

Selectors' time extended

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

An emergency meeting of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will be held tomorrow, but in a quick move yesterday the new board president Maj Gen Sina Ibn Jamali has taken the decision to extend the two selectors' tenure by a month.

The term of chief selector Faruque Ahmed and selector Athar Ali Khan has been extended till August 31 with an eye on the deadlines for naming the national squad for the ICC Twenty20 World Championship and the National Academy squad for the next month's tour of Australia.

Chief of General Staff of Bangladesh Army Maj Gen Jamali took the decision when BCB's chief executive officer Mahmudur Rahman met him to inform about the current situation.

"I met the president this morning to inform him about the situation and he asked me to call an emergency board meeting on August 1 (Wednesday). There are a number

of pressing issues right now and there is a need for a quick decision about the two selectors," said Rahman yesterday.

"Our president has agreed to extend the two selectors' tenure because we have hardly any time to make a new committee ahead of the International Cricket Council's deadline (August 11) for the final squad for the Twenty20 meet. The most important thing is that now the new committee will not get enough time to think about the new selection panel," he added.

"I think it's a good decision and now the new board will get enough time for taking decision about the selection panel," said Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, a former Bangladesh captain and one of the members on this ad-hoc committee.

The issue of appointing a new coach for the national team is a matter that must be solved quickly by the new board. There is also a need for a new physiotherapist.

"President showed his interest about the national team and the upcoming tournament. There would be two major issues mainly discussed in the emergency meeting.



PHOTO: STAR

THE BLUES: Abahani booters (L to R, back row) Abul, Nazrul, Biplob, Pradip, Joy, Ibrahim and (front row) Abdullah Parvez, Emily, Ujjal, Siraji and Mintu pose for photograph before their last match of the B.League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Vaughan keeps vigil

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

AFP, Nottingham

hundred-ball fifty with nine fours.

Pietersen dismissively pulled the first ball back from fast bowler Shanthakumaran Sreesanth through mid-on for four.

Sreesanth subsequently let loose an inswinging 'beamer' which just missed Pietersen's head. South African umpire Ian Howell signalled 'no-ball' as such deliveries are illegal under the Laws of Cricket.

The bowler raised his hand in apology and at the end of the over India captain Rahul Dravid, in a move to calm tempers, spoke to the batsmen.

It was the start of a dramatic four ball sequence for the South Africa born Pietersen. Next over left-arm quick Rudra Pratap Singh -- who ran down past the batsmen during an impassioned appeal -- was convinced he had Pietersen caught behind, driving outside off-stump.

Dravid though spoke to his bowler and next ball Singh, from around the wicket and wide on the crease got a curving delivery to cut back sharply off the pitch and Pietersen, padding up, was lbw for 19 with Australian umpire Simon Taufel quickly raising his finger.

England were now 175 for three with their star batsman out cheaply before Sreesanth angered

Vaughan with a full toss that the umpires did not deem worthy of censure this time.

Monday's first session was marked by the lastest of several unpleasant incidents this series when Sreesanth brushed shoulders with Vaughan and was spoken to by Howell.

By then England had lost opener Alastair Cook, lbw for the fourth successive time this series, Khan removing him for 17.

Vaughan, on 16, appeared fortunate to survive Anil Kumble's lbw appeal off the leg-spinner's first ball Monday before Strauss completed a 120-ball fifty.

India's first innings total of 481 saw five members of their top six score fifties, Sachin Tendulkar leading the way with 91. During his innings, Tendulkar became only the third batsman in history to score 11,000 Test runs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the fourth day of the second Test between England and India at Trent Bridge on Monday:

ENGLAND: First innings 198 (Zaheer Khan 4-59, Kumble 3-32)

INDIA: First innings 481 (Tendulkar 91, Ganguly 79, Karthik 77, Jaffer 62, Laxman 54; Panesar 4-101, Tremlett 3-80)

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LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Third Division Football League for the 2005-06 season is set to begin on August 16. A decision in this regard was reached during a meeting of the Dhaka Metropolis Football League Committee at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Three grounds -- Bir Sreshtha Shahid Sepoy Mohammad Mostafa Stadium at Kamalapur, Outer Stadium in Paltan and Bangladesh Army Stadium -- were selected for the matches of this competition.

AGE-LEVEL BADMINTON

The Rajshahi trio of Almas, Arafat and Abir won their respective matches yesterday in the junior and sub-junior badminton championship at the Wooden Floor Gymnasium.

Almas beat Asif, Arafat defeated Abid while Abir trounced Pappu in the boys' under-14 group. In the other match, Rabbi beat Ayman of Panchagarh.

In the girls' under-18 group, Nabila and Shapila won their respective matches against Elina and Rozina.

WOMEN'S BADMINTON

Rozina from Pabna clinched the inter-district women's competition when they beat Chittagong's Sima 5-11, 11-4 and 11-8 in the final at the Women's Sports Complex in Dhaka yesterday.

In the knockout competition, the two players powered their way through as they won most of their matches on straight-sets.

Rozina beat Dola of Dhaka while Sima beat Liza, also from the capital, in the semifinals.

AGE-LEVEL SWIMMING

Keya Cosmetics 23rd National Age Group Swimming Championship will be held at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur from August 2.

607 swimmers and 88 officials from 26 affiliated districts and 33 swimming clubs have registered to participate in the meet. 446 swimmers participated in last year's meet that featured 23 national records.

Swimming Federation general secretary Syed Aminul Haque Dewan disclosed the details of the meet at a press conference in the NSC conference room yesterday.

Of the total budget of Tk 10.73 lakh, sponsors Keya Cosmetics will provide Tk 3.5 lakh.

Freddie works back mildly

AFP, London

England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff returned to action following a third ankle operation with a 40-ball innings of 25 for Lancashire in a one-day friendly win against Sri Lanka at Liverpool on Sunday.

"He survived an early lbw shout that could have spoiled his day. He will be happy to have got his 20 odd runs because in the context of the game it wasn't a bad result for him," said Lancashire cricket boss Mike Watkinson.

Flintoff also managed to bowl a few balls in the match that the English side won by 35 runs.

Champs Abahani sign off in style



SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani's championship party turned festive as they celebrated their B. League title with a 1-0 win over Mukti Joddha in a heavyweight Dhaka derby yesterday.

Blue was the colour of the day and although the Abahani gallery only was half-full, there was no shortage of lively dancing amidst drumbeats after substitute Zahed Parvez separated the two sides in the 73rd minute.

As soon as both sides' last match of the competition finished, fans began to spray colours on each other and the officials and staff were no exception as they

garlanded the players, coach and manager at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The sky-blues, who had ensured the trophy of the inaugural professional football league in their 19th and penultimate round beating Sheikh Russel 2-0, finished on 47 points, eight points ahead of runners-up Mohammedan who have a match in hand to try and trim the

POINTS TABLE

Teams	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Abahani	20	14	5	1	36	8	47
MSC	19	11	6	1	39	12	39
Mukti Joddha	20	9	6	5	29	19	33
Russel	19	8	3	2	22	12	32
Brothers	20	8	5	7	32	19	29
Arambagh	19	8	2	9	21	22	26
Ctg MSC	19	7	4	8	19	25	25
Farashganj	20	5	7	8	17	22	22
Ctg Abahani	20	4	3	13	18	39	15
Kin Abahani	19	3	4	12	18	43	13
Rahmatganj	19	3	4	12	15	45	13

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Ponting hits at ICL

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Ricky Ponting has hit out at the proposed Indian Cricket League (ICL), saying the million-dollar series threatens to tempt ageing cricketers into early retirement while luring youngsters away from national duty.

"It's only a concern if there is huge money involved in it," Ponting said. "If this sort of stuff gets off the ground, these guys won't even be playing with their mates, they'll be

thrown into made-up teams. You'll be out there by yourself and trying to win some money," he was quoted as saying by the Herald Sun.

"The other thing being talked about is this [Allen] Stanford guy in the West Indies. The \$23 million he's said to be offering is a concern because the way I look at it is people getting towards the end of their international career will think, 'If I'm guaranteed that, this kind of money might be a good thing.'"

Ponting felt such a league suits only the likes of Brian Lara, for whom money can be a motivation to carry on for a bit longer after giving up his

international career. "I think it will only be people towards the end of their careers like Lara [who was last week signed by the ICL]. Look, it might work out really well for them -- play a bit more cricket for money on top -- but it's not something I've looked at with the crown as it so often happened in the past.

And they proved on the pitch they wanted to sign off with a victory.

The determination resulted in Amal Sen's side, who had drawn goalless with the same opposition in the league opener on March 2, enjoying absolute domination as Mukti Joddha looked like a ship without sails in absence of a coach.

The Reds, one of the pre-tournament favourites, not only were the flop of the season but in-house politics also saw the giants without coach Abu Yusuf's services

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PHOTO: STAR

Zaheer episode calmed

Cricket

AFP, Nottingham

Players on both sides tried to diffuse the incident that saw the umpires intervene after India's Zaheer Khan brandished his bat at the England slip cordon at Trent Bridge on Sunday.

Zaheer, a ball after streakily edging through the slips for four on the third day of the second Test, appeared to take offence at a comment made to him by one of England's close fielders and waved his bat in their general direction.

South African umpire Ian Howell moved in to nip any potential trouble in the bud and, at the end of the over, both he and Australian captain Simon Taufel spoke to

Andrew Strauss, captaining England with Michael Vaughan temporarily off the field.

When Vaughan returned, the officials spoke to him as well.

"Test cricket is a hard game," said England wicketkeeper Matt Prior. "We all want to win. You are going to have banter but nobody overstepped the mark."

Players are bound by the International Cricket Council (ICC) code of conduct that is designed to keep on-field behaviour within acceptable bounds.

Those found to have broken the code face punishments ranging from a fine, for a minor offence, to match suspensions for more serious offences.

However, after play on Sunday, an England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) spokesman said he

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Harmy itching for action

BBC ONLINE, undated

England fast bowler Steve Harmison hopes to return to action in time to play in Durham's first appearance in a major Lord's final on August 18.

Harmison, who had a hernia operation on 17 July, is desperate to make his return in the Friends Provident Trophy final.

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