



Rob Baan takes over as TD

From the GS' Desk



It is with great pleasure that I welcome on board Mr. Robert Baan as the Technical Director. He joined from November 1 and has already visited Goa, Bengal and has also watched an I-League match and the National Team play against Malaysia in Guwahati. He was also present at the Academies Tournament in Durgapur where he had discussions with the various academies on how to integrate the youth and grassroot development vision.

I also welcome on board Mr. Scot O'Donnell. Scot joins as the Technical Manager, for the Regional and Elite Academies and will be working closely with Mr. Baan. We are confident that with the plan and vision for youth development which the AIFF has now incorporated there can only be good times for Indian football in the future.

The manner and domination in India's victory against Malaysia in the International Friendly in Kolkata under the new coach, Savio Medeira was heartening. I now look forward to a winning performance at the SAFF Championships in December.

On the domestic front, the I-League is on and at a time when cricket couldn't draw much attention at the Eden Gardens, the spirit of football was evident when over a lakh turned up for the Kolkata Derby. Encouraging and positive signs indeed for other sports!

I was also very pleased with the quality and reach of the TV coverage for the I-League and many people have told me personally that they were happy to see the I-league and the standard of play. A number of goals have already been scored and the pace of the game is quite fast.

Col. Gautam Kar, Head of Referees Department was appointed as the Match Commissioner of the AFC Champions League Final, the highest-level club football match in Asia. Our heartiest congratulations to him.

Warm regards,

Kushal Das



'Within 10 years, India will compete against the Best in Asia'

Rob Baan has taken charge as the Technical Director of the AIFF. In his first exclusive interview on Indian football after taking charge, Mr. Baan talks at length to www.the-aiff.com about his role, plans, challenges and much more.

EXCERPTS:

Q What made you take up the Challenge of being the Technical Director of India?

I'm still too young to sit on the couch and the challenge of bringing the overall standard of Indian football to a higher level prompted me to travel to India.

Q Did you have any prior idea about Indian football --- at the Club or National Level?

Not really till recently when I was invited by the Qatar Football Association to make a report and watched Qatar's Olympic Qualification match against India U-23 in Doha in July.

Q What will be your prime task as the Technical Director of Indian football and what will be the key areas that you will look into for the development of the game -- especially at the grassroots?

We will start with establishing of the Regional Academies (for age-group 14 to 16) and Elite Centers (for age-group 16-18) where we can bring the best talents together. With our Technical Staff, we will travel around and get a first-hand impression about Indian football at all levels. After that we will focus on grassroot and organise and establish a pathway for our talents.

Q How different will the challenge be from your Australian experience?

It'll be a big difference for simple reason that Australia stay far ahead of India in terms of infrastructure, facilities, organisation and vision. They have also started with a Masterplan, a Curriculum and the National Youth Development Plan. During my time at the FFA we started with the implementation of small-sided games all over the country; a structured talent identification plan and the vision of how to play and train. The FFA also did start a National Youth League and a National Women's League along with the National Coach Education Plan.

Q Will be you holding regular meetings with the coaches and officials of the respective I-League clubs?

I will co-ordinate mainly with the Coaches. I will also be co-ordinating with the General Secretary of the AIFF and other staff and maybe, club officials as and when necessary.

Q How confident are you of making a significant change?

AIFF has now started a vision which will improve the rankings in the next 4 years. The focus is now on Youth Development. Within the next 10 years, boys from the age-group of 8-12 will take India to a level where India will be able to compete against Australia, Korea or Japan.



Team India make merry against Malaysia



Two International Friendlies against Malaysia and Team India came out triumphant against a higher-ranked Malaysia. The first match in Guwahati ended 1-1 as India came back to equalise in the 86th minute through Rahim Nabi, much to the delight of a full-house at the Indira Gandhi Athletics Stadium.



In the second match, India played all over and the manner of domination promises much for the future. The young midfield combination

of Francis Fernandes, Rocus Lamare, Baldeep Singh and Lalrindika Ralte laid the platform for Sunil Chheri to score a brace as India beat Malaysia 3-2 in the second International Friendly at the Salt Lake Stadium three days later. Fellow striker Jeje Lalpekhlua netted the other goal for India.

Coach Savio Mediera was a pleased man. "This is a positive result. Given the fact that we didn't get much time to prepare, I appreciate the effort put in by the boys," he said.



Football back at Nehru Stadium

SAFF CHAMPIONSHIP 2011



Date	Match no.	Match		Kick-off	
OPENING CEREMONY					
2 December	1	Bangladesh	V	Pakistan	1500
	2	Maldives	V	Nepal	1800
3 December	3	India	V	Afghanistan	1500
	4	Sri Lanka	V	Bhutan	1800
4 December	5	Nepal	V	Bangladesh	1500
	6	Pakistan	V	Maldives	1800
5 December	7	Afghanistan	V	Sri Lanka	1500
	8	Bhutan	V	India	1800
6 December	9	Pakistan	V	Nepal	1500
	10	Maldives	V	Bangladesh	1800
7 December	11	Bhutan	V	Afghanistan	1500
	12	India	V	Sri Lanka	1800
8 December	REST DAY				
9 December	13	WINNER B	V	RUNNER-UP A	1500
	14	WINNER A	V	RUNNER-UP B	1800
10 December	REST DAY				
11 December	15	SAFF CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL (Winner 13 v Winner 14)		1800	
CLOSING CEREMONY					

* All matches would be played at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.



Scot excited about new Project

The Regional and the Elite Academies are surely on course. A FIFA Instructor and a Professional Coach who has been in charge of Club and National Teams in Asia, Scott O'Donnell joined the All India Football Federation as the Technical Manager for the Regional and Elite Academies which are to be operational by April 2012.

Scott who has been in charge of the National Team of Cambodia and Singapore Club Geylang United says his job is to oversee the setting up and running of the four Regional Academies in Delhi/NCR, Mumbai, Bangalore and Kolkata.

“We will be selecting the Technical Staff as well as scouting for players aged U-14 for the inaugural Academy intake. We will be selecting 30-35 players for each Academy where we will provide coaching, schooling, accommodation and all meals over a two year period,” he informed. “It is a very exciting project being undertaken by AIFF in conjunction with FIFA with the long term plan to expand the number of Regional Academies.”

“At the end of the two years, we will select the best players from each Academy to form an U16 Elite Academy,” he added



24 attend 'C' Licence Course

An AFC 'C' Licence Course was held for the first time in Cuttack from October 22 to November 11, 2011 under the aegis of the Football Association of Orissa. The Course had Mr. Parthasarathy Thulasi as the Course Instructor. Twenty four participants attended the course. There were three practical and theoretical examinations to assess the participants.

The participants were: Gayatri Mullick, Bishnu Priya Das, Gitanjali Khuntia, Parasar Bag, Surjit Kr.Ghose, Abhami Mohan Mohanty, Akshay Das, Anshuman Mohanta, Chitrasen Patra, Debendra K Raut, Hrushikesh Behera,

Ramakrishna Behera, Sanjeev Patsani, Shuvendu Panda, Akash Basu, Subhasis Naik, Suprsanna Naik, Suraj Thapa, Susant Chandra Mohanty, Nipendra Kumar Das, Sanmoy Kr.Basu, Mamata K Samanta, S Samanthy, Behera S Jayanti.

Seven pass the 'A' Test

Please find below the list of successful candidates who passed the AFC 'A' Coaching Certificate Course held in Hosur from August 12 to September 7.

The list: Khalid Jamil, Hilal Rasool Parray, Tarun Roy, Thomas Joseph, Naushad Moosa, Sajid Yousuf Dar, Godfred Pereira.

Evaluation Programme for Referees

A Referees Instructor Evaluation Programme was conducted by Mr. Ali Al Traifi of Saudi Arabia, a FIFA/AFC Referees Instructor in Madurai. The Programme was inaugurated by Mr. Seeni Mohaideen, President, Tamil Nadu FA.

In all, 28 Top AIFF Instructors are being evaluated to see their suitability for their deployment in different Referees Development Projects in India.

There are 15minutes subject presentation, ground training topics etc, to know the depth of knowledge of the instructors and their ability to train the referees. There was also an extempore session where the instructors had to explain a topic within 60 seconds.



Col. Gautam Kar, Head of Referees Department served as the Match Commissioner in the AFC Champions League Final between Jeonju Hyundai Motors and Al Sadd.



Gabriel Joseph, Director, Coaching, All India Football Federation being honoured by the Subroto Mukherjee Sports Education Society for his valuable service to the game.

UPCOMING

- More about the I-League
- The SAFF Championship
- All from the AFC Challenge Cup draw

(All In our next Edition)

