

Sport

37 submit papers for BOA polls

The charm of the first ever election of Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) was lost as only 37 nomination papers were filed against 35 posts yesterday, reports UNB.

The election of country's top sports body is scheduled for February 1 when 74 councillors from different sports federations and organisations across the country will cast their ballots.

Renowned organiser Zafar Imam will retain his post of secretary general along with the 10 other office bearers of BOA, to be elected unopposed if their candidatures are found valid after today's scrutiny.

Only one nomination paper was found for each of the eleven posts of the BOA office bearers - president, secretary general, five vice-presidents, three deputy secretaries general and a treasurer.

According to a reliable source, Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Mizanur Rahman Manu, MP, Abdul Mueed Chowdhury (shooting), Anjan Chowdhury (hockey), Kutubuddin Ahmed (badminton) and Rafia Akhter Dolly (Women's Sports Association) filed nomination papers for the posts of five vice-presidents.

Celebrated footballer of yesterday Ashrafuddin Ahmed Channu, SM Intiaz Khan Babul (basketball) and Ishraq Ahmed Karen (table tennis) submitted nomination papers for the three posts of deputy secretaries general while Monirul Haq (volleyball) for the post of treasurer.

Now only 26 candidates will go to the polls for the 24 posts of BOA executive members if two member candidates do not withdraw their candidature on Jan 25.

The final list of candidates and their ballot numbers will be announced on Jan 27.

Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Jan 21: Provati Sangha recorded a 37-run win over Baikal Sangha in the Rajshahi Premier Division Cricket League at the Shatheed AHM Qamruzzaman Divisional Stadium today.

Provati Sangha won the toss and decided to bat first. They collected 201 runs in 47.1 overs losing all the wickets.

In reply, Baikal managed 164 for nine crickets in the stipulated 50 overs.

DIV I CRICKET Raninagar Cricket Club defeated Rajshahi Cricket Club by seven wickets in the Rajshahi First Division Cricket League at the local district stadium today.

Winning the toss, Rajshahi Cricket Club decided to bat first and collected 143 runs for all in 30.1 overs.

In reply, Raninagar reached the target of 144 runs in 37 overs losing three wickets.

Ctg v'ball champs

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Jan 21: Chittagong clinched the Divisional Women's volleyball title beating Brahmanbaria 3-1 in the final at the local gymnasium complex adjacent to the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

Sushitika Rani of Brahmanbaria won the best player's prize.

Sampras, Safin

From page 13 wrong." The American however stuck to his pre-match strategy of continuing to keep the ball in play and trying to force the brilliant-but-erratic Ilie to play more shots from close to his body. "Fortunately the tide turned."

Safin, the Russian tipped to assume Sampras's crown after his stunning defeat of the American in last year's US Open final, was a shadow of his normal self as he succumbed 6-2, 7-6 (8/6), 6-4 to Hrbaty.

Hrbaty, a semi-finalist at the 1999 French Open, faces Rafter having won nine straight matches after a tournament win in New Zealand the week before the Open.

Rafter's aggressive serve/volley game will present Hrbaty with a tougher challenge.

The Aussie star looked close to his best as he dismissed Tim Henman in straight sets.

The British number one was left in no doubt that Rafter was playing well enough to add the first Grand Slam of the year to his two US Open titles.

"No question that was the best I've played against me," Henman said. "I've watched quite a lot of his matches and you've been able to see a marked improvement with each one. I'm sure he will feel very good about his chances."

Rafter, who won 6-2, 6-3, 6-3, said: "I have been hitting the ball pretty well but that was something exceptional for me today."

The omens for Rafter are certainly good. He has only reached Grand Slam quarters three times before: twice at the US Open, where he went on to win both times, and last year at Wimbledon, where he reached the final.

Nasim-ul

From page 13 director and secretary of the Bangladesh Cricket Association Anil Kalahari and event manager and BCB joint secretary Mahmud Ul Haque at the BCB office yesterday.

BCB general secretary and chairman of the organising committee, Syed Ashraful Haq, was also present.



Winners of the Partex 16 Bangladesh Amateur Golf Championship pose with their trophies along with Chief of Army Staff and Kurmitola Golf Club president Lt Gen M Harun-Ar-Rashid at the club premises on Saturday.

Amateur club woos Lara?

LONDON, Jan 21: The unpredictable career of Brian Lara took another twist here Saturday when it was reported that the West Indies batsman could play for amateur team Alderley Edge during the next English cricket season, reports AFP.

Lara has been under severe pressure while the West Indies have been thrashed 5-0 during their recent Test series in Australia.

According to The Sun tabloid, he wants to recharge his batteries at the northwest club, who are based close to the home of Lara's lifelong friend from Trinidad, Manchester United striker Dwight Yorke.

Former Lancashire all-rounder Steve O'Shaughnessy, now Alderley's captain, told the newspaper: "I think the approach came via Clive Lloyd (the former West Indies captain), whose son Jason plays for us."

"I'm very optimistic Brian will come here. In fact, I think the biggest doubt might be whether Dwight Yorke is still with Manchester United come the summer."

Alderley play in the premier division of the Cheshire County League and last season reached the quarter-finals of the National Club Knockout tournament.

ment, the leading cup competition in English recreational cricket. League rules prohibit paying players although a batsman of Lara's talent could easily attract sponsorship from local businesses in what is one of the wealthiest towns in England.

Lara, who showed something of his old form by scoring 116 not out during West Indies' one-day international defeat by Australia in Sydney earlier this week, is used to English conditions. He had two spells with English county Warwickshire in the 1990s, and has toured England with the West Indies, including last season's 3-1 Test defeat.

The possibility of Lara playing for Alderley, while unusual, is not unprecedented. Numerous West Indies players have appeared - and still do - as professionals for clubs in the Lancashire League, notably Viv Richards at Rishton in the 1980s.

Recently former West Indies captain Richie Richardson, has become a regular fixture for Kent side Lashings - a team that represents a wine bar of the same name.

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BRIAN LARA

A bigger problem could be that the rules also state that players must have been permanently resident in the United Kingdom for the last two years.

However, O'Shaughnessy believes an exception could be made for gifted left-hander Lara, who holds the world records for both the highest Test and first-class scores (375 and 501 not out respectively).

"I'm sure there will be a dispensation in a committee room somewhere saying Lara can't play. But it would be ridiculous to enforce that rule. Brian is a world-class player. Imagine the boost it would give the League if he turned out for us," said O'Shaughnessy.

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Sex twist to 'fix' probe

LONDON, Jan 21 (Internet report): International cricket's corruption scandal deepened last night with new claims that top players had thrown matches in return for sex with Australian prostitutes.

According to a former Pakistan Test player, the women were used by illegal bookmakers to entice some of the world's best-known players, including Test captains, to throw games or to reward them for playing poorly.

The deals were apparently stitched together in hotels, such as the Sheraton in Sydney, a restaurant in the city's red light district and a McDonald's in Melbourne.

The sensational new claims have been published in London's The Observer. The newspaper reported that the British investigators now "probing cricket's match-fixing scandal expected to speak with some of the sex workers in Australia next month."

The player making the allegations, Qasim Omar, has provided a list of 23 sex workers for the investigating team, which is led by the former Scotland Yard chief Sir Paul Condon.

Omar, who played 28 Tests for Pakistan in the 1980s alongside such champions as Inran Khan, Wasim Akram and Javed Miandad, has told investigators about the sex for match-fixing set-up and has provided addresses and telephone numbers of all the women.

According to The Observer, Sir Paul and his team will attend the International Cricket Council's quarterly meeting in Melbourne on February 9 and 10 to brief the council on the progress of inquiries into match-fixing.

The investigators also plan to interview Australian Test player Mark Waugh about his deal to provide weather information to an Indian bookmaker which resulted in him being fined by Australia's cricket authorities.

The Observer quoted a spokesman for the investigating squad confirming the existence of Omar's list.

"There are other people we want to speak to, which we will try to do while we are out there... It is an opportunity to speak to as many of these people as possible," the spokesman said.

Sir Paul's investigators also plan to interview Omar, who now lives in Britain, when they return from Australia.

The six-member team of mostly former British detectives has promised an initial report by about July. It has been given three years by the ICC to unearth corruption and outline remedies.

The Observer said Omar had also provided information about a similar sex scandal in New Zealand, again organised by a bookmaker, who had also been named.

According to Omar's allegations, an Australian bookmaker lavished money and gifts on players - both Australian and visiting overseas stars - who did what he asked.

Batsmen were supposedly paid up to 3600 USD for getting out cheaply, and received jewellery, watches, gold pens and bottles of spirits as extra perks.

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The Observer said Omar had named one world-class batsman who was offered 9000 to throw his wicket away in the first four Tests of a five-match series, and a Test skipper who cashed in by advising the bookmaker about the team he intended to field.

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CCDM extends inter-club transfer

The Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) yesterday extended the inter-club transfer of the Premier and First Division leagues by a day.

The three-day transfer was scheduled to start today but will now commence from tomorrow and continue until January 26.

GP U-17 cricket

Rajshahi Tista and Dhaka Rangers won their respective first round matches of the GrumeenPhone under-17 Cricket tournament in Mymensingh yesterday.

Rajshahi Tista registered an exciting two-run win over Metro Blues at the Mymensingh Stadium while Dhaka Rangers handed Khulna Rupsha a huge 124-run defeat at the Circuit House ground.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Rajshahi Tista v Metro Blues: Rajshahi Tista: 139 for 8 in 45 overs (Saju 36, Saif 4/23)

Metro Blues: 137 all out in 43.2 overs (Rakib 29, Tarek 26 n.o., Imran 3/10, Faisal 3/21)

Result: Rajshahi Tista won by two runs

Dhaka Rangers v Khulna Rupsha: Dhaka Rangers: 231 all out in 44.4 overs (Osman 72, Arif 36, Shimul 2/31)

Result: Dhaka Rangers won by 124 runs.

Nat'l TT

Bangladesh Ansar clinched the women's team event title of the 24th National Table Tennis Championship beating Gaiandha DSA by straight 3-0 sets in the final in Rangpur yesterday, reports UNB.

Ansar booked a berth for the final eliminating Jessore by