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## Rafiq replaces Faruque

### BCB announces new selection committee

**Cricket**

SPORTS REPORTER

Former national all-rounder Rafiqul Alam was appointed as the chief selector of the national cricket team while Bangladesh's first Test captain Naimur Rahman was named a selector on Tuesday in the three-man panel that already includes another former captain Akram Khan.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) announced the new selection committee following recommendations of a three-member selectors' appointment sub-committee, headed by Shafiqur Rahman Munna. Rafiq's appointment in the committee ended the four-year reign of Faruque Ahmed.

The new committee will take charge from September 1 and their contract will run for the next two years.

The 49-year-old Rafiq, who first played for Bangladesh in 1980 and represented the country in two one-day internationals in 1986 while also appearing in the 1982 and 1986 ICC Trophies.

Rafiq, fondly called "bagh mama", has been actively involved in local cricket in different capacities. As a match referee, he has conducted numerous matches and is also the director of coaching of Dhanmondi Cricket Academy.

Off-spinner Naimur's return to cricket is surprising since he walked off the national team citing knee injuries during the reign of Faruque. He played eight Tests and 29 one-day internationals. Hailed as the best right-arm off-spinner ever of the country, ironically one of Naimur's primary job will be to find a right-arm off-spinner.

"We commended the previous selectors' work over the past four years but we thought that there was a need for change. I think we have selected two competent individuals for the demanding job because they not only played for the national side but have adequate

knowledge of the domestic and international cricket," said Munna.

"We will maintain the same salary structure for the selectors, something that was made by our previous committee, but there will be some changes in the terms and conditions. We met with both the new selectors before finalising their names. We want hundred per cent commitment in the job because now it is no more an amateur duty," he added.

When contacted over telephone, the new chief selector Rafiq told The Daily Star that cooperation from all is the need of the hour.

"Teamwork and coordination with the cricket board and players will be of paramount importance for success just as teamwork is vital for the team's success," said Rafiq

last evening, shortly after being confirmed by the board.

"I would not like to comment on the previous committee. What I must say is that we are quite a handful side in one-dayers now but are far, far behind in Tests and our focus should be on the longer version."

According to Rafiq, his committee will eye the next big tournament, the World Cup, which is four years from now.

"Although it's a two-year contract, we'll have the World Cup 2011 in our plans. I think a long-term goal is necessary," said Rafiq.

Shaping a team for the next World Cup would be the main challenge for Rafiq and his committee as there had been hardly any controversy over the team selection during the Faruque-led com-

mittee's four-year tenure but they could not set up a team. Finding a permanent solution in the opening slot was their biggest failure.

Faruque however was not ready to focus on any of the negative issues but said that their successor will take over a good team, something that they did not inherit.

"At first I want to congratulate the two new selectors. I am hopeful that they will do a good job and the most important thing is that both have played for the national side," said Faruque in his initial reaction.

"I think they are fortunate enough as they are going to take over a team in good shape. We had to rebuild the side after a disastrous performance in World Cup 2003. We tried our best to make a good

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ARE WE READY? New chief selector Rafiqul Alam shares a light moment with his colleague in the three-man selection panel and former national captain Naimur Rahman at the Dhanmondi Cricket Academy ground on Tuesday night.

## Tigers go to Kenya today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh cricket team will leave Dhaka for Nairobi today to participate in a four-nation Twenty20 warm-up competition ahead of the ICC Twenty20 World Championship that to be held in September.

Mohammad Ashraful's men will face formidable Pakistan and two ICC associate members -- hosts Kenya and Uganda -- in the 5-day meet.

Bangladesh leave Kenya on September 6 for South Africa to play in the main event starting from September 11. Bangladesh have been pitted against hosts South Africa and West Indies in Group A.

**SQUAD**

Mohammad Ashraful (captain), Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (vice-captain), Alok Kapali, Tamim Iqbal, Aftab Ahmed, Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim (wicketkeeper), Forhad Reza, Junaid Siddique, Mahmudullah Riyad, Nazimuddin, Nadiif Chowdhury, Abdur Razzak, Syed Rasel and Ziaur Rahman.

## BCB opens domestic window

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) formed a 10-member committee for reviewing the domestic structure with former board general secretary Aminul Haque Moni named as its convener.

The members on the committee are Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury, Shafiqul-Haque, Roquibul Hassan, Aliul Islam, Shakil Kasem, Aminul Islam Bulbul, Enamul Hoque Moni, Lt. Col. M. A. Latif Khan (Retd.) and Gazi Ashraf Hossain.

"This committee will give a recommendation about how we can improve our domestic structure. You all know that the weakness of domestic cricket is hugely hampering our performance in the international level and that's why we felt the necessity of having a strong committee to find out a

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## Another feather in Isinbayeva's cap

**Athletics**

AFP, Osaka

"It's the first gold medal for Kenya (in the 800m) and the first world championship gold for me, and it's also my personal best, so I'm happy."

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Pole vault queen Yelena Isinbayeva won gold Tuesday but failed in a world record attempt, as Kenyan runners held sway on the track at the World Athletics Championships.

Isinbayeva said before the event she was unbeatable, and it was no idle boast.

The Russian holds the world record of 5.01 metres and has 20 indoor and outdoor records to her name. She won here in 4.80m and attempted to clear 5.02m but was unable to pull it off.

Katerina Badurova of the Czech Republic was second and Russia's Svetlana Feofanova third.

Kenya's formidable men's 3,000 metres steeplechasers toyed with the opposition before delivering the expected clean sweep, with Olympic silver medallist Brimin Kipruto kicking hardest to claim gold.

He came home in 8 minutes 13.82 seconds, some 20 seconds off the world record, ahead of Olympic champion Ezekiel Kemboi and Richard Mateelong.

"We had a plan as a team to run together until the final 400 metres. I am so happy. It's the first time I won a gold medal. We will celebrate as a team, as a country," said Kipruto.

Soon after, Janeth Jepkosgei made it a night to remember for Kenya by winning the women's 800m world title, crossing the line in 1:56.04 ahead of Morocco's Olympic silver medallist Hasna Benhassi and Spain's Mayte Martinez.

It was the first time Kenya has won a women's middle distance world title.

But there was sadness for crowd favourite and triple former champion Maria Mutola who pulled up injured while in third place as she rounded the last bend.

Mutola, now 34, has said it is likely her last world championship and it was an inglorious end.

"I decided to go in front and not to wait for the others," said Jepkosgei.



Russian pole vault queen Yelena Isinbayeva celebrates after winning her pet event at the 11th IAAF World Athletics Championships in Osaka yesterday.

## First defeat for NCA

SPORTS REPORTER

BCB National Cricket Academy (NCA) team succumbed to an 83-run defeat against New South Wales in their second limited-overs match in their tour down under yesterday.

The visiting side, who won their first match against Western Australia by 10 runs, were bundled out for 157 runs in 32.5 overs in reply to the home team's 240-8 in 40 overs at Palmerston.

Wicketkeeper Sahagur Hossain Pavel was the top scorer with 48-ball 31 while Imrul Kayes added 28 and Shuvo 26.

Pacer Nazmul Hossain was the

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**Sachin Tendulkar**  
(Superstar Indian batsman)

"I guess I have missed four or five hundreds in the last two months." As poor umpiring has been following him during the tour of England.



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## Tigers duo in contention

### Ricky, Mahela lead ICC Award nominations

**Cricket**

AFP, Mumbai

Test captains Ricky Ponting of Australia and Mahela Jayawardene of Sri Lanka were on Tuesday nominated in four categories for the 2007 International Cricket Council awards.

The winners will be announced at the ICC awards night to be held in Johannesburg on September 10, a day before the inaugural World Twenty20 Championship opens in South Africa.

Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan and wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim were named in the shortlist for the Emerging Player award alongside the likes of Australian pacemen Mitchell Johnson, Shaun Tait and New Zealand's exciting opener Ross Taylor.

Since his debut last year, Shakib has excelled both with bat and ball, especially in the one-day cricket. He has scored five half-centuries and a 134 not out against Canada. In the World Cup, his unbeaten 57 against England must be the best innings of his short career so far.

Rahim has had a tough time behind the stumps but his batting,

especially in the World Cup, where his half-century against India enabled the historic 5-wicket victory in Trinidad.

**TEST PLAYER-OF-THE-YEAR**

Mohammad Asif (Pak), Shivnarine Chanderpaul (WI), Stuart Clark (Aus), Matthew Hayden (Aus), Michael Hussey (Aus), Mahela Jayawardene (SL), Zaheer Khan (Ind), Anil Kumble (Ind), Brian Lara (WI), Glenn McGrath (Aus), Muttiah Muralidaran (SL), Makhaya Ntini (SA), Monty Panesar (Eng), Kevin Pietersen (Eng), Shaun Pollock (SA), Ricky Ponting (Aus), Kumar Sangakkara (SL), Ryan Sidebottom (Eng), Shane Warne (Aus), Mohammad Yousuf (Pak).

**ONE-DAY PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

Shane Bond (NZ), Mark Boucher (SA), Nathan Bracken (Aus), Shivnarine Chanderpaul (WI), Stuart Clark (Aus), Michael Clarke (Aus), Matthew Hayden (Aus), Michael Hussey (Aus), Mahela Jayawardene (SL), Jacques Kallis (SA), Brett Lee (Aus), Glenn McGrath (Aus), Muttiah Muralidaran (SL), Jacob Oram (NZ), Kevin Pietersen (Eng), Shaun Pollock (SA), Ricky Ponting (Aus), Yuvraj Singh (Ind), Mohammed Yousuf (Pak).

**EMERGING-PLAYER-OF-THE-YEAR**

Ravinder Bopara (Eng), Shakib Al-Hasan (BD), Mitchell Johnson (Aus), Mushfiqur Rahim (BD), Shaun Tait (Aus), Ross Taylor (NZ), Chris Tremlett (Eng).

**CRICKETER-OF-THE-YEAR**

Shivnarine Chanderpaul (WI), Matthew Hayden (Aus), Michael Hussey (Aus), Mahela Jayawardene (SL), Jacques Kallis (SA), Glenn McGrath (Aus), Muttiah Muralidaran (SL), Kevin Pietersen (Eng), Ricky Ponting (Aus), Kumar Sangakkara (SL), Mohammed Yousuf (Pak).

**CAPTAIN-OF-THE-YEAR**

Mahela Jayawardene (SL) and Ricky Ponting (Aus).

**NON-TEST PLAYING**

**NATIONS PLAYER-OF-THE-YEAR**

Ashish Bagai (Can), Andre Botha (IRL), John Davison (Can), Trent Johnston (IRL), Dwayne Leverock (Ber), Kyle McCallan (IRL), Tanmay Mishra (Ken), Eoin Morgan (IRL), Ashif Mulla (Can), Niall O'Brien (IRL), Thomas Odoayo (Ken), Peter Ongondo (Ken), Irving Romaine (Ber), Abdool Samad (Can), Ryan Doeschate (NED), Steve Tikolo

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## ICC won't recognise ICL

**Cricket**

AFP, Mumbai

The International Cricket Council on Tuesday ruled out recognising an unofficial multi-million dollar league in India until it was approved by the country's cricket administration.

ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed said the breakaway Indian Cricket League (ICL) needed support from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) before it could be considered a legitimate series.

"BCCI is the only body recognised by the ICC to run official cricket in India," Speed told reporters.

"We have not got any application from the ICL for recognition yet, but we have already have a five-step process to decide on such issues."

The ICC needed to know if the

series was being run for the development of the game, who were the players involved and if they were contracted to their parent bodies, when and where was the series to be played and if anti-corruption measures had been put in place, said Speed.

"In the last stage we ask applicants if the member board of the country had approved it," he added. "If the answer is no, we would not give it our recognition."

Speed cited the example of a tournament that was planned in the United States last year that was shot down by the ICC for not fulfilling the required criteria.

The breakaway ICL, bankrolled by media baron Subhash Chandra who owns India's largest listed media company Zee Telefilms, plans to hold Twenty20 tournaments between city teams for the next three years.

ICL officials said they had signed

up seven international stars and 44 Indian first-class cricketers, adding that more top players from around the world were expected to join.

Former Test captains Brian Lara of the West Indies and Inzamam-ul-Haq of Pakistan lead the ICL list that also includes Pakistanis Mohammad Yousuf, Abdool Razaq and Imran Farhat and South Africans Lance Klusener and Nicky Boje.

No member of the Indian team currently touring England has been linked with the ICL which plans to hold the inaugural event later this year.

The BCCI has not recognised the ICL and said that any player aligning with the rebel series will not be eligible for national selection.

The ICL last week filed a suit against the official body in a Delhi court, saying the BCCI was a private body and could not have monopoly over running cricket in India.

## U-23 booters go to Myanmar

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh will take part in the third Grand Royal Challenge Cup to be held in Myanmar from November 1.

The Under-23 booters will represent Bangladesh in the tournament, said Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) acting general secretary Manjur Hossain Mulu.

He mentioned that a letter from the BFF confirming Bangladesh's participation in the tournament would be sent later on Tuesday night to the Myanmar Football Federation.

"We will pick a preliminary squad in the first week of September after the return of national coach Syed Nayeemuddin, who is now vacationing in India," Mulu said.

Earlier on August 18, the

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## England go ahead again

**Cricket**

AFP, Birmingham

Ian Bell continued his purple patch as his third fifty in a row was instrumental in England's 42-run win against India at Edgbaston on Monday as they took a 2-1 lead in the seven-match series.

Bell, on his Warwickshire home ground, made 79 in England's total of 281 for eight.

Sourav Ganguly (72) and captain Rahul Dravid (56) gave India the upper hand during a third wicket stand of 104 in 115 balls.

But when both senior batsmen fell in quick succession to Chris Tremlett, England had renewed hope and India were bowled out for 239 with 11 balls left.

Tremlett finished with two for 57

and James Anderson took three for 32.

"The openers gave us a solid start," England captain Paul Collingwood said. "And then the bowlers came on in the last 10 overs."

Bell's innings followed scores of 126 not out in England's 104-run series-opening win at the Rose Bowl and his 64 during India's nine-run victory in Bristol on Friday.

But Bell, named as man-of-the-match, played down his blistering start to the series.

"It's gone well. I'd like to keep it going," he said, adding: "It's still early days in this series, there's lots of cricket to play."

Dravid was left to rue his side's poor performance in the field but remained confident that his players would rebound to again challenge England.

"It was a good wicket right

through," he said. "We didn't bowl or field particularly well."

"We can play good cricket here. We have a squad that can beat England, but we'll have to play much smarter."

India's spinners, who'd taken important wickets in Bristol, did so again at Edgbaston with off-break bowler Ramesh Powar leading the way with two for 45.

England's cause wasn't helped by the late withdrawal of hard-hitting all-rounder Dimitri Mascarenhas, fresh from a career-best 52, with a right hand injury sustained during the warm-up.

The combination of England's superior fielding and sharper running between the wickets kept the runs down early on and, come the 11th over, India were 36 for two.

Sachin Tendulkar, upper-cutting

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Cricket equipment are being taken away in trucks by the suppliers yesterday after these were dumped by National Sports Council employees. It was learned that Cricket Corner supplied the equipment during the reign of the BNP-led four-party alliance.