

Batra quits as IOA associate vice-president in protest

NEW DELHI, DEC 30/- Senior functionary Narinder Batra on Friday resigned as the associate vice-president of the Indian Olympic Association as a mark of protest against the IOA for not taking back its decision to appoint scam-tainted Suresh Kalmadi and Abhay Singh Chautala as honorary life presidents.

Strongly expressing his reservations over the appointments, Batra, who recently became the International Hockey Federation (FIH) president, said he was strongly against the backdoor entry of Kalmadi and Chautala to the IOA.

"Keeping in mind that you IOA have not taken any action in withdrawing the nomination of Life President of IOA even after 3 days of the AGM, hence as an expression of my protest and objection against the decision, I hereby submit my resignation from the post of Associate Vice-President of Indian Olympic Association," Batra wrote in a letter addressed to IOA president N Ramchandran and secretary general Rajeev Mehta. "I have checked up with quite a few members and none of them have confirmed having received/seen any information 7 clear days prior to the 27th December, 2016 AGM of IOA in relation to appoint-

ment of Life Presidents in IOA. "I do not support the decision taken by IOA General Assembly in relation to nomination of 2 Life Presidents and also take this opportunity to thank one of the Life President's who refused to accept the offer of IOA. The above defini-



tion's also do not allow for any backdoor entry," said Batra, who was the former Hockey India chief. "I thank everyone for whatever brief association we may have had with each other in IOA. Kalmadi and Chautala were elevated to the honorary position at the IOA's Annual General Meeting in Chennai on December 27, shocking the Indian sporting fraternity and leaving the Sports Ministry fuming.

The Sports Ministry has issued a show-cause notice to the IOA, threatening de-recognition of the sports body unless it reverses its decision. IOA has been given time till Friday to reply to the show-cause notice. Soon after the tainted duo's elevation to the honorary posts, Batra had expressed his reservations and threatened to quit as the IOA associate vice-president if the appointments were not reversed. While Kalmadi has declined the offer, Chautala continued to be defiant. In his letter to the IOA top office-bearers, Batra also said that he was disturbed by the appointments which were taken in a haste without the consent of all the members. He also mentioned that the IOA Constitution, which clearly states that it doesn't approve the appointments of any chargesheeted individuals. "I am disturbed about a development in IOA AGM. I am told by the members present in the AGM that this particular discussion i.e. nomination of Life President took place as last item and was proposed and approved in a total of one minute without any discussion and after that the AGM was declared closed and while taking the decisions the statutes of IOA seem to be have been overlooked," he said. (PTI)

Not getting engaged Virat on engagement rumours with Anushka

DEHRADUN, DEC 30/- Cricketer Virat Kohli has quashed reports of his engagement with girlfriend, actress Anushka Sharma, saying they are not getting engaged on New Year's Day. There were reports which suggested that a star-studded engagement ceremony will take place on January 1 in Narendranagar near Rishikesh where the couple are currently holidaying. The arrival of Anish Bachchan in the town along with wife Jaya Bachchan and industrialist Anil Ambani further fuelled the speculation.

However, Virat has now ended the confusion on Twitter and said that when the couple decide to get engaged, they would not hide it. "We aren't getting engaged and if we were going to, we wouldn't



We aren't getting engaged & if we were going to, we wouldn't hide it.

Since news channels cant resist selling false rumours & keeping you confused, we are just ending the confusion

hide it. Simple... Since news channels cant resist selling false rumours & keeping you confused, we are just ending the confusion," Virat posted on Twitter. Anushka also re-tweeted the cricketer's post on Twitter. "The actress and her both 28, arrived at Hotel Ananda in Narendranagar last Saturday to ring in the New Year and have been sharing pictures from her vacation on their social media accounts. They are said to have visited an ashram at Ambuwala village in Pathri area of Haridwar district on Tuesday to offer prayers. Anushka has her roots in Dehradun where her grand-mother Urmila Sharma still lives.



Australia celebrate their victory

Virat Kohli picked to lead McGrath's Test team of the year 2016

NEW DELHI, DEC 30/- Australian fast bowler legend Glenn McGrath has picked Virat Kohli to lead his Test Team of the Year. The legendary bowler also picked Ramchandran Ashwin in the 12. The Australian named three Australians -- David Warner, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, apart from England's Joe Root, Ben Stokes, Stuart Broad and Jonny Bairstow, Kiwi Kane Williamson, Pakistani Yasir Shah and South African fast bowler Kagiso Rabada in his 12. Kohli was earlier named captain of the International Cricket Council's ODI Team of the Year 2016. Cricket Australia also picked him to lead their ODI Team of the Year.

Australia Vs Pakistan: Mitchell Starc stars in hosts' stunning last day win

MELBOURNE, DEC 30/- Mitchell Starc spearheaded Australia to a stunning final day innings victory over Pakistan with a mercurial bat and ball performance to claim the series in Melbourne on Friday. The fast bowler smashed 84 off 91 balls with a record seven sixes and then captured four wickets for 36 to lead Australia to a resounding 483-run and 18-run victory over the hapless tourists. Skipper Steve Smith set the ball rolling for a dramatic victory when he declared Australia's first innings at 624 for eight just before lunch. That gave Australia a 181-run lead and a minimum of 70 overs to bowl out Pakistan. In the end the Australians needed only 53.2 overs to pull off an emphatic victory and, with their 89-run win in the first Gabba Test, to clinch the three-Test series. While Smith was named man-of-the-match for his unbeaten 165, it was Starc who put his stamp on the game with his sensational effort with bat and ball. Starc clubbed seven sixes, the most in an innings in a Melbourne Test, and was severe on Yasir Shah, belting the leg-spinner for five sixes. He then got into the act with the ball and took the wickets of Babar Azam, Sarfraz Ahmed, Wahab Riaz and Yasir Shah to clean up the Pakistan tail for Australia. "It fin-

ished a lot better than it started," Starc said. "It's fantastic for us to get that result. The belief was there and it was a fantastic way to finish. "We knew we only had two sessions to get those 10 wickets and together as a bowling unit we've done really well. "It was an astonishing collapse by the tourists, who appeared safe from defeat after amassing 483 for nine declared in their first innings over the first three rain-affected days before losing control of the match.

The defeat was Pakistan's 11th straight test loss in Australia after their win in Sydney in 1995. Skipper Smith set up the exciting finish with a calculated declaration shortly before lunch. He called a halt to a massive first innings at 624 for eight -- remaining unbeaten on 165 off 246 balls -- to give his fast bowlers a crack at the Pakistan openers just before the interval. Starc's seven sixes surpassed the record in an innings in a Melbourne Test held by Andrew Symonds with six in his 72 against South Africa in 2005. "I was hanging in there with Smithy and having a good time and got a few sixes away as well," Starc said. Starc put on 154 runs for the seventh wicket with Smith off 172 balls and upon Nathan Lyon's dismissal Smith said that was enough and raced from the ground.

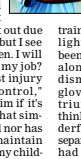
I don't mind if I have to start from scratch again: Wriddhiman

NEW DELHI, DEC 30/- Wriddhiman Saha, who appeared to be doing well in Test cricket before his injury, has expressed his confidence in the strength of a good domestic performance, even if he is dropped for the time being. That's the reason that the word "insecurity" is not there in his dictionary. "I don't mind if I have to start from scratch again," Wriddhiman said on the last day of the first Test against England suffering from tendonitis (thigh strain) and his replacement Parthiv Patel made full use of opportunities scoring two half-centuries. "No one would like to miss out on a Test series. It's only natural that one would be disappointed if you would have to sit out due to an injury. Now Parthiv has come and done well but I see no reason to be insecure. At worst, what will happen, I will not be selected for the next Test series. So what is my job? To make a good comeback in domestic cricket post injury and produce performances, which is in my control," Wriddhiman told PTI during an interaction. Ask him if it's not a bit of a gamble to "start from scratch" again? "At least for me it is that simple. I have never let either success go into my head nor has failures affected me. I believe I have been able to maintain that balance till now and I have been like this since my childhood. I have never been over emotional about things. You need to keep life simple," says Wriddhiman. Is it something that he has learned from MS Dhoni, having shared the India and Chennai Super Kings dressing room with him for a number of years? "He cuts you short. I am not like this because I have learnt these traits from Dhoni but I am like this because I am Wriddhiman. Let me tell you one thing, your approach towards life is something that you devise on your own. Everyone is his own coach. These are things you don't learn from anybody," said the introvert by from Siliguri.



Innovative keeping sessions has helped me a lot: Parthiv

NEW DELHI, DEC 30/- His batting and keeping session through in equal measure during the recent home Test series against England and Parthiv Patel attributes the success to segregating his twin skills during training sessions. Patel's delightful strokeplay has been praised by one and all along with his haul of 13 dismissals with the big glove in India's 4-0 series triumph over England. "I think what has worked wonderfully well for me is the separate sessions that I have had for batting and keep-



Dipa Karmakar returns BMW presented by Sachin, buys new car

AGARTALA, DEC 30/- Star Indian gymnast Dipa Karmakar has returned the BMW presented to her by Sachin Tendulkar after the Rio de Janeiro Olympics, and has bought a Hyundai Elantra with the Rs 25 lakh she received. The 22-year-old, who was presented the BMW by Tendulkar as a gesture of appreciation for her fine show at Rio, returned the luxury car due to the poor condition of roads in Agartala. Another reason for Dipa doing away with her brand new car was the absence of a service centre in her hometown. The BMW, which was handed over to Dipa by Tendulkar, was in fact gifted to her by the Hyderabad District Badminton Association. There is no showroom or service centre of BMW car in Tripura. If the car developed any technical snag during driving, how would I repair this?

There are also not sufficient suitable roads in Agartala and other places of the mountainous state to ply the



luxury car. Dipa told IANS at the time. "Sir (her coach Bisheshwar Narayan) discussed these matters with V. Chamundeswarath. He agreed to deposit money equal to a BMW car

cost to my bank account. We would be happy whatever amount they give instead of the BMW car," she added. "Her family bought a car (Elantra) recently, and it was a brand that has a service centre in Agartala," Karmakar's coach Bisweswar Narayan was quoted as saying by the Hindustan Times after he finally managed to get purchase her new car. Dipa, who missed a medal by a whisker, had finished fourth in the vault event at Rio and stunned the world by attempting the risky Produnova vault. Rio Olympics silver medalist PV Sindhu, bronze medal winning wrestler Sakshi Malik, badminton coach Pulella Gopichand and Dipa were presented with BMW cars by Tendulkar at a function in Hyderabad. Tendulkar was the Goodwill Ambassador of the Indian team at the Olympics.

Badminton tourney

PORT BLAIR, DEC 30/- The Regional Sports Council (RSC) Open Badminton Tournament for men & women 2016 held on 29.12.16, the matches played between the following teams, Women Singles: Match No.05: Sweta defeated Tostha Tripathi by 21-4, 21-3, Match No.06: Khushi defeated M. Pricilla by 21-14,21-13, Match No.07: Sankanya Lakshmi defeated S. Prabhavathi by 21-12, 21-16, Men Singles: Match No.22: C.H. Rahul defeated M. Yusuf by 15-21, 21-8, 21-9, Match No.25: Jayant Kumar M. defeated Ashish by 21-11, 21-16, Match No.24: Shanti Nath defeated A Sheran by 21-15, 21-6, Match No.25: J.S. Vashnav defeated R. Harsh by 21-2, 21-4, Match No.26: B. Srinivas defeated Suresh Charan by 21-18, 21-16, Match No.27: Ajay Kumar defeated Sarvagya Singh by 21-9,21-15, Match No.28: R. Algar Swamy defeated Vineet Raj by 21-13, 21-14, Match No.29: T. Suraj defeated Prag Singh by 20-21, 21-15, Match No.30: Naveen Kumar defeated Kuteep Singh by 21-7, 21-5, Match No.31: M. Anshad defeated Anshuman Singh by 21-10, 21-15, Match No.32: J.S. Vaslinar defeated K. R. Bharat by 21-17, 21-10, Match No.33: Ajay Kumar defeated B. Srinivas by 21-14, 29-20, Match No.34: A. Gokulan defeated Manoj Kumar by 21-11, 21-8, Match No.35: S. Sandeep got walkover, Match No.36: T. Suraj defeated R. Algar Swamy by 21-14, 10-21, 21-14, Match No.37: C.H. Rahul defeated Naveen Kumar by 21-10, 21-17, Match No.38: Jayanthi Kumar M. defeated Shant Nath by 21-7, 21-2, Men Double Match No.01: M. Anshad & M. Yusuf defeated K.L. Manikandan & Praveen by 21-19, 17-21, 21-17.

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