



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.

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."

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.

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.

'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

SHAHID JUDGE 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.

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.

"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."



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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 Shirampur (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

BRIEFLY

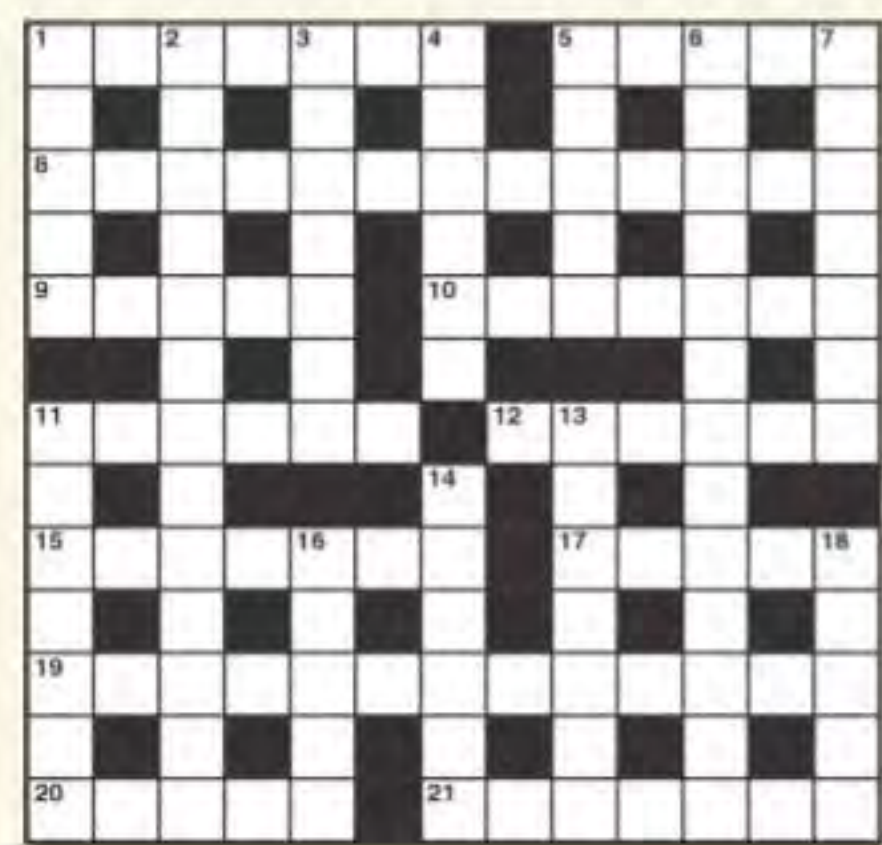
Guardiola's mother, 82, dies after coronavirus infection

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.

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.

CROSSWORD 4085



- ACROSS: 1 The widow who urges one to take a gamble (7); 5 Experience discrimination (5); 8 Making some progress and nearly past it (7,1,3); 9 Pick up something exclusive (5); 10 Hill split by flood (7); 11 He won't stand for being portrayed (6); 12 Note deserter is not charged (6); 15 Suffers, being made to conclude certain change is needed (7); 17 Intends to live on? (5); 19 Be involved in a risky action - possibly ruinous to the litigant (5,8); 20 There's much to this game (5); 21 Went in for tree chopping in the end (7)

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 Nose, 24 Demanded, 25 No end, 26 Organdie, 27 Lease, 28 Entirety, 3 Stations, 4 Castro, 5 Idaho, 6 Muses, 7 Skids, 12 Sen, 13 Use, 14 Rest home, 15 Bearings, 19 Eyelid, 20 Idiot, 21 Image, 22 Haunt.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4172

Difficulty Level 1s Instructions To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level 1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4171



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

You're good at 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 Gemini 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 be a good time to make up for that.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Domestic 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.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

In many ways it's a favourable day, but it all depends how you handle today's generally loose, laid-back and highly individualistic 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.

VRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Try not to invite trouble or discord by saying anything in haste or in anger. 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.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

You ought soon to be free from a lot of unnecessary pressure, and also from unwanted commitments. You are therefore ready to take the path of universal love, a concept which I know is treated with some scepticism in certain circles. Still, that's no reason for you to be cynical.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Even those people with whom you have had profitable dealings in the past are now likely to use unorthodox methods in a vain attempt to gain the upper hand. Don't worry: they're suffering from a bad bout of over-confidence, and they'll be brought back down to earth soon.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

The overwhelming emphasis is still on travel plans, which today look optimistic, enthusiastic and confident. Such stars always 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 spirit or the mind.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

In many respects it's a Capricornian 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 to completion next year.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

For someone who is supposed to leap before they look, you 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 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 that's good news, then.