

BFF releases Fed Cup fixture

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday unveiled the fixture of the 16th Federation Cup beginning at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Saturday.

Seventeen teams -- split into four groups -- will take part in the knock-out first round from which the group winners will join four semi-finalists of the last edition in the round robin league.

According to the first round groupings, Arambagh Krira Sangha have been placed in Group A along with Wari Club, BRTC and Victoria Sporting Club.

Farashganj Sporting Club, The Muslim Institute, Dharmundi and Prantik Krira Chakra feature in Group B. Brothers Union, PWD, Youngmen Club Fakirpore and Shantinagar Club make up Group C. The last group contains Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society, Sadhara Bina, Mirpur Chalantha, Agrani Bank and Bangladesh Army.

Group A and C champions will join holders Abahani Krira Chakra and Badda Jagarani Sangsad in Group One of the second round. Group B and D winners will be feature in the other pool along with last year's runners-up Mukti Joddha Sangsad Krira Chakra and Premier Division league champions Mohammedan Sporting Club.

There will be two matches on the opening day. Arambagh will take on Wari Club in the opening match at 4 pm while Farashganj will meet Muslim Institute in the second match at 6 pm.

Quader hits

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In his interview with this newspaper, Quader however said he personally believed that the BNS should belong to cricket only, but it was a reality that he could not make football go to Mirpur Stadium, which was built exclusively for football. "Everybody thinks football should go to Mirpur. But football does not think in that line. It's a mental problem... BNS has become a prestige issue for the football organisers," he said then.

But Quader seemed to have lost his love for cricket only when its organisers, for the first time in the history of dispute over BNS, resorted to a tough stand like boycott. Angry at being pressurised by cricket, he went on to remind all that Bangladesh got the Test status not for the performance but because of the good cricketing infrastructure, which was provided by the present government.

As far as record is concerned, we are far behind Kenya as we have won only one match so far against them. But we have beaten them with our infrastructure. So the cricket organisers should not think that it was only their effort which earned us the Test status. It was the joint effort of all organisers, players and the government," Quader added.

The minister, in Bangladesh's campaign for the Test status, lied to the world that the country has got a good cricketing infrastructure with BNS as its main exclusive venue. Although Quader loved to boast of that infamous lie, observers in general feel that the politician only brought disgrace to the gentleman's game with his act of cheating.

Proteas gain

From page 8

Extras: 1b-3, 1b-1, w-1, nb-8) 13 Total (all out in 98.2 overs) 222.3-130.4-135.5-170.6-180.7-201.8-223.9-257. Bowler O M R W Pollock 22.2 10 40 3 Hayward 20 2 68 0 Kallis 13 3 48 0 Klusener 9 2 36 0 Boje 34 8 62 5. SOUTH AFRICA: Second Innings Kirsten not out 18 McKenzie not out 6 Extras: (nb-3) 3 Total: (no loss, 8 overs) 27. Bowler (to-date) O M R W Vaas 4 1 12 0 Perera 2 0 13 0 Arnold 2 0 2 0.

German team for friendly announced Voller stays conservative



German team for friendly announced

COLOGNE, Germany, Aug 8: German team manager Rudi Voller reneged on his promise to include a few surprises for next week's friendly against Spain in Hanover, reports AFP.

He named a 15-man squad on Tuesday and stuck firmly by the usual suspects who failed so miserably at Euro 2000.

The only missing names from the Euro debacle were those of captain Oliver Bierhoff and Christian Ziege, who are both injured.

Three other players from the squad which failed to get beyond the first round in Holland and Belgium were also omitted.

They are: Lothar Matthaeus, who has retired from international football, Thomas Häßler, who has been told to concentrate on his club 1860 Munich, and Markus Babbel who is taking a break from the national team after heavy criticism and reports of late night出入 at Euro 2000.

Five players are making comebacks for their country: Frank Baumann, Stefan Beimlich, Jorg Heinrich, Oliver Neuville and Alexander Zickler.

One fresh name that leaked out a few days ago, Hamburg unknown Ingo Hertzsch, found himself relegated instead to Germany's B-team who play a

friendly next Tuesday against Portugal's second string.

It was thought the 23 year old defender would be the one new face in Voller's team but the new coach opted instead for continuity.

The news was greeted with surprise by Hamburg officials who thought Hertzsch's nomination was confirmed.

Hertzsch has developed enormously since he has been with us," Hamburg's sports director Holger Hieronymus said.

"Nominations for the national team are purely Rudi Voller's business though and I wouldn't like to comment on or criticise that."

Hamburg coach Frank Pagelsdorf agreed. "A nomination for Ingo would have been justified, he certainly would have deserved it. He has played at a high level for the last two years without dips in form and he has played a large role in the fact our defence is solid."

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Oliver Kahn (Bayern Munich), Jens Lehmann (Borussia Dortmund)

Defenders: Frank Baumann (Werder Bremen), Thomas Linke (Bayern Munich), Jens Nowotny (Bayer Leverkusen), Marko Rehmer (Hertha Berlin)

Midfield: Michael Ballack (Bayer Leverkusen), Stefan Beimlich, Sebastian Deisler (Hertha Berlin), Dietmar Hamann (Liverpool), Jorg Heinrich (Borussia Dortmund), Jens Jeremies (Bayern Munich), Carsten Ramelow (Bayer Leverkusen), Mehmet Scholl (Bayern Munich), Dariusz Wosz (Hertha Berlin)

Forwards: Marco Bode (Werder Bremen), Carsten Jancker (Bayern Munich), Oliver Neuville, Paulo Rink (Bayer Leverkusen), Alexander Zickler (Bayern Munich)

RUDI VOLLER

Wenger running out of patience



LONDON, Aug 8:

Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger warned Monday he would not be held to ransom by Bordeaux following the Premiership side's latest bid for French international striker Sylvain Wiltord, reports AFP.

Wenger is adamant he won't raise the stakes despite Arsenal's massive windfall from the sale of Marc Overmars and Emmanuel Petit.

The joint fee for that pair is popularly thought to be 30 million pounds (45 million dollars) although one Highbury source reveals it is probably nearer 25 million (37.5 million dollars).

Wenger admits, though, he desperately needs top-class cover for his only out-and-out striker Thierry Henry and any new signing now must be registered by a week on Tuesday to be eligible for the first phase of the European Champions League.

Bordeaux have priced Euro 2000 bit-part hero Wiltord at a staggering 13 million pounds (19.5 million dollars) - a figure induced by the fact that they agreed to pay Deportivo La Coruna around 40 percent of any subsequent sell-on fee when they signed Wiltord from

the reigning Spanish champions.

"There is a difference of opinion between us and Bordeaux over what Wiltord is worth. We are still a few million pounds apart," said Wenger.

"It is true that I am interested in signing him. We have made our offer, quite a good amount of money which we think is the right one and which has not gone up in the

past few days.

"But things are quiet. We are waiting now for an announcement from Bordeaux."

Whatever the case, it is still a huge amount yet Wenger refuses to be held to ransom because of Arsenal's latest influx of cash, which is likely to be paid in instalments by

Barcelona.

He admitted: "It is like when you have won The Lottery and people who know about it then put up the price by two or three times for anything you want to buy."

"But I am not going to be taken down that road. I will not pay more than we should for a player."

Now Wenger, who has been given first option to buy Wiltord by Bordeaux's president, faces the choice of whether to increase his 8 million (12 million dollars) offer or wait until January when that figure is likely to be acceptable to the French club.

Under Bordeaux's agreement with Deportivo, the sell-on clause reduces dramatically at the start of 2001.

But Wenger may have to play brinkmanship for a while yet in his increasingly-urgent search for a new goalscorer.

SYLVAIN WILTORD

make the goal stand up as Coupet's mistake seemed to let Bratislava back into the tie but Delmotte timed his run to perfection to convert a cross from the right and save Coupet's blushes with just seconds on the clock.

The opening 45 minutes started slowly but after Lyon looked to have the better of the

opening exchanges and established control of the midfield, Inter Bratislava settled down and gradually got themselves into the game.

The return leg takes place on August 23 at the Gerland Stadium with Lyon just one game away from the lucrative Group phase of Europe's most prestigious competition.

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