

What to WATCH

CHANNEL 9 & SONY SIX
Bangladesh Premier League T20
 Comilla Victorians v Dhaka Dynamites
 Live from 1:00pm
 Khulna Titans v Rajshahi Kings
 Live from 5:45pm

BOISHAKHI TV
Bangladesh Premier League
 Sk Russel v Mukhtijodha
 Live from 3:30pm
 Sk Jamal v Team BJMC
 Live from 6:15pm
STAR SPORTS 1
 India v England

Third Test, Day 1
 Live from 10:00am
STAR SPORTS 2
 Australia v South Africa
 Third Test, Day 3
 Live from 9:30am
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
 English Premiership

Burnley v Man City
 Live from 6:30pm
Liverpool v Sunderland
 Live from 9:00pm
Chelsea v Tottenham
 Live from 11:30pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
 Bundesliga

Frankfurt v Dortmund
 Live from 8:30pm
Bayern Munich v Leverkusen
 Live from 11:30pm
SONY ESPN
 Serie A
Torino v Chievo Verona
 Live from 11:00pm

Empoli v AC Milan
 Live from 1:45am (Sunday)
SONY SIX
Primera Liga
Malaga v Deportivo
 Live from 6:00pm
Real Madrid v Sporting Gijon
 Live from 9:15pm

Leganes
 Live from 11:30pm
Sevilla v Valencia
 Live from 1:45am (Sunday)

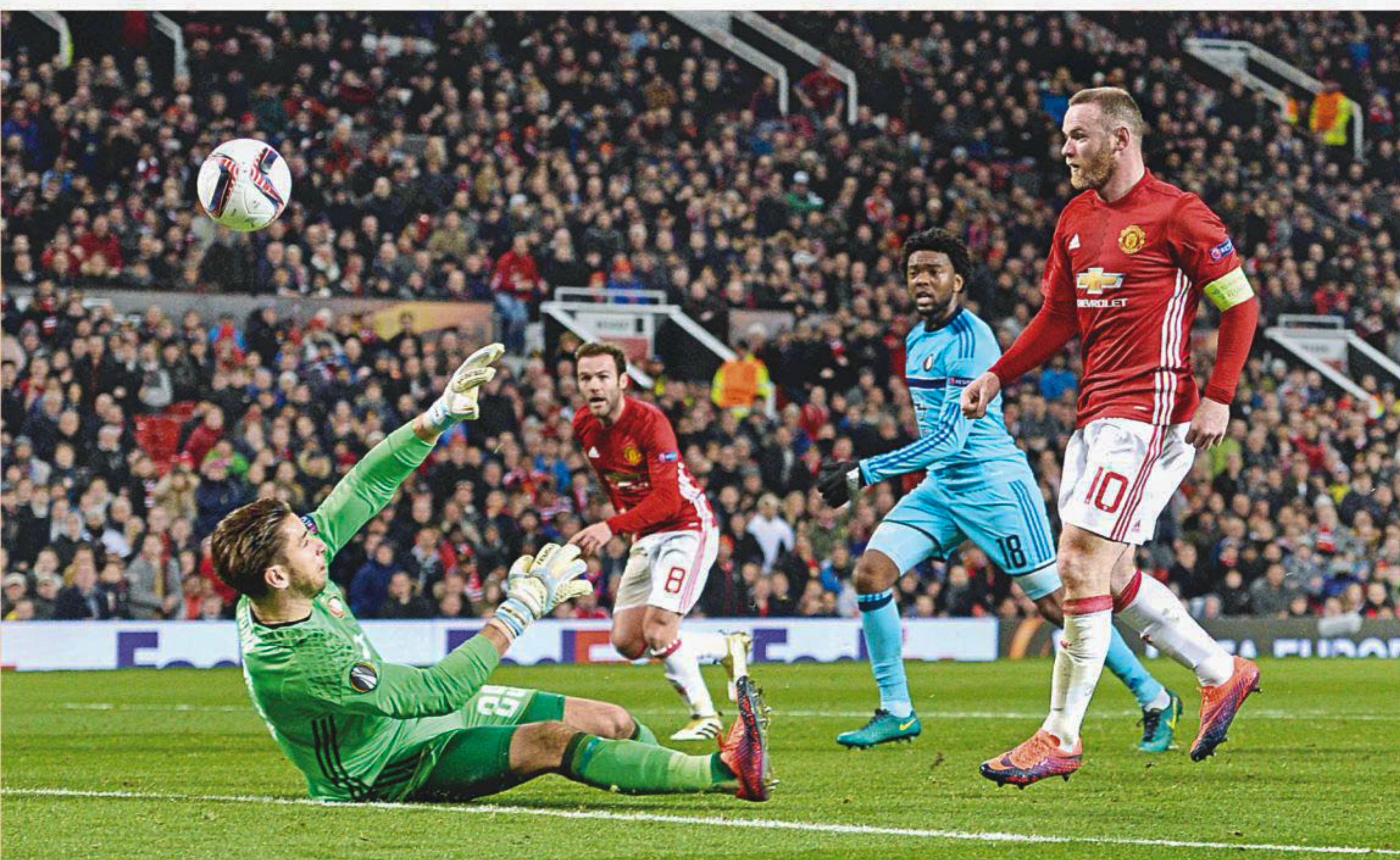
DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh Premier League T20
 Comilla Victorians v Dhaka Dynamites
 Time: 1:00pm

Khulna Titans v Rajshahi Kings
 Time: 5:45pm
 Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Mirpur

Bangladesh Premier League
 Sk Russel v Mukhtijodha
 Time: 3:30pm

Sk Jamal v Team BJMC
 Time: 6:15pm
 Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagong



Manchester United captain Wayne Rooney (R) chips the ball over Feyenoord goalkeeper Brad Jones (L) to score the opening goal during their Europa League encounter at Old Trafford on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

5TH MEN'S AHF CUP

Bangladesh face S'pore in semifinal today

SPORTS REPORTER



Defending champions Bangladesh are looking forward to confirming the final berth in the 5th Men's AHF Cup when they take on Singapore in the first semi-

final today.

The game will get underway at 2:00pm (Bangladesh time) at the King's Park hockey ground in Hong Kong.

Bangladesh, the pre-tournament favourites, are the only side to have won all three of their matches coming into the last-four battle, and they will be playing against a team they have never lost.

Singapore, however, have always given Bangladesh a tough time on the pitch. Even though Bangladesh defeated the islanders 3-0 in their last meeting during the World Hockey League Round-2 in 2015, today's encounter is expected to be a tough one for the men in red and green.

"Singapore are a good side. They have been playing comparatively well in the ongoing tournament. Besides, they have

also been under a coach for a long time and the players have a good understanding among them. So it will not be easy for us," captain Rasel Mahmud Jimmy said over phone yesterday.

"However, we are confident about performing well and carry the momentum from the last three wins. If we don't miss scoring opportunities like the first two matches, I believe it will not be difficult for us to win the match," said Jimmy.

Bangladesh are trying to insert the European style in their game under German coach Oliver Kurtz in a bid to do well in the World Hockey League Round-2 next year in Dhaka, and Jimmy believes that they have implemented nearly 60 per cent of the style in this tournament.

"We, the Asian players, play typically to dribble one or two players before passing it to the next player, but here we are not going to do any difficult dribbling, passing, receiving and dodging. We know that as long as we hold possession of the ball, we are out of danger. We are playing as a team and trying to play according to the game plan," Jimmy added.

Rooney back on song

AFP, Manchester



Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho challenged Wayne Rooney to lead the club to Europa League glory after the England captain broke United's European scoring record against Feyenoord.

Rooney, 31, scored his 39th European goal as United crushed Feyenoord 4-0 on Thursday, thereby closing to within just one goal of Bobby Charlton's all-time club scoring record of 249 goals.

United need just a draw away to Ukrainians Zorya Luhansk in their final Group A game to progress and Mourinho says Rooney can be the inspiration behind the club's first success in the competition.

"It's an amazing achievement, obviously," Mourinho told reporters when asked to sum up Rooney's feat in surpassing Ruud van Nistelrooy as United's outright leading scorer in UEFA competitions.

"It will be even better if he can help to bring to the club the only competition that the club never won in its history, which is the Europa League.

"It's not the biggest competition,

obviously, but it's a competition that Man United's history doesn't have. So let's try, let's push.

"I know that it's difficult. I know there are lots of matches in the knockout (phase).

"But let's try to qualify and if we qualify in Ukraine, then more matches to come and hopefully more goals for Rooney to score."

Rooney's performance followed a week of negative headlines after he supposedly 'gategashed' a late-night wedding party while on England duty.

Despite his milestone, the England captain missed out on the man-of-the-match award to his team-mate Henrikh Mkhitaryan, who marked his first start since September 10 with a fine display.

Mourinho said the Armenian playmaker had been left out of last weekend's 1-1 draw with Arsenal because he was not ready for the "pressure" of such a high-profile fixture.

While Mkhitaryan's direct running and neat footwork delighted the Old Trafford crowd, Mourinho said the former Borussia Dortmund star still had work to do.

"He just needs now to try to replicate this type of performance in the Premier League. The Premier League is different," said Mourinho, whose side entertain West Ham United on Sunday.

A test of nerves for Spurs

AFP, London



Tottenham Hotspur face a major test of nerve on Saturday when they return to Stamford Bridge, scene of the 2-2 draw with Chelsea that ended last season's title challenge.

Spurs had nine players booked and Mousa Dembele was hit with a six-game ban for gouging Diego Costa's eye in a stormy May 2 encounter that delivered the Premier League crown to Leicester City.

Mauricio Pochettino's side are licking their wounds once again, having been dumped out of the Champions League by Monaco, but goalkeeper Hugo Lloris says they will relish the trip to Chelsea.

"I said the same after we lost against (Bayer) Leverkusen at Wembley: this is the best type of game to bounce back," said the France international following Tuesday's 2-1 loss to Monaco at the Stade Louis II.

"The only thing is to digest the

frustration of this defeat and look forward.

"It's a big disappointment, but we need to keep our chins up because it's a big game on Saturday."

Harry Kane struck twice late on as Spurs came from behind to beat West Ham United 3-2 at White Hart Lane on their previous league outing.

But that was Spurs' only win in their last nine fixtures in all competitions, a run that has seen them slide to fifth in the table, four points below leaders Chelsea.

Chelsea, in stark contrast, are flying,

FIXTURES

Saturday
 (1500 GMT unless stated)
 Burnley v Man City (1230), Chelsea v Tottenham (1730), Liverpool v Sunderland, Hull v West Brom, Leicester v Middlesbrough, Swansea v Crystal Palace
Sunday
 (1630 GMT unless stated)
 Arsenal v Bournemouth (1415), Man Utd v West Ham, Southampton v Everton, Watford v Stoke (1200)

Zim beat WI, face SL in final

AFP, Bulawayo

Zimbabwe beat West Indies by five runs under the Duckworth-Lewis method in Friday's rain-affected one-day international to qualify for the triangular series final against Sri Lanka.

Chisoro scored an unbeaten 42 and then claimed figures of 2 for 23 in six overs to help Zimbabwe recover from a disastrous position and go through to Sunday's final.

Zimbabwe were reduced to 89 for seven in their innings but recovered to post 218 for eight in 49 overs on the back of Sikandar Raza Butt's unbeaten 76.

In reply, the West Indies were 124 for five in the 29th over when rain returned to bring the match to a premature end, leaving them short of the Duckworth-Lewis equivalent.



Thousands of participants, including numerous foreigners, lined up for the GSK Dhaka Half Marathon 2016, which was held yesterday morning. The 21.1km race began in the capital's Rampura Bridge, and the participants went around the city before reaching the finish line at the Manik Mia Avenue. The Daily Star was the youth engagement partner of the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

Fakirerpool held by Ctg MSC

SPORTS REPORTER

Youngmen's Fakirerpool Club were held to a 1-1 draw by Chittagong Mohammedan SC in their Marcel Bangladesh Championship League fixture at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Abdullah Halim put Youngmen's Club ahead in the 14th minute before Farhad cancelled out the lead in the 68th minute for Chittagong Mohammedan, who are at the bottom of the table with four points from seven matches. Youngmen's Club joined leaders Saif SC with 13 points from seven matches.

Terry out for two weeks

AFP, London

Chelsea captain John Terry will be out of action for more than two weeks because of a "muscular problem", Blues boss Antonio Conte said Friday.

Former England centre-back Terry, 36 next month, has made just one substitute appearance since the London club started a six-match winning run that has taken them to the top of the Premier League.

Terry will miss Saturday's league match against London rivals Tottenham Hotspur, with his only start since returning from an ankle injury in the EFL Cup loss at West Ham in October.

Sociedad jinx shrouds Barca

AFP, Madrid



Barcelona face an uncomfortable trip to bogey side Real Sociedad as they seek to avoid losing further ground on Real Madrid just a week before the two clash in the Clasico.

Barca have lost on their travels to San Sebastian in each of the past three seasons and already trail Real by four points having been held 0-0 at home by nine-man Malaga last weekend.

The champions will at least benefit from having the on-fire Lionel Messi available.

Messi was badly missed due to illness against Malaga, but took his tally to 18 goals in 15 games this season with a double in a 2-0 win at

Celtic that guaranteed Barca's place in the last 16 of the Champions League as winners of their group on Wednesday.

All four of Barca's slip-ups in La Liga this season have come when Messi hasn't completed the 90 minutes.

"It is a difficult game because of the team they have. They are playing very well, they are up in the European places and it is years since we won there," Messi said on Thursday.

"It will be a very tough game. We can't afford to play badly because we need to win."

A run of four straight wins, including over Atletico Madrid in their last home outing, has seen Real Sociedad rise to joint fourth in the table.

"To play against Barcelona is always an extra motivation because there are one of the best in the world and we

know what it means to play against them," said the Basque side's Mexican forward Carlos Vela.

Barca will again be without the injured Andres Iniesta and Samuel Umtiti, while Neymar has to be careful as a yellow card would see the Brazilian miss the Clasico through suspension.

Barca could find themselves seven points back by the time they kick off on Sunday as Madrid host the struggling Sporting Gijon on Saturday.

Zinedine Zidane's men extended their unbeaten run in all competitions to 30 games with victory at Sporting Lisbon on Tuesday.

However, progression to the last 16 of the Champions League for a record 20th straight season came at a huge cost as Gareth Bale will have to undergo surgery on an ankle injury.

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