

Evra to appeal French ban

French skipper Patrice Evra is to appeal the five-match ban he was handed by a disciplinary commission for co-leading a training strike during an abortive World Cup, his lawyer said Monday. "To this day, Mr Patrice Evra has not received notification of the decision by the Federal Disciplinary Commission (of the French Football Federation) on August 17 banning him from the French team for five matches," Jean-Yves Foucard said. He added that the reasoning behind the ban had not been explained to the Manchester United player and decried varying individual punishment for a collective misdeed.



Aminul worth risking a spot

SPORTS REPORTER

Five months on and with the Asian Games knocking on the door, Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is still unaware of the penalty of national goalkeeper Aminul Haque for receiving a red card during the AFC Challenge Cup finals in Sri Lanka held in February.

In that do-or-die match in order to ensure a berth in the last four, Bangladesh captain Aminul pulled down a Sri Lankan forward inside the box and was sent off for the challenge. Having lost the match 3-0, Bangladesh have not participated in any international match since and Aminul is expected to be penalised for one match at least for his offence, but the extent of the penalty is still not known by the BFF.

When attention was drawn on this issue, BFF general secretary Al Musabbir Sadi could not provide any good reply. Instead he said that the matter was being handled by competition manager Abu Nayeem Shohag, who is now in Sri Lanka to attend a beach football seminar.

Meanwhile, Aminul has been included in the preliminary squad for the Asian Games as one of three senior players and circumstances suggest that he may stand under the bar in China this November.

The BFF officials also do not know whether Aminul's punishment would be effective in the Asian Games.

Coach Saiful Bari Titu, who was the head coach during Bangladesh's AFC Challenge Cup campaign, is also not aware of the punishment and is a bit anxious on whether it would be wise to keep Aminul in the final squad given that Bangladesh may have to play one of their matches without the veteran custodian.

However, the grouping of football event is yet to be finalised by the organising committee of Asian Games.



PHOTO: STAR
Bangladesh opening batsman Tamim Iqbal (R) walks along with Bangladesh Cricket Board's acting CEO Nizamuddin Ahmed at the board's Mirpur headquarters yesterday. Tamim was involved in emotional activities as he prepared for a flight down under for treatment of his injured left wrist.

Tamim to rejoin training today

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

After two days of break opener Tamim Iqbal will join the training today at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The whispering was there that the dashing left-hander skipped the training for the second successive day out of anger, as he was disappointed with the Bangladesh Cricket Board's arrangement of the Australia trip.

BCB has decided to send Tamim to Australia for checkup of his injured hand that incurred during an ODI in Chittagong against India on November 5 last year. The board took the decision as the dashing left-hander had been experiencing lingering pain on an old injury.

Tamim however dismissed the allegation. "I took the break after consultation with my coach (Jamie Siddons). I was not feeling good and there was also pain in my injured hand. I will join the training tomorrow," Tamim explained the reason behind his absence while talking with the

reporters after a long discussion with his uncle and selector Akram Khan, acting CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury and BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus yesterday.

"No comments" was the answer when he was asked about his resentment over the BCB's arrangement. It was learnt that the young batsman vehemently reacted when he learnt that he has to enjoy the economy class for the trip. Tamim has been demanding for business class.

The opener was also not ready to confirm whether he is going to Australia under the board's arrangement or he is going at his own cost.

"There was nothing wrong with the board. I leave it to the board. Let's see what happens," said Tamim.

But it seemed that BCB found itself in a spot of bother with the issue. The officials apparently tried to convince Tamim during yesterday's long meeting and finally he agreed to go in the economy class.

Apparently, it all cleared up for Tamim when he had a chat with skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza regarding the travel arrangements.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Bowden, Hill set to make little history

PTI, London

In a rare feat, ICC Elite Panel umpires Billy Bowden and Tony Hill of New Zealand will create history on Thursday by becoming the first neutral umpires from the same country to officiate together in a Test match.

Bowden and Hill will be in charge of the fourth and final Test between England and Pakistan at the Lord's Cricket Ground here.

"To umpire with my fellow New Zealander Tony Hill for the first-time ever in a Test match will be special," Bowden, who will be standing in his 62nd Test, said in an ICC statement.

"To be at Lord's and to create a little piece of history by being the first two neutral umpires from the same country to umpire there makes it super special."

Aminul, Momin share lead

SPORTS REPORTER

FM Khondoker Aminul Islam of Titas and Abdul Momin of Sirajganj are now in joint lead in the points table with 7 each after the 8th round of the Federation Open FIDE Rating Chess Tournament at the federation hall room yesterday.

Mahtabuddin Ahmed Robin of Titas and Farhadur Imam of I2 Soft Solution are in 2nd position with 6.5 points each. Sohel Chowdhury, Golam Mostafa Bhuiyan, FM Rezaul Haque, Abdullah Al Saif, S.A.M. Naser and Mollah Ishtiaq Ahmed are in joint third position with 6 points each. In the 8th round matches, Amin beat Momin, Momin beat Sohel, Farhad beat Elin, Robin beat Apu, Mostafa beat Shameem, Emon beat Md. Sagar, Arman drew with Dipu, Reza beat Shamsul Kabir, Naser beat Mizanur Rahman Labu, Saif beat Sk. Raju Ahmed, Ishtiaq beat Uten, Mithu beat Shamsul Alam, Sharif beat Nasim Hossain Bhuiyan and Hanif beat Sazzad Hossain.

Nat'l pool announced

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Twenty-two national cricketers have been bracketed in the national pool for this season's Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday made the announcement, stating that the group comprises of players who have played for the Tigers between January 1 and July 31 this year.

Each Premier League club would be eligible to pick a maximum of three players from the pool, a move that has often been quietly criticised by fast bowlers who are included in it.

Robiul Islam, who played just one Test match at Lord's in May, is among seven fast bowlers including Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Rubel Hossain, Nazmul Hossain, Syed Rasel, Shahadat Hossain and Shafiqul Islam.

It was observed in the last few seasons that most of the pace bowlers, barring someone like Mashrafe, had a hard time finding a club since some of them filled up the three slots with top-order batsmen, all-rounders or left-arm spinners.

But the big dilemma for these pace bowlers is the price tag that they come with. Most of the clubs are mediocre and work with a limited budget, hence are unable to acquire these fast bowlers. One fast bowler last year had to play for Tk 2 lakh when his Tigers teammates were paid much more by the clubs, even though they were in the pool.

Another factor that goes against these pacers is the pitches that Premier League matches are played on. Most clubs build their gameplan

around spinners and batsmen winning games for them so the need for a really expensive fast bowler goes out of the window.

As if these factors were not bad enough, the decision to allow two foreign players in a Premier League match could spell more doom for Shahadat and co.

Shafiqul Islam, as an exception, was wonderful for Bangladesh Biman last season, culminating in his rise to the national side. He will probably stay with the national flag carrier and that is due more to his all-round abilities more than anything else.

But this could all change if the BCB can provide with sporting pitches, giving clubs enough reason to invest on a good paceman but unless that happens, the likes of Shahadat Hossain, Robiul and Rubel Hossain could be in the news come November for not finding a club.

The most coveted domestic competition is scheduled to kick off with the Twenty20 tournament from November 27 and the 50-overs battle is scheduled to get underway from December 8.

The two-day inter-club players' transfer for the Premier League will take place in between November 8 to 11.

NATIONAL POOL

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Shakib Al Hasan, Tamim Iqbal, Mushfiqur Rahim, Abdur Razzak, Mahmudullah Riyad, Rubel Hossain, Imrul Kayes, Shafiqul Islam, Jahurul Islam, Zunaed Siddiqui, Nazmul Hossain, Syed Rasel, Faisal Hossain, Mohammad Ashraful, Naeeem Islam, Rokibul Hasan, Robiul Islam, Sohrwardi Shuvo, Shahriar Nafees, Aftab Ahmed, Shahadat Hossain.

Virtual semifinal

India take on New Zealand today

Cricket

CRICINFO, Dambulla

The word most conspicuously absent in all press conferences this Micromax Cup is 'momentum'. The schizophrenic performances of all three teams in Dambulla -- crushing opponents one day, and being crushed themselves the next -- has meant no team could claim whatever advantage momentum allegedly provides. The topsy-turvy league phase reaches its conclusion on Wednesday when India and New Zealand face off in an elimination match.

New Zealand's inexperienced batting line-up remains their biggest concern. The relaxed format of the tournament and the unseasonal rain which

washed out their match against Sri Lanka means their batsmen have, amazingly, not had a bat in the middle for a dozen days, which the captain Ross Taylor said is "going to give a little more anxiety than the actual game itself."

Mahendra Singh Dhoni's captaincy record of winning every tournament in Sri Lanka is also under threat after India's batting failures in two matches. One heartening factor for Dhoni is the glimpses of form Yuvraj Singh showed during Sunday's humiliating defeat. India have alternated between wins and losses in the previous six matches, a trend which Dhoni will hope extends for one more game.

Scott Styris is enjoying a run-filled year and his 168 one-day caps will be essential to a batting unit light in international exposure. He has

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR
Former Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar (R) shares his wealth of experience while attending a lecture session with the GP-BCB Academy boys at the Academy Conference Room in Mirpur yesterday.

What to WATCH

TEN Sports & SuperSport5
India v New Zealand Tri-Series, Sixth ODI
Live from 3:00pm

ZEE Sports
Champions League Play-off
Tottenham v Young Boys
Live from 12:40am (Thursday)

TEN Sports
Champions League Play-off
Ajax v Dynamo Kyiv
Live from 12:40am (Thursday)

Gallerie Apex

Happiness in every step

Another Eid. Another bout of joy. Gallerie Apex brings yet another collection of shoes in every imaginable shape, size and color. Visit with your family any Gallerie Apex anywhere in Bangladesh.

Gallerie Apex. Celebrating Eid in every step together.