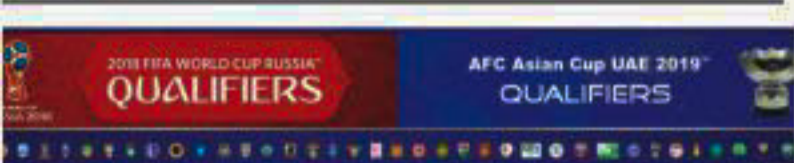


SOCEROOS' TOUR OF BANGLADESH

We're coming, says McKay

SPORTS REPORTER



While a three-member security delegation of the Football Federation Australia (FFA) was yesterday busy inspecting venues and other logistical aspects for Australia's impending visit to Bangladesh, Soceroos stalwart Matt McKay said he and his teammates were only concerned about next week's World Cup qualifier in Dhaka.

The 32-year-old midfielder said he was 'not really' worried about heading to a country, which Cricket Australia deemed too dangerous for a recent tour. "To be honest, my wife is a bit more worried than anybody else. It's a difficult thing but for me the FFA and our government wouldn't send us there if they didn't think it was safe. We're relying on them," McKay told Sydney Morning Herald on Monday. "We'll go if we're told it's safe to go and we'll get three points. It's our job."

B, trounced bottom-of-the-group Bangladesh 5-0 in Perth in September and will play against the same opposition in Dhaka on November 17 after arriving here on November 14.

The Brisbane Roar midfielder also said that he has faith on the Australian security personnel and the arrangements that were being made.

"We've got heaps of security that are great, that travel with us all the time, that are here now and who travel with us to Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan before, so we feel very safe. They're great people who make it that much better," McKay told Sydney Morning Herald.

The FFA security delegation, meanwhile, yesterday visited the Bangabandhu National Stadium, the match venue for the November 17 fixture, and the Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club Ground, where the Soceroos are expected to have their practice sessions. BFF and AFC security officer and additional inspector general of police, Sheikh Mohammad Maruf Hasan and Bangladesh Football Federation's grounds committee chairman Fazlur

Rahman Babul accompanied the FFA delegation.

It has been learnt that the FFA delegation raised some issues about the open ground of Sheikh Jamal, the shops at the BNS, the seating arrangements beside the passage to the dressing room and about the traffic jam in the city.

"They have been told that public will not be allowed inside the Sheikh Jamal Ground during the practice sessions and that enough security measures will be taken to ensure the safety of the ground," said Fazlur Rahman.

"We have assured them that the gallery portion adjacent to the tunnel of the dressing room would remain empty during the match and all the shops at the BNS will be shut down 24 hours before the start of the match," said Babul adding that only vehicles with security stickers would be allowed entry at the BNS parking area.

"We have assured them that the traffic will remain smooth when they move to the practice and match venues," said Maruf.



Additional inspector general of police Sheikh Mohammad Maruf Hasan (R), who is also the security head of BFF, accompanies the security delegation from the Football Federation Australia during an inspection of the Bangladesh National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: BFF



Sevilla striker Fernando Llorente (R) heads in the third goal against Real Madrid during their Primera Liga encounter at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium on Sunday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Misbah to play for Rangpur

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan's Test captain Misbahul Haq said Monday he had signed a contract with a Bangladesh Twenty20 side, deferring retirement plans after his side's 2-0 win against England last week.

The 41-year-old had hinted that last week's Test series could be his swansong, but later said he might be persuaded to return for next year's four-match series hosted by England.

The series will be Pakistan's next Test assignment and, having retired from one day cricket this year and Twenty20 internationals in 2012, Misbah is set to face eight months out of national colours.

In order to keep his eye in, he said he wants to play domestic cricket and has signed a contract with the Rangpur Riders in the Bangladesh Premier League.

"I will be playing in the Bangladesh league and hope that this opportunity helps me carry on," said Misbah.

Real suffer 1st defeat

AFP, Madrid



Rafael Benitez lamented his side's inability to react after going behind for the first time this season as he suffered his first defeat as Madrid boss 3-2 at Sevilla on Sunday.

Defeat leaves Madrid trailing Barcelona by three points at the top of the table with the two set to face each other next time out at the Santiago Bernabeu on November 21.

Real had got off to a flying start in Sevilla as Sergio Ramos's spectacular overhead kick fired the visitors into a deserved lead.

However, after Ramos had gone off with the recurrence of a shoulder problem, Madrid fell apart as Ciro Immobile levelled before the break.

Ever Banega and Fernando Llorente set the seal on a much needed win for Sevilla after their 3-1 thrashing at the hands of Manchester City in midweek before James Rodriguez pulled a goal back in stoppage time.

"I think we played very well for 30 minutes. We had a lot of control in every part of the game," said Benitez.

"Then we allowed them to score from a set-piece and that conditioned the game.

"In the second-half we started well again, but from the second goal we started to commit errors and they took advantage of that to score the third goal.

"We scored again at the last minute but it wasn't enough."

When Banega finished off a brilliant team move also involving Immobile and Yevhen Konoplyanka on the hour mark it was the first time Madrid had even been behind in 15 games this season.

And Benitez criticised his side's failure to respond when finally put in an adverse situation.

"We lacked know-how in managing the situation. It seemed a matter of time until the second goal in the first half hour.

"It wasn't to be, they regained their confidence with the equaliser and then our errors allowed them to grow further into the game."

Ramos had to watch on in anguish as his side threw away the lead and could now be a doubt for the Barca clash after a disrupted two months since he first suffered a dislocated shoulder against Shakhtar Donetsk.

The defender admitted he is almost certain to miss Spain's friendly matches against England and Belgium in the next week.

"First I have to recover. I hope to have a scan on Tuesday, but it will be difficult to go with the national team if I couldn't continue today," he told Canal Plus.

"The priority is to recover because it is another relapse. I have played four or five games with injections and this is the type of injury that if you are not careful can cause a lot more problems."

The former Sevilla man insisted the Andalusians deserved credit for their second-half display, but recognised Madrid can't

Fiorentina stay top

AFP, Rome



Fiorentina retained their grip on top spot in Serie A on Sunday with a 2-0 victory at Sampdoria while Roma beat derby rivals Lazio by the same scoreline to maintain their title challenge.

Elsewhere, Napoli stayed in the hunt after Gonzalo Higuain scored his 200th career goal, his 64th for the Azzurri, in a 1-0 home win over Udinese.

Champions Juventus, meanwhile, moved up to seventh place after goals from Mario Mandzukic, Patrice Evra and Paulo Dybala secured a second successive league win for the first time this season in a 3-1 victory at Empoli, where Massimo Maccarone hit a 19th minute opener.

Meanwhile, Inter Milan had temporarily gone top after Geoffrey Kondogbia struck his maiden Serie A goal to steer Roberto Mancini's men to a 1-0 victory away to Torino.

Fiorentina though were deserved winners at the Luigi Ferraris stadium where they went ahead after just 10 minutes when Josip Ilicic, scorer of both goals in Thursday's 2-0 Europa League victory at Lech Poznan, converted a penalty following a handball by Ervin Zukanovic.

Batman fires Dortmund

AFP, Berlin



Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang struck again as Batman on Sunday when he revealed a Caped Crusader themed T-shirt after scoring Borussia Dortmund's winner in their 3-2 derby victory over Schalke.

The Gabon international slotted what proved to be the winning goal on 48 minutes in the Bundesliga, then received a yellow card after pulling off his playing shirt in celebration to reveal a T-shirt bearing the text 'Do you remember?' under the Batman logo.

It was referring to the Batman mask and cape outfit Aubameyang donned in last February's derby victory when he also scored in a 3-0 win over Schalke, when Germany winger Marco Reus wore a Robin mask to play the role of his sidekick.

"I am just happy that we won this tough game," said Aubameyang.

Narine reported

AFP, Colombo

West Indies spinner Sunil Narine has been reported for a suspect bowling action and will need to undergo tests within 14 days, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said on Monday.

Narine, 27, was reported after the first one-day international against Sri Lanka in Pallekele on Saturday, where he went wicket-less in the 19-run defeat for the West Indies.

Narine's action had in the past been questioned during domestic competitions like the Indian Premier League, but this was the first time he has been reported in an international match.

An ICC statement said Narine, who pulled out of the World Cup earlier this year to work on his action, will be allowed to play on till the results of the tests are declared.

Narine has played six Tests, 55 one-dayers and 32 Twenty20 internationals since his debut in 2011.

The ICC launched a crackdown against suspect actions in June last year, leading to several leading bowlers being reported.

Other bowlers who have been up hauled up include Pakistan's Saeed Ajmal and Mohammad Hafeez, Bangladesh's Sohag Gazi, New Zealand's Kane Williamson, Sri Lanka's Sachithra Senanayake and Tharindu Kaushal, and Zimbabwe's Prosper Utseya and Malcolm Waller.

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