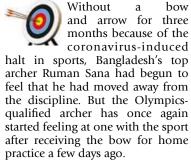
LEBRON IMPRESSED BY **DJOKOVIC'S STROKE**

Novak Djokovic has charmed many over the years with his exploits on the tennis courts but the men's world number one now also has an admirer of his basketball skills in American great LeBron James. Djokovic posted a video of himself trying some basketball moves on social media. The video, addressed to James, shows the 33-year-old Djokovic taking a few dribbles before knocking down a mid-range jumpshot. "Am I ready for a 1:1@ KingJames?" asked Djokovic. The NBA star did not take long to respond. "Ha! I'm going to say I think you are!! Beautiful follow-thru on that shot buddy!" James said in his reply on Twitter.



'I felt like a beginner'

ANISUR RAHMAN



Initially, archery was the country's only discipline where athletes kept up preparations for the Tokyo Olympics, which was later deferred to July next year despite the government announcing a halt on all sports activities on March 16, following the outbreak of coronavirus. Archers, however, were also forced to stop preparations at the Shaheed Ahsan Ullah Master Stadium in Tongi on March 25 so that the venue could be used by police to help the local administration to enforce the shutdown across the country.

Since then the national archers went back homes and continued physical training but the Bangladesh Archery Federation, in line with a recommendation from German coach Martin Fredrick, sent bows to 17 archers to practise at home.

"Having been detached from the bow and arrows for three months, it seems that I had moved away from archery, but now I once more feel close to the archery after receiving the bow on Thursday," Ruman Sana told The Daily Star over phone from Khulna yesterday.

"To be honest, I felt like a beginner on the first day [Thursday] because I could hardly pull the scheduled in late July," said a string after assembling the bow, which is nearly 7 kilogrammes. I



five seconds whereas I could hold it for 30 to 50 seconds before," Ruman said.

"I would not have been able to shoot the arrows if the Olympics had taken place as originally smiling Ruman, only the second could not even hold the bow for archer -- to earn the right to take

part in the Olympics directly.

While various other countries already starting their preparations for next year's Olympics as the outbreak has been curbed in those countries, the BAF cannot resume the national camp because of the worsening situation in Bangladesh, athlete of the country to - and first which is why the equipment was

"I am doing all types of practices related to the bow in our drawing room in Khulna. I have pulled the string of the bow several times, held the hand straight with bow and over the head, pulling back the string for few seconds, etc. as per recommendations from coach Fredrick." the 25-year-old said.

"I believe if we can continue the practice with bow regularly at home, then we may regain our performance levels within a month when we resume the national camp in Dhaka.

"In archery, the bow is more important than shooting arrows. If I have full control on the bow, then it is a matter of time to get adjusted with shooting arrows. Practising only with the bow will also strengthen us mentally. I think it would have been a big blow had we not gotten the opportunity to practise with bows during this period."

The SA Games gold-medallist requested authorities concerned to resume preparations as soon as possible because the national players cannot concentrate on practice at home due to their laily engagement in family matters.

"The foreign archers have better facilities than us. They even have their own bow, arrows and target board to practise at home but I don't have that; instead, I am spending time with the neighbour's children on the rooftop," said Ruman. "I think it would be good if we resume practice at our venue [stadium in Tongi]. We also accommodation facilities there, which is almost isolated, although police personnel are now staying there to maintain law and order amidst the coronavirus pandemic. If they leave, I think we can start preparations by taking the proper measures prescribed by World Archery, WHO and our government."

'BCB closely monitoring coronavirus situation'

The news of former ODI captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and leftarm spinner Nazmul Islam testing positive for Covid-19 on Saturday came as a huge blow Just as

the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) was planning to resume cricketing activities in the country. were talks of individual There

preparation during this period and the BCB had started taking measures by preparing individual training facilities. But the news of Mashrafe, Nazmul and former cricketer Nafees Iqbal testing positive has caused concern in the cricket fraternity.

According to BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury, the board is closely monitoring the situation and it advised the cricketers to follow safety measures.

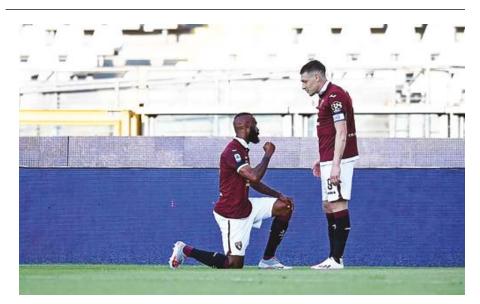
"We have always advised our cricketers

to stay safe until things get normal again. As per the requirements of the cricketers, we prepared facilities for their training. However, the players did get to realise the current situation and did not come to practise. Still we would like to advise our cricketers to follow safety measures properly," Nizamuddin told The Daily Star.

A few cricketing nations have started training camps by maintaining safety measures and following health guidelines provided by government authorities.

When his attention was drawn to other countries, the CEO said that they also realised the need to start training.

"We also need to look forward and find a way out to resume things at some point. The board, especially the BCB president Nazmul Hassan, myself and our medical team are in constant touch with the players," he added.



Torino FC defender Nicolas N'Koulou takes a knee, celebrating his opening goal against Parma while showing solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement on Saturday. The Cameroonian later told media, "When I scored, I immediately thought of my brother [George] Floyd." PHOTO: COLLECTED

Iraqi legend Radhi dies from Covid-19



Iraqi football legend Ahmed Radhi died Sunday from complications linked to COVID-19, the health ministry said, just hours before he was to be flown for treatment in Jordan. Radhi, 56, scored what remains Iraq's only World Cup finals goal in 1986 against Belgium.

He had been hospitalised last week in Baghdad after testing positive for coronavirus but had checked out on Thursday after his condition improved. He relapsed a few hours later and was readmitted but passed away early Sunday. In a video reportedly from his hospital bed on Saturday, Radhi could be seen struggling to breathe as medics in full protective gear try to treat him.

'Sometimes it's hard to breathe but that's normal," he could be heard telling the medical team, his voice strained. Radhi, a striker, led Iraq to victory in the Gulf Cups of 1984 and 1988, when he was voted Asian footballer of the year. In the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, he scored against Belgium but Iraq went on to lose the match 2-1 and exited the tournament in the group stage without a point.

He fled Iraq in 2006 after its Olympic Committee head was kidnapped during the height of the sectarian violence that followed the US-led invasion of 2003. Radhi moved with his family to the Jordan but returned to Iraq in 2007 for a career in politics, replacing a member of parliament.

MOST BUNDESLIGA GOALS IN 1 SEASOI 1971/72 40 With two goals in a 3-1 win over Freiburg on Saturday, Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski surpassed 1972/73 36 **Gabon striker Pierre-Emerick** Aubameyang's record of 31 goals

goalscorer in Bundesliga history. 'Arsenal need to learn a bit

AGENCIES, London

2019/20 33

Brighton match-winner Neal Maupay said Arsenal's players "need to learn a bit of humility" after they lost to the relegation-threatened

Arsenal players surrounded

The 23-year-old had been involved in an earlier collision with Arsenal's Bernd Leno which saw the keeper stretchered off in the 40th minute.

"Some of the Arsenal talking a lot in the first half, and in the second half they got what they deserved.

The Frenchman said he went to Arsenal coach Mikel Arteta at half-time to apologise for the challenge and explain that he meant

What is implied cuts deepest, says Chappell

Former Australian skipper Ian Chappell has recalled his brush with racism as he offered his views on the raging issue, talking about a time when he saw fellow players being abused and

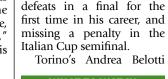
"My first overseas tour was to South Africa in 1966-67 and it was an eye-opener. The apartheid regime was in power and we got a taste of its abhorrent nature after winning the second Test in Cape Town," he remembered in a column for ESPNCricinfo. "'Why don't you pick Garry Sobers?

Then you'll have a team full of blacks' was the offensive comment directed at Australian batsman Grahame Thomas by an ignorant patron in the team hotel. Thomas has Native American lineage dating back to the days of slavery," he said. Recalling another incident the same year, Chappell narrated how a player of colour in an International Wanderers side was targeted near Port Elizabeth.

"John Shepherd, who played for West Indies and Kent, and is of the most gentle people on this earth, was part of our side. As we were leaving, a member of the crowd shouted out: 'Why don't you paint yourself white, Shepherd, and then you can be like the rest of them',' Chappell wrote. "This is the sad reality of racism. What is implied often cuts deepest.

pondered his options.

WHAT TO WATCH



leaders.

LA LIGA Facebook Villarreal v Sevilla Live from 11:30pm Leganes v Granada Live from 2:00am (Tuesday)

Juve resume quest for 9th

straight title

Champions Iuventus return

to their quest for a ninth

consecutive Serie A title at

Bologna on Monday, days

after their Italian Cup final

Maurizio Sarri's side fell

in the final to Napoli on

penalties midweek, having

lost the Italian Super Cup to

Juventus hold a one-point

ead on second-placed Lazio,

while Inter Milan are third,

nine points adrift of the

They will be counting on

top scorer Cristiano Ronaldo

to react after suffering two

defeat to Napoli.

Lazio in December.

AGENCIES

PREMIER LEAGUE Star Sports Select 1 Man City v Burnley Live from 1:00am (Tuesday)

SERIE A Lecce v AC Milan Live from 11.30pm Bologna v Juventus

Live from 1.45am (Tuesday) missed a penalty as Serie A resumed Saturday after three months with his side drawing 1-1 at home with

Parma as ten-man Verona held on to beat Cagliari 2-1. But the first top-flight game in 103 days in Italy got off to a false start with a deflated ball having to be

replaced after five seconds. All matches are being played without fans.

Roberto D'Aversa said. "But we knew it would be like this, we need to finish the season, there are economic interests and we have to get used to it. I hope this situation lasts as little as possible. Football

"It's about a different kind of football," Parma coach belongs to everyone...I hope that this can all be sorted out and that we can return to true football."

of humility'

side 2-1 on Saturday. Maupay's 95th-minute

goal saw Arsenal throw away another set of points after losing to Manchester City on Wednesday. Tensions boiled over at the final whistle though as Maupay as he celebrated with teammates.

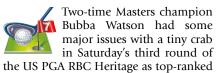
players need to learn a bit of humility," Maupay said after the game. "They were

no harm to Leno.

A crabby affair

AFP, Washington

to became the most prolific foreign



Rory McIlroy could only watch. The bizarre situation came at the par-3 17th hole at Harbour Town Golf Links in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, in the US tour's second event after ending a

Watson blasted his tee shot into a greenside bunker, but when he arrived to check out the ball, he found a tiny crab

three-month coronavirus shutdown last

had crawled under it. McIlroy, a four-time major winner from Northern Ireland, and Watson

were in a featured pairing at the event, meaning tour television cameras were the sand beneath it and facing animal cruelty complaints. "I don't want the world to get mad at

watching the entire situation as Watson

with the tiny crustacean lurking in

They included blasting the ball out

me, know what I mean?" Watson told McIlroy as the European star stuck the top of putter near the ball to try and distract the crab.

Watson called for a rules official but as he approached, the little crab flipped out from beneath the ball, landing a few inches away and moving off and eventually crawling away.

"There was a camera and people get mad if I hit an animal," Watson told the official to explain the problem that had resolved itself.

"We don't need crab issues, know what I'm saying?"

PHOTO: COLLECTED

FATHER'S DAY RELAXATION

Celebrating both Father's Day and International Yoga Day, Indian cricketing legend

Sachin Tendulkar yesterday posted on his Instagram account this picture of

himself practising yoga with his daughter Sara and son Arjun.