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# Star SPORT

DHAKA FRIDAY MAY 4, 2001, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com

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**Did U Know?**

Bangladeshi magician Jewel Aich made the following predictions in writing a day before the 1996 World Cup final: Sri Lanka would win by six or seven wickets if they fielded first, Aravinda de Silva would be the man-of-the-match and Sanath Jayasuriya would fail. The prediction was put in a sealed envelope and then into an iron box and opened only after the match was over. And it was revealed that the great magician hit the bull's eye!



**ESPN**  
Cricket Magazine  
The Cricket Archives 1905-1960  
6:30 pm  
English Premiership  
Highlights 7:30 pm  
**Serie A**  
Lazio vs Roma  
12:00 am (Saturday)  
**Star Sports**  
Boys & Sunny Masterclass: Best XI  
Cricket Talk Show  
11:00 pm  
Football Mundial  
4:00 pm  
Asian Football Show  
8:30 pm



**Luis Figo**  
(Real Madrid's Portuguese super star)  
"I'm sure we're going to make it through to the final. They were defending for the entire game only to get a favourable result. But we've demonstrated with our attacking football that we're more than capable of turning this result around."  
After losing the European Champions League semifinal first-leg match to Bayern Munich.

## Naimur's men back home

SPORTS REPORTER

Naimur's Rahman's men arrived home Thursday morning after their one month overseas Test tour of Zimbabwe. This was Bangladesh's first trip since obtaining Test status in June last year.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Saber Hossain Chowdhury, family members of the 14 cricketers and other high officials of the Board, received the team at the Zia International Airport (ZIA).

The Test newcomers left Dhaka on April 1, to play three one-day internationals and a two-match Test series against Zimbabwe. They lost both series convincingly.

The players were jet lagged after their flight from Harare. They nevertheless stopped over at Dubai for a day.

The cricketers are scheduled to spend a week-off, but the physio of the team John Gloster would get little rest.

Gloster was scheduled to leave for London last night to join his English county side Surrey.

Coach Trevor Chappell said that he would stay in Dhaka for a few weeks before returning to Australia.

"I plan to remain here only for a few weeks. But that depends on the holding of the Second Asian Test Championship," said Chappell at the airport.

However, Saber Hossain said that the second edition would be held accordingly.



WELCOME BACK: Star performers for Bangladesh in the Tests (L-R) Habibul Bashar, Monjurul Islam and Javed Omar Belim at the Zia International Airport upon their arrival from Zimbabwe on Thursday morning.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Wasim for longer series

Cricket

INTERNET, Undated

Fast bowler Wasim Akram believes the Pakistan and England authorities have wasted a golden opportunity with their decision to hold a two Test series.

With England unexpectedly defeating Pakistan on their own patch last winter, interest in clashes between the two nations could not be higher.

The five-Test Ashes series is just around the corner and Akram feels his side have been reduced to being warm-up fodder before the Australians.

He said: "I don't know why we agreed to it or why the England and Wales Cricket Board offered it to us."

"Although England won in Pakistan, we won the last three series here and we have more supporters here than anybody else, so it would have been a full house for a five Test series."

"It is not an insult, but it won't be any fun. The first game, you are just getting into it, the second Test you are just picking up and then

there is no third match - we will be on our way home."

"That's what I think, that is what everybody else is thinking."

With rumours claiming the relationship between Akram and his captain Waqar Younis is at the least strained, the left arm bowling great was at pains to smooth the water.

Despite the speculation, Akram is fully expecting to feature against



WASIM AKRAM

England.

He said: "I am not here just to be a passenger, but whether I am picked or not, I am going to support the captain, on and off the field, and the main objective is to win."

"We have got to work hard to do well here. There is no problem between us - we were just able to fly together for seven hours."

"But as for our relationship, everything is fine. I am reaching 35 next month and I feel I have another year or two in me. But even if I hadn't been picked I would still have come here."

Akram may be handed that chance by the shock absence of Shoaib Akhtar from the touring party.

But even without the pace whizz kid, Akram is sure Pakistan's confidence has not been dented.

He added: "Shoaib is the fastest bowler in the world and Pakistan are lucky to have him in the side."

"Hopefully he will join us next week, but that is just my opinion. But even without Shoaib, morale is high - especially as we did well on our last tour in England."

Akhtar did not travel because of a stomach problem.

## A relishing prospect

Cricket

REUTERS, London

England's Test series with Pakistan have always had the potential for fireworks.

This year's contest is no different.

Pakistan left Lahore for London on Wednesday in disarray, with a new captain, a new coach and an uneasy truce among some of their players - all set against the background of new, if unsubstantiated, match-fixing allegations.

But they unexpectedly left behind Shoaib Akhtar, the bowler who was cleared last month of throwing for the second time in his short but controversial career.

Shoaib has remodelled his action and had been expected to come under close scrutiny from umpires Darrell Hair and Peter Willey, the men who first reported him two years ago and who are due to officiate at the first Test at Lord's starting on May 17.

Pakistani officials said Shoaib had a stomach upset and hoped to join the team later in the two-month tour.

England and Pakistan know each other well.

Captain Waqar Younis and Saqlain Mushtaq have played with Alec Stewart and Graham Thorpe at Surrey, while Wasim Akram and Michael Atherton are Lancashire stalwarts.

Mushtaq Ahmed has an avid following at Somerset, where he has played with Andy Caddick and Marcus Trescothick.

Close personal ties, however, are not always enough to avoid a flashpoint.

After rows over umpiring during Pakistan's 1982 and 1987 tours, the touch-paper was truly set alight in the return series in Paki-

stan in late 1987.

The second Test in Faisalabad was dramatically halted after Mike Gatting and Shakoor Rana exchanged choice words and wagging fingers when the home umpire accused the England captain of trying to move a fielder behind the batsman's back.

A 24-hour hiatus followed before Gatting grudgingly offered the apology required for Rana to restart the game.

At least the two men did not threaten lawsuits, as occurred following Pakistan's 1992 tour of England.

England were being outclassed, bemused and demoralised by Waqar and Wasim's extraordinary late reverse swing before Allan Lamb resorted to accusations of cheating.

Pakistan put the fuss down to England's post-colonial angst and racism, before instructing their lawyers to sue two British newspapers for libel. The Sunday Tele-

graph later apologised for calling the team the "pariahs of cricket."

Four years later, with the ball-tampering issue rumbling on, Lamb and Ian Botham ended up in the libel court opposite former Pakistan captain Imran Khan.

Lamb found himself on the losing side again when the jury threw out his and Botham's allegations that Imran had libelled them by calling them cheats and racists.

England, with four consecutive series successes, including one in Pakistan at the turn of the year, should feel more secure this time.

With Waqar - whose relationship with Wasim will attract attention after he accused him of ruining his career two years ago - no longer the same force and Hussain nearing the end of his career, England captain Nasser Hussain might be tempted to consider his team as the favourites.

But Pakistan, packed with erratic and supremely skilful players, seem to thrive on dissension and uncertainty.

They managed just one victory in six during the 2000-01 season before former coach Javed Miandad was sacked and former captain Moin Khan ousted.

Miandad's parting shot was to suggest the team had thrown a one-day series against New Zealand before he back-tracked. Moin, meanwhile, was replaced by Rashid Latif, the man who temporarily 'retired' in 1994-95 after suggesting the team were throwing games.

New coach Richard Pybus was recruited just hours before the plane set off for England.

For any other team, the recent events would represent the worst possible preparation.

But Pakistan have so often proved the exception to the rule.

## Clash of titans tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

The title-deciding match of the Premier Division Cricket League between holders Abahani and leaders Mohammedan Sporting Club, will be held tomorrow instead of today.

Heavy rain over the last two days has made the pitch at the Bangabandhu National Stadium unplayable.

Meanwhile, Pakistani teenage off-spinner Shoaib Malik flew into Dhaka to play in Abahani's last match of the season. Malik's action has been reported to the International Cricket Council (ICC) following the Sharjah tournament last month.

He is expected to replace compatriot Tareq Javed.

Mohammedan have 26 points from 15 matches. Their arch-foes Abahani trail by two points from the same number of outings. However the latter enjoys a better run-rate (+1.27) compared to the Motijheel outfit's +1.21. So, a Mohammedan win will ensure them the prestigious title after missing out on three attempts. But if Abahani is victorious then run rates will determine the championship.

Rain also affected Thursday's Super and Relegation League fixtures.

Kalabagan Krira Chakra were to meet Surjo Tarun at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in the Super League And Victoria Sporting Club's Relegation game with Brothers Union at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium was washed out.

## Under-14 soccer tourney

SPORTS REPORTER

An under-14 football tournament, organised jointly by Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) and National Sports Council (NSC) as part of their Youth Development Programme, kicks off at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium this morning.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader will inaugurate the week-long tournament at 9:30 am as chief guest.

A total of 230 footballers, 110 selected by BFF through five zonal camps held in Nawabganj, Jessore, Munshiganj, Dhaka and Chittagong and 120 from six NSC organised camps in Tangail, Magura, Narayanganj, Sylhet, Bandarban and Pirojpur, have been divided into eleven teams for the tournament.

Later, BFF will pick fifty boys from the tournament for a 45-day camp. The Federation has already announced a panel of coaches for the purpose.

They are: Golam Sarwar Tipu, Abdus Sadeq, Amalesh Sen, Sheikh Ashraf Ali, Hasanuzzaman Khan Bablu, Motaleb Hossain, Mohammad Mohsin, Abu Yusuf, Abu Hasan Nannu, BA Jobayed Nipu and Sayeed Hasan Kanan.

BFF assistant general secretary Badal Roy will act as technical director of the project costing Taka ten lakh.

## Marsh's advice to India

REUTERS, New Delhi

Former Australian coach Geoff Marsh, now a consultant for Indian cricket, says streamlined coaching will benefit the game in India.

The former Australian vice-captain, who is a consultant to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), was speaking after visiting the New Delhi branch of the national cricket academy on Thursday.

India set up a national cricket academy last year on the lines of the one in Australia and former Australian wicketkeeper Rod Marsh was appointed its consultant.

Geoff Marsh said he would submit a report to the BCCI next month on how to improve Indian cricket, including domestic tournaments.

He said streamlined coaching through the national academies would be a "pathway to international cricket" and would prevent the team from experiencing the kind of slump West Indies have suffered.

"It happened in Australia, in South Africa and it's happening in England now. It is giving the boys an opportunity to fast track," he said.

Marsh sought the job of India coach last year but former New Zealand captain John Wright was preferred.

Marsh said Wright had played a big role in India's recent Test series win over Australia.



Workers rolling the Bangabandhu Stadium pitch yesterday after the day's Premier Division Cricket Super League match was called off due to heavy overnight rain.

PHOTO: STAR

## Gibbs guides South Africa

Cricket

AFP, St John's

Herschelle Gibbs and Jacques Kallis shared a record second wicket partnership of 179 as South Africa cruised to an eight-wicket victory over the West Indies in the second one-day international at the Antigua Recreation Ground Wednesday.

South Africa's win levelled the seven-match series at 1-1.

Gibbs hit his fourth one-day international century, finishing with 104, while Kallis made an unbeaten 78.

It was a masterly exhibition of batting by the pair, whose stand was the highest for any wicket for South Africa against the West Indies and the highest recorded at the Recreation Ground.

It was the first time West Indies had been beaten in five one-day internationals in Antigua.

Chasing a modest total of 220, Gibbs and Kallis saw off the threat of fast bowler Cameron Cuffy, who bowled a lively opening spell which claimed the wicket of out-of-form Gary Kirsten. But the rest of the West Indian bowling seldom posed a threat.

The West Indian total was never likely to be enough on a

small ground with a good batting pitch. Gibbs hit three sixes and eight fours in his 141-ball innings, while Kallis hit two sixes and five fours off 112 balls. Both men hit sixes which cleared the stands and sailed into the streets surrounding the grounds.

Stung by their last-ball, three-wicket defeat in the first international in Kingston, Jamaica, Saturday, South Africa produced a top-class display of bowling and fielding after Shaun Pollock sent the West Indies in to bat.

West Indian opener Chris Gayle hit some crunching boundaries early on as he made 50 off 72 balls but lost momentum when fielding restrictions were lifted at the end of 15 overs.

Recalled Shivnarine Chanderpaul made a successful return to one-day international cricket as he and skipper Carl Hooper lifted a flagging scoring rate, putting on 86 for the fourth wicket in just 13 overs.

Chanderpaul hit 60 off 54 balls in his first one-day international in more than a year during which he has been plagued by injury. Chanderpaul's dismissal, when he was run out after a misunderstanding with Hooper, started a West Indian collapse in which five wickets fell while only 39 runs were scored off the last 39 balls of the innings.

Hooper made 48 off 46 balls and was part of the collapse, slicing a slower ball from Pollock to cover after surviving a simple chance to Kirsten at mid-on off Roger Telemachus five runs earlier.

Gibbs said he was pleased to have gone on to make a century after being dismissed three times in the eighties during the recent five-match Test series. He gave a chance on 76 when he cut off-spinner Marlon Samuels to wicket-keeper Ridley Jacobs.

**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard from second one-day international between the West Indies and South Africa at the

SEE PAGE 15



PHOTO: INTERNET

Man-of-the-match Herschelle Gibbs raises his bat after scoring his century in the second one-dayer against West Indies on Wednesday.

## Questioning over

Cricket

REUTERS, Colombo

Investigators probing match-fixing in cricket have finished questioning former Sri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga and leading Test batsman Aravinda de Silva.

"The process is over now. The questioning went all right," said lawyer Desmond Fernando on Thursday. "I questioned them myself and the International Cricket Council (ICC) also had one or two questions."

Fernando was appointed by

the Sri Lankan cricket board last November to examine allegations in an Indian police report that the two players had taken bribes from bookmakers to throw matches.

Fernando added that several questions had been given to him by the New Zealand cricket board.

Two officials from the ICC's Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) were present for the questioning.

Ranatunga, who led Sri Lanka to their 1996 World Cup triumph, and de Silva, the country's most prolific Test batsmen, were among several international players named in the Indian police report.

ACU chief Sir Paul Condon, a former head of London's Metropolitan Police, told a news conference last week in Sri Lanka that he was satisfied with the way Sri Lanka was probing the charges, which have been denied by both players.

"I will never have any part in a cover-up, nothing and no one will be too sacred," he said when asked about reports in the local media criticising the Sri Lankan investigation.

Since the scandal last year, three former Test captains - South African Hansie Cronje, India's Mohammad Azharuddin and Pakistan's Salim Malik - have been banned for life.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said Thursday that it had invited ICC investigators to visit Pakistan at the end of

this month.

"Sir Paul Condon (chief of the ICC anti-corruption unit) and his two associates will visit Pakistan sometime this month. Their tour plan is yet to be finalised," PCB director Munawwar Rana told Reuters.

"Initially he (Condon) is coming to Pakistan on an invitation of the PCB, but if he will ask to arrange any meetings with some players, the PCB will cooperate," Rana said.

"We will try to get Salim Malik, if Condon wants. But since he is not our contractual player, he (Salim) has all the rights to refuse meeting the ICC investigators."



ARAVINDA DE SILVA



ARJUNA RANATUNGA

## Sports WHIZZ KID

Competition 148

✓ Tick the Correct Answers  
Post to Elly Daily Star  
Win attractive prizes  
Competition closes at 8 pm  
May 4, 2001 and draw  
shortly afterwards

- Who clinched the Biman Cup Under-14 national football title?  
Moulvibazar Narayanganj Madanpur
- Who became Professor Abdur Razzak National chess champion?  
Niaz Mushed Zaur Rahman Enamul Hossain
- Wholifted the Eston Open title?  
Felix Mantilla Carlos Ferrero Andie Agassi
- Who won the English Premiership?  
Newcastle Man United Leeds
- What was the result of the Bangladesh and Zimbabwe one-day series?  
2-1 3-0 2-0

Name .....

Class ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....