

BFF's talent hunt starts Sep 1

SPORTS REPORTER

The talent hunt programme for the BFF Football Academy in Sylhet will start from September 1 at Upazila level across the country with 40 qualified coaches scouting budding players of U-14 and U-18 age group.

The BFF has hired 22 coaches for this purpose and appointed 22 of BFF-employed coaches as well to start the scouting which will run up to the latter part of October.

A total of 10 budding players --five each from U-14 and U-18 groups -- will be picked at each of the 495 upazilas before the district trial where 10 players will be selected in each of 64 districts.

Then the 640 booters will be reduced to 120 through the divisional trial and finally 60 players will be chosen for the Academy in presence of members of FIFA technical committee.

A four-member committee comprising upzila health officer, a footballer and a coach of respective district and a BFF coach will be formed in each of the upazilas to supervise and select the talented players, informed BA Jubair Nipu.

Nipu, however, could not clarify when the BFF Football Academy will start with final 60 booters as the Academy in Sylhet is still without much of the logistics required.

The officials of National Sports Council and BFF were supposed to visit the academy on August 28 but it has been deferred again due to unavailability of NSC officials.

In reply to a query, Nipu said that they have no plans to choose players from Airtel U-16 talent hunt for the moment as they will only pick players for U-14 and U-18 groups.



Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi (L) goes past Osasuna defender Alejandro Arribas (C) during their Primera Liga match at the Reyno de Navarra Stadium on Sunday. Messi scored two late goals to defeat Osasuna. PHOTO: AFP

Messi stuns Osasuna

Real stumble at Getafe

AFP, Madrid



Lionel Messi struck a late brace to give Barcelona victory over 10-man Osasuna that took them to the top of the table on goal difference over Rayo Vallecano on Sunday.

Barca appeared set for their first defeat under coach Tito Vilanova, who was sent from the dug-out for complaining to the referee midway through the second half, before Messi came to the rescue.

Osasuna was the scene of a Barca

defeat last season that helped to turn the title race against them and they went behind this time after a 17th-minute goal from Joseba Lorente.

After the visitors missed a hatful of opportunities, the game appeared to be going against them, until Messi

rose to the occasion with strikes after 75 and 80 minutes.

Osasuna's Francisco Punal was red-carded by the referee for protesting about the Argentine's first strike, as he felt he was offside.

Barcelona goalkeeper Victor Valdes prevented Osasuna from taking the lead inside the first minute as he palmed away a close-range effort from Alvaro Cejudo, who had easily skipped past Gerard Pique.

The Catalans began to find openings, with Andres Iniesta firing over and Cristian Tello hitting the post from 25 yards, but it was Osasuna who snatched the lead on the break.

RESULTS

Osasuna 1 (Llorente 17) **Barcelona 2** (Messi 76, 80)

Getafe 2 (Valera 53, Barrada 75) Real Madrid 1 (Higuain 27)

Granada 1 (Mikel Rico 36) Sevilla 1 (Negredo 44)

Valencia 3 (Soldado 11, 28, Feghouli 41) Deportivo

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'SLPL experience can help players'



SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh vice-captain Mahmudullah Riyad believes that playing in the ongoing Sri Lanka Premier (SLPL) will help the players when it comes to taking part in the ICC World Twenty20 to be held in Sri Lanka from September 18.

"It was a good experience to play in the SLPL. I missed the first Eid with my baby but as a professional cricketer it's my duty because it's the bread and butter for me.

"The opportunity suddenly came to me and I grabbed it without any hesitation. We have got the opportunity to have the experience with the conditions ahead of the World Cup which will help us," opined Riyad while talking with the reporters after training at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The all-rounder played for Basnahira Cricket Dundee and was successful with his bowling taking four wickets from two matches.

Bangladesh has been placed in Group D along with New Zealand and Pakistan in the ICC World Twenty20. The Tigers will take on New Zealand on September 21 before meeting Pakistan on September 25. Both matches will be played at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium.



MAHMUDULLAH RIYAD

"When we met in Colombo we talked about the wicket and the conditions and I also want to share my experience with my other teammates. Mushfiq (Mushfiqur Rahim) is expected to join us very soon and then we can all have a discussion on how

the pitch is going to look and behave," said Riyad.

"Bowling wise I am happy and feel that it was quite good, but batting wise I could do much better. I think in the wicket in Pallekele suited both pacers and spinners while it was a bit difficult to bat there. There you have to take a bit of time," he observed.

The Bangladesh vice-captain was hopeful about his side's chance in the World Cup. "We have a balanced bowling attack which will help us to do well in Pallekele. Hopefully we will be able to do something good over there," said Riyad.

When asked about the standard of the SLPL, Riyad said: "I had a similar experience in the BPL as there were also international players. My teammates were very helpful. The intensity was good but not as much as in the BPL."

Bangladesh are going to play a T20 tournament in Trinidad and Tobago before the World Cup where the conditions will be altogether very different than in the subcontinent. Riyad however believed that it's important to play matches as much as possible no matter where you play it.

"I believe playing matches will help to build the momentum before the World Cup. We will also play warm-up matches in Sri Lanka and hopefully our preparation will be good," said Riyad.

WORLD HOCKEY LEAGUE Haroon confident

SPORTS REPORTER

Even though Bangladesh national hockey team cruised to an emphatic 10-1 win over Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan in the final of the two warm-up matches yesterday, the team's coach Mahbub Haroon feels it will be a tough challenge to win the inaugural Hockey World League (HWL) which is going to start on August 31 in Singapore.

Bangladesh have been pitted with hosts Singapore, Hong Kong and Thailand in their group, and only the top finisher will get the ticket for the next round after round robin league matches.

Four months ago Bangladesh managed to win the AHF Cup, albeit not convincingly, and coach Mahbub Haroon had warned at that time that Bangladesh might lose its position to the likes of Singapore, Hong

Kong, Chinese Taipei and Oman as those teams are improving fast.

Haroon has been given the charge of the national team again and his side would be facing those teams in this tournament.

"I said before that the opponents are very close to us and the tournament is not going to be an easy one for us," said Haroon after the second and final practice match at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The former national player, however, feels that the domestic league that took place after the AHF Cup and the two weeks of practice has prepared his side for the challenge.

"I think my team will succeed in winning the tournament, if the boys can implement 80 percent of my instructions," said Haroon.

He added that the present squad is in better shape physically and mentally than

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Impaled by a javelin

AFP, Duesseldorf

A 75-year-old athletics official was in a critical condition on Sunday after being speared through the throat by a javelin at an athletics meet in Duesseldorf.

The elderly official at the city's Wilhelm Unger Games for young athletes is reported to have gone to measure a javelin throw, but was hit by the object as it landed, according to local media reports.

Paramedics revived the victim at the scene and an emergency doctor escorted him as he was rushed to the

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সুবারাস, জীবনের শ্বাস

বায়ুদূষণ দূর হলে প্রতি বছর ঢাকায়

■ রক্ষা পাবে প্রায় ১,২০০ থেকে ৩,৫০০ মানুষের প্রাণ

■ সুস্থ থাকবে অসংখ্য শিশু

তাই সচেতন হই এখনই

বায়ুদূষণ রোধ করি
বাসযোগ্য ভবিষ্যৎ গড়ি



পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর



নির্মল বায়ু এবং টেকসই পরিবেশ (CASE) প্রকল্প



পরিবেশ ও বন মন্ত্রণালয়

