

## **BFF President's statement for May 2019**

Greetings!

### **Team Bangladesh on 10-day camp in Thailand**

Bangladesh national football team is currently in Thailand for a 10-day training camp.

The BFF arranged the camp to prepare the players better for the upcoming FIFA World Cup 2022 and AFC Asian Cup 2023 joint pre-qualifiers clash against Laos.

The team went to Thailand on May 24. Jamie Day is getting his boys in shape for the Laos game through the 10 days there which also includes two friendly matches against Thailand's Air Force United FC and BG Pathum United FC.

Bangladesh drew the first friendly match 1-1 with Air Force United FC while second match against BG Pathum United FC saw Bangladesh register a commanding 3-0 victory.

The team will leave Thailand for Laos on June 3.

The first match of the two-legged tie against Laos will be played there on June 6 and the return leg is scheduled for June 11 here at Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhaka.

### **Bangladesh Police lift BCL trophy, Uttar Baridhara runners-up**

Bangladesh Police Football Club are the new champions of Bangladesh Championship League after finishing the 2018-19 season at the top of the table.

Police FC had confirmed their championship with a couple of games still to be played.

However, they were officially handed the champions trophy after the last match of the season in which they defeated Soccer Club Feni 5-1.

Meanwhile, Uttar Baridhara Club were the runners-up.

Both teams have been promoted and will be playing in Bangladesh Premier League next season.

Soccer Club Feni and Swadhinata Krira Shanghaare relegated from BCL to the DMFLC Senior Division Football League after finishing the season at the bottom of the table.

### **Bangladesh, Laos joint champions as Bangamata final called off**

Bangladesh and Laos, the finalists, were announced as joint champions of Bangamata U19 Women's International Gold Cup 2019 as the match had to be called off due to unplayable conditions caused by cyclonic storm Fani.

The organizing committee and the tournament committee jointly agreed to call off the game considering the situation. Both Bangladesh and Laos had played scintillating football on their way to the final and it would have been a match to remember. However, it was not to be.

The total prize money of the final, USD 40,000 (Champions – USD 25,000; Runners-up – USD 15,000), was divided equally (USD 20,000) between the two teams and both sides got their trophies.

### **Samaj Kallyan crowned Second Division champions**

Samaj Kallyan O Krira Shangshad, Mugda became the latest champions of the DMFLC Second Division Football League.

They confirmed the title with 26 points from 12 matches.

East End Club and Dilkusha Sporting Club came close to toppling Mugda but fell short a point.

East End, however, were the eventual runners-up as they beat Dilkusha in the second-place play-off.

The top three teams – Samaj Kallyan O Krira Shangshad Mugda, East End Club and Dilkusha Sporting Club – will be promoted to play in the DMFLC Senior Division Football League next season.

Shantinagar Club are going to be relegated as they finished at the bottom of the league table. They will play in DMFLC Third Division Football League next season.

### **BFF AFC A Certificate Coaching Course first phase ends**

The first phase of AFC A Certificate Coaching Course 2019, organized by Bangladesh Football Federation, ended on May 14.

The course had begun on May 4 at the BFF headquarters with 21 coaches; 10 of whom were locals and the rest foreigners

BFF technical and strategic director Paul Thomas Smalley conducted the course. The second phase will take place later this year.

Notably, with more than half the participants from outside Bangladesh in this recent certificate course, the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is slowly but surely becoming a more credible choice for coaching education which is a big positive for Bangladesh football.

Two AFC Coaching Education Panel representatives who visited the BFF during the AFC A Certificate Coaching Course 2019 also praised the BFF. They were impressed by how the BFF have provided a modern coaching education scheme in Bangladesh and their commitment to improve the coaching culture.

### **BFF AFC GK Level 1 Coaching Course 2019 ends**

The AFC Goalkeeping Level 1 Coaching Course 2019 was another success.

It was the third edition under the auspices of the federation.

The six-day course had begun on April 27 with 23 students. Among the selected candidates, two were from India and Kenya while the rest were from various top clubs of the country as well as from the districts. AFC Goalkeeping Instructor Dean May conducted the course.

The BFF will continue to organize such coaching courses to develop quality coaches.

### **Bengal girls face tough challenge at AFC U16W Championship draw**

Bangladesh U16 women's national team will be facing some challenging opponents in their AFC U16 Women's Championship 2019 campaign scheduled in Thailand from 15–28 September 2019.

Bangladesh have been drawn into Group A along with Australia, Japan and hosts Thailand whereas China, South Korea, North Korea and Vietnam will compete in Group B.

The top two teams in each group will proceed to the semi-finals. The finalists will both go on to represent Asia at FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2020.

Bangladesh, with their outstanding performance, qualified for this prestigious biennial tournament for the second successive edition.

I wish the girls the very best of luck.

### **Draws of AFC U16, U19 Championship qualifiers held**

The draws for the qualifying rounds of both AFC U16 Championship 2020 and AFC U19 Championship 2020 were held in Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur on May 9.

Bangladesh have been drawn into Group E for the qualifying phases of both the tournaments.

The qualifying round of the U16 tournament will take place in Qatar from 14th to 22nd September this year while the qualifiers of the U19 will be held in Bahrain from November 2 to 10.

Bangladesh will have to face Yemen, Bhutan and hosts Qatar in the U16 age group.

On the other hand, the U19 boys will play against Jordan, Bhutan and hosts Bahrain.

### **BFF signs contract with International Sports Partner**

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has signed a contract with International Sports Partner (ISP).

The one-year contract signed on May 8 will give ISP the tournament rights of BFF's domestic competitions.

As of now, ISP has the rights of Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) and Bangladesh Championship League (BCL).

Further agreements will be made in the future.

Under the latest contract, TVS are to be the title sponsor of the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League 2018-19 and Bangladesh Championship League 2018-19. Also as part of the contract, private cable channel Bangla TV is broadcasting BPL matches.

TVS will also sponsor Bangladesh national football team for the upcoming international matches starting with the FIFA and AFC joint pre-qualifiers against Laos.

### **Children celebrate AFC Grassroots Football Day at BFF**

Bangladesh Football Federation on May 15 celebrated AFC Grassroots Football Day 2019.

On the occasion, the federation organized various sports and cultural programmes including matches for the children.

A total of 185, including 158 boys and 27 girls, U12 and U13 children took part at the artificial turf at BFF headquarters.

Prizes and certificates were distributed among the children later.