

## Mollah not in new ad-hoc committee

SPORTS REPORTER

The National Sports Council (NSC) on Sunday approved the new ad-hoc committee of the Dhaka Divisional Sports Association.

The previous committee submitted by the association was rejected by Sports Adviser Tapan Chowdhury, who is also the chairman of the NSC, due to presence of 'controversial organisers', an NSC source told.

The NSC source added that the new committee represented as many districts of Dhaka division as possible and organisers who have a clean image.

From the old 15-member committee, secretary Golam Rasul Mollah and members Ali Imam Tapan, Iqbal Ahmed, Shamsul Alam Anu and Shahiduzzaman Reza were not included in the new list.

The new committee: President (Divisional Commissioner), vice-presidents: (DIG Police, additional divisional commissioner), secretary: Tariquzzaman Nannu (sports officer of Sports Directorate), treasurer: Kazi Golam Kuddus Nabi (Dhaka DSA), members: Fakhruzzaman (Faridpur), Amir Ahmed Chowdhury (Myrmensingh), Anwar Hossain (additional district commissioner, Gazipur), AZM Ismail Babul (Narayanganj), MA Bari Khan (Kishoreganj), Khorshed Alam Chowdhury (Mankganj), Sohrab Hossain (Gopalganj), Muksedur Rahman Himu (Sherpur), Abdus Salam (Shariatpur) and Moajjem Hossain (Rajbari).

## WI, Eng fined

AFP, Bridgetown

England and the West Indies have been fined for slow over-rates during their World Cup Super Eights match here on Saturday.

Match referee Ranjan Madugalle imposed the fines after Michael Vaughan's side was ruled to be two overs short and Brian Lara's side one over short of their targets at the scheduled finish when time allowances were taken into consideration.

In accordance with the ICC Code of Conduct regulations governing over-rate penalties, players are fined five per cent of their match fees for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time, with the captain fined double that amount," said an ICC statement.

## Inter insist

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All season speculation has surrounded the future of Mancini, whose original deal was due to expire at the end of the current season.

But Moratti said Mancini had been offered a new contract.

"We're talking about a four or five year deal, four years plus the option of another 12 months," Moratti said.

Mancini was delighted with Moratti's offer.

## Barca leave

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used his left foot to get Zaragoza's second strike. Celta stay one place above the relegation zone despite the loss but are now only ahead of Levante on goal difference after the Valencia-based side drew 1-1 with Getafe.

Levante's Ghanaian winger Riga Mustapha stabbed a loose ball home in a goalmouth scramble after just four minutes but Getafe equalised just before the hour through David Belenguer.

Gimnastic Tarragona's chances of avoiding an immediate return to the Spanish second division worsened when the bottom club went down 1-0 at Real Mallorca.

"We are going to carry on playing as well as we can but I don't have a crystal ball. If we play as well as we did last week (when they beat Zaragoza) then we can still survive," said Gimnastic coach Paco Flores.

"But I'm not going to try and trick anyone nor build up anybody's dreams," added Flores, well aware that time is running out.

Mallorca's Victor Casadesus got the only goal of the game after 20 minutes with a low hard-driven right foot shot from just inside the area.



## Did U Know?

Former England captain Graham Gooch became the only player to win three consecutive man-of-the-match awards in the 1987 World Cup.



Chairman of AKTEL Salahuddin Kasem Khan (back row 2nd from R) is seen alongside guests Major General Masud Uddin Chowdhury, Malaysian High Commissioner Dato' Abdul Malek Bin Abdul Aziz (back row 2nd from L) and the winners of the AKTEL Cup golf tournament at the Savar Golf Club on Saturday.

## LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Accounting and Applied Physics won their respective matches in the opening day of the Dhaka University Inter-Department Basketball competition at the Jahurul Haq Hall Court yesterday.

Applied Physics were led by a sterling show by Imdad as they beat Peace and Conflict 39-24 while Accounting had Abdullah to thank as they trounced Geology 42-16.

The sixteen-day tournament was opened by Pro-VC of Dhaka University AFM Yusuf Haider, who was present as chief guest.

### DIV 3 CRICKET

Dhamondi Cricket Academy clinched a place in next season's second division with a 40-run win over Matuail Cricket Academy in the Kai-Altech Third Division Cricket League at the Dhaka University ground.

All-rounder Asad struck an unbeaten 73 as DCA posted 240 for 8 in 32 overs after the match was delayed due to overnight rain. MCA managed to score 200 runs in 32 overs, losing eight wickets as they failed to gain promotion in a do-or-die match. Paceman Adil took three wickets for the winners.

Rayer Bazar were the other promotees alongside DCA.

### DIV 2 CRICKET

Mirpur Cricket Club, Khelaghar SKS and Young Cricketers won their Kai-Altech Second Division Super League matches.

Mirpur and Khelaghar had identical five-wicket wins while Young Cricketers beat Dhamondi Progiti by 40 runs via the D/L method.

Sajad took five wickets to fashion Mirpur's win against Green Leaf while it was Babul's four-wicket haul gave Khelaghar their victory over Kakral Boys.

### MAJABBAR TENNIS

Amal Roy beat Laxman Lal 6-2, 7-5 and moved into the quarterfinals of the Engineer MA Jabbar Memorial Tennis tournament at the ERC-NTC tennis court.

In other matches, Alamgir Hossain beat Delwar Hossain 6-3, 7-5 while in the girls' under-16 event; Masuma Sultana trounced Tania Das 6-1, 6-2.

## Queen an

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November due to a bad back.

"It seems the queen follows football and she told us she was an Arsenal fan," the Gunners' Spain midfielder Francesc Fabregas, 19, was quoted as saying.

"She appeared to definitely know who I was and we exchanged a few special words."

As the crow flies, Chelsea is the nearest club to Buckingham Palace, the queen's official London residence.

However, the queen considers Windsor Castle, west of London, to be her home - which would make lowly Wycombe Wanderers and Brentford her nearest league clubs.

The first match the queen attended was the 1953 FA Cup final. The game is considered an all-time classic and was dubbed the "Matthews Final" after legendary England winger Stanley Matthews, who inspired Blackpool to come from behind to beat Bolton Wanderers 4-3.

Arsenal count Queen Elizabeth's youngest grandson Prince Harry among their fans and were indeed called Royal Arsenal between 1886 and 1891.

Queen Elizabeth, the queen mother, who died in 2002, revealed her love of Arsenal to a schoolboy in 1955.

Chatting about Compton, an England football and cricket international, she said: "I'm an Arsenal supporter! Didn't you know?"

Harry's brother Prince William, second in line to the throne, supports Aston Villa. He is the president of the Football Association, English football's governing body.

## Milan wary

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met -- winning both legs 1-0 in the first knockout round of the tournament two years ago.

But United is a vastly improved side since then and Milan's cause has not been helped by the fact that Ancelotti is sweating on the availability of his first-choice goalkeeper, Dida.

If the Brazilian, who is struggling with a shoulder injury, does not make it, Milan will be forced to deploy giant Australian Zeljko Kalac, who has just played four Champions League matches compared to Dida's 60.

Ancelotti will leave it until the last minute before making a decision on Dida's fitness -- a stance that casts doubt on his stated belief that Kalac has "rediscovered his confidence" and is "ready to step in" to an environment as demanding as Old Trafford on Tuesday night.

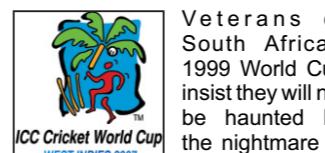
The Milan coach got his hands on the Champions League trophy when his side beat Juventus in a penalty shoot-out at United's fortress four years ago.

But he readily accepts that eliminating United represents a major challenge.

"They have great quality and they will look to exploit the pace of Ronaldo and Rooney. We will have to make the most of the ball when we are in possession. We have great respect for them, but we have no fear. We are in good shape."

## Proteas leave '99 behind

AFP, Johannesburg



Veterans of South Africa's 1999 World Cup insist they will not be haunted by the nightmare of their exit at the hands of Australia when they square up once again at the semi-final stage Wednesday.

The Proteas have been trying to shake off the tag of chokers ever since the infamous last ball run-out of Allan Donald at Edgbaston eight years ago when a single would have secured victory and a place in the Lord's final.

Four of that team will once again take to the field against Australia on Wednesday in St Lucia, including batsman Herschelle Gibbs, who was taunted by Steve Waugh that he had dropped the World Cup after he spilled a catch in an earlier group game between the two.

"It did leave one or two little

scars but as a cricketer if you're going to have a long career, you're going to have scars, every cricketer has had them," said wicketkeeper Mark Boucher.

"It's how you get up from those moments when you're down and bounce back," he told The Star newspaper.

The Edgbaston semifinal is widely regarded as the greatest ever World Cup game but many commentators believe the trauma dogged the Proteas for years, and was partly responsible for their lame first-round exit when they hosted the tournament in 2003.

Shaun Pollock, the team's captain in 2003 and who continues to open the bowling, said that lessons had been learned.

"The '99 World Cup was an exceptional game, the emotions swung from team to team," he said.

"One side had it wrapped up and then the other side had it won and it kept like that, to and fro.

"We've had some close

encounters over the years and we've learnt something from all the close encounters. From our side, an experienced side, we really are ripe for anything we have to deal with."

Batsman Jacques Kallis, the current tournament's leading run-scorer after Australia's Matthew Hayden, said the team had long ago put the result behind them.

"You move on from those games, you take what you can from them. Like Mark said, we woke up the next morning, the sun came up and we had lots of cricket ahead of us. So you've got to move on."

"I don't think about it, perhaps just take the positives out of it."

The carefree Gibbs meanwhile said that he had managed to put the defeat behind him within hours.

"I had a bit of a hangover the next morning and that took care of that," said the dashing batsman.

## Watson stung by critics

AFP, Gros Islet



Shane Watson has admitted to being hurt by criticism from the likes of former Australia captain Bobby Simpson.

but a desire to prove his doubters wrong has inspired the all-rounder to nail down a place in the champions World Cup side.

When the injury-prone Queenslander was out for three games with a calf muscle injury in the Caribbean many wondered what he was doing in a team that continued to win comfortably without him.

But his usefulness was on show for all to see with a dynamic 65 not out off just 32 balls in Friday's 215-run thrashing of New Zealand in Grenada.

Watson, who'd spent months working on his batting with Australia assistant coach Jamie Siddons, showed plenty of invention by stepping across to the off-side to turn the ball over short fine leg or carving over the covers as he did to take Australia to 348 for six off the last ball of the innings.

"It has hurt at times," Watson said of the criticism. "It's human nature. You can take it to heart.

"In the end all I have tried to do is

be my best and I've tried to work extremely hard on my game to continue to improve. Having people doubt your ability and then to be able to put it together in a World Cup is truly satisfying for myself more than anything."

In an article for Indian magazine SportsStar two months ago, Simpson branded Watson as merely a "competent" cricketer.

"I have doubts if he has the skills or flexibility to cope with cricket at the highest level," former opening batsman Simpson, Australia's 1987 World Cup-winning coach, wrote.

"He looks like an over-averaging player, lacking in natural skills and movements. Perhaps this is one reason why he has had so many injuries."

But Australia captain Ricky Ponting, speaking after Friday's match, said the sight of Watson striking four sixes and four fours before taking one for 20 with his brisk medium-pace, ought to make the all-rounder's critics reflect.

"It might quieten a few people down, particularly back at home, that have been casting all these doubts about Shane Watson and his value to this team," said Ponting.

"You are not going to see striking like that from somebody who can't play the game. Shane is a very talented cricketer and someone who works extremely hard at his game."

## King quits as coach

AFP, Kingston

Bennett King has quit as coach of the West Indies after the team's dismal World Cup campaign, it was reported here on Monday.

The 42-year-old Australian, who had been in charge of the national team since 2004, left just a day after skipper Brian Lara made his tearful farewell to international cricket.

In another blow for the West Indies, fast bowler Ian Bradshaw also announced his international retirement.

"King gave up his job as coach," West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) director Jackie Hendriks told The Gleaner newspaper.

"He has offered to stay on for a month to help with the setting up of the academy."

King is the fourth high-profile World Cup coach to resign following England's Duncan Fletcher, India's Greg Chappell and Dan Whatmore of Bangladesh.

There were unconfirmed reports that WICB president Ken Gordon has also resigned.

The West Indies, who won the first two World Cups in 1975 and 1979, enjoyed an impressive start to the 2007 tournament they were hosting for the first time by winning all three of their first round games.

But their campaign fell to pieces in the Super Eights where they managed just one win against Bangladesh before losing their final match by one wicket to England in Barbados on Saturday.

King took over from Gus Logie as coach in 2004 and had already said he would reconsider his position after the World Cup.

Bradshaw, who was in and out of the

## Ireland 10th best team

AFP, Bridgetown

Ireland have been rewarded for their memorable World Cup debut by being confirmed as the 10th best team in the world.

In Group D in the first round in the Caribbean, Ireland beat Pakistan and tied with Zimbabwe at Sabina Park, earning them a place in the Super Eights. During that stage Ireland beat another Test team, Bangladesh, along the way.