

## BOA reveals draft list of councillors

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) yesterday revealed the draft list of councillors who will elect the new president of the association on the 20th of this month.

Chief Election Commissioner Gazi Mizanur Rahman disclosed the names of 74 voters who will be eligible to exercise their voting right for the single post.

The hot seat became vacant after former army chief General (retd) Moeen U Ahmed stepped down from the last month.

Out of the councillors, 40 represent 20 leading national sports federations, two come from the Women's Sports Association, and two each from six divisional sports associations -- Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Sylhet and Barisal.

One councillor each comes from Bangladesh Cricket Board, Bangladesh Chess Federation, Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation, Special Olympics, National Sports Council, Ministry of Sports, Bangladesh Ansar, Police, BDR, Army, Navy, and Air Force Sports Control Board.

Bangladesh Army chief General M Abdul Mubeen has been named as the councillor from Army Sports Control Board.

Two councillors come from BOA president's quota -- Anjan Chowdhury Pinto and

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PHOTO: INTERNET

Skipper Ricky Ponting (L) congratulates Michael Clarke after the latter hits his second hundred of the series to help Australia secure a draw in the third Ashes Test at Edgbaston on Monday.

## Clarke ensures draw

### Cricket

AFP, Birmingham

Michael Clarke's unbeaten century guided Australia to a draw against England in the third Ashes Test at Edgbaston here on Monday.

The result kept Australia's defence of the Ashes alive, although it also meant England remained 1-0 up in the five-match series ahead of the fourth Test at Headingley, which starts on Friday.

The Australian vice-captain was 103 not out in a second innings total of 375 for five, a lead of 262, when a draw was agreed in the fifth day's final session without England needing to bat again in this rain-marred match.

England captain Andrew Strauss felt a little flat at not having made it 2-0 in the series.

"Yes, I am pretty disappointed," said Strauss.

"However, the wicket slowed down, literally died, so I can't really fault the bowlers."

"But give credit where it's due both (Marcus North and Clarke) batted really well and got them out of a hole."

"I didn't want to overbowl (Freddie) Flintoff when there isn't much happening. Now it's time for some rest, as back to back tests are tough (Headingley test begins on Friday)."

Australian captain Ricky Ponting claimed that they had not been nervous going into the day's play when they resumed on 88 for two, still 25 runs behind.

"Not really, no. We knew we had a job to do. But we were well prepared for it."

"North and Clarke controlled the situation really well."

"The whole game could have panned out differently if the weather had been better," said Ponting, who broke Allan Border's all-time Australian runs record in the first innings.

Clarke together with North (96) shared a fifth-wicket stand of 185 that made the game safe.

The duo had come together with Australia just 48 runs in front at 161 for four and still in

danger of defeat after Michael Hussey was caught behind for 64 off paceman Stuart Broad before lunch.

North was in sight of his second century of the series when he was brilliantly caught right-handed by a leaping James Anderson in the gully off Broad to end a 159-ball innings featuring 15 fours.

But Clarke, who made 136 in England's 115-run second Test win at Lord's, pressed on to a hundred in 192 balls in nearly five hours with the match ending when he pulled occasional medium-pacer Ravi Bopara for his 14th four to go to three figures.

Clarke did have two lucky breaks in the 90s.

On 92, a ball from Broad flicked the outside of his off-stump without disturbing the bails.

And Clarke was caught by Anderson at slip on 96 off a Bopara no-ball.

He'd previously been dropped on 38 off a difficult chance by England captain Andrew Strauss.

That England had a shot at winning was remarkable given that, in effect, two days' play had been lost to bad weather, including Saturday's wash-out.

But the swing that had been so potent for them earlier in the match proved elusive and, in good batting conditions, England's attack struggled.

Clarke, whose footwork was a feature of his innings, stiffened Australia's resistance with several driven boundaries off Graham Onions.

And with Australia 203 for four, 90 ahead, Strauss turned to inspirational all-rounder Andrew Flintoff, who had already starred here with the bat.

However, there was a worrying moment for England when Flintoff, who has been struggling with a right knee injury, saw his left foot give way underneath him as he fell in his delivery stride.

Fortunately for England, Flintoff -- their bowling star at Lord's -- continued his spell although in this match he did not take a single wicket.

Strauss brought on occasional medium-pacer Bopara and his second ball almost

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## Younus blames domestic setup

CRICINFO, undated

Pakistan captain Younus Khan has rejected claims that 'groupism' within the team has led to below-par performance during the ongoing tour of Sri Lanka. Instead, the poor structure back home is to blame, Younus said.

"The problem with Pakistan cricket is that our domestic structure is flawed," he said.

The visitors lost the three-Test series 0-2 and surrendered the ODI series with a six-wicket defeat -- their third consecutive loss in the five-match series -- yesterday in Dambulla. "The players produced have flawed techniques," Younus said.

"They only manage to overcome it once they start playing for the national team."

Younus said that he faced similar problems as well early in his career. "When I made it into the Pakistan team, my technique was not so good. It took me two years to get it right," he said.

Some experts have blamed the lack of unity in the Pakistan team for its poor showing in Sri Lanka, with some claiming that a few senior players like former captain Shoaib Malik and vice-captain Misbahul Haq had intentionally underperformed to cause Younus' downfall.

Younus, however, rejected such claims and said he had an excellent rapport with all his players, including the seniors. "I'm not a mad man. I don't go out fighting with everyone," he said. "I have a perfectly fine relationship with the players."

## Dido wins out

Players have to 'gain his trust'

### Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The national team management committee has seemingly changed their stance on the eight 'rebel' footballers after having met with Brazilian coach Edson Silva Dido, who is determined to stick to his policy of training the players separately.

"After the discussion with Dido, we have realised that he has a shortage of trust on those players. Though we thought it would be mitigated, the coach thinks those players will have to be tested more. We think there is more time in hand and the players will have to play a key role to gain the trust of the coach and we are waiting for this," NTMC chairman and BFF vice-president Badal Roy said yesterday after emerging from the meeting at Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protishthan (BKSP).

The NTMC committee comprising Roy, former players Sheikh Mohammad Aslam, Sayeed Hasan Kanon and Hasanuzzaman Khan Bablu first talked with the footballers to know the progress of the training as well as the problems they were facing.

Thereafter, the committee spoke with Dido and was seemingly convinced of his decision to train the players in two groups.

Roy said that the incident happened regarding the follow-up of the training and the players would have to achieve the coach's faith again.

On July 23, as many as eight players walked out of Dido's training citing 'unbearable' cir-

cumstances that forced the NTMC to suspend the camp till July 27. The BFF president, returning from Bangkok, interfered to solve the impasse and declared the camp resumed on July 28.

Recalling the meeting with the BFF president, Dido said that Kazi Salahuddin told him that he would be able to do what he thinks about training and the players would have to gain his trust again.

Replies to a query, the Brazilian said, "When I think it is suitable they will rejoin the team and till then they will remain separate."

"The camp is not stopping now or even one or two weeks later and they are getting the B. League ahead and when they will change their behaviour to be good for their teammates, they will come under consideration," he said.

Asked whether he might face another impasse in the training as some of players except those eight were not taking this separation cordially, Dido said, "I have seen them enjoying the training and none of them is yet to say such a thing and I don't think it will happen."

Interestingly, so complete has Dido been in his segregation that he removed Wali Faisal, who was roommates with captain Aminul into another room and has been housing the rebels separately from the rest of the squad.

The eight players, however, have been following the same schedule provided by Dido with assistant coach Shafiqul Islam Manik conducting the training at a separate venue.

The eight players, however, looked gloomy and said that they were waiting for a decision from the NTMC.

## Sidebottom recalled

### Cricket

AFP, Leeds

England's selectors added left-arm quick Ryan Sidebottom and uncapped batsman Jonathan Trott to the 14-man squad they announced Tuesday for the fourth Test against Australia here at Headingley.

England are 1-0 up in the Ashes with two Tests to play.

If Trott does make his debut at Headingley, his inclusion could see England playing six batsmen as they bid for a victory that would see them regain the Ashes after they were thrashed 5-0 in Australia in 2006/07.

Meanwhile in-form fast bowler Stephen Harmison, who was in the squad for that match but didn't play, also kept his place despite bowling with blistered feet for county champions Durham.

"We will need to carefully assess the pitch and the overhead conditions at Headingley before finalising our eleven for

this Test and the inclusion of Stephen Harmison and Ryan Sidebottom will give us different types of pace bowling options," said England national selector Geoff Miller.

"Both players have been in good form for their counties in recent weeks and as selectors we are delighted that competition for places in the side is so strong."

There are just three days between the end of Monday's match at Edgbaston and Friday's start at Headingley.

Flintoff topscored with 74 at Edgbaston but looked at times to be struggling with his knee injury.

Having bowled England to victory in the second Test at Lord's, he went wicketless at Edgbaston and in both matches he needed injections before he could take the field in what Flintoff has said will be his final Test series.

"We will continue to closely monitor Andrew Flintoff's fitness in the build-up to Headingley," said former England off-spinner Miller.

"His right knee will be reassessed by our medical staff over the next forty-eight hours and no final decision on his availability will be taken until closer to the start of the Test match."

Sidebottom -- included in a Test squad for the first time this season -- knows Headingley well, having started his career there with Yorkshire while Harmison, although erratic at international level, remains England's quickest bowler.

Former England captain Nasser Hussain has been among those questioning the current side's ability to take 20

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## Indian soccer seeks BCCI support

AFP, New Delhi

India's cricket chiefs have received a request from the country's cash-starved football body to fund the national team, a newspaper reported on Tuesday.

The affluent Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) could shell out a two-million-dollar grant to prepare the national football team for the 2011 Asian Cup finals in Qatar, the Kolkata-based Telegraph said.

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) wants the money to fund its "Goal 2011" project where top 25 players will be taken away from club duties for nine months to build the national team for the tournament.

Under the project, the AIFF will pay players the fees they earn from their respective clubs for the time they remain in the national camp, the newspaper said.

"Since the football federation requires a huge amount of money to make this project a success, the BCCI may help it at the request of the AIFF acting president Praful Patel," the paper

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## Phelps all smiles

### Swimming

AFP, Rome

Olympic great Michael Phelps found all the motivation he needed to launch out on the long road to the 2012 Games at the swimming World Championships.

A defeat, and a dazzling victory over Milorad Cavic in the 100m butterfly will give Phelps plenty to focus on as he plots his next Olympic exploits.

He became the first man to break the 50-second barrier with a time of 49.82, reaffirming his superiority over the Serb after beating him by just one-hundredth of a second at the Beijing Games.

"The coolest thing is being able to have races like this, because it brings the best out of everyone," Phelps said of the tension-filled rematch.

"That's what sport is about; you have to go to the next level when racing these kind of people."

Phelps also won gold in the 200m butterfly, finally posting a world record that lived up to his lofty expectations in the event. Three relay golds took his total to five to balance his defeat by German Paul Biedermann in the 200m free.

Phelps's personal uncertainties all played out against the backdrop of a costume controversy splitting the sport.

The debate over the super-fast polyurethane swimsuits gained a new intensity when Biedermann seized Phelps's 200m free world record while wearing one of the speedy models -- which are headed to the scrapheap next year.

Biedermann ended Phelps's run of 10 straight individual victories in world and Olympic competition -- a record stretching back to 2005 and including five individual golds at the 2007 World Championships and five in Beijing.

His last major defeat had been at the hands of compatriot Ian Crocker in the 100m butterfly final at the 2005 worlds.

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BERLINO, the mascot of the 2009 IAAF Athletics World Championships, shows the competition's gold, silver and bronze medals at Berlin's Olympic Stadium yesterday. The championships will take place at Berlin from August 15 to 23.