

BFF releases Fed Cup fixture

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday unveiled the fixture of the 16th Federation Cup beginning at the Bangladesh 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, Dhanomdi and Prantik Krira Chakra feature in Group B. Brothers Union, PWD, Youngmens Club Fakirpool and Shantinagar Club make up Group C. The last group contains Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society, Sadharan Bima, Mirpur Chalanika, Agrani Bank and Bangladesh Army.

Group A and C champions will join holders Abahani Krira Chakra and Badda Jagarami Sangsad in Group One of the second round. Group B and D winners will be featured in the other pool along with last year's runners-up Muktioddha 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

From page 8

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: (b-3, lb-1, w-1, nb-8) 13
Total (all out in 98.2 overs) 258
Fall of wickets: 1-19, 2-122, 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	2
Kallis	13	3	48	0
Kluseener	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



COLOGNE, Germany, Aug. 8: German team manager Rudi Voller stayed conservative in 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, 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 Matthaus, who has retired from international football, Thomas Hassler, who has been told to concentrate on his club 1860 Munich, and Markus Babel who is taking a break from the national team after heavy criticism and reports of late night antics at Euro 2000.

Five players are making comebacks for their country: Frank Baumann, Stefan Beinlich, 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 di-

rector 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 Novotny (Bayer Leverkusen), Marko Rehmer (Hertha Berlin)

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

Olympique Lyon's star Brazilian striker Sonny Anderson (L) battles for possession with Bratislava's Attila Pinte during their European Champions League third round first leg qualifier at Bratislava on August 7. —AFP photo

OLYMPIQUE LYON'S STAR BRAZILIAN STRIKER SONNY ANDERSON (L) BATTLES FOR POSSESSION WITH BRATISLAVA'S ATTILA PINTÉ DURING THEIR EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE THIRD ROUND FIRST LEG QUALIFIER AT BRATISLAVA ON AUGUST 7. —AFP PHOTO

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Lens eying Nakata

LENS, France, Aug. 8: French First Division side Lens are interested in luring Japanese international Hidetoshi Nakata from Italian Serie A side AS Roma, club president Gervais Martel told AFP Monday.

But Martel said that the northern French side judged the 20 million dollar asking price by the Italian side for the midfielder as far too much.

The Japanese star last month gave his club bosses an ultimatum that he was ready to pack his bags unless he was given a first-year place.

The 23-year-old is in direct competition with Italian star and first team choice Francesco Totti.

Martel said that Nakata had the same profile and could fill in for Charles-Edouard Coridon at midfield.

Coridon underwent surgery Monday to rectify hip problems and will be out for the next few months.

Charity match

France stick

to Euro 2000

heroes

PARIS, Aug. 8: France are keeping faith with all 22 players who featured in their triumphant Euro 2000 campaign for a charity match in Marseille next week, reports AFP.

And barring injuries, the same squad will assemble for the friendly against England in Paris on September 2 - with coach Roger Lemerre expressing the hope that his captain, Didier Deschamps, would go back on his decision to retire after that game.

The match in Marseille, France's first game since the Euro 2000 final victory over Italy, is against a FIFA World Stars team and in aid of the charity SOS Enfants Villages.

FRENCH SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Fabien Barthez (Manchester United), Bernard Lama (Rennes), Ulrich Rame (Bordeaux)

Defenders: Laurent Blanc (Inter Milan), Vincent Candela (AS Roma), Marcel Desailly (Chelsea), Frank Leboeuf (Chelsea), Bixente Lizarazu (Bayern Munich), Lilian Thuram (Parma)

Midfield: Didier Deschamps (Valencia), Youri Djorkaeff (Kaiserslautern), Christian Karembeu (Middlesbrough), Johan Micoud (Parma), Emmanuel Petit (Barcelona), Patrick Vieira (Arsenal), Zinedine Zidane (Juventus)

Forwards: Nicolas Anelka (Paris Saint-Germain), Christophe Dugary (Bordeaux), Thierry Henry (Arsenal), Robert Pires (Arsenal), David Trezeguet (Juventus), Sylvain Wiltord (Bordeaux)

U-14s cricket course

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAH, Aug. 8: The month-long cricket camp for under-14 boys began at the Rajshahi Stadium today.

A total of 32 young cricketers selected from 16 districts under the division are taking part in the camp.

Bangladesh Cricket Board coach Moshuddin Mantu is conducting the course.

McManaman up for sale

MADRID, Aug. 8: Real Madrid have put English international midfielder Steve McManaman up for sale, Spanish sports daily Marca reported Tuesday, reports AFP.

McManaman, 28, is considered surplus to requirements following the record signing of Portuguese star Luis Figo from Barcelona for 56 million dollars and Frenchman Claude Makelele from Celta Vigo.

With McManaman earning a reported four million dollars a year, he would be an expensive luxury on the substitutes' bench for a club with debts amounting to 24 million dollars and Real need to offload him to help cut their wage bill.

"I've informed Steve of the situation and that he has very few chances of playing this season," Real coach Vicente del Bosque told Marca.

Real Madrid players Flavio Conceicao (R) of Brazil, France's Claude Makelele (L) and England's Steve MacManaman jog during practice on August 7.

— AFP photo

Unthinkable without 'em



MANCHESTER, Aug. 8 (AP): West Indies cricket looks set to face a crisis of unprecedented proportion when two of its famous sons — Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh — step aside.

The end of the current series against England could mark the end of two remarkable careers that have run parallel since November 1988.

Ambrose, 36, is adamant about not continuing after the five-Test series. Walsh, 37, who

rock bottom. In the current series, Ambrose and Walsh have claimed 33 wickets while two other bowlers — Reon King and Franklyn Rose — have taken only 12 in the three Tests.

West Indies next destination is Australia, a side they haven't beaten since 1992-93. To play there — let alone win here — without Ambrose and Walsh looks like a mission impossible.

Ambrose says it's unfair that he and Walsh have done so much of the bowling. Rose, King and Ndon McLean have been around for a long time, but they have failed to produce.

Former fast bowler Colin Croft said: "One of the things that made the West Indies so great in the '70s and '80s was that we were able to tear pieces out of each other in the dressing room, only to rally round captains on the field."

"We had a lot of arguments, but everybody understood we had only one thing on our mind, and that was for the team to do well," Croft said.

West Indies' remarkable turnaround in the rain-marred third Test at Old Trafford, which ended Monday, was largely due to Ambrose and Walsh, who took eight wicket between them to check a runaway England first innings.

"I know my body and I know when it's time to go," Ambrose said in a recent interview. "I've been written off many times. I've set very high standards and when I've had a bad day, or even a bad spell, people have said it's all over. Things like that motivate me and I've always said I will leave when I can't do the job anymore."

"It gives me pleasure when people write me off and I come back and take wickets. It's funny that the same critics who have written me off are now saying that I'm leaving too soon and that I've still got a lot to offer," Ambrose said.

AMBROSE

is on the verge of becoming the first bowler in history to take 500 Test wickets, may follow his last bowling soulmate.

But there are growing pleas for them to reconsider.

Without the two fast bowlers, West Indies cricket could hit

Walsh with 472 wickets in 120 Tests said: "Curtly has said he's leaving the scene and I won't be much longer behind him. Some mornings you wonder why you're up so early, but once I get to the ground the buzz comes back."

"I've always said that while I'm taking wickets, competing and doing a job for the team then I'm happy. It's still happening at the moment."

"I've set my own standards and goals and if you want to reach the top you have to work hard. The secret for me was to

stay fit and look after my body. It's also important to listen to its calls and respond to them. It's hard to go to the gym sometimes but you have to be strong enough to say, 'I'm not going down to the pub to play dominoes.'"

WALSH

like so many sporting geniuses before him, had become bored with his success. Perhaps, like teammates Courtney Walsh and

those Tests included his world record innings of 375 against England in Antigua in 1992-93 and his remarkable series of 213, 153 not out and 100 in consecutive Tests against Australia in 1998-99.

He also scored a world record first-class innings of 501 for Warwickshire and six hundreds in seven innings in 1994.

Talked round by Jimmy Adams and the West Indies selectors, Lara eventually agreed to rejoin the ranks for the England tour.

"My time off in many ways has been very good. Family-wise, and in a lot of other areas, things have improved," he said.

"I think my enthusiasm has been topped up by the time that I had off and the help that I had in that period."

Until Old Trafford, however, he had cut something of a sorry figure, struggling with a niggling hamstring injury, short of match practice and averaging just 18.5 in the first two Tests. Questions about his technique, and an accentuated pre-delivery crouch, began to be raised. Smiles were in short supply.

His mood was little changed when he fell for 13 in the first innings as the West Indies struggled and were staring defeat in the face.

But his vital second innings 112, while not a classic by his standards and punctuated by mistimed pulls and drives, showed that the magic was returning. And in mitigation, Lara was only 75 per cent fit.

Adams said: "It's very reassuring to see Brian play like that — he has always had a big match mentality."

Sunday's century also prolonged the Lara love affair with English bowlers. Six of his 14 Test centuries have come against them, giving him an average of almost 73, around 22 runs more than his overall Test average.

Was it significant, though, despite his celebration, that he did not seem to be sparkling with joy after his innings?

Did he fear, Lara was asked, that he would not be able to recapture his past brilliance, let alone his lost love of the game?

At last Lara smiled.</