

FIFA medical course from today

UNB, Dhaka

The FIFA Football Medicine Course, organised by Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) with support from FIFA, begins at the BFF Bhaban today.

Thirty trainee doctors from across the country, including seven females, will take part in the five-day course.

The course will be held from 9:00 am to 4:15pm everyday. Dr Gurucharan Singh, sports medical committee member of the FIFA and acting director of AFC's sports medicine department, will conduct the course.

Dr Mohammad Omar Faruq will act as the local coordinator.

Besides, specialists from the city's PG Hospital, Birdem, DMCH and other hospitals will deliver lectures on different aspects of football medicines.

School kho kho starts today

UNB, Dhaka

The 5th Blazer BD School Kho Kho Competition begins today at the Outer Stadium Kho Kho ground.

Bangladesh Kho Kho Federation vice-president ASM Ali Kabir is expected to inaugurate the meet.

A total of 18 schools will take part in the boys and girls' divisions of the competition. In the boys' group, 12 teams -- split into four groups -- will compete in the league basis match. Later, four top teams from each group will qualify for the semifinal.

In the girls' group, six teams -- divide into two groups -- will play in the league basis match. Both champions and runners-up from each group will advance to the semifinal.

Sponsor Blazer BD will provide Tk 50,000 of the total budget of Tk 98,000 for the competition.

Tournament committee secretary Faruque Dhali disclosed the details of the tournament at a press conference at the National Sports Council (NSC) conference room Wednesday afternoon.

Full marks for Gazirchot

SPORTS REPORTER

Gazirchot SC defeated Government Printing Press 2-1 in yesterday's Third Division Football League at the Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

Both the matches at the Outer Stadium ended in draws. Friends Social Welfare and Mirpur Ekadash settled for 1-1 while Dilkusha and Euro Famous failed to score in 90 minutes.

Lacking English

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Williams added: "I have read the predictions that wages will not rise dramatically but my feeling is that wages will grow very considerably this year."

"The market is buoyant because of the TV money, there is an ability to pay and a willingness to invest."

Williams pointed out that it was not just the big clubs splashing out and that in terms of net spending, Arsenal and Chelsea had actually earned more than they had spent in transfers during the summer.

Great season

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maintain that position until the end."

The 23-year-old midfielder has inherited David Beckham's number 23 shirt at Real following the Englishman's move to America this summer.

Snijder, with his dead-ball expertise and superb range of passing and shooting, has been likened to the former Manchester United ace, but the Holland international insists he wants to be seen as his own man.

"I don't like these things because I don't like to be compared with other players," he said. "He has his qualities, I have mine and we are different players."

Wiese slams

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"I have top national and international achievements (with Bremen) and I do not understand why I am overlooked," the unorthodox Wiese told German tabloid Bild.

"Instead, Hildebrand, who sits on the bench at Valencia (behind Spanish international Santiago Canizares) is selected or you have Enke, who has often been exposed. And Neuer hasn't played a complete Bundesliga season yet."

"Obviously, I do not fit into the circle of the German Football Association because I am not a conventional mainstream goalkeeper."

"I am not disappointed, but for me the subject of where I stand with Joachim Loew is a closed matter. It's clearly not up for discussion."



New Zealand fast bowler Shane Bond during a press conference in Johannesburg yesterday.

Chandana 'treated harshly'

AFP, Colombo

All-rounder Upul Chandana, one of Sri Lanka's 1996 world cup winning team, on Wednesday announced he had quit international cricket and accused the selectors of treating him shabbily.

"I was hoping to get selected for the world cup after doing consistently well in domestic cricket. It did not happen and when I was not selected for the Twenty-20 I thought I should quit playing international cricket," Chandana, 35 told reporters.

"I feel I was treated very unfairly by the administrators", said the leg spinner who had had a season with the English county Gloucestershire.

Chandana said he had not been approached by the unofficial Indian Cricket League (ICL). "I will have to think about it then if (approached)," he said.

The lower-order batsman played 16 Tests between 1999 and 2005 and 147 one-day internationals between 1994 and 2007.

His name, along with that of Sanath Jayasuriya, Russel Arnold and former captain Marvan Atapattu, has been linked with the ICL.

The Indian league, bankrolled by media baron Subhash Chandra, involves Twenty20 cricket featuring foreign and domestic players.

With Sri Lanka warning it will ban any player joining the rebels, no cricketer from the island nation has officially signed up so far.

277 off just 72 balls!

CRICINFO, undated

Sri Lankan first-class player Dhanuka Pathirana scored a remarkable 277 off 72 balls in a Twenty20 match in Lancashire's Saddleworth League to steer his Austerlands side to 366 for 2 and an easy win over Droylsden. Pathirana smashed 29 sixes and 18 fours in his onslaught.

Everything seemed to hit the middle," Pathirana, who had to borrow a bat as he had left his at home, said. "I was seeing it like a football. It was like a dream ... I think I did some serious damage to some of the vehicles in the car park."

"It was unbelievable," Austerlands' Andy Young told the Manchester Evening News. "Dhanuka normally bats at No. 3 but we needed to up our run rate to reach the semi-finals, so we asked him to open and said to him: 'Just go for it.' And he certainly did.

"It was scary to watch and it wasn't on one of the smaller grounds in our league. He is one of those guys who we always knew was capable of a massive innings, but this was incredible."

Howard, who has seen his popularity ratings plummet due to his support of the US-led invasion of Iraq, played for his school at rugby and cricket.

Bush, who was accompanied here by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, flew in for a summit of Asia Pacific leaders.

"I have got to get my priorities right. No disrespect, he's (Bush) my good friend but this is rugby league," he told reporters.

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When asked if Beckham was difficult to deal with at United, the 65-year-old said: "He was never a problem until he got married. He used to go into work with the academy coaches at night time, he was a fantastic young lad."

"Getting married into that entertainment scene was a difficult thing from that moment his life was never going to be the same."

"He is such a big celebrity, football is only a small part. The big part is his persona."

Ponting did not leave Australia with the rest of the squad on Monday due to "private family reasons". Gilchrist said Stuart Clark, who also remained at home to care for his ill son, was expected to join the group "in the next day or so". Uncertainty remained over Shane Watson's part in the tournament after he stayed in Brisbane to have a minor hamstring problem monitored.

Beckham's mission

FROM PAGE 20

And while Ferguson feels Beckham will struggle to have the required impact on the field, he claimed the 31-year-old's celebrity persona had overtaken his status as a sportsman following his marriage to Spice Girl Victoria.

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Riquelme back

FROM PAGE 20

Villarreal hierarchy before last Christmas, the 29-year-old spent the second half of last season on loan at Boca Juniors.

Villarreal did offer an olive branch

earlier in the summer when they gave Riquelme a place in the squad,

albeit the number 16 and not his Favoured number eight.

Award

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occasionally still works for his former Ferrari team.

Schumacher beat 17 other candi-

dates for the prize, including Iraq's

national football team, which won the

Asian Cup for the first time in history

earlier this year, and a joint candidacy by tennis aces Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

Former winners of the award

include seven-times Tour de France

cycling champion Lance Armstrong of

the United States and Moroccan

middle distance runner Hicham El

Guerrero who holds the world record

for the 1,500-metre race.

It was awarded last year to Spain's

national basketball team.

Spain's Crown Prince Felipe is the

patron of the Asturias foundation

which annually hands out eight

awards -- each worth 50,000 euros

(68,000 US dollars) -- in fields ranging

from sports to science and literature.

T20 'perfect' for Gayle

AFP, Johannesburg



West Indian opener Chris Gayle, one of the great disappointments of the World Cup in the Caribbean, knows he has the perfect chance to silence his critics at the inaugural Twenty20 championships.

The famously laid-back Gayle came second in a "Top of the Flops" poll when the West Indies played host to the premier ODI event in March and April, but the shortest form of the game appears tailor-made to his bludgeoning style.

"Yes, it's perfectly suited to me. I am sure everyone will enjoy it," Gayle told reporters in Johannesburg.

The lower-order batsman played 16 Tests between 1999 and 2005 and 147 one-day internationals between 1994 and 2007.

His name, along with that of Sanath Jayasuriya, Russel Arnold and former captain Marvan Atapattu, has been linked with the ICL.

The Indian league, bankrolled by media baron Subhash Chandra, involves Twenty20 cricket featuring foreign and domestic players.

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