

Development is all talk and no walk

This is the second part of the two-part exclusive interview of sacked Brazilian coach Edson Silva Dido with *The Daily Star Sport's* Quazi Zulquarnain Islam where he talks about the Bangladesh Football Federation's (BFF) misdirected development agendas, dearth of productivity and lack of accountability; factors which prevented him from being able to carry out concrete plans for Bangladesh's development as a football nation.

The Daily Star Sport (DSS): What do you think is the biggest detriment to development of football in this country?

Edson Silva Dido (Dido): The first problem is that people in charge of development here only look under their noses. They lack the farsightedness that is necessary, which leads me to believe that they don't understand the concept of development. Development starts long before you kick the ball in the field. It starts with small children and with coaches who can work with young players to teach them the basic skills.

DSS: But surely the BFF have some ideas in the pipeline?

Dido: Yes, they have 'big' ideas, but nothing is structured. For example, they start a school tournament and tag it as development. Come on, that is not

development. I asked Shantoo [Shahidur Rahman] at that time, who is coaching these kids from the school? The history teachers? What use is that? Also, take the example of the academy in Sylhet. The idea at this moment is so far fetched.

DSS:... why so?

Dido: Consider the football standards. The money for an academy can be better spent elsewhere. I say if needed close the doors and stop the football. Select twenty coaches, send them to Brazil, Argentina or Europe and ask them to return and disseminate their knowledge amongst a wider audience.

DSS: So did you not put forward some ideas to the development committee?

Dido: Let me put it this way, in the whole time that I was here, the development committee did not have one single meeting with me. You would have thought that they would think that this guy knows maybe even a little bit. But I was never approached for an opinion. All the development projects I undertook were of my own accord.

DSS: What kind of projects?

Dido: See I dream big. I had a number of ambitious projects and programs in place which I had communicated to [Kazi] Salahuddin. For example, I had a

plan of selecting a number of young players and taking them to camp in South America for a few years. These plans were at a pretty advanced stage and I had everything mapped out. I tell you if this had materialized Bangladesh would have been up there with the best in the region if not in Asia in five years time.

DSS: You think so?

Dido: Absolutely. In a country with so much potential in terms of human resource and players it's just shocking to see so many good players go to waste because of the lack of knowledge of the committees and coaches. Good roots give rise to good trees. You don't have that here, because people keep tagging certain players as good, when they are part of a museum. Football changes every year and you have to adjust accordingly.

DSS: Did you make any progress with these projects?

Dido: Like I said, Salahuddin was aware of these projects. And he supported the idea as well. We also had some informal discussions with some big multinational corporations to sponsor the idea. There was also a production company in South America who were willing to share some of the costs. It would have cost about \$600,000 altogether.

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PHOTO: STAR

Sri Lankan footballers enter the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel yesterday afternoon. They are the first of the eight teams to arrive in Dhaka for the SAFF Championship that starts on Friday.

Razzaq arrives for Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER

Pakistan international Abdul Razzaq arrived in Dhaka last night to join Abahani before their crucial battle against archrivals Mohammedan in the Premier Division Cricket League.

The 29-year-old Pakistani all-rounder, who has played 46 Tests and 237 ODIs, was scheduled to arrive in Dhaka before Abahani's vital match against Gazi Tank on November 20, but an Abahani official claimed that a mysterious phone call had forced him to cancel his flight.

The coveted domestic competition will resume on Friday after a long Eid vacation with the clash between perennial rivals Abahani and Mohammedan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. Surjo Torun will meet Kalabagan at Fatullah while Biman take on Khelaghar SKS at BKSP in the day's other matches.

Defending champions Abahani were desperately looking to bounce back from their defeat against Biman, their first loss in the competition, while Mohammedan will try to keep their winning run intact to take a step forward towards regaining the title.

Asim Butt no more

AFP, Glasgow

Scottish cricket was in mourning Tuesday following the death of Pakistan-born bowler Asim Butt at the age of 42.

Cricket Scotland announced that Butt, a left-arm bowler who played 71 matches for his adopted country after settling in Edinburgh, died in his sleep during a visit to his native Lahore.

Scotland team manager Euan McGregor said everyone involved in the game in Scotland had been devastated by the loss of such a popular figure at a tragically young age. Butt had not been ill before his sudden death, he added. "He was across in Pakistan for a holiday and apparently died in his sleep yesterday (Monday) morning."

Hodge to retire

ANI, Sydney

Australian batsman Brad Hodge will be announcing his retirement from first-class cricket, after playing two more Sheffield Shield matches for Victoria.

Hodge has stepped down in order to spend more time with his family. He also has to deal with his wife's health issues and his frustration at not being selected for the Australian Test team despite scoring tons of runs.

"It's been a wonderful journey, which hopefully has more to go to limited-overs and Twenty20 level. I've loved every time I've pulled on the navy blue cap and it was a dream come true to swap it for a baggy green for the times I did," The Sydney Morning Herald quoted Hodge, as saying.

Perera dreams big

SPORTS REPORTER



Being a winning captain of Sri Lanka during the 2nd SAARC Gold Championship, coach Sampath Perera is dreaming of repeating the rare feat under his guidance in the Bangabandhu 6th SAFF Championship in Bangladesh.

Perera expressed his desire to reporters after Sri Lanka checked in at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon yesterday afternoon as the first team to arrive in Dhaka for the regional carnival, beginning on December 4 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Sri Lanka, semifinalists in 2008, have been drawn along with hosts Bangladesh, Pakistan and Bhutan, semifinalists of the 2008 edition.

Though Perera hardly got all his boys together during the last two-and-a-half-month training due to the players' club engagements, he is getting boosted because most of the players have been together since the last SAFF Championship in Colombo last year.

"Ahead of the SAFF Championship, we have started the training two-and-a-half month ago though I hardly got them together because I had to release seven to eight players everyday for their club commitments. To be truth, I got them together for the last one week during the training in Bangkok. Despite this, I am optimistic about the boys because they have been playing better football for the last two years. Besides, 14 to 15 players have been playing together since the last SAFF Championship in

2008 and that's why we are hoping to finish top in the meet," said Perera.

Perera believes his charges have improved a lot under his guidance since he took over from a Korean coach in December last and it would be an easy task for his successor to find out quality footballers.

Under his guidance, Sri Lanka qualified for the AFC Challenge Cup finals as well as winning three games against Chinese Taipei, Lebanon and Brunei Darussalam. They also managed to draw against Pakistan and Maldives while losing to Nepal, Syria, India and Kyrgyzstan.

For the sake of statistics, Sri Lanka have never played the regional extravaganza final since their SAARC Gold Championship, which next year turned into the SAFF Championship, triumph in 1995.

Perera, however, saw his side went down in two practice matches in Bangkok against the Thailand league champions and the Thailand U-23 side.

The Sri Lanka coach, however, was a bit distressed after leaving promising striker Mohammed Fazole out of the squad due to injury, but he still believed he has good armoury in offence with Chathura Maduranga and Kasun Jayasuriya.

Perera rates Bangladesh as the favourite in the eight-nation meet.

"In my view, I will say Bangladesh is the top favourite in the tournament because they will be playing at home. Besides, Bangladesh have good standard competition and they have been playing professional league," said Perera, who played for Indian club Mohan Bagan in 1977-78.

Zahid out injured

SPORTS REPORTER

Winger Zahid Hossain has been ruled out of the Bangladesh's SAFF Championship squad following prolonged quadriceps contusion as well as ankle injury.

Despite having the injury, Zahid, who was initially dropped by sacked Brazilian coach Edson Silva Dido, was kept in the 21-member squad for the final recovery, but Zahid failed to recover till Tuesday morning.

"He is still not fit for the match," physio Dolilur Rahman said. "He tried today's (Tuesday) training, but he still felt pain and opted out of the squad."

During the AFC Challenge Cup qualifiers in April in Bangladesh, Zahid suffered the muscle pull and played the qualifiers partly and was instrumental in Bangladesh's wins against Cambodia and Macao.



Neo Cricket & SuperSport2

India v Sri Lanka
Third Test, Day 1
Live from 11:00am

SuperSport6

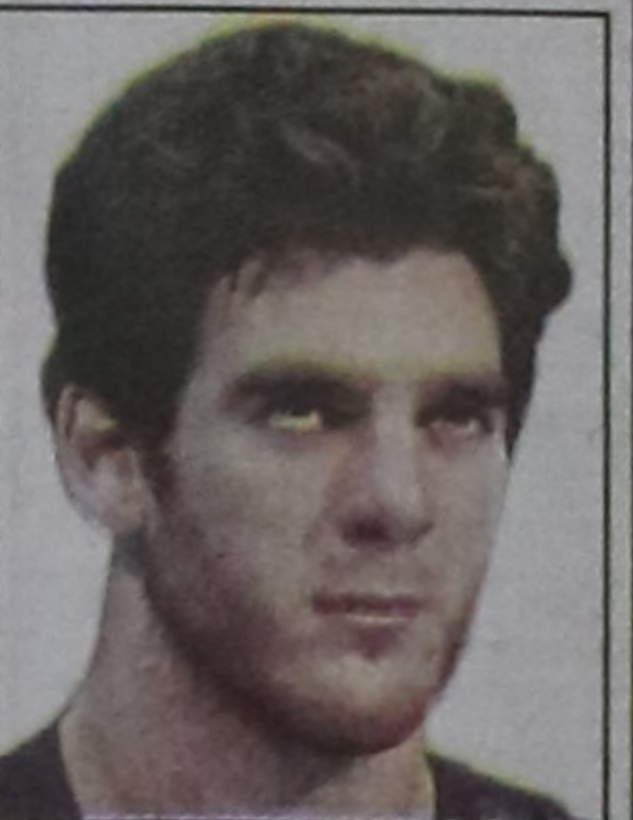
Primera Liga
Xerez v Barcelona
Live from 4:00am (Thursday)

SuperSport7

Europa League
Aek Athens v Everton
Live from 1:00am (Thursday)
Valencia v Lille Metropole
Live from 3:00am (Thursday)

ESPN

Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live at 9:30pm



Juan Martin del Potro

(Argentina's tennis star)
"He's very strong. I've never beaten him on a hard court or indoors. He's very fast. He plays like on a PlayStation, he runs everywhere. It's very difficult to make winners."
After losing to Russia's Nikolay Davydenko in the ATP World Tour Finals on Sunday.



PHOTO: AFP

India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni (R) takes a catch while teammates VVS Laxman and Rahul Dravid look on during a training session ahead of the third and final Test against Sri Lanka in Mumbai yesterday.

India under no pressure Third Test starts today

Cricket

AFP, Mumbai

India do not feel under any pressure to become cricket's top-ranked Test side when the third and final match against Sri Lanka starts here on Wednesday, captain Mahendra Dhoni said.

Dhoni's men, who lead the series 1-0, will dislodge South Africa at the top of the official Test rankings for the first time if they win the match and secure a 2-0 scoreline.

A draw or a defeat for the hosts at the Brabourne stadium, which is holding in first Test for 36 years, will keep Sri Lanka in second place behind South Africa and India in third.

"I think winning the series is more important, but at the end of the day if we do that it will reflect on the ratings," Dhoni told reporters on Tuesday.

"We are not thinking about the ranking because you don't really want to be under pressure, you just want to play your natural game and play according to the game plan."

"We don't think about the ratings because we know if we keep winning, the ratings will

take care of themselves."

India are buoyant after winning the second Test in Kanpur by an innings and 144 runs inside four days last week, following a high-scoring draw in the first match in Ahmedabad.

"There was no way we could have taken 20 wickets on that flat Ahmedabad wicket," said Dhoni. "The bowlers did a good job in Kanpur because after the first two days it looked like another match with big scores."

Centuries from Gautam Gambhir, Virender Sehwag and Rahul Dravid helped India pile up 642 and bowl the Sri Lankans out for 229 and 269.

Left-hander Gambhir, who has hit centuries in each of his last four Tests, will miss the match due to his sister's wedding on Thursday and will be replaced by Murali Vijay.

Dhoni and his Sri Lankan counterpart Kumar Sangakkara said they expected the seamers and spinners to do well on the grassless Brabourne stadium wicket, indicating a draw was far from their minds.

"The wicket looks good, the outfield is great," said Dhoni. "It is a ground where you will get value for your shots because the outfield is quick."

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Bond blow for Kiwis

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Shane Bond has been ruled out of the rest of the Test series against Pakistan due to a torn abdominal muscle. Bond was the Player of the Match in the thrilling win in Dunedin, where he took eight wickets for the game in what was his first Test in two years.

Bond suffered minor abdominal discomfort following the 32-run victory and scans on Tuesday revealed a one-centimetre tear in an abdominal muscle. The New Zealand team manager Dave Currie said Bond would be rested from the second and third Tests as a precaution.

Bond has always been injury-prone and up until his ICL defection he had managed to play

only 17 Tests in six years. "Just rerun the tapes mate," Bond said, alluding to his never-ending struggle to stay match-fit. "It's not what I expected. There was a little bit of niggle there during the game but during the last session (on Saturday) there was nothing."

"I've had aches and pains there for a long time and when you go into a Test with four bowlers you want peace of mind that everything's fine. I've prepared for this for the last four months. I've bowled a lot of overs in the nets and had the one-day series... the amount of overs has probably attributed to it but that's cricket."

Bond admitted he didn't want to risk playing the next Test, for the injury, despite not being very serious at this point, could worsen and affect his future prospects. "I could probably play but if I did there was a chance I could blow

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Messi wins Ballon d'Or

Football

AFP, Paris

Lionel Messi of Barcelona and Argentina on Tuesday was awarded the Ballon d'Or accolade as Europe-based footballer of the year.

Messi, whom Cristiano Ronaldo beat into second place last season, easily saw off the Portuguese striker, who moved to Real Madrid from Manchester United, by 473 points to 233.

Messi got the vote for a tremendous year in which his mercurial talents stood out for Barcelona as the Catalan club marched to an unprecedented treble of Champions League - he scored against United in the final - Spanish league title and Spanish Cup.

Barca teammates were also hailed with midfielder Xavi taking third place with 170 points while Iniesta was fourth on 149.

In fifth place was Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o, who left Barca to join Inter Milan in the summer after winning his second Champions League. He was the club's other scorer in the 2-0 final win over United as Barcelona won their third crown.

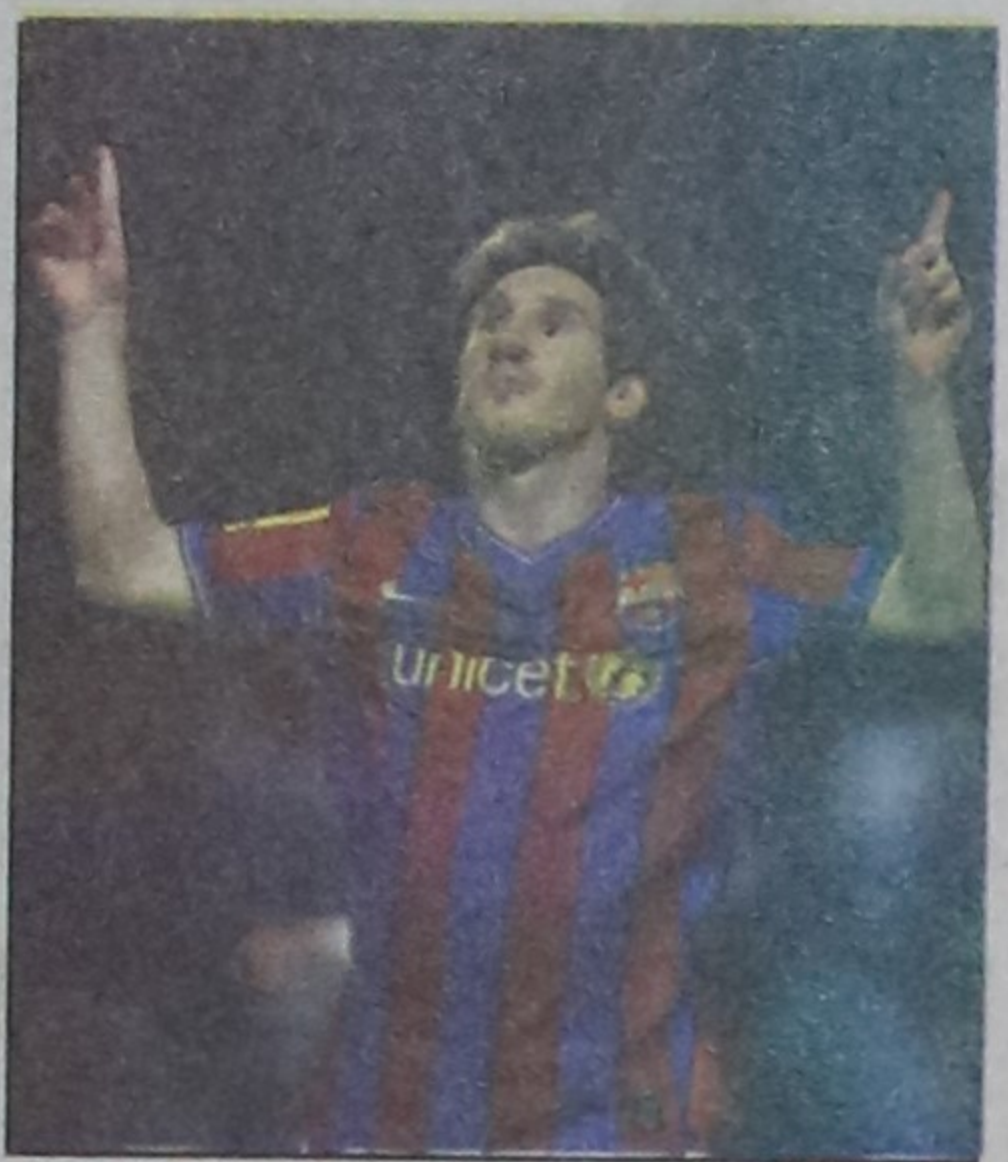
Messi, who Argentina coach Diego Maradona picked out as his heir four years ago, was in the youth team in Newell's Old Boys in his homeland before Barcelona discovered him. The club swiftly brought him to Europe - paying for treatment for the youngster's growth hormone deficiency.

"Without growth hormones Lionel would have grown, at best, to 1m50 by the time he reached adulthood," his father Jorge once told L'Equipe Magazine.

Messi becomes the first Argentine to win the award - opened to non-European nationals 15 years ago with Liberia's George Weah the first non-European winner.

Brazilian Kaka, who won two years ago, came in sixth this year with just 58 points.

Swedish forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic, now



LIONEL MESSI

Messi's teammate at Barca after arriving from Inter Milan, placed seventh ahead of Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney, Chelsea's Ivorian striker Didier Drogba and Liverpool midfielder Steven Gerrard.

Gerrard's Liverpool teammate Fernando Torres was 11th and Arsenal's Cesc Fabregas was 12th.

Thierry Henry, another of Messi's Barca colleagues and who has never won the award, came in 15th.

The first winner, in 1956, was England wing wizard Stanley Matthews.

Others honours include Alfredo Di Stefano, Raymond Kopa, Denis Law, Lev Yashin, Eusebio, Bobby Charlton - in England's World Cup-winning year of 1966 - George Best, Gerd Muller, Johan Cruyff, Franz Beckenbauer, Kevin Keegan, Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, Michel Platini, Ruud Gullit, Marco van Basten, Ronaldo, Zinedine Zidane, Michael Owen and Ronaldinho.

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RESULT

1. Lionel Messi (ARG/Barcelona)	473 points
2. Cristiano Ronaldo (POR/MU/Real Madrid)	233
3. Xavi (ESP/Barcelona)	170
4. Iniesta (ESP/Barcelona)	149
5. Samuel Eto'o (CMR/Barcelona/Inter Milan)	75
6. Kaka (BRA/AC Milan/Real Madrid)	58
7. Zlatan Ibrahimovic (SWE/Inter Milan/Barcelona)	50
8. Wayne Rooney (ENG/Manchester United)	35
9. Didier Drogba (CIV/Chelsea)	33
10. Steven Gerrard (ENG/Liverpool)	32

PAST WINNERS

2000:	Luis Figo (POR)
2001:	Michael Owen (ENG)
2002:	Ronaldo (BRA)
2003:	Pavel Nedved (CZE)
2004:	Andrei Shevchenko (UKR)
2005:	Ronaldinho (BRA)
2006:	Fabio Cannavaro (ITA)
2007:	Kaka (BRA)
2008:	Cristiano Ronaldo (POR)
2009:	Lionel Messi (ARG)