



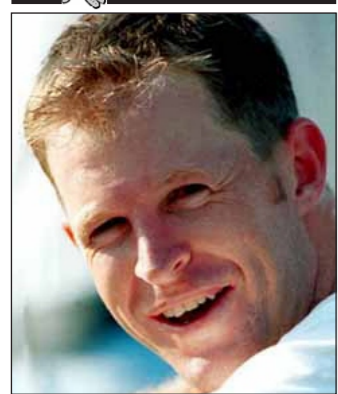
## Did U Know?

Just before tea in one Warwickshire versus Oxford University match, Norman Horner played a ball, which went for four runs, which the umpire signalled as byes. During the meal the umpire had after-thoughts and credited Horner with four runs - perhaps the first time that a batsman had scored a boundary at the tea table!



## ETV & BTv

- Bangladesh vs Pakistan**  
First Test, Day One  
Live at 9:45 am
- ESPN**  
Serie A  
Highlights at 10:00 am  
Football Focus  
12:00 pm
- English Premier Football League**  
Aston Villa vs Southampton  
3:00 pm
- West Ham United vs Liverpool**  
5:30 pm
- Cricket Programming**  
Super Selector  
7:30 pm
- Sportscentre Hindi**  
Sport News  
Live at 8:30 pm
- English Premier Football League**  
Liverpool vs Southampton  
Live at 1:50 am (Thursday)
- STAR Sports**  
Sportsline Today  
Sport News  
7:30 am
- Football Asia**  
10:30 am
- English Premier Football League**  
Everton vs Man United  
1:00 pm
- Sportsline Tonight**  
Sport News  
Live at 8:00 pm
- World Cup Soccer Mix**  
8:30 pm



**Jonty Rhodes**  
(South Africa's cricket star)  
*"I've made a commitment to my family. I've always professed that my priority over cricket and I stood by my decision. I don't feel guilty at all."*

On his decision to retire from Test cricket.

**Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 164**  
Tick the Correct Answers Post to  
**The Daily Star**  
Win attractive prizes  
Competition closes at 8 pm  
Jan 18, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

|   |        |        |         |
|---|--------|--------|---------|
| 1. What was Jacques Kallis' score in the MCG Test?          | 100    | 90     | 99      |
| 2. Michael Owen scored his 100th club goal against          | Bolton | Fulham | Chelsea |
| 3. Which football club won the Argentine Championship?      | Racing | Boca   | River   |
| 4. How many double century stand do Hayden and Langer have? | 5      | 43     |         |
| 5. How many batsmen have played in 100 consecutive Tests?   | 3      | 4      | 5       |

Name .....

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

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....



GETTING READY: Bangladesh (L) and Pakistan players stretch as part of their practice ahead of the first Test, which starts today, at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Tuesday.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Is Bashar a guinea pig?

**Cricket**  
**HASAN MASOOD**  
The mindless experimenting of the Bangladesh cricket team's think-tank continues as it has now decided to unsettle the position of the only consistent performer in the brittle batting line-up of the Test babes.

In a bid to 'regroup' themselves following the New Zealand drubbing last month, Bangladesh team management is now thinking of pushing a proven one downer Habibur Bashar down the order in the first match of the Coca-Cola Test Series against Pakistan starting at the Bangabandhu National Stadium this morning.

Bashar scored one century and seven half-centuries in his nine Test matches, and most of his 706 runs, the highest by a Bangladeshi, came while batting at crucial number one position.

"He is our main batsman. We don't want him to be exposed too early. Besides, (Mohammad) Ashraf is very young and can not take the pressure at number five or six. That's why we have decided to bring Ashraf ahead and put Bashar at five," reasoned Bangladesh coach Trevor Chappell at the BNS after his team went for a long three-and-a-half-hour nets.

Ashraf however became the Test cricket's youngest centurion batting at number six in the Asian Test Championship against Sri Lanka last September, but runs kept eluding the 18-year-old since then.

Sanwar Hossain would play at number four while Mehrab Hossain, recalled in the side after three months, would open the innings with Al-Shahriar.

Unlike others, Bashar, who was not even included in Bangladesh's



HABIBUL BASHAR

inaugural Test against India until media weighed in, had to prove his mettle by playing at every possible position.

"You see Bashar can play at any position. But his dealing with the old ball is much better than the new ball. That is another points we also considered," said the Aussie coach, who himself is under pressure with his performance as a coach.

Captain Khaled Mashud however agreed with his coach and said it was a decision taken for the interest of the team.

"We think Ashraf has a better prospect at number three while Bashar has informed me that he has no problem going down the order," said Mashud, adding that former

national captain Aminul Islam would bat after Bashar. Mashud intends to bat at number seven.

The wicketkeeper-batsman admitted that the absence of 18-year-old tearaway Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza was a great loss for his team and hoped that he would be fit before the Chittagong Test.

Monjurul Islam and Mohammad Sharif would now lead the pace attack while veteran Enamul Hoque and Fahim Muntasir will take care of the spin department.

Twenty-two years old offie Fahim finally gets the Test cap after being in the 14-man squad for the Test series against Zimbabwe and New Zealand.

"The wicket is absolutely flat and it will turn from the second day. That's why we have decided to take two spinners this time," said Bangladesh captain, adding that he would opt for batting if toss goes in his favour.

"Our main target is to perform better in front of the home crowd. Reality-wise we can't think of winning. But we can very well press for a draw if we play better against one of the most powerful side in the world.

"Our target is to stay in the crease for five sessions and score 350 plus in the first innings. But for that you need to bat cautiously against Danish Kaneria because he is good leg-break bowler."

Meanwhile, his Pakistan counterpart Waqar Younis warned they would attack the minnows ruthlessly.

"I think our bowlers are capable enough to give Bangladesh bats-

men a good, tough time. We have the best attack and it will go firing on all the cylinders," said Waqar at their hotel lobby yesterday afternoon.

He, however, declined to disclose the playing eleven saying it would be decided after the team meeting late in the evening.

But coach Mudassar Nazar revealed that they would field almost the same squad that played the three-day practice match at BKSP against Bangladesh A.

"There is only one change since Wasim Akram is fit to play. One has to make room for Wasim," said the Pakistan coach.

Although, Nazar did not mention who would get the chop, it was learnt that fast bowler Shoaib Akhter, who was reported twice for suspected bowling action in last one year, might not play. If he plays, Abdul Razzak is likely to be dropped from the playing eleven.

## Hit Channel-i & get rich!

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Channel-i has offered lucrative cash award for any batsman who can hit their billboards placed at strategic points in the Bangabandhu National Stadium during the first Test between Bangladesh and Pakistan starting today.

Each 'Hit the Board and Win' is

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## Nat'l Cricket matches

**SPORTS REPORTER**

The Ispahani Third National Cricket League resumes today.

Leaders Dhaka host Sylhet at the Mymensingh Stadium while second-placed Chittagong will take on Khulna at the Jessore Stadium. The other match of the round is between Barisal and Rajshahi at the Barisal Stadium.

## PM's son replaces Saber

### Dewan calls it illegal

**Cricket**

**SPORTS REPORTER**

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Ali Asghar on Tuesday removed Saber Hossain Chowdhury as chairman of its development committee.

The Board also discharged Saber's close associate Dewan Shafiqul Arefin as chief of the tournament committee.

Arafat Rahman, the youngest son of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, replaces Saber, who successfully led Bangladesh cricket for more than five years.

Nurul Kabir Shaheen will now head the tournament committee.

This is the first significant change in the BCB since Asghar was made president.

Arafat, a businessman, is relatively unknown in the cricket community.

Saber had hardly visited the Board's office since he was removed as president by the interim government in August last year.

But later in the evening when The Daily Star Sport contacted Dewan, who had been in charge of domestic events including the National League for the last three years, he termed the move illegal.

"It is a gross violation of the Board's rules of procedure. The changes first have to be discussed by the executive committee and if the activities of any standing committee are not satisfactory, only then will the EC take action.

"However, in case of emergency, the chairman or president has the power to remove the head of any standing committee. But he must consult with the person in question," said a disgruntled Dewan adding that he was not even informed.

"It seems to me that he (Asghar) is unaware of the norms. I will raise the matter at the next Board meeting."

"I think it was a politically-

motivated decision," exclaimed the BCB director from Manikganj.

Saber was not available for comment since he is out of the country.

Meanwhile, the BCB appointed former Bangladesh captain



SABER HOSSAIN CHOWDHURY

Shafiqul Huq as manager for the home series against Pakistani, which begins at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

## BFF seeks more time

**SPORTS REPORTER**

The ad-hoc committee of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) following a meeting on Tuesday evening, requested the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) to allow them until February 8 to hold a fresh election.

Earlier, the regional body for football in Asia on January 4, asked the BFF to reinstate the elected committee of Harun-ur Rashid and hold an election of the federation by February 8. But later, the AFC in a correction on January 6, said that it should be January 8 and not February 8 adding that it was a typing mistake that created the confusion.

BFF yesterday informed the AFC that it was impossible on their part to hold a new election so soon after

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## Shaun sees SA U-turn

**Cricket**

**REUTERS/INTERNET, Adelaide**

South Africa captain Shaun Pollock insists the Proteas will perform better in the forthcoming triangular limited-overs series after their

disastrous Test performances against Australia.

South Africa were thrashed 3-0 by Steve Waugh's side and have now turned their attention to the limited-overs series starting this week against the hosts and New Zealand.

"We were disappointed with the

way we played in the Test series but one-day cricket is a completely different thing," Pollock said on Tuesday.

"It has been nice to have a few days off and now we are going to turn our attention to really putting in a quality performance.

"We have played good one-day cricket over the years. We always pride ourselves as being a good one-day unit.

"I don't see any reason why we can't pick ourselves up again."

The series starts on Friday when Australia host New Zealand at Melbourne Cricket Ground. South Africa's first match is against Australia in Melbourne on Sunday.

South Africa play a warm-up game in Adelaide against Australia A on Thursday.

According to opening batsman, Gary Kirsten, the touring side lost the Test series because almost all of its players under-performed against an Aussie team that are so much better on paper than the South Africans.

It was the first time since the 1931-32 series that the Australians won all their home Tests against South Africa.

"We played badly. We could not come close to them in any department," Kirsten said.

"They placed us under pressure right from the second day of the first Test which was the turning point in the series. Herschelle (Gibbs) and I were at the crease at 90 or so when I was adjudged leg-before from a high full-toss from Glenn McGrath and we were under pressure from the moment that Boeta Dippenaar went out to a brilliant catch just after that," Kirsten said.

Kirsten refused to blame the selection drama surrounding the second Test for the team's misfortunes. According to him if each player would ask himself whether he played up to standard, most players, himself included, would have to answer in the negative.

Kirsten said that although the



PHOTO: STAR

IT'S MY TURN: Pakistan superstar Wasim Akram has always been the target of photographers, but here he appears to be targeting one of them for a change during a practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Tuesday.

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