



From the GS' Desk



It's a New Year and we at the All India Football Federation look forward to the implementation of New Plans. The four Regional Academies knock at our door and earlier this month, AIFF's Technical Director Mr. Rob Baan organised his first Coaching Workshop cum-seminar at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

It kicked-off on January 13 and concluded on January 15. The participants – 16 Coaches from all over, went back enriched with what they were told and shown.

The colour at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium for the exhibition match featuring India and Bayern Munich points to football's growing popularity. Besides, it being Bhaichung Bhutia's Farewell Match, the occasion also brought to India the likes of Philipp Lahm, Bastian Schweinsteiger, Arjen Robben, Franck Ribery, all of whom took the field to entertain all.

I thank Bhaichung for all his contribution to Indian football. The AIFF Player-of-the-Year Award was also presented to Sunil Chhetri on the day and we all hope Chhetri will guide India to newer heights.

Besides, the Executive Committee met in New Delhi on January 10 and we all eagerly await FIFA GS Jerome Valcke's proposed visit to India. India's ties with FIFA would further be strengthened by his visit, I earnestly hope.

I wish all of you a very eventful and Happy New Year. Wishing you all the best.

Warm regards,

Kushal Das



Jerome Valcke may visit India



The President of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) Mr. Praful M. Patel Chaired the Executive Committee Meeting at Udyog Bhawan in the Capital on January 10. Besides, AIFF General Secretary Mr. Kushal Das, Vice-Presidents Mr. Subrata Dutta, Mr. Ankur Dutta, Mr. Joaquim Alemao and Mr. AR Khaeel, other members also attended the meeting. The Committee unanimously decided on the following points:

- The Executive Committee approved two committees pertaining to the Club Licensing Committee and Club Licensing Appeals Body.
- The budget for I-League has been increased by 2 crore. The format of the 2nd Division League and the U-20 I-League which has been changed has been approved. The final phase of both the Leagues will be on a double-leg basis.
- It was decided that AIFF President Mr. Praful Patel would head the Committee for the Platinum Jubilee Celebration. Mr. Kushal Das, Mr. Sunando Dhar, Mr. Anil Kamat and representatives from IMG-R are also part of the Committee.
- The AIFF-FIFA Academies stay on course and all the four Academies in Pailan, Mumbai, Delhi and Bangalore would be operational by April 1, 2012.
- The Committee rejected Subrata Paul's appeal for financial support imposed on him by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee during India's World Cup Qualifiers against UAE.
- It was decided that elections in Andhra Pradesh would be held after the Voter's List is finalised.
- The Committee also appreciated the manner the SAFF Championship was organised at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in December 2011.
- The Committee was apprised that FIFA would be implementing the Performance Programme (Football Management) in India and accordingly a team would be visiting India to discuss the various aspects with the stakeholders.
- The Committee was informed that there FIFA GS Jerome Valcke may be visiting India in the first week of April.



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BHAICHUNG'S LAST HURRAY



It was the end of an era as far as Indian Football was concerned. Bhaichung Bhutia bowed out in style as the All India Football Federation organised for Bhaichung's Farewell Match against Bayern Munich. And it wasn't just the crowd of 50000 who turned up to pay their salute to the former Indian skipper. Bayern captain Philipp Lahm, the 'Golden Boot' Thomas Muller, Franck Ribery, Arjen Robben, the omnipresent Bastian Schweinsteiger were all there on the ground to pay their tribute, forcing an emotional Bhaichung to say: "Not all stay fortunate to get such a farewell. I thank all for making me feel special."

Bhaichung Captained India for the last time even as his once upon a time partner striker Sunil Chhetri watched from the stands. Chhetri confessed: "I am unlucky not to be a part of the match. I need to Thank Bhaichung Bhutia for all what he has done to nurture me as a footballer." The All India Football Federation organised a Farewell Dinner in honour of Bhaichung where he was presented the National Team jersey signed by all his teammates. Audi India presented Bhaichung a Q5 on the occasion. Bayern presented Bhaichung with a Bayern jersey with 'Bhaichung' written over it.

Chhetri awarded the AIFF Player-of-the-Year Award

National Team striker Sunil Chhetri was awarded the AIFF Player-of-the-Year 2011 award on January 10. The Award was handed over to Chhetri by the President of the All India Football Federation, Mr. Praful Patel. Mr. Patel handed Chhetri a silver plaque and a Cheque of Rs. 2 lakh. In his message Mr. Patel congratulated Chhetri and wished him more success in coming years. "Sunil Chhetri is a deserving recipient of the Award. I hope this will spur him on to bring more laurels for the National Team in the near future. I wish him success in coming years," Mr. Patel said. For the first time the Award was decided in a democratic manner where all the coaches of the I-League playing teams voted unanimously on the four short-listed footballers. An elated Chhetri thanked all his team-mates and coaches and the AIFF without whose support "the Award wouldn't have been possible at all." Chhetri who scored 24 goals (13 International goals and 11 goals for Clubs) in 2011 had earlier received the Award in 2007.



Coaches go back 'enriched'



A three-day Coaching Workshop cum Clinic conducted by Rob Baan and Scott O'Donnell concluded in New Delhi on Sunday (January 15). The Workshop was attended by 16 Coaches from all over the country.

The Workshop which had separate practical and theoretical sessions came in for high praise from all the participants. Former Indian Captain and stopper-back Tarun Dey felt the All India Football Federation (AIFF) is on the right track. "It's essential to scout youngsters at the right age and the AIFF is doing a laudable job," he said. "Both Rob and Scott come with a lot of experience. The Workshop was of great help and the value addition has certainly made me a better coach," he added. The Practical Sessions were held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium while the theoretical sessions stressed on Talent Scouting and Trends in Modern Football. Baan also highlighted the philosophies of the AIFF Academies.

Godfrey Pereira, who was the last among the coaches to have a practical session, felt the concept of the "AIFF Regional Academies was very much the need of the hour."

"The Academies need whole-hearted support and there shouldn't be any interference in the Curriculum from anyone," he maintained. "I thank the AIFF for taking such an initiative."

Naushad Moosa said: "The Workshop was an education in itself. Rob and Scott stressed on game related situations. It was a pity it ended in three-days itself. I only wished it continued for some more days," he quipped.

List of participants: Ananta Ghosh, Tarun Dey, Gautam Ghosh, Sankarlal Chakraborty, Prasanta Chakraborty, Tarun Roy, Godfrey Pereira, Naushad Moosa, Yusuf Ansari, Aqueel Ansari, Francis Ignatius, Sham Saran Shahi, Hillal Parray, Sajid Yousuf Dar, Arshad Hussain, Kundan Chandra, Ravi Babu and John Kenneth Raj.



I-League Committee meets at Football House

The following decisions were taken by the I-League Core Committee which met at the Football House on January 11. Besides AIFF Vice-Presidents Mr. Subrata Dutta and Mr. Ankur Datta, the meeting was also attended by various club representatives. Mr. Sunando Dhar, CEO, I-League was also present. The meeting was Chaired by Mr. Subrata Dutta.

It was unanimously decided that there would be some changes to the I-League Fixtures for the forthcoming AFC Challenge Cup.

The Committee referred the two complaints (Mr. Alemao Churchill's verbal assault on Goa Football

Association on referees and Match Commissioner and Kingfisher's East Bengal player's altercation with Goa Stadium Authority personnel) to the disciplinary committee.

The Committee reached a consensus that monetary fine would be imposed on cases where LAW-4 of Laws of the games have been breached.

The Committee granted Kingfisher East Bengal the permission to replace Alan Gow with another foreign player. The Committee also decided to keep a gap of 5 extra days between the preliminary rounds and final round of I-League 2nd-division to accommodate the completion of Goa



UPCOMING

- Age group Tournaments
- All from Coaching Courses
- Preparation for AFC Challenge Cup

(In our next Edition)

