

Coman's 9th league title at 24

AFP, Bremen

Three days after turning 24, Bayern Munich's Kingsley Coman celebrated winning the ninth league title of his career.

The France attacker clinched his fifth straight Bundesliga crown following the Bavarians' 1-0 victory at Werder Bremen to add his two Serie A successes and two Ligue 1 titles. Coman made his debut for the Bavarians in Bundesliga in 2015.

Coman was an unused member of Paris Saint-Germain's squad as a 16-year-old in 2013 and played just once for Juventus three years later.

In 2015-2016 he had two domestic top-flight titles after featuring for Juve before joining Bayern during the same campaign.

He can claim a third German Cup win in July as Bayern face Bayer Leverkusen in this year's final in Berlin.



BAYERN IN EIGHTH HEAVEN: Robert Lewandowski (C) celebrates his 31st goal of the league with teammate Leon Goretzka during their 1-0 win over Werder Bremen, which ensured an eighth consecutive Bundesliga title for the Bavarians. The Polish international, who has now scored 46 goals this season in all competitions, expertly chested down Jerome Boateng's lob before drilling home past Bremen keeper Jiri Pavlenka in the 43rd minute of the game. The win took Bayern to 76 points from 32 games, 10 clear of Borussia Dortmund, with two games in hand.

PHOTO: BAYERN MUNICH

FIFA's letter gives BFF much to ponder

SPORTS REPORTER



FIFA advised the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) to not hold its elections until the situation improves after rumours that the BFF's FIFA-extended executive committee was allegedly preparing for polls despite the coronavirus pandemic.

"Yesterday [Tuesday], we received a letter from FIFA wanting to know about our AGM as they have received a lot of correspondence [from Bangladesh]. They wrote that it would be unwise to hold the elections until the health and sanitation situation in Bangladesh improves," BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag told The Daily Star, adding that FIFA also asked the BFF to inform it about the latest updates regarding the AGM and elections.

On March 27, the BFF bowed to growing demand from delegates and incumbent executive members and postponed its polls, originally scheduled to be held on April 20, just 10 days before the expiration of the Kazi Salahuddin-led committee.

FIFA later extended the timeframe to hold the BFF's AGM and elections by reinstating the current executive committee, which was asked on March 31 to hold the elections as soon as the situation allows. Despite postponing the elections, the BFF continued to prepare the delegates'/voters' list by extending the deadline to submit delegates' forms till June 7.

Incumbent vice-presidents Badal Roy and Mohiuddin Ahmed Mohi wrote to FIFA to stop the elections amidst the pandemic and alleged that the BFF violated its constitution while preparing the delegates' list.

FIFA's Ethics Committee's investigatory chamber replied to Roy and Mohi, saying they showed commitment to FIFA's values and principles. It also mentioned that they would communicate with them to get more information and that the chairperson of the investigatory chamber may initiate a preliminary investigation at her discretion.

In the meantime, some clubs and organisations alleged that the BFF secretariat was attempting to buy delegates by offering money. Those clubs and organisations also claimed that they were deprived of delegation forms despite providing all necessary documents as the BFF saved the forms for their earmarked candidates.

The Dhaka DFA got a 30-day stay order from a High Court bench on June 10 in regards to a letter from the BFF that asked the body to stop its scheduled polls in March. BFF president Kazi Salahuddin, general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag and the secretary of the youth and sports ministry were show-caused, asking why that letter should not be declared illegal.

The Khulna DFA also filed a writ petition against the BFF elections, while other agitated organisers appear ready to take legal action against the irregularities in the delegates' processes.

After 15th June, the BFF's executive committee was scheduled to meet and discuss whether to hold the elections and approve the voters' list. But after receiving the letter from FIFA, the BFF secretariat is now thinking over that meeting.

Covid-19 tests before isolated training camp

SPORTS REPORTER



and coaching staff for Covid-19 before August's training camp for the World Cup Qualifiers.

The decision was made at a meeting of BFF national teams committee (NTC) yesterday, with an eye on the national team's qualifying fixtures against Afghanistan and Qatar on October 8 and 13 respectively.

"Considering the Covid-19 situation, we are going to hold a six-week training camp for the national team after June-July. We have decided to test all players

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has decided to test all national team players

and support staff and keep them in isolation for 14 days at the start of August before the camp, which will begin on either August 20 or 22," BFF vice-president Kazi Nabil Ahmed told reporters in a virtual press conference after an online meeting.

"We have already signed contract with Jamie Day for two more years and discussion with assistant coach Stuart Watkiss is going on. We are hoping the coaches will arrive in Bangladesh in the middle of August and have seven days' isolation before joining the camp," Nabil said. "We will initially call 44 players for the camp so that the camp isn't hampered due to the unavailability of players due to the Covid-19 tests."



The game's local governing body is also looking for a suitable place for the Isolation camp in or around the capital. It has been learnt that Bangabandhu National Stadium, BKSP, Sara Resort in

Gazipur and Army commanding camp in Sylhet are in NTC's consideration for the residential camp.

"The coaches want to have training aboard but we don't

know whether the countries we want to train in will accept us and what would be the situation at that time. But we are trying to communicate with some countries for the camp," Nabil added.

Replying to a query, Nabil said, "If we don't go outside to play practice matches, we will train two teams so that they can play practice matches among themselves to prepare for the qualifying fixtures."

The BFF vice-president also informed that they would communicate with Bashundhara Kings to release their players for the camp as there may be a clash of training between the national team and Bashundhara Kings, who are also supposed prepare for the AFC Cup, starting from October 23.



Barcelona captain Lionel Messi gets taken down by a rugby tackle from Leganes captain Unai Bustinza during their La Liga fixture at Camp Nou on Tuesday. The Argentine superstar, however, had the last laugh as he scored one in their 2-0 victory.

World 100m champion Coleman suspended

REUTERS, Undated



anti-doping whereabouts rules.

The American sprinter, in a lengthy statement on Twitter on Tuesday, said he could be hit with a ban from the AIU after missing a test on Dec. 9, 2019.

Three failures to properly file whereabouts information in a 12-month period can result in a one- or two-year suspension.

"The AIU confirms a provisional suspension against Christian Coleman of the USA for whereabouts failures, a violation of the @WorldAthletics Anti-Doping Rules," the AIU said in a tweet.

Coleman, who also helped the United States to 4x100m gold at the World Championships in Doha, acknowledged the failure would count as his third in a 12-month span but said he was willing to take responsibility for only one.

"And now this might result in me being

suspended from other filing failures that occurred well over a year ago at this point." The two other failures occurred on January 16, 2019 and April 26, 2019.

"Don't tell me I 'missed' a test if you sneak up on my door (parked outside the gate and walked through...there's no record of anyone coming to my place) without my knowledge," said Coleman. "Knocked while I was Christmas shopping five minutes away at the mall (I have receipts and bank statements) and didn't even bother to call me or attempt to reach me."

"I was more than ready and available for testing if I had received a phone call," adding he believed it was "a purposeful attempt to get me to miss a test."

Coleman escaped suspension last year when USADA, after receiving guidance from the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) on how to calculate the 12-month window, withdrew the charge.

The sprinter later demanded an apology from USADA. "I have never and never will use performance-enhancing supplements or drugs," said Coleman. "I am willing to take a drug test every single day for the rest of my career for all I care to prove my innocence."

Solution lies in the towel

REUTERS, New Delhi

England's premier ball manufacturer has some advice for bowlers worried about being unable to generate swing due to a ban on the use of saliva to shine the ball: "Carry a cotton towel."

Dilip Jajodia, managing director of British Cricket Balls Ltd, which produces the Dukes balls used in test matches in England, says they need not worry.

"The ball has to be right in the first place. Whether you apply saliva or perspiration or whatever,



these are small things that help," Jajodia told Reuters by telephone.

"We have a proper ball with a hand-stitched seam. It's designed to swing as long as you have the skill."

"And now that ICC has confirmed that you can use perspiration, I don't see any problem."

When a player vigorously rubs the Dukes ball against his clothes, it releases the wax in it to permeate through leather and shine the ball, said Jajodia.

His advice for English and West Indian bowlers in their upcoming series is to carry a cotton towel like Barbadian great Malcolm Marshall.

"The great Malcolm Marshall was always seen with a little cotton towel hanging from his waist."

Stars back, but will they align?

Manchester United take on Tottenham today

SAMAMA RAHMAN



There will be no voices to cheer on the stars as they return to the pitch, but the sense of anticipation felt by Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspurs fans will be at a fever-pitch when the teams, reinforced by the returns of their best players, lock horns in a battle for a place in the top four tonight.

With just eight points separating Chelsea in fourth from Arsenal in ninth, the neck-and-neck race looks certain to continue over the remaining nine fixtures that each team will play, but tonight's fixture will certainly set the tone for at least one of the chasing pack.

Times were bleak during the coronavirus pandemic for obvious reasons, but as teams, these two in particular, return to the fold, they appear filled with a sense of optimism that had been missing for large chunks of their season.

Before the enforced break, Tottenham looked unmotivated. Mauricio Pochettino, the mild-mannered Argentinian who had nurtured most of the squad and taken them to the Champions League final last year, was suddenly sacked and the sport's most prominent anti-hero, Jose Mourinho, had failed to get his squad going after taking over.

Spurs spiraled ahead of the shutdown, going six games without a win, a period that saw them slip to eighth in the Premier League and meekly exit the FA Cup and Champions League. Their final game ended in a chastening 3-0 loss to RB Leipzig that left Lucas Moura in tears. The break was unkind as well, with Dele Alli banned for today's match after an inappropriate tweet.

Now, Spurs look a rejuvenated side, with Mourinho getting the time to work with his players -- even sneaking in a few sessions during the lockdown at a local park, courting the controversy he so thrives on. Nevertheless, their

preparations and the return of England and club captain Harry Kane, alongside influential midfielders Moussa Sissoko, Steven Bergwijn and electric winger Son Heung-Min -- possibly the fittest player in the Premier League after completing a mandatory four-week basic soldiers' training course in South Korea and passing with flying colours -- has left them feeling a top four place is well within their grasp.

On the flipside, United went into the break following a purple patch that saw them win eight and draw three of

summer holidays, a scheme the government had previously said it would not carry on over the summer.

The major product of the shutdown, other than a sharp fall in fitness levels, has been inconsistency despite the combination of superstars. Tottenham split their friendly against Norwich into four parts and if that did not show that players still have to get up to speed, the 2-1 loss provided a clearer indication. MU fared a little better, playing two games on the same day against West Brom, losing one 2-1 and winning the other 3-1.



their last 11 games after the immediate impact from Bruno Fernandes, who arrived in January. That allowed them to surge to fifth, three places and four points above Spurs.

They will also welcome back World Cup winner Paul Pogba and United's leading scorer Marcus Rashford -- who secured an immense win off the pitch by pressuring Boris Johnson to u-turn and pledge 120 million pounds to providing free school meals vouchers for poor kids in the UK during the

A fifth-place finish could be enough to seal a Champions League place if Manchester City's two-year ban from the competition is upheld, but neither team will want to leave anything to chance. Fitness levels and how well their stars can begin to gel will be key factors and that will set up another tantalising clash between Jose Mourinho and one of his former teams, even if the narrative in the post Covid-19 world is completely different.