



Germany players celebrate their opening goal against Australia during their 2017 Confederations Cup group B match at the Fisht Olympic Stadium in Sochi yesterday.

# Germany outplay Australia

AFP, Sochi

A youthful Germany side weathered a second-half fightback by Australia to open their Confederations Cup campaign with a 3-2 win over the Socceroos yesterday in Sochi.

Goals by Lars Stindl and Leon Goretzka, either side of a penalty by Julian Draxler, saw Germany home to leave them second in Group B behind Chile, who they face in Kazan on Thursday. Celtic midfielder Tommy Rogic had made it 1-1 in the first half and Tomi Juric added Australia's second after the break from a goal that was allowed to stand despite a suggestion of handball leading to a review from the video assistant referee.

The Socceroos then had a string of late chances to equalise, but Germany held out. Australia next face Cameroon, who lost 2-0 to Chile in their opening game, in Saint Petersburg on Thursday with both teams needing a win in their bid to reach the semi-finals.

Much had been made before kick-off of Germany bringing a young squad and their starting line-up had just 138 international appearances between them.

The arrival of the world champions in Sochi failed to excite local fans and only 28,605 of the Fisht Stadium's available 47,700 seats were filled.

Those who did turn out saw Germany waste no time in taking the lead with just five minutes gone.

After Goretzka went close, winger Julian Brandt cut the ball back for Stindl, who slotted home his first goal for his country on only his third international appearance.

With Bayer Leverkusen's Brandt causing mayhem down the right flank, striker Sandro Wagner had two clear chances, a diving header and then a shot which both went wide.

Brandt's fiercely-hit shot from outside the area produced a diving save from Socceroos goalkeeper Maty Ryan, and Australia barely escaped their own half in the opening 30 minutes, but they eventually started to build some momentum.

Defender Trent Sainsbury wasted a golden chance when he got in behind the defence, but he headed Aaron Mooy's free-kick wide with the goal at his mercy.

Their breakthrough came when a Rogic shot was blocked, but the Celtic midfielder slammed home the rebound to pull the Socceroos level on 41 minutes.

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And Germany extended their lead with a copybook move on 48 minutes.

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Brandt combined with Joshua Kimmich, who floated a cross over the defence for Schalke's Goretzka, who took it in his stride and rifled home.

Australia made it 3-2 when Juric tapped home from close range after Germany goalkeeper Bernd Leno failed to hold a deflected Rogic shot on 56 minutes. Veteran midfielder Tim Cahill, now 37, came on in the dying stages for his 98th international appearance, but the Socceroos' all-time top-scorer failed to add to his tally of 48 goals.

## OSCAR SPARKS MASSIVE BRAWL

Former Chelsea midfielder Oscar found himself at the epicentre of a remarkable mass brawl during Shanghai SIPG's Chinese Super League game against Guangzhou R&F on Sunday. Oscar appeared to lose his cool at the end of the first half at the Yuexiushan Stadium. The fracas began when Oscar fired the ball at two Guangzhou players in quick succession as tackles began to fly in midfield. Within seconds, five blue shirts had converged on him and he was knocked to the ground. That inevitably led to all 22 players coming together in an almighty melee on the halfway line which, in turn, summoned both benches to join in as well - leaving referee Gang Zhou rather powerless to stop it. Surprisingly, perhaps, the official brandished just five cards once the dust had finally settled. Guangzhou's Li Tixiang saw red, along with three yellows for the hosts, while the visitors had Fu Huan sent for an early bath. Oscar, meanwhile, escaped any censure and completed the game without any further drama.

-AGENCIES



## AFC U-23 CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIERS

# Ord shocked at booters' fitness

SPORTS REPORTER



Coach Andrew Ord has expressed his disappointment and shock at the fitness levels of footballers plying their trade in the Bangladesh Premier League during the trial for the U-23 squad for the upcoming AFC U-23 Championship Qualifiers.

"I was surprised to see the lack of fitness of the players in the trial. Whatever the reasons and explanations, the players are not fit. We need to train hard with lot of intensity," Ord said during the announcement of the 36-member preliminary squad at a press conference at the BFF House yesterday.

Out of the 36 players, 27 are from five big-spending clubs - Dhaka Abahani, Chittagong Abahani, Sheikh Jamal DC, Sheikh Russel KC and Saif Sporting Club, who started their pre-season camp almost three months ago before participating in last month's Federation Cup.

The other nine players are from three other clubs - Mohammedan SC, Muktijoddha Sangsad and Arambagh KS, who began their preparations just before the start of the Federation Cup.

It is indeed surprising to find the immense lack of fitness among footballers, especially of those who

started their pre-season preparation long ago. In addition, some of the selected players even had a two-week camp on fitness and conditioning in early February under fitness trainer John Whittle, but surprisingly they too still lack fitness.

The Australian coach, however, wants to keep faith on the young players in the qualifiers which are scheduled to take place from July 19 to 23 in Palestine, even if he has no high expectation from the team for this tournament.

"We have got to be organised. We need to make sure that we are solid at the base. They [opponents] are strong. We just have to get fit, organised and gather some spirit. We have to improve and build from here and get some experience," said Ord, who believes he is unlike other other coaches as he has to remain involved with the under-16 and under-19 teams too.

"Young players are good here. I am sure I will find good ones as long I am here. I promised to the [BFF] president I will work hard with the younger players," said Ord.

Even though Ord ran a five-day trial at Kamalapur Stadium, he is still eager to study all the players of the preliminary squad in another five-day trial, which will start at BKSP from today, as some of the players, who had failed to turn up at the earlier trial, have been kept in the squad.

## Bayern bins CR7 swoop

AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich on Monday rubbished reports they are set to swoop for world superstar Cristiano Ronaldo.

The 32-year-old Real Madrid star has threatened to leave Spain after running into problems with tax authorities.

Italy's 'Gazzetta dello Sport' had speculated that Bayern is set to swoop for Ronaldo so he can link up with the German club's former Real coach Carlo Ancelotti.

The report by the Italian daily was then carried by several German media outlets.

But Bayern took the unusual step of posting an article on their website to deny the rumours -- alongside the picture of a duck -- titled 'Duck of the day'.

# Teenage girl's cricket dream dashed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A teenage girl will probably no longer pursue her dream of becoming a cricketer as the man she trusted to guide her allegedly attempted to rape her inside a room of the Dinajpur Sport Village complex on June 1.

According to the victim's family, she was keen on becoming a cricketer. And so, three and a half years ago, her parents allowed her to enrol in Promila Cricketers, an initiative of the Bangladesh Cricket Board to attract more female players.

Sadly however, her dream came crashing down when the coach allegedly tried to force himself on her.

The coach in question has been identified as Abu Samad Mithu, an appointed coach of the ECB who runs the Prochesta Cricket Coaching Centre in Dinajpur town. Mithu is also an executive member of Dinajpur District Sports Association (DSA).

According to the victim, the incident took place in a first aid room after she was injured during practice at the Dinajpur Gor-

E-Shohid Boromath.

"After hearing about it, I rang Mithu's phone. Without any hesitation he replied he kissed my daughter's leg," the father said. "Her dream to be a cricketer is now gone, dashed. He attempted to rape my daughter."

The father also claimed that Mithu is now mobilising the community's influential individuals to 'manage' and subvert the parents.

The victim, a 15-year-old girl of class nine, even broke down emotionally as Mithu repeatedly threatened the family of dire consequences should the incident be leaked, alleged the parents.

In a demand for justice, the father issued a letter to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Dinajpur, who is also the president of the Dinajpur DSA, informing him of the incident on June 14.

The father also said that he sat with other DSA members to discuss the issue but to no avail. However, the DC office assured him that they are seriously looking into the matter.

When contacted, Mithu asserted that it is a conspiracy to destroy his career as a coach.

## QUICK SINGLES

The following are a few samples of stories that did not make the print edition. However, if they pique your interest, you can always read them online on The Daily Star website by simply scanning the QR codes listed below:

**Never mind the cricket! Ind beat Pak...in hockey**

India may well have suffered a 180-rout at the hands of Pakistan in the Champions Trophy cricket final but they came out on top on the other side of London -- in field hockey.

**'Worthy son' Tiote laid to rest**

Ivory Coast international Cheick Tiote, whose sudden death in China at just 30 years old shocked his country, was laid to rest as he was hailed a "worthy son" of the African nation.

**Lewis slams Mayweather-McGregor as "ridiculous"**

Boxing hall of famer Lennox Lewis won't be spending his money on the Floyd Mayweather-Conor McGregor fight, saying he "can't take it serious" because the outcome is too predictable.

## Perez re-elected To tackle Ronaldo problem

AFP, Madrid



Florentino Perez's first task after being re-elected unopposed as Real Madrid president on Monday will be to appease superstar Cristiano Ronaldo amid speculation the four-time world player of the year wants to leave.

"As no other candidature was put forward to the board ... it is proclaimed that Mr Florentino Perez Rodriguez is president of Real Madrid," the Spanish and European champions said in a statement.

The 70-year-old construction magnate's third term in charge of Europe's most successful club spanning 15 years -- 2000-2006 and since 2009 -- will be rubber stamped at a ceremony at the Santiago-Bernabeu Stadium later Monday.

And among the first issues he will have to deal with is superstar Ronaldo -- who he bought in 2009 from Manchester United for a record 94 million euros (\$105.3 million).



Ronaldo is threatening to leave Spain after running into problems with tax authorities.

The frenzy of speculation began soon after Ronaldo was accused last week of a 14.7 million euro tax evasion through offshore companies.

The Portuguese international is currently in Russia competing for the European champions in the Confederations Cup.

And according to Spanish sports daily Marca, Ronaldo has told his teammates: "I'm leaving Real. I have made a decision. There is no turning back."

Portuguese sports daily A Bola also claimed that Perez had already been informed of the 32-year-old's decision.

There has been speculation that Ronaldo is trying to put pressure on Real so that they will bear some of the burden of an eventual fine as Barcelona did for Lionel Messi.

Among the clubs reported to be interested in Ronaldo is former club Manchester United for a fee which could hit 200 million euros, with a possible get-out clause of one billion euros.

Since extending his contract in November until 2021, Ronaldo is according to Forbes the highest paid sports star in the world with \$93 million (83m euro) in 2016-2017.

## Koepka wins maiden major

AFP, Erin

Brooks Koepka produced a back-nine birdie blitz to win the US Open on Sunday, becoming the seventh consecutive first-time winner of a major with a record-equalling four-shot victory at Erin Hills.

The 27-year-old from Florida fired a five-under-par final round 67 to finish on 16 under for the tournament following a tense duel with compatriot Brian Harman that was settled on the home stretch at the rural Wisconsin course.

Koepka's 16-under-par total equalled the record for the lowest winning under par total at a US Open set by Rory McIlroy at the 2011 championship.

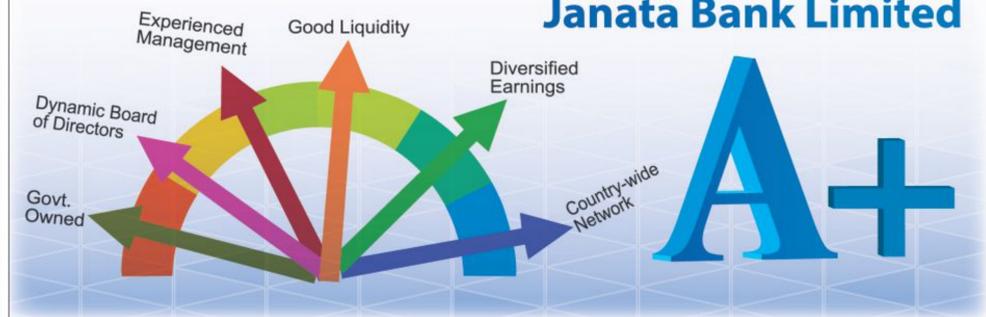
Third round leader Brian Harman, who had led by one-shot at the start of the round, finished second on 12 under after an even-par 72. He tied with Japanese world number four Hideki Matsuyama, who shot a superb six-under-par 66.

Harman and Koepka spent much of the round locked at the top of the leaderboard.

But the turning point in a gripping war of nerves came just after the turn when Harman struggled through back-to-back bogeys on the 12th and 13th.

World number 22 Koepka then uncorked a brilliant trio of birdies on the 14th, 15th and 16th holes to surge into a four-shot lead and virtually assure himself of the title.

## Credit Rating of Janata Bank Limited



# A+

Rating Mode	Long Term	Short Term
Government Support	AAA	ST-1
Without Government Support	A+	ST-2
Outlook	Stable	
Date of Rating		11 May, 2017
Expiry Date		10 May, 2018

AAA indicates an exceptionally strong capacity to meet its financial commitments.

A+ indicates a strong capacity to meet its financial commitments.

ST-1 indicates a superior capacity to meet its financial commitments in a timely manner.

ST-2 indicates a strong capacity to meet its financial commitments in a timely manner.

The above rating has been done by Emerging Credit Rating Limited on the basis of audited financial statements of FY 2013-2016 and other available quantitative and qualitative information up to the date of rating declaration. The affirmed rating reflects the strengths of the bank which is backed by its support from the government being a government owned bank, dynamic guidance of the Board of Directors, experienced management, good liquidity position, good market share, diversified earnings and country-wide network of branches.



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