

## Forum cries foul

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh District and Divisional Sports Organisers Council, known as Forum within the country's sports fraternity, on Friday brought specific allegations with regard to the nomination of councillors for the Bangladesh Cricket Board's elections (BCB).

The members of the organisation expressed their surprise at the National Sports Council's (NSC's) decision to host the elections on September 10, which is just 13 days after the announcement of the schedule which was declared on Thursday.

"Never have the elections taken place in such a short period of time in any sporting federation in Bangladesh's history. Earlier, at least 21 days were given before the elections took place. During the previous BCB elections in 1998, 2000 and 2004, 28 days were given," Forum's members stated at a press conference at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

"As per the election schedule the draft voter list was published today, on a holiday. The objection and hearing on the list is scheduled to take place on September 29 and that's just one day. This is unprecedented and has never happened in Bangladesh's sports election history. Earlier they used to provide at least three days for the purpose," added Forum's secretary general Ashiqur Rahman Miku.

Further explaining the problem he said, "If a councillor from outside Dhaka, for instance Rangpur, is objected against how can the hearing take place in just one day? The Supreme Court ruled in favour of holding the elections quickly, but that does not mean that it should be faulty."

Forum stated that they will officially com-

municate their objections to the election commission regarding the alleged irregularities in the nomination of the councillors.

In case they do not get a response, they will decide their next course of action on Sunday.

They made 13 allegations regarding the nomination of councillors in the districts and divisions (DSA) and alleged the presence of government influence in the process, for which they blamed BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon.

Giving an example of some of the irregularities, they stated that the Narail DSA nominated its general secretary Ashiqur Rahman Miku as councillor unanimously, but the Acting District Commissioner nominated a certain Ashikuzzaman Pintu. Miku allegedly did not receive BCB's prescribed form for nominating councillors. Similar actions allegedly took place at Jamalpur, Munshiganj, Mankganj, Sunamganj, Cox's Bazar and Sylhet districts sports associations.

It was also alleged that the trend was followed in Sylhet, Khulna, Barisal, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Chittagong Divisions.

"Akram Khan (councillor from Chittagong division), Manzur Kader (councillor from Munshiganj), Naimur Rahman (councillor from Manikganj) received their nominations despite not being members of those sporting organisations," said Miku.

It was also alleged that the councillorship form did not even reach Meherpur. Forum alleged that the BCB had not sent their form to the district since they did not find a favourable candidate.

The manner in which the letter was distributed through BCB's ad-hoc committee and certain influential persons was also questioned by Forum.



PHOTO: STAR

Nayan Ali of Lalonshah Swimming Club of Kushtia on way to winning 100m freestyle gold with a national record on the opening day of the Bashundhara National Age Group Swimming Championships at the Syed Nazrul Islam National Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday.

## Nayan sets national record

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Nayan Ali produced a national record on the opening day of the Bashundhara

National Age Group Swimming Championships at the Syed Nazrul Islam National Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday.

Nayan from Lalon Shah Swimming Club of Kushtia set the record in 100m freestyle in the 11-12 Age Group category after clocking 1:05.61 minutes to erase their previous record of 1:06.07 minutes.

The tall swimmer has been participating in the national age-level competitions for the last three years, but this is the first time he won the gold medal after producing a national record.

"It is the first gold medal for me and I

am really pleased to win," said Nayan, who dreams of becoming a top swimmer of the country. Nayan also won a gold medal in the 100m butterfly.

Nayan is participating for Lalon Shah Swimming Club but he is originally from Bogra which is also lending swimmers like Marium Khatun, Rasheda Khatun to other districts. Marium is participating for Kushtia's Sagorkhali Swimming Club and won gold medal in the 400m freestyle and bronze medal in 100m freestyle in the 15-17 age group while Rasheda Khatun bagged gold medal in the 200m individual medley in the 10-year age group for Meherpur Swimming Club.

Coach Masud has been the inspiration for these swimmers who trains them round the year at a pond at Shatmata of Bogra Town. Masud informed that he had to pay the parents of these swimmers

to bring them to Dhaka.

Apart from Nayan, Ariful Islam of BKSP set the pool on fire after winning three gold medals in 100m breaststroke, 200 freestyle and 200 butterfly in the 18-20 age group category while another BSKP student Titu Mia won three gold medals in 100 freestyle, 200m individual medley and 400m freestyle in the same age group.

BKSP dominated the first day's tally with 14 gold, 12 silver and seven bronze medals while Bangladesh Ansar bagged three gold, five silver and three bronze medals. Lalon Shah Swimming Club is in third position with two gold medals while Sagorkhali Swimming Club, Purbachal Swimming Club, Kushtia district sports association, Meherpur Swimming Club and Commilla DSA won one gold each.

## Sagor holds lead

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International Master Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagor maintained his solo lead in the Berger Paints 39th National Chess Championship at the close of the sixth round at the Media Centre of Bangladesh Olympic Association yesterday.

Sagor beat Jamal Uddin to secure 5.5 points from six matches while Grand Master Ziaur Rahman was in second position with five points after beating GM Niaz Murshed in the sixth round.

GM Abdullah Al Rakib was in third position with 4.5 points. Rakib drew against FM Nasir Ahmed.

## Chance to surge ahead

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The fifth round of the Dhaka Premier League will get underway with five teams locked at six points each at the top of the table,

three of whom -- Gazi Tank Cricketers, Prime Doleshwar, Mohammedan Sporting -- will be in action today. Fifth-placed Gazi Tank will take on third-placed Prime Doleshwar Sporting at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium at Mirpur in what is expected to be an exciting encounter. Mohammedan Sporting Club, who are currently fourth, will take on Prime Bank Cricket Club at the BKSP.

Also in the bout are reigning champions Victoria Sporting Club, who are currently poised at number six, and will take on Cricket Coaching School -- who are yet to win a match -- at Fatullah.

A Scot Styris century rescued Gazi Tank in their last match and they'll be hoping for a similar performance from him as their captain Mahmudullah Riyad is still uncertain for the encounter. The ex-Kiwi along with Rubel Hossain, who has picked up 15 wickets in the competition, have been the team's stand-out performers so far.

As far as Prime Doleshwar is concerned, they have been riding on their Sri Lankan recruit and the league's top run-scorer Roshane Shiwanka Silva, and Mominul

Haque, both of whom have scored more than 200 runs in the competition and have been involved in a number of influential partnerships.

Mohammedan will try to recover from their shocking defeat against Sheikh Jamal where they were bundled out for just 67 runs. They will be boosted by the return of Tillakaratne Dilshan, who is expected to play today, while captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza has a 50-50 chance of playing. His legs had swollen following the clash against Abahani and he was rested in the previous game. According to team management, the decision regarding his participation will be taken in the morning. With the trio of Lahiru Thirimanne, Brendan Taylor and Jeevan Mendis, Prime Bank have one of the better foreign selections in the league. The only problem though is that they have not fired as a team so far. A win for them today would take them to the top half of the table.

In the day's other game, Victoria will be expected to breeze past CCS. The problem for Victoria though is that they have depended too much on their captain Nasir Hossain. He is their highest-run-scorer and the second highest wicket-taker so far. The other players need to catch up. CCS were denied their first victory of the competition in their previous game, when Rokibul Hassan rescued Gazi Tank with a half-century. They will need to forget that match and try to make a move upwards from the bottom of the table.

## Accused players want fresh probe

SPORTS REPORTER



Four national hockey players demanded a 'neutral' probe committee in place of the existing one which is supposed to submit its report to the executive committee of Bangladesh Hockey Federation today.

National team's star forward Rasel Mahmud Jimmy, goalkeeper Zahid Hossain, midfielder Quamruzzaman Rana and defender Imran Hasan Pintoo demanded it through a press conference after a couple of newspapers revealed that the probe committee have found those players, along with a coach, guilty of carrying liquor during the tournament and performing poorly against Oman to keep good relations with the Omani officials.

"There was a whisper before our departure to Malaysia for the Asia Cup, that some senior players might be axed from the national team if they failed to perform well and it looks like the whisper is going to be true," said Jimmy, demanding a neutral probe committee to find out the facts behind the failure of the national team in AHF Asia Cup.

"We are facing problems in our family life after things, which are not technical at all, are being discussed after the newspaper reports came out," said Jimmy, adding that they are ready to accept any punishment if they are found guilty under a new probe committee.

Jimmy also apprehended that they might be victimised for their involvement in the movement regarding players' transfers before the Asia Cup while the players from Bangladesh Navy, BKSP and Usha Krira Chakra have been left out due to their officials' involvement with the federation and within the probe committee.

## Siddikur in World Cup

ASIAN TOUR.COM



Siddikur Rahman has been confirmed as the first Bangladeshi golfer to participate in the ISPS HANDA World Cup of Golf which will be held at the Royal Melbourne Golf Club from November 21-24, 2013. Siddikur will be one of 13 golfers from Asia to participate in the 8-million-dollar event.

Siddikur, who carded a second successive even-par 71 at the Asia-Pacific Panasonic Open yesterday, said he was happy with his form and excited to be part of the World Cup.

"I'm very excited to represent Bangladesh in the World Cup. This will be the first time that Bangladesh will feature in the World Cup and it'll be an historic moment. I've played in the qualifiers before but have never made it into the event proper, so this is just great," said the 29-year-old Siddikur.

"It will have a great impact for my country. Golf is getting more popular and people do recognise me along the streets back home and I feel proud to be the flagbearer for golf in my country. There's no shortcut to success. Hard work and more practice will only make me a better player and that is what I strive to do every day.

"I've definitely developed a lot since I started playing on the Asian Tour. My first



win in Brunei was something that I'll never forget and I always try my best to get that second win on the Asian Tour. Hopefully it'll not be long before I get my hands on another title again," added the Bangladeshi, who is currently 17th on the Asian Tour Order of Merit following four top-10s.

Meanwhile, Siddikur traded five birdies against five bogeys on the second day of the Asia-Pacific Panasonic Open yesterday and was left feeling disappointed that he did not take advantage of the ideal scoring conditions at the Ibaraki Country Club.

"To be honest, it was an easy day but I didn't take advantage of it. It was a long day for me and it was a real rollercoaster ride because I shot five birdies, five bogeys and eight pars!" said Siddikur to Asiantour.com after the day's play.

## Sibley youngest since Grace

AFP, London



Teenage batsman Dominic Sibley hit 220 not out against Yorkshire on Thursday to become the youngest player to score a double century in the history of England's County Championship.

His feat, at the age of 18 years and 21 days, also made him the second youngest player to score 200 runs in a first-class game in England, behind only the legendary WG Grace, who achieved the feat aged 18 years and 12 days.

The right-handed batsman batted for nine and a half hours at The Oval, facing 512 balls and recording 21 fours and two sixes. He was making only his third four-day appearance for Surrey.

He enjoyed a partnership of 236 with Hashim Amla, before the South Africa star was dismissed for 151.

Surrey, who have already been relegated from the First Division, ended the third day of the contest on 572-4 in response to Yorkshire's first-innings total of 434.

Sibley, given permission by his school to miss four days of A-level study to play in the game, admitted his record-breaking day was a dream come true, especially since he was batting with his hero Amla.

"I didn't have many chances to score this morning because Yorkshire bowled really tight," Sibley told BBC London 94.9.

"I was so relieved to finally get my hundred but, when I went to 200, it was just unbelievable.

"Speaking with my mum this morning I told her how desperate I was to bat with Hashim Amla before he left Surrey.

"Today I could not have wished for a better partner because with him there I could just play my own game."



PHOTO: INTERNET

Dominic Sibley of Surrey celebrates his double century against Yorkshire on the third day of the County Championship at The Oval on Thursday.

## Mumbai brush aside Lions

STAR SPORT DESK

Mumbai Indians rode on stellar performances from Harbhajan Singh with the ball and Dwayne Smith with the bat to beat Lions by seven wickets in their Champions League T20 Group A match in Jaipur yesterday.

Harbhajan strangled the batsmen in his economical spell as the Lions, after being put in to bat, could manage only 140 in 20 overs. Smith then hit an unbeaten 47-ball 63 with four boundaries and three sixes to wrap up the match with nine balls to spare. The win keeps Mumbai's hopes alive while the Lions are virtually eliminated.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**

**LIONS:** 140 for 5 (Petersen 35 not out, Pretorius 31 not out; Ojha 2-26, Harbhajan 1-19). **MUMBAI INDIANS:** 141 for 3 in 18.3 overs (Smith 63 not out, Pollard 31 not out, Sharma 20; Tanvir 1-15). **Result:** Mumbai Indians won by 7 wickets.

## DS battle thru' to quarterfinal

SPORTS REPORTER



In a tense group match, The Daily Star's Rafiul Islam turned in a match-winning performance once again to take the English daily through to the quarterfinals of the Pran-Frooto BSA Media Cup cricket with an eight-run win over ATN News at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Rafiul, who was also the man-of-the-match in their first group match against Naya Diganta, scored 32 (retired) with the help of three fours and as many sixes as The Daily Star piled on 99 for one in six overs after winning the toss. There was plenty of class on display from Fazlur Rahman too, who scored the other 30-plus innings.

In chase of 100 ATN News made a cracking start, taking 57 runs from the first three overs as Rana scored 33. Rafiul proved his all-round credentials, uprooting Sajib's middle stump after the latter had hit him for a six. Rana's run out in the fourth over put the match in The Daily Star's grasp, and the door was closed on ATN News when they could take only 11, when 20 were required, off Fazlur's last over. The Daily Star will face Channel Nine in the first quarterfinal today.

In the day's other matches Gazi TV beat Channel 71 by five wickets, Maasranga TV were one-wicket victors over RTV, Dhaka Tribune won against Boishakhi TV by 4 wickets, Kaler Kantha trounced Independent by 93 runs, Prothom Alo overcame Ittefaq by five wickets and Rising BD defeated New Nation by five wickets.