

28 FEB 1997

Badminton-Selection

EWE HOCK AND HOCK HIN SELECTED FOR NATIONAL SQUAD

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 28 (Bernama) -- Nusa Mahsuri discards Ong Ewe Hock and Yong Hock Kin are among six single players selected for the national squad although no formal decision has been made by the two professional shuttlers.

The Badminton Association of Malaysia (BAM) invited both players to join the national stable after trials were held last week to name the new national team, BAM President Datuk Dr Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan said today.

No time frame was given to the two shuttlers to make up their minds, he said after chairing a BAM executive committee meeting.

It was reported that both the players are in the midst of looking for sponsors after failing to get their contract with private company Nusa Mahsuri renewed last December.

Besides Ewe Hock and Hock Kin, BAM also named Wong Choong Hann, Wong Ewe Mum, Lo Ah Heng and P. Kantharoopan as the singles players for the national squad.

The doubles players named are Cheah Soon Kit/Yap Kim Hock, Choong Tan Fook/Lee Wan Wai, Chew Choon Eng/Rosman Razak, Yap Yee Hup/Yap Yee Guan and Tan Kim Her/Lee Chee Leong.

Dr Abdullah said the BAM has disbanded the national under-20 squad and instead divided the back-up squad into two divisions.

In Division A, the single players are Jason Wong, Ramesh Nathan, Foo Yoon Keang, Ng Kean Kok and Mahathir Mustaffa.

The doubles players in that division are Cheah Soon Thoe/Chang Kim Wai, Pang Cheh Chang/Khoo Boo Hock and Lim Theam Teow/Khoo Kok Keng.

In Division B, Yap Yong Jyen, Lee Tsuen Seng, Allan Tai, Siew Yian Wai and Sairul Amin Ayob are the singles players, while there are no doubles players.

Dr Abdullah also said that BAM would conduct a trial on Sunday to select six women singles players and four women doubles players.

He also called on men's doubles players left out from the selection but who feel they have the potential to contact BAM for consideration.

The BAM has also decided to allow players to share cash prize money offered in team events among themselves, in a move to instil better team spirit.

However, coaches and officials cannot share the money, he said.

Malaysia won US\$40,000 (RM100,000) as the runner-up to Indonesia in the recent Asian Cup in Jakarta.

Meanwhile, national coaching director Morten Frost said training for the national team would start on Monday while the women's team, which has yet to be selected, would start training in two weeks' time.

"We hope to finalise the women's team soon and then we will go ahead with the training," he said. -- BERNAMA

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