯৭১ সনে পাকিস্তানীরা তার পিতাকে হত্যা করেছিল।

গণ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ট্রাস্টি বোর্ড নিরঙ্করিত উপাচার্য মহোদয়ের শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা 'ন্যায্য ও গ্রহণযোগ্য' বলে মহামান্য হাইকোর্ট ঘোষণা করেছেন। গণ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের উপাচার্য মহোদয়ের নিয়োগ সঠিক বলেও মন্তব্য করেছেন মহামান্য হাইকোর্ট। সে মোতাবেক শিক্ষা মন্ত্রনালয়কে দুইমাসের মধ্যে প্রয়োজনীয় ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণের জন্য মহামান্য হাইকোর্ট নির্দেশ দিয়েছেন। তা কার্যকর করার জন্য শিক্ষা মন্ত্রনালয় প্রয়োজনীয় ব্যবস্থা নিচ্ছেন জেনে গণ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃপক্ষ শিক্ষা মন্ত্রনালয়ের প্রতি আন্তরিক কৃতজ্ঞতা জ্ঞাপন করছেন।

গণ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে বর্তমানে নিয়মিত ক্লাশ শুরু হয়েছে। চক্রান্তকারীদের দ্বারা প্রভাবিত না হয়ে সকল শিক্ষার্থীদের নিয়মিত ক্লাশে যোগ দেয়ার জন্য নির্দেশ দেয়া হল। অনুপস্থিত ছাত্ররা হ্রাসকৃত টিউশান ফি'র সুবিধা থেকে বঞ্চিত হবেন।

রেজিস্ট্রার, গণবিশ্ববিদ্যালয়