

# Bayern outclass Arsenal

AFP, London

Bayern Munich are in pole position to reach the Champions League quarterfinals after a sublime strike from Toni Kroos inspired the holders' 2-0 win against 10-man Arsenal on Wednesday.

Pep Guardiola's side rode their luck in a dramatic last 16 first leg clash at the Emirates Stadium, but their class eventually told as Kroos produced his moment of magic and Thomas Mueller bagged the killer second goal in the closing stages.

Bayern survived an early penalty miss from Arsenal's Mesut Ozil and a squandered spot-kick of their own by David Alaba.

But Arsenal goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny had been sent off in the incident that led to Bayern's penalty and the visitors eventually capitalised on their numerical superiority through Germany midfielders Kroos and Muller.

Bayern will be expected to finish the job in the second leg on March 11, but Arsenal

can take heart from their 2-0 win in Munich at the same stage last season, even if that result wasn't enough to stop Arsene Wenger's team bowing out on away goals.

Wenger, who sprang a selection shock when he opted to pick raw French striker Yaya Sanogo ahead of experienced France international Olivier Giroud, was left to curse his misfortune as Arsenal's promising start fizzled out.

Arsenal tore into Bayern with a relish that seemed to shock the Germans and quickly carved out two decent chances, with first Sanogo and then Santi Cazorla denied by Manuel Neuer.

Arsenal's frenzied start had clearly rattled the visitors and they should have been ahead in the ninth minute.

Jack Wilshere slipped a perfectly-weighted pass behind the Bayern defence and Ozil took a touch before cleverly clipping the ball inside Jerome Boateng, wrong-footing the centre-back who responded by clumsily stretching out his leg and sending the Germany midfielder crashing to the turf.



Bayern Munich midfielder Toni Kroos (R) celebrates his opening goal with teammates during their Champions League last 16 encounter against Arsenal at the Emirates Stadium on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP

## ASIA CUP CRICKET MS side-lined by side-strain

Kohli to lead India

AFP, New Delhi

India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni was ruled out of the Asia Cup in Bangladesh due to a side strain suffered during the recent New Zealand tour, the Indian cricket board said on Thursday.

Top-order batsman Virat Kohli will lead India in the five-nation tournament which starts on Tuesday, while Dinesh Karthik will replace Dhoni as wicketkeeper, the board said in a media release.

"Dhoni suffered a grade-one strain to his left side during the second Test against New Zealand in Wellington and will undergo rehabilitation for 10 days," the release said.

The Indian team returned early Thursday from the tour where New Zealand won the one-dayers 4-0 and also clinched the two-Test series 1-0.

India play hosts Bangladesh in their first Asia Cup match in Fatullah next Wednesday.

Defending champions Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan are the other teams in the tournament, the symbol of one-day supremacy in the region.

Dhoni, who captains India in all three formats of the game, is expected to be fit for the World Twenty20 which will also be played in Bangladesh from March 16.

**Squad:** Virat Kohli (captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Rohit Sharma, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ambati Rayudu, Ajinkya Rahane, Dinesh Karthik, Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mohammed Shami, Varun Aaron, Stuart Binny, Amit Mishra, Ishwar Pandey.

## Even going on Day 1

REUTERS, Port Elizabeth

South Africa were left to rue the loss of cheap wickets after battling to 214 for five on the opening day of the second Test against Australia on Thursday.

Bad light brought a premature end to the day after 83 overs bowled with AB de Villiers not out on 51 and JP Duminy on two at the close.

De Villiers passed 7,000 Test runs and became the first player in history to score half-centuries in 12 Tests in a row.

It might well have been a better day for the hosts after they won the toss and elected to bat, but Dean Elgar (83) and debutant Quinton de Kock (seven) gave their wickets away with rash shots.

The pitch did not have the devil of Pretoria and rendered Mitchell Johnson less effective, the South Africans playing him with relative comfort once the

shine had been taken off the new ball.

Proteas captain Graeme Smith (nine) said at the toss his side wanted to bat first and put Australia under pressure, but it was South Africa who felt the early heat.

Smith was struck on the back leg by Ryan Harris with the total on 10 and the

SCOREBOARD				
<b>SOUTH AFRICA:</b> First innings				
Smith lbw b Harris				9
Elgar c Harris b Lyon				83
Amla lbw b Johnson				0
Du Plessis c Smith b Lyon				55
De Villiers not out				51
De Kock sub (Henriques) b Smith				7
Duminy not out				2
Extras: (b-4, lb-2, w-1)				7
Total: (For 5 wks in 83 overs)				214
To bat: Parnell, Philander, Steyn, M Morkel.				
Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-11, 3-123, 4-181, 5-200.				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Harris	18	5	36	1
Johnson	15	2	44	1
Siddle	22	7	61	0
Lyon	23	6	47	2
Warner	1	0	2	0
Smith	4	0	18	1
<b>AUSTRALIA:</b> Clarke, Rogers, Warner, Doolan, Marsh, Smith, Haddin, Johnson,				

umpire had no hesitation in giving him out lbw. In the next over, Johnson breached the defence of Hashim Amla who was also trapped leg before for a duck.

But Elgar and Faf du Plessis (55) batted patiently for a third-wicket partnership of 112 before the latter gave a catch to Steve Smith at short leg off the bowling of Nathan Lyon.

Left-handed opener Elgar, brought back into the side for the sick Alvaro Petersen, added a further 58 with the fluent De Villiers before he tried to smash Lyon to the boundary and skied the ball to Ryan Harris at mid-off.

That brought De Kock to the crease one place higher than expected, with Duminy slipping down to seven, and the confident 21-year-old got off the mark in Test cricket with a boundary.

But the brashness of youth got the better of him and presented with the part-time leg-spin of Smith, he too tried a mow the ball over the boundary but succeeded only in lofting it to substi-

## Gold Cup starts from Sunday

SPORTS REPORTER

The final rounds of Bangabandhu and Bangamata Gold Cup Primary School Football tournaments will get underway from Sunday at the central ground of Dhaka University with 28 teams across the county fighting it out for the coveted trophies at grass-root level.

Two schools each from seven divisions making it 14 schools for Bangabandhu Gold Cup and for Bangamata Gold Cup each will play in the knockout stages with minister for primary and mass education Mostafizur Rahman inaugurating the final rounds.

The finals of both tournaments will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on March 2 with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expected to distribute trophies among the winners. It was disclosed at a press conference yesterday.

## Dhaka score most runs

SPORTS REPORTER

Centuries from Abdul Majid and Rony Talukdar helped Dhaka get a commanding start against Rajshahi at the BKSP in the fourth round of the National Cricket League yesterday.

Dhaka openers shared a stand worth 197, after which they finished the day on 340 for 1.

Hosts Sylhet were bundled out for 123 against Khulna yesterday as Khulna's Dollar Mahmud and Rajibul Islam shared eight wickets between them. In reply, Khulna rode on Mithun Ali's 53 to finish the day on 150 for 4.

At the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra, Rangpur were bowled out towards the end of the day for 240. Dhiman Ghosh's 72 was the only positive in their batting. In reply, Dhaka Metro, who were 12 or 1, lost Elias Sunny before stumps.

SCORES IN BRIEF	
<b>SYLHET:</b> 123 all out in 50.4 overs (Rajin Saleh 48; Dollar 4-14; Rajibul 4-20) v <b>KHULNA:</b> 150 for 4 (Mithun Ali 53; Nabil Samad 2-39)	<b>DHAKA:</b> 340 for 1 (Abdul 150 not out, Rony 103; Forhad Hossain 1-42) v <b>RAJSHAHI</b>
<b>RANGPUR:</b> 240 all out in 84 overs (Dhiman 72; Azim 3-44) v <b>DHAKA METRO:</b> 12 for 1 (Elias Sunny 11; Shuvassish Roy 1-0)	<b>BARISAL:</b> 197 all out (Shahin Hossain 66; Mehedi Hasan 3-24) v <b>CHITTAGONG:</b> 90 for 3 (Irfan Sukur 31 not out;

## Costa stuns Milan

AFP, Milan

Atletico Madrid striker Diego Costa headed home late on to seal a 1-0 win over AC Milan on Wednesday and give a huge boost to the Spaniards' hopes of qualifying for the quarterfinals of the Champions League.

Milan had kept Diego Simeone's side on a tight leash throughout a thrilling encounter at the San Siro, but after missing three golden chances to take a first-half lead, the hosts were stunned in the 83rd minute when Costa rose to head inside Christian Abbiati's near post following a corner.

Milan sniffed the opener when Adel Taarabt's ball was put through for Kaka only for the Brazilian to send a curling left-footed strike off Thibaut Courtois's crossbar.

Minutes later Taarabt's cross was met by Kaka, but Courtois performed heroics down low to palm the former Real Madrid man's precision header off the post.

## Windies' Irish shock

AFP, Kingston

Ireland added to their list of giant-killing victories with a six-wicket win over World Twenty20 champions West Indies in the first T20 International at Jamaica's Sabina Park on Wednesday.

It was at the Kingston venue where Ireland dramatically defeated Pakistan in a St. Patrick's Day 50-over World Cup match back in 2007.

And seven years on from that success, Ireland -- the leading non-Test cricket nation -- upset one of the sport's 'big boys' once again, with former England batsman Ed Joyce making a decisive 40 not out.

After the West Indies won the toss and batted, a good all-round Ireland effort in the field saw the hosts restricted to 116 for eight in their 20 overs.

Tim Murtagh, Alex Cusack and Kevin O'Brien took two wickets apiece, with Cusack capturing the prize scalp of dangerman Chris Gayle for a meagre innings top score of 18.

Ireland, coached by former West Indies batsman Phil Simmons, collapsed to eight for two in reply, losing both openers cheaply, before Joyce, the captain of English county side Sussex, and Andrew Poynter steadied the innings.

Joyce's runs came off 49 balls, and it was left to Kevin O'Brien -- just one of two survivors from the Ireland team that beat Pakistan at Sabina Park in 2007 -- to hit the winning runs as the Irish finished on 117 for four with five balls to spare.

"It was obviously brilliant," said Joyce as Ireland took a 1-0 lead in the two-match series ahead of Friday's second T20 at Sabina Park and a stand alone 50-over one-day game there on Sunday.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**WEST INDIES:** 116 for 8 in 20 overs (Smith 14, Gayle 18, Samuels 16, Simmons 16, Russell 15; Murtagh 2-28, Cusack 2-17, K O'Brien 2-17)  
**IRELAND:** 117 for 4 in 19.1 overs (Joyce 40 not out, Wilson 18, Poynter 32, K O'Brien 15 not out; Badree 2-18)  
**Result:** Ireland won by six wickets.  
**Player-of-the-match:** Ed Joyce.

## Athletes set for Glasgow

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) yesterday finalised the number of athletes to represent Bangladesh in the upcoming Commonwealth Games to be held in Scotland's Glasgow from July 23 to August 3.

A total of 30 athletes from 10 disciplines will participate in the XX Commonwealth Games though the athletes of those disciplines have not been selected yet and the respective national federations have been given instructed to select their athletes and start the training camp ahead of the Games.

The BOA has also fixed the quota for athletes -- eight from shooting, four from weightlifting, three each from cycling, table tennis, and boxing, two each from athletics, badminton, swimming and wrestling and one from gymnastics.

Meanwhile, the intensive training for shooting and boxing under the direct supervision of BOA is being conducted at the Cantonment area while the training for rest of disciplines under the supervision of national federations is scheduled to start later this month.

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