



Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo lets out a roar after winning his third Ballon d'Or award at Madrid yesterday. He beat Lionel Messi for the second consecutive year.

PHOTO: AFP

Ronaldo on top again

AFP, Madrid

Portuguese and Real Madrid great Cristiano Ronaldo won his third Ballon d'Or on Monday at the FIFA ceremony in Zurich.

The 29-year-old -- who played a key role in Real Madrid's charge to a 10th Champions League trophy -- beat eternal rival and four-time winner Lionel Messi of Barcelona and Germany's World Cup winning goalkeeper Manuel Neuer.

Ronaldo was the star of the night in which Real teammate James Rodriguez won the goal of the year award and Germany's Joachim Loew was declared coach of the year.

"I never thought I would win this trophy on three occasions," Ronaldo said in his victory speech, signalling there would be no letup in his quest for football glory.

"I want to be one of the greatest players of all time and of course this requires a lot of effort," added the Portuguese striker who also won the award in 2013 and in 2008.

He shut out Lionel Messi for the second straight year in the battle for the Ballon d'Or and he is showing no sign of giving up his grip as king of world football.

The forward has been at the height of his powers again this year, terrorising opposing defences in the Champions League and Spain's La Liga.

He is also hungry for more. Asked at the Ballon d'Or ceremony what his favourite goal had been, Ronaldo was only half-joking when he said: "For me the next goal is always the most important."

Despite a patellar tendinosis problem in his left knee that contributed to an underwhelming

World Cup, the Portugal captain was clearly a deserving winner of a third Ballon d'Or in a year in which he guided Real Madrid to their 10th Champions League title (but first in 12 years) and continued to rewrite the history books.

Battling through knee troubles and frustrated for over 90 minutes, Ronaldo and his Galactico team mates looked set for one of the most embarrassing defeats in Real's history as they trailed poorer city rivals Atletico Madrid until Sergio Ramos's towering header in stoppage time.

Further goals in extra time from Gareth Bale and Marcelo made the long-awaited "La Decima", a tenth European Cup, secure in Lisbon. But it was not enough for Ronaldo who surged into the Atletico box and collapsed under the attentions of Gabi.

List of WINNERS

BALLON D'OR
Cristiano Ronaldo
(Portugal/Real Madrid)

WOMAN PLAYER OF THE YEAR
Nadine Kessler
(Germany/Wolfsburg)

COACH OF THE YEAR
Joachim Loew
(Germany/Allemagne)

PUSKAS PRIZE FOR BEST GOAL
James Rodriguez
(Colombia/Real Madrid)

TEAM OF THE YEAR
Manuel Neuer, Sergio Ramos, Thiago Silva, David Luiz, Philipp Lahm, Andrés Iniesta, Toni Kroos, Ángel Di Maria, Arjen Robben, Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo

Mancini swept off his feet

AFP, Milan

Inter coach Roberto Mancini joked he was back to full health after a wayward pass during his side's win over Genoa on Sunday knocked the Italian clean off his feet. Mancini was standing on the sidelines when Inter defender Marco Andreolli hit the ball inadvertently at his coach's head, sweeping Mancini off his feet as he tried to protect himself with his arm.

The 50-year-old Mancini, who led Inter to seven trophies including three consecutive league titles during his previous spell with the club in 2004-2008, dusted himself down and went on to oversee his second victory at the helm since his return last November.

Napoli chief blasts ref

AFP, Milan

Napoli president Aurelio De Laurentiis lashed out on Sunday claiming Juventus are given favourable treatment by Serie A referees after his side's 3-1 defeat to the defending champions. Three strikes sent Juventus three points clear of Roma on following a 3-1 win away to Napoli.

Napoli, who scored their solitary goal thanks to Miguel Britos in the 64th minute, remain fourth in the table, 13 points off the pace and one point behind Lazio in the third and last Champions League qualifying place.

Juventus defender Giorgio Chiellini looked marginally offside when Andrea Pirlo whipped in a cross from which Caceres restored the visitors' lead on 69 minutes.

Barca trump Atletico

AFP, Barcelona



Lionel Messi, Neymar and Luis Suarez were all on target as Barcelona eased talk of a club crisis with a 3-1 win over La Liga champions Atletico Madrid on Sunday.

Messi shrugged off speculation surrounding his future at the Camp Nou to cross for Neymar to scramble home the opener and then tee up Suarez to register just his second La Liga goal.

The Argentine also handed Atletico a route back into the game, though, when he was adjudged to have brought down Jesus Gamez inside the area on the hour mark and Mario Mandzukic slammed home from the penalty spot.

However, Messi made amends by sealing the three points when he slotted home from close range three minutes from time to

move Barca back to within a point of Real Madrid at the top of La Liga.

Atletico are now four points adrift of Real, who also have a game in hand over both their title rivals.

Barcelona had failed to beat Atletico in six meetings last season and wouldn't have been looking forward to facing Diego Simeone's men after an unsettling week at the Camp Nou.

A 1-0 defeat to Real Sociedad last weekend was followed by sporting director Andoni Zubizarreta's sacking and the club's under fire president Josep Maria Bartomeu calling club elections for the end of the season.

Meanwhile, reports suggested relations between Messi and coach Luis Enrique were at breaking point after the Argentine missed training on Monday.

However, the four-time World Player of the Year did his talking on the pitch as Barca's star-studded South American frontline guided them to victory.

Ball boy becomes China hero

AFP, Brisbane

If China go far in this Asian Cup, they may have a 12-year-old ball boy to thank.

Unassuming Brisbaneite Stephan White has been hailed in China after helping goalkeeper Wang Dalei save a crucial penalty in the 1-0 win over Saudi Arabia.

As Naif Hazazi lined up his kick, Wang asked White which way to dive. The ball boy answered "left", Wang followed his advice and saved the spot-kick with his legs.

After Wang's vital stop, China scored through Yu Hai's free-kick to claim a priceless opening Group B win.

The grateful Chinese team rewarded White by inviting him to train with them ahead of their second match against Uzbekistan in Brisbane on Wednesday.

Superstitious Chinese fans had believed they were set for a win after the Saudis left two balls behind at a pre-match training session.

"It means China will defeat Saudi Arabia 2-0 on Saturday," one Internet user posted. But eventually it was a ball boy, rather than balls that brought them luck.

Kasim inspires Iraq

AFP, Sydney



Yaser Kasim's wizardry earned Iraq a 1-0 win victory Jordan on Monday, while defending champions Japan were disappointed despite slamming four past Palestine.

The late match between the Middle East rivals looked to be heading for a gritty draw before Kasim slalomed through three defenders to score via a deflection deep in the second half.

It was the touch of class that the game sorely needed and it sealed the points for Iraq as they strive to recapture the title they

won in fairytale fashion in 2007.

Iraq now sit behind Japan on goal difference after the opening games in Group D and they will have high hopes of reaching the last eight, where they could potentially face bitter rivals Iran.

Kasim-style heroics were hardly required by Japan, who have won four of the last six Asian Cups and were up against a team playing in the continent's showcase tournament for the first time.

The match pitched European-based stars against struggling players from the blockaded Palestinian territories, and the Blue Samurai wasted little time getting off the mark in a 4-0 win.

Juve move clear at top

AFP, Milan



A pair of stunning strikes from Paul Pogba and Arturo Vidal and Martin Caceres's first Serie A goal in over two years sent Juventus three points clear of Roma on Sunday following a 3-1 win away to Napoli.

Roma had pulled level on points with leaders and champions Juve after battling from 2-0 down against Lazio to claim a share of the spoils at a thrilling Stadio Olimpico clash earlier in the day.

Roma's hopes of a Napoli win were valid -- Juventus's last league win at the San Paolo came in 2000.

But Rafael Benitez's men were handed a warning just before half-time when Pogba fired a wonderful volley past Rafael Cabral.

A mix-up in the box saw Carlos Tevez's shot bounce off Fernando Llorente and out towards Pogba, who leaned back and teed up before firing a crisp volley past the outstretched hands of Rafael and into the net

for his fourth goal of the campaign.

Although defender Miguel Britos reduced arrears just after the hour with a fine close-range volley from a corner, the Partenopei were trailing soon after.

Caceres was left unmarked to bundle Andrea Pirlo's curling free kick past Rafael at the 'keeper's back post to restore Juve's lead on 69 minutes.

It was only the Uruguayan's fourth goal in Serie A but his first since hitting the net for Juve, while on loan from Barcelona, against Napoli in October 2012.

Napoli spurned a great chance to grab a share of the points, Gonzalo Higuain firing just wide of Buffon's far post after a nice slalom into the box after Dries Mertens's through ball.

But on a Juve counter, late substitute Alvaro Morata broke down the left before sighting Vidal in space just outside the area.

The Chilean took two touches before firing a drive past Rafael and into the top corner of the net.

Messi going nowhere

AFP, Barcelona



Four-times World Player of the Year Lionel Messi shot back angrily Sunday at rumours that he could leave Barcelona after clashing with coach Luis Enrique and the club's board.

The Argentine was in top form with a goal and two assists as the Catalan giants ended an unsettling week off the field with a crucial 3-1 win over La Liga champions Atletico Madrid.

"I have never demanded anything to ensure that I stay because I have never had any intention of leaving," he told Barca TV after Sunday's match.

"I have heard it said that my dad has spoken to Chelsea or Manchester City. It is all lies.

"I have taken this chance to deny it so that everyone knows the truth."

Messi had missed training on Monday, citing a stomach bug, after being left on the bench by Enrique for last weekend's 1-0 defeat to Real Sociedad.

And he sent the rumour mill into overdrive later in the day by following Chelsea and two of their players Thibaut Courtois and Filipe Luis on social media site Instagram.

Sources in the Catalan press then claimed Messi had met with Barca president Josep Maria Bartomeu in midweek to ask for the former Barca captain Enrique to be replaced as coach.

"I am grateful to be able to give my version of events," he said.

"It hurts me because it comes from here, from Barcelona, from people that love the club, or say they do. It doesn't come from Madrid like it has in the past.

"It is not good that they look for rivalry between Luis Enrique and I because there isn't any," Messi added.

"We need to be more united than ever, the fans and us. We have an important six months ahead to achieve good things for us and for the club."

Any doubts over Enrique's job in the short term were blown away by arguably his side's best performance in his seven-month reign.

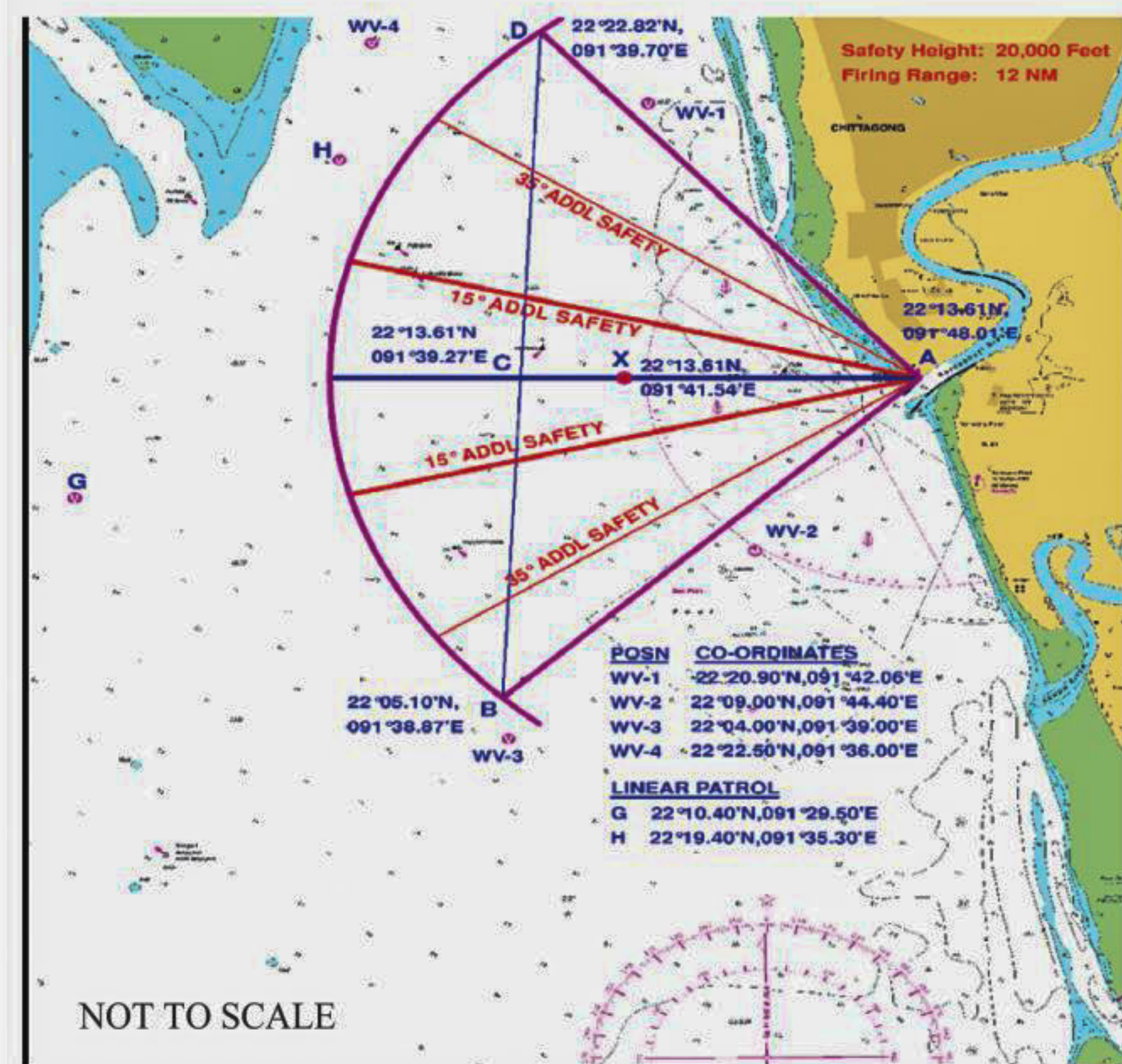


Naval Headquarters
Banani, Dhaka 1213

SPECIAL SAFETY WARNING

1. Bangladesh Navy will carry out live firing at Chittagong Outer Anchorage from 'Coastal Defence Battery (CDB)' at Naval Academy, Patenga from 8 AM to 4 PM on Sunday, 18 January 2015. The firing will be conducted in the area bounded by co-ordinates A, B, C and D as shown in the sketch:

MAP OF FIRING AREA



2. All types of ships, boats, aircraft and personnel are hereby warned and requested to refrain from entering, plying or any other activities in the area during the said period. Danger height for the firing area during the period will be 20,000 (twenty thousand) feet.

3. Cooperation of all concerned is solicited in this regard.

Director
Naval Operations
Naval Headquarters

ISPR/Navy/2015/505
GD-136

TWO LEADERS COME TOGETHER
DBH HOME LOANS FOR SHELTECH APARTMENTS...

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