

Super Cup in Saudi part of football's desire to make money - Barca coach

JEDDAH (REUTERS): Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde has concerns with the new format of the Spanish Super Cup and said that playing the competition in Saudi Arabia is a consequence of the football industry's desire to find

because the authorities are looking for more sources of income." The move has been criticised by supporters' groups for excluding the teams' traditional fanbase and from campaign groups such as Amnesty International due to the



more revenue streams.

The Super Cup traditionally kickstarted the season in Spain with a two-legged contest between the Copa del Rey winners and La Liga champions although the 2018 edition was played as a one-off game in Tangier, Morocco. Last year the Spanish football federation (RFEF) agreed to double the number of teams and take the competition outside Spain permanently as well as moving it from August to January. The federation has signed a three-year deal to play the competition in Saudi Arabia, which Spanish media say is worth 40 million euros (\$44 million) annually.

"I know there have been rumblings but football these days is an industry," Valverde told a news conference ahead of Barca's semi-final match against Atletico Madrid in Jeddah on Thursday.

"The reason why we are here and why we were in Morocco is

conservative Muslim kingdom's record on human rights.

Valverde also questioned the merits of opening the competition up to Atletico and Real Madrid, who ended last season empty handed. Barca and Valencia qualify for the Super Cup as league and cup winners respectively, while Atletico earned one of the new berths due to coming second in La Liga.

The last spot was intended for the cup runners-up but as Barca had already qualified, Real took the vacant place due to their superior cup record over Real Betis, last year's other losing semi-finalists.

"For me it's strange to play the Super Cup with two guest teams. It's clear that these games are exciting for the crowd but from a sporting point of view there is only one league champion and there is only one cup winner," added the coach.

Barca bus gets lost in Saudi Arabia



JEDDAH (REUTERS): Barcelona's campaign to defend the revamped Spanish Super Cup in Saudi Arabia got off to an inauspicious start as they arrived late for a training session in Jeddah on Wednesday, with a club source saying their bus driver had headed to the wrong location.

The team were due to prepare for Thursday's semi-final against Atletico Madrid at local side Al-Ittihad Club's training ground, but the driver instead took them to the King Abdullah Sport City Stadium where Super Cup matches are taking place.

The two venues are separated by over 30 kilometres and the team's bus finally arrived at the training ground 45 minutes behind schedule, delayed by the coastal city's notorious traffic levels.

Coach Ernesto Valverde and midfielder Sergio Busquets were due to give a news conference before the training session but will now speak to the media afterwards due to their late arrival.

Real Madrid play Valencia on Wednesday in the first game of the competition, which used to be a season curtain raiser but has been turned into a money-spinning event after federation president Luis Rubiales implemented radical changes last year.

Federation members approved expanding the competition's format from two teams to four, switching the date from August to January and transplanting it abroad.

A three-year deal to hold the tournament in Saudi Arabia was announced last November which Spanish media say is worth around 40 million euros (\$44 million) annually, angering human rights groups and the four teams' traditional supporter base.



Northerners Set To Lock Horns As Real Kashmir Host Punjab

SRINAGAR: Hero I-League gets ready for another exciting encounter as a northern clash will unfurl in the valley of Kashmir on Friday (January 10, 2019). Real Kashmir FC will be taking on Punjab FC for the first time this season. The match, which will be the second-ever encounter between the two teams in Hero I-League, will kick-off at 11:00 AM.

Real Kashmir FC, in the last season, came out victorious against Punjab FC away from home by a scoreline of 1-0, where Gnohere Krizo scored the winning goal for the Snow Leopards.

Real Kashmir is coming on the back of a home defeat to Mohun Bagan by a score of 0-2. One of the startling features of the match was, in spite of having a strong show till 70 minutes, Real Kashmir were looking disorganized after the first goal. A similar situation was also seen in the match against TRAU where Real Kashmir conceded two late goals in the second half. A concern that the Real Kashmir gaffer will be well aware of.

Speaking before the match, Real Kashmir FC, Head Coach, David Robertson said, "The game was disappointing, but we did well and had two great chances with Bazie and Mason almost scoring, prior to Mohun Bagan getting their goals. The game could have gone either way. They were more clinical in front of goal but if we play the same way in future games we will win." He also commented

upon their opponents Punjab FC and said, "Punjab is always a tough team to play against. We know it will be a tough encounter but we are looking forward to it."

"As I said, if we play and work as hard as we have we can win the game. Hero I-League is very competitive and there is no easy game and every team is capable of beating each other so there will be a lot of twists and turns as we move on."

Punjab FC played their last game in Imphal on January 4, 2019, and it ended in a draw with the outfit from Imphal and before that it was also a draw against Aizawl. Punjab in this match will be particularly keen on breaking this streak of draws and return to winning ways.

Punjab FC, Head Coach, Yan Law reflected upon the match against TRAU and said, "The match against TRAU was not as bad as the score was for us. The boys did well and stuck to our plan. We managed to keep a clean sheet and maintain more possession than the opposition. The only problem was that we missed our chances while attacking. It just wasn't our day to get a goal or 3 points."

He also added, "Kashmir is one of the strongest teams at home. The weather, the artificial turf, the size of the pitch, and the fans are all in favour of Real Kashmir. It's very difficult to get points off them for any travelling team. But the boys have worked hard and are ready to get the points we missed from the last game. Let's hope for the best."

Quick-thinking Kroos helps Real to Super Cup final

JEDDAH (REUTERS): Real Madrid midfielder Toni Kroos scored directly from a corner as his side booked their place in the final of the revamped Spanish Super Cup in Saudi Arabia by outclassing Valencia 3-1 on Wednesday.

Isco and Luka Modric scored either side of half-time to put Zinedine Zidane's side further at ease before Dani Parejo converted a consolation penalty for last year's Copa del Rey winners in added time.

of the goal appeared to hit Valencia hard after an even start to the game and Isco put Real further ahead by volleying home in the 39th minute after a sweeping move involving Federico Valverde and Dani Carvajal. Modric killed off Valencia's faint hopes of a second-half revival, providing a classy finish with the outside of his boot in the 65th minute to complete another incisive Real counter-attack. "We were in complete control



Real will meet the winners of Thursday's semi between Barcelona and Atletico Madrid in Sunday's showpiece at the King Abdullah Sport City Stadium in Jeddah. Germany international Kroos caught Valencia's Jaume Domenech out to open the scoring in the 15th minute, curling a cross towards goal while the keeper was still organising his defence and the ball flew over the line before Domenech could recover. The soft manner

throughout the game, we came out with the intention of getting hold of the ball, that's what we did and our plan worked perfectly," Real midfielder Casemiro told reporters. The 62,000-capacity arena was around two-thirds full for the first game of the competition, which used to be a two-legged season curtain raiser between the Spanish league champions and the Cup winners but has been given a radical facelift.

Man Utd's Maguire set for spell on sidelines: reports



Manchester United defender Harry Maguire could be sidelined for several weeks with a hip injury, according to British media reports on Wednesday.

Maguire missed United's 3-1 defeat against Manchester City in the League Cup semi-final first leg on Tuesday as a result of the problem.

It was originally thought Maguire's injury was a foot problem sustained in the goalless FA Cup third round draw at Wolves last Saturday. There has been no official confirmation from United on a likely return date for the England international.

But Maguire, who joined United from Leicester last year, is not expected to feature in Saturday's Premier League match against Norwich. Given United's key run of fixtures coming up, which includes a trip to Premier League leaders Liverpool on January 19, an extended absence for the £80 million centre-back would represent a significant blow for boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

When addressing the issue following the defeat by City, Solskjaer had been optimistic Maguire would not be out for long, but it appears that is no longer the case.

"We don't know (about Maguire). He's not going to be long term, but I don't think he'll be ready for the weekend, but let's see," Solskjaer said.

ANDERSON out of England's final two Tests in SA

England pace bowler James Anderson will miss the final two Tests in South Africa after suffering a rib injury during their dramatic victory in Cape Town.

Anderson sustained the problem on the final day of the second Test and MRI scans on Wednesday confirmed he won't be back in action until after the current tour.

It is a bitter blow for the 37-year-old, who was just two games into his comeback following the calf injury he endured in last summer's Ashes series.

Anderson, England's record Test wicket taker, spent almost five months working back to full fitness and showed signs of being back to his best with seven wickets in England's series-levelling 189-run win.

But he was in visible discomfort on the final day, clutching his side at times and grimacing through two painful overs after tea.

"James Anderson has been ruled out of the remainder of the Test series against South Africa after sustaining a left rib injury in England's second Test victory at Newlands," an ECB statement said.

"Anderson felt tightness and discomfort at the end of the morning session on day five and was only able to bowl eight overs during the day. He will return to the UK in the next few days."

Anderson tweeted: "Frustrating to be missing the rest of this series with a broken rib but hopefully will be healed in a few weeks! Will be supporting the boys from home."

Anderson's tally of 584 Test scalps makes him the most prolific seamer in Test history, while his appearance in the Boxing Day Test at Centurion saw him become just the ninth man to win 150 Test caps"

ANDERSON, England's record Test wicket taker, spent almost five months working back to full fitness and showed signs of being back to his best with seven wickets in England's series-levelling 189-run win"

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER KASHMIR NOTICE

Where an application for transfer of ownership has been received from one. Mohd Yousuf Rather S/o: Mohammad Ismail Rather R/o: Panner Tral A/P Zaffron Colony, Sampora (Transferor) of Santro . Vehicle bearing registration number JK01U - 4504, Chassis number 791753 Engine no. 628741 Model



2013 in favour of Sheeraza S/o, W/o Manzoor Ahmad Hajam R/o Tujgari Mohalla, Srinagar (Transferee).

Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general, public that representation/ Objection, if any in connection with proposed transfer will be received within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer to the address of undersigned.

No, representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period.

NOJK-RTOK 6895 Sd/-
Dated: 09/01/2020 Regional Transport Office, Kashmir