

BFF selects 41 for U-16 team

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday named 41 players for the preliminary Under-16 national squad for the AFC Youth Championship qualifiers.

The qualifying round will be held in Dubai from October 17-29.

The footballers have been requested to report to coach Jobair Nipu on July 21 at the BFF Bhaban at 5pm.

Eves' handball from today

SPORTS REPORTER

Madaripur will take on hosts Dhaka in the opening match of the Basic Bank 18th National Women's Handball Championship.

Bangladesh Handball Federation president Nurul Amin will declare the 16-team event open in the morning at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex.

Federation officials at a press conference yesterday informed that sponsors Basic Bank will provide Tk two lakh out of the total budget of Tk 2.56 lakh.

Malik stands by Lawson

CRICINFO, undated

Pakistan captain Shoaib Malik has said that the Pakistan Cricket Board had made the right decision in appointing Geoff Lawson as coach.

"It is a positive decision and will help the players," Malik was quoted in the newspaper Dawn. "As for Lawson's expertise, I feel he can do a good job with both bowlers and the batsmen because the batsmen do not need basic level coaching and just need to hone their skills."

Talat Ali, the Pakistan team manager, also commended the decision and said that Lawson's experience could benefit the team.

Meanwhile, Javed Miandad, the former Pakistan captain, denounced the appointment. "The move to hire foreigners when you have better people here gives a wrong message to the youngsters that our elders are nothing and foreigners will be preferred for key posts over experts such as Hanif Mohammad, Intikhab Alam and many others," Miandad told Dawn.

Miandad, who has in the past spoken against the need for foreign coaches, also felt that the board had erred in their choice of a foreigner as coach. "Also, I believe the decision has not been taken on merit since Dav Whatmore has better international experience and has a definite edge since he has the experience of coaching Asian teams like Sri Lanka and Bangladesh."

Miandad said that many of Pakistan's successes in the past had come under Pakistani coaches, while little had been achieved under foreign coaches.

Lawson, however, said that he would like Miandad to be a member of his team.

Booters report

FROM PAGE 17

"Discipline is the main factor for footballers. All the top players of the world are like you. But discipline is the factor that drives them to success," Nayeenuddin told his squad.

"You will have to forget everything to fight for your country as our ultimate target is the SAFF Championship in December," he added.

The footballers will again report on July 24 and the camp is expected to start from August 1.

Rooney backs

FROM PAGE 20

Premiership," Rooney said in Tokyo where United are on an Asian tour.

"If we can sign him, he will be a great signing for us and I'd really look forward to playing alongside him up-front."

"I don't know how we would turn out as a partnership because I'd have to play with him first, but I'm sure we could."

"Top players anywhere can work off each other and that's what we would do."

Tevez has already agreed personal terms with United, but the transfer is being held up by a dispute relating to the player's actual ownership.

West Ham hold its registration and Media Sports Investments hold his economic rights.

United officials, who were flying to Seoul on Wednesday for the second leg of their Asian tour, are determined to push the transfer through within the next week, however.

"We are confident that it can all be concluded over the next week or so," United chief executive David Gill said on Monday, adding that the deal had become "over-complicated".



PHOTO: STAR

Farashganj defender Faisal (2nd from right) tackles Rahmatganj's Nigerian striker Francis (R) during their B. League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Rahmatganj hold Farashganj

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Rahmatganj finally managed to move from the base of the B. League table when they held fellow old-Dhaka outfit Farashganj 1-1 in yesterday's match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Striker Robin, who retained his place in the national team, put Farashganj ahead after three minutes inside from the box.

Midfielder Mohammed Ali cut ball back to Robin who unleashed a

powerful drive from the left side of the box for his eighth goal in the competition.

However, his teammate Mamun Khan, chosen as the third goalkeeper of the latest national squad, ruined his maiden national call when he committed a gaffe to concede the equaliser by Rasel Ansary in the 20th minute.

The young Farashganj keeper, standing far out of his line, was caught napping when Rasel chipped a high ball from the right and Mamun's in a last-gasp effort only managed to push the ball into his own post.

Both sides' effort to increase the margin bore no fruit as Rahmatganj took their collection to 13 points after 18 games, just one point above

Abahani from Khulna and

Chittagong.

Rahmatganj, however, will be fined Tk 10,000 as six of their players were booked by referee Azad Rahman who cautioned three Farashganj players.

The raversiders who drew the first leg match against Rahmatganj 0-0, reached 22 points with just one match to go, against Chittagong Abahani.

TEAMS

Rahmatganj: Mamun, Liton (Rajib), Faisal, Khaled, Mamun Mia, Arup, Ali (Palash), Amirul (Kutub), Kabir, Robin and Puma.

Rahmatganj: Amjad, Rony, Shiron, Somy, Babu, Rasel, Apu, Emrul (Rimon), Hanif, Milon (Ikogho) and Francis.

Aftab saves blushes

FROM PAGE 17

taken a wicket with his medium pace.

The first one-dayer will be played at the P Sara tomorrow.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the limited-overs practice match between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka Cricket Invitation XI at the Police Park Ground in Colombo yesterday:

SRI LANKA CRICKET

INVITATION XI

Perera ct Tamim b Rasel 16

Daniel ct Aftab b Reza 58

Paranavithana not out 64

Vithana ct Reza b Rasel 14

Chandana ct Reza b Shakib 23

Fernando ct Mashrafe b Shakib 30

Mashrafe not out 22

Extras: (w-10, b-1, lb-3) 14

Total: (For 5 wkt in 50 overs) 241

Fall of wickets: 1- 32, 2- 59, 3- 114, 4-121, 5-185

Did not bat: Kulasekara, Komarsu, G de Silva, Vidanapathirana, S de Silva

Bowler

O M R W

Mashrafe 10 1 57 0

Rasel 8 0 37 2

Razzak 10 1 41 0

Korea secure

FROM PAGE 20

Verbeek's policy of picking tall players almost paid dividends on 54 minutes as Korea played head tennis in the box only for Cho Jae-jin to waste a chance from eight yards as he tried to set up Kang Min-woo rather than go for goal.

On 70 minutes Kim Jung-woo had an opportunity to notch a second from 12 yards but Markus came to his side's rescue.

A minute from time Elie was presented with a great chance to equalise and send Indonesia into the knock-out phase but he lost his footing as he was about to pull the trigger.

After he hit the deck, several of his teammates also slumped to their knees in despair.

In Pelambang, goals from Ahmed Al Mousa and Abdulrahman Al Qahtani and a brace by Taisir Al Jassam were enough for the Saudis to top group D and remain in Jakarta for their semifinal.

It was redemption for the "Sons of the Desert" after their disastrous campaign in 2004 when they finished bottom of their group.

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Sides keep faith in pace

FROM PAGE 17

Harrison, who has a hernia injury, and Andrew Flintoff, sidelined with a recurrence of a longstanding ankle bursitis.

The home side are now set to decide between the uncapped duo of Stuart Broad and Chris Tremlett, both tall bowlers in the Harrison mould, and James Anderson for the final place in a four-man attack which is likely to be reliant again on spinner Monty Panesar both for control and wickets.

"He's come off the back of a five-wicket haul and a fifty against India which is great for his confidence and

belief," said England coach Peter Moores. "He's aggressive in how he bowls. He's also got a bit of pedigree as a batter. That's certainly an advantage."

Panesar, who snared Tendulkar for his first Test wicket, could end up anchoring England's attack if India get after the quicker bowlers and Moores said: "I know he's excited about the challenge of bowling against some of the Indian batters and he's moved forward very quickly over the last 12 months."

Ganguly too was full of praise for the left-arm.

"Monty is doing very well in international cricket," said the former India skipper.

"He's a quality bowler and so is Matthew Hoggard but obviously they will miss Harrison and Flintoff."

TEAMS

England (from): Andrew Strauss, Alastair Cook, Michael Vaughan (capt), Kevin Pietersen, Paul Collingwood, Ian Bell, Matt Prior (wk), Ryan Sidebottom, Matthew Hoggard, Monty Panesar, James Anderson, Stuart Broad, Chris Tremlett

India (from): Rahul Dravid (capt), Sachin Tendulkar, Wasim Jaffer, Dinesh Karthik, Gautam Gambhir, Sourav Ganguly, Venkatsai Lakshman, Yuvraj Singh, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (wk), Zaheer Khan, Shanthakumaran Sreesanth, Rudra Pratap Singh, Ishant Sharma, Ranadeb Bose, Anil Kumble, Ramesh Powar

Umpires: Steve Bucknor (WI), Simon Taufel (Aus).

Evans emerges

FROM PAGE 20

working as hard as possible but it was another hard day for me."

But Evans, who believes Saturday's trial will cream off another few contenders, refuses to rule 'Vino' out.

"I still won't discount him," he said.

Gasping for breath, but buoyed by the hundreds of Aussie flags he has seen, Evans added: "I'm getting over the passes every day, and everything is going as I planned. But I set pretty hard standards for myself, so to follow my plan isn't bad."

"Going into second half of Tour, we're so closely matched in the mountains that it's good for everyone watching, but it's a bit anxious for us."

"I think it's just starting up. We've only seen the real selections being made, and no matter what people are saying now, the truth's really coming out and it's still a long way to Paris."

"I did what I could to stay with the contenders, and the team are