BAM urges Misbun to stay on till 2012

KUALA LUMPUR: The Badminton Association of Malaysia (BAM) has urged national coach Misbun Sidek to reconsider his shock resignation for the sake of the country’s Olympic prospects. It wants him to stay on to guide the team, who include world No. 1 Lee Chong Wei, at least until next year’s London Games but ruled out tweaking the new coaching and training structure which prompted him to quit on Dec 31.

Misbun resigned after the BAM decided he could no longer continue tutoring his son Ramdan and other juniors.

Rome’s F1 bid veers off track

ROME: Rome’s hopes of holding a Formula One race through the streets of the EUR district from 2013 are fading rapidly. Italy already hosts the popular Monza Grand Prix and La Repubblica newspaper has published a letter from F1 supremo Bernie Ecclestone saying no one wanted two races in the same country.

Messi shows why he was voted best

MADRID: Lionel Messi celebrated his second world Player of the Year feat by scoring a hat-trick on Wednesday in Barcelona’s 5-0 win over Real Betis in the Copa del Rey quarter-finals. It was the Spanish champions’ 27th unbeaten match and equalled a club record.

Singapore’s Audrey Yong competing on the first day of the SIM 30th Singapore Open Asian Windsurfing Championships. PHOTO: CAROLINE CHIA

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UNPREDICTABLE winds made for a tricky opening day – not just for rookies, but also for veterans – at the SIM 30th Singapore Open Asian Windsurfing Championships.

Conditions were made even tougher when wind speeds dipped as low as five knots, something even 2008 Olympian Chan Hei Man found hard to cope with. The 16-year-old, making her debut in the RS:X, said: “It was really tricky today.”

The winds just came in patches. You couldn’t really make out from which direction it was coming from, she said.

Chan was ninth in the RS:X event at Beijing.

“The winds just kept shifting too much and were really difficult to predict. It was impossible to be leading the race one moment and being stuck at the back the next,” she said.

An 18-year-old, Chan had won the five-strong women’s RS:X division with comfort. Chan Hei Man, just one point ahead of fellow Hong Konger Lo Sin Lam, found little inspiration to understand the tough day Singapore’s Audrey Yong endured.

A 29-year-old, making her debut in the RS:X, said: “The wind was just all over the place.”

She said: “I had to keep changing courses all the time.”

The RS:X has been thrown into chaos although Sally Ho has won the event’s overall gold medal and Edith Lee the silver in the past two years. But 2008 Olympian Chan Hei Man is still a chance to represent Singapore in the event’s Olympic class in 2016.

Chan was fourth in the women’s event on Wednesday and fourth in the men’s on Thursday.

South Korean Lee Tae Hoon, Chan King Yin of Hong Kong and Indonesian Ek Boonsawad lead the pack in the men’s event. The men’s event leaders are determined to take a shot at the podium on the final day.

Singapore’s top RS:X performer was Joshua Choo, 22. He was up in the men’s event. Leonard Chng, 16, is 10th.

The regatta ends on Sunday.

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Reigning champion not in a hurry

AST season’s champion Shane Raffles has prepared for the SIM 30th Singapore Open Asian Windsurfing Championships on his 29th birthday.

But the former national hero did not let his age and the рождения influence his decision to sail solo.

The two-time national champion said his decision to compete in the 29er division was based on his desire to see what his body could do.

“Shane Raffles has won a gold medal in the 29er division and is a true competitor in the sport,” said national coach Misbun Sidek.

But the 29er has been thrown into chaos although Sally Ho has won the event’s overall gold medal and Edith Lee the silver in the past two years. But 2008 Olympian Chan Hei Man is still a chance to represent Singapore in the event’s Olympic class.”

Shane Raffles has been the most successful sailsman in Singapore with most from the drain always able to leave some decisive claims in the top tier.

Shane Raffles will be bringing his sails to open 2011 in Singapore. After winning a bronze medal in 2007, the National Champions have to work even harder to stay ahead in his category. The former national champion has won the World Championships to lead to the event in 2011.

Shane Raffles has been the most successful sailsman in Singapore with most from the drain always able to leave some decisive claims in the top tier.

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Windsurfers fight wildly fluctuating elements at Asian Championships

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