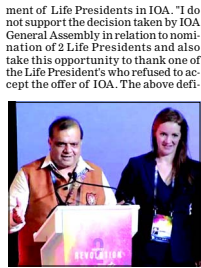


Batra quits as IOA associate vice-president in protest

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 appointment 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 definition is also 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 an 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.



Narinder Batra speaking at a podium during a press conference.

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 states of 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 girl-friend, 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 Amitabh 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 hide it."

Virat posted on Twitter, Anushka also re-tweeted the cricketer's post on this. "The actor and Virat, both 28, arrived at Hotel Ananda in Narendranagar last Saturday to ring in the New Year and have been in the dictionary from their vacation on their social media accounts. They are said to have visited an ashram at Ambuwala village in Pahari area of Haridwar district on Tuesday to offer prayers. Anushka has her roots in Dehradun where her grandmother Urmila Sharma still lives.



Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma at a dinner event.



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 Ravichandran 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, Pat Cummins, 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 189-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 finished 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 443 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 last 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 -- 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 in a Test cap before his untimely injury, hopes to make a comeback on 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 in my dictionary. At worst, I will 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 feel insecure. At worst, I will miss out on a 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 that simple, he would reply: "At least for me it is that simple! I have never let either success or failure 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 overly emotional about things. You need to keep life simple," says Wriddhiman. It is 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 introwert from Siliguri. Talk about his comeback to competition, Wriddhiman said that his rehabilitation is complete and he will be playing for his club side Mohun Bagan this weekend. "I completed my rehab program at the end of the season. The next big assignment will be the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (national T20) for Bengal," he said. "Now I will be playing a few matches for my club side Mohun Bagan. I have started usual net sessions and it feels good. I am working with our club coach Palash Nandy. Also, with a lot of former Bengal players like Sanjeev Sanyal, Subhomoy Basu and Arindam Ghosh in our ranks, the training sessions have been fun." He is a touch sad that Bengal could not make it to the knock-out stages of the Ranji Trophy which might have given him a few more top quality matches. "We (Bengal) staged a few matches but during the last phase of the league stage, we did not do well at important phases. It would have been great had we been able to play in the knock-out stages of the tournament," lamented Wriddhiman.



NEW DELHI, DEC 30 -- His batting and keeping shone through in equal measure during the recent home Test series against England and Parthiv Patel attributes the success to seeing 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 keeping. In the past few years, when I chucked out my training schedule, I made it a point that I won't practise batting and keeping during a singular session. If I bat in the morning, I would keep wickets in the evening," the 31-year-old Parthiv told PTI during an interaction. With nearly 15 years of first-class cricket with 166 matches behind him, Parthiv is now more than aware about what works for him as a keeper. "There are times when I go for my keeping practice, I would tell the groundsman to prepare a rank turner and at times would tell them to not work a single bit on the pitch. That helps you prepare for keeping on unpredictable tracks. There would be times when I would keep at any part of the ground which ensures that I am not blindly trusting the surface to have true bounce and carry. While you practice keeping drills, it is very necessary to mix and match and simulate during training sessions," Parthiv provided a sneak peek into his routine. Parthiv acknowledged that former India keeper and chairman of selectors Kiran More has always provided him with feedback on his glove work. "Yes, I have had interactions with Kiran More and he has given me a lot of useful feedback regarding my glove work," he said. With only 344 runs required to complete 10,000 runs in first-class cricket, a coveted milestone by any standards for a professional cricketer, Parthiv says that strength training along with experience has contributed to his success. "I believe the amount of first-class cricket that I have played over the years have also contributed to my growth as a batsman. Also, I have done strength training and that has increased power in my shots. My natural game is to attack and I tried to play positive cricket," said the Gujarat captain, who scored two centuries on his comeback trail during the last three Test matches.

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?



Dipa Karmakar with Sachin Tendulkar and a BMW car.

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

Before or after marriage Any sex problems of both sexes Consult

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