

## KROOS NAMED GERMAN PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Real Madrid star Toni Kroos has been named Footballer of the Year by sports writers in Germany. The Association of German Sports Journalists (VDS), in conjunction with football magazine Kicker, gave the midfielder 185 of the 475 votes cast to ensure he won the award, which he was beaten to by Philipp Lahm in 2017-18, for the first time in his career. The 28-year-old was a key member of the Madrid side that claimed a third successive Champions League title by beating Liverpool 3-1 in Kiev in May, adding to the UEFA Super Cup, Supercopa de Espana and Club World Cup titles claimed earlier in the season. Freiburg striker Nils Petersen came second with 39 votes, while Schalke defender Naldo finished third after receiving one ballot fewer. "It is and always will be an honour to be Footballer of the Year," Kroos told Kicker. "This is a prize that is not easy to get, and not everyone gets." Former Bayern Munich boss Jupp Heynckes gained two votes more than Domenico Tedesco to take the Coach of the Year award.

— AGENCIES



## Fareast Uni clinch title

SPORTS REPORTER



Fareast University clinched the title of the Shahjalal Islami Bank 2nd Faraaz Gold Cup Inter University Football Tournament after beating South East University 8-7 in a nerve-racking tie-breaker after regulation time ended in a goalless draw at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Goalkeeper Shohag Mia denied Toufiqur Rahman in the ninth shot to send the students and players of Fareast University into raptures. It was a sweet success for Fareast University, who had to be content with a runners-up trophy in the inaugural edition last year.

The penalty-shootout under floodlights at the Big Bowl was a dramatic display as Fareast University were on the verge of defeat in their second successive final but South East University's Tousif rattled the crossbar, turning the shootout into sudden death with the two sides locked at 4-4 after the first five shots.

Both teams then converted three successive shots before Razib converted the eighth shot to put Fareast University ahead and goalkeeper Rana stopped Toufiqur's shot to ensure the title of the Faraaz Gold Cup, which was introduced by Sonali Otit Club in a bid to spread the spirit of Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain among the young generation as well as to keep the youth away from drugs and militancy.

Both teams played planned football and created scoring opportunities as the players seemed to have developed good positional sense under the coaching of former national player Alfaz Ahmed, who is coaching South East University, and former BKSP player Shofiqul Islam, coach of Fareast University.

"I'm unable to express how good I am feeling after winning the final. We are really happy to make our university proud by clinching the title which we missed last year," said Fareast University captain Ahsanullah Rana.

"We were in practice before the start of the tournament and played a tournament organised by Independent University where we became champions, but our ultimate target was to win the Faraaz Gold Cup," said Rana, a student of the EEE department.

"The name Faraaz is now an inspiration to us and he is an idol among the students, who should uphold Faraaz's values. What Faraaz did was an instance for all because we, nowadays, don't stand by our relatives in danger," said Fareast University coach Shofiqul.

Former footballer and coach Alfaz said that there are a good number of talented players at the university level and some of them are already playing in the championship league, senior league and second division league.

"I have seen a player named Piash who has the ability to play in a top-tier league but to be honest, these students are more focused on studying than playing football," said Alfaz.



Fareast University students celebrate with the trophy of the Shahjalal Islami Bank 2nd Faraaz Gold Cup Inter University Football Tournament after beating South East University in a thrilling final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## BD conquer Bowl Group

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh rugby team became champions in the Bowl Group of the Asian Rugby Sevens Trophy by beating Brunei 26-12 in the final in Singapore yesterday.

Bangladesh, who lost all three of their group stage matches the previous day, were joined in the Bowl Group by Laos, Brunei and Nepal. The men in red and green finished ninth overall among 12 teams. Last year, Bangladesh finished as runners-up in the same group.

In the Bowl Group semi-final, Bangladesh defeated Laos 26-12 while Brunei secured their spot in the final by trouncing Nepal 22-7.

In the Cup final, the UAE beat Singapore 14-0 while Indonesia overcame Pakistan 12-5 in Plate final.

## Asensio brace inspires Real

AFP, Los Angeles



Substitute Marco Asensio made an immediate impact by scoring two early second-half goals as Real Madrid rallied to beat Juventus 3-1 in a pre-season exhibition contest on Saturday.

Asensio entered the game at the start of the second half and scored less than two minutes in before adding another in the 56th minute.

It was the first defeat of the pre-season and the final match of the International Champions Cup campaign for Italy's Juventus. The Serie A champions now open up their title defense at Chievo on August 18.

They were without new signing Cristiano Ronaldo, who did not make his debut against his former team. The Portuguese superstar skipped the club's US tour because he was recovering from his World Cup performance.

Gareth Bale also scored for the European champions as the Welshman served notice that he is going to produce

despite the loss of Ronaldo.

Bale hit a stunning shot from 20 yards out in the 39th minute to level the score at 1-1 in the front of the crowd of 60,000 at FedEx Field in Landover, Maryland.

Bale finished with 16 La Liga goals last season and is in his fifth campaign with Real Madrid.

Asensio subbed in after half-time and wasted no time getting on the board. He finished off a drive by side-footing a shot home in the 47th minute on a rush with Vinicius Jr, who also entered the game at half-time.

Asensio scored just nine minutes later to make it 3-1 for Real Madrid on another unselfish pass, this time from Lucas Vazquez. Asensio's shot deflected off the right arm of Juventus goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny and trickled into the net.

Juventus' lone score came in the 12th minute on an own goal by Real Madrid defender Dani Carvajal.

Carvajal was trying to corral Joao Cancelo's left side cross when he deflected the ball into his own net.

It was the first pre-season defeat for Juventus, who were without many of their key attackers for their US tour, including Douglas Costa, Paulo Dybala and Mario Mandzukic.

### LIVERPOOL THRASH NAPOLI

Brazil goalkeeper Alisson kept a clean sheet Saturday on his Liverpool debut in a 5-0 demolition of Carlo Ancelotti's Napoli in Dublin.

James Milner and Georginio Wijnaldum both scored inside the opening 10 minutes at the Aviva Stadium in Liverpool's penultimate pre-season friendly.

Liverpool lost Milner to a clash of heads with Napoli defender Mario Rui early in the second half in an incident that left the former England international needing 15 stitches.

Mohamed Salah, who hit 32 Premier League goals last term -- a record for a 38-game season, added a third for Jurgen Klopp's men just before the hour.

Daniel Sturridge and Alberto Moreno rounded out the scoring as Alisson was relatively untested.



After Gareth Bale (not pictured) had equalised with a spectacular effort, Marco Asensio added two goals to complete Real Madrid's 3-1 win over Juventus in an International Champions Cup match on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Aguero spoils Sarri's bow

AFP, London



Sergio Aguero spoiled Chelsea manager Maurizio Sarri's first taste of English football as the Argentine's double gave Manchester City a stylish 2-0 victory in the Community Shield on Sunday.

Blues boss Sarri, hired to replace the sacked Antonio Conte last month, endured a miserable debut in the prestigious friendly at Wembley as lacklustre Chelsea were swept aside by Premier League champions City.

Picking up where they left off in their record-breaking campaign last term, Pep Guardiola's team took an early lead through Aguero, who rewarded City's dominance with a

second goal after the break.

The last side to win the Community Shield and then go on to clinch the Premier League title were Manchester United in 2010-11.

On this evidence, City could follow in their arch rivals' footsteps at the end of the season.

City's German winger Leroy Sané was forced off injured at half-time, giving Guardiola a scare ahead of their Premier League opener at Arsenal on August 12.

But that was the only sour note for City as they got back in the groove in impressive style.

Sarri and Guardiola are close friends and dined together on the eve of the Community Shield, yet this first experience of Chelsea's reduced status must have left a nasty taste for the Italian.

Consigning Conte's favoured 3-4-2-1 formation to the bin, Sarri sent Chelsea out in a 4-3-3 system that malfunctioned from start to finish.

Phil Foden drove at the heart of the Chelsea defence to set up City's 13th-minute opener with little resistance.

Foden's incisive run ended with a simple pass to the unmarked Aguero, who applied the finishing touch with a fine low strike from the edge of the area.

It was Aguero's 200th City goal -- making the Argentina striker the first player to reach that milestone for the Eastlands outfit.

Inspired by Aguero, City could have won by five but they settled for one more in the 58th minute. Aguero made a clever run to meet Bernardo Silva's pass with a clinical finish that flashed past Willy Caballero.



Manchester City striker Sergio Aguero (C) struck twice as the reigning Premier League champions dispatched Chelsea 2-0 in the English season's curtain-raising Community Shield match at Wembley yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

### 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:

#### Modric will stay, says Lopetegui

Real Madrid have no intention of allowing midfielder Luka Modric to leave the club, according to head coach Julen Lopetegui.

#### Abu Hider fined for foul language

Bangladesh pacer Abu Hider was fined 20 per cent of his match fee and given a demerit point for using inappropriate language during the second T20I against West Indies.

#### Gomez calls time on Germany

Germany and VfB Stuttgart striker Mario Gomez has announced his retirement from the national side at the age of 33.

#### Gerrard denied winning start

Teenager Bruce Anderson's goal in time added on denied Rangers manager Steven Gerrard a winning debut in the Scottish Premiership as Aberdeen secured a 1-1 draw with 10-man Rangers.

## Booters' last practice match today

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Under-23 football team are looking to wrap up their preparations for the Asian Games with a win when they take on Chodang University in their last practice match at the Mokpo International Football Training Centre in South Korea today.

In the lead-up, Jamie Day's charges lost 2-0 to Gwangju FC before they beat Sehan University 2-1 in the second match and so, they boys in red and green seem determined to kick off their Asian Games campaign on the back of another morale-boosting win, this time over Chodang

University.

"The boys seem to be in good spirits. They would like to win every game, so we are looking to do that and hopefully take some confidence into Jakarta," Day said. "The boys have worked extremely hard this week and I am very pleased with their attitude. We hope to continue our winning streak."

Following today's match, the booters are scheduled to train for four more days in South Korea before they leave for Indonesia on August 11 to take part in the Asian Games.

Bangladesh will play their first match against Uzbekistan on August 14 before facing Qatar and Thailand on August 16 and 19 respectively.

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