

If ANYONE is not working/not getting an income and runs out of food, or times are just tough ... please don't go to sleep with an empty stomach. Don't be afraid or embarrassed to send me a private message... Even just for a box of noodles, a loaf of bread or milk. I will drop it off at your doorstep, no questions asked." NICK KYRGIOS, WORLD NO. 40 TENNIS PLAYER

Yorkshire put cricketers on furlough

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LONDON, APRIL 6

YORKSHIRE BECAME the first English cricket county to announce they had put their players and coaching staff on the British government's furlough financial aid scheme on Monday. With the English domestic season delayed until May 28 because of the coronavirus and further postponements likely, talks have been ongoing between the 18 firstclass counties and the Professional Cricketers' Association over questions of pay deferrals and wage cuts. Under the scheme, the British government pays 80 percent of wages up to £2,500 (\$3,070) per month.

The PCA had planned to announce a collective response following conference calls over the weekend but Yorkshire, the county of England Test captain Joe Root, broke ranks to say they had decided to opt for the furlough scheme on Friday.

A statement issued Monday said: "The Yorkshire County Cricket Club's players and cricket staff have been placed on furlough leave until further notice.

"This decision comes after the majority of the club's non-playing staff were placed on furlough leave at the end of March in accordance with the government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. "Following a board meeting on Friday, the club took the decision to furlough all players and coaches. Each player and member of staff in the cricket department were contacted individually by director of cricket Martyn Moxon on Friday night."

Williams furlough staff

Williams became the second Formula One team to furlough some staff due to the coronavirus pandemic as drivers George Russell and Nicholas Latifi agreed to cut their wages by 20 percent on Monday. Formula One's 2020 season has been delayed because of the pandemic and British-based Williams announced their cost-cutting moves a week after McLaren opted to take the same financial measures.

Canadian Latifi and Briton Russell, along with senior Williams executives, have taken a 20 percent pay cut from April 1, with the other staff put on an enforced leave until the end of May. McLaren drivers Carlos Sainz and Lando Norris took voluntary pay cuts last week.

'If not in top 100, you'll struggle'

With no events or prize money, lower-ranked players have no option but to endure suspension, says Amritraj

SHAHIDJUDGE

MUMBAI. APRIL 6

THE WORD 'suspended' has been added, rather grimly, next to the name of each event on the ATP and WTA calendars till July 13. With this upheaval wrought by the coronavirus pandemic, a substantial amount of prize money that would have been distributed among players now remains unachievable. Since mid-March, when the Indian Wells Masters 1000 became the first event to be cancelled, a total prize purse of \$56,834,845 and \$34,224,127 on the ATP and WTA tours respectively (not including lower-level events) now stands as null and void till mid-July. These figures don't include what would have been available at the Wimbledon Championships, where the prize purse was \$46,625,829 last

The income of a tennis professional involves the prize money based on the stage of a tournament they reach – this excludes any sponsorship deals they may cut off court. But now that the tour has been suspended, there is no income at least till July.

The higher-ranked players may have enough savings to help them get by. But for those lower down the charts, or the upcoming ones who are yet to make their mark, the tour suspension deals them a harsh blow. And as India tennis legend and former World No. 18 Vijay Amritraj asserts, they have no choice but

"If you're not in the top 100, you will struggle," Amritraj, 66, told The Indian Express. "Potentially, I would hazard a guess that there are at least 1,000 men and women in that category who rely on the tour to get better and move up to the Challenger circuit, the tour level, eke out a living from whatever amount they make over the course of the year, with or without any help from governments or sponsors and so on.

"The unfortunate issue is, like every other independent contractor or business in the world, you are not covered for anything. The ITF, ATP, WTA, they are all independent bodies that are pretty much non-profit. They don't have large cash reserves like various governments may have to support the system. This is a high-risk venture the moment you step into



it, which is where we are all stuck unfortunately."

On March 19, current world no 375 in singles, Sofia Shapatava of Georgia started an online petition to get the ITF involved in relief work for lower-ranked players since "many companies have organised paid leave for their employees and tennis players should also be considered an 'employee' of world's tennis organisations." As of Monday, 1,726 people have signed the petition.

In all likelihood, the players in this category are the ones who aren't ranked high enough to qualify for tour events and are therefore unable to try and earn money from the multi-million-dollar prize purse.

Indians better off

Though, India's Sidharth Rawat has signed the petition that Shapatava floated, the 26year-old World No. 438 says he is relatively comfortable for the time being but things can get tough once the tour finally opens up. "Right now, I can sustain on my savings till maybe September or October. After that I'll be struggling. You don't know how much money you will have left and how much you can invest because you don't know how expensive flights will be then. Mostly I used to play in China and other Asian countries to minimise travel costs.

The unfortunate issue is, like every other independent contractor or business in the world, you are not covered for anything. The ITF, ATP, WTA, they are all independent bodies that are pretty much non-profit. They don't have large cash reserves like various governments may have to support the system. This is a high-risk venture the moment you step into it, which is where we are all stuck unfortunately."

VIJAY AMRITRAJ, FORMER WORLD NO 18, ON THE INCOME OF A TENNIS **PROFESSIONAL**

Now that too will be a problem as well."

Giving details about his income he says: "On an average, I make around 1000 to 1200 dollars a month, so right now I'm living off the savings and contributing to the expenses at home with my family."

World No. 443 Rutuja Bhosale, 24, points out that the Indians are better off than players in Western countries. "I spoke to my doubles partner, who is an American. They all live away from family which means they have to pay for rent apart from other expenses on essentials. In that way, we're a bit better because in our culture it's normal for people staying at their parents' home. So right now I'm staying in Shrirampur (in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra) with my parents," she says. "Some people with office jobs are doing the whole work-from-home thing. So they are still making money. But we can't do that. We aren't paying rent, and the expenses are low, but the expenses are still there."

Lockdown doesn't bother stars

On the other side of the spectrum however, there are players for whom the tour's suspension means something completely different.

"At the highest level, Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer and all are not playing for the money anymore, they're playing for the history," says Amritraj, a former ATP president. "Rafa (winner of 19 Grand Slams) could potentially have won the French Open to tie with Federer (who has won 20 majors), Djokovic could have potentially won another Wimbledon. It seems a bit far-fetched to talk about all this given the current circumstances, but each individual has their own disappointments."

For Federer and Serena Williams, at 38, just a month younger than the Swiss - half the season being called off – there's also been talk for the entire calendar getting cancelled – may prove to be all the more damaging.

"In Roger and Serena's case where age is a factor, every six months makes a big difference," Amritraj adds. "When Indian Wells was cancelled, we felt that Roger was in the best position because he had taken time off and that he would be back for Wimbledon, and that he's probably the only one laughing. But now on the other hand, with the year suddenly gone, it's a big year for him to lose from his perspective."

As it stands, there is a chance that the Australian Open, that took place in January, may be the only Grand Slam event this year – the event in Melbourne too was in doubt because of the bushfires that had engulfed the country at the time. Wimbledon has already been cancelled, now there's a chance that the US Open, scheduled to start on August 30, may be called off as well.

"(The US Open) remains a bit dodgy right now, but the more important issue is that when life - as we potentially know it - comes back to normal, concerts, sporting events, conventions or anything where there are large crowds or things like that, those will be the last things to take place." Putting 50,000 people in one facility is not advisable, Amritraj says. "(But when the tour resumes) across the

board, it's going to be hard. It's not that one person is going to have an advantage. People who would have been good on grass have lost that entire season to make their points, same "This (pandemic) just puts sport into per-

spective. We have all the geniuses in the world, in every country, working on this. People are saying this is very close to the flu, and still here we are (struggling). This is much bigger than

BRIEFLY

Guardiola's mother. 82, dies after coronavirus infection

London: The mother of Manchester

City coach Pep Guardiola has died after being diagnosed with the novel coronavirus, the English Premier League champions said on Monday. "The Manchester City family are devastated to report the death today of Pep's mother Dolors Sala Carrió in Manresa, Barcelona after contracting coronavirus. She was 82-years-old," City said in a post on their official Twitter account. "Everyone associated with the club sends their most heartfelt sympathy at this most distressing time to Pep, his family and all their friends." Guardiola, who has also coached Barcelona and Bayern Munich and spent most of his playing career with Barca, donated one million euros (\$1.08) million) last month to fight against the virus, contributing to a campaign launched by the Angel Soler Daniel Foundation and Medical College of Barcelona. Spain declared Monday a fourth consecutive drop in the number of coronavirus-related deaths, with 637 over the past 24 hours, the lowest number in nearly two weeks.

Bayern Munich to resume training

Berlin: Bayern Munich said that players will return to training on Monday for the first time since the Bundesliga was suspended due to the coronavirus. Bayern led the table by four points when the season was halted on March 13. "The Bayern Munich first team will return to training in small groups from Monday, April 6," said a statement from the club. "This will be done in coordination with government policy and the relevant authorities. "It goes without saying that all hygiene regulations will be strictly observed." German football league officials had already advised a break in training until Sunday at the earliest. Bayern said that training will be held in private with no members of the public allowed. **AGENCIES**

CROSSWORD 4085



1 Painter of French delight

A second look at something?

4 One is privileged to have them

5 Singer gets the awkward note

6 A national concern under

7 Lands in Eastern America

11 Master copy of a client's order

13 Standing upright makes an

14 Aim for a high place in the

16 A trio bent on making a

18 There's a scrap when a

discussion (7,6)

animal gasp

church(6)

relationship

2 Certainly confident

right(5)

ACROSS

- 1 The widow who urges one to take a gamble
- 5 Experience discrimination
- Making some progress and nearly past it (7,2,1,3)
- 9 Pick up something exclusive 10 Hill split by flood

- possibly ruinous to the litigant (5,8)

JUMBLED WORDS

the answer for the given quip.

portrayed (6)

- 11 He won't stand for being
- 12 Note deserter is not charged
- 15 Suffers, being made to conclude certain change is needed(7)
- 19 Be involved in a risky action -
- 20 There's much to this game
- 21 Went in for tree chopping in
- communist is told to be quiet the end (7)(5)Solutions Crossword 4084: Across: 1 Geese, 8 Hard luck story, 9 Strap, 10 At the end, 11 Train, 12 Sou, 16 Stance, 17 Skewer, 18 Nee, 24 Demeaned, 25 No end, 26

Organdie, 27 Lease, Down; 2 Entirety, 3 Stations, 4 Castro, 5 Idaho, 6 Muses, 7 Skids,

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to

the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get

12 Sen, 13 Use, 14 Rest home, 15 Bearings, 19 Eyelid, 20 Idiot, 21 Image, 22 Haunt.

One's real life is often the life that one -Oscar Wilde (4,3,4) **IPSLNT SVAEE IIMSDD**

Answer: One's real life is often the life that one does not lead **2011/10/1:** EAVES, SPOOF, SPLINT, MISDID

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis

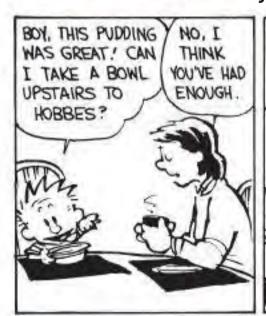








CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson





5

9

3

1 4

2

2



SUDOKU 417

SOLUTION



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



Difficulty Level 1s

To solve a Sudoku puzzle,

must appear in each of the

each of the nine horizontal

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy;

3s = Medium; 4s = Hard;

5s = Very Hard; 6s =

nine vertical columns, in

rows and in each of the

every digit from 1 to 9

Instructions

nine boxes.

Genius

Difficulty Level

SUDOKU



8

9

9 6

5

IF WE GET BROKEN



4 3

5

8

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)



The plain fact is that the nicer you are to other people, the more pleasant they'll be to you Simple, isn't it? Plus, you may have forgotten a number of important facts. You might even have lost a vital piece of paper.

BY PETER VIDAL

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

You ought soon to be

free from a lot of

pressure, and also

Even those people

dealings in the past

with whom you have had profitable

unnecessary

from unwanted commitments.

You are therefore ready to take

concept which I know is treated

with some scepticism in certain

circles. Still, that's no reason for

the path of universal love, a

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

you to be cynical.

are now likely to use

unorthodox methods in a

hand. Don't worry: they're

suffering from a bad bout of

over-confidence, and they'll

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

The overwhelming

emphasis is still on

travel plans, which

be brought back down to

earth soon.

vain attempt to gain the upper

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) You're good at

DAY TODAY

picking winners. At least, that's the current indication. I'd say that the two key considerations at the moment are that you follow methods which are tried, tested and reliable and look at the minutiae of the situation, rather than the big picture.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

This does not have to be a week of discord, disagreements and conflict, but that's just what it could be if you succumb to frustration and impatience. As you know, it's much better to give people a second chance, especially at home. Why not follow your own advice?

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) The main Geminian

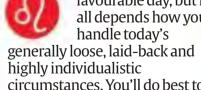
danger lies in trying to be too clever. The planetary signs strongly advise you to learn the lessons of the past! Look again at advice from people you know and trust. You might not have taken any notice so far, but now could

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) Domestic

for that.

be a good time to make up

discussions should be pursued with great vigour. Being diplomatic and considerate is quite compatible with standing up for your rights. It's just a question of arranging all your points in order before you open your mouth, and getting partners to listen.



circumstances. You'll do best to stick to your principles, but there doesn't seem to be any real reason why you can't be infinitely flexible when it comes to the details.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23) Try not to invite

trouble or discord by saying anything in haste or in anger.

confident. Such stars always

today look optimistic, enthusiastic and carry with them a warning to consciously check all details, especially regarding legal queries. By the way, you may be embarking on a journey of the

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20) In many respects it's

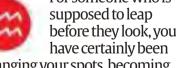
spirit or the mind.

moment, a time to slow down and make sure your life is resting on firm foundations. There's still a lot of life in the old goat yet and now is also the time to revive long-term dreams with a view

a Capricornian

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) For someone who is supposed to leap

to completion next year.



have certainly been changing your spots, becoming more cautious by the hour. Perhaps it's because you realise that your choices will only work if you anticipate the possible practical problems. You may appreciate partners' many little tempting blandishments, but

don't let them pull you off course.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) Matters intimately

that's good news, then.

related to your prestige and status at work are still looking complex. I don't think anyone would blame you if you sat back and let fate take its course. The end result would probably be the same in any case. Your romantic stars are looking up, so

2