

Ballack era over

AFP, Berlin

Michael Ballack, one of the best-known players in German football for the past decade, has played for the national side for the last time, the national football federation said Thursday.

"Michael Ballack will no longer be a part of the German national squad," the DfB said in a statement.

"I have discussed things openly with Michael Ballack, most recently in our meeting in March 2011 and in numerous phone calls," coach Joachim Loew said.

"With the Euro 2012 season about to start the time has come for me to make a clear statement," Loew said.

The former Chelsea and Bayern Munich midfielder, 34, has not played for Germany since March 2010, and in terms of performance at least, his absence has not been felt.

Injured in a brutal tackle by Portsmouth's Kevin-Prince Boateng in the FA Cup final, Ballack played no part in the World Cup last year, when Germany played some of the best football of the tournament to finish third.

And in the qualifying campaign for Euro 2012 hosted by Poland and

Ukraine, Germany are sitting pretty at the top of their qualifying group with a 10-point lead, virtually assuring a berth for the Germans.

In his place Bayern Munich's Philipp Lahm has captained the side.

"Recent months have shown that lots of young players with promising futures have appeared on the scene. Since the 2010 World Cup in South Africa the development of the national team has been absolutely positive," Loew said.

"Michael Ballack was for a decade a very important leading player in the national side and contributed enormously to the great successes of the team after the 2002 World Cup," added Loew, coach since 2006.

"He shaped an era and as captain always put himself at the service of the team, as I was able to witness at close quarters at the 2006 World Cup and Euro 2008."



FIFA's grand gesture

AFP, Tokyo

FIFA will donate about 6 million dollars in aid to help Japanese football recover from the damage of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami disaster, Japan's football chief said Thursday.

Of the sum, 4.5 million dollars will help J-League clubs, including champion Kashima Antlers, repair stadiums and training facilities damaged by the 9.0 magnitude quake, Japan Football Association president Junji Ogura said.

Football's world governing body will also give the remaining 1.5 million dollars to build or repair training grounds in the worst-hit northeastern prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima, Ogura told a news conference.

FIFA will also donate balls, shirts, boots and other football equipment worth 500,000 dollars to some 15,000 children in the disaster-hit areas through official sponsor Adidas, he added.

Ogura requested such help when FIFA president Sepp Blatter visited Japan in late May.

"I am grateful for the answer. We feel much obliged," he said. "I will listen to what they actually need in the disaster areas."

Copa & IPL live on YouTube

AFP, Washington

YouTube, which began live-streaming Indian Premier League cricket matches last year, announced Wednesday that it will show all 26 matches in next month's Copa America.

YouTube said matches from the Copa America, which begins on July 1 and is being held in Argentina, will be live-streamed at youtube.com/copaamerica and available in more than 50 countries around the world.

"Fans will have access to all 26 matches including pool play, semi-finals, quarter-finals and the championship match, live streaming as they happen with exclusive-to-YouTube commentary," YouTube said in a blogpost.

YouTube live-streamed Indian Premier League cricket matches last year in the first foray into live sports by the Google-owned video-sharing site and a move that highlighted its Internet broadcasting ambitions.

Top official alleges fixing Fans stage walkouts

Football

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

A top Malaysian football official warned Thursday that match-fixers were "destroying" the sport in the Southeast Asian country which is battling a widening match-fixing scandal.

Azzuddin Ahmad, general secretary of the Football Association of Malaysia, urged the police and the anti-graft body to take action.

"We urge the police and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) to investigate and nail anyone involved in match-fixing."

"They are destroying our football," he said. Azzuddin also called on individuals involved in corruption to surrender.

"For those who are involved in match-fixing, it is better that you own up before it is too late," he said when asked if more people could be arrested for graft.

Malaysia's national side, which had fallen a long way since the heady days of the 1970s and 1980s when they reached two Olympic Games, made a modest recovery after

being crowned ASEAN champions last December.

In the latest incident to tarnish the sport, the MACC detained a Selangor state soccer coach Wednesday over match-fixing during the President's Cup youth tournament for under-20s. He was not identified.

Earlier on Wednesday, authorities charged Singaporean R.K. Rajendran, a bookie, with match-fixing in connection with the same tournament.

Another football coach from Negeri Sembilan state, Yusarman Yusof, was charged with match-fixing early this month.

He pleaded not guilty to giving 24,900 ringgit (\$8,200) as bribes to 11 players between April 19 and 22.

Azzuddin said he hoped the sport would not see a repeat of an infamous 1994 case when more than 100 players including national footballers were suspended and banned for match-fixing.

"Hopefully it will not be a repeat of the 1994 ugly episode," he said.

"I feel very sad and disappointed that after all our efforts to improve our football, corruption has crept into the sport," Azzuddin added.

Football

AFP, Moscow

Moscow and Saint Petersburg football fans have staged a series of unprecedented walkouts from games in protest at perceived bias by the Russian authorities towards Northern Caucasus sides.

Fans of the Moscow giants Spartak and CSKA, usually united only by mutual hatred, have joined together to condemn what they consider to be preferential treatment of Caucasus sides by the Russian Football Union (RFU).

Meanwhile, Lokomotiv Moscow supporters joined the protest movement of their city rivals, also staging a walkout just after the one-hour mark of Tuesday's home match against Spartak Nalchik.

Teams from the Russian Northern Caucasus have seen an unprecedented influx of investment and new players under owners --

with clear Kremlin support -- keen to promote the conflict-torn region as stable and successful.

Anzhi -- a team from the Dagestan city of Makhachkala better known for Islamist attacks than football -- is currently third in the Russian premier league, thanks not least to the arrival of Brazilian star Roberto Carlos.

Terek Grozny from the war-torn Chechen capital hired Dutch legend Ruud Gullit to be its coach although his tenure this week ended in disaster when he was sacked by the region's leader Ramzan Kadyrov after just 147 days at the helm.

But hard-core Moscow fans claim the success has been helped by the Russian authorities turning blind eye to financial irregularities at the clubs and even referees showing more sympathy to the Caucasus sides.

"The matches of the teams from the Northern Caucasus region often have unsportsmanlike nature," the Spartak and CSKA fans statement said.

McLeish flirting with danger

Football

AFP, Paris

Should Alex McLeish be appointed Aston Villa manager after his controversial departure from bitter city rivals Birmingham he will join a select band of 'traitors', those who have crossed the divide and managed sides that detest each other.

The 52-year-old Scot will have to face down irate Villa fans - some of whom have already made their feelings clear with 'we don't want you bluenose scum' the politest graffiti sprayed at Villa's training ground - and cope with equally strong feelings from disgruntled Birmingham fans who feel betrayed.

McLeish, who nevertheless leaves Birmingham having guided them to their first silverware in 48 years in their thrilling win over Arsenal in the League Cup, will not be the first man to do such a thing in England's second city.

For Ron Saunders - a man who did not suffer fools gladly - did it in the opposite direction, walking out on a Villa side he had guided to the 1981 league title and who were going well in the European Cup to join a non-descript Birmingham side.

While Villa went on to win the European Cup that season Saunders battled on in charge of Birmingham seeing them relegated in 1984 before bringing them back up the following season and finally left to take over at West Bromwich Albion.....another bitter local rival.

Alan Curbishley was a Birmingham player when Saunders crossed over, and though Saunders has since been given a rousing ovation on rare appearances at Villa Park, it took years for the bitterness to erode.

"When Ron Saunders went from Villa to Birmingham there was uproar. I can understand the furore that is going to happen if Alex McLeish goes to Villa," he told Sky Sports.

"I think people outside of the city of Birmingham don't understand the rivalry between the two clubs. It is massive."

The high octane rivalry of North London has not been immune from such switches of loyalty.

Terry Neill set the tone by managing Spurs before opting for the more promising pastures of Arsenal and while his former club were relegated in 1977 he delivered an FA Cup final triumph in 1979 to a club admittedly he had played for with distinction.

George Graham of bungs fame delivered much more than that in his spell with the Gunners but the money for transfer scandal cost him his job there, but a few years later having re-established himself, 'stroller' as he was known when he played popped up as manager of Spurs.

However, despite landing a League Cup he never won over a sceptical Spurs fan base and he was sacked days before the 2001 FA Cup semi-final.....against Arsenal.

Harry Redknapp revels in the good bloke image but his name was mud with Portsmouth when he decamped to bitter rivals Southampton when both were still in the Premier League - however Pompey fans had the last laugh as they stayed up and Saints went down in 2005.

Shameless he returned to Portsmouth for the following season and guided them to their greatest day in their modern history with the 2008 FA Cup final triumph.

It is not solely an English habit as charismatic Brazilian Leonardo has in a short managerial career been in charge of AC Milan, and then after a few months rest after being sacked stepped into the breach at city rivals Inter.

However, the well spoken 41-year-old did not believe that he had betrayed Milan.

"I'm totally comfortable with what I did in red and black (Milan's colours)," he said of his 13 year association in different guises.

নদী রক্ষার আহ্বান

অবৈধ দখলদার এবং বিষাক্ত বর্জ্য ঢাকার চারিদিকের বুড়িগঙ্গা, শীতলক্ষ্যা, তুরাগ ও বালু নদী মৃত প্রায়।
নদীগুলোর প্রাণ ফিরিয়ে এনে নির্মল ঢাকা গড়তে আপনার নাগরিক দায়িত্ব পালন করুন।

আর নয় বিষাক্ত নদী



নদীতে

অবৈধ স্থাপনা নির্মাণ করবেন না

পলিথিন বা বর্জ্য ফেলবেন না

দৈনন্দিন গৃহস্থালি বর্জ্য ফেলবেন না

হাসপাতাল, ট্যানারী বা শিল্প বর্জ্য ফেলবেন না

সুয়েরেজ সংযোগ দিবেন না

মল-মূত্র ত্যাগ করবেন না

মৌষানে ব্যবহৃত পোড়া তেল ফেলবেন না

মাটি বা বালু দিয়ে ভরাট করবেন না

স্বাভাবিক গতি প্রবাহ বাধাগ্রস্ত হয় এমন কাজ করবেন না

চাই স্বপ্নের নির্মল নদী



মনে রাখবেন,
নদী দখল এবং দূষণ
করা পোর্ট ফলস্-১৯৬৬ এবং
বাংলাদেশ পরিবেশ সংরক্ষণ
আইন-১৯৯৫ অনুযায়ী
শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ।

জন সচেতনতায় :



বিআইডব্লিউটিএ

STAR Cricket
England v Sri Lanka
Third Test, Day 2
Live from 4:00

ESPN
Sportscentre India
Sports News

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh League
Rahmatganj v Brothers Union
Time: 4:15pm
Venue: Bangabandhu