

SPORT

KVITOVA WINS 'BIZARRE' CZECH TOURNAMENT

From face masks, racket bumps, poplar tree fluff everywhere and the prospect of a final played at the press centre, Prague's first post-lockdown tennis tournament offered a plethora of bizarre moments. The three-day all-Czech event, pitting eight women and eight men, which ended on Thursday, was played under tight health protocols to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus. "The gloves, face masks, the fact nobody handed us the towels, no handshakes, that was definitely bizarre. And playing without people, the atmosphere was not exactly what we are used to," said two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova after winning the women's part of the event. -- AFP



With the announcement being made that Serie A will recommence from June 20, league leaders Juventus went into training at the Juventus Training Centre in Turin on Thursday full of vigour and enthusiasm, reflected in these two pictures of Paulo Dybala and Gianluigi Buffon. Their Portuguese talisman Cristiano Ronaldo was also present, but he was still training in isolation.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Hales, Plunkett not included in 55-man camp

AFP, London



Alex Hales and World Cup-winner Liam Plunkett were both left out of a mammoth 55-man England training group announced Friday. But 14 uncapped players were selected as England look to stage a full Test and limited-overs programme against West Indies, Pakistan, Ireland and Australia despite the coronavirus delaying the start of their home season until at least July.

Among those recalled was David Willey, who lost his place in the ODI squad to Jofra Archer shortly before England won the World Cup for the first time last year. Official squads will be named at a later date, with three Tests against the West Indies set to be played behind closed doors at bio-secure venues, such as Old Trafford in Manchester, first up for England this season. The group will not train in one place, but with individual sessions across several county venues, that started with bowlers back in the nets last week, the only form of training allowed at present.

"The pool of players will give selectors strong options when it comes to selecting squads across formats further down the line, as we move closer to our aim of playing international cricket this summer," said ECB performance director Mo Bobat, who helped England coach Chris Silverwood and the selectors compile the list.

Nottinghamshire opener Hales was dropped shortly before last year's World Cup after it emerged he had tested positive for drugs.

There had been speculation that, with England likely to need separate red and white-ball squads, Hales might be recalled.

But England one-day captain Eoin Morgan dashed Hales' hopes on Wednesday when he said "it will take more time" for him to regain the trust of the squad.

WHAT TO WATCH

- BUNDESLIGA Star Sports Select 2 Wolfsburg v Eintracht Frankfurt Live from 7:30pm Bayern Munich v Fortune Dusseldorf Live from 10:30pm Star Sports Select 1 Schalke v Werder Bremen Live from 7:30pm

Serie A to resume on June 20

AFP, Rome

Italy's Serie A will be given the green light on Thursday to resume on June 20 after a three-month absence as one of the countries hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic begins to ease restrictions.

Sports Minister Vincenzo Spadafora said that the government's Technical and Scientific Committee (CTS) had agreed to the health protocol proposed by Italian football chiefs.

"Italy has started to return to normal life again, it is only right that football should do the same," said Spadafora.

"The federation assured me that it had a Plan B and a Plan C.

"In light of these considerations, the championship can resume on June 20."

Italian football federation (FIGC) president Gabriele Gravina told the minister during the video conference there would be a play-off system if the championship were again interrupted, while the existing standings would be used if it was stopped.

"We had a very useful meeting," said Spadafora. "From the start, I said that football could restart once all the security conditions had been met."

No top-flight matches in Italy have been played since Sassuolo beat Brescia 3-0 on March 9.

Online chess for local players soon

ANISUR RAHMAN

Having gathered experience from Asian Junior and Girls Online Chess (Zone-3.2) competition held on Thursday, Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) is planning to organise an online chess tournament for the local players to keep them active amid the coronavirus pandemic.

FIDE, the world game's governing body, has provided the chess federation with 5000 US dollars to deal with the pandemic, and BCF wants to use this fund for two purposes -- holding an online tournament either for seniors or juniors and arranging an online training camp for budding players.

"After being involved with Asian junior online chess tournament, it is now clear how to organise online chess. Harunur Rashid was one of

arbiters of the tournament and oversaw the process of rapid chess. I also observed how chess was organised by Zoom, through which each player came under surveillance, so that no competitor could not take any help from any device or person," BCF general secretary Syed Shahabuddin Shamim explained to The Daily Star yesterday.

"We are seriously thinking of organising an online rapid chess tournament to keep the players' brains active as they have been idle for a long time," Shamim said. "I will soon sit with BCF president Benazir Ahmed to discuss the details of the tournament. If he gives us green signal, we will proceed to organise online rapid tournament and online training for the budding players."

Asked whether players have the technology at home to take

part in online chess, Shamim said: "Everyone will not get the opportunity to train because of limitation of technologies such as mobile phones or computers, internet and uninterrupted electricity, so we have to sort out the players who have the facilities."

The BCF general secretary also said that they would hold two more tournaments for disabled people and prisoners once the situation improves as they got the approval from FIDE's Social Act Commission, which is using chess as a tool for social development, social change and gender equality.

"I had an online meeting with Social Act Commission of FIDE yesterday [Thursday] and FIDE president Arkady Dvorkovich joined the meeting for the first time. Social Act Commission have sought suggestions from different

countries on how to organise chess competition amid coronavirus pandemic," said Shamim, who is a councillor of the commission.

"The FIDE president also wanted to know what steps Bangladesh has taken in chess. We have two proposals in which we want to organise the chess tournament for disabled person and prisoners. We will organise prison chess once the current situation is improved a bit," said Shamim. "We have already made an agreement with a local organisation to arrange chess for disabled persons while the plan regarding prison chess is to hold the first edition with 100 women and children, who are in prison. Our aim is to entrain prisoners as well as to divert their attention from crime because playing chess increases individual's awareness and sharpness," Shamim said.



Players vie for the ball as fans are seen on screens on the sidelines during the 3F Super League football match between AGF and Randers FC at Ceres Park in Aarhus, Denmark on May Thursday. The football season resumed following a two-month break due to COVID-19 pandemic.

PHOTO: AFP

Glory for Ajax and the Bosman ruling which changed football

AFP, Paris

When Patrick Kluyvert scored the winner for Ajax in the 1995 Champions League final, it might have been the start of another period of domination for the Dutch side.

Instead it was a victory which in many ways marked the end of an era for the club who had won the European Cup three years running in the 1970s, and for the game as a whole.

Since that night a quarter of a century ago in Vienna, when the Amsterdam side defeated AC Milan 1-0, only once has a club from outwith the continent's four leading leagues -- Italy, Germany, Spain and England -- lifted the trophy. That was Porto, winners in 2004 under Jose Mourinho.

Football was already changing before Ajax raised the trophy aloft, following the introduction in 1992 of the Champions League as well as the Premier League in England.

But the most fundamental change came a few months later in the shape of the Bosman ruling.

In December 1995, after a five-year battle, the European Court of Justice ruled in favour of Belgium's Jean-Marc Bosman in his fight to be allowed to leave his club, RFC Liege, on a free transfer as his contract had expired.

Previously clubs could retain the

registrations of players even after contracts finished and demand transfer fees for them. As Bosman said in 2015, "it was illogical". But it did help small clubs ward off predators.

That was to be no more, and the free movement of players has helped revolutionise the game.

At Ajax, that triumphant team coached by Louis van Gaal was not immediately torn apart in 1995, even if 19-year-old Clarence Seedorf left for Sampdoria and Frank Rijkaard retired. Seven of those who started in Vienna also started the 1996 final, which Ajax lost on penalties to Juventus.

Then the exodus began, with Michael Reiziger and Edgar Davids heading to AC Milan for free. Kluyvert, who came off the bench to prod home the winner in Vienna, ended up at Milan in 1997.

"It was difficult to prepare, as no one really knew what the consequences would be," Van Gaal recalled of the ruling in an interview years later. Van Gaal went on to win trophies with Barcelona, Bayern Munich and Manchester United but acknowledged the impact on clubs outside the elite, saying they "suffered negative consequences".

The ruling contributed to the concentration of talent at the very

top, although it also opened up some unlikely opportunities.

Take the example of striker Scott Booth, who in 1997 left an Aberdeen team who were sixth in Scotland's top flight to join Champions League winners Borussia Dortmund.

"The Bosman thing was sort of hanging around, knowing I had three months left on my contract and then I was a free agent," Booth tells AFP. Booth then went on to enjoy success in the Netherlands.

Such a career path is now the norm for footballers in Europe, a far cry from the days before the Bosman ruling, when clubs could only field three foreigners in their line-ups in Champions League games. Fast forward to 2019 and only seven Englishmen lived the all-English final between Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur.

In the 10 years up to 1995, clubs from seven different countries won the European Cup, including Steaua Bucharest and Red Star Belgrade.

Such diversity is unlikely to be seen again, even if Ajax came close last season, losing in agonising fashion to Spurs in the semifinals.

A select few now dominate the European landscape, something that is unlikely to change even in the post-pandemic world.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার... দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০১/২০২০-২০২১... ২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ বছরের ১ম কোয়ার্টারের (জুলাই, আগস্ট ও সেপ্টেম্বর/২০২০) সালমনিরহাট জেলা পুলিশ বাহিনীর সদস্যদের জন্য নির্ধারিত রেশন সামগ্রী গ্রহণ, গম পেমেন্ট, খালি বস্তা বিক্রয় এবং কুলি সহ রেশন সামগ্রী পরিবহন এর নিমিত্তে "পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন, ২০০৬" এবং "পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০০৬" ও এ সংক্রান্ত তৎপরবর্তী সংশোধিত বিধিবিধান মোতাবেক বিভিন্ন ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারীর নিকট হতে নির্ধারিত সিডিউলে সীলমোহরকৃত বামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক পৃথক পৃথক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।