

## Just the start for REAL'S MBAPPE!

AFP, Madrid

Kylian Mbappe's hat-trick against Manchester City propelled Real Madrid into the Champions League last 16 on Wednesday and him to a new personal high with Los Blancos.

This was the kind of night the French superstar dreamed of, both as a boy in his bedroom surrounded by Cristiano Ronaldo posters and in his past few seasons at PSG.

As PSG came up short year after year in Europe, Mbappe watched on as Madrid

extended their power over the European game, reaching a record 15 European Cup triumphs.

With Madrid's poor start to the current campaign -- in part due to Mbappe's teeth problems -- leaving the Spanish and European champions in the play-off round against City, they needed the forward to deliver.

With three lethal finishes, he did just that to help Carlo Ancelotti's rampant Madrid seal a 3-1 win on the night and a 6-3 aggregate triumph.

"This is the type of game we want to play,"

said Mbappe.

"People told me about these nights and now I can see it with my own eyes and I want to live through many more of them."

Following a rather slow start in Spain, Mbappe pledged to show his character. And he has done just that, with his best performance in a Madrid shirt coming at the adoring Santiago Bernabeu against City.

"I knew that I couldn't have done worse than I was doing," Mbappe told Movistar after his stunning treble against City.

"I had to play with personality, my adaptation time was over and I have to show my quality."

Mbappe said signing for Madrid to accomplish his long-term goal was not enough.

"Making my dream come true is one thing, but I want to play well here, mark an era and write history at Real Madrid," he explained.

Mbappe has 28 goals for Real Madrid in 38 games and the form he is in has opened up comparisons to the club's all-time greats, even though he is just at the start of his trajectory with Los Blancos.

"He has the quality to reach the level of Cristiano (at Madrid)," Ancelotti told reporters.

"He has to work because Cristiano set the bar very high, (Mbappe) has just started at this club."



Kylian Mbappe has netted seven goals for Real Madrid in the Champions League this season -- the joint-most by a player in their first campaign for the club in the European Cup/Champions League, along with Cristiano Ronaldo (7 in 2009-10) and Justo Tejada (7 in 1961-62).

Real Madrid are unbeaten in each of their last nine matches in the knockout stages of the UEFA Champions League (W5 D4), equalling their longest such run in the competition (between April 2016 and May 2017).

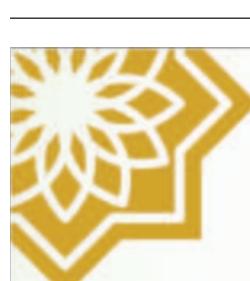
For the first time in his managerial career, Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola has seen his side eliminated from the UEFA Champions League prior to the round of 16.

"For the quality he has, and the excitement he has to play here, he can reach Ronaldo's level but it won't be easy for him, he has to work."

Portuguese veteran Ronaldo scored 450 goals in 438 games for Madrid. Mbappe is far away from that, but if he can keep on replicating what he did at the Bernabeu on Wednesday, the French superstar can indeed reach the same level. After all, this is just the beginning for Mbappe at Madrid.

He has the quality to reach the level of Cristiano (at Madrid).

Real Madrid coach CARLO ANCELOTTI on Kylian Mbappe



২৫ থাকাবে চিরনবীন  
বিশ্ব ইতিহাসে  
আমরা পরিচয় দিবো  
মাথা উঁচু করে

মহান শহীদ দিবস ও আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবসে  
ভাষাসৈনিকদের জানাই বিনোদ শুন্ধা

ইসলামী ব্যাংক

বাংলাদেশ দিপ্লোমি | ইসলামী ব্যাংক মোবাইল ব্যাংকিং

## What to WATCH

T SPORTS AND NAGORIK TV  
Champions Trophy  
Afghanistan vs South Africa  
Live from 3:00 pm

SELECT HD1  
Premier League  
Leicester vs Brentford  
Live from 2:00 am  
(Saturday)



Footballers Sabina Khatun and Maria Manda pose with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus, who presented the Ekushey Padak 2025 -- the country's second-highest civilian award -- at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium yesterday. The Bangladesh women's football team, who won the SAFF Championships 2022 and 2024, are the first sporting team to receive the prestigious award. Sabina and Maria, meanwhile, are two of the 18 rebel women footballers who were left out of the squad for the upcoming UAE tour following a row with head coach Peter Butler.

PHOTO: BFF

## Butler names 23-member squad sans 18 rebels for UAE friendlies

SPORTS REPORTER

With last Sunday's announcement confirming a break for 18 rebel players embroiled in a dispute with head coach Peter Butler, their absence from Bangladesh's women's squad for the upcoming FIFA friendlies against hosts UAE seemed inevitable.

As expected, Butler yesterday unveiled a 23-member squad, opting for a fresh lineup that excludes several senior players who were instrumental in Bangladesh's SAFF Championship triumph last year.

Instead, the squad features a mix of experience and youth, with eight new faces earning call-ups.

"It is a mix of 23 players -- some experienced and others I just find faith in. It is a young group. I would prefer to give them time. Be patient with them. They may make mistakes, but they will learn," Butler said in a video message.

Stressing the importance of attitude

**“**We dedicate this award to our mother tongue Bangla and to all those who tirelessly work behind the scenes to advance our society and culture. We hope that recognising contributions to women's sports in this way will inspire future generations even more. For this, we express our gratitude.

Bangladesh footballer  
SABINA KHATUN

and commitment, he added, "The most important thing for me is that these players approach their work with the right mindset, show respect, and deliver a performance that does justice to representing Bangladesh." Bangladesh will face the UAE on February 26 and on March 2. The squad is set to depart for the UAE on February 24.

## SQUAD

Yearzana Begum, Mili Akter, Meghla Rani Roy, Kohati Kisku, Joynob Bibi, Afeida Khandakar, Surman Jannat, Halima Akther, Sapna Rani, Aririn Khatun, Aklima Khatun, Shaheda Akter Ripa, Ayonto Bala Mahato, Oyeshi Khatun, Tonima Bishwas, Munki Akther, Bonna Khatun, Mrs Sultana, Kanom Akther, Arpita Bishwas Arpita, Sourovi Akter Prity, Mariam Binta Hanna, Nabiran Khatun.



## আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবস

সকল ভাষা শহীদের প্রতি

আমাদের বিনোদ শুন্ধা ও ভালোবাস।



শাহজালাল ইসলামী ব্যাংক সিএলসি

আন্তর্বিক সেবার প্রতিবন্ধিত্ব