

## Mashrafe needs arthroscopic surgery

SPORTS REPORTER

Injured Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza will need to have arthroscopic surgery on both knees.

The surgery is likely to be performed on Monday under the supervision of Dr. David Young, who also operated on both knees of the premier Bangladesh pace bowler in 2003, in Melbourne.

The possible duration for recovery of the pace spearhead, who injured his right knee during the first Test against the West Indies at St. Vincent last month and has been sidelined since, will be confirmed only after an assessment on the extent of the injury.

The 25-year-old Tigers skipper saw orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Young in Melbourne on Friday and after examining his injured right knee and the left knee, Young has advised him to undergo arthroscopic surgery on both knees. Arthroscopy is a way for a surgeon to look into joint with a camera and the most common type of arthroscopy is arthroscopic knee surgery.

The player has been under Dr. Young's, who has treated several of the world's leading cricketers including Muttiah Muralidaran and Shoaib Akhtar, treatment over the past few years.

Mashrafe has been living with the horror of injury since he made his international debut in 2001 as he had to

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## Did U Know?

The arch at the new Wembley Stadium weighs the same as ten jumbos.



**Mohammad Zahid**  
(Former Pakistan fast bowler)  
"Once when I met Geoff Boycott he pulled my shirt up to look at my back and he asked how on earth I could generate pace like that from such a skinny and weak body."  
Reflecting on his glory days.



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PHOTO: TIGERCRIKET.COM

Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan (R) and his Zimbabwe counterpart Prosper Utseya pose yesterday with the Grameenphone Cup for which they will be competing in a five match one-day series that starts in Bulawayo today.

## Shakib relishing the challenge

TIGERCRIKET.COM



Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan said his team is focussed on getting the game plan right when they meet Zimbabwe in the first ODI of the five-match Grameenphone Cup series at Bulawayo's Queens Sports Club today.

The Tigers are coming off a remarkable historic Test and ODI sweep over the West Indies but faltered in the only warm-up game against Zimbabwe A on Friday but the skipper was confident of a turn-around.

"It was a long journey from the West Indies. We were flying for nearly two days. Obviously there was a bit fatigue when we took the field against Zimbabwe A. Our kits also arrived at the last moment. However, everything is settled now and we are looking forward to carrying on the good work from the West Indies and we

want to play our game," said Shakib, who took over the charges from injured captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza.

Bangladesh lost the warm-up game by seven wickets after mustering only 180 but the world's number one ODI all-rounder indicated that the team for the first game was likely to remain the same which means Nazmul Hossain and Syed Rasel will be the two seamers while Shakib, Enamul Haque, Mahmudullah Riyad and Nayeem Islam are the spin options.

"The wicket looks okay. It has a slight shade of grass but it is compact. However, we'll have another look tomorrow morning before deciding on the final eleven."

Shakib said the team was not under any pressure to play Zimbabwe in their backyard after a memorable time in the Caribbean.

"We are professional players and Zimbabwe offers a challenge which we have to face in a professional way. We will try to do our best and

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PHOTO: AFP

Australia's stylish middle-order batsman Michael Clarke drives a ball on the second day of the fourth Ashes Test against England in Headingley yesterday.

## Fred 'keen' to play 5th Test

Cricket

AFP, Leeds

England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff remains "keen" to play in the fifth and final match of the Ashes series after being ruled out of the fourth Test against Australia with a knee injury that could yet require an operation.

Flintoff has been troubled throughout this series by a right knee injury and was ruled out Friday from the team to play Australia here at Headingley when it was decided the fast bowler was not fit enough to withstand the demands of a five-day match.

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## Rony stars for NCA

SPORTS REPORTER

GP-BCB National Cricket Academy (NCA) rode on Rony Talukdar's half-century to put up a descent total in the first innings against their South African counterparts on the opening day of the first four-day at Tukkies 1 in Pretoria yesterday.

The day however could have been much better for the visitors had there not been a hiccup in the final session when they lost eight wickets.

After sent into bat, GP-BCB Academy made a good start and went into lunch on 109 for one. They lost another wicket in the second session as they reached 177-2 at tea, but ultimately they were bundled out for 267 runs.

Dashing opener Rony made 74 off 99 balls that featured 12 fours and a six while Farhad Hossain (39) and Shuvagat Hom (42) were the other notable scorers.

The Standard Bank National Academy (SBNA) finished the

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## Qasim bucks up Shoaib

CRICINFO, undated

Shoaib Akhtar's career is stagnating due to a combination of fitness and disciplinary issues, but newly appointed Pakistan chief selector Iqbal Qasim has said the fast bowler still has a future with the national side.

"The door is not closed on Shoaib Akhtar, he can still play cricket for Pakistan in future," Qasim told a news service. "However what he needs to do is to prove to the selection committee that he is fit enough for international cricket."

Shoaib was left out of the series against Sri Lanka after the selectors felt he was not fit

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## Star-studded MSC

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club made a bold statement on Saturday that they would splash any amount of money to win the B. League by signing the two most exciting exponents of last season -- star striker Zahid Hasan Emily and best defender Wali Faisal.

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Emily and Faisal were the two key players of Mohammedans' rival Abahani's title triumphs in the first two B Leagues. Mohammedans, who have reportedly paid Emily a whopping cash of Taka 18,00,000 also roped in five players from different clubs and retained the services of country's number one goalkeeper Aminul along with midfielder Arman Aziz and defenders Mofazzal Hossain Saikat, Nasiruddin and striker Abdul Baten Kamol.

It will be a different battle for three former Abahani campaigners Emily, Wali and Mamunul, who will be wearing the Black and White jersey for the first time. But they vowed that they have one thing in common -- to win a hat-trick of titles.

"To play for Mohammedan will be a new experience for me. It might be a different battle but for me the target remains the same. I want to touch the B. League trophy for a third time," said Wali after putting pen to papers.

For Emily it was a dream come true.

"As a professional player, we all look for better offers and I accepted Mohammedan's proposal. But if you consider me as a fan then it's a dream true for me because it was my childhood dream of playing for my favourite club," said Emily, the highest paid player of Mohammedan.

"I will be loving to put up

better performance of what I showed for Abahani last season and looking forward to strike 25 goals in the B. League," said the young striker, who struck 13 league goals on way to Abahani's second consecutive B. league title triumph.

The Motijheel-based club with a rich shelf of trophies however had to be content as bridesmaid of their bitter rivals Abahani ever since the prestigious B. League was

launched in 2007.

Mohammedan invasion in the transfer this time was so intense that it gave them a clear edge, at least on paper, over holders Abahani, who all but completed their transfer formalities two days ago.

Mohammedans show off with the players accompanied by a large number of supporters at the Bangladesh Football Federation headquarters was spectacular to say the least.

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PHOTO: STAR

STAR CAST ON A RIDE: Mohammedan Sporting Club's star signings midfielder Mamunul Islam (R), striker Zahid Hossain Emily (C) and best player of last season Wali Faisal (Standing L) are on a horse carriage at Motijheel yesterday after confirming that they would don the Black and White shirt when the 3rd B. League commences in October.

## North powers Aussies

Cricket

AFP, Leeds

Marcus North's second century of this Ashes series ensured Australia maintained their iron grip on the fourth Test against England at Headingley here on Saturday.

Australia, at tea on the second day, had been bowled out for 445 -- a lead of 343 -- after England collapsed Friday to 102 all out in their first innings.

North was last man out for 110, holing out to give pace bowler Stuart Broad his Test-best figures of six wickets for 91 runs in 25.1 overs.

That surpassed Broad's previous best of five for 85 against the West Indies at Kingston in February but the bowler's lack of celebration spoke volumes about the match position.

Western Australia left-hander North, out for 96 in the drawn third Test at Edgbaston, reached his third century in six Tests in grand style by sweeping off-spinner Graeme Swann for six to reach the landmark in 193 balls, including 12 fours.

Such was Australia's command, as they looked to level the series at 1-1, that even Stuart Clark drove Swann for six and later twice pulled Broad high over square leg for two sixes in as

Broad did though take five of the six wickets to fall in the second session after Australia resumed on their lunch score of 306 for five.

Mitchell Johnson, who helped North add 70, holed out to Ravi Bopara at deep mid-wicket and three balls later Peter Siddle was clean bowled for a duck to leave Australia 394 for eight.

Broad eventually had the satisfaction of dismissing Clark but not before the tailender had made 32 off 22 balls featuring those three sixes.

England paceman James Anderson, who sustained a hamstring injury while batting Friday, didn't bowl at all between lunch and tea.

England took the new ball as soon as it was available with Australia 323 for five off 80 overs.

Two balls later England had a wicket when Brad Haddin, cramped trying to pull a bouncer from recalled fast bowler Stephen Harmison that was too quick for him, skied to Ian Bell at short backward square leg.

But North, who shared a fifth-wicket stand of 152 with Michael Clarke, then moved into the 80s with a flashing square-cut off Broad.

Australia resumed Saturday on 196 for four, a lead of 94, with Clarke 34 not out and North seven not out.

North set the tone when, off Saturday's first ball, he punched Anderson through the covers for four off the backfoot.

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## Roebuck tells Lee to quit

INTERNET, undated

Australia fast bowler Brett Lee should take a lesson from England all rounder Andrew Flintoff, and think about a dignified retirement from Test cricket, according to a former cricketer and renowned newspaper columnist.

"Lee lost pace and even his temper as his captain looked elsewhere for wickets. But his struggle might just as easily have been the first signs of gradual deterioration. Lee's trajectory is slightly flat, and he relies on raw pace and swing. Bowlers of that type seldom age well," wrote Peter Roebuck.

"If Lee does not make it back, he can reflect on an outstanding and sometimes thrilling career. Always he brought spark to the team, not least in 2005, an ingredient missing this time.

"Perhaps it is premature to suggest his best days are

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