

Star SPORT

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False-start rule on for London Games

Athletics' governing body has confirmed it will not change the false-start rule before the 2012 Olympics in London. The rule -- which sees any athlete making a false-start disqualified -- led to world record-holder Usain Bolt missing the 100m final in Daegu. But president Lamine Diack said no one at Sunday's IAAF council meeting had asked for the rule to be changed. Diack said: "We will not come back to the issue. Bolt had a false-start but that is not going to make us change."

-- BBC ONLINE



Messi & co touch down at 10:50am



Football

ANISUR RAHMAN

The wait is over but the excitement prevails across the country as magical striker and two-time FIFA world-player-of-the-year Lionel Messi and his Argentina football team land at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport this morning for their Tuesday's international friendly against Nigeria.

Hosting the FIFA international friendly between the two-time former world champions Argentina and sensational Nigeria is itself going to be the biggest football event in Bangladesh and the presence of charismatic Messi is the icing on the cake.

Advanced teams from both sides are already in town to check out if everything is in place as a jumbo Argentina football team comprising 22 players, coaching staff, officials and chefs is expected to touch down at 10:50am while the Nigerians are scheduled to arrive at 11:20am.

The Argentine players and officials will check-in at Hotel Ruposhi Bangla where three floors have been kept reserved for them while Nigeria will check-in at Westin Hotel as both teams will be given police and RAB escorts from airport to their respective hotels.

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is ready to roll out the red carpet for both the teams as the BFF officials will first welcome Argentina with bouquets before current and former national booters, wearing green T-shirt and black pants or red T-shirt and black pants,



A young boy proudly displays his complimentary ticket to the Argentina practice session in front of the BFF House yesterday. BFF has arranged for complimentary tickets for schoolchildren for Argentina's practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

receive both Argentine and Nigerian booters and officials.

"The former and current national

players will stand in two separate lines on the boarding path and receive the players with garlands and then the national

women booters will receive them at hotel," said Satyajit Das Rupu, member of the reception committee.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPECTATORS

Match starts: 6 pm

Gates open: 3 pm

Gates close: 6 pm

Private vehicles not allowed

inside the stadium complex

Eight food corners will be set

up for the spectators

Bottles of mineral water,

flammable objects,

firecrackers, lethal weapons,

and drugs not allowed inside

A missed chance!

SPORTS REPORTER

When Kolkata set up a unique instance by selecting underprivileged children as mascots for the Argentina and Venezuela international friendly last Friday, Bangladesh Football Federation is all set to ruin an opportunity that could have been an inspiration for the budding footballers.

The organisers in Kolkata chose 22 mascots, most of them are involved with football but have come from under-privileged groups such as sweepers, cleaners. But the game's governing body here in Bangladesh has picked the boys and girls either from sponsor's officials' child or themselves as the mascots.

A total of 22 boys and girls will get the chance to accompany the Argentine and Nigerian players from the dressing rooms to the field as a symbol of fair-play.

Of the 22 mascots, so far 17 boys and girls are the children of high officials of sponsor Beximco while rest have been picked from former national booters and the BFF officials and reportedly none of the 22 is involved with the game of football.

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BEXIMCO Football Fest

i Love Football

Argentina v Nigeria, 6 September, 2011

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