Two-time Champions League winning manager Jose Mourinho turned his hand to volunteering to help elderly residents affected by the coronavirus crisis in north London. The Tottenham boss worked alongside Age UK and Love Your DoorStep in Enfield, near Spurs' training ground, in preparing food parcels and other items for delivery to the more vulnerable members of the community. "I am here to help Age UK Enfield, Love Your DoorStep Enfield and of course you can donate food, money or be a volunteer," Mourinho said on a video posted by Love Your DoorStep's Twitter account. The charity has been delivering essential goods to elderly members of society who have been advised to stay in quarantine for the next 12 weeks.





People opposed to the Tokyo 2020 Olympics display placards during a rally in front of Tokyo railway station on Tuesday, hours before the International Olympic Committee announced that the Summer Games would be postponed to at least 2021.

BPL postponed indefinitely

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday postponed the Bangladesh Premier League for an indefinite period due to the growing

coronavirus outbreak in the country. The decision was taken yesterday at an emergency meeting of the professional football league committee, which on March 17 postponed the league committee till March 31 following an instruction of

the youth and sports ministry. The local game's governing body yesterday sat again with representatives of the participating clubs to extend the postponement of the league for another one or two months, but the clubs wanted indefinite postponement because of the uncertainty surrounding the spread of coronavirus across the country.

"You all know the whole world, including Bangladesh, has been affected by coronavirus. On March 17, we postponed the league till March 31 and today [Tuesday] we discussed the matter with the representatives of the respective clubs and took a unanimous decision to suspend the league indefinitely until the coronavirus situation improves across the country and the world," said BFF senior Vice-President Abdus Salam Murshedy after the meeting at

Murshedy also said that all types of football competitions organised by BFF will remain halted for an indefinite period.

Representatives of the 13 clubs, except those of Bashundhara Kings and Mohammedan SC, attended the meeting and demanded the indefinite suspension as the clubs were uncertain about whether to release all players or resume training.

"No one can give the instruction of the resumption of the league at the moment, the situation has been deteriorating day by day and there is no guarantee when it will improve. That's why the clubs wanted the suspension of the league for an indefinite time," said Abahani manager Satyajit Das

'Some clubs have been uncertain about whether to release players, while other clubs were going to restart their training camp after a few days' break and the clubs and the committee together took the decision to suspend for an indefinite time," said Rupu, adding that they would discuss with their foreign coaches and foreign players to fix the next course of action for them as the local players have already stopped training.

Murshedy later said that they would call another meeting of the professional football league committee to decide on the fate of the league if the situation improves

Tokyo Olympics postponed



2020 Tokyo Olympics have been postponed to no later than the summer of 2021 because of the coronavirus pandemic sweeping the globe, the

International Olympic Committee announced Tuesday

The Games were scheduled for July 24-August 9, but after telephone discussions between IOC president Thomas Bach and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, a historic joint decision was taken to delay the Olympics -- the first time that has been done in peacetime.

Ahe said percent agreement" when Japan asked the IOC to push back the

In a joint statement, the pair said that based on current World Health Organization information, the Tokyo Games "must be rescheduled to a date beyond 2020 but not later than summer 2021, to safeguard the health of the athletes, everybody involved in the Olympic Games and the international community".

The leaders agreed that the Olympic Games in Tokyo could stand as a beacon of hope to the world during these troubled times and that the Olympic flame could tunnel in which the world finds

"Therefore, it was agreed that the Olympic flame will stay in Japan. It was also agreed that the Games will keep the name Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020," the statement concluded.

The Olympics, which has experienced boycotts, terrorist attacks and protests, but has been held every four years since 1948, is the highest-profile event affected by the virus that has killed thousands and closed sports competitions worldwide.

Bach said the decision to postpone was "about protecting

into what will already be a hugely crowded 2021 calendar is another major headache, with arguably the two biggest sports, swimming and athletics, due to hold their world championships that summer.

However, World Athletics has already said it was prepared to shift its world championships, scheduled for August 6-15 next year in Eugene, Oregon, to accommodate a rescheduled

World Athletics welcomes the decision of the IOC and the Japanese Government to postpone the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games



Tokyo 2020 president Yoshiro Mori (L) wipes his nose beside chief become the light at the end of the executive officer Toshiro Muto during a press conference in Tokyo yesterday as the event was postponed.

Squeezing in the 16-day Games to 2021," track and field's global governing body said.

The international federation of the number two Olympic sport, swimming, added that it would also work with local organisers "in order to determine flexibility" for their scheduled July 16-August 1, 2021 world championships in the Japanese city of Fukuoka.

World football's governing body FIFA said it "firmly believes that the health and well-being of all individuals involved in sporting activities should always be the highest priority, and as such we welcome today's IOC decision".

The decision to postpone will be a devastating blow for the city of Tokyo, which had won widespread praise for its organisation, with venues finished well ahead of time and tickets massively oversubscribed.

British Olympic Association chairman Hugh Robertson said it was "heartbreaking news for our many friends in Japan who have done superbly well to prepare for what I know will be an outstanding Games".

"However, the IOC had no option under the present circumstances but to reach the decision they did."

The IOC came under increasing pressure in recent days to postpone the Games, with 1.7 billion people across the planet in lockdown to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.

backtrack on training

AFP, Milan

Italian clubs Napoli and Lazio have both postponed their planned return to training this week due to the coronavirus pandemic which has killed over 6,000 people in Italy.

Italian football has been on hold since March 9 because of the COVID-19 outbreak.

But some clubs had been thinking of resuming behind closed

"SSC Napoli announces that sports activities are suspended until a date to be decided," the southerners said in a statement.

"The resumption training sessions will be established in relation to the evolution of the health emergency regarding the spread of Covid 19.

They had been planning to return to training on Wednesday.

League rivals Lazio and Cagliari also pushed back the date for a return to training.

Capital club Lazio had said they wanted to start training as early as Monday, as had Sardinian outfit Cagliari.

Napoli, Lazio | Van der Burgh opens up on coronavirus battle

Former Olympic gold medallist Cameron van der Burgh, who revealed he has Covid-19 on Sunday, has issued a warning about the impact that coronavirus can have on

South Africa's 2012 Olympic 100-metre breaststroke champion said he has "been struggling with Covid-19 for 14 davs"

"By far the worst virus I have ever endured despite being a healthy individual with strong lungs (no smoking/ sport), living a healthy lifestyle and being young (least at risk demographic)," the 31-year-old tweeted.

"The loss in body conditioning has been immense and (I) can only feel for the athletes that contract Covid-19 as they will suffer a great loss

of current conditioning through the last training "Infection closer to competition

competition (would be) the worst," added Van der Burgh, who has worked as an oil analyst in London since retiring

in 2018

Van der Burgh, who also won four Commonwealth golds, has described how he was affected by coronavirus, which has now reached over 40 countries in Africa. In his homeland South Africa, there are now in excess of

400 reported cases. "Although the most severe symptoms (extreme fever) have eased, I am still struggling with serious fatigue and a

residual cough that I can't shake," said the six-time world "Any physical activity like walking leaves me exhausted

for hours.

BFF to ask FIFA for polls deferral



Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will seek an extension from FIFA to hold the BFF polls following the coronavirus outbreak in the country, said BFF Senior Vice-President Abdus Salam Murshedy yesterday.

The BFF polls are scheduled to take place on April 20. And despite the novel coronavirus outbreak, the BFF is seemingly leaning towards staging the polls on the announced date, triggering a lot of questions as the elections will involve the gathering of nearly 140 councillors, 100 media personnel and the supporters of the candidates, whereas people have been advised to stay at home and maintain the social distancing to avoid the spread of the virus.

On Sunday, BFF General Secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag had said that he had spoken to FIFA and AFC officials about the possible postponement of the

After the meeting of the professional football league committee yesterday, Murshedy said that they would write to FIFA to defer the time-frame of the BFF polls.

"We, under the leadership of [BFF President] Kazi Salahuddin are concerned about this [polls], though we have already announced a date to hold the BFF elections, which is now going through a process," said Murshedy. "Of course, we write to FIFA to let them know about the current situation of Bangladesh and request them to extend the time-frame of the elections as we are concerned about holding the elections."

Murshedy also said that the decision must come through the BFF executive committee, which will sit on March 27 to decide whether to defer the polls.

Last week, BFF vice presidents Badal Roy and Mohiuddin Ahmed Mohi urged the governing body to defer the polls because of the coronavirus outbreak.

Rugby star turns ambulance driver

Italian international Maxime Mbanda has leapt from the back row on the rugby pitch to the front line in the fight against the coronavirus, becoming a volunteer ambulance driver in Parma, and bears witness to a frightening reality on the pandemic.

England in front of 60,000 people in Rome for his 21st Italian cap, but that match, like so many others, has been postponed. Instead, wearing a mask and protective suit, he went

Last Saturday, Mbanda was scheduled to face

out again as an ambulance driver with other volunteers from the Yellow Cross in Parma, in Emilia-Romagna, one of the areas most affected by the coronavirus. By Saturday, almost 800 more people in Italy had died from the disease, taking the total in the country

"When everything was cancelled in rugby, I wondered how I could help, even without medical expertise,' Mbanda, who plays for Zebre Rugby, the Parma club,

told AFP. "I found the Yellow Cross, which had a transport service for medicine and food for the elderly."

After one day delivering masks, food and prescriptions, the physical strength of the 26-year-old forward was put to good use where it was most needed, "on the front line, at the heart of the problem".

"I found myself transferring positive patients from one local hospital to another. I help with the stretcher or if there are patients to be carried from a wheelchair. I also hold the oxygen," he explains. It is a situation of desperate urgency, where, he

says, "95 per cent of hospital facilities are dedicated to

"If people saw what I see in the hospitals, there wouldn't be a queue in front of the supermarkets in the infectious disease rooms, I tell myself that I can't anymore," he said.

"They would think two, three or four times before leaving home, even to go running."

"What I see are people of all ages, on respirators, on oxygen, doctors and nurses on 20- or 22-hour shifts, not sleeping one minute of the day and just trying to get some rest the next day," he adds.

"I wish I could say that the situation here has reached its limit. But I'm afraid I have to say that's not the case."

father, a surgeon in Milan, "also on the front line." Mbanda has had to become a psychologist in contact

with patients put in wards "where death is the order of

"When you see the look in their eyes... Even if they can't speak, they communicate with the eyes and they tell you things you can't imagine," he said.

"They hear the alarms, the doctors and nurses running from one ward to the next. "The first person I collected from the hospital told

me that he had been there for three hours when the neighbour in the next bed died. And during the night, two other women died in his room. He had never seen anyone die."

You have to treat these patients "as if they were relatives or friends," he said.

"But the terrible thing is that every time you touch them, a simple caress in the ambulance to comfort them, you must immediately disinfect your hands."

"I started eight days ago, without a day's break and with shifts of 12 or 13 hours. But faced with what I see be tired," he says.

He believes others could also help.

"Fear is normal. But there are little things that can be done safely that would give those on the front lines a half-hour or an hour's rest. For them, an hour is crucial," he said.

Accustomed, as an Italian international, to tackling stronger opponents, Mbanda said he won't give up.

"As long as I'm strong, I'll keep going. I'm here and Mbanda has no medical experience, but he is I'm staying here. As long as there's an emergency, I'm working with the support of his girlfriend and his here and I'm staying here.'

