

What to WATCH

GTV & STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
T20I tri-nation series
Afghanistan v Zimbabwe
Live from 6:30pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
English Premier League
Southampton v Bournemouth
Live from 1:00am (Saturday)

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
Bundesliga
Schalke v Mainz
Live from 12:30am (Saturday)

TEN 2
Serie A
Cagliari v Genoa
Live from 12:45am (Saturday)

DAY'S EVENT

T20I tri-nation series
Afghanistan v Zimbabwe
Time: 6:30pm

Venue: Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Chattogram

Walton U-18 Football Tournament
Quarterfinals
Brothers Union v Bashundhara Kings

Time: 5:00pm
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhaka

Faltering Real whipped; Atletico resilient in comeback

'They were superior,' says Zidane after 3-0 humiliation

AFP, Paris

Paris Saint-Germain launched their latest quest for Champions League success with a statement win over Real Madrid on Wednesday, while a late Atletico Madrid comeback foiled Juventus as Manchester City eased to victory in Ukraine.

French giants PSG have failed to make their mark in Europe, crashing out of the Champions League in the last 16 each of the past three years despite the huge sums of money spent by their Qatari owners.

RESULTS

PSG (Di Maria 14, 33, Meunier 90+1)	3 - 0	Real Madrid (ESP)
Club Brugge	0 - 0	Galatasaray
Bayern Munich (Coman 34, Lewandowski 80, Mueller 90+1)	3 - 0	Red Star Belgrade
Olympiakos (Podence 44, Valbuena 54-pen)	2 - 2	Tottenham Hotspur (Kane 26-pen, Moura 30)
Shakhtar (Mahrez 25, Gundogan 38, Jesus 76)	0 - 3	Manchester City
Dinamo Zagreb (Leovac 10, Orsic 31, 42, 68)	4 - 0	Atalanta
Atletico Madrid (Savic 70, Herrera 90)	2 - 2	Juventus (Cuadrado 48, Matuidi 65)
Bayer Leverkusen (Hoevedes 25-og)	1 - 2	Lokomotiv Moscow (Krychowiak 16, Barinov 37)



Juventus forward Cristiano Ronaldo (L) rued his missed opportunities while Atletico Madrid midfielder Hector Herrera capitalised on his as the sides drew level in Madrid yesterday.



Atletico Madrid midfielder Hector Herrera capitalised on his as the sides drew level in Madrid yesterday.

With Neymar suspended and Kylian Mbappe and Edinson Cavani sidelined by injury, Angel Di Maria stepped up in their absence by grabbing two first-half goals in a 3-0 triumph at the Parc des Princes.

Thomas Meunier added the third late on as Madrid, who beat PSG on the way to lifting the trophy in 2016 and 2018, were soundly beaten in their Group A opener with Eden Hazard kept quiet on his full debut.

"There's no message sent, but we dominated this game very well," PSG captain Thiago Silva told RMC Sport.

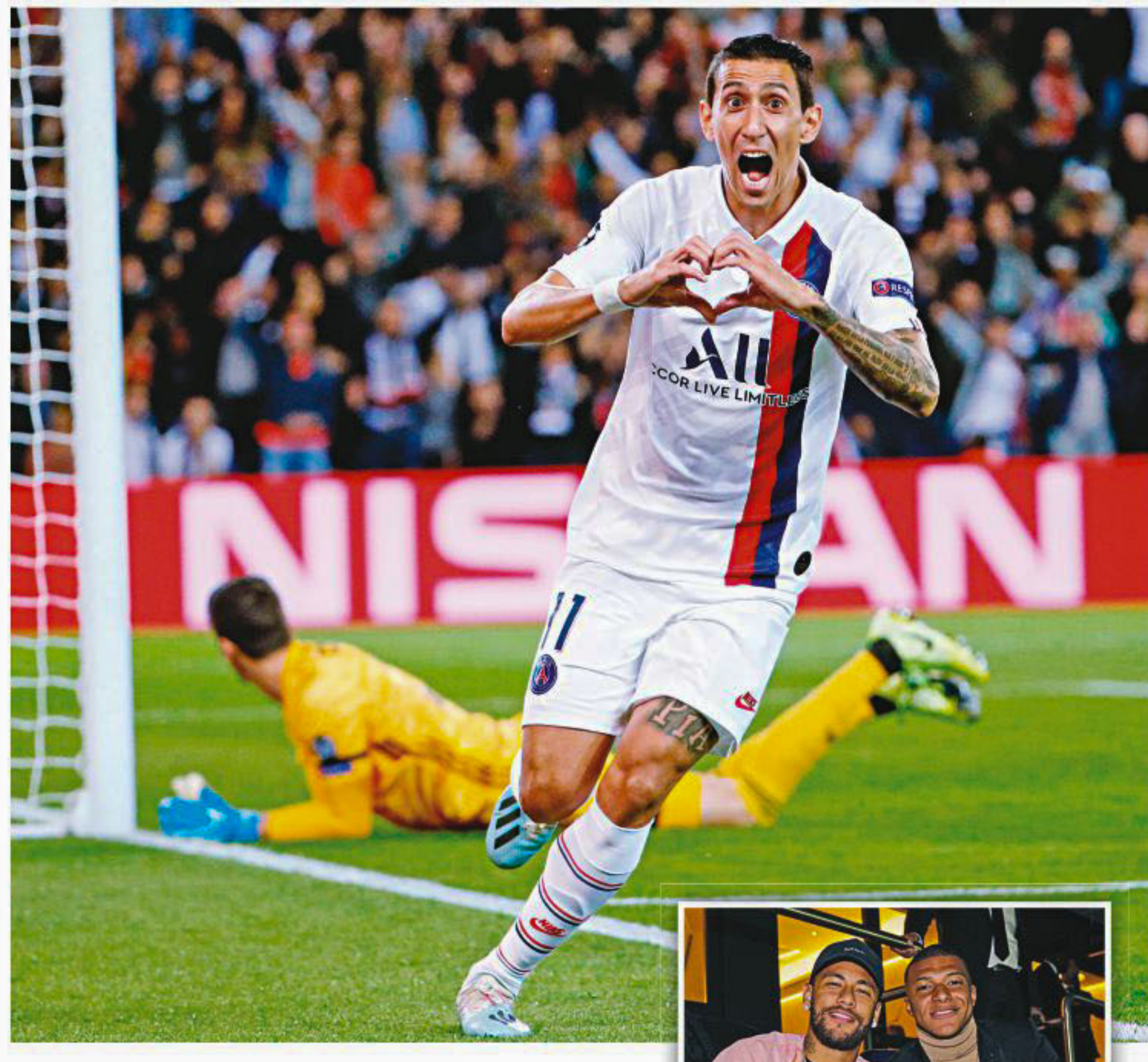
"We have to play like this all the time, in the league as well, with character and hunger."

Real, the 13-time European champions, are still favourites to advance from a section that includes Club Brugge and Galatasaray, who drew 0-0 in Belgium, but the nature of the loss underscored the work that lies ahead for coach Zinedine Zidane.

"They were superior to us in everything they did, and in intensity, which annoys me the most," said the Frenchman.

Diego Simeone's Atletico clawed their way back from two goals down in the final 20 minutes to rescue a 2-2 draw at home to Juventus in Group D.

The anticipated clash between Cristiano Ronaldo and Joao Felix, the teenager touted as the heir to Ronaldo's throne, took a backseat to a Atletico rousing comeback after second-half goals from Juan Cuadrado and



PSG forward Angel Di Maria was exceptional against former club Real Madrid during their Champions League encounter in Paris yesterday. (Inset) Kylian Mbappe and Neymar watched from the stands as PSG hammered Madrid 3-0. PHOTO: AFP



Blaise Matuidi put Juve in control.

Stefan Savic nodded home from point-blank range to give Atletico hope and substitute Hector Herrera headed in a corner in the final minute to snatch a point.

"I think we played well but we have a bitter taste in our mouth now because we felt we had the game in our hands," said Juventus boss Maurizio Sarri.

Substitute Herrera made himself an instant hero 14 minutes into his competitive debut for the club by escaping his marker

and heading home Kieran Trippier's corner to spark jubilant scenes in the stands and around the Atletico dugout.

"This team is renowned for suffering and fighting until the end. This result tastes better than most draws, of course we wanted to win but a draw is good given how tough Juventus are," said Mexico midfielder Herrera, who joined Atleti from Porto in the close season.

"A draw isn't bad at all given the team we were up against and we were better than them in many moments of the game. I'm so

happy to have made my debut and to help the team."

Both sides trail Lokomotiv Moscow following the Russians' 2-1 win at Bayer Leverkusen. Grzegorz Krychowiak and Dmitri Barinov scored for Lokomotiv either side of an own goal by former Germany defender Benedikt Hoewedes.

Premier League champions City bounced back from defeat by Norwich at the weekend with a comfortable 3-0 victory against Shakhtar Donetsk in Kharkiv.

Riyad Mahrez slammed home a rebound after Ilkay Gundogan hit the post, and the German international smacked in a second before Gabriel Jesus sealed the points on 76 minutes.

"When you win the manager makes the right decisions, when you lose the wrong decisions. We lost one game in eight months and we will not doubt who these players are. It is a joy to be their manager," coach Pep Guardiola told BT Sport.

City are second to Dinamo Zagreb in Group C after the Croatian champions made it a night to forget for competition debutants Atalanta with a 4-0 rout.

Dinamo failed to score a single goal as they lost all six matches on their last group stage appearance in 2016-17.

However, Marin Leovac gave them a 10th-minute lead and Mislav Orsic bagged a hat-trick as Dinamo got off to a dream start ahead of a trip to City on October 2.

Bayern Munich needed late goals from Robert Lewandowski and Thomas Mueller to make sure of victory against Red Star Belgrade in Group D.

Kingsley Coman's bullet header gave Bayern a first-half lead but the German champions were forced to wait until the 80th minute before Lewandowski ended Red Star's threat.

Substitute Mueller volleyed in a third in stoppage time.

Last year's finalists Tottenham blew a two-goal lead to draw 2-2 at Olympiakos.

Harry Kane's penalty and a fine Lucas Moura strike put Spurs 2-0 up after 30 minutes in Greece, but Daniel Podence cut the deficit shortly before the break and Mathieu Valbuena levelled from the spot in the second half.

Big change in store for SAFF C'ship?

SPORTS REPORTER

After a proposal from a potential marketing agent, the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) is mulling the introduction of a new format for the SAFF Championship from 2021 which could see an end to the practice of staging the regional football extravaganza at a single venue.

Bangladesh are scheduled to host the 13th edition of the SAFF Championship in September 2020 with an existing tournament format that will divide the seven participating teams into two groups, with the top two teams from each group to advance to the semifinals.

The 2020 tournament may be the last to be held with the format.

According to the new format, the seven teams will play each other in a round-robin league and each team will be allowed to host three teams at home and play three matches away. Finally, the side with the most points will emerge the regional champions.

SAFF had a marketing contract with Lagardere Sports and Entertainment which expired in 2018, and the body is looking for a new marketing agent, one of whom have come up with the proposal.

"We have discussed this issue at the SAFF meeting in Kuala Lumpur and all members appreciated this format as each of them will get the

opportunity to play more matches than the existing format," said SAFF general secretary Anwarul Haque Helal yesterday.

"Each team will play six matches -- three at home and three away. The home and away matches will be decided through a draw," said Helal. "The potential marketing agent will place their final proposal within the next week and then SAFF will sit again to discuss it at an emergency meeting."

Helal however said that finding a slot for the SAFF Championship may be a problem and that the new format will allow the championship to be completed in a five- or six-week period in September.

"If the new format is introduced, then there will be no issue of finding the host nation and a slot that suits everyone as every country will be involved in hosting the championship," added Helal.

The new format of the SAFF Championship, if adopted, is perhaps going to be a unique one as unlike, say, the Champions League, not every match will be played on a home and away basis. It also remains to be seen whether the regional football championship will lose its excitement as playing in one venue over a short period of time created and sustained the buzz among the spectators, which may not be the case in a protracted format.

NATIONAL HANDBALL TOURNAMENT

Big wins for Sunnydale, Scholastica

SPORTS REPORTER

Sunnydale School's girls' team notched a 17-0 win over their Shaheed Sheikh Russel Govt. High School counterparts in the opening match of the Polar Ice Cream 26th School National Handball tournament (boys and girls) at the Shaheed Captain M Mansur Ali Handball Stadium yesterday.

In the other girls' matches, the opening day saw HEED International School beat Dhanmondi Tutorial 7-3, Scholastica outclass Cambrian International and College 12-0, Bangladesh International School edge past Shaheed Bir Uttam Lt Anwar Girls School 3-2, Kadamtala East Basabo

School and College blank Rajdhani Ideal School 6-0 and Shaheed Police Smriti School thrash Siddeshwari Girls' High School 10-1. The two boys' encounters yesterday found Saint Gregory's High School overcome HEED International School in a 30-20 goalfest, and Scholastica beat Motijheel Govt. Boy's High School 10-3.

Sponsors Dhaka Ice Cream Ltd managing director Nazim Uddin Ahmed had earlier inaugurated the tournament as chief guest while Bangladesh Handball Federation president AKM Nurul Fazle Bulbul, acting general secretary SM Khalekuzzaman and tournament committee chairman Golam Habib were among others present.

Ballon d'Or for goalkeepers introduced

AFP, Paris

A Ballon d'Or award for goalkeepers will be handed out for the first time this year, the organisers, France Football magazine, announced on Thursday.

The Yashin Trophy will be named after the Soviet international, Lev Yashin, the only goalkeeper to have won the Ballon d'Or itself.

The Ballon d'Or for best male player was first awarded in 1956, to Stanley Matthews. It is voted on by journalists. Last year, an award for best female player was added. It was won by Norway's Ada Hegerberg.

A shortlist for the prizes in the three categories will be announced on October 21.

This year's winners will be revealed in a ceremony on December 2.

The Ballon d'Or also served as the FIFA player of the year award from 2010-15 but was then replaced by the governing body's The Best awards in 2016.



Abbott best since Laker

ICC



South African seam bowler Kyle Abbott recorded the best match figures in first-class cricket this century for English county side Hampshire.

Abbott registered astonishing numbers of 17/86 across the two innings to pick up the best match figures in first-class cricket since Jim Laker's famous 19/90 in the 1956 Manchester Old Trafford Test.

After picking up 9/40 in the first innings, itself the 22nd best innings analysis recorded in the 21st century, Abbott ran through the Somerset batting line-up to take 8/46 in the second innings to help his side to a 136-run win. It's the only second occurrence this century of a bowler taking 17 wickets in a match after John Davison's haul for Canada against USA back in 2004.

To put into context the historical nature of Abbott's performance, it is only the third time since 1950 that 17 or more wickets have been taken in a single match by a single bowler.

Speaking to the BBC about his performance, Abbott, who last represented South Africa in January 2017, admitted that he had not yet realised the enormity of his achievement. "It hasn't quite sunk in. It is pretty incredible," said Abbott.

U-23s face hosts today

SPORTS REPORTER

The first of the five one-day matches between the Bangladesh Under-23 team and their Indian counterparts was washed out due to rain at Lucknow's Ekana Cricket Stadium yesterday.

According to the provisions adopted by the organisers, the opening match will be played today, the allocated reserve day. There are reserve days for the first four one-dayers of the series.

One year ban for Akila

ICC

The International Cricket Council announced yesterday that Sri Lanka spinner Akila Dananjaya is banned from bowling in international cricket for 12 months following an independent assessment of his action.

The 25-year-old was assessed after the legality of his bowling action came under question by match officials in the first Test against New Zealand in Galle from August 14-18.



Former Ivory Coast and Chelsea forward Didier Drogba, ambassador for the 2019 edition of the Ballon d'Or, poses with the trophy during the new Ballon d'Or trophy presentation press conference in Paris yesterday. PHOTO: AFP