

Federation politics will harm Delhi shuttlers, says Azhar

New Delhi: Recently-appointed president of the Delhi Badminton Association (DBA) Mohammad Azharuddin on Monday said federation politics will cause players a lot of suffering. The Badminton Association of India (BAI) had in March disaffiliated DBA saying that the body had not followed the constitution and thereby created the Delhi Capital Badminton Association (DCBA) to govern the sport in the capital.

The BAI website also recently mentioned that DBA is now a defunct body. "This is not good for the badminton players because at the end of the day they are the one's who will suffer. They will be in a dilemma which association to play for. As a sportsperson I care about them and this will only harm the badminton



SPEAKING OUT: Azharuddin

players of Delhi," said Azhar, who took over the reins from Vinod Dhanwan who resigned in April following the decision of the BAI to recognise DBA.

"I am not here to fight with anyone but I felt this was a genuine case so I came into the frame. The DBA has been taken for a ride. When there is al-

ready one association to govern the sport, how can you elect another. This is against the sports charter. BAI has flouted its own constitution in doing this," he added. The Congress Member of Parliament from Moradabad claimed that DBA wasn't even given a chance to justify itself. "DBA wasn't even given any chance to justify itself. We have not been given even a chance of a hearing. I think the DBA has done a good job in hosting several tournaments in the last 30 years," said the 50-year-old.

BAI had recently said that DBA had not carried out its duties properly in the last few years. On the same issue, Azhar said: "BAI is giving lame excuses. We have written to the sports ministry who have in turn asked questions to the BAI." IANS

No reason to make DBA defunct: Azhar

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NEWLY-APPOINTED Delhi Badminton Association president Moham-mad Azharuddin feels BAI has declared DBA a defunct body based on "lame excuses" and said the city's shuttlers would be affected because of federation politics.

"BAI doesn't have any reason to defunct DBA. These are all lame excuses. We have followed everything, there has been communication with the BAI about our affairs. It is against the sports charter. They haven't sent us any notice or gave DBA any hearing. It is injustice," Azharuddin told reporters.

"It doesn't augur well for sports. If someone doesn't like another face and float another association, it can happen all over India. It is not right. DBA has done no wrong and they have to recognise us," he added.

The former Indian cricket captain further said, "You cannot just stop players like that. The main purpose of federation is to run the game smoothly and and make sure players are comfortable. At the end of the day, players will bring name to them and not otherwise. Or else the players will suffer."

The BAI had declared DBA as 'defunct' without disaffiliating it, citing that the state association didn't follow election norms in 2010 and it had not legally elected office-bearers as per its own constitution.

"This is not good for the sport. I am not here to fight or threaten anybody. DBA and BAI has the same intention and should work together," said Azharuddin, who took over from former president Vinod Dhawan early this month.

BAI wants DBA to send them a list of its districts which it can verify. It also wants the state association to hold elections in the presence of BAI and Government observers. BAI has given its affiliation to Delhi Capital Badminton Association (DCBA) during its Executive committee meeting on April 27 and ever since the DBA has been in a judicial battle with the governing body.



Azharuddin took over as DBA president earlier this month.

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MINISTRY ASKS FOR REPORT

THE Sports Ministry has also asked for a detailed report from the BAI on its decision to grant recognition to DCBA without issuing notice or cancelling recognition of DBA.

Azharuddin, who had almost contested for the president's post in BAI in June 2010 before backing off at the last minute, said: "We will take a wait and watch policy. The case is in Delhi High Court and we are waiting for the court's decision and also the BAI's reply to ministry. After that we will do something about it."

BAI said according to the copy of the registered DBA constitution available with them, the DBA had not followed its own election norms in 2010 but SP Singh, who has been the secretary of DBA since 2006, said that the BAI was holding a copy of its constitution of 1979.

"They are holding a 1979 copy of our constitution. We had amended our constitution in 2002 to be in line with BAI. If BAI were not happy with our functioning, they should have sent us a show cause notice and given us 15 days time to explain our stand but they didn't," Singh said.

"During the conduct of India Super Series, they didn't approach us. On the contrary, they alleged that we have sought money from them. We have filed an RTI regarding it but still no reply," he added.

BAI also had said that it was not officially informed about Azharuddin taking over as the president by DBA. However, Singh said: "It was not binding on state associations to inform the BAI. But we have been exchanging letters with them."

Early this month, the DBA had announced its state ranking championship from July 24, but soon the DCBA too named its Delhi State championship from July 22, which put the players in a fix.

BADMINTON

Azharuddin questions BAI action

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Mohammad Azharuddin has raised his voice against the "injustice" meted out to Delhi by the Badminton Association of India and urged the governing body of the sport to refrain from harming the players from the Capital.

Addressing his first press conference after taking over as the Delhi Badminton Association President, Azharuddin questioned the BAI action against the DBA and said, "how could the BAI declare DBA as 'defunct'?"

On what basis? Just because the BAI does not like a few faces in the DBA, can it affiliate another body? I am aware that the DBA has constitutionally carried out its duties since 1976 and it was not right for the BAI to target a single affiliate," said Azharuddin.

It may be recalled that in April, the BAI gave affiliation to Delhi Capital Badminton Association (DCBA) without disaffiliating the DBA.

Last fortnight, the BAI declared the DBA as defunct on its website saying that the DBA had not followed its constitution in electing its office-bearers.

The BAI President Akhilesh Das Gupta had stated that as per the certified copy of the DBA Constitution with the BAI, the DBA office-bearers had a two-year term.

Violation of constitution

The BAI maintains that the term of the DBA office-bearers ended in 2012 and their continuance in office is a violation of its own constitution.

"It seems the BAI has a copy of our 1979 constitution and not the one amended in 2002, which is consistent with the constitution of the BAI. We also have a four-year term," clarified the DBA secretary S.P. Singh.

Answering the question regarding the charges of the BAI that office-bearers of the DBA wanted money for their services in hosting the India Open in April 2013, Mr. Singh said, "we

have asked the BAI, under RTI, to produce documentary evidence to prove that any such demand was made by any of the DBA officials. We have not received any reply so far."

Azharuddin also said he would be writing to the BAI President once the BAI replies to the Sports Ministry which has sought a detailed explanation as to how it could give affiliation to another body without disaffiliating or issuing a show-cause notice to the DBA.

"Since the matter is sub-judice, I don't want to say anything at this point. The next hearing is on September 3. What if the court declares the affiliation of the other body as unconstitutional?"

"Then what happens to the players who participated in the events organised by the DCBA. I think like a player and for the players. I would not like a single player to suffer because of the dispute between two bodies. The game is bigger than the Federation and the players."

राजधानी में एक साथ मौजूद दो बैडमिंटन संघों के विवाद के बीच डीबीए के नवनिर्वाचित अध्यक्ष ने कहा

दिल्ली में बैडमिंटन संघों का विवाद सुलझाना चाहते हैं अजहर

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वे बेशक अभी तक क्रिकेट से जुड़े रहे लेकिन अब वे बैडमिंटन की सुध लेने आए हैं। राजधानी में जारी दो बैडमिंटन संघों की लड़ाई के बीच पुराने-दिल्ली बैडमिंटन संघ (डीबीए) के नवनिर्वाचित अध्यक्ष और पूर्व टेस्ट क्रिकेटर अजहरुद्दीन चाहते हैं कि यह विवाद जल्दी खत्म हो और खिलाड़ियों को किसी तरह का नुकसान नहीं हो।

इस महीने पूर्व अध्यक्ष विनोद धवन की जगह कार्यभार संभालने के बाद पहली बार आधिकारिक रूप से मीडिया के सामने आए अजहर ने कहा, मेरा किसी से कोई विवाद नहीं है। मैं यहां किसी लड़ाई के लिए नहीं

आया हूँ। मुझे लगा कि डीबीए के साथ गलत हुआ है इसलिए मैं इसके साथ हूँ। डीबीए की मान्यता रद्द किए बिना बाई ने दिल्ली कैपिटल बैडमिंटन संघ को भी मान्यता दे दी है। इससे खिलाड़ियों को टूर्नामेंटों में हिस्सा लेने में भी परेशानी हो रही है।

अजहर ने कहा, ये कैसे संभव है कि किसी राज्य में एक संघ होते हुए उसे बिना अमान्य करार दिए दूसरा संघ खड़ा कर दिया जाए। भारतीय बैडमिंटन संघ (बाई) ने डीबीए को न तो कोई कारण बताओ नोटिस दिया, न ही उसे डिसएफिलिएट किया। इस तरह तो देश में हर जगह दो-दो संघ होने की नई प्रथा शुरू हो जाएगी। ऐसे में एक दिन बाई के समानांतर एक और संघ खड़ा हो सकता है, तब क्या



● मोहम्मद अजहरुद्दीन, अध्यक्ष, डीबीए होगा? हॉकी में भी ऐसा ही हुआ और आज उसका हाल क्या है। टेनिस में विवाद का ओलंपिक में असर पड़ा।

अजहर ने कहा, बाई भी देश में बैडमिंटन के विकास के लिए है, डीबीए भी वही कर रहा है बल्कि पिछले कई साल से उसने कई

हल निकलने की आशा

- अजहर ने कहा, बाई को डीबीए को कोई नोटिस तो देना चाहिए था
- डीबीए को अपना पक्ष रखने का मौका मिलना चाहिए था
- एक ही राज्य में दो-दो संघों के होने से नई प्रथा शुरू हो जाएगी

टूर्नामेंटों का सफलतापूर्वक संचालन किया है। उन्हें अपना पक्ष रखने का मौका नहीं दिया गया। ये सही नहीं है।

डीबीए द्वारा अपने संविधान का पालन नहीं करने के बाई के आरोप के बारे में डीबीए सचिव एस पी सिंह ने कहा, हमारे जिस संविधान की प्रति उनके पास है वो 1979 का है जबकि

2002 में बाई द्वारा संविधान में संशोधन के बाद हमने भी नया संविधान अपना लिया था जो दिल्ली सरकार के पास उपलब्ध है।

डीबीए द्वारा जिला टूर्नामेंट नहीं कराने के आरोप पर उन्होंने कहा, वैसे देश में ज्यादातर संघ पर्याप्त जिला टूर्नामेंट नहीं कराते हैं, पंजाब, हरियाणा में तो कई बार एक स्टेट के अलावा दूसरी चैंपियनशिप नहीं होती, लेकिन उनके खिलाफ कभी कोई कार्रवाई नहीं की गई। बाई हमारे पीछे ही क्यों पड़ा है? फिर भी हमने तक तीन जिला टूर्नामेंट करा लिए हैं बाकी भी करा रहे हैं। हमारा स्टेट टूर्नामेंट सितंबर में होगा। अजहर ने कहा, अभी मामला कोर्ट में है और हम वेट एंड वाच की नीति अपना रहे हैं।