

## Selectors on a spot of bother

 Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The recent allegations in the media against a national selector regarding a sponsorship deal dominated the discussion in a working committee meeting of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday.

The controversial issue was placed in the meeting at BCB's corporate office in Gulshan after it was disclosed that a selector 'brokered the deal' between Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar and ace batsman Mohammad Ashraful with the renowned sports-gear company Reebok, who offered a lucrative package to the players for displaying the sponsors logo in their bat and clothing.

The selector in question Athar Ali, a former national opener, however completely denied his involvement in this deal. It was learnt that Athar sent a letter to the meeting, which was conducted by BCB president Ali Asghar, explaining his position where he dismissed the allegation saying that the two

cricketers had direct negotiation with the company.

Athar, a local agent of the American-based company, came under fire after it was leaked that both Bashar and Ashraful signed an agreement with Reebok.

BCB joint-secretary Rafiqul Islam Babu said that they have taken the matter seriously but have decided to wait until the return of general secretary Mahbubul Anam, who is also the chairman of the cricket committee.

"We discussed the matter in the meeting because the allegation is serious. But since the cricket committee is actually dealing with the issues involving cricketers, we need a report committee itself so that we can look into the matter properly. And we will definitely act if anyone breaches the job bindings," said Babu.

He also hinted that the board will request the cricket committee to clear some of the other issues that were raised against the selectors.

Chief selector Faruque Ahmed is also running a sport-goods shop and there was a whispering that his outlet 'indirectly' involved in supplying cricket accessories to the board.

There was also another allegation that the selectors had negotiated for Mohammad Ashraful's Rainhill stint which many thought hardly brought any fruit for Bangladesh's premier batsman.

"The selectors' jurisdiction is well defined in the BCB payroll. We will come hard if anyone is found guilty of breaching the rules," added Babu.

It may be mentioned here that the selectors are paid handsomely, nearly one lakh taka per month, by the board to ensure their professionalism and accountability to the job.

Babu, who acted as acting general secretary in the long absence of Mahbub, informed that the working committee has decided to hold the next board meeting on August 20.

"In the marathon meeting we discussed the financial matters the most.

"The committee has decided to start the renovation work of the indoor facilities at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium from September next to set up the BCB Academy," said Khondokar Jamiluddin, member of the committee.

## Saiful bails out DU

 Football

SPORTS REPORTER

A 33-minute strike by Saiful Islam saved the blushes of title contenders Dhaka University with a scrappy 1-0 win over BKSP on the opening day of the Education zone qualifiers of the Jubok Phone 23rd National Football Championship yesterday.

The stubborn students from the Savar sports institute put on a disciplined show to keep the scoreline slim at the Army Stadium against their star-studded seniors, who had a number of current and ex-national players in their roster.

It was a good comeback match for Saiful Rahman Moni, who was sidelined for almost a year through

injury, as the national striker was in the heart of the Varsity attacks. He, however, was twice denied by the woodwork.

It seemed that lacks of co-ordination and fitness barred Dhaka University from a bigger win and it was Saiful who separated the two sides when the midfielder placed in a freekick by Monwar.

National rightback Hassan Al Mamun, still nursing an injury, had to watch the match from the sideline but his national teammates Parvez Babu and Abu Faisal were available for DU, who play Islamic University, Kushtia tomorrow.

Both teams are on top of the table after Islamic University's solitary goal victory against Jahangirnagar University in the group opener earlier yesterday.

Milon slotted the match winner

just two minutes after kickoff.

While all the qualifying matches are being played on knockout basis, the Education and Services zone matches are played in league basis.

The Services zone qualifiers will start today, also at the Army Stadium.

Meanwhile, 10-man Manikganj moved to the zonal semifinal at Padma zone beating Gopalganj 1-0 at the Shariatpur Stadium.

Wahidur Rahman struck the lone goal in the 71st minute but Manikganj were reduced to ten men two minutes later when their goalkeeper Moshir Rahman was sent off.

At the Magura Stadium, Ohidul and Ujjal scored either side of the break to help Jhenaidah set a zonal

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



WELCOME TO THE REAL WORLD: Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar (L) greets newcomer Sakib Al Hassan (R) as the other new boy Forhad Reza looks on prior to leaving for Harare at the Zia International Airport yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## SA GAMES BHF names final 18

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Hockey Federation yesterday named an 18-member final squad for the hockey competition of next month's SA Games in Colombo.

The six players dropped from the 24-member squad are Mahbubullah Shakil, Mustafizur Rahman Dinar, Merajul Ahsan, Asif-e-Noor, Mosharraf Hossain and Zahid Bin Talib.

The four-team hockey competition also involving India, Pakistan and hosts Sri Lanka will be held in hill town Matala from August 21-25.

Bangladesh won bronze in 1995 in Madras, the only previous time hockey was held in the then SAF Games.

### SQUAD

Rasel Khan Bappi, Zahid Hossain, Issa Mia, Mashur Rahman Biplab, Mamunur Rahman Chayan, Shamsuddin Tuhin, Yamin Hossain, Hedayetul Islam Rajib, Musa Mia, Shahidullah Titu, Ashiquezzaman, Mahbub Ehsan Rana, Khondokar Hassan Ahmed, Russel Mahmud Jimmy, Zahidul Islam Rajan, Mazharul Islam Moksed, Maksud Alam Habul, Ariful Haque Prince.

Officials: Abul Kalam Azad (team leader), Ali Imam Tapan (manager), Jashimuddin Ahmed Kanchan, Jamal Haider (coach), Barkat Ullah (assistant coach), Maksudur Rahman (judge), Aslam Balim (umpire).

## CTC prepares 226-man list for SA Games

SPORTS REPORTER

The coaching and training committee (CTC) of Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) has submitted a 226-member list for the Bangladesh contingent for next month's SA Games in Colombo.

The BOA president Lt Gen Moeen U Ahmed will take the final decision after having discussions with the respective federation presidents and general secretaries. BOA's CEO Col (ret) Mohammed Waliullah informed reporters yesterday.

The number of football (24), hockey (22), shooting (10) and volleyball (12) team members will not be changed, he said.

However, it is expected that the members of the contingent would be reduced in other disciplines. The athletes' current and best performances and the Games records in respective disciplines would be considered before the final selection.

Bangladesh will take part in 17 disciplines and the women's kabaddi team, judo, squash and archery will send their participants at their own cost.

The government will bear the cost of 186 athletes, the CEO added.

## Jamie steps in for Freddie

 Cricket

AFP, London

Uncapped spinner Jamie Dalrymple was added to England's squad for the second Test against Pakistan at Old Trafford on Thursday as the side faced up to life without star all-rounder Andrew Flintoff.

Andrew Strauss was confirmed as captain for the remainder of the four-Test series against Pakistan after it was announced Saturday that Flintoff, who missed the drawn opener at Lord's, would require surgery on his injured ankle.

"As we will now be without Andrew Flintoff for an extended period, the selectors have appointed Andrew Strauss as captain for the rest of the Test series against Pakistan," chairman of selectors, David Graveney, said after announcing the squad Sunday.

"We are very disappointed to lose Andrew Flintoff as both a player and a captain.

"His priority now will be to ensure he is fully fit for the Ashes in Australia."

Meanwhile, Graveney cast doubt on the prospects of Liam Plunkett, who was in England's XI at Lord's, making it into the team at Old Trafford after the Durham quick sustained a side strain while on

county duty.

"We have taken the precaution of including 14 players in the squad for this Test match as Liam Plunkett injured his side playing for Durham against West Indies 'A' and his fitness will need to be re-assessed over the next 48 hours.

## David defends late surgery

BBC ONLINE, undated

Chief selector David Graveney has defended England's decision not to send Andrew Flintoff for surgery sooner.

Flintoff was told rest and strength work would help him overcome an ankle problem but will now have an operation.

"He was seen by two consultants who are the best in the field and they went down the route of deciding against an operation," Graveney told Five Live.

"Virtually every hurdle had been crossed and it was only when he played at Kent he began to feel the symptoms."

Flintoff will undergo surgery this week, with an initial prognosis putting him out of action until mid-October.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

## Tigers off to Zimbabwe

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh cricket team left Dhaka yesterday morning to play a five-match one-day series against Zimbabwe.

Habibul Bashar's men had an eight-hour stopover in Doha on their way to Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe, where they are expected to reach today.

The Tigers will launch their campaign with a limited-overs warm-up match against Zimbabwe A on July 26.

They will play all the matches at the Harare Sports Club ground on July 29, 30, August 2, 4 and 6.

Bangladesh team will depart Zimbabwe on August 7 for Kenya where they will be involved in a three-match one-day series against the ICC associate members.

## Rani shares lead with four others

SPORTS REPORTER

International Women's Master Rani Hamid shared the lead along with four other players after the end of the second round of the Prime Bank First Women's FIDE Rating Chess Tournament yesterday.

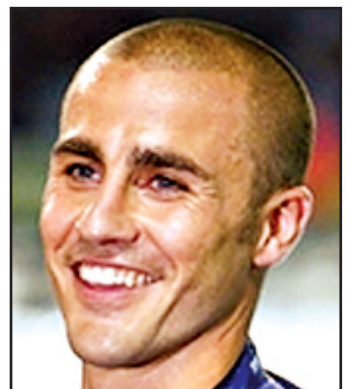
Rani secured maximum two points beating Masuda Begum

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka University and BKSP players are in action during the Jubok Phone National Football Championship education zone match at the Army Stadium yesterday.



### Fabio Cannavaro

(Italy's World Cup winning captain) "Real (Madrid) are the type of club where you are expected to win every game. For a player who wants to be the best it is stimulating to feel the pressure to defend their interests."

## Zim off to short SA trip

 Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

A 16-member Zimbabwe squad left for South Africa to prepare for the upcoming five-match series against Bangladesh that gets underway next Saturday.

The side is captained by off-spinner Prosper Utseya and contains four players who are yet to represent the country on the international scene -- left-hand batsman Friday Kasteni, opening bat Tinotenda Mawoyo, wicketkeeper Tafadzwa Mufambisi and pace bowler Admire Manyimwa.

Zimbabwe will play against the South African Academy and Highveld Lions with all the matches set for the High Performance Centre in Pretoria.

The team returns home next Thursday, just two days before the start of series against the Bangladesh Tigers. All those matches will be held at the Harare

Sports Club.

Meanwhile, Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) has been fined Zim\$130 million (£700) after using an offshore account to pay for the purchase of cricket balls from Pakistan.

A magistrate's court in Harare was told that the board paid £12,000 to Ishan Sports in breach of the country's Exchange Control Regulations.

The board pleaded guilty to the charge. In its defence, it was pointed out that the balls were used for the good of the sport in Zimbabwe.

The existence of external accounts -- the main one is believed to be with Barclays in London -- has long been a controversial subject, with critics of the board questioning funds diverted to it. Its use is also, as evidenced here, in breach of the country's own laws unless transactions are authorised by the central bank.

Peter Chingoka, one of the ZC signatories and the board's chairman, signed the cheque, the Herald newspaper reported.



PHOTO: STAR

THIS IS YOUR FUTURE: Simmi (L) makes a move against Tanima Parvin as GM Ziaur Rahman with his five-month old daughter Tazwar looks on during the Premier Bank Women's first FIDE Rating Chess tournament at the Bangladesh Chess Federation Hallroom yesterday.