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CHIPEPO DECLARES GREEN EAGLES CLASH A MUST-WIN

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ZAVA WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TITLE RACE HEATS UP

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CHILUMBA URGES NAPSA STARS TO SHOW MENTAL TOUGHNESS AGAINST TRIDENT

By Lucky Chama



Napsa Stars head coach Tenant Chilumba has called for mental toughness and tactical discipline as the Pensioners prepare to face Trident FC in this afternoon's MTN Super League Transitional League Stream A encounter at Sentinel Ground in Kalumbila.

The Pensioners head into the match seeking their first victory of the campaign after opening their season with a 1-1 draw against FC MUZA, while Trident will be eager to bounce back from a 1-0 home defeat to Nkana FC on their return to the top flight.

Chilumba believes his side is ready for the challenge, pointing to their pre-season preparations, which included several away fixtures, as evidence that playing on the road should not unsettle the team.

"The boys are ready. We've been planning for the last few months when we went for pre-season. We played almost half of the pre-season games away, so I think it won't affect us playing away," Chilumba said.

The coach admitted that his side had wanted maximum points against MUZA but maintained that the draw was not a disastrous start, stressing that collecting points consistently would be important in the transitional league.

He added that the players had responded well in training and that the technical bench had been working on preparing the young squad mentally and tactically for the demands of the fixture.
"It's a young team, so we've been talking to them. I think shouting from the bench won't help. If you look at modern football, we just have to be tactically and mentally okay for the game," he said.

Meanwhile, Trident coach Kebby Hachipuka says his team has adopted a different approach in preparation for the encounter as it seeks to secure its first points since returning to the MTN Super League.

Hachipuka acknowledged the disappointment of losing their opening match but expressed confidence in the squad's ability to respond.

"It's a tough one, but playing at home, we've prepared well. We've prepared our boys mentally and physically. We just have to win this game," he said.

The Trident coach disclosed that the technical bench had tested its revised approach in a friendly match against a lower-division side, which he said provided encouraging signs ahead of the Napsa Stars clash.

He also appealed to supporters to turn out in numbers and rally behind the team, promising that the players would fight for maximum points.

With both sides targeting their first win of the season, the encounter presents an early opportunity to build momentum and strengthen confidence in the opening weeks of the transitional league.

CHIPEPO DECLARES GREEN EAGLES CLASH A MUST-WIN

By Lucky Chama



ZESCO United head coach Mwenya Chipepo has declared this afternoon's MTN Super League Transitional League Stream B encounter against Green Eagles a must-win as his side seeks its first victory of the campaign.

ZESCO United host the Choma-based outfit at Trade Fair Grounds in Ndola, with kick-off scheduled for 15:00.

The Ndola side opened their campaign with a 1-1 draw against Kabwe Warriors away from home, while Green Eagles made an emphatic start, beating Mufulira Wanderers 4-1 on the road.

Chipepo acknowledged the difficulty of the opening fixture against Kabwe Warriors but praised his players for their response in the second half.

"We were looking for three points, but it wasn't easy playing at Railway Ground. Kabwe Warriors are not a small team, but I liked the way we came back in the second half," he said.

He added that the team had maintained a positive mentality despite returning with only a point.

"The guys have a good mentality and are always ready to fight for three points. Unfortunately, we only managed to come away with one point, which is not bad," Chipepo said.

However, the ZESCO coach expects a tough challenge against Green Eagles, whose opening victory has underlined their ambitions this season.

Describing the encounter as a cup final, Chipepo said his team must take advantage of playing at home and deliver the result expected by the supporters and club management.

"This is like a cup final because Green Eagles are a good side. For them to beat Mufulira Wanderers away from home, it means they are fighting for something big," he said.

"We will be playing at home under our supporters. Our supporters and management are not looking for a draw or a loss. This must be a win."

ZESCO United will be hoping to turn home advantage into maximum points, while Green Eagles will look to build on their impressive opening result and maintain their winning start to the transitional league.


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MUTAPA TARGETS CONSISTENCY AS GREEN EAGLES FACE ZESCO

By Lucky Chama



Green Eagles head coach Perry Mutapa says consistency will be key as his side seeks to maintain its winning momentum when it takes on ZESCO United in this afternoon's Week Two MTN Super League Transitional League Stream B encounter.

The Choma-based side travels to Trade Fair Grounds in Ndola for the 15:00 hours kick-off, hoping to build on an impressive 4-1 away victory over Mufulira Wanderers in its opening match.

ZESCO United, meanwhile, began their campaign with a 1-1 draw against Kabwe Warriors and will be eager to secure their first win, particularly in front of their home supporters.

Mutapa expects a difficult encounter against a ZESCO side he describes as one of the country's strong teams, despite their struggles last season.

He said Green Eagles must maintain the standards set in their opening match if they are to continue their positive start to the campaign.

"We would like to keep the momentum going. We are playing a team which has done well in the last decade. I think it is a strong team," Mutapa said.

"Last season they did not do well, so this season they want to do well. It is going to be a very big game for us."

The Green Eagles coach believes ZESCO's opening draw will make the hosts more determined to collect maximum points, increasing the challenge for his side.

He said the Choma outfit also has its own ambitions after starting with a convincing victory away from home.

"It is going to be difficult, especially because they drew their first game. They would like to win their first game in front of their own supporters, but for us, I think we are also on a mission," he said.

"After winning the last game away to Mufulira Wanderers, we do not want to lose. It is going to be a tough game, and the team that applies itself best will carry the day."

Despite Green Eagles scoring four goals in their opener, Mutapa insists the priority against ZESCO is securing all three points rather than focusing solely on an attacking display.

He said his team respects its opponents but will not be intimidated by the occasion.

"The most important thing in this game is to collect maximum points, which is three points. Sometimes we want to score more goals, but we should know that we are playing a big team," Mutapa said.

"We respect ZESCO, but of course we are not afraid. We want to do well against them."

Mutapa added that the team had trained well ahead of the second consecutive away fixture and was not concerned about the distance involved in travelling to Ndola.

He said Green Eagles must continue building on last season's progress and their positive opening result, with consistency remaining central to the club's ambitions.

"This is a project. Last season we did very well. This season, after starting on a good note, we should just continue. It is about consistency," he said.

Meanwhile, ZESCO United coach Mwenya Chipepo says collecting three points at home is crucial as his team seeks to respond to the opening-day draw.

Chipepo acknowledged that conceding early against Kabwe Warriors disrupted his side's plans and said the players had learnt from the experience.

"When you concede early, it means whatever you planned is disturbed. We learnt a lesson and hopefully we do not repeat the same thing," he said.

The coach has also appealed to ZESCO supporters to turn out in numbers for the club's first home match of the transitional league, promising a determined performance after last season's disappointing campaign.

"Last season we did not do well, and we have starved our supporters. They need something big. What I can tell them is that they should come in numbers to support the team, and I am sure we are not going to disappoint them," Chipepo said.

With ZESCO seeking their first victory and Green Eagles aiming to preserve their winning start, the encounter presents both sides with an early opportunity to strengthen their position in Stream B.



CHAKAWA SETS SURVIVAL TARGET AS ROAN HOST GREEN BUFFALOES

By Lucky Chama



Roan United head coach Satchmo Chakawa has identified survival from relegation as his primary target this season as the club adjusts to life in the MTN Super League following a 13-year absence.

The Luanshya-based side returns to top-flight football with renewed ambition after opening its Stream B campaign with a 2-1 away victory over Nkwazi at Edwin Imboela Stadium in Lusaka last weekend.

Roan United will now be hoping to build on that result when they host Green Buffaloes this afternoon in their first home match of the season.

Green Buffaloes, coached by Aggrey Chiyangi, also began their campaign with a victory, beating newly promoted Chirundu United 2-0.

Despite collecting maximum points in Lusaka, Chakawa admitted that Roan United's performance against Nkwazi fell short of his expectations, although he was pleased with the outcome.

"We got the three points that we desired most, though the performance was not up to our plan. Performance-wise, the players could have done better, but the most important thing is about points. We got the points that we needed," Chakawa said.

He added that competition for places in the squad had intensified during training ahead of the Green Buffaloes encounter, making selection decisions more difficult for the technical bench.

Chakawa said the team had reviewed both the positives and negatives from the opening match and was ready for the challenge, although he disclosed that there was one injury concern that could affect his selection.

"We have seen healthy competition among the players this week, and they have made it difficult for us to decide who to choose and who to start," he said.

"The preparations have gone well. We took the positives from the previous match and also looked at the negatives. We tried to balance everything, and I think we are ready for Green Buffaloes."

The Roan coach expects a difficult test against a disciplined and experienced Green Buffaloes side, acknowledging the experience of Chiyangi, whom he revealed had coached him in the past.

However, Chakawa said his side would concentrate on its own strengths and tactical approach rather than be distracted by the opposition.

"I know Green Buffaloes are a disciplined, experienced side. I also know the coach; he is a very experienced coach and once coached me. I respect him so much," Chakawa said.

"Coming to how we approach the game, we look at ourselves and focus more on ourselves. We try to do what we do best, control the tempo of the game and trust our tactical principles."

With expectations rising following their opening victory, Chakawa has urged Roan United supporters to remain patient and continue backing the team as it adjusts to the demands of top-flight football.

He acknowledged that returning to the Super League after such a long absence would not be easy, stressing that the club needed the support of its fans to remain competitive throughout the season.

"I know the expectations are high, especially after winning the last game in Lusaka. It is going to be difficult for us this season because covering a 13-year gap is not easy for anyone," he said.

"But as long as the supporters are with us, they will give us strength. They will drive us through the league and help us win games, which will help us survive this season."

Chakawa was emphatic about the club's immediate objective, saying the focus was on securing enough points to retain their Super League status.

"Our primary focus this season is to survive relegation," he said.

This afternoon's encounter presents Roan United with an opportunity to strengthen their start in front of their home supporters, while Green Buffaloes will be seeking a second consecutive victory as both sides look to establish themselves in Stream B.

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NKANA TARGET SECOND STRAIGHT WIN AS TANA PROMISES ATTACKING FOOTBALL

By Enock Phiri



Nkana Football Club will look to build on their winning start to the MTN Super League Transitional League when they host Makeni All Stars in a Week Two Stream A encounter on Saturday, with head coach Elijah Tana promising an attacking approach.

The 13-time league champions opened their campaign with a narrow 1-0 victory over newly promoted Trident FC last weekend, courtesy of a Charles Zulu strike, and will now seek to maintain that momentum in their first home match of the season.

For Nkana, the fixture presents an opportunity to turn a positive opening result into a strong early statement as the transitional league gathers pace.

Tana says preparations have gone well, with the technical bench working to ensure the team is ready to deliver another positive result before their supporters.

However, Nkana will be without Francis Mutalange, popularly known as Bubu, who is recovering from an ankle injury.

"The preparations went well. Unfortunately, we have a problem with injuries. Bubu (Francis Mutalange) is nursing an ankle injury, but he should recover by next week for the NAPSA Stars game," Tana said.

The coach added that the rest of the squad was fit and available for selection, giving him options as Nkana prepare to take on a Makeni side seeking to make an impression in the competition.

Despite their opponents' position, Tana said Nkana would not take Makeni lightly but would focus on imposing themselves through an offensive approach.

"We will not underrate Makeni All Stars. We will go all out attacking," he said.

The statement signals Nkana's intention to take the initiative, particularly with home advantage and the backing of their supporters expected to play a role.

After grinding out a narrow victory in their opening fixture, the Kitwe side will be keen to show greater attacking intent while maintaining the defensive discipline that secured their first three points.

Makeni, meanwhile, will provide another test of Nkana's early-season ambitions as the league's opening weeks begin to shape the teams' confidence and direction.

Tana has urged the Nkana faithful to turn out in numbers, promising an entertaining display as the club targets maximum points.

"To our supporters, come in good numbers. We are going to entertain them," he said.

With a second consecutive win in sight, Nkana will be hoping to combine attacking football with clinical finishing to make their first home outing a successful one.

RONALDO SCORES ON AL-NASSR RETURN AFTER PORTUGAL FALLOUT

By BBC Sport

Cristiano Ronaldo scored on his return to club football after his Portugal fallout - as Al-Nassr fans unfurled a banner supporting their forward.

The 41-year-old left the national team camp halfway through the four-game Nations League break after remaining an unused substitute against Norway.

Ronaldo says he has not retired from international football - but accused Portugal boss Jorge Jesus, his former coach at Al-Nassr, of an "absolute breach of trust".

Before the Saudi Pro League game with Diriyah, home fans unveiled a large banner saying 'greatness is earned, CR7, all-time top scorer in football history'.

And the veteran forward netted his side's opener after 23 minutes, tucking in a rebound after Kingsley Coman's shot was parried.

The goal was Ronaldo's 980th in his career for Portugal, Sporting, Manchester United, Real Madrid, Juventus and Al-Nassr.



He is aiming to become the first player in history to reach 1,000 goals in official matches.

Some 146 of those goals have come in 234 caps for his country - both world records in men's international football.

Samu Costa headed in Joao Felix's corner for Al-Nassr's second goal and former Bayern Munich winger Coman ran through to add a third in the 77th minute.

ZAVA WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TITLE RACE HEATS UP

By Lucky Chama

ZAMBIA VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION
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MEN NVL WEEK 12 FIXTURES 2026-LUSAKA

MEN FIXTURES	DATE	TIME	VENUE	CITY
Nkwazi Red Arrows	SAT 10/10/2026	11:00	Bank of Zambia	LUSAKA
UNZA Vs Nkwazi	SAT 10/10/2026	15:00	Bank of Zambia	LUSAKA
Wolves Vs UNZA	SUN 11/10/2026	11:00	Bank of Zambia	LUSAKA
NAPSA Vs UNZA	SUN 11/10/2026	15:00	Bank of Zambia	LUSAKA

WOMEN NVL WEEK 12 FIXTURES 2026-LUSAKA

FIXTURES	DATE	TIME	VENUE	CITY
UNZA Vs Nkwazi	SAT10/10/2026	09:00	Bank of Zambia	LUSAKA
Red Arrows Vs UNZA	SAT 10/10/2026	13:00	Bank of Zambia	LUSAKA
UNZA vs Nkwazi	SUN 11/10/2026	09:00	Bank of Zambia	LUSAKA
Nkwazi Vs UNZA	SUN 11/10/2026	13:00	Bank of Zambia	LUSAKA

The race for the 2026 Zambia Volleyball Association (ZAVA) National Volleyball League Women's Championship is heading towards a thrilling finish, with Green Buffaloes, Leopards and Falcons battling for the title ahead of the Grand Finale at OYDC Zambia in Lusaka from October 16 to 18.

Updated standings as of October 4 show defending champions Green Buffaloes leading the table on 42 points, followed by Leopards on 39 and Falcons on 36, setting up a tense final stretch in which every match could prove decisive.

Green Buffaloes remain in the driving seat with 14 wins from 15 matches, while Leopards have recorded 13 victories from 16 outings. Falcons, meanwhile, have 12 wins from 15 matches and remain firmly in contention.

The three teams have crucial fixtures remaining, leaving the championship race wide open as they seek to secure their place at the summit.

BUFFALOES SEEK FOURTH CONSECUTIVE TITLE

Green Buffaloes have the advantage of leading the standings and controlling their own destiny, but the defending champions face demanding fixtures against Solwezi Ackers, Falcons and Leopards.

With 42 points already accumulated, victories in the remaining matches would strengthen their bid to retain the crown. However, their clashes against the two closest challengers could determine whether they maintain their lead or allow the chasing pack to close the gap.

Buffaloes will need to maintain their consistency and avoid dropping valuable points as the pressure builds.

LEOPARDS TARGET LATE SURGE

Leopards sit three points behind the leaders but have two matches remaining against UNZA and Green Buffaloes.

Their encounter against Buffaloes could be particularly significant, as a victory would give Leopards an opportunity to narrow the gap and put pressure on the defending champions.

However, Leopards will need to win their remaining fixtures and hope the results elsewhere work in their favour if they are to overtake the leaders.

FALCONS KEEP TITLE HOPES ALIVE

Falcons are six points behind Buffaloes but have three matches remaining against UNZA twice and the defending champions.

Their recent victories over Buffaloes and Leopards have boosted their confidence and demonstrated their ability to compete with the league's leading sides.

Falcons could finish with 45 points if they win all three remaining matches in straight sets or four sets, putting them in a strong position to challenge for the championship.

Their meeting with Buffaloes could therefore become one of the defining fixtures of the title race.

EVERY SET COULD MATTER

With the teams separated by relatively narrow margins, the final standings could depend on points earned in the remaining matches and the applicable competition tie-breaking rules.

In standard FIVB league scoring, a 3-0 or 3-1 victory earns three points, while a 3-2 win earns two points and the losing team receives one. Match points, set quotient and points quotient may become important if teams finish level, subject to the competition regulations.

The three contenders will therefore need to focus not only on winning but also on securing convincing results.

The upcoming fixtures promise a tense conclusion to the regular campaign before the Grand Finale at OYDC Zambia, where the season's champions will be decided.

For Green Buffaloes, the challenge is to protect their lead and extend their dominance. Leopards are chasing a late breakthrough, while Falcons will look to turn their recent landmark victories into a title-winning run.

With three teams still in the conversation, the race for the 2026 women's volleyball crown is far from over.


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BETPAWA LAUNCHES K2 MILLION-PLUS BASKETBALL PARTNERSHIP ON COPPERBELT

By Lucky Chama



BetPawa has officially launched its partnership with the Copperbelt Basketball Association (CBA), providing a financial boost to men's and women's basketball clubs in the region through its Locker Room Bonus (LRB) programme.

The partnership, valued at over K2 million, is expected to reach approximately K4 million across the full season, according to information shared by the CBA secretariat.

The launch brought together BetPawa officials and basketball stakeholders, with the sponsorship expected to reward eligible players and team staff when their teams record victories.

The Locker Room Bonus programme is at the centre of the partnership, offering an additional incentive for teams to compete and win while providing direct support to eligible players and staff.

The sponsorship covers both men's and women's basketball, extending support across the Copperbelt basketball community.

Following the official launch, attention shifts to the court this afternoon, with the first games under the new partnership scheduled for Saturday, October 10, 2026, at Ravens Country Club.

Lunga Bullets will face Mufulira Magnets at 15:00 hours before Lynx take on Woosters in the second fixture at 17:00 hours.

The opening games mark the start of on-court action under the BetPawa-CBA partnership, giving teams an opportunity to compete while benefiting from the new sponsorship arrangement.

The partnership represents a significant financial commitment to basketball on the Copperbelt, with the projected seasonal value indicating the scale of support expected to flow through the programme.

By covering both men's and women's competitions, the arrangement also brings the two categories under the same sponsorship framework, widening its reach across the association's basketball structures.

The opening fixtures at Ravens Country Club will provide the first opportunity for teams to compete under the new arrangement as the CBA and BetPawa begin implementing the partnership.

WORLD TENNIS VISIT BOOSTS COACH EDUCATION AND JUNIOR TENNIS DEVELOPMENT IN ZAMBIA

By Enock Phiri



World Tennis Southern Africa Development Officer Tapiwa Masunga's visit to Zambia is strengthening coach education and grassroots tennis development, with a focus on expanding opportunities for young players.

Masunga arrived in the country on 3 October 2026 for a programme combining coach training, junior tennis development and engagements with key sports institutions.

Her activities began on 4 October, when she guided and observed tutors Sydney Mateta and Emmanuel Mwenya Chewe during the assessment day of the Play Tennis Course, including group-session assessments.

The programme shifted its focus to the Junior Tennis Initiative (JTI) on 5 and 6 October, with Masunga visiting Pink Champagne in Lusaka alongside JTI Coordinator Sydney Mateta and Zambia Tennis Association (ZTA) Technical Director Teddy Chambisha.

Pink Champagne is one of Zambia's active JTI venues, and Masunga was impressed by its potential to support further growth. The presence of several nearby schools offers an opportunity to introduce more children to tennis and strengthen links between schools and community-based programmes.

The delegation also visited Lusaka Boys Secondary School and schools around Lusaka Tennis Club to explore the possibility of establishing another JTI programme at the club. The proposed expansion will depend on further engagement with the club and the availability of the necessary facilities and arrangements.

Zambia currently has four active JTI venues, with three on the Copperbelt and one in Lusaka. The engagements provided an opportunity to assess existing activities, identify areas for expansion and strengthen the pathway through which young players can develop their skills.

On 6 October, Masunga and ZTA president Lighton Musonda paid a courtesy call on National Sports Council of Zambia (NSCZ) director Sombwa Musunsa at NASDEC.

The NSCZ welcomed partnerships that contribute to sports development and help build the capacity of athletes, coaches and administrators. The Council also emphasised the importance of strengthening technical expertise and sharing knowledge among stakeholders.

Masunga and Musonda later visited the National Olympic Committee of Zambia (NOCZ), where they met programmes officer William Sikapanda and accountant Chaelelwa Kazika.

Their discussions focused on possible collaboration through Olympic Solidarity programmes in 2027, with the proposed coaching course identified as an area where early engagement could help secure support.

Masunga is conducting a four-day Developing Young Players preparation course running from 7 to 10 October.

The programme is designed to prepare participants for a Coaching Beginner and Intermediate Players (CBI) course planned for the first half of 2027. The ZTA has been encouraged to engage the NOCZ early to explore Olympic Solidarity support for the proposed course.

Her departure is scheduled for 11 October, bringing the visit to a close after a week of engagements spanning coach education, schools, clubs and national sports institutions.

KANYEMBA IDENTIFIES WEAKNESSES AFTER ZAMBIA'S 3-0 LOSS TO CHINA

By Lucky Chama



Zambia Under-17 Women's National Team head coach Carol Kanyemba says the team must improve its ball retention, defensive transitions and set-piece defending following a 3-0 defeat to China in an international friendly played yesterday.

Kanyemba said the match provided a valuable opportunity to assess the players against high-level opposition ahead of Zambia's campaign at the upcoming FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup.

The coach explained that Zambia initially defended in a mid-block and low-block structure, managing to contain China before switching to open play and a high-pressing approach.

However, the changes exposed gaps in the team's organisation, particularly when transitioning from attack to defence.

"We started the first half in a mid-block and low-block and were able to hold on to China. We transitioned into open play, mid-block and also high pressing, which I think created a lot of gaps," Kanyemba said.

She added that the technical bench deliberately gave every available player an opportunity to feature in the friendly to assess how they would respond to the demands of international football.

According to Kanyemba, the exercise helped the coaches identify weaknesses that emerged following substitutions and changes in the team's defensive structure.

"We made every player who is here play so that they could have a feel of a high-calibre game and see how they respond to it. That was the reason for this friendly," she said.

Kanyemba admitted that Zambia struggled to retain possession, while some players lacked the confidence to make themselves available to receive the ball.

She said the team would continue working on its movement and possession play to ensure the players become more comfortable under pressure.

"I think we lost a lot of possession. The players were not making themselves available, so we need to continue building that confidence," she said.

The coach also highlighted slow defensive transitions, particularly when Zambia pressed high up the pitch, as another area requiring urgent attention.

She explained that the delay in recovering defensive positions allowed China to exploit spaces, while lapses in defending corner kicks contributed to the goals conceded.

"We need to work on our transition in defence, especially when we use a high-block press, because our transition was quite slow and we got exposed," Kanyemba said.

"We also conceded mostly from set pieces, from corners, so we have to work on how we defend those situations. I think the goals we conceded would have been avoidable."

Despite the defeat, Kanyemba believes the friendly served its purpose by exposing the players to the level of competition they will face at the global tournament.

She said the experience should help the team raise its performance levels and approach the opening match with a clearer understanding of the challenge ahead.

Zambia will begin its Group D campaign against Japan in a group that also includes France and Venezuela.

Kanyemba noted that China's style of play offered useful preparation for the Japanese challenge, giving the players an opportunity to experience some of the demands they could encounter in their opening fixture.

"China has been playing against Japan, and we have had exactly the kind of play that Japan has. So the players now know what is at stake as we face Japan," she said.

Kanyemba reaffirmed the technical bench's commitment to developing the players, saying the team would continue working on the identified weaknesses as preparations progress.

The friendly against China has therefore provided Zambia with important lessons, with the coaching staff expected to focus on improving possession, defensive organisation and the handling of set pieces before the tournament begins.

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