

Soft tennis, a BOA scam?

Sports Reporter

Soft ball, the hitherto unheard of sport suddenly assuming monstrous importance in the consideration of the officials of the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA), is contrary to the public imagination, no nine day wonder.

Although kept secret by the BOA officials for disturbingly long time, covert activities to make the discipline a surety on Bangladesh's plate in the forthcoming Hiroshima Asiad have been going on for a long time.

A five-member interim body with BOA secretary general Bashir Ahmed as the convenor has already been formed. The other members are BOA treasurer Akhter Hosain, Saidur Rahman Don and NSC official Faruqul Islam and Nazma Shamim. However, the BOA officials are maintaining a classified-information sort of secrecy over the matter.

This 'unofficial body' has already set the list of a seven-member contingent for approval in connection with the Asiad beginning in the Japanese city of Hiroshima from

Media, Lineker's new target



LONDON, Sept 22: Gary Lineker, top scorer in the 1986 World Cup finals, said on Wednesday he will retire from soccer at the end of the Japanese season in November after struggling with injury problems, reports Reuter.

The former England striker and captain, announcing his retirement from his home in Nagoya, Japan, said: "It's been frustrating not being able to perform like I used to and that made the decision far easier."

Lineker, who will be 34 when he plays his last game for Nagoya Grampus Eight on November 19, told BBC radio: "I've suffered badly through injury over the last two years, resulting in a couple of operations."

"I've managed to play a few games and score a few goals which is very pleasing but I'm certainly not what I was," added Lineker, who in his 80 internationals scored 48 goals, one less than Bobby Charlton's England record.

"What I've found at my age, having returned, is that the speed isn't quite what it was. Things don't quite feel the same — little injuries have arrived, and like a little pulled hamstring."

Alongside veteran Brazilian Zico, who ended his long professional career in Japan in June, Lineker was one of the big names imported for the inaugural season of the professional J-League in May last year.

He joined Grampus Eight on a two-year deal reportedly

worth more than two million pounds (3.15 million dollars). The move came shortly after his first son George had been



GARY LINEKER given life-saving treatment for leukaemia.

But, hampered by a persistent toe injury, Lineker has failed to show his superb scoring touch. He scored only one goal for Grampus in a scant seven matches last season.

Returning to action after missing the entire first half of the 1994 season, he was immediately sidelined again after suffering a leg muscle injury in the opening match of the second stage J-League programme on August 11.

Lineker, who has 10 more games in the J-League, began his career at Leicester City, then played for Everton, Barcelona and Tottenham Hotspur, winning the domestic cups with both teams and the European Cup Winners' Cup

second game, and play was suspended for one hour, 24 minutes while the roof was closed and the court dried.

"I definitely like playing outdoors," Sanchez Vicario said. "The ball bounces faster indoors and at the beginning it was really hard."

But although Graham was leading 30-15 on her own serve when play resumed, Sanchez Vicario eventually broke for a 2-0 lead.

In the quarterfinals, she will meet Werdel.

Arantxa Sanchez in qtrs

TOKYO, Sept 22: No 2 Kimiko Date and No 3 Lindsay Davenport were among four seeds ousted Thursday.

While top seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario advanced easily to the quarterfinals of the Nichirei International women's tennis championships Thursday, reports AP.

Sanchez Vicario, who now has lost only three games in four sets, beat American Dabbie Graham 6-1, 6-2 in their second-round match.

Japanese compatriot Mana Endo, ranked 32nd in the world, beat Date, ranked seventh, 7-5, 2-6, 6-4. Endo raised her hands into the air and said afterward: "I did it. It's great. I played offensively throughout the match."

Date scattered her shots to both corners but Endo hit back accurately and strongly.

Chair umpire Ayuko Sakamoto warned Date for hitting a ball toward a line judge after Endo broke the seventh game of the third set at love.

Nana Miyagi of Japan, No 127 in the world, outlasted American Davenport, ranked eighth, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Leading 5-4 in the third set, Miyagi wasted three match points before Davenport hit a forehand wide on the fourth.

"I tried every shot I have and it was my greatest victory in my life," said Miyagi.

No 8 seed Julie Halarde of France bowed to American Marianne Werdel 6-1, 6-1, and No 9 Naoko Sawamatsu lost to Japanese compatriot Ai Sugiyama 6-3, 6-1.

Sanchez Vicario, competing in her first tournament since winning the US Open in early September, overwhelmed Graham, ranked 95th in the world, with deep passing shots and lobs.

"The lob is my favourite shot," said the 22-year-old Spanish player, ranked second in the world.

Rain poured down on the hard court of the Ariake Colosseum in the second set's

Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina plays a forehand against Dominique Morani of Belgium during her second round match of the Nichirei women's tennis tournament in Tokyo yesterday. Sabatini coasted to 6-1, 6-2 victory. — AFP photo

Dull draws at Dhaka Stadium

Sports Reporter

Shaimim said that Capt. Siddiq failed to attend the congress for due to delay in reaching Seoul.

The game itself which is more or less like lawn tennis with the main differences being the uses of a softer ball and little wider net, however, does not augur well for Bangladesh's rarified medal prospect. None epitomised it more than the coach herself who when asked out about the measurement of the court came up with an unaffected "I don't know."

The scenario from the players' point of view is even more intriguing. Nazia Akhtar Juthi, a current badminton player, is trying her hand in soft ball simply because there have been no national championships for badminton in the last three years.

The story of sisters Hosne Ara Begum Rina and Rehana Begum Seema is an echo of Juthi's predicament. They were promising lawn tennis players once. Now that there are not enough tournaments, they have decided to switch to a softer kind. After all, it's tennis of a kind.

The veteran official attended the international extra ordinary congress of soft tennis held from July 9 to 12 in the South Korean capital of Seoul. He was accompanied by Nazma Shamim, general secretary of Women's Sports Association.

Though not representing a recognised sports body of the country, Shamim according to her own admission, she voted to elect the new president of the International Soft Tennis Association following the death of its former president.

Talking to The Daily Star

October 2, The five women players are Hosne Ara Begum Rina, Rehana Begum Seema, Nazia Akhtar Juthi, Sohana Siraj, and Rumana Zafar. The two officials are: Japanese coach Satsuki Hara and Tahmina Khanam Dolly, president of Bangladesh Women's Sports Association (BWSA).

The sudden emergence of soft ball as a top priority sport owes a lot to the unusually energetic role played by the elderly Capt. Siddiq, one of the BOA vice-presidents.

The veteran official attended the international extra ordinary congress of soft tennis held from July 9 to 12 in the South Korean capital of Seoul. He was accompanied by Nazma Shamim, general secretary of Women's Sports Association.

Though not representing a recognised sports body of the country, Shamim according to her own admission, she voted to elect the new president of the International Soft Tennis Association following the death of its former president.

Talking to The Daily Star

October 2, The five women players are Hosne Ara Begum Rina, Rehana Begum Seema, Nazia Akhtar Juthi, Sohana Siraj, and Rumana Zafar. The two officials are: Japanese coach Satsuki Hara and Tahmina Khanam Dolly, president of Bangladesh Women's Sports Association (BWSA).

The sudden emergence of soft ball as a top priority sport owes a lot to the unusually energetic role played by the elderly Capt. Siddiq, one of the BOA vice-presidents.

The veteran official attended the international extra ordinary congress of soft tennis held from July 9 to 12 in the South Korean capital of Seoul. He was accompanied by Nazma Shamim, general secretary of Women's Sports Association.

Though not representing a recognised sports body of the country, Shamim according to her own admission, she voted to elect the new president of the International Soft Tennis Association following the death of its former president.

Talking to The Daily Star

October 2, The five women players are Hosne Ara Begum Rina, Rehana Begum Seema, Nazia Akhtar Juthi, Sohana Siraj, and Rumana Zafar. The two officials are: Japanese coach Satsuki Hara and Tahmina Khanam Dolly, president of Bangladesh Women's Sports Association (BWSA).

The sudden emergence of soft ball as a top priority sport owes a lot to the unusually energetic role played by the elderly Capt. Siddiq, one of the BOA vice-presidents.

The veteran official attended the international extra ordinary congress of soft tennis held from July 9 to 12 in the South Korean capital of Seoul. He was accompanied by Nazma Shamim, general secretary of Women's Sports Association.

Though not representing a recognised sports body of the country, Shamim according to her own admission, she voted to elect the new president of the International Soft Tennis Association following the death of its former president.

Talking to The Daily Star

October 2, The five women players are Hosne Ara Begum Rina, Rehana Begum Seema, Nazia Akhtar Juthi, Sohana Siraj, and Rumana Zafar. The two officials are: Japanese coach Satsuki Hara and Tahmina Khanam Dolly, president of Bangladesh Women's Sports Association (BWSA).

The sudden emergence of soft ball as a top priority sport owes a lot to the unusually energetic role played by the elderly Capt. Siddiq, one of the BOA vice-presidents.

The veteran official attended the international extra ordinary congress of soft tennis held from July 9 to 12 in the South Korean capital of Seoul. He was accompanied by Nazma Shamim, general secretary of Women's Sports Association.

Though not representing a recognised sports body of the country, Shamim according to her own admission, she voted to elect the new president of the International Soft Tennis Association following the death of its former president.

Talking to The Daily Star

October 2, The five women players are Hosne Ara Begum Rina, Rehana Begum Seema, Nazia Akhtar Juthi, Sohana Siraj, and Rumana Zafar. The two officials are: Japanese coach Satsuki Hara and Tahmina Khanam Dolly, president of Bangladesh Women's Sports Association (BWSA).

The sudden emergence of soft ball as a top priority sport owes a lot to the unusually energetic role played by the elderly Capt. Siddiq, one of the BOA vice-presidents.

The veteran official attended the international extra ordinary congress of soft tennis held from July 9 to 12 in the South Korean capital of Seoul. He was accompanied by Nazma Shamim, general secretary of Women's Sports Association.

Though not representing a recognised sports body of the country, Shamim according to her own admission, she voted to elect the new president of the International Soft Tennis Association following the death of its former president.

Talking to The Daily Star

October 2, The five women players are Hosne Ara Begum Rina, Rehana Begum Seema, Nazia Akhtar Juthi, Sohana Siraj, and Rumana Zafar. The two officials are: Japanese coach Satsuki Hara and Tahmina Khanam Dolly, president of Bangladesh Women's Sports Association (BWSA).

The sudden emergence of soft ball as a top priority sport owes a lot to the unusually energetic role played by the elderly Capt. Siddiq, one of the BOA vice-presidents.

The veteran official attended the international extra ordinary congress of soft tennis held from July 9 to 12 in the South Korean capital of Seoul. He was accompanied by Nazma Shamim, general secretary of Women's Sports Association.

Though not representing a recognised sports body of the country, Shamim according to her own admission, she voted to elect the new president of the International Soft Tennis Association following the death of its former president.

Talking to The Daily Star

October 2, The five women players are Hosne Ara Begum Rina, Rehana Begum Seema, Nazia Akhtar Juthi, Sohana Siraj, and Rumana Zafar. The two officials are: Japanese coach Satsuki Hara and Tahmina Khanam Dolly, president of Bangladesh Women's Sports Association (BWSA).

The sudden emergence of soft ball as a top priority sport owes a lot to the unusually energetic role played by the elderly Capt. Siddiq, one of the BOA vice-presidents.

The veteran official attended the international extra ordinary congress of soft tennis held from July 9 to 12 in the South Korean capital of Seoul. He was accompanied by Nazma Shamim, general secretary of Women's Sports Association.

Though not representing a recognised sports body of the country, Shamim according to her own admission, she voted to elect the new president of the International Soft Tennis Association following the death of its former president.

Talking to The Daily Star

October 2, The five women players are Hosne Ara Begum Rina, Rehana Begum Seema, Nazia Akhtar Juthi, Sohana Siraj, and Rumana Zafar. The two officials are: Japanese coach Satsuki Hara and Tahmina Khanam Dolly, president of Bangladesh Women's Sports Association (BWSA).

The sudden emergence of soft ball as a top priority sport owes a lot to the unusually energetic role played by the elderly Capt. Siddiq, one of the BOA vice-presidents.

The veteran official attended the international extra ordinary congress of soft tennis held from July 9 to 12 in the South Korean capital of Seoul. He was accompanied by Nazma Shamim, general secretary of Women's Sports Association.

Though not representing a recognised sports body of the country, Shamim according to her own admission, she voted to elect the new president of the International Soft Tennis Association following the death of its former president.

Talking to The Daily Star

October 2, The five women players are Hosne Ara Begum Rina, Rehana Begum Seema, Nazia Akhtar Juthi, Sohana Siraj, and Rumana Zafar. The two officials are: Japanese coach Satsuki Hara and Tahmina Khanam Dolly, president of Bangladesh Women's Sports Association (BWSA).

The sudden emergence of soft ball as a top priority sport owes a lot to the unusually energetic role played by the elderly Capt. Siddiq, one of the BOA vice-presidents.

The veteran official attended the international extra ordinary congress of soft tennis held from July 9 to 12 in the South Korean capital of Seoul. He was accompanied by Nazma Shamim, general secretary of Women's Sports Association.

Though not representing a recognised sports body of the country, Shamim according to her own admission, she voted to elect the new president of the International Soft Tennis Association following the death of its former president.

Talking to The Daily Star

October 2, The five women players are Hosne Ara Begum Rina, Rehana Begum Seema, Nazia Akhtar Juthi, Sohana Siraj, and Rumana Zafar. The two officials are: Japanese coach Satsuki Hara and Tahmina Khanam Dolly, president of Bangladesh Women's Sports Association (BWSA).

The sudden emergence of soft ball as a top priority sport owes a lot to the unusually energetic role played by the elderly Capt. Siddiq, one of the BOA vice-presidents.

The veteran official attended the international extra ordinary congress of soft tennis held from July 9 to 12 in the South Korean capital of Seoul. He was accompanied by Nazma Shamim, general secretary of Women's Sports Association.

Though not representing a recognised sports body of the country, Shamim according to her own admission, she voted to elect the new president of the International Soft Tennis Association following the death of its former president.

Talking to The Daily Star

October 2, The five women players are Hosne Ara Begum Rina, Rehana Begum Seema, Nazia Akhtar Juthi, Sohana Siraj, and Rumana Zafar. The two officials are: Japanese coach Satsuki Hara and Tahmina Khanam Dolly, president of Bangladesh Women's Sports Association (BWSA).

The sudden emergence of soft ball as a top priority sport owes a lot to the unusually energetic role played by the elderly Capt. Siddiq, one of the BOA vice-presidents.

The veteran official attended the international extra ordinary congress of soft tennis held from July 9 to 12 in the South Korean capital of Seoul. He was accompanied by Nazma Shamim, general secretary of Women's Sports Association.

Though not representing a recognised sports body of the country, Shamim according to her own admission, she voted to elect the new president of the International Soft Tennis Association following the death of its former president.

Talking to The Daily Star

October 2, The five women players are Hosne Ara Begum Rina, Rehana Begum Seema, Nazia Akhtar Juthi, Sohana Siraj, and Rumana Zafar. The two officials are: Japanese coach Satsuki Hara and Tahmina Khanam Dolly, president of Bangladesh Women's Sports Association (BWSA).

The sudden emergence of soft ball as a top priority sport owes a lot to the unusually energetic role played by the elderly Capt. Siddiq, one of the BOA vice-presidents.

The veteran official attended the international extra ordinary congress of soft tennis held from July 9 to 12 in the South Korean capital of Seoul. He was accompanied by Nazma Shamim, general secretary of Women's Sports Association.

Though not representing a recognised sports body of the country, Shamim according to her own admission, she voted to elect the new president of the International Soft Tennis Association following the death of its former president.

Talking to The Daily Star