



Did U Know?

One of the most astonishing bowling analyses on record was returned by RG Nadkarni in the India versus England Test at Madras in 1964. It read 31-27-5-0 and, according to reports, English batsmen said he was 'unhittable'!



What to Watch

- ETV & BTV**
Bangladesh vs Pakistan
First Test, Day Two
Live at 9:45 am
- ESPN**
English Premier Football League
Blackburn Rovers vs Ipswich Town
6:30 pm
- Sportscentre Hindi**
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
World Cup Soccer Mix
9:00 pm
- English Premier Football League
Liverpool vs Southampton
9:30 pm
- STAR Sports**
Sportsline Today
Sport News
7:30 am
- English Premier Football League
Derby County vs Leeds United
1:00 pm
- Sportsline Tonight**
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
Australia Tri Series
India vs Australia
Fourth ODI
Highlights at 9:30 pm



Talk Turkey



Sikandar Bakht
(Former Pakistan pacer)
"I don't know why India could not produce genuine fast bowlers. What I do know is that India produces a lot of Miss Universes and Miss Worlds these days. May be it is their speciality."
On India's lack of natural flow of genuine fast bowlers.

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)



THE LONE BRAVEHEART: Bangladesh batting mainstay Habibul Bashar square cuts one on way to scoring a gutsy 53 in the first innings of the first Coca-Cola Test against Pakistan at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Wednesday.

SERIES CHIPS



Cricket

HASAN MASOOD

No matter the occasion there has to be some sort of formalities. The first Test between Bangladesh and Pakistan was no exception. Unfortunately, the scheduled start of play (9.45 am) had to be delayed by five minutes to accommodate the arrival of Finance Minister Saifur Rahman, the chief guest. However, the BNP lawmaker failed to turn up. So, at the insistence of New Zealand match referee Brian Hastings, some Bangladesh Cricket Board officials requested State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman to meet the players and release balloons on the occasion. The simple ceremony lasted barely a minute and the game began at 9.50 am.

AD-HOC ASGHAR

BCB president Ali Asghar is said to be all set to form an ad-hoc committee dissolving the existing Board of directors immediately after the ongoing Bangladesh-Pakistan series that concludes at the end of this month. Asghar, who was appointed BCB president in November following the change of government, hinted last week that there might be a new committee in place of an elected committee. Rumours are ripe that the legislator of the ruling party has already finalised his list of choices and it would be made public after Waqar Younis' men depart on January 26. According to sources close to Asghar, Nurul Kabir Shahin, a BNP lawmaker who was made chairman of the Tournament Committee on Tuesday, Syed Ashraf Huj, Tanvir Mazhar Islam Tanna and Aminul Haque Moni would be the four vice-presidents of the ad-hoc committee. Mahbubul Anam, a director of the present board and secretary cricket committee, is speculated to be made general secretary. **GATE MONEY MATTERS** The proposed Pakistan-West Indies series was shifted from Bangladesh to Sharjah for financial reasons, influential Board director Syed Ashraf Huj made the disclosure on Wednesday. Initially, the Pakistan Cricket Board wanted to play the three Tests and one-dayers in Dhaka. But when BCB lay claim to the total gate money, the PCB turned to the desert venue because there the Pakistanis would be guaranteed fifty per cent of the revenue from CBFS. Ashraf Huj believes the PCB won't get that crowd in Sharjah, which they would have got in Bangladesh. **HIRA'S HORRIBLE EXPERIENCE** Bangladesh manager Shafiqul Haq

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Vintage Waqar

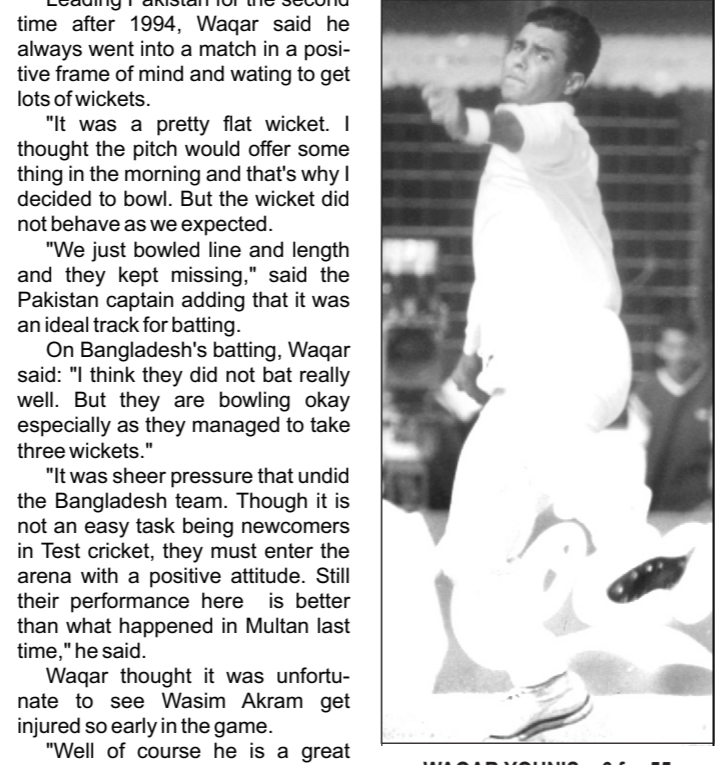


Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

It took Waqar Younis four years to again speak about his success as a bowler after he single-handedly dismantled Bangladesh's first innings on Wednesday. The 31-year-old Bhurewala Express was at his devastating best to return with a haul of six for 55. It was the 22nd time the Pakistan skipper had captured five or more wickets in a Test since making his debut against India in 1989-90 in Karachi. "Taking five wickets in a match is always satisfactory and inspiring. I am very pleased with what I did here today. Also, I am also very pleased with the overall performance of the team," said Waqar after the day's play. The remarkable aspect of Waqar's spell is it came when his legendary partner Wasim Akram was not in action. The right-arm fast bowler's last five-wicket haul (5/106) came at Bulawayo against Zimbabwe in 1997. Waqar made a sensational start to his career, but a spate of injuries and lack of form over the past few

years, has seen him in and out of the national team. He has taken 338 wickets in 75 matches. Leading Pakistan for the second time after 1994, Waqar said he always went into a match in a positive frame of mind and wating to get lots of wickets. "It was a pretty flat wicket. I thought the pitch would offer some thing in the morning and that's why I decided to bowl. But the wicket did not behave as we expected. "We just bowled line and length and they kept missing," said the Pakistan captain adding that it was an ideal track for bowling. On Bangladesh's batting, Waqar said: "I think they did not bat really well. But they are bowling okay especially as they managed to take three wickets. "It was sheer pressure that undid the Bangladesh team. Though it is not an easy task being newcomers in Test cricket, they must enter the arena with a positive attitude. Still their performance here is better than what happened in Multan last time," he said. Waqar thought it was unfortunate to see Wasim Akram get injured so early in the game. "Well of course he is a great



WAQAR YUNIS... 6 for 55

Ex-Pakistanis annoyed

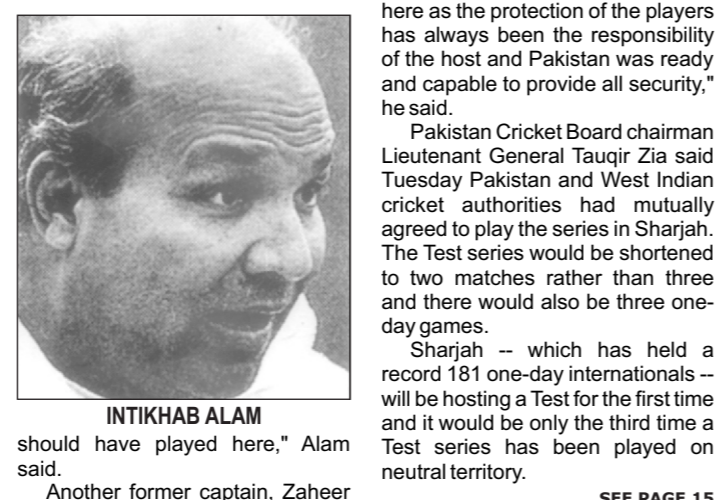


Cricket

AFP, undated

Former Pakistan cricket captain and coach Intikhab Alam Wednesday described as a dangerous precedent the decision to shift its home series against the West Indies to the Gulf venue of Sharjah due to security concerns. "It's very unfortunate that the West Indies has declined to play in Pakistan and the home series was shifted to Sharjah," former skipper and coach Alam told this news agency by telephone. Such a "precedent" was dangerous and should not be repeated, he said. The series was shifted to Sharjah after the West Indies declined to play in Pakistan because of security concerns in the wake of rising

tensions with neighbouring India. "They are no more the mighty West Indies and are against one of the best sides in the world and they were unfounded. "There was no logic behind the West Indies decision not to play here as the protection of the players has always been the responsibility of the host and Pakistan was ready and capable to provide all security," he said. Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Lieutenant General Tauqir Zia said Tuesday Pakistan and West Indian cricket authorities had mutually agreed to play the series in Sharjah. The Test series would be shortened to two matches rather than three and there would also be three one-day games. Sharjah -- which has held a record 181 one-day internationals -- will be hosting a Test for the first time and it would be only the third time a Test series has been played on neutral territory.



INTIKHAB ALAM should have played here," Alam said. Another former captain, Zaheer

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Rahman fiddles as BFF burns



Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh is likely to be banned from international football today. World governing body FIFA will make a decision after reviewing AFC's report that was sent to their Zurich headquarters on Wednesday. The unprecedented situation arose after the BFF decided not to bow to AFC demand for the reinstatement of the Harun-led executive committee. The government on December 23 abolished the Harun's elected body and replaced it with ad-hoc one. The AFC ordered BFF to reinstate the old committee by Tuesday. But with the deadline over, Bangladesh football faces international isolation for the first time in its history. "We are ready for the ban. And in no way will the previous committee be revived," said State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman. Talking to a host of reporters during the first Test match, Rahman also revealed that he would try to hold a new election as soon as possible. "It's unfortunate that AFC did not listen to our plea. But we will not bow our heads," said a determined Rahman.

ICC Knockout going to SL?

AFP, New Delhi

Sri Lanka are the front-runners to host the International Cricket Council's (ICC) one-day tournament in September after India pulled out over a tax row, officials said Wednesday. India, who were due to host the ICC Knockout event featuring all 10 Test-playing nations, declined after failing to receive a tax exemption from the government. "We have withdrawn from hosting the event," said Niranjan Shah, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). "Without the tax exemption, the tournament is financially not viable to the BCCI," he said. Officials said Sri Lanka, Australia and the Gulf emirate of Sharjah were being considered as alternative venues to host the tournament, but added that Sri Lanka was expected to get the nod. A final decision will be taken at the ICC's executive board meeting in Colombo in March, the officials said. The biennial tournament, dubbed the mini-Tour Cup, is played by the 10 Test-playing nations -- England, Australia, New Zealand, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, South Africa, West Indies, Zimbabwe and Bangladesh.



FAZLUR RAHMAN

The sports boss also lamented the way the issue has been portrayed by some quarters. "Differences of opinion can always occur but at the end of the day we should all keep the national

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India now to play five ODIs in WI

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's one-day series away to West Indies, which starts in April, has been reduced from seven to five games, an Indian cricket official said on Tuesday. The two boards had agreed to cut down on the original schedule at the request of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). BCCI secretary Niranjan Shah told reporters from the western Rajkot city on Tuesday. "We will now play only five one-day games, as well as a five-match Test series," Niranjan said. The reduced one-day series would give the Indian players a longer break at home ahead of their Test tour of England starting in June, he added. Niranjan said the original schedule of five Tests and seven one-day internationals would have stretched India's tour to the West Indies until the first week of June, with the team due to arrive in England on JuneV said. "Aaliyah is in position to reach her first No. 1 -- sadly only after her death -- with the release of her single this week," said HMV's Gennaro Castaldo. But Castaldo said there was only a slim margin between this week's top four singles. Current No. 1 Daniel Bedingfield, whose hit "Gotta Get Thru This" bounced back to the top of the pop charts after originally being knocked off by Robbie Williams and Nicole Kidman's "Somethin' Stupid," is maintaining good sales. Three other new releases -- Pure Tone's "Addicted to Bass," Doctor Dre's "Bad Intentions" and DJ Aligator Project's "The Whistle Song" -- were also strong contenders for the top place, he said. Aaliyah's "More than a Woman" is from her third album "Aaliyah," which was released in July and topped US album charts after her death.

Setback for NZ

AFP, Brisbane

New Zealand's cricketers received more than a warm-up for Friday's triangular one-day series opener against Australia when they fell to Australia A at the Gabba here Tuesday night. The Kiwis lost pacer Shane Bond to heat exhaustion as they sweltered, eventually losing by 60 runs. In reply to Australia A's 282 for five from 50 overs, New Zealand promised a good fight before they were worn down to 222 in the 46th over. South Australian quick Jason Gillespie made a promising return from a shoulder injury, snaring 1-17 from six overs. Gillespie was among the group of Australian bowlers rejoicing when New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming won the toss and bowled in temperatures hitting 37 degrees Celsius (99 degrees Fahrenheit). The decision did not agree with Bond, who sent down four overs before he was taken to hospital. He returned to bat later in the match after the New Zealand run chase had ground to a halt. The tourists looked promising while Chris Cairns (32 from 30 balls) and Craig McMillan (67 from 84) hit Test spinner Stuart MacGill into the northern stand. MacGill was pasted for 71 from his 10 overs, but he claimed three wickets as the Black Caps folded.

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Predictably fragile



Cricket

RABEED IMAM

Bangladesh are the world's most predictable side in international cricket at the moment. There can be little debate about it. Their remarkable consistency in making a complete hash of a promising batting situation makes our cricketers unique in the Test arena. You want to teach any budding cricketer what batting collapse means, just show him a few video clips of the Bangladesh team in action in recent times and he will learn immediately how to lose six or seven wickets in no time. Also their brand of 'one-day style Test cricket' is a very appealing new concept especially for their opponents. On the opening day of the first Test against Pakistan, the home side showed all the immaturity that only fuels the negative impressions of the doubters of Bangladesh cricket. The most sorry aspect was the lack of mental application of our players. Top order batsmen Al Shahriar, his opening partner Mehrrab Hossain, Mohammed Ashraf and Aminul Islam all had good starts but seemed to lack the energy and desire to carry on their innings. And the whole team batted as if they had a train to catch. Al-Shahriar is not finding it smooth sailing in a position for which he is not the ideal choice. To his credit, he is trying his best to curb his natural instincts and become more of an opener. But the product of Bangladesh Kriya Shikha Protisthan (BKSP) never opened during his BKSP days, nor in any form of domestic cricket. Sadly, undue pressure is being created by the selectors on the talented 26-year-old who can be much better exploited in the middle order. Al Shahriar began brightly with some wonderful on-side strokes but got out due to unsure foot-work, and on a number of occasions, his feet stayed glued to the crease while he reached for the ball. His tendency to let his bottom hand dominate is also very risky. Mohammed Ashraf might be having the wrong notion that his place is not under any threat. His wild square drive with no foot-work was a pathetic display of carelessness. Surely coach Trevor Chappell has cautioned him a thousand times not to give away his wicket with that kind of indiscretion. Ashraf is not listening at his

Habibul Bashar stood like a beacon. But if teammates don't care to use their brains, there's very little he or any coach can do to inspire a side. Otherwise how can you explain sliding from 140 for three to 160 all-out! Bangladesh took three wickets in the afternoon. But couldn't

Mohammed Sharif have bowled more fuller length deliveries like the one that got him the wicket of Taufeeq Umar? With the ball moving off the wicket, why did he send down those innocuous short pitched deliveries to nightwatchman Saqlain Mushtaq?

BANGLADESH-PAKISTAN SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the first Coca-Cola Test between Bangladesh and Pakistan at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Wednesday:

Team	R	M	B	4	6
BANGLADESH: First innings					
Al Shahriar lbw b Abdur Razzaq	18	42	29	4	0
Mehrrab Hossain c Shadab Kabir b Abdur Razzaq	11	30	18	2	0
Mohammad Ashraf c Yusuf Youhana b Danish Kaneria	27	54	31	3	0
Habibul Bashar c Danish Kaneria b Waqar Younis	53	139	90	8	0
Aminul Islam lbw b Danish Kaneria	25	78	82	2	0
Sanwar Hossain c Inzamamul Haq b Waqar Younis	3	28	18	0	0
Khaled Mashud lbw b Waqar Younis	0	1	1	0	0
Enamul Hoque c Inzamamul Haq b Waqar Younis	12	42	30	2	0
Fahim Muntasir b Waqar Younis	0	2	2	0	0
Mohammad Sharif b Waqar Younis	0	7	5	0	0
Monjurul Islam not out	0	21	16	0	0
Extras: (lb-8, w-1, nb-2)		11			
Total: (All out in 53.2 overs)		160			
Fall of wickets: 1-30 (Mehrrab), 2-45 (Al Shahriar), 3-77 (Ashraf), 4-140 (Aminul), 5-146 (Bashar), 6-146 (Mashud), 7-147 (Sanwar), 8-147 (Muntasir), 9-151 (Sharif), 10-160 (Enamul)					
Bowler	O	M	R	W	B
Wasim Akram	2.4	1	5	0	
Waqar Younis	16.2	2	55	6	
Abdur Razzaq	8.2	2	42	2	
Danish Kaneria	19	5	36	2	
Saqlain Mushtaq	7	2	14	0	
PAKISTAN: First innings					
Taufeeq Umar lbw b Mohammad Sharif	53	114	104	9	0
Shadab Kabir b Enamul Hoque	55	83	61	10	0
Younis Khan c Khaled Mashud b Enamul Hoque	0	7	6	0	0
Yusuf Youhana not out	14	41	33	3	0
Saqlain Mushtaq not out	1	17	13	0	0
Extras: (lb-2, nb-1)		3			
Total: (For 3 wickets in 36 overs, 133 mins)		126			
Fall of wickets: 1-100 (Kabir), 2-100 (Younis), 3-116 (Umar)					
To bat: Rashid Latif, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Inzamamul Haq, Danish Kaneria, Abdur Razzaq					
Bowler	O	M	R	W	B
Monjurul Islam	6	0	37	0	
Mohammad Sharif	6	2	23	1	
Fahim Muntasir	12	3	33	0	
Enamul Hoque	12	4	31	2	
Umpires: Akhtaruddin (Bangladesh) and John Hampshire (England).					
TV Umpire: Mesbahuddin Ahmed (Bangladesh).					
Match Referee: Brian Hastings (New Zealand).					
Toss: Pakistan.					



Pakistan's (L-R) Faisal Iqbal, Younis Khan and Inzamamul Haq appeal successfully for an lbw decision against Al-Shahriar off the bowling of Abdur Razzaq (not in picture) on the opening day of the first Test Wednesday.

PHOTO: STAR