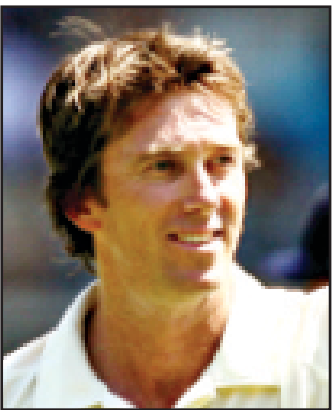




## Did U Know?

Anil Dalpat Sonavaria was the first Hindu to play Test cricket for Pakistan.



## Glenn McGrath

(Australian fast bowler)  
"I'm obviously very happy, to get a five-for at any time is great. To get that five-for after having so much time out of the game, I couldn't ask for a better comeback in respect to Test cricket."

**After taking six wickets on the third day of the first Ashes Test against England.**

## What to WATCH

### TEN Sports

Pakistan v West Indies  
Third Test, Day One  
Live at 10:30 am

### ESPN

Australia v England  
First Ashes Test, Day 5  
Live at 6:00 pm  
Sportscenter India  
Live at 8:30 pm

## 'Stop Yousuf'

### 3rd Test starts today

AFP, Karachi

West Indian captain Brian Lara said Sunday his team was ready for make or break in the final Test against Pakistan and would stop prolific batsman Mohammad Yousuf from achieving a world record.

"One of the motivating factors in the last day at Multan was we started thinking about winning against teams like Australia, Pakistan and South Africa," said Lara, ahead of the third Test which starts here from Monday.

The West Indies were trailing 1-0 in the three-match series following their nine-wicket defeat in the first match in Lahore. The second Test at Multan ended in a draw.

Once a major power in international cricket, the West Indies have not won an away Test against a major country, minus Bangladesh and Zimbabwe, since their win over England at Edgbaston in 2000.

Their last series win came against New Zealand in 1995 and since then they have lost 38 of their 44 away Tests against major opposition, with five draws and one win.

The tourists were unlucky not to win the second Test at Multan. They dropped a crucial catch off Pakistani batsman Mohammad Yousuf to help the home team escape with a draw.

"We had a hard fought draw minus dropped catches, and I think we are heading towards the right direction and hope to make it happen sooner rather than later and we are looking forward this time," said Lara, who promised to come down hard on prolific Yousuf.

"Yousuf is of course challenging the world record of Vivian Richards, but we would like Richards to continue holding the record of most runs in a calendar year so we'll be coming really hard at him," said Lara.

Yousuf, who hit 192 in Pakistan's win in the first Test in Lahore, saved home team's blushes with a fighting 191 in the second.

The stylish right-handed batsman, who has already notched 439 runs in three innings of the series, needs 149 runs more to break Richards' world record of 1710 runs in eleven Tests in a calendar year.

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# England live to fight another day

## Cricket

AFP, Brisbane

Shane Warne took a belting but struck back with two crucial England wickets to have Australia on the road to victory in the first Ashes cricket Test at the Gabba here Sunday.

The master leg-spinner was knocked around by Kevin Pietersen, but he persevered to deny Paul Collingwood a deserved hundred and claimed captain Andrew Flintoff's wicket to have the Australians poised for victory on Monday's final day.

At stumps on an engrossing fourth day, England, needing to bat out almost two days to avoid defeat and facing a monumental 648-run target, were 293 for five with Pietersen unbeaten on 92 and Geraint Jones not out 12.

Warne had coaxed Flintoff into a false shot for Justin Langer to take a safe catch at long-on and send the England skipper on his way for 16.

Warne left the field with 4-108 off 31 overs and now has taken 689 wickets, the most in Test cricket.

After three days of suffering Australian domination, England finally showed the application missing earlier in the Test when the Australians had plundered the tourists' bowling.

But inspired by the unorthodox shotmaking of Pietersen and the determination of Collingwood, England carried the fight to the Australians, who fielded without their skipper Ricky Ponting, who was troubled by a back injury.

"It was important for our confidence," Collingwood said. "The first three days didn't go as well as we would have liked and it was important today that we came out and put a fight up and I think we've certainly done that."

"We've played some positive cricket as well and that was our intention."

"We wanted a fight today. Today was about fighting, about pride, a bit of passion and showing that, not just talking about it but going out there and showing it."

England must defy history to get anywhere near Australia's huge lead with their highest successful fourth-innings run chase in an Ashes Test 332 for 7 in Melbourne in 1928.

Collingwood had his sights on a third Test century when he advanced down the wicket to Warne on 96, only to be hopelessly stranded and stumped by Adam Gilchrist.

His 216-minute knock of 13 fours and two sixes breathed new life into moribund England after three days of total Australian control. He had shared a 153-run fourth wicket stand with Pietersen in just 151 minutes.

It was absorbing cricket as Pietersen took on his English county Hampshire teammate Warne with some exhilarating shots.

An irritated Warne chuckled the ball at Pietersen's head at the end of his 15th over, but the England No.5 swatted it away with his bat and snapped back at Warne.

"Kevin's a guy who really likes a challenge and that's why when he comes up against the best players he wants to prove himself. He's up for a fight as well so you could say he thrives on that," Collingwood said.

The Australians believed they had Pietersen out on 44 when he swung his bat at a low Warne leg-break that veered sharply out of a crack. Gilchrist appealed joyously, but umpire Steve Bucknor was unmoved.

Pietersen went to stumps having been at the wicket for 226 minutes and hit 14 boundaries.

It was a significant turnaround in momentum after Andrew Strauss, the most experienced of England's batsmen on tour, played his second ill-judged shot of the Test and fell for an Australian trap set up for the hook before lunch.

Strauss obliged and played

seamer Stuart Clark straight to fielding substitute Ryan Broad at fine leg to be out for 11 and expose England's top-order to Australia's experienced bowling attack.

Ian Bell, the top scorer in the England's first innings with 50, lasted just four balls before Warne trapped him lbw for a duck.

Warne followed up after lunch to remove Alastair Cook for 43 after the opener played forward to a leg-break and was caught at short-leg by Mike Hussey.

Ponting declared the second innings closed immediately after opening batsman Justin Langer completed his century to be 100 not out, with the skipper unbeaten on 60, early into the morning session.

It was 36-year-old Langer's 23rd Test century and in doing so he became the fifth all-time leading Australian scorer in Tests with 7,575 runs at 46.18 in his 101st Test match.

"I couldn't have played 100 Test matches unless I was mentally strong," Langer said. "That's the thing I'm most proud of in my career. I've had a lot of distractions and people questioning my ability. I'm thankful I've had that I've been under the pump."

Langer batted for 199 minutes with 10 fours and celebrated enthusiastically after completing his ton by scampering through for a single off Steve Harmison.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close on the fourth day of the first Ashes Test between Australia and England at the Gabba on Sunday:

**AUSTRALIA:** First innings 602 for 9 declared (Ponting 196, Hussey 86, Langer 82; Flintoff 4-99)

**ENGLAND:** First innings 157 (Bell 50, Giles 24; McGrath 6-50, Clark 3-21)

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PHOTO: AFP

FLAIR: England batsman Kevin Pietersen plays a hook shot on the fourth day of the first Ashes Test at the Gabba in Brisbane on Sunday.

## BFF considers Pro-League transfer soon

### SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is considering announcing a fresh transfer date for the inaugural Professional Football League within a couple of days.

The transfer, which has already been deferred a number of times, was lastly scheduled to begin on November 15 but the federation had to postpone it due to the political impasse in the country.

The BFF, eager to start the procedures for the league that is due to kick off on December 21, has decided to wait till two more programmes, declared by the 14-party alliance for today and tomorrow, end.

"We have to watch the situation after these two programmes. If everything is favourable, we will declare the transfer date as soon as possible," told BFF general secretary Anwarul Hoque Helal yesterday.

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## Tigers flatter to deceive

### SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh were flattered by trampling a local Khulna Eleven by 240 runs in a warm-up game at the Khulna Divisional Stadium yesterday.

In a poor preparation match for their Twenty20 international against Zimbabwe, the Tigers batted with utmost ease to notch up 286 for five in 45 overs, while bowling out their hapless opponents, comprising of only a few recognised players, for only 46 runs in 21 overs.

Sakibul Hasan got amongst the runs scoring 65 while Mashrafe Bin Mortuza smashed five sixes in his 44 off 19 balls.

Local boys Abdur Razzaq (4-2), Syed Rasel (3-33) and Mashrafe (2-8) had a fun outing for the national side.

# Kemp crushes India

## Cricket

AFP, Cape Town

Big-hitting Justin Kemp pounded a maiden century as South Africa came back from a horror start to gain a convincing 106-run win in the third one-day international against India at Newlands Sunday.

Kemp made 100 not out off 89 balls as South Africa recovered from 76 for six to reach 274 for seven after winning the toss. India also started poorly but despite half-centuries from captain Rahul Dravid and Mahendra Singh Dhoni were bowled out for 168. Shaun Pollock took four for 26.

The win gave South Africa an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the five-match series. The first match was rained out.

South Africa's total seemed unlikely after Indian left-arm opening bowler Zaheer Khan plunged the innings into disarray.

Khan took two wickets for no runs in the first over and had an opening spell of three for nine off seven overs.

Kemp and Pollock (33) started the South African fightback when they put on 60 for the seventh wicket.

Even then, South Africa were in a shaky position but Kemp and Andrew Hall (56 not out) added a South African record 138 for the eighth wicket with some audacious strokeplay. They scored their runs off only 92 balls.

Hall was a controversial late inclusion. A team spokesman said fast bowler Andre Nel was replaced after suffering a finger injury but it emerged that Nel had been passed fit to play, only for selection convenor Haroon Lorgat to tell captain Graeme Smith shortly before the toss that Hall was playing.

The tall Kemp, who survived difficult chances on nine and 35, hit seven sixes and six fours. His first 50 runs were scored off a relatively

sedate 67 balls as he and Pollock rebuilt the innings but he went on the rampage to score his second half-century off 22 deliveries.

Khan was among the bowlers who suffered as South Africa hammered 113 off the last ten overs, including 77 off the last six.

Khan finished with three for 42 after seemingly putting his side on target to level the series.

Khan was on target from the start of the match, with Smith surviving an appeal for leg before wicket off the first ball only to be bowled by the next delivery when he failed to get forward to a ball which angled in to beat the South African captain.

Two balls later, Jacques Kallis, who made a century to set up South Africa's 157-run win in Durban Wednesday, drove loosely outside the off stump and was caught by

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PHOTO: AFP

COMING IN FOR LANDING: West Indies paceman Corey Collymore runs with a parachute tied to his back during a training routine at The National Stadium in Karachi on Sunday.

## NCL 2006-07 Rajshahi-Dhaka encounter today

### SPORTS REPORTER

It would top-of-the-table time in the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea 8th National Cricket League as leaders Dhaka take on Rajshahi in the fourth round match starting at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium today.

Fresh from their crushing victory over Chittagong in the previous match, Dhaka reached the north-Bengal headquarters yesterday but they will miss their record-breaking batsman Mohammad Ashraful, who smashed 263 during a near world-record partnership of 420 runs for the fifth wicket with young middle-order batsman Marshall Ayub last week.

Both the batsmen will be unavailable for this tie as Ashraful was recalled to the national fold for the Zimbabwe series. Marshall, on the other hand, will be playing the inaugural Twenty20 International

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# Ashraful is back



### SPORTS REPORTER

In a surprise move the national selectors brought Mohammad Ashraful back to the national side for the first three one-day internationals against visiting Zimbabwe.

Chief selector Faruque Ahmed confirmed the inclusion of the ace batter yesterday during the warm-up match between the visiting Zimbabwe and BCB President's XI at BKSP saying that the right-hander's record double hundred (263) in domestic cricket has motivated them to change their hearts.

Ashraful's exclusion from the earlier announced 13-member squad raised widespread criticism in the media and fingers were

pointed out to coach Dav Whatmore for taking the decision. Faruque, however, was dismissive of the idea that media pressure was behind Ashraful's return to the side.

"We ignored him for the first time only to make an opportunity for him to get among runs by playing in less pressure games. I must say that the way he has replied is absolutely brilliant. It's not so common that a batsman smashes back-to-back hundreds in first-class cricket after being left out from the national side," Faruque said while defending his selection committee.

"It's not a joke to make 263 runs

in an innings and I think Ashraful has simply showed his class. The two hundreds also give an indication that he is now in top form. So there is no point leaving him outside the mainstream when there is no doubt about his calibre," he added.

The chief selector thought that Ashraful's return should not worry the remaining members of the team about their places.

"It is now a 14-member squad. Anybody can play but what I want

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Ad

# Zim win tour opener

## Cricket

### SPORTS REPORTER

National captain Habibul Bashar's hopes of starting the campaign against Zimbabwe on a high note was shattered as the visitors managed a 26-run victory against a youthful BCB President XI in their tour opener at the BKSP cricket ground yesterday.

The focus was on young left-hander Mehrab Hossain how he responds as an opener but frustratingly, he was dismissed for a first-ball duck while Bashar's ploy to make up for his lack of match practice also misfired following an unfortunate run out.

The home team were bundled out for 195 in reply to the Zimbabwean's 221 for eight in the allotted 50 overs in their lone warm-up match ahead of a Twenty20 international and the five-match one-day series.

Promising batsmen Marshal Ayub (35 off 69 balls) and Nadif Chowdhury (42 off 54 balls) shared a 68-run partnership for the fourth wicket stand after the home side

were reduced to 48 for three but their efforts were not enough to chase down the total on an uneven pitch.

Bashar, however, said that the outcome was a clear message that there was no scope for the Tigers to be complacent against the southern African nation in the series.

"I don't think there was anything extraordinary in their performance but they played according to a plan which impressed me. They bowled in a discipline manner which is very much important in a one-day game. Their win today means we have to perform at our best to realise our desire to win the series," said Bashar.

Left-handed opener Nazmus Sadat got off to a flying start when he smote three boundaries to collect 14 runs from Christopher Mpofu's first over of the innings but the way he got out even irked chief selector Faruque Ahmed who along with his two other colleagues watched the match.

In Mpofu's next over, the young opener stepped down eyeing a big hit but was deceived by a slower to be bowled for 18 off nine balls. In

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



PHOTO: STAR

Zimbabwe batsman Stuart Matsinyeri drives one on the off side as BCB President's XI wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim looks on during the warm-up game at the BKSP ground in Savar yesterday.