

What to WATCH

SONY ESPN
UEFA Europa League
Standard Liege v Sevilla
Live from 2:00am (Friday)
SONY SIX
UEFA Europa League
Leverkusen v Ludogorets
Live from 11:55pm

Eintracht v Frankfurt
Live from 2:00am (Friday)
TEN 1
UEFA Europa League
AC Milan v Dudelange
Live from 11:55pm
Apollon Limassol v Lazio
Live from 2:00am (Friday)

TEN 2
UEFA Europa League
Vorskla v Arsenal
Live from 11:55pm
Chelsea v PAOK
Live from 2:00am (Friday)

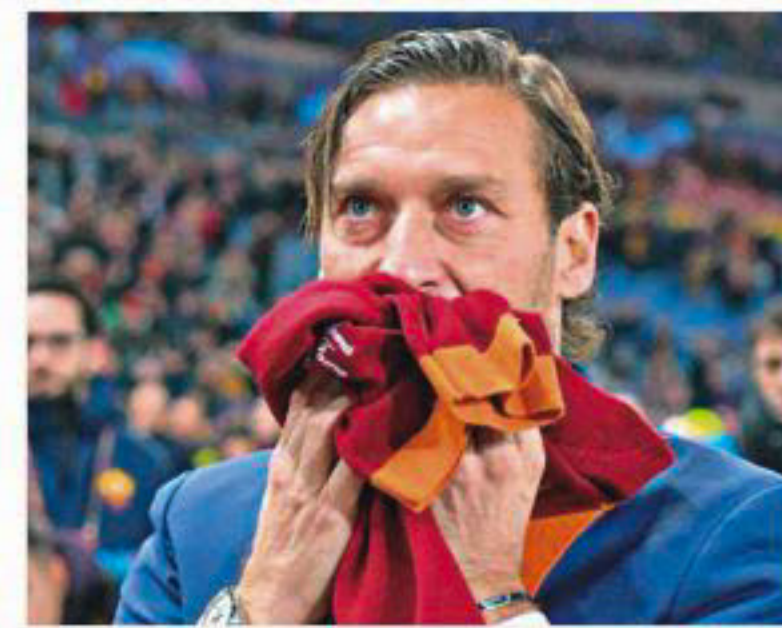
DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh Cricket League
Four-Day Match, Day-2
Time: 9:30am, South Zone v

East Zone, Venue: SKS, Rajshahi
North Zone v Central Zone
Venue: SCS, Bogura

IL GLADIATORE IMMORTALISED

Francesco Totti could not hold back the tears as he was inducted into Roma's hall of fame in an emotional ceremony on Tuesday night. The Italy star, who played for Roma for his entire 25-year career, was presented to fans before Roma's Champions League defeat by Real Madrid. Roma immediately inducted Totti into their hall of fame when he retired, but delayed the public ceremony to honour him. The 42-year-old was visibly touched as fans chanted his name and held up banners. "It's a landmark day, so special," Totti said. "I'm a Roman, a Roma fan, I only played for one club, I was the captain... it's a privilege that is difficult to put into words. To stand here in front of the fans is always emotional for me. To be with them makes every day like the hall of fame for me. Like always we are united; we are all brothers, sisters - I truly love you all."



Ronaldo hits 100

Juventus, Man Utd reach last 16

AGENCIES, Turin



Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri hailed the impact Cristiano Ronaldo was having on the Italian champions as the Portuguese star became the first player to achieve 100 Champions League wins in Tuesday's 1-0 success over Valencia that clinched their passage to the knockout rounds.

"Ronaldo gives us a sense of security and confidence," said Allegri of the beaten finalists in two of the last four editions of the elite European competition.

"The team is essentially the same as last season. We've grown, become faster in playing the ball, but then of course, there is Cristiano Ronaldo.

"This team is constantly improving - they're passing and putting play together more quickly."

Ronaldo -- who joined Juventus last summer from Real Madrid -- is targeting a sixth Champions League title to add to his four with the Spanish team and one with Manchester United. The Italian team are looking for their third European title and first since 1995. Last season they exited in the quarterfinals to Ronaldo's Real Madrid.

The 33-year-old played a key role against Valencia providing the assist on 59 minutes which Croatian Mario Mandzukic tapped

in for his third goal in as many matches.

Juventus had needed just a point to ensure qualification and their win, combined with Manchester United's late 1-0 win over Young Boys, means Valencia crash out of the competition.

At Old Trafford, Marouane Fellaini struck a controversial stoppage-time winner to bring blessed relief after a laboured win over Young Boys edged them into the Champions League last 16 on Tuesday.

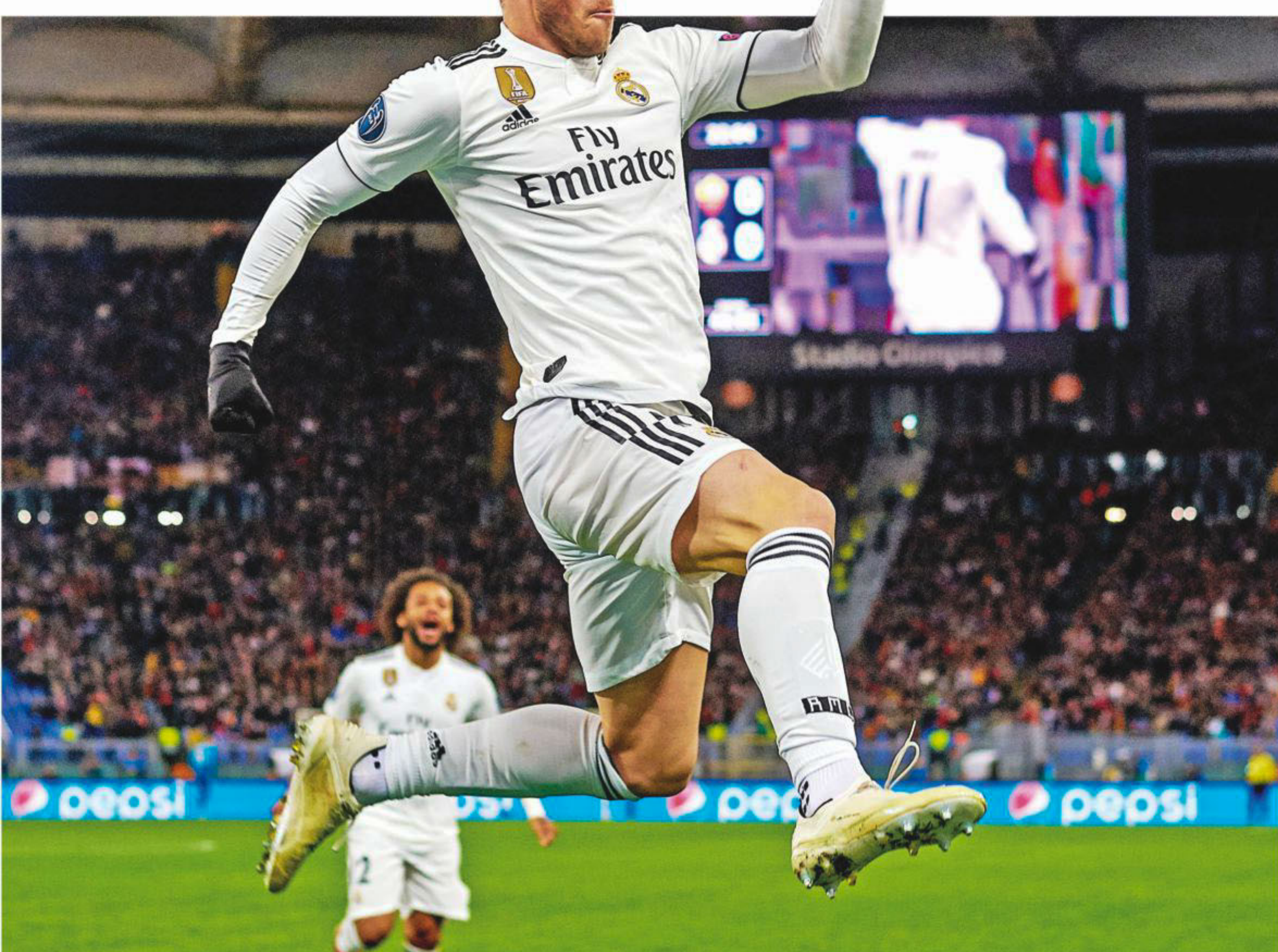
United's struggles and their fans' disenchantment looked set to continue as it seemed that, for the first time in their history, they were going to fail to score at their own ground in a European tie for three matches in a row.

Yet, after largely dominating the match while being betrayed by a blunt edge up front, Belgian Fellaini turned to shoot home in the 91st minute, despite the ball appearing to come off his hand as he swivelled to strike it.

"The most important thing is to qualify and for some of my lovers, and those that like stats, I am 14 seasons in the Champions League and 14 times my teams have qualified through to the group stages," Mourinho told BT Sport. "The season I was not in the Champions League, I won the Europa League."

United, though, were also grateful for goalkeeper David de Gea, who made a truly remarkable second-half save at full stretch from a deflected strike, clawing the ball off the line at full stretch.

It was so brilliant that it even prompted United manager Jose Mourinho to hail the Spaniard as "the best goalkeeper in the world."



After coming under tremendous fire for a string of pedestrian displays that culminated in a disastrous showing against Eibar at the weekend, Real Madrid superstar Gareth Bale bounced back with a goal and assist in a 2-0 Champions League win against AS Roma on Tuesday night. PHOTO: UEFA

Bale hopes for wind of change

REUTERS, Rome



Gareth Bale has borne the brunt of criticism for Real Madrid's recent decline but the Welsh forward hopes Tuesday's 2-0 win at Roma to seal top spot in Champions League Group C can act as the catalyst to turn their faltering campaign around.

The 29-year-old has failed to score in his last nine league appearances and came in for scathing criticism following Saturday's stunning 3-0 loss at Eibar, the three-times defending European champions fifth league defeat of the season.

He gave the ball away 20 times against the Basque side and registered just one shot on goal, with an online survey by Spanish newspaper Marca revealing Real fans did not want him to start in the Italian capital.

Rather like his team, though, he rose to the occasion in the Champions League and after a mixed first-half display, Bale broke the deadlock with his third goal in four European outings, later

RESULTS			
AEK Athens	0 - 2	Ajax	Tadic 68-pen, 72
Bayern Munich	5 - 1	Benfica	Fernandes 46
Robben 13, 30, Lewandowski 36, 51, Ribery 77			
Lyon	2 - 2	Man City	Laporte 63, Aguero 83
Cornet 55, 81		Shakhtar	Ismaily 14, Taison 15, 90+3
Hoffenheim	2 - 3	Viktoria Plzen	Prochazka 56, Hejda 81
Kramaric 17, Zuber 40		Real Madrid	Bale 46, Vazquez 59
CSKA Moscow	1 - 2	Valencia	
Vlasic 10-pen		Young Boys	
Roma	0 - 2		
Juventus	1 - 0		
Mandzukic 59			
Man United	1 - 0		
Fellaini 90+1			

"We know obviously the start of the season was not exactly as we would like. We need to keep working hard as a team to get the performances and get the results...and get back up the table in the league."

Bale has largely failed to fill the huge void left by Cristiano Ronaldo as Real have toiled domestically, sitting sixth in the La Liga and registering their worst goal difference after 13 league games in 18 years, scoring 12 and conceding 19.

He admitted to feeling disappointed with how the season has gone since the Portuguese talisman left to join Juventus.

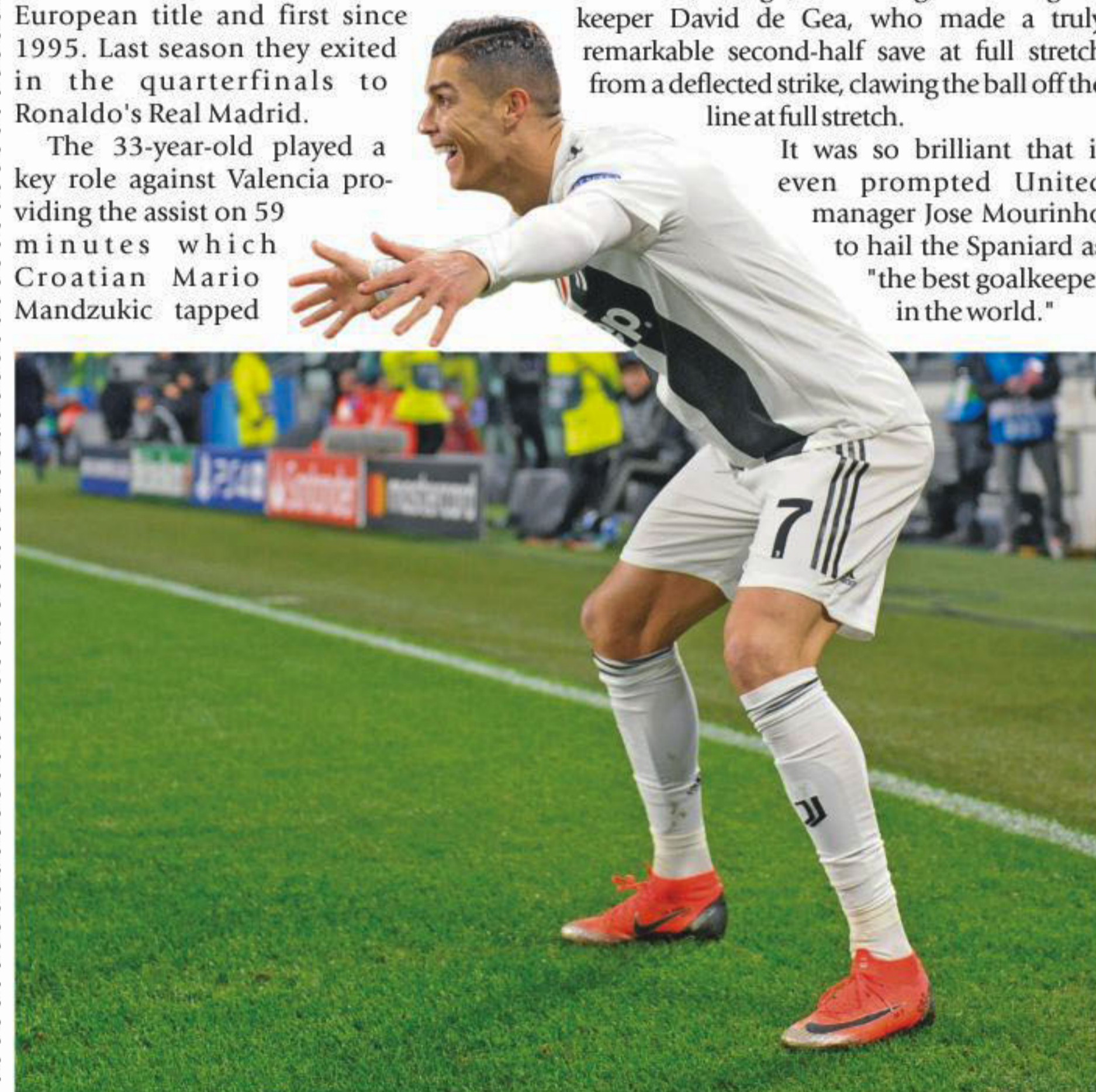
"It has been a bit of a turbulent start to the season but we have to keep fighting every game no matter what position we are in. That is football, it can be frustrating sometimes when things are not quite coming off," he added.

Meanwhile, coach Santiago Solari was happy to move on from the shock weekend loss.

"It was important to move on and we did that, showing a sense of responsibility as a team and individuals," Solari told a news conference. "Matches last 90 minutes, we knew how to grow into the game."

helping set up Lucas Vazquez to seal victory.

"The manager told us at halftime we needed to keep playing the way we know. And in the second half, we played very well, played the ball like we normally do. We got some confidence back and need to build on that now," Bale told reporters.



Although he did not get his name on the scoresheet, Juventus' 1-0 Champions League win over Valencia on Tuesday night meant that Cristiano Ronaldo became the first player in history to notch 100 wins in Europe's elite competition. PHOTO: REUTERS



'He'd play even if his finger was broken'

Bangladesh wicketkeeper-batsman Mushfiqur Rahim had an injury scare in training yesterday after a ball hit him on the thumb of his right hand. However, although the right-hander underwent an X-Ray, BCB chief physician Dr. Debashish Chowdhury said there was nothing to worry about. The X-Ray revealed that there was no fracture in his hand. "I don't think there is anything to be worried about, but since he did get hurt today, he did not bat any further and rested for the rest of the day," Debashish said. Speaking to reporters later in the day, Bangladesh batsman Mominul Haque made a funny observation about the incident: "I think he [Mushfiqur] is doing fine. As far as I know, he would play even if the thumb was broken."

PHOTO: STAR

SHORT CORNER

Hornets clinch premier basketball title

Hornets SC became unbeaten champions in the Unimed Unihealth Premier Division Basketball Championship, beating Rangers Club by 63-50 points in the title deciding match at the Dhanmondi Indoor Gymnasium yesterday. Hornets cruised to victory after having led the first half by 33-22 points. Jamil netted highest 25 points for the winners.

The managing director of Unimed Unihealth Pharmaceutical Company M Mosaddek Hossain distributed prizes among teams. Hornets received Tk 30,000 while Rangers received Tk 20,000 as prize money. The high-ups of Bangladesh Basketball Federation were also present. -- SPORTS REPORTER

Robbie Keane calls time

Irish football legend Robbie Keane brought the curtain down on over two decades as a player on Wednesday saying his career had exceeded all his hopes when he was a "football-mad boy growing up in Dublin".

The 38-year-old -- his country's record goalscorer on 68 well clear of Niall Quinn who is next with 21 --

is to focus on his new duties as assistant manager to new Ireland handler Mick McCarthy.

Keane, who replaces Roy Keane (no relation) in the role after the latter and manager Martin O'Neill were fired last week, captained Ireland for a decade.

"Today, after 23 wonderful years, I am formally announcing my retirement as a professional footballer," Keane said in a statement. "From Crumlin United around the world to the likes of Milan, London and Los Angeles, I could never have imagined the path my football life would take."

"It has exceeded all the hopes I had as a football-mad boy growing up in Dublin." -- AFP

Boca go on strike, president confirms

Boca Juniors will refuse to play any matches until they are awarded the Copa Libertadores title, the club's president Daniel Angelici has confirmed.

CONMEBOL president Alejandro Dominguez announced the second leg of the final - postponed after the Boca team bus was attacked before Saturday's game - will be played outside of Argentina on either December 8 or 9.

But Boca, whose players suffered injuries in the

attack, will not play a rescheduled final according to Angelici.

"Boca listened carefully to the president's words," Angelici told reporters. "We have decided to submit a request for disqualification to River. Today we expand the petition with 46 more pages, with videos, photos and evidence. Now the Disciplinary Tribunal has to answer."

"We are not willing to play any matches until the court decides." -- AGENCIES

Irish club makes 'grave' mistake

News of footballer Fernando Nuno La Fuente's death, as American author Mark Twain said of reports of his own demise, have been greatly exaggerated and prompted an abject apology from his Irish club Ballybrack FC.

The south Dublin outfit reported they were not feeling up to playing their Leinster League match with Arklow due to Spanish player La Fuente's death in a motorbike accident early on Friday.

However, they later clarified in an apology that Fuente was alive and well, adding that the responsible party no longer worked at the club. -- AFP



An action from the final day of the 3rd National Fencing Championship at the Shaheed Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Bangladesh Ansar & VDP became champions in the five-day event. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

NSC's drive against illegal lodgers

SPORTS REPORTER

The National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday started a cleansing drive regarding stay of unauthorised personnel at its dormitory following allegations of sexual assault on an under-aged female weightlifter at the NSC Tower.

A Bangladesh Weightlifting Federation (BWF) office assistant named Shohag Ali allegedly sexually assaulted a 17-year-old weightlifter at the 15th floor of the NSC Tower on September 13 with the help of an NSC staff and a weightlifter.

It has been learnt that some six to seven NSC employees are illegally staying on the third floor of the dormitory, where the BWF office is situated. Shohag used to stay there and he had allegedly built up good relation with the NSC staff who lodged there unauthorised.

The four-story building is being used as dormitory as well as headquarters of some federations and associations. The first and second floors are used as dormitory where athletes, organisers and District Sports Association (DSA) officials use the rooms paying a nominal fee. However, no record of entry and exit is maintained at the dormitory.

"We are looking as to who are staying at the dormitory and we will take action if we find any unauthorised people staying there," NSC secretary Masud Karim said yesterday.

"The officials of DSA coming from outside the capital use the dormitory by paying stipulated fee. As far as I know, no outside person is allocated lodging at the dormitory," Karim claimed.

Replying to a query, he said, "We may think of maintaining a register of entry-and-exit at the dormitory even though I think those who are staying there are responsible people. We will also try to implement recommendations of the probe committee formed to look into the sexual harassment."

EXCLUSIVE COMMERCIAL SPACE

SALE

at Bashundhara (Business Park)
Road Facing
Car Parking Facility

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