

## Serie A fate to be decided on May 28

AFP, Milan

Italy's Serie A teams have been given the green light to resume group training but will have to wait until May 28 to know whether the season can resume, Sports Minister Vincenzo Spadafora said on Tuesday.

Spadafora said that government scientists had accepted the Italian football federation's (FIGC) revised health protocol.

"The Scientific Technical Committee have approved the FIGC protocol for the resumption of team training," Spadafora told Rai. "It is excellent news."

Spadafora said he has scheduled a meeting on May 28 with FIGC president Gabriele Gravina and Serie A chief Paolo Dal Pino to decide on the return to competition.

"We will then decide if and when Serie A will restart," he said. "The important thing will be to restart with the intention of completing the league, then the federations will decide the modalities and formats to be adopted."

FIGC president Gravina welcomed a "decisive step on the path of restarting football in Italy".

Gravina said that FIGC Medical Scientific Commission were now working on the protocol for the return to competition.

Italian players' union president Damiano Tommasi said Tuesday that footballers would need at least a month of training before returning.



Barcelona started training in groups of a maximum of 10 players from May 18 and star forwards Luis Suarez and Lionel Messi, who were part of one such group, were seen sweating it out at the Joan Camper Training Ground. La Liga stakeholders are reportedly hoping for a June restart.

PHOTO: COLLECTED.

## Ceferin sleepless but resolute

REUTERS



UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin says he is having sleepless nights due to the COVID-19 pandemic

with European soccer's governing body set to lose "millions and millions" of dollars after the season came to a halt.

European leagues and UEFA competitions have been suspended since March or had their seasons cut short. While the German Bundesliga resumed over the weekend, it is unclear when, or if, other top flight leagues will restart, with the season set to spill over into August when the 2020-21 campaign is set to kick off.

"There is so much information and so many calendar issues. So many

millions, dozens of millions of dollars, that we will lose," Ceferin told the Guardian. "It's hard to fall asleep at night. You would be quite irresponsible if you fell asleep immediately."

The situation for UEFA is not that alarming, we're not in a dangerous situation, but we still care about the clubs and the leagues and the stakeholders so it is a lot of work."

Ceferin said he did not expect football to change once the situation returns to normal but added that Financial Fair Play (FFP) regulations could be adapted to the "new times".

"This will not happen very soon but we're thinking of improving (FFP), modernising it and doing something more about the competitive balance. We're also considering some sort of 'luxury tax', if it's possible."

Asked whether he would bet a million dollars that Euro 2020 would be played in 2021, he said: "Yes, I would. I don't know why it wouldn't be. I don't think that this virus will last forever. I think it will (change) sooner than many think."

"I don't like this apocalyptic view that we have to wait for the second and third waves or even a fifth wave."

Ceferin said football would follow recommendations but was optimistic normal service could resume in the near future. "I'm absolutely sure, personally, that good old football with fans will come back very soon."

And Ceferin said he did not expect the game to change. "Football didn't change after the World War II, or World War I, and it will not change because of a virus either," he said.

## Cummins wants options

AGENCIES

Australia pacer Pat Cummins has urged lawmakers to sanction the use of an artificial substance to shine the ball now that saliva looks set to be banned.

"If we remove saliva, we have to have another option. Sweat's not bad, but I think we need something more than that," he told cricket.com.au. "We've just got to make sure at the start of the spell we're sweating and we're nice and warm."

The use of wax applicators, which have been developed as substitutes, would require a change to The Laws of Cricket.



Liverpool coach Jurgen Klopp makes his way into the Melwood Training Ground to oversee the Premier League leaders' session as English clubs returned to small-group training from Tuesday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

Anyone who has seen Wasim Akram run in and bowl from the striker's end would know that strange feeling -- a mixture of awe and fear of what is coming at them.

Wasim's passion and aggression could shake the resolve of the most experienced and established batsmen, but when the big-hearted former Pakistan captain made a cameo on Tamim Iqbal's Facebook Live chat on Tuesday night with three heroes of Bangladesh's ICC Trophy triumph in 1997, there was only the sense of warmth and love for Bangladesh cricket within the Sultan of Swing.

Bangladesh has always been close to my heart. The people, the food, the country and of course the cricket," Wasim beamed after greeting the host and guests Minhajul Abedin, Akram Khan and Khaled Masud. "For me, it is a proud moment to see Bangladesh improve immensely over the last 10-12 years."

For many, exactly what had lured Wasim to the Dhaka Premier League in the 90s, is unfathomable. "Even the first game... the crowd... it was packed. I was amazed to see the interest," he said about his first game for Abahani.

The sheer weight of his talent and



character harkens back to the golden days of Bangladesh's domestic league, which then had more colour and spirit of competition than at any time since.

Wasim was looking for new cricketing experiences but inadvertently gave the country a taste of what world-class bowling really looks like. If for many it is hard to understand how Bangladesh were able to even stand in front of quality bowling lineups in the 1999 World Cup in England, they should probably look at the fact that the competitive means in the domestic league had prepared them somewhat

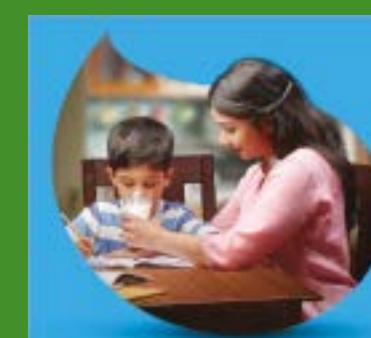
for what to expect.

There could not be a better expert to ask for advice on producing fast bowlers than Wasim, given that he has not only bagged a hatrick in Bangladesh, but also because the wickets in Pakistan and Bangladesh have a flat nature. Yet, Pakistan have kept producing fast bowling talent like no other. Tamim asked Wasim for advice to budding Bangladeshi pacers.

"If any young bowler wants to improve, they need to get into two or three-day cricket at 16, 17 years of age. Nowadays everyone wants to play T20 cricket but that is a very easy format.

"Any youngster you see who is fast and has potential, stop putting into his mind that he can't get wickets on slow wickets. What happens is, that as a young guy, if you hear all around you that 'I am not going to get wickets', psychologically he will be negative on those wickets. He has to learn how to swing the ball and bowl fuller on slow wickets. I enjoyed bowling on slow wickets, especially in Tests, since you can swing the ball and contain the batsman," Wasim said.

Akram and Minjajul detailed how Wasim's involvement in Bangladesh cricket had prepared them for the next level but what Wasim said about grooming youngsters should also be held as a remarkable advice from the great contributor.



সন্তানের যত্নে আপনি যেমন

তেমনি বিবিড় যত্নে বাবুর নাম সুরীজ্ঞান

ক্ষিয়াজাত হয় আজও ডেটির পথ

Barong Dairy

যাত্রু তৃতীয় গোলাবসা

## Long camp essential ahead of qualifiers

SPORTS REPORTER



Footballers were maintaining fitness with the hope of returning to action through the Bangladesh Premier League, but the abandonment of the league and the cancellation of the rest of the season due to the coronavirus pandemic will mean a break in their fitness regime which could have an adverse impact on the national team, who still have four more fixtures of World Cup Qualifiers left.

Although the resumption of the qualifiers is uncertain, a Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) official hinted that FIFA is likely to resume the qualifiers in late November or early December. In that case, the footballers will remain out of competitive matches for another four to five months until the new season gets underway or the qualifiers resume.

Considering the domestic scene, the footballers want the national team's camp to start at least two months before the next qualifying fixture and they want practice matches arranged so that they can get match-fit and get the right team combination in place.

"As there will be no competitive matches in domestic circuit, there will be an impact on the international matches no matter how hard we work at gym individually. Training along with other team members is totally different from individual training which can't push the individual to a level of fitness he needs to play at competitive level," opined defender Bishwanath Ghosh.

Left-back Rahmat Mia believes they need at least one month to regain fitness.

"All players will stay at home and their fitness will definitely deteriorate, so we need long-period training including one month for fitness training," Rahmat said.

Centre-back Tapu Barman said: "To be frank, our preparation for international matches is done through matches in the domestic circuit but it will not happen as the season has ended. So, we have to make a plan for the qualifiers as early as possible.

I think we should start a training camp two months before the qualifier against Afghanistan because we need to work on fitness, team combination and game plan."

Head coach Jamie Day was used to having only 10 days' training ahead of international fixtures, and he believes the players will need four to five weeks of training to get their fitness back.

"Once we know when the qualifiers are, we can put a plan in place to get the players up to speed. If the qualifiers resume in November or December, we will have the players in the camp before those fixtures. It will take four to five weeks to get them fit," said Day, who is expected to renew his expired contract within a few days.

## BCL scrapped

SPORTS REPORTER

The BFF yesterday cancelled the scheduled Bangladesh Championship League (BCL).

The decision was made at an online meeting of the professional football league committee (PFLC) where nine out of 13 clubs joined, with BFF's senior vice-president Abdus Salam Murshey in chair.

"We have taken this decision after discussing with the participating clubs. It comes as a continuation of the BFF executive committee's decision of abandoning the BPL and cancelling the Independence Cup. Most of the clubs expressed helplessness in managing funds for players. So, considering the clubs' financial constraints and the coronavirus situation, we have cancelled the BCL," BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag said after the meeting.

However, BFF has decided to open players' transfer window for both the BPL and the BCL for the next season in the same time frame.

## গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাস্তু অধিদপ্তর

মহাবালী, ঢাকা-১২১২

তারিখ ১৮/০৫/২০২০

## আটুসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে জনবল সরবরাহের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাস্তু ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়ী বাস্তু সেবা বিভাগের আওতার বাস্তু অধিদপ্তরে আটুসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে জনবল নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে সরকার কর্তৃক দ্বীপুক্ত জনবল সরবরাহকারী/সেবা প্রদানকারীর প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে দরপত্র আজান করা যাচ্ছে।

নাম নং-ব্যাটচং/প্র-২/আটুসোর্সিং/বাস্তু অধিধ/টেক্সেন/২০২০/১০৫

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