



The Selecao are on the road to redemption. Here they celebrate their second goal against bitter rivals Argentina in a cut-throat international friendly at the Bird's Nest in Beijing yesterday. Brazil won 2-0.

PHOTO: REUTERS

BRAZIL

clinch Super Classico

Tardelli double sinks Argentina

REUTERS, Beijing

Lionel Messi had a penalty saved as Brazil continued their defensive rehabilitation under returning coach Dunga with a morale-boosting 2-0 win over old adversaries Argentina in a feisty friendly on Saturday.

Atletico Mineiro striker Diego Tardelli scored once in each half, his first goals for Brazil, as former skipper Dunga made it three wins and as many clean sheets since returning to the role following the World Cup in July.

Dunga upset many fans with his negative tactics in his first spell in charge but his methods seem well timed for a

proud nation still coming to terms with a 7-1 hammering at their home World Cup by eventual winners Germany that led to Luiz Felipe Scolari's sacking.

More compact and organised, the five-times world champions soaked up wave after wave of pressure before launching swift counters at the Birds Nest Stadium in the Chinese capital where soaring pollution levels subsided an hour before kick off.

Sergio Aguero and Angel Di Maria had early sighters at goal for Argentina before they fell behind in the 28th minute against the run of play following a defensive lapse worthy of Scolari's Brazil.

A right-wing cross from midfielder

Oscar drew the attention of Federico Fernandez and Pablo Zabaleta, the two defenders diverting the ball to an unmarked Tardelli who fired home with goalkeeper Sergio Romero making a poor attempt at a save.

Argentina continued to press but at the other end Neymar should have made it two after a mazy dribble through the heart of the defence took him clear only to offer a tame shot that went wide after he perhaps attempted one trick too many.

The Argentines, runners-up at the

World Cup, were gifted an opportunity to draw level four minutes before halftime when they were awarded a soft penalty by Chinese official Fan Qi.

Brazil's Danilo slipped and allowed Di Maria in behind him before a lunging tackle found man and ball, an incident that led the full back's team mates to surround and push into Fan in unsporting fashion to protest against his decision.

The delay as the Chinese official attempted to quell the protests and book Danilo appeared to aid the Brazilians as four- times World Player

of the Year Messi could only offer a soft, low penalty which Jefferson dived to his right to palm away.

The second half continued in the same vein as the first with Argentina pouring forward and Neymar leading the Brazilian counter attacks while the traditional tasty challenges flowed in unfamiliar surroundings for the 96th meeting between the two great rivals.

Brazilian Filipe Luis and Di Maria should have scored at the start of the second period when put through, the full back lacking composure after a neat Neymar pass and the Argentine taking too long to shoot as Miranda snuffed out the danger.

Another defensive lapse allowed Brazil to make it 2-0 with a corner from the left finding its way to an unmarked Tardelli at the back post and the 29-year-old heading past Romero from close range in the 64th minute.

Tardelli, given his debut by Dunga in his first reign, was replaced with eight minutes to go by Kaka, another returning favourite of the coach, who made his first international appearance in over 18 months.

Kaka had little impact though as Messi continued to press for Argentina, firing a late free kick just wide with new manager Gerardo Martino tasting defeat for the first time.



Tsukitate wants to win

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national women's team's newly-appointed Japanese coach Norio Tsukitate said his football philosophy is winning and he is here to guide Bangladesh to victory in the SAFF Women's Football Championship, scheduled to be held in Islamabad next month.

The 55-year-old coach feels one month's preparation is not enough, yet he wants to do his best to achieve the target.

"I've come to Bangladesh to win not to lose," Tsukitate said during his introduction appearance to the media at the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) House yesterday.

The Japanese coach, who coached Guam and Laos men's national teams previously, said there is a lot of scope for improvement with the women's team.

"They have good potential considering action and run, but they do not have good control over the ball and often miss the passes."

During his one-month stint in Bangladesh, Tsukitate will also work as an adviser to the U-16 women's team for the AFC U-16 Women's Qualifiers scheduled to begin in Dhaka on October 15.

Focus on spin in Zim series

SPORTS REPORTER



The national selectors announced a 32-member preliminary squad yesterday for the upcoming home series against Zimbabwe.

The training camp for the three Tests and five ODIs will get underway today at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. The selectors made the long list as there is also an upcoming tour of the Bangladesh A team to India.

The coach Ahmed-led selection panel, which also includes Minhajul Abedin and Habibur Bashar, had a meeting with coach Chandika Hathurusingha where they discussed their plans for the series; their last international engagement before next year's World Cup to be held jointly by Australia and New Zealand.

The players who had impressive

performances against Zimbabwe A in the recently concluded home series were included in the long list while a few new faces may also make their debut during the series.

The team management want to be very cautious about their strategy in the coming series. As such the much-talked about plans of building pace-friendly wickets in a bid to prepare the players for the World Cup may not take place.

That's why they are considering putting emphasis on their own strength which is their spin bowling. In that department new faces may be brought in as reinforcements after Shohag Gazi's ban from international cricket.

In yesterday's meeting there was a discussion about the team for the Test series and they conceded that they were not ready to take any risks in the series because the team desperately needs to regain confidence ahead of the World Cup.

Nasir Hossain's poor recent form is

a big concern for the team management and everybody feels that the player needs a break from longer-version cricket so he may be dropped for three-match Test series.

Zimbabwe will arrive in Dhaka on October 17 and the first Test will begin in Dhaka on October 25. The teams will then travel to Khulna to play the second Test before the third and final Test in Chittagong on November 12, which will be followed by the ODI series.

PRELIMINARY SQUAD

Tamim Iqbal, Shamsur Rahman, Imrul Kayes, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mominul Haque, Shakib Al Hasan, Shuvagato Hom, Mahmudullah Riyad, Naeem Islam, Tajjul Islam, Jubair Hossain, Saqlain Sajib, Al Amin Hossain, Rubel Hossain, Shafiu Islam, Robiul Islam, Shahadat Hossain, Anamul Haque, Mohammad Mithun, Liton Kumar Das, Shabbir Rahman, Nasir Hossain, Ararat Sunny, Taskin Ahmed, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Abul Hossain, Mukter Ali, Mohammad Shahid, Elias Sunny, Abdur Razzak, Marshal Ayub and Soumya Sarker.

Report Gazi's, photo Riyad's

SPORTS REPORTER



ICC's official report on offspinner Shohag Gazi's bowling action reportedly includes a photograph depicting Mahmudullah Riyad's bowling stride,

Bangladesh Cricket Board officials stated yesterday.

While BCB officials believe that the inclusion of Riyad's clip was an 'error' on the ICC's part, they were satisfied with the rest of the report-- according to which Gazi's elbow has a flex of around 25 degrees; ten more than the ICC's limit.

BCB Cricket Operation's chairman Akram Khan confirmed the mistake in the report. "Yes I have heard that the CEO has received a mail of this sort from the ICC. He is in Dubai right now. We are awaiting his return. Once he does return we will address this issue," Akram told The Daily Star.

BCB insiders have said that the mistake

does not in any way disprove the verdict on Gazi's bowling action. However they were surprised and expressed their disappointment over the 'glaring error'.

Meanwhile, former Bangladesh assistant coach Mohammed Salahuddin, who had earlier helped Abdur Razzak fix his action, is likely to help Gazi as well.

"I have seen his reports and it seems to me that Gazi's problem is similar to the one that Razzak had. It can definitely be improved. However, he needs to follow the footsteps of Razzak. He needs to be patient because it will take time," Salahuddin told The Daily Star.

Gazi, who attended a meeting with the BCB's cricket operations committee yesterday, told reporters that he is confident of making a comeback before the World Cup next year.

"I don't think it will be a problem and it won't take much time. I can come back quickly. I don't think I will need even three months," said Gazi.

Mamunul not playing

ISL kicks off with Kolkata-Mumbai tie today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh skipper Mamunul Islam will not have a place in the playing eleven when his side Atletico de Kolkata take on Mumbai City FC in the opening match of the Indian Super League at the Salt lake Stadium in Kolkata today.

The 26-year-old midfielder, who joined with his teammates on October 1 after finishing his national team assignment in the Asian Games, feels getting into the side at a latter stage has made it difficult for him to make the necessary adjustments and convince the coach.

"The coach (Antonio Lopez Habas) has finalised his team for the first match after today's (Saturday) practice session. I have been told that I will not be there, even though the coach has assured me that I will be given an opportunity soon," said Mamunul from Kolkata, when contacted yesterday.

While Mamunul was busy with the

national team, the Atletico de Kolkata players were in a month-long training camp in Madrid at the home of the franchise's co-owners Atletico Madrid.

"It would have been better if I were with the team from the beginning. It's taking some time to adjust as I joined the team at a latter stage," said Mamunul.

The regulations of the franchise-based league dictates that each team will be allowed to field a maximum of six foreign players alongside five Indian players, which makes it hard for Mamunul to be picked as there are a hatful of Spanish players including marquee signing Luis Garcia and Borja Fernandes, both of whom are certain starters in midfield. But Mamunul is hopeful his chance will come sooner rather than later and once it comes, he wants to grab it with both hands.

"Wearing the Atletico de Kolkata jersey is a matter of pride for me. I will compete with the bests and prove my worth in the side," said Mamunul.

India make it 1-1

AGENCIES, New Delhi



India beat West Indies by 48 runs in the second day-night one-day international at Feroz Shah Kotla to level the 5-match series yesterday.

Chasing 264, West Indies were coasting. Dwayne Smith had gone past his highest ODI score, and his second-wicket partnership with Kieron Pollard was assuming threatening proportions. With nine wickets in hand, a long list of batsmen waiting in the dressing room, and 128 required at exactly a run a ball, this was West Indies' match to lose. They went and lost it.

It started with the wicket of Pollard, who chased a wide ball and dragged Amit Mishra onto his stumps. From that point, West Indies imploded. On a two-paced Feroz Shah Kotla pitch, India's bowlers put the brakes on the scoring, and panic took hold of the batsmen. West Indies lost their last

nine wickets for 79 runs, and their last eight for 45.

In ODI cricket, six an over is usually a doddle when you have wickets in hand and not too many runs left to get. On this pitch, however, scoring quickly wasn't easy unless you had your eye in. India had discovered this to their detriment earlier in the day, both at the start and the end of their innings.

Having opted to bat first, they had struggled to break the shackles against accurate new-ball bowling from Ravi Rampaul and, in particular, Jerome Taylor, who attacked a good-length area very close to off stump and allowed the pitch to do the rest. The second-wicket pair of Ajinkya Rahane and Ambati Rayudu had looked rather ill at ease while adding 46 in 67 balls, and even Virat Kohli had taken his time to find his feet.

Suresh Raina looked fluent right from the time he walked in, however, and his front-foot stride - the surest sign that his mind isn't entirely con-

sumed by thoughts of the short ball - was light and sure whenever the bowlers gave him half an opportunity to drive through the offside.

Raina and Kohli began the batting powerplay on the cusp of India's first century stand for the fourth wicket since August 2012, and the score read 163 for 3.

It looked like a launchpad to a 280-plus score, but the dismissals of Raina and Kohli, in the 37th and 41st overs, sucked the momentum out of India's innings. Without MS Dhoni's unbeaten 40-ball 51, it's unlikely India would have gotten near their total of 263.

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: 263 for 7 in 50 overs (Kohli 62, Raina 62, Dhoni 51 not out, Rayudu 32, Kumar 18; Taylor 3-54, Samny 1-14)
WEST INDIES: 215 all out in 46.3 overs (Smith 97, Pollard 40, Bravo 26; Shami 4-36, Mishra 2-40)
Result: India won by 48 runs
Toss: India.
Umpires: Ian Gould and Sundaram Ravi