

Sport

U-19 booters leave for Riyadh today

Sports Reporter

Having hardly trained a day together, the members of the Bangladesh national youth football team leave for Saudi Arabia today to take part in the 29th Asian Youth football championship beginning in Riyadh from June 6.

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), the supreme body for local football announced a 24-member national squad yesterday including four officials.

Bangladesh who have been placed in Group A along with hosts Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong and Syria will play their first match against the hosts on the opening day of the five-day meet scheduled to conclude on June 8.

Bangladesh are pitted against Hong Kong in their second match on June 6 while their last encounter will be on June 8, against Syria.

With the just concluded DMFA Cup getting all the attention coach Ashraf, who is in charge of Premier Division Club Mukti Joddha Sangsad Krira Chakra failed to get all the players together for a single day since the operation of the residential camp in Mirpur Sports Village from April 27 as most of the players were with one or the other team playing in the curtain-raising meet of the domestic season.

SQUAD

Goalkeepers — Dulal Hossain Dhamu (Abahani), Arifur Rahman Pannu (Victoria), Kishore Kumar Dutta Manu (Mukti Joddha).

Defenders — Monwar Hossain Munne (East End), Kajal Ganguli (Bangladesh Boys), Biplob Marmia (Mohammedan), Bishu Das (Agrani Bank), Imdadul Haq and Mansoor Ali (Abahani), and Santosh Kumar Roy (Farashganj).

Midfielders — Mohammad Arman (Mukti Joddha), Paritosh Dewan (Mohammedan), Alfaz Ahmed and Sajedur Rahman Tusher (Arambagh), Rahmatullah Bhutto (Brothers) and Zahid Hossain (Mohammedan).

Strikers — Zulfiquar Mahmood Mintu (Abahani), Jamal Hossain (Agrani Bank), Mohammad Salauddin (PWD), Kazi Kaushik Ahmed (East End Club).

The four officials are: Manager Kazi Mishu, assistant manager — Mozzamel Hoq Mukta, Coach — Sheikh Ashraf Ali and Assistant Coach — Abu Norman Nannu.

BCCB calls up 70

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) called up 70 players for a camp in connection with the preparation for the coming International Youth cricket tournament scheduled to begin in Malaysia on July 28.

Eight teams including only Test-playing country Sri Lanka, hosts Malaysia, Bangladesh, UAE, Denmark, Hong Kong, Papua New Guinea and East and Central Africa will take part in the fortnight-long meet which will be played in round robin league basis.

The selected players have been asked to report at the BCCB office on June 6 at 8:30 am.

Meanwhile, two players — Sajal Chowdhury and Shamsul Arefin — have been selected by the BCCB to take part in the MRF pace bowling training course in India. The players are expected to leave Dhaka on June 4.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Quatrains
- 37 Never again?
- 38 It'll open doors for you
- 39 "Fat farm"
- 40 "Started" (song)
- 50 Actor John of "Roots"
- 51 It's worn with a tuxedo
- 52 Part of a Latin I trio
- 53 Foot-baller's
- 54 Dray
- 55 Wally of old TV
- 56 Completes
- 57 Foot-baller's
- 58 Solution time: 21 mins.

NZ-England first Test begins today

Morrison, Kiwis' only hope

LONDON, June 1: New Zealand are ready to gamble on the fitness of Danny Morrison in an attempt to give their pace attack a cutting edge in the first Test against England starting at Trent Bridge, Nottingham, on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Plagued by injuries that are sidelining their bowlers, the touring team are beginning to resemble an army with shields but no swords, prompting desperate measures to avoid being over-run in the opening battle of the three-Test series.

With only three fully-fit pacemen — Dion Nash, vice-captain Gavin Larsen and the quick but expensive Heath Davis — the New Zealanders' concern over their limited options was underlined by captain Ken Rutherford.

"In the end it comes down to numbers," he said. "Danny might just have to play even though he's not fully fit because he's our one proven Test wicket-taker."

Heath Davis is obviously in the frame but his figures don't really add up. That's not being unkind — it's a fact. He has been going for more than six runs an over throughout the tour and we can't really afford that," added Rutherford.

Morrison, who has played only one first-class game on tour, was troubled initially by a groin strain, then broke down with a hamstring injury during the first one-day international against England at Edgbaston on May 19.

Chris Pringle is already ruled out of the Test and fel-

low paceman Michael Owens, called up when Simon Doull was forced to return home with a damaged right bowling shoulder, is highly doubtful with hip and groin problems.

Pringle suffered a back injury at the weekend, though it proved less serious than

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If Illingworth holds sway and England field a balanced attack, both slow bowlers would play — off-spinner Peter Such returning after being omitted from the West Indies tour and left-arm spinner Richard Stump making his Test debut.

That would leave fast-medium bowler Angus Fraser certain to fill one of the two places left, with fellow pacemen Devon Malcolm, Philip DeFreitas and Mark Illott competing for the remaining berth.

The make-up of England's attack will be influenced by the pitch, which offers the prospect of heavy scoring.

England team manager Keith Fletcher said: "It looks to me as if it will be hard work out there for the bowlers. It should be fairly flat, and with not too much pace in it either."

That verdict may at least hearten New Zealand's batsmen, of whom the accomplished Martin Crowe must urgently shake off a spell of wretched form.

Crowe's last five tour innings have produced 31, 0, 1, 10 and 14.

If ever there was a moment to reinforce his reputation as New Zealand's best batsman, then this is surely it.

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