

Don't love me: Pitch

Cricket board's U-turn sees pitch being included in tournament squad

THE CLUELESSPONDENT

The controversial Merepoor Pitch arrived outside the gates of Intergalactic Cricket Council's (IgCC's) prison the day before yesterday.

Pitch waved at all satellites, orbiting above her head, and proceeded to reveal the following on its good length area: "Don't love me - Pitch."

Prior to this net-shattering event, the Alien cricket team complained to IgCC about Merepoor Pitch's radical behaviour, which led to their unprecedented thrashing against hosts Earth.

Around the same time, a petition was filed against Pitch, mainly led by Batriarchal Media Influencers (BMI), who vilified Pitch as it became an entity that's not only harmful for the country's chances at the upcoming Galactic Cup in the United Andromeda Ephemeris (UAE), but for the greater good of the game itself.

All BMI supporters believe the game should have a high Batriarchy Index that

favours high-scoring games over competitive ones, at all space-times.

The petition filed by BMI gathered serious momentum by the time the series was over, and so, in a string of dramatic events, Pitch was accused under Misbehaviour Act 42020 and went to IgCC's prison.

Meanwhile, a counter petition took off, led by a group who call themselves Ballinists, who have protested the medieval, sinister "pitch-hunting" that took place in a so-called modern society.

"We don't live in the dark ages anymore. You can't harass someone who only dared to express freely. It's way past time that we all should apologise to Pitch, especially the cricket board because their neutral stance on the whole matter is no less disgusting," Ballinist's lead activist posted on TriggerBook.

Which brings us to day before yesterday, when IgCC released the Pitch, having made a sufficient example of it.

Soon afterwards, Earth's leading newspaper The Daily Nebula asked Pitch what the meaning of her message was.

"It was meant mainly for all those BMI people, whom I trusted way more than I should've. What did I ever do wrong? You were all asking for a morale boost and I delivered! And whatever happened to home advantage?"

But surely Pitch was overdoing things a little -- she could have kept scores around the 150s and avoided all this hassle.

"Look, I got carried away in monsoon, a little too humidified on most occasions. And this isn't the first case. Go ahead and ask whoever made me the way I am, and interview pitches elsewhere while you're at it. Go interview Perth, that mean pitch, and ask if she faces the same treatment from her own country, planet or whatever?"

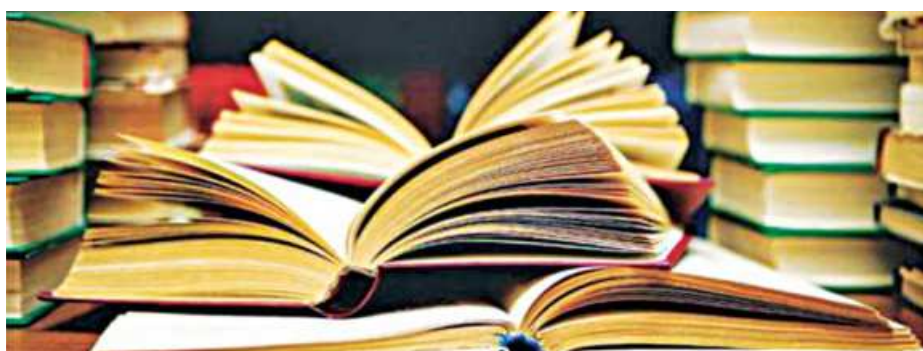
Back on Earth, Mother Earth Cricket Board's (MECB) Cheerperson Neel Bori Khan summoned the press outside the shopping mall nearest his home.

"We've faced strong backlash following our [absence of a] stance. But you all need to understand, we were on the back foot once this matter turned legal. But since Pitch is clean now, we can dance down the track, redeem ourselves and continue the cheerful momentum.

"And in that spirit, we have already pitched a radical proposal in the latest IgCC board meeting: We want to include Pitch in the Galactic Cup squad, and we'll do so by replacing our cheerful, young leg-spinner," the Cheerperson cheerfully told the media.

Nobody asked him the reason behind the latest decision or anything else for that matter, yet he continued.

"The reason is cheerfully simple, I mean, think about it: Why have a bowler who can turn the ball both ways when you can just have your favourite pitch behave in mysterious ways? And don't forget the injection of confidence, the winning mentality, the morale booster, the cheerful momentum. Cheers!"



Abandon literature, history books and embrace start-up hustle: CEO

STAR FARMVILLE CORRESPONDENT

A world-renowned CEO on Tuesday called on world leaders to abandon literature and history books in schools and colleges in favour of teaching start-up operations, technological innovations, and general profiteering.

The British magnate insisted that the perfect combination of Applied Science and Business will teach adolescents how to strike the industry with scientific innovation and expand their business to make massive profits.

"You want to be part of that 0.000000000001 percent that acquires over 60 percent of the economic pie," he said. "Motivation is a divine gift, but agile work culture is built. Remember, those who invest in other people's wealth through innovative start-ups are the ones who succeed. It's time world leaders prepare our kids for the future!"

He also said most people are lazy and use their brains for imagination without taking action. "All who 'MS Excelled' in the tech industry don't have enough time to read or practise literature. The wealthiest people on the planet are investors, stockholders in tech giants and owners of online businesses. Other than our nation's very own JK Rowling who we are not very proud of, there's not one author or littérateur that has made a fortune," he wrote in his tweet.

"Those who read history hold grudges, and those who read literature are crazy and depressed -- there, I said it," added the scientist. "The way forward is commerce, eh?"

When a Twitter user asked whether his emphasis on start-ups and investments had anything to do with his investment in a certain firm that is currently on life support in Chapasthan, the guru replied that the question just ignored his advice on ignoring history and promptly blocked the user.

Burnout generation result of social media becoming extension of workplace: Therapists

Socially anxious more susceptible to its effects

AMIAAR PARINAH

In a TimeLess Magazine article titled "Minds Turned to Ash" published nearly four years ago, columnist John Cohen explores the global case of burnout. He starts with the story of someone he calls Steve, who is so overwhelmed by the extra hours at work and the burgeoning to-do list that he ends up in therapy.

Burnout, according to the article, occurs when people find themselves taken over by an internal protest against all demands assailing them from within and without and when the momentary resistance to picking up a glass becomes an ongoing state of mind.

This term was not known before 1974 and it was German-American psychologist Herbert Freudenberger who applied the term to the increasing number of cases he encountered of "physical or mental collapse caused by overwork or stress".

That article and the mounting evidence from her real-life experience as a therapist is what prompted a four-year study, named "Perpetual Workday" led by Professor Dr Sloe Lee Daah Eeing.

The study spanning continents with over 1.2 million participants was finally wrapped up last week and the findings revealed.

Researchers have come across something extraordinary -- over the last few years, as the first generation of people made themselves comfortable with social media, they quickly

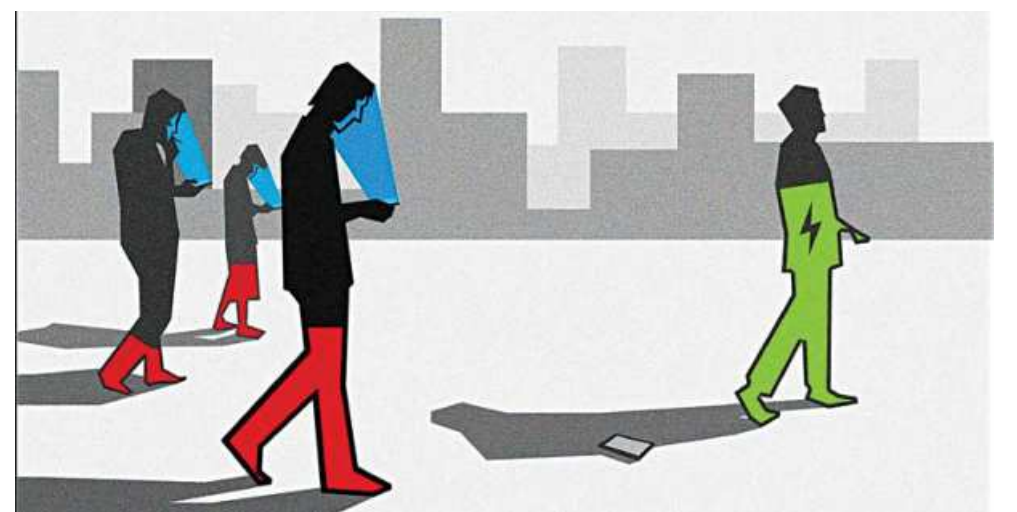


ILLUSTRATION: RIDWAN NOOR NAFIS

turned it into an extension of the workplace.

It all started with which high school people were going to, then soon moved to which college, then which university, and eventually to job updates. People posted their designations, shared content relevant to their workplace designations.

As time went by, and in the almost 20 years social media has been part of our lives, it has upended social norms as we knew it. The older crowd that first shied away from social media also came along onto different platforms. And, very soon, the platform became riddled with

co-workers and seniors, where an opinionated comment could draw criticism from the workplace.

"One respondent said he could not use swear words/curse/profanities on social media because his manager shimmied in and gave him an earful when he did use one following an office promotion," said Dr Sloe Lee Daah Eeing while revealing the study findings.

Everyone also feels compelled to remain at their most professional behaviour, or at least continue mingling with colleagues despite the end of the workday which results in delusions.