

Real land €65m Kaka

Football

THE GUARDIAN

Real Madrid have signed the Brazilian midfielder Kaka from Milan, the La Liga club confirmed today. The 27-year-old international has agreed a six-year contract to become the first player to join Real since Florentino Perez since he became president this month.

Reports said the transfer fee was around €65m (£56m). Perez has vowed to recreate the policy of signing the world's best in his second spell in charge he brought Ronaldo, Zinedine Zidane, Luis Figo and David Beckham to the Bernabeu in his first term and snaring the Brazil playmaker is another statement of intent.

The official unveiling in Madrid is likely to take place at the end of the month, after the Confederations Cup in South Africa.

Kaka, who is in Brazil on international duty, called Perez's strategy "an interesting sports project." He said: "He's trying to buy other

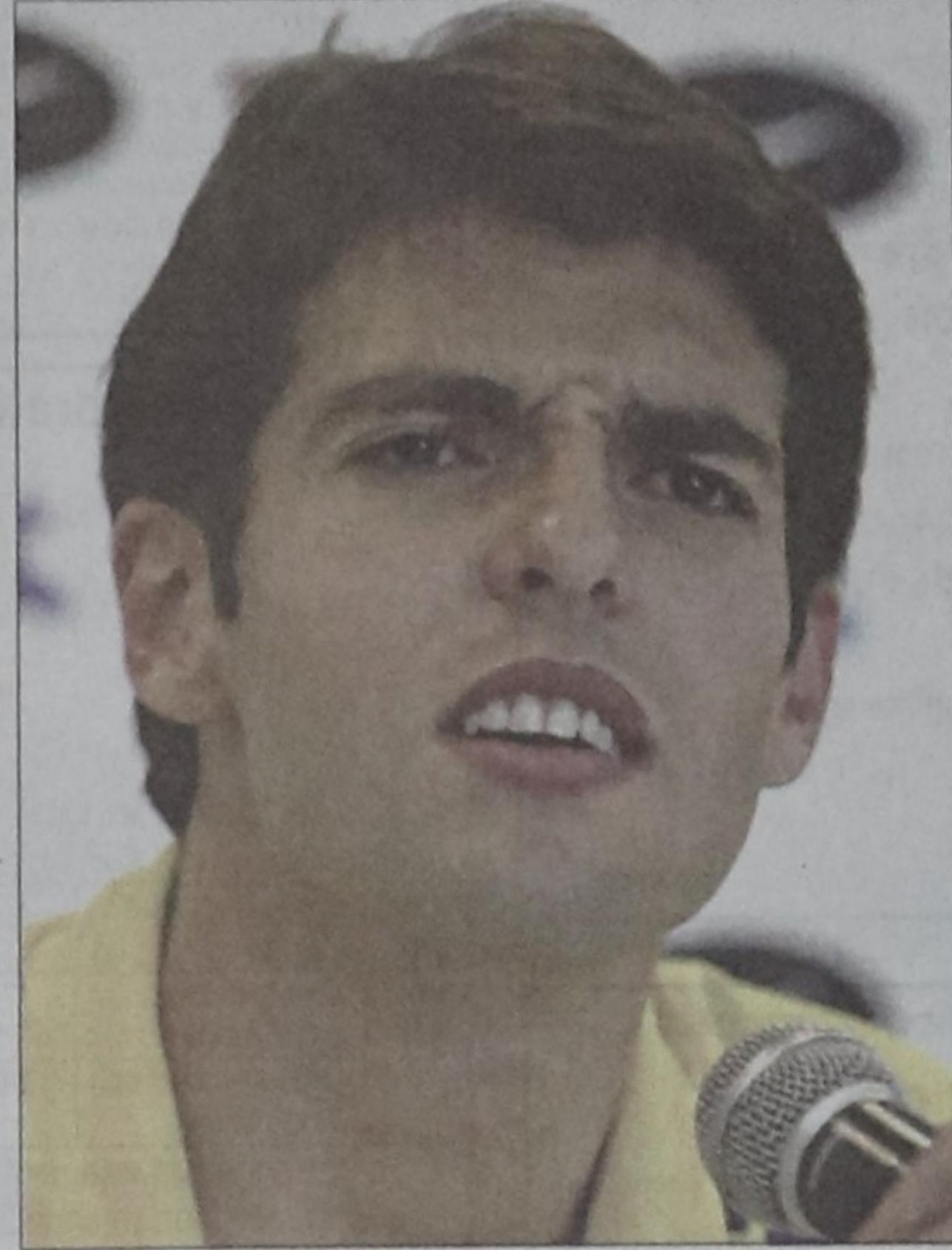
players, and I think he can make a very offensive team. That's behind my decision to go to this team."

Kaka said he talked with his former Milan teammate David Beckham about the transfer, and the England midfielder, who played for Real, said it would be the best step for his career. "I hope to be part of this new project and help to win titles, both European and Spanish," Kaka said.

"Now the soap opera is over," he added after a practice session in the build-up to Wednesday's World Cup qualifier against Paraguay in Recife. "The only leftover details were the medical exams, and I've done them. The negotiations are closed and I have sealed my transfer to Real Madrid."

"Everything I've always done for Milan has been by mutual agreement, from the moment I arrived until my departure today. I'm leaving by the front door. I've won everything that I wanted as a player and this is a new motivation for me."

Milan thanked Kaka for his contribution. "AC Milan



Brazil superstar Kaka addresses a press conference in Recife on Monday where he announced his transfer from AC Milan to Real Madrid.

PHOTO: AFP

Fans excited about Kaka

INTERNET, Madrid

The fans of Real Madrid are optimistic about the signing of Brazilian megastar Kaka, according to an online poll taken by sports daily Marca on Tuesday. The signing of Kaka from AC Milan for reportedly 67.2 million euros (93.51 million dollars) was announced by both clubs early on Tuesday.

By noon on Tuesday, no less than 37,784 votes had been registered in Marca's poll, which asked its readers "Do you think that Kaka will triumph at Real Madrid?"

76 per cent of readers answered "yes", with only 24 per cent opting for "no."

Kaka has signed a six-year contract with Real worth around nine million euros per season, thus making him one of the world's best paid players.

He is the first signing of new Real president Florentino Perez, who has promised to build a star-studded team capable of challenging the domestic and European domination of historic rivals Barcelona.

Bhutia faces the music

INTERNET, New Delhi

thanks the man Kaka and the champion Kaka for his decisive contributions to so many victories obtained in the last six years," the Serie A club said.

"His loss on the field, though serious, can be filled. It will, however, be very difficult to fill the void left by Kaka the man."

Perez confirmed that Kaka would be just the first of

several summer signings. His targets also include Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo and Liverpool's Xabi Alonso. "Kaka is one of the players that every team would like to have and Madrid had the chance to get him," Perez said. "We are working on building a good team, an important team, and this has only just begun."

Mohun Bagan handed the 32-year-old striker a six-month ban after he missed training to feature in the dance competition, domestic media reported on Tuesday.

Bhutia and his female partner won the show but he maintains he has no plans to hang up his boots and don dancing shoes full time. "We saw Bhutia neglecting his duties towards the club for a long time. So we have decided to suspend him for six months," Mohun Bagan club vice president Subrata Mukherjee told reporters.

The suspension would prevent Bhutia, seen as key to India's hopes of a good showing at the 2011 Asian Cup, from

significantly impacting on which country snatches the last automatic Asian berth in South Africa.

North Korea is currently second in the group on 11 points, one ahead of Saudi Arabia but having played a game more.

If South Korea defeats

Saudi Arabia, then North Korea only needs a draw against them in Riyadh on June 17 to qualify.

Cho Chung-yun, chairman of the Korea Football Association, the South's football governing body, admitted to reporters that North Korean officials have "asked us for help" against Saudi Arabia.

The two Koreas, which technically remain at war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty, have never played at the same World Cup tournament.

"I told my players the party was over Sunday," Huh said. "We still have work left to do."

Though South Korea has nothing riding on the outcome of Wednesday's game, the result could have a significant impact on which country snatches the last automatic Asian berth in South Africa.

North Korea is currently second in the group on 11 points, one ahead of Saudi Arabia but having played a game more.

Cho Chung-yun, chairman of the Korea Football Association, the South's football governing body, admitted to reporters that North Korean officials have "asked us for help" against Saudi Arabia.

The two Koreas, which technically remain at war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty, have never played at the same World Cup tournament.

"I told my players the party was over Sunday," Huh said. "We still have work left to do."

Though South Korea has nothing riding on the outcome of Wednesday's game, the result could have a significant impact on which country snatches the last automatic Asian berth in South Africa.

North Korea is currently second in the group on 11 points, one ahead of Saudi Arabia but having played a game more.

Cho Chung-yun, chairman of the Korea Football Association, the South's football governing body, admitted to reporters that North Korean officials have "asked us for help" against Saudi Arabia.

The two Koreas, which technically remain at war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty, have never played at the same World Cup tournament.

"I told my players the party was over Sunday," Huh said. "We still have work left to do."

Though South Korea has nothing riding on the outcome of Wednesday's game, the result could have a significant impact on which country snatches the last automatic Asian berth in South Africa.

North Korea is currently second in the group on 11 points, one ahead of Saudi Arabia but having played a game more.

Cho Chung-yun, chairman of the Korea Football Association, the South's football governing body, admitted to reporters that North Korean officials have "asked us for help" against Saudi Arabia.

The two Koreas, which technically remain at war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty, have never played at the same World Cup tournament.

"I told my players the party was over Sunday," Huh said. "We still have work left to do."

Though South Korea has nothing riding on the outcome of Wednesday's game, the result could have a significant impact on which country snatches the last automatic Asian berth in South Africa.

North Korea is currently second in the group on 11 points, one ahead of Saudi Arabia but having played a game more.

Cho Chung-yun, chairman of the Korea Football Association, the South's football governing body, admitted to reporters that North Korean officials have "asked us for help" against Saudi Arabia.

The two Koreas, which technically remain at war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty, have never played at the same World Cup tournament.

"I told my players the party was over Sunday," Huh said. "We still have work left to do."

Though South Korea has nothing riding on the outcome of Wednesday's game, the result could have a significant impact on which country snatches the last automatic Asian berth in South Africa.

North Korea is currently second in the group on 11 points, one ahead of Saudi Arabia but having played a game more.

Cho Chung-yun, chairman of the Korea Football Association, the South's football governing body, admitted to reporters that North Korean officials have "asked us for help" against Saudi Arabia.

The two Koreas, which technically remain at war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty, have never played at the same World Cup tournament.

"I told my players the party was over Sunday," Huh said. "We still have work left to do."

Though South Korea has nothing riding on the outcome of Wednesday's game, the result could have a significant impact on which country snatches the last automatic Asian berth in South Africa.

North Korea is currently second in the group on 11 points, one ahead of Saudi Arabia but having played a game more.

Cho Chung-yun, chairman of the Korea Football Association, the South's football governing body, admitted to reporters that North Korean officials have "asked us for help" against Saudi Arabia.

The two Koreas, which technically remain at war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty, have never played at the same World Cup tournament.

"I told my players the party was over Sunday," Huh said. "We still have work left to do."

Though South Korea has nothing riding on the outcome of Wednesday's game, the result could have a significant impact on which country snatches the last automatic Asian berth in South Africa.

North Korea is currently second in the group on 11 points, one ahead of Saudi Arabia but having played a game more.

Cho Chung-yun, chairman of the Korea Football Association, the South's football governing body, admitted to reporters that North Korean officials have "asked us for help" against Saudi Arabia.

The two Koreas, which technically remain at war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty, have never played at the same World Cup tournament.

"I told my players the party was over Sunday," Huh said. "We still have work left to do."

Though South Korea has nothing riding on the outcome of Wednesday's game, the result could have a significant impact on which country snatches the last automatic Asian berth in South Africa.

North Korea is currently second in the group on 11 points, one ahead of Saudi Arabia but having played a game more.

Cho Chung-yun, chairman of the Korea Football Association, the South's football governing body, admitted to reporters that North Korean officials have "asked us for help" against Saudi Arabia.

The two Koreas, which technically remain at war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty, have never played at the same World Cup tournament.

"I told my players the party was over Sunday," Huh said. "We still have work left to do."

Though South Korea has nothing riding on the outcome of Wednesday's game, the result could have a significant impact on which country snatches the last automatic Asian berth in South Africa.

North Korea is currently second in the group on 11 points, one ahead of Saudi Arabia but having played a game more.

Cho Chung-yun, chairman of the Korea Football Association, the South's football governing body, admitted to reporters that North Korean officials have "asked us for help" against Saudi Arabia.

The two Koreas, which technically remain at war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty, have never played at the same World Cup tournament.

"I told my players the party was over Sunday," Huh said. "We still have work left to do."

Though South Korea has nothing riding on the outcome of Wednesday's game, the result could have a significant impact on which country snatches the last automatic Asian berth in South Africa.

North Korea is currently second in the group on 11 points, one ahead of Saudi Arabia but having played a game more.

Cho Chung-yun, chairman of the Korea Football Association, the South's football governing body, admitted to reporters that North Korean officials have "asked us for help" against Saudi Arabia.

The two Koreas, which technically remain at war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty, have never played at the same World Cup tournament.

"I told my players the party was over Sunday," Huh said. "We still have work left to do."

Though South Korea has nothing riding on the outcome of Wednesday's game, the result could have a significant impact on which country snatches the last automatic Asian berth in South Africa.

North Korea is currently second in the group on 11 points, one ahead of Saudi Arabia but having played a game more.

Cho Chung-yun, chairman of the Korea Football Association, the South's football governing body, admitted to reporters that North Korean officials have "asked us for help" against Saudi Arabia.

The two Koreas, which technically remain at war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty, have never played at the same World Cup tournament.

"I told my players the party was over Sunday," Huh said. "We still have work left to do."

Though South Korea has nothing riding on the outcome of Wednesday's game, the result could have a significant impact on which country snatches the last automatic Asian berth in South Africa.

North Korea is currently second in the group on 11 points, one ahead of Saudi Arabia but having played a game more.

Cho Chung-yun, chairman of the Korea Football Association, the South's football governing body, admitted to reporters that North Korean officials have "asked us for help" against Saudi Arabia.

The two Koreas, which technically remain at war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty, have never played at the same World Cup tournament.

"I told my players the party was over Sunday," Huh said. "We still have work left to do."

Though South Korea has nothing riding on the outcome of Wednesday's game, the result could have a significant impact on which country snatches the last automatic Asian berth in South Africa.

North Korea is currently second in the group on 11 points, one ahead of Saudi Arabia but having played a game more.

Cho Chung-yun, chairman of the Korea Football Association, the South's football governing body, admitted to reporters that North Korean officials have "asked us for help" against Saudi Arabia.

The two Koreas, which technically remain at war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty, have never played at the same World Cup tournament.

"I told my players the party was over Sunday," Huh said. "We still have work left to do."

Though South Korea has nothing riding on the outcome of Wednesday's game, the result could have a significant impact on which country snatches the last automatic Asian berth in South Africa.

North Korea is currently second in the group on 11 points, one ahead of Saudi Arabia but having played a game more.

Cho Chung-yun, chairman of the Korea Football Association, the South's football governing body, admitted to reporters that North Korean officials have "asked us for help" against Saudi Arabia.

The two Koreas, which technically remain at war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty, have never played at the same World Cup tournament.

"I told my players the party was over Sunday," Huh said. "We still have work left to do."

Though South Korea has nothing riding on the outcome of Wednesday's game, the result could have a significant impact on which country snatches the last automatic Asian berth in South Africa.

North Korea is currently second in the group on 11 points, one ahead of Saudi Arabia but having played a game more.

Cho Chung-yun, chairman of the Korea Football Association, the South's football governing body, admitted to reporters that North Korean officials have "asked us for help" against Saudi Arabia.

The two Koreas, which technically remain at war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty, have never played at the same World Cup tournament.

"I told my players the party was over Sunday," Huh said. "We still have work left to do."

Though South Korea has nothing riding on the outcome of Wednesday's game, the result could have a significant impact on which country snatches the last automatic Asian berth in South Africa.

North Korea is currently second in the group on 11 points, one ahead of Saudi Arabia but having played a game more.

Cho Chung-yun, chairman of the Korea Football Association, the South's football governing body, admitted to reporters that North Korean officials have "asked us for help"