

'FIFA must compensate'

AFP, Berlin

German Football League (DFL) president Reinhard Rauball has criticised FIFA for insisting they will not compensate European clubs despite proposals to hold the 2022 World Cup in November and December.

Plans to play the 2022 tournament in Qatar in the middle of the European season have still to be ratified next month by FIFA's executive committee, but the proposal has met widespread condemnation in Germany.

The FIFA proposal is based on common sense due to extreme temperatures in the Middle East state during June and July, when World Cup finals are traditionally held, but the date switch would cause major disruption to European competitions.

On Tuesday, Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, said he expected FIFA to compensate Europe's leagues and clubs for losing their top players at a key stage of the season, but FIFA general secretary Jerome Valcke has said there will be "no financial compensation given".

Sheikh Russel cruise past Ctg Abahani

SHEIKH RUSSEL 2 - 0 CTG ABAHANI

SPORTS REPORTER



Title contenders Sheikh Russel KC set up their Federation Cup semifinal clash with holders Sheikh Jamal after they notched up a 2-0 win over Chittagong Abahani in the third quarterfinal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Nigerian Kingsley Chigozie gave the 2012-13 season's treble winners a 41-minute lead before Cameroonian forward Paul Emile doubled the lead on 56 minutes to confirm the last-four berth after a one-year gap.

Having shrugged off their poor performance in the previous match, Sheikh Russel put up a better display over their opponents from the port city but the Blues still were lacking combination in midfielder, thanks to the absence of injured playmakers Hemanta Vincent Biswas and Zahid Hossain.

Chittagong Abahani, who came into the quarterfinals after holding giants Abahani to a goalless draw, looked good in quick attacks but they could hardly unsettle the backline of Sheikh Russel except the one in which Chittagong Abahani could have

taken a lead in the first half.

Khaled Ahmed worked hard from the right side to dart into the box before releasing a nice low ball for Guinean Mamadou Lamaranna for a tap-in which he missed.

Nigerian Kingsley Chigozie nicely chested down a Zahid Hasan Emily cross before firing a brilliant side-volley only to be denied by the crosspiece on 25 minutes before Yousuf Sifat's shot unbelievably floated over the crosspiece inside the six-yard box on the half-hour mark.

Kingsley soon made amends to give Sheikh Russel a deserved lead in the 41st minute, this time he again chested down another Emily cross and placed the ball over goalkeeper Mohammedan Selim.

After resumption, Sheikh Russel looked more organized to enjoy the lion's share of ball possession and thus doubled the lead with an eye-catching strike from Paul Emile, who suddenly drove a dipping shot from 30 yards to give Abahani goalkeeper no chance to react in the 56th minute.

The margin could have been widened but Emily flicked a Sohel Rana cross off the crosspiece inside the six-yard box and Sheikh Russel were content with a comfortable win before facing star-studded Sheikh Jamal DC in the first semifinal on Sunday.



Sheikh Russel's Nigerian forward Kingsley Chigozie exults after scoring the opening goal against Chittagong Abahani during their Federation Cup quarterfinal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Halilhodzic set for Japan

AFP, Tokyo

Japanese football officials were tightlipped Thursday as Algeria's 2014 World Cup coach Vahid Halilhodzic emerged as the leading candidate for the vacant national team job, according to local media.

The Japan Football Association (JFA) were said to be in talks with the 62-year-old Bosnian, broadcaster NHK reported, while the Nikkan Sports newspaper claimed that Halilhodzic had been offered an estimated salary of 2 million euros (\$2.27 million) to replace Mexican Javier Aguirre, who was sacked earlier this month.

But a JFA spokeswoman told AFP: "No formal decision had been made and as such we are not in a position to make any comment on the issue."

The JFA's silence comes as little surprise after the fiasco surrounding Aguirre, who was fired over his alleged involvement in a match-fixing scandal dating back to a previous tenure in Spain, having taken charge only after Japan's World Cup flop last year.

Berba haunts Arsenal

AFP, Paris



Former Spurs striker Dimitar Berbatov rolled back the years to score as Monaco pulled off a memorable 3-1 victory over Arsenal in their Champions League last 16

first leg match on Wednesday.

The 34-year-old -- who played for Tottenham from 2006-08 -- struck the French side's second goal as the visitors made it an extremely unhappy reunion for former coach Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger.

It meant that none of the three English sides left in the competition have won their

first leg games -- Chelsea having been held 1-1 by defending French champions Paris Saint Germain last week.

The Gunners -- who had not conceded a goal in three previous visits from French sides in the competition -- face a huge challenge when they travel to Monaco next month if they are to reach the last eight for the first time since 2010.

RESULTS

Arsenal (ENG) 1 (Oxlade-Chamberlain 90+1) **Monaco (FRA)** 3 (Kondogbia 38, Berbatov 53, Ferreira-Carrasco 90+4)
Bayer Leverkusen (GER) 1 (Calhanoglu 57) Atletico Madrid (ESP) 0

Ribery ponders becoming German

AFP, Berlin



Bayern Munich's French winger Franck Ribery has revealed he is considering taking German citizenship in an interview with daily newspaper Bild on Thursday.

The ex-France international has played for Bayern since 2007 and when asked whether he wanted to apply for German citizenship, he replied: "Why not? I can imagine staying in Munich after the end of my career."

"I have bought a very nice house, I feel good here and I like the mentality."

"My children are doing well at school, they have German friends."

"My son Saif was born here, he may even one day play for Germany."

'We didn't play well'

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Regarding batting performance, Mashrafe said: "To chase 332 runs was really difficult. If we could take the catches and restricted Sri Lanka to 280 to 300 runs, then we might have had a chance."

Tigers overwhelmed

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fashion, which saw the visitors win despite being reduced to 67 for 8. It was quite obvious that the defeat took a hit on the players' mental strength.

With three more games to go, the Tigers will need to win two matches to keep their quarter-final hopes alive. However, the question remains whether they can prove the past wrong and bring about a different outcome this time around.

The Daily Star



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