

Asghar backs selectors



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Ali Asghar yesterday said that the selection committee won't be changed any time soon

The cricket supremo took a stance in favour of the three-member selection committee headed by Aliul Islam despite growing discontent among the country's cricket fraternity and his own advisors. The 12 advisors of the Board had reportedly vented their dissatisfaction with the way the selectors have handled the process so far in their meeting on Tuesday.

"There is no such thinking going on. However the selection committee will now work in cooperation with new coach Dav Whatmore," said Asghar while talking to the Daily Star Sport.

The BNP lawmaker added that

Whatmore has been given a free hand to work and that in effect means that the Australian will also be a part of the selection process.

When asked to comment on another burning issue the probe committee report regarding

Narayanganj and Satkhira moved into the final round of the 26th National Cricket Championship after winning their respective zonal finals yesterday.

Narayanganj made it to the 12-team final round with a 30-run win over Manikganj in Faridpur.

In a reduced 25-over a side match, Narayanganj scored 115 for eight in 25 overs.

In reply, Manikganj were all out for 85 in 22.1 overs.

Away in Jhenidah, Satkhira posted a five-wicket win over home side Jhenidah.

Chasing Jhenidah's 114, Satkhira reached 117 in 29.1 overs with five wickets in hand.

The other match of the day, a zonal final between Dhaka and Faridpur, was washed out due to rain at the Mymensingh Stadium.

The match has been rescheduled today.

Meanwhile, the tournament committee has split the 12 teams in four groups for the robin league of the final phase that would be held in Comilla and Chittagong from May 25.

Defending champions Biman, Dhaka University and Nilphamari have been drafted into Group A while Chittagong, Narayanganj and Jhenidah are placed in Group B. Matches of both the groups will be held in Comilla.

Group C consists of Barisal, Comilla and the winners from the Dhaka-Faridpur match while Sylhet, Rajshahi and Satkhira will play in Group D.

The group winners will qualify for the semifinal which will also be held in Comilla and Chittagong while the final will be in Chittagong.

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uncapped Anthony McGrath, a decision born of desperation as much as any faith in the Yorkshire captain's abilities.

However there was a good news for the hosts after fast bowler Matthew Hoggard has been declared fit for the Test.

England captain Nasser Hussain told a news conference on Wednesday: "He has declared himself fit and is available for selection."

Hussain must decide whether to go into the game with an all-seam attack or opt for spinner Ashley Giles.

"If you believe there will be five days of cricket, in those conditions you need a spinner," said Hussain. "If you feel it's not going to be a full game, you might not."

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