



News

from member associations

ARMENIA



2006 Armenia Cup gets under way

The headquarters of the Football Federation of Armenia (FFA) was the setting for the draw for the 2006 Armenia Cup, which was attended by FFA executive committee members, the media and club representatives, conducted by Slava Sargsyan, a well-known football commentator, and kicked off by Armenian player of the year Aram Hakobyan.

A total of 12 teams are participating in the cup competition, namely Pyunik, Mika, Banants, Kilikia, Ararat, Ararat-2, Shirak, Gandzasar, Pyunik-2, Mika-2, Banants-2 and Hay Ari. The first games were played on 25 March.



Draw ceremony for the Armenia Cup.

The FFA has organised a number of training camps for the Armenian youth teams. The Under-17 national team has held its training camp in Tsakhkadzor under new coach Arsen Chilingaryan, who took charge in 2006. In the coming weeks the Under-17s are scheduled to play several friendly games.

The Under-19 national side has also had an intensive training camp. Coached by Armen Gyulbudaghyants, the side will take part in the Hunan Avetisyan memorial competition in Armavir.

The Under-21s have also started their preparations for the European Under-21 Championship qualifying match against San Marino. The first leg will be played on 17 May in San Marino,

with the return leg scheduled for 9 June in Yerevan. In their first friendly game, Samvel Petrosyan's players inflicted a 3-0 defeat on Armenian championship third-place holders Banants.

Arayik Manukyan

BELGIUM



A special meeting for a special matter

On 20 March the president of the Belgian Football Association, Jan Peeters, invited the presidents of Belgium's 18 first-division clubs to come together and discuss the issue of match-fixing in the national championship. After four hours of deliberations, there was no denying that progress had been made. It seems that everyone's willingness to cooperate and their genuine desire to restore public faith in football won through and made all the difference at this special meeting.

The presidents of Belgium's footballing elite all agreed to sign a charter promising to comply with the regulations laid down by the FA and to not legally challenge any of the results from the 2005/06 season. They approved other measures too but these are to be fleshed out by a working group set up by the Belgian Professional Football League and it is this group that will be responsible for the precise form the measures take.

As you can see, however, their impact will be far from negligible.

From now on, in order to get their licences, first-division clubs (who will all be given the same status) will have to undergo not one, but three financial audits. What's more, Belgian football's licensing commission will be made up of people from outside the clubs' membership, the aim being to increase its impartiality.

Other changes include informing the Belgian FA of clubs' capital structures, meaning, in turn, that the identities of all investors will have to be made known and that members of the same family will no longer be allowed to hold shares in two different clubs.

In future, any transfer money collected by players' agents will have to pass through the Belgian FA first.

An additional clause will be included in players' and coaches' contracts, barring them from betting on matches they are involved in.



Jan Peeters announces the measures taken at the assembly.

Any players, coaches or managers who notice any unlawful activity (such as attempted bribery, for example) will be able to tell someone specially designated by the FA.

Finally, anyone found guilty of bribery will have to pay a fine equal to two or three years' wages.

Pierre Cornez

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



Proposal for a new constitution

A delegation from UEFA and FIFA visited the Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FF BHZ) in mid-March for talks with the FF BHZ president, Iljo Dominkovic, national executive members and regional association members in Sarajevo and Banja Luka. The reason for the visit was to discuss a proposal for a new FF BHZ constitution, which has to be drawn up in line with UEFA and FIFA regulations.

On the first working day, the delegation officials visited the Office of the High Representative of the International Community in Bosnia and Herzegovina (OHR) for talks with associates of the High



Work with the delegation from FIFA and UEFA.