

Nepotism at work?

Non-sports councillors in sports association

SPORTS REPORTER

In a bid to influencing the election of the Sylhet Divisional Sports Association, seven persons have allegedly been awarded councillorship violating article 14 of the divisional sports association's constitution.

The election of Sylhet DSA is scheduled to be held on February 12 with the participation of 45 councillors, of which seven are chosen by the National Sports Council (NSC) chairman and sports minister Ahad Ali Sarker who allegedly misused his power in selecting non-sports persons.

According to the article 14, the NSC chairman will choose seven persons as councillors who are sportsmen, organisers and national sports awardees but the NSC chairman allegedly did not follow the criteria in selecting the seven.

"Those who were selected by the NSC have no involvement with sports. Besides, the selection of current players also clash with the constitution," alleged Sylhet DSA

general secretary Imran Chowdhury yesterday adding that it was sad to select three councillors from a single family.

The selected persons are Shafiul Alam Chowdhury Nadel, organising secretary of Sylhet Metropolis Awami League, Samsher Rasel, son of MP Jebunnessa Haq, Imran Ahmed, nephew of Sylhet Awami League's vice president Ashfaq Ahmed, Monoj Roy, a banker and former local footballer, Mostafa Faridul Hossain Koreshi, a current cricketer, Jumma Abbas Raju, a current cricketer and Ashique Rahman Chowdhury Shipu, nephew of MP Shafiqur Rahman Chowdhury.

Chowdhury also alleged that the election commissioner accepted the names submitted by NSC and Sylhet Divisional Women's Sports Association much later than the scheduled date of submission.

It has been learnt that everything is being hatched in a bid to elect Shafiul Alam Chowdhury Nadel as general secretary of the 19-member committee.

BPL umps sans Nadir

SPORTS REPORTER

The list of umpires appointed for the Bangladesh Premier League T20 was announced on Tuesday though it has a major name missing.

Nadir Shah, the most experience umpire in the country, has not been included in the local panel which includes Enamul Hoque Moni, Sharfuddouh Ibne Shahid, Anisur Rahman, Masudur Rahman, Gazi Sohel, Tanvir Ahmed and Mahfuzur Rahman.

Nadir, a former cricketer, has stood in 40 ODIs and three T20 internationals as part of the ICC International Panel and has been umpiring for close to three decades in the local scene.

When asked, BPL governing council chairman Gazi Ashraf Hossain said that he could be included at any moment. "The BCB's umpires committee is going to take action against him regarding another matter, but we can always bring him into this tournament if we want," he informed.

English umpire Jeremy Lloyd and David Orchard of South Africa are the foreigners in the BPL panel while former national captain Raquibul Hassan and former South Africa all-rounder Mike Procter are the match referees.

U-18 CRICKET

Solid start for Dhaka

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Division South rode on two half centuries from Rony Paysal and Mohammad Asif to score 261 runs in their first innings against Barisal Division on the first day of the Young Tigers U18 National Cricket Competition at the Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessore yesterday.

Rony hit 72 off 148 balls with ten boundaries while Asif made a 91-ball 59 that contained eleven boundaries. Mahade Hasan was the other notable scorer with 39 runs.

Al-Imran Khan was the most successful bowler with four for 56 runs in 19.1 overs while Moimul Islam took three wickets for 38 runs in 15 overs.

In reply, Barisal Division scored 8 runs in 4 overs without any damage before stumps were drawn for the day.

NSC turns eye to elections

SPORTS REPORTER

The National Sports Council (NSC) is turning its attention to elections at different sports federations as the sports regulatory body yesterday instructed three ad-hoc committees to prepare the councillors' list and send them to the NSC immediately.

The federations that have been instructed are Wrestling Federation, Cycling Federation and Bangladesh Self Defence Association.

The NSC had earlier sent same instructions to Bangladesh Chess Federation, Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation, Bangladesh Taekwondo Federation, Bangladesh Rowing Federation and Bangladesh Badminton Federation, all of which have ad-hoc committees in place.

Of 42 national sports federations and associations, only nine federations, namely -- cricket, football, shooting, weightlifting, boxing, basketball, volleyball swimming and athletics -- are being run by elected committees while the others are being run by the ad-hoc committees formed by the NSC.

There has been no election held in any of the federations during the Awami League-led government in the last three years, although the same party introduced election culture in the sports in 1996.

Kohli drives India

Cricket

AFP, Perth

Youngster Virat Kohli steered India to a four-wicket victory over Sri Lanka in their tri-series one-day international in Perth Wednesday, but appeared to suffer a hamstring injury in the process.

Although Sachin Tendulkar again failed in his quest to score his long-awaited 100th international century, Kohli's impressive 77 ensured the Indians notched a comfortable win.

Sri Lanka made 233-8 after winning the toss and electing to bat, but India replied with 234-6, reaching the victory target with 20 balls to spare.

It was the first time the sides had met in a one-day international since last year's World Cup final, which India again won, that time by six wickets.

The Sri Lankan total never looked quite enough on a perfect Perth batting wicket and in front of a small crowd of 6,685 dominated by Indian fans.

They were desperate to see Tendulkar, the "Little Master", reach his long-awaited milestone and he appeared to be cruising towards his half-century.

But on 48 he dragged an Angelo Mathews delivery onto his stumps to make it 27 Test and one-day innings since his last century, last March at the World Cup.

Kohli, the only Indian centurion during the tourists' dismal 4-0 Test series loss to Australia, again upstaged his more celebrated team-mates, until he ran himself out and seemed to suffer a hamstring strain



PHOTO: INTERNET

India batsman Virat Kohli punches one into the off side during their match against Sri Lanka in the Tri Nations ODI Cricket Series at the WACA in Perth yesterday.

in doing so.

The 23-year-old was run out by a direct hit from Lasith Malinga at mid-on.

He had appeared to be suffering cramp late in his innings and had to be helped up from the ground after a despairing dive.

He faced 94 balls, hitting eight boundaries and one six.

India looked shaky at 181-6 when Kohli departed, but man-of-the-match Ravi Ashwin (30 not out) and Ravindra Jadeja (24 not out) guided them home.

Dinesh Chandimal's polished knock of 64 from 81 balls was the mainstay of the Sri Lankan innings and at least helped them post a competitive total.

Several of the Sri Lankan batsmen squandered promising starts, including opener Tillakaratne Dilshan (48) and veteran Kumar Sangakkara (26), but the 22-year-old Chandimal was the only one to reach 50.

However, he fell just as the Sri Lankans were trying to boost their run rate late in the innings, beaten in flight by the spin of Ashwin and comprehensively stumped by M.S. Dhoni in the 44th over.

Dhoni and Ashwin combined twice for stumpings, also removing Thisara Perera.

Ashwin, dropped from the Indian side for the third Test at the same venue last

month, was the pick of the Indian bowlers with 3-32 from his 10 overs, while recalled paceman Zaheer Khan picked up 2-44 from 10 overs.

The loss continued a dismal record for Sri Lanka at the WACA, with just two one-day international wins in 16 matches.

The next match sees them face Australia at the same venue on Friday.

SCOREBOARD				
SRI LANKA				
Tharanga c Tendulkar b Zaheer	4			
Dilshan c Kohli b Jadeja	48			
Sangakkara c Dhoni b Zaheer	26			
Chandimal st Dhoni b Ashwin	64			
Jayawardene c Sharma b Ashwin	23			
Perera st Dhoni b Ashwin	7			
Mathews not out	33			
Thirimanne run out	7			
Kulasekara c Sharma b Vinay	7			
Malinga not out	1			
Extras: (lb-6, w-7)	13			
Total: (For eight wickets in 50 overs)	233			
Did not bat: Prasad				
Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-74, 3-100, 4-152, 5-172, 6-189, 7-204, 8-228				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Zaheer	10	1	44	2
Kumar	10	0	54	0
Vinay	10	1	56	1
Jadeja	10	0	41	1
Ashwin	10	1	32	3
INDIA				
Selwaag c Kulasekara b Malinga	10			
Tendulkar b Mathews	48			
Kohli run out	77			
Sharma c Dilshan b Perera	10			
Raina c sub (Senanayake) b Mathews	24			
Dhoni c Malinga b Prasad	4			
Jadeja not out	24			
Ashwin not out	30			
Extras: (lb-5, w-2)	7			
Total: (For six wickets in 46.4 overs)	234			
Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-89, 3-122, 4-157, 5-167, 6-181, 7-204, 8-228				
Did not bat: Vinay, P Kumar, Zaheer				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Malinga	9	0	49	1
Kulasekara	8	0	38	0
Prasad	10	0	47	1
Mathews	9.4	1	31	2
Perera	5	0	37	1
Dilshan	5	0	27	0
Result: India won by four wickets.				
Man-of-the-match: Ravi Ashwin.				

LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Hockey Federation called up 57 players for the initial camp for the AHF Cup Hockey Championship which will begin in Bangkok on April 6. The players called up for the camp have been asked to report to coach Mahbub Harun and Zahid Hasan Russel on February 11 at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium. A trial will take place from February 12 to 14 at the stadium.

Championship League football

Wari Club and Chittagong Abahani played out a goalless draw in their Premier Bank Bangladesh Championship League match at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday. There are no matches in the league today.

Shamsunnahar Hall annual sports

The annual sports competition of Shamsunnahar Hall of Dhaka University was held at the central playground yesterday. Nasrin Islam, a Masters student of the Dramatics department was became champion while Tanzil Tamanna, a student of English Honours, finished runner-up, said a press release from the public relations office of the university yesterday.

The vice-chancellor of the university Dr. AAMS Arefin Siddique inaugurated the event as chief guest and treasurer Dr.

Mizanur Rahman distributed prizes after the event.

Metropolis School Hockey

Fatullah Pilot High School and Shuvadda High School won their respective matches of the Shah Sports 2nd Metropolis School Hockey Competition yesterday. Fatullah thrashed Rayer Bazar School 15-0, thanks to five goals from Sabuz Hossain and a treble by Mohammad Hridoy. In the other match, Shuvadda won 3-2 against Koshaituli Muslim Academy.

2nd Division Football League

Bangladesh Police AC were held to a 0-0 draw by Bashabo Tarun Sangha in the Destiny Group Dhaka Metropolis 2nd Division Football League match at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

1st Division Women's Handball League

Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club, RN Sports Home and Mohammedan SC won their respective matches of the Cute 1st Division Women's Handball League matches at the Handball Stadium yesterday. Mariner Youngs thrashed Madaripur Handball Training Centre by 27-2 goals while Mohammedan outplayed Flame Girls Club by 30-3 goals. In the other match, RN Sports Home edged Azad Sporting Club by 21-20 goals after the first half was locked 11-11.

BCB & clubs

FROM PAGE 16

"President (Mustafa Kamal) had a very fruitful meeting with the club officials and after that the board has decided to give the clubs some grants from the earnings," informed BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus.

The six Super League teams will get Tk 35 lakhs while the rest of the teams will receive Tk 25 lakhs. The clubs however didn't bargain with their other demand -- the twenty-five percent share of the players' earnings.

"We had a very nice meeting with the clubs. What we assured them was that in the future we will involve them in any such activities of the board. We always respect the contribution of the clubs and I think there was some misunderstanding. Regarding player's injury we assured them that the board will look after everything if any player got injured in the BPL," explained Gazi Ashraf Hossain, chairman of the BPL governing council.

Deano's focus

FROM PAGE 16

scheduled these days. "In 2015 is the next World Cup so teams will play more 50-over cricket after 2013. They have to get the itineraries right. I just think that two T20 matches between India and Australia was just ridiculous. Get straight into 50-over cricket or don't play at all," he opined.

Kings coach Khaled Mahmud was delighted to have the likes of Jones and batting great Michael Bevan in the setup.

"I am really happy to be working with them. I see it as an opportunity for me, I can learn a lot of things but more importantly, the players can pick up gems from these greats," he said.

Vics 2nd in 1st round

FROM PAGE 16

seven boundaries while Shakib played 48 balls to make 53 with four boundaries.

After that Al-Amin and Muktar Ali ripped through the CCS innings to skittle them out for 150 runs. Al-Amin claimed two for 44 while Muktar captured four wickets conceding 20 runs.

Suleman Khan continued his impressive form with the willow during a 62-ball 55 that contained six boundaries and two sixes but his effort was not good enough to salvage to stave off the massive defeat.

KALABAGAN-BROTHERS

Number ten batsman Abdur Razzak's 37-ball 31 helped Brothers cross the hundred-run mark in the crucial match but it was not enough to avoid the relegation battle against Biman.

Sohag Gazi picked up three wickets while Jayasuriya and Rockybul took one wicket each.

In reply, Kalabagan rode on a 58-run second wicket stand between Nasiruddin Faruque (31 not out) and Rifat Ullah (37), who made a hundred in the previous game to upset Victoria, to reach the target with eleven overs to spare.

SCORES IN BRIEF

VICTORIA: 216 all out in 48.1 overs (Tamim 50, Kamran 27, Shakib 53, Mosharrar 24; Rashid 2-33, Imamul 2-52, Forkan 2-24)

CCS: 150 all out in 38.2 overs (Shahbaz 25, Suleman 55; Al-Amin 2-44, Muktar 4-20)

Result: Victoria won by 66 runs.

BROTHERS: 119 all out in 32.5 overs (Nazimuddin 23, Razzak 31; Jayasuriya 2-24, Rockybul 2-6, Sohag 3-33)

KALABAGAN: 123-4 in 39 overs (Nasiruddin 31 not out, Rifat 37; Saker 2-24)

Result: Kalabagan won by six wickets.

Jamal bounce back

FROM PAGE 16

ruled out due to off-side.

"Referees made us lose the match as the goal that was cancelled was definitely not off-side," claimed Farashganj SC coach Kamal Babu.

Farashganj could have taken a lead in the 22nd minute but Jahirul Islam's low drive off a Moloy Borman corner went inches wide of the post before Atiqur Rahman Meshu eased the pressure off Sheikh Jamal to give them in the 32nd minute.

Nigerian winger Femi Orunnmi put a through-pass for Kester but his compatriot failed to connect before Meshu rushed in to tap home from a hand-shaking distance.

Farashganj thought they found an equaliser in the 74th minute through Siyo Zunapio but the goal did not stand as assistant referee Mahbubur Rahman raised flag for off-side.

Sheikh Jamal snatched the second goal from a counter attack when Kester availed a long-ball from substitute Towhidul Alam to enter into the box and place it to the left-side of advancing goalkeeper Sultan Ahmed Shakil.

Yuvi vows to be back stronger

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

India's cancer-stricken World Cup hero Yuvraj Singh has vowed to return "stronger than ever" to competitive cricket, saying he was responding well to treatment in the United States.

The ace all-rounder, named man-of-the-tournament after India's World Cup win in April last year, is currently undergoing chemotherapy for a rare condition, mediastinal seminoma, a malignant tumour located between his lungs.

"I have immense faith in the doctors here and by the grace of God I shall be back to my best soon," Yuvraj said from his hospital in Boston in remarks published in the Times of India newspaper on Wednesday.

"I am on medication and doctors have time and again told me that I am responding well and that I would be back playing cricket. I am a fighter and I

will return stronger than ever."

A senior Delhi-based oncologist who has been treating the 30-year-old Yuvraj, Nitesh Rohatgi also said Monday the cricketer would be able to start active training by May.

"Initially, I was angry and confused. I was even repentant and kept thinking I could have done some things in life differently," said Yuvraj, an aggressive left-handed batsman and effective spinner.

"However, I have a counsellor here who has helped me get over the initial shock of learning that I am suffering from cancer. I have come to terms with it now."

Yuvraj said he drew inspiration from American cyclist Lance Armstrong, who overcame testicular cancer to win numerous Tour de France titles.

"I am currently reading Lance Armstrong's book 'It's Not About The Bike'. I'm sure the book will motivate me and pull me through this difficult time," he said.

Yuvraj had a dream run in the World Cup, scoring 362 runs and grabbing 15 wickets in nine matches. He has not played competitive cricket since taking part in two of three home Tests against the West Indies in November.

Thousands of well-wishers, including teammates, officials and politicians, sent messages of support.

"It is the love of family, friends and fans that has kept me going," said Yuvraj, who has scored 8,051 runs in 274 one-dayers and 1,775 runs in 37 Tests since making his international debut in 2000.

"Till a couple of days ago, I was responding to posts and tweets on my accounts on social networking sites, but the sheer volume of comments praying for my well-being would require people to be hired to ensure everyone is responded to."

Yuvraj also appealed for an end to media speculation about his illness.

"I have asked my mother and friends not to speak to the media, as things may get sensationalised," he said.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS					DOWN				
1	Houston	45	Move up and down	3	Pouches	4	Scent	23	Lawyer (Abbr.)
5	Sternward	47	Busy	5	Rewrote the Constitution	24	Playwright Levin	25	Source of help
8	Streetcar	51	Gumbo need	6	Supportive of	27	Bathroom fixture	29	Id counter-part
12	Winged	52	Flinched	7	Mon-keyed (with)	30	Morsel for Dobbin	32	Abducts
13	— goo gai pan	54	Nasty stinger	8	Quaint restaurant	31	Actually	33	Leath-
14	Like a moray	55	Cistern	9	Flute's cousin	32	Morsel for Dobbin	34	Actually
15	End of an illness	56	Journalist Lisa	10	Sax range	35	Leath-	36	Leath-
17	Performances	57	Caustic chemicals	11	1990s video game	37	Leath-	38	Leath-
18	Sycophants	58	Acapulco gold	12	Bride's cover	39	Mexican entree	39	Mexican entree
19	Implant	59	London gallery	13	Neither partner	40	Electronic control system, briefly	40	Electronic control system, briefly
21	Help	60	Sheltered	14	Neither partner	41	At an angle	41	At an angle
22	Entrance	61	Sheltered	15	Neither partner	42	Cheek by —	42	Cheek by —
23	Melody	62	Sheltered	16	Neither partner	43	Fine	43	Fine
26	Allow	63	Sheltered	17	Neither partner	44	Hip bones	44	Hip bones
28	Wild West show	64	Sheltered	18	Neither partner	45	Outlet	45	Outlet
31	"Star —"	65	Sheltered	19	Neither partner	46	Advantage	46	Advantage
33	Flop	66	Sheltered	20	Neither partner	47	Listener	47	Listener
35	Ginormous	67	Sheltered	21	Neither partner	48	Listener	48	Listener
36	Unspoken	68	Sheltered	22	Neither partner	49	Listener	49	Listener
38	Wager	69	Sheltered	23	Neither partner	50	Listener	50	Listener
40	Decay	70	Sheltered	24	Neither partner	51	Listener	51	Listener
41	Rhyming tributes	71	Sheltered	25	Neither partner	52	Listener	52	Listener
43	Airport overseer (Abbr.)	72	Sheltered	26	Neither partner	53	Listener	53	Listener

Solution time: 21 mins.

L	A	M	E	P	L	Y	W	A	L	K
E	V	I	L	L	I	E	I	R	O	N
W	I	L	L	I	A	M	S	L	E	G
D	D	T	D	I	E	B	L	A	S	T
W	E	T	P	O	I					
E	L	V	I	S	O	U	O	N	D	A
M	O	I	L	K	E	G	A	Z	A	M
S	T	A	L	K	E	D	E	L	B	O
P	A	Y	H	A	Y					
A	A	R	O	N	N	O	R	S	H	E
B	L	O	W	W	L	L	I	W	A	W
E	A	S	E	A	C	E	F	I	R	E
T	E	A	R	S	K	Y	A	M	P	S

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18						19	20			
			21			22				
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31			32		33		34		35	
36				37		38	39		40	
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45	46					47		48	49	50
51				52	53					
54				55			56			
57				58			59			

CRYPTOQUIP

Q V J X P Z C J D S G V Z N W K
G B P P B Q W B I Z N B S Q Z I S U G B P W I K
V Z E Z W W Z I C Z I G J, W ' C D Z X
W Q E Z D Z V S Y Z V B B U Y Z.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE BABY SHEEP CAME UP WITH SOME PECULIAR SUGGESTIONS THAT WERE REALLY LAMB-BRAINED IDEAS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals I