

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

Greetings!

### **Bangladesh through to World Cup qualifiers**

Bangladesh national team have made it to the main qualifying round for World Cup 2022 and Asian Cup 2023 main qualifying round after a 1-0 aggregate victory over Laos.

Bangladesh played out a goalless draw with Laos in the second leg at home on June 11 which meant that Rabiul's only away goal was enough to send the Red and Greens through.

The result is a welcome news for all the football fans in Bangladesh as it means that they would be able to watch the national team in action in the upcoming years more regularly including the main qualifying round of FIFA World Cup 2022 and AFC Asian Cup 2023.

### **Bangladesh move up to 183<sup>rd</sup> in FIFA rankings**

Jumping five spots up from 188<sup>th</sup>, Bangladesh are 183<sup>rd</sup> in the latest FIFA rankings published June 15.

The Red and Greens got this reward for their aggregate win against Laos in the joint pre-qualifying round of FIFA World Cup 2022 and AFC Asian Cup 2023.

Earlier in April, Bangladesh jumped from 192<sup>nd</sup> to 188<sup>th</sup> thanks to a 1-0 victory against Cambodia in a FIFA international friendly on March 9.

Bangladesh is now 38<sup>th</sup> position among the 46 Asian football playing nations.

### **Abahani through to AFC Cup knockout stage**

Bangladesh Premier League champions Dhaka Abahani have secured their ticket for the knock out stage of the ongoing AFC Cup 2019 for the very first time.

Abahani accumulated 13 points in 6 matches and became group E champions to reach the zonal play-off semifinals.

The Sky Blues won four matches and drew one out of six matches to become the first Bangladeshi club to play in the knockout stage of the AFC Cup.

We heartily congratulate them for the great achievement and hope that they will continue to bring glory.

### **3 new coaches appointed at Fortis BFF Academy**

The BFF has appointed three top quality British coaches to the Fortis BFF Academy for the U18 and U15 talents.

The Britons are Lead Academy Coach Andrew Peter Turner, National Youth Coach Robert Marin Ryles and Goalkeeper Coach Robert Andrew Mimms.

The BFF signed a one-year contract with the coaches on June 13.

### **Four footballing prodigies in Brazil for football training**

Four talented footballers are now in Brazil for modern training at Sociedade Esportiva do Gama.

They include defenders Nazmul Hossain Akand, midfielders Omar Faruk Mithu, Md Latifur Rahman Nahid and forward Jogen Lakra.

During the one-month training, they will learn about different aspects of the modern game.

This was part of yet another step towards football development in Bangladesh from the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

The players met me before leaving on June 26. I believe they will come back as better footballers.

### **Sabina Khatun receives AFC B Certificate Coaching License**

Bangladesh women's national team captain Sabina Khatun received her AFC B Certificate Coaching License on June 20.

Moreover, Bangladesh women's team assistant coach Litu received his AFC A Certificate Coaching License alongside Sabina.

Two days later, seven more coaches got their AFC A Certificate.

### **U16 women's national championship underway**

The first round of BFF UNICEF U16 National Women's Football Championship 2019 kicked-off on June 20.

The tournament, intended to hunt talented women footballers, is being played in six venues across the country.

### **JFA U14 Women's Championship 2019 held**

The first phase of JFA U14 National Women's Football Championship 2019 was held from June 17-28.

This year, a total of 40 districts participated in the tournament in six venues across the country.

BFF Women's Football Committee, with Japan Football Association's funding, organizes the tournament every year as part of the federation's strategy to spread the game.

### **C Certificate coaching course starts**

The BFF AFC C License Coaching Course for football coaches began on June 28 at the BFF House in Motijheel, Dhaka.

This is the sixth edition of the 14-day course.

National Technical and Strategic Director Paul Thomas Smalley, like the previous editions, is conducting the course.

The BFF organizes the certificate coaching courses in order to develop elite coaches to build up qualified players in the country.

### **Women Football Referees' Refreshers Course 2019 held**

The Women Football Referee Refreshers Course 2019, organised by Bangladesh Football Federation, was held from June 13-16.

This was to train the country's women referees in different aspects of advanced refereeing expertise.

A total of 26 women referees, from different districts, participated in the course at the BFF house.

### **Second phase of BFF AFC Social Responsibility Programme held**

The second phase of AFC Social Responsibility Programme was held in June.

The programme began at Cox's Bazar on June 17 with coaches from the FA and CAC helping to make the programme a success.

Under the programme, several events including matches, coaches' education, workshops and jersey distribution were held.

The programme also included training for street children in Dhaka.

### **Next season's calendar approved**

The BFF executive committee on June 21 held a meeting and took some important decisions.

The BFF thanked honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal for an allocation of Tk 20 crore for the federation.

It was also decided that the ongoing season of Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) must be wrapped up within July 31.

The current situation, the challenges and the progress of the two ongoing women's talent hunt tournaments - JFA U14 National Women's Football Championship 2019 and BFF UNICEF U16 National Women's Football Championship 2019 were also discussed.

The top BFF committee also approved the BFF calendar for 2019-20 season.