

Tsitsipas' birthday prank on Kyrgios

Stefanos Tsitsipas sent Nick Kyrgios an unwelcome gift through Instagram on Monday. The sixth-ranked Greek posted a picture of himself standing outside and holding up a home-made cardboard sign with a phone number and the words "call me" scrawled on it. Fans who excitedly rang it thinking it was the Greek star's number, found that the phone was turned off and quickly worked out that the number was Australian and linked to Kyrgios, who was celebrating his 25th birthday. That was confirmed when Kyrgios himself replied, "You are an absolute i****", using stars for the last four letters and a series of laughing emojis.

--REUTERS



'An opportunity to strengthen our knowledge base'

While the coronavirus pandemic has put sports around the world in a state of cryo-sleep, it has become the duty of the individual sportsman to keep both their mind and body from falling away during this difficult time. Cricket, like all other major sports in the country has also come under the thumb of the virus that has caused the world to come to a standstill. During a two-part interview with The Daily Star, Nazmul Abedin Fahim, a brilliant cricketing mind and a mentor to many renowned cricketers in the country, talked about the self-improvement opportunities that lay in front of the players even in these uncertain times.

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI



National stars like Shakib Al Hasan or Tamim Iqbal found Fahim by their side whenever they needed a technical intervention during their career. Fahim said that the current situation was a 'huge setback for everybody'. "Especially for those who earn their income from the Premier League, will suffer mentally," he added.

But he was also keen to look at the positive aspect in order to make the best of the current situation. The opportunity for everyone, not just cricketers, is to realign and reset themselves.

"Naturally the negative aspects take centre stage in such a scenario but if there is a positive, it's that those of us who are involved with cricket, be it coaching, as a trainer, physio or a player, it gives us a chance to organise ourselves during this break," he said.

The likes of Mushfiqur Rahim and Mahmudullah Riyad are quite regularly seen training at home in Facebook videos during the ongoing shutdown. Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has also sent the players fitness maintenance programmes. Fahim opined that now was the time for the players to get creative with their training. Personal structuralizing would help individual cricketers learn something about themselves and that, according to Fahim, would improve the 'knowledge base'. He would prioritise fitness but



there were other opportunities.

"The cricketers usually leave aspects of training to the trainers or the physios but now they are looking at ways of keeping themselves fit. The technical

side and tactical side too. Now they are looking at how they can do their drills and looking at how they can practise with the means they have. This creates an opportunity to get creative. Maybe

some are studying on various things, others may be asking various people for advice on what to accomplish. So, the knowledge base will improve a bit. If someone is not taking this opportunity,

they should be doing that," he said.

Even without matches to play and gain experience from, Fahim suggested other means to get creative with working out match scenarios.

"There are old matches to be seen on Youtube, TV or something else and they will have the opportunity now to see those matches. They can review situations and think of what they would have done in particular situations and how they can apply themselves when the opportunity arrives to play once more after the break.

"These are the things we can do to salvage things and get the most out of the situation.

"So, there are lots of things to improve fitness wise and tactically. Plus, studying and consulting with others will be important. As I said, it's about strengthening the knowledge base and in that regard, there is an opportunity to emphasise upon those things," he said.

For Fahim, while the 'lack of competitiveness' due to absence of sports is going to affect the players, the biggest setback was the young players not getting a chance to prove themselves.

"Either at the U-19 level, or the Dhaka Premier League or others, there were a few boys who would shine every season. Without competition, they lost the chance to test themselves and it's a loss for them and also for our cricket," he said.

(Part two of this interview, due tomorrow, delves into the current standards of the country's cricketing structure and what must improve).

Rafa thrills in virtual Madrid

REUTERS

Claycourt king Rafa Nadal suffered a fake injury, several players 'froze' and one match vanished into thin air as the Virtual Madrid Open made its debut on Monday.

With professional tennis tours closed down until mid July because of the coronavirus pandemic, an esports version of the event is being staged online.

Thirty two of the world's best players have swapped their rackets for Playstation controllers, courts for sofas, to contest the four-day event designed to offer players, and fans, some action during the lockdown.

Nadal claimed he was a computer game novice during an Instagram chat with Andy Murray last week, but the Spaniard showed impressive fingerwork to beat young Canadian Denis Shapovalov in his opening round-robin match on a digital representation of the Spanish capital's Manolo Santana Stadium.

Things did not start very well, however, with Nadal and Shapovalov, shown in small screens below the game action being broadcast live on Facebook Gaming, sitting frustrated as their computer characters were left bobbing around on the baseline as the game appeared to malfunction.

Andy Murray, tipped a favourite, got into the spirit of things -- grunting loudly after every 'virtual' shot as he beat Frenchman Benoit Paire.

Shuttlers stand by farmers



Badminton player Mohammad Ammar and others helped farmers harvest paddy in the haor of Sunamganj.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

SPORTS REPORTER



In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, stars from various sporting disciplines have come forward to help the needy people, who have been struggling to manage their daily meals due to the nationwide lockdown.

Now a group of badminton players have come forward with a slightly different initiative by providing physical labour on paddy grounds in Sylhet, harvesting paddy from the haor area of Sunamganj.

Thousands of farmers in haor areas are worried about timely harvesting of boro paddy due to a shortage of labourer due to the coronavirus pandemic. The situation has been made worse by the probability of advanced flooding.

"Under the banner of 'badminton players in service of mankind', we have already provided 15-days' food and medicine among 100 Bede families in Sunamganj and also distributed food among 200 families in Moulvibazar and Jashore.

"We have raised a fund with help from shuttlers, coaches, umpires, expatriates and general people. We are also helping shuttlers and umpires," Mohammad Ammar, who played in the national badminton championship for Sunamganj, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"In an effort to help people in the coronavirus pandemic and due to the prediction of advanced flooding in haor area, we, some 15 shuttlers, went to help the farmers in Dekhar haor and harvested paddy in nearly 4 to 5 bighas," Ammar said.



While athletes from around the globe, like Australia's star cricketer Steven Smith, are coming forward to help the global fight against the coronavirus pandemic being confined indoors, thousands of miles away from Smith's home, youths and cricket enthusiasts like the ones seen at the Gandogram village under Bogura Shajahanpur Upazila cannot keep themselves away from sports.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ/INSTAGRAM

Argentina's season over

AFP, Buenos Aires

The Argentine football association will put an end to the 2019-20 season which has been interrupted since mid-March due to the coronavirus pandemic, its president Claudio Tapia said on Monday.

"We are going to end the tournaments so we can designate the teams qualified for continental competitions next year," Tapia said.

The Argentine FA also said there will be no relegation this season or next due to the disruption caused by the health crisis.

Gimnasia, the club coached by Diego Maradona, will remain in the top division as a result. Relegation is calculated by a complicated system of points taken over a three-year period.

Boca Juniors won the league championship with a 1-0 victory over Gimnasia on the final day at the start of March.

The Copa Superliga, a 24-team tournament scheduled to finish with a play-off at the end of May, has been scrapped after just one round of games.

Argentina has been in lockdown since March 20.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh				
Office of the Director National Institute of ENT Tejgaon, Dhaka				
Memo No. NIENT/Admin/Tender (MSR)/2019-2020/492				Date: 28/04/2020
Invitation for Re-Tender				
KEY INFORMATION				
1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.			
2. Agency	Department of Health Services.			
3. Procuring entity name	Director, National Institute of ENT.			
4. Procuring entity district	Dhaka.			
5. Invitation for	Procurement of Goods (MSR).			
6. Invitation Ref No.	NIENT/Admin/Tender(MSR)/2019-2020/492			
7. Date	28/04/2020			
8. Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).			
FUNDING INFORMATION				
9. Budget and source of funds	GOB (Revenue).			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
10. Organization code	1270208			
11. Organization name	National Institute of ENT, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.			
12. Tender publication date	29/04/2020			
13. Tender last selling date and time	09/05/2020 during office hours.			
14. Tender closing date and time	Date	Time		
15. Tender opening date and time	10/05/2020	11.00am		
16. Name & address of the office(s)	12.00 Noon			
(a) Selling tender document	Office of the Director, National Institute of ENT, Tejgaon, Dhaka.			
(b) Receiving tender document	Office of the Director National Institute of ENT Tejgaon, Dhaka & Office of the Deputy Police Commissioner (North), Tejgaon Division (North) Shamoly, Dhaka (west to Shamoly Shishu Park).			
(c) Opening tender document	Office of the Director, National Institute of ENT, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
17. Eligibility of tenderer	The tenderer shall have a minimum of last 3 years of general/overall experience of the supply of similar goods to the govt./semi govt./autonomous institute/hospital under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Certificate must be submitted along with supplying document. The tenderer shall have a minimum of last 2 years of specific experience in the supply of related services to the govt./semi govt./autonomous institute/hospital under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Certificate must be submitted along with supplying document. Other requirement described in the tender document.			
18. Brief description of goods	MSR item.			
19. Pkg. No.	Identification of Pkg	Tender security (Tk) (refundable)	Price of tender document (Tk)	Deposit on Code No. 1-2711-0000-2366 by Treasury Challan (with CTR) in favour of Director, National Institute of ENT, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.
GD-03	Supplying of Chemical Re-agent	Lot No. (1) Biochemistry, Blood Bank & Clinical pathology.	60,000/-	
		Lot No. (2) Histopathology.	18,000/-	
		Lot No. (3) Audiology.	18,000/-	
		Lot No. (4) Radiology Imagine & others.	60,000/-	
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
20. Name of official inviting tender	Prof. Dr. Md. Abu Hanif.			
21. Designation of official inviting tender	Director, National Institute of ENT, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.			
22. Address of official inviting tender	Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka.			
23. Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. Phone: 8878155, Fax No. 8878150			
24. Authority in not bound to accept the lowest tender/rate. Authority may cancel the whole tender/part of the tender without assigning any reason.				
25. Terms and conditions of the tender and other information will be available with the schedule.				
Note: If the date of selling, receiving & opening of tender is disturbed under any unavoidable circumstances, the next working day will be applicable for the same respectively.				
				Prof. Dr. Md. Abu Hanif Director cum Professor National Institute of ENT Tejgaon, Dhaka
GD-773				