

DO NOT GET INVOLVED IN THIS CRIMINALITY

Our mission to save football, from the dangers it is facing globally, will go on unabated. We will keep on with our unstilted efforts to tackle a most difficult situation.

We are fully aware of what is going on in the match-fixing scenario, and we know what the systems and patterns are. People connected to the game, whether players, referees, administrators etc., should be aware that once they taste the "drug", they will be hooked. They are also risking of being eventually exposed by their own trusted friends when pressure is applied.

This is what happened to 29 year old Hungarian player, Gabor Horvath who played top-flight football. He said "It is a pity that I was at the peak of my career when the disease flourished in Hungary, and I, like so many others caught it too" This indicates how contagious it is and how easy it is to be drawn into criminality. He goes on "I could not avoid the match-fixing. I did bet on our games that were fixed, yes, I earned lots of money out of it but also spent it easily" He spent it, or bet it all away, whilst others might not, but the cash is illegal, hot and carries a very heavy weight. Horvath goes on "After the police arrested me, I spent an awful night in a jail where I thought over the whole story. I can only be angry with myself, only then I realised what I had done" he said "I have no fear but I am not calm either. Not a day passes without thinking of the others in jail. I have regrets, I almost lost all of my friends, but I told the truth to the investigators"

This is truly an eye-opener to all those tempted to fix matches and others who are deeply involved in this ongoing scam. The situation, has unfortunately gone berserk with football falling into disrepute. We need to reiterate that all of us have the responsibility to counter match-fixing and cannot just stand back and hope that matters will sort themselves out. We presently do not have all the necessary tools and assistance to fight the scourge.

Information about erring individuals in football abound. It is worrying when you realize who gets involved in this crooked match-fixing world. The feeling of fighting a tsunami size wave is quite realistic, especially when you know that assistance from responsible bodies or individuals is not forthcoming. Our determined commitment to save the game for the sake of our children will lead us to wholeheartedly campaign against match-fixing and demand stronger legislation against this outright criminality. Responsibility needs to be shifted and thrown onto the laps of people who are trusted to safeguard society.

Having said all this, it is also good to know that only a very small percentage of matches are deemed to being fixed, but the negative perception and damage is widespread and the game's reputation has been extensively dented.ft