

Booters warm up with emphatic win

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh handed a 3-0 defeat to Thai second-tier side BG Pathum United FC yesterday in their second and final warm-up match ahead of their joint qualifiers fixture for the World Cup and the Asian Cup against Laos.

The men in red and green, who were held to a 1-1 draw by another Thai second-tier outfit, Air Force United FC on Tuesday, were kept at bay by the Thai club in the first half. However, substitute striker Tawhidul Alam Sabuz scored twice while another substitute, youngster Arifur Rahman, scored another as Bangladesh scored three goals in six second-half minutes to complete a convincing win at the Leo Stadium in Thanyaburi.

Bangladesh had beaten BG Pathum United FC 4-3 in a practice match in March last year, with Sabuz bagging a hattrick, ahead of a friendly against Laos.

The two-goal hero, Sabuz, was happy with his performance and felt that this win will give them confidence ahead of the first leg fixture against Laos in Vientiane on June 6.

"Thanks to Allah we won today's match by three goals. We had played another match earlier, and today we rectified the mistakes we made in that match. We hope that we can get back home with a win against Laos," Sabuz said after the match.

The Bangladesh coach Jamie Day continued his experimentation with the squad, giving all the players

a chance to prove their worth in the two matches. And both the substitute strikers staked their claim with the chances that they got, giving Day enough options to choose from.

"Very good performance from the boys today. Looked very organised and fitness was very good. We created a few chances in the second half and thoroughly deserved to win," said a satisfied Day.

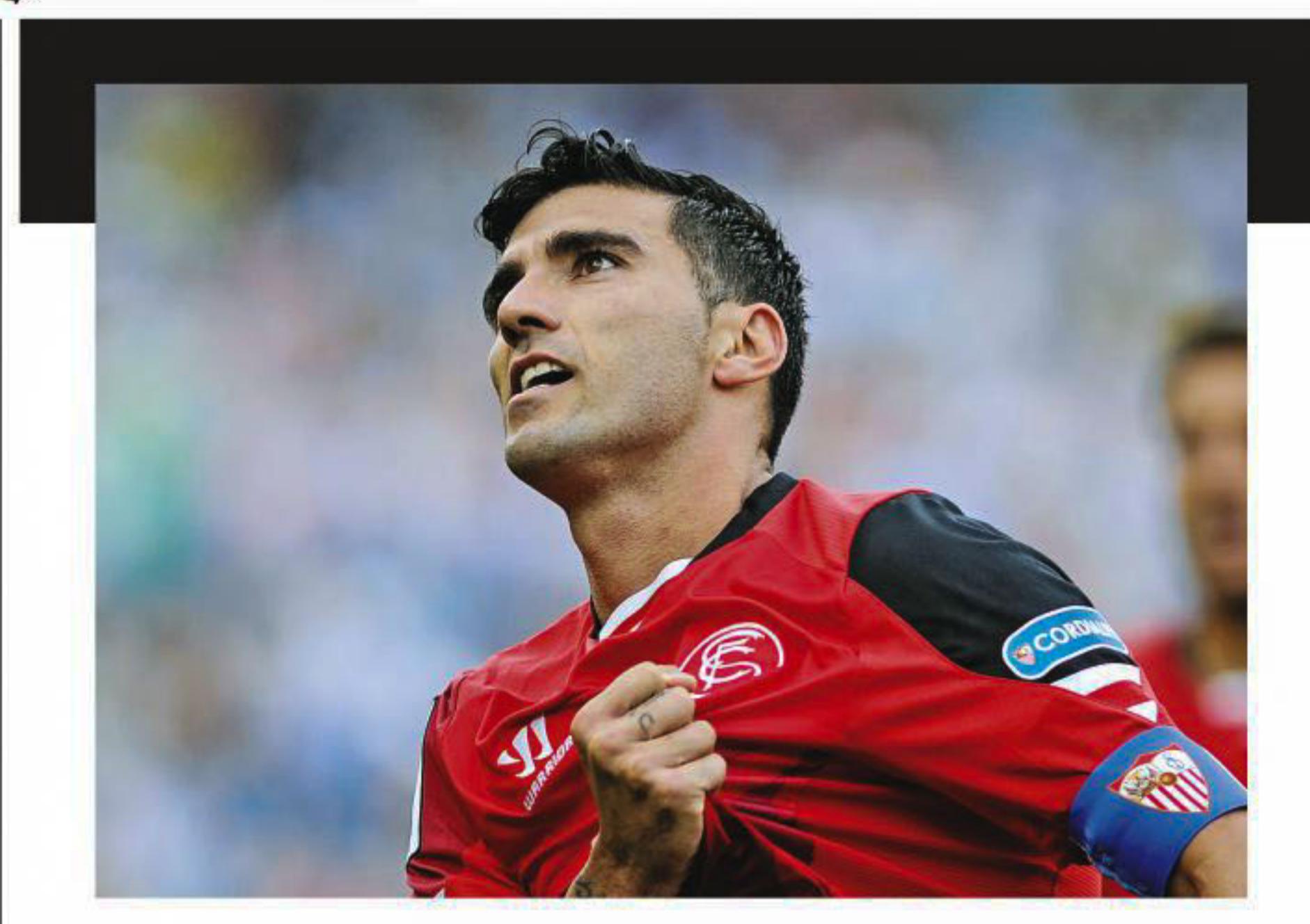
"It gives me a headache now on who to pick up for the Laos game. We're looking forward to the first leg against Laos and hopefully we can play the way we did tonight," the English coach added.

Bangladesh team will spend another day in Thailand before heading off to Laos on June 3.



PHOTO: BFF

The two goalscorers – Arifur Rahman (L) and Tawhidul Alam Sabuz – show the victory sign after Bangladesh's 3-0 win against BG Pathum United FC in a practice match at the Leo Stadium in Thanyaburi, Thailand yesterday.



Reyes killed in car crash

AFP, Madrid

Former Arsenal, Real Madrid and Spain star Jose Antonio Reyes has been killed in a car crash, his hometown club Sevilla said on Saturday. He was 35.

Reyes, who shot to fame at Sevilla before a switch to Arsenal, followed by spells at Real and Atletico Madrid, was on the books with second-tier Spanish club Extremadura.

"We couldn't be confirming worse news. Beloved Sevilla star Jose Antonio Reyes has died in a traffic collision. Rest in peace," Sevilla, where he spent two four-year spells, said on Twitter.

The emergency services in Andalusia and the authorities in the player's home town, Utrera, said Reyes died in an accident on the main road from Sevilla to Utrera. They said another member of his family also died and a third person was injured.

Spain captain Sergio Ramos, who is also from the province of Seville, came through the youth team just after Reyes and later played with him at Real Madrid also tweeted his grief.

"Broken. Shattered," wrote Ramos. "I have no words. All the affection for the family. We will always remember you, my friend! RIP brother."

Reyes won a European under-21 title

with Spain in 2002 and went on to play 21 times for Spain between 2003 and 2006, scoring four goals.

He won Premier League and FA Cup medals at Arsenal and came on as a late substitute when the Gunners lost the 2006 Champions League final to Barcelona.

He helped Sevilla win the Spanish second division in his first stint at the club. He won the Europa League five times, twice with Atletico Madrid and three times in his second spell at Sevilla.

He also won domestic league titles with Real Madrid and Benfica.

After leaving Sevilla in 2016, Reyes played for Espanyol, Cordoba and Xinjian Tianshan in China, before arriving at Extremadura this year as a free agent.

"With broken hearts we announce the news of our player Jose Antonio Reyes' death in a car crash and we ask for you to pray for his soul," Extremadura said.

Monchi, who overlapped with Reyes as a player at Sevilla and is now the club's director of football, also tweeted his sadness and referred to wingback Antonio Puerta, who died of a cardiac arrest playing for Sevilla in 2007.

"Impossible news to believe, impossible to digest, that hard my God," wrote Monchi. "What a left flank you are going to make, Antonio and you, up there."

Osaka's dream shattered

AFP, Paris

World number one Naomi Osaka's hopes of winning a third successive Grand Slam ended Saturday when she was knocked out of the French Open in the third round by unheralded Katerina Siniakova of the Czech Republic.

Japanese top seed Osaka, the reigning US and Australian Open champion, crashed to a 6-4, 6-2 defeat to the 42nd-ranked Czech.

"Losing is probably the best thing that could have happened," said 21-year-old Osaka, the reigning Australian and US Open champion.

"I felt very tired. In the other matches I had headaches, maybe that's the stress."

"I felt there was a weight on me. This hasn't been the happiest of times."



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50" 126 cm | 49" (123 cm) | 43" (108 cm)



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