



From the GS' Desk



The first AIFF Regional Academy in collaboration with FIFA has kicked-off at the Father Agnel School in Navi Mumbai. The boys, 20 at the moment, are given World Class Training, Scientific Diet and best of physio and medical facilities. The launch in Mumbai was attended by the AIFF President Praful Patel and Dutch Minister of Sports and Welfare Edith Schippers.

We firmly believe that this academy along with others to be launched this year, as part of the AIFF's Platinum Jubilee initiatives will go a long way in establishing the right player development structure for the future.

Dempo had already been crowned I-League Champions the last time I wrote from my desk. But it was a privilege to hand them over the Champions Trophy for the I-League after their last round win against Prayag United in Kolkata. Dempo SC has set a benchmark in consistency and I'm sure other clubs would like to emulate it. My congratulations to Dempo once more.

It was also an honour to have the Asian Football Confederation President Mr. Zhang Jilong at the 'Football House' for the Adhoc Committee Meeting with AIFF President Mr. Praful Patel. The Committee lauded India's efforts and the AFC General Secretary Dato' Alex Soosay, who was a part of the evaluation team sent to India in 2004, mentioned about the huge progress made in India since then.

Under a new initiative, AIFF has started medically testing the footballers. The first batch of the U-22 boys was tested in Bangalore and the Senior Team players would be tested next month. The tests, as recommended by AIFF Technical Director Mr. Rob Baan would help in determining susceptibility to injuries as well as physical prowess of the players.

Warm regards

Kushal Das



Commemorating 75 years with a Launch



First AIFF Regional Academy kicks-off

It was a special occasion, a very special one indeed. Overlooking the blue Arabian Sea in Worli, Friday (May 11) witnessed history – the launch of the first ever AIFF Regional Academy. Mr. Praful Patel, President, All India Football Federation and Ms. Edith Schippers, Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport of The Netherlands, were part of the launch.

The launch kicked-off the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of the All India Football Federation.

“It’s the beginning of an era in the field of sports, especially football,” Mr. Patel said. “I also look forward to the association, partnership and encouragement of Dutch football,” he added. “It’s imperative to have good partners to take the sport forward.”

“This is the first of the AIFF Regional Academy. More will follow suit,” Mr. Patel declared.

Ms. Schippers expected football in India to reach the highest level soon. “India’s ambition of hosting the U-17 World Cup is a challenging one. If India win the bid to host the Championship, it would create the right sporting atmosphere and infrastructure which would in turn take Indian football to a higher level.”

Her humour was very much appreciated when she went on to state: “I hope both The Netherlands and India meet each other in the U-17 World Cup and may the better team win.”

The 20 Academy boys along with the Academy training staff were also part of the occasion.



CATCHING 'EM YOUNG



AFC Adhoc Committee meets at Football House



The Asian Football Confederation's Adhoc Committee for Indian Professional Football met at the All India Football Federation Headquarters, 'Football House' on Friday (May 4) under the Chairmanship of AFC President Mr. Zhang Jilong. Mr. Praful Patel, President AIFF, and the Deputy Chairman of the Committee, was also present.

The Committee lauded India's efforts and the AFC General Secretary Dato' Alex Soosay, who was a part of the evaluation team sent to India in 2004, mentioned about the huge progress made in India since 2004.

The Committee also praised the new initiatives taken by the AIFF in terms of having an Opening Ceremony for the I-League and hoped that the League will grow significantly in value and stature in the coming years.

Dr. Shaji Prabhakaran, FIFA Regional Developmental Officer for South and Central Asia gave a report on the status of 'Win India Project' and highlighted the fact that all necessary clearances from FIFA legal department has been taken into consideration to complete the Cooperage Stadium in the next few months.

Mr. Kushal Das, General Secretary, AIFF presented a report of the current year's I-League and also the Calendar for the next season's edition. Mr. Das stressed the Calendar for next season for all AIFF

events including the I-League have been chalked out well in advance.

He further mentioned that the Calendar ensures that not more than five rounds of I-League matches would be held in a month which will allow the players sufficient time for match recovery and the clubs to plan properly.

Mr. Patel, the Deputy Chairman of the Committee mentioned that from the next season most of the I-League matches would be played under the lights as almost all the venues would have floodlight facilities.

The meeting concluded with the Chairman expressing his desire to see Indian football rise to the next level but also cautioned that India should ensure doing the right things in a professional manner rather than trying to do it in a hurried manner.

He also said that although this is the last meeting of the Adhoc Committee, a Task Force comprising of members from FIFA Development Office, AFC Development and Competitions Committee and AIFF/I-League will be set up to continuously progress and monitor Indian football.

Mr. Patel thanked the AFC for their continuous support and guidance.



AFC 'C' Certificate Course concludes in Birbhum

An AFC 'C' Coaching Certificate Course concluded at the Suri Stadium in Birbhum in West Bengal. The Course which started on May 8, 2012 ended on May 22, 2012 had former India International and AFC 'A' License Holder Mr. Prasanta Banerjee as the Course Instructor.

The following stays the list of the 26 participants at the Course.

Bijoy Kr. Ghosh, Shyamal Chakraborty, Crispin Chettri, Ashim Dutta, Biswajit Gayen, Archishan Biswas, Nirmal Das, Arup Sarkar, Murari Kar, Ranjit Halder, Ratan Kundu, Fallguni Dutta, Arindam Sarkar, Jayanta Mitra, Amitava Chanda, Arnab Bhattacharyya, Soumitra Chakraborty, Amitav Ghosh, Dipankar Gowsami, Abhijit Mukherjee, Barun Sengupta, Tapan Ghosh, Prasanta Bhaattacharjee, Amit Sarrkar, Chandan Dey and Susanta Bhattacharjee.



DEMPO ARE CHAMPIONS



Position	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Dempo SC Pvt. Ltd.	26	18	3	5	59	21	+38	57
2	Kingfisher East Bengal	26	15	6	5	46	22	+24	51
3	Churchill Brothers SC	26	14	6	6	47	28	+19	48
4	McDowell Mohun Bagan	26	13	8	5	50	31	+19	47
5	Pune FC	26	13	7	6	44	34	+10	46
6	Salgaocar S.C	26	12	8	6	32	19	+13	44
7	Prayag United SC	26	11	9	6	41	32	+9	42
8	Sporting Clube de Goa	26	11	7	8	53	43	+10	40
9	Air India	26	9	5	12	29	36	-7	32
10	Shillong Lajong FC	26	7	7	12	24	44	-20	28
11	Mumbai FC	26	7	3	16	31	52	-21	24
12	Chirag United Kerala	26	6	2	18	28	50	-22	20
13	Pailan Arrows	25	2	10	13	15	37	-22	16
14	HAL Bangalore	26	1	5	20	19	68	-49	8

TMS seminar held at Football House

A four-days seminar on FIFA Transfer Matching System (TMS), a requirement which has taken effect across the board from October 1st, 2010 was conducted at All India Football Federation, Football House from May 22nd to 25th, 2012.

FIFA TMS Manager for All India Football Federation, Sujesh Rajan who undertook the classes said, "Clubs that want to carry out international transfers of professional male football players in the context of 11-a-side football are required to learn and use the system.

So far, 78 clubs have been trained in the System. "The response has been very positive and there has been a good level of interaction during the workshops," he maintained.

The web-based platform aims to globally standardise international player transfers and support the protection of under-aged players.

The Clubs who took part are: Dempo SC, Churchill Brothers, Quartz FC, Pune FC, Mumbai FC, Mohun Bagan, Prayag United SC and others.

Sajid, Vishnu attend AFC Seminar in Kathmandu

Sajid Yousuf Dar, India's Head Coach for U-14 AFC Football Fest and KN Vishnu, India's Physio for the U-14 AFC Football Fest took part in the three-day seminar for Head Coaches and physiotherapists which began on May 16 in Kathmandu.

Mr. John Whittle, Director, Youth Development, Asian Football Confederation would be imparting lectures in the seminar which stays a part of the AFC Fest. While Whittle will be working with the Head Coaches and educating them about their role and responsibilities, Dr. Arya Roy, Instructor for the Physio Workshop will conduct sessions for both the Head Coaches and the Physios on sports medicine.

Top 5 foreign goal scorers

S. No.	Player	Jersey No.	Goal	Team	Nationality
1.	Ranti Martins	9	32	Dempo SC	Nigerian
2.	Odafe Okolie	9	26	Mohun Bagan	Nigerian
3.	Tolgay Ozbey	20	18	East Bengal	Australian
4.	Games Joseph Moga	10	15	Sporting Clube	Sudanese
5.	Keita Mandjou	10	15	Pune FC	Guinea

Top 5 Indian goal scorers

S. No.	Player	Jersey No.	Goal	Team
1.	CS Sabeeth	9	9	Pailan Arrows
2.	Manandeeep Singh	17	7	Air India
3.	Sandesh Gadkari	23	7	Air India
4.	Subash Singh	12	7	Pune FC
5.	Vineeth CK	13	6	Chirag Kerala

State of the Art COE in the making

A State of the Art National Centre of Excellence in Indian football doesn't stay a distant dream anymore. On Wednesday (May 9) evening, Mr. Kushal Das, General Secretary of All India Football Federation (AIFF) informed the "Government of Goa is to partner AIFF to create a Centre of Excellence for National Teams across all age groups."

Mr. Ramesh Tawadkar, Minister for Sports, Goa; Dr. Rufino Monterio, Chairman, Goa State Football Development Council and Mr. Elvis Gomes, Executive Director, Sports Authority of Goa were also present as Mr. Das spoke at a Media Interaction at AIFF Headquarters 'Football House' in New Delhi.

"The Government of Goa has already declared football as its State Sport," Mr. Tawadkar stated. "We intend to create better facilities for the sport. Let the other states also follow suit," he added.

Under the partnership, the Government of Goa is to provide the land for setting up of a Centre of Excellence in Goa. "The intention stays to model the centre of Excellence on the lines of that we have in developed footballing countries," Mr. Das maintained.

"The Football Development Council aims to stress on the Youth Development Programme," stated Dr. Monterio, who's a Cardiac Surgeon by profession. "The YDP has to be specific and we need to cater to youth from the U-10 level. It's also a big challenge to develop all weather grounds in Goa," he maintained. "It's imperative to have quality coaching staff and medical facilities on all grounds."

KSFA buys new Ambulance



Mr. Kushal Das, General Secretary, All India Football Federation cuts the ribbon for the new ambulance purchased by the Karnataka State Football Association.



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