

Coach Waqar Younis has told the ICC Code of Conduct Commission that Mohammad Aamer's infamous no-ball during the Lord's Test had surprised him 'greatly' because it was very different from his normal delivery stride.

"I was so surprised that at the end of that morning session I said to Aamer in Punjabi, 'What the hell was that?'"

"But before Aamer had the chance to answer my question, Salman interrupted from across the dressing room, saying: 'I told him to do it because the batsman was coming on the front foot. I told him to come forward and bowl him a bouncer!'"



# SPORT

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## Ctg MSC start with a win

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong Mohammedan started their Grameenphone Bangladesh League campaign on a winning note when the port city side came from behind to beat hosts Feni Soccer Club 2-1 in the Grameenphone Bangladesh League at Feni Stadium yesterday.

Hosts Feni Soccer Club, who finished fourth in the 12-team points table in their first appearance last season, stunned the Black and Whites taking a first-minute lead with veteran striker Maksudul Alam Bulbul striking the opener.

Ctg Mohammedan, who played miserably last season to finish ninth, bit back four minutes from the break with Liberian recruit Jerry Odesco leveling the margin.

Jerry struck his second goal eight minutes into the second half to determine the fate of the game and the visitors left the field with full three points.

## Arman thumps Wanderers

SPORTS REPORTER

A brutal unbeaten century by Arman Haider gave Brothers Union an eight-wicket win over Dhaka Wanderers Club in the First Division Cricket League at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The right-hander smashed 104 off only 55 balls with the help of thirteen boundaries and four sixes as Brothers, who have already earned the right to play in the Premier League next season, reached their target of 186 runs in only 23.5 overs.

Earlier, Wanderers had only made 185 in 44 overs.

In the day's other game, Uttara Sporting Club (196-8) beat Eskaton Sabuj Sangha (151-9) by 45 runs at the BKSP ground.

### SPORTS POLL

#### WEEKLY QUESTION

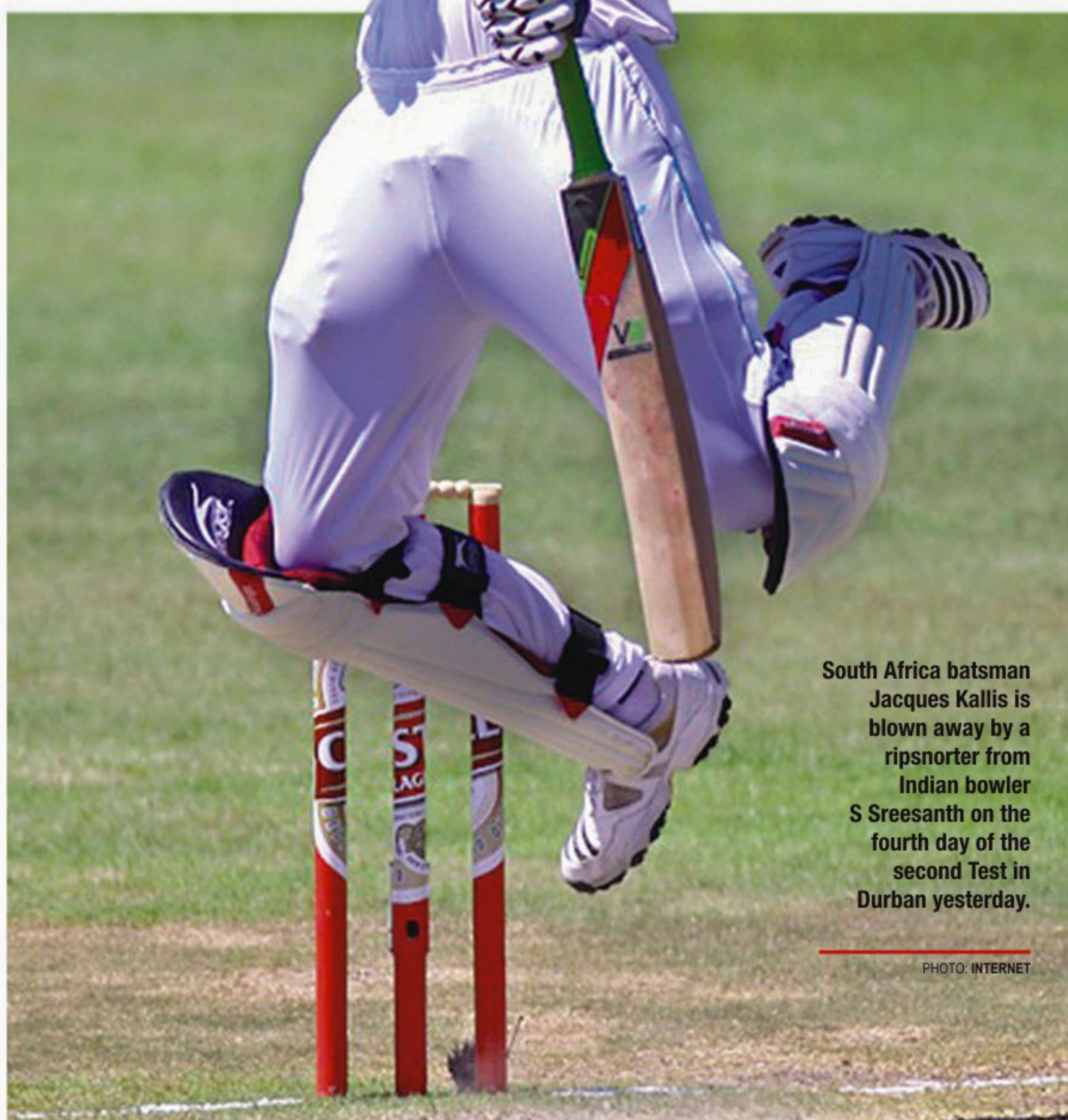
Which Bangladeshi sportsperson was the best in 2010?

Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote

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South Africa batsman Jacques Kallis is blown away by a ripsnorter from Indian bowler S Sreesanth on the fourth day of the second Test in Durban yesterday.

PHOTO: INTERNET

## Mashrafe vows to overcome

BISHWAJIT ROY



MASHRAFE BIN MORTAZA

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza is all about heart, courage and his never-say-die attitude. When he talked to this reporter at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday, the man dubbed the Narail Express spoke of his desire and determination to play a part in the Bangladesh team for the ICC 2011 World Cup.

It was unmistakably evident that a brave and jovial Mashrafe had recovered from the initial distress after sustaining an injury to his right knee a week ago.

"Only a brave man can achieve something in his life," a self-assured Mashrafe said while sitting in the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) headquarters.

The 27-year-old pace spearhead, who has resumed normal walking and cycling exercise, was not ready to give up the fight for the World Cup even though injuries have kept piling up to frustrate him to no end.

Mashrafe, thankfully, has retained a sense of perspective and insisted that he wants to continue to overcome all adversities and continue on with his cricket career. At one point, he was speaking so confidently that it was impossible to not be positive about his chances of playing in cricket's mega event. "It's very easy to say goodbye but I'm not ready to give up the fight."

"In my career on most of the occasions I had to fight with injuries with my back, ankle and of course the dreadful knee injuries. But

every time, I have come back strongly. And there will be no exceptions this time," he said, words from the man who has been living under the vice of injury since he made his international debut in 2001.

"Many people wrote off my career after the first two games against Zimbabwe. There was a lot of rumours which made me upset. Many even said the time has come for me to say goodbye. But I took little time to prove those men wrong. But it's my bad luck that I got injured again just when I was recovering my rhythm. And just think of the timing! (with only two months go to the World Cup)," he added.

Mashrafe didn't try to hide his emotions about the World Cup.

"It would be hypocrisy if I said that I have no emotions attached to the World Cup especially when it is going to be held in my home soil. I want to play in the World Cup and I am confident about my chance. I love to take a challenge and I am hopeful that I will be able to present myself for selection," said Mashrafe, who will be able to bowl in four weeks time as per the physicians' suggestion.

Mashrafe also has a lot of faith on Australian surgeon Dr David Young and according to him Young gave him the confidence about regaining the match fitness before the World Cup. He will also try to meet with Young when the Australian visits Sri Lanka in the middle of the next month.

"He gave his go-ahead already but still I want to meet him if it is possible when he comes to Sri Lanka. Actually it all depends on whether I am confident or not."

"And, yes I am," finished Mashrafe.

## India level series



Cricket

AFP, Durban

India completed an 87-run win on the fourth day of the second Test against South Africa at Kingsmead on Wednesday to set up a series decider in the final match in Cape Town.

Set a target of 303, South Africa were bowled out for 215.

The match finished an hour after lunch but South Africa's hopes were effectively ended when overnight batsmen Jacques Kallis and AB de Villiers were dismissed in the first hour of the day.

It was a remarkable fightback by India, who lost the first Test in Centurion by an innings and 25 runs and whose chances seemed to have nosedived when they were sent in at Kingsmead and bowled out for 205.

But India's bowlers shot out South Africa for 131 to take control of the match and an innings of 96 by man of the match VVS Laxman meant that South Africa had to score by far the highest total of the match to snatch victory.

The win ensures that India will retain their number one ranking in Test cricket, irrespective of the result in the final Test.

Second-placed South Africa needed to win the series 3-0 to displace the tourists at the top of the rankings.

Sree Sreesanth struck the first, crucial blow of the day when he produced a vicious bouncer that star batsman Kallis could only fend off his glove to Virender Sehwag at gully.

Kallis was out for 17 after he and De Villiers had added 111 runs in half an hour to the overnight total of 111 for three.

It was Sreesanth's third wicket of the innings and came during a fine spell of one for seven in five overs from the start of play.

South Africa's hopes were effectively snuffed out by two debatable leg before wicket decisions in the space of three overs.

De Villiers, who had looked solid in making 33, was struck on the pad when he pushed forward to off-spinner Harbhajan Singh.

He appeared dismayed when he was given out by umpire Asad Rauf and replays suggested the ball would have gone over the top of the

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## Urn stays with England



Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

England retained the Ashes with a crushing innings and 157-run win in the fourth Test Wednesday, breaking a 24-year away drought in the series and leaving Australian captain Ricky Ponting's future in doubt.

The holders' biggest win over Australia since 1956 put them an unbeatable 2-1 up with one to play, almost a quarter of a century after Mike Gatting's team claimed the series 2-1 in 1986-87 in England's last triumph in Australia.

Australia's humiliation was complete when Ben Hilfenhaus was the last man out before lunch on the fourth morning at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, caught behind off Tim Bresnan for a duck after Ryan Harris was unable to bat because of an ankle injury.

"Winning the Ashes in Australia has always been a bit of a Holy Grail for English sides," skipper Andrew Strauss

said.

"We haven't won the Ashes yet but we obviously retain the urn which has been one of our primary goals and the guys deserve everything they get because the players stood up and performed when it mattered."

There was only going to be one outcome after Australia were routed for a miserable ground record low of 98 on Sunday's opening day after Strauss had won the toss and put the Australians in to bat on a greenish wicket.

The English responded with a towering 513 to hold a match-winning 415-run innings lead which Australia found totally beyond them.

British Prime Minister David Cameron congratulated the England team for their "brilliant performance" while British newspapers said the Ashes triumph was well-merited.

"Retaining The Ashes for the first time in almost a quarter of a century marks a very special end to the year for sports fans and a great late Christmas present for the country," Cameron said in a statement

from his office.

Australian skipper Ponting paid tribute to the tourists for their high standard of play throughout the tour.

"Apart from the third Perth Test, they've played a really high level of cricket the whole way through, not only this series, but the four games as well. Credit to them for the way they prepared," he said.

The crushing loss will heap further pressure on embattled Ponting. It was the Australian skipper's third failure to win an Ashes series following his earlier defeats in England in 2005 and last year.

Bresnan finished as England's best bowler with 4-50 off 21.4 overs, while England number three Jonathan Trott was named man-of-the-match for his unbeaten 168.

In 1986 England won the series and the Ashes after an innings and 14-run victory at the MCCG.

Australia can still level the series if they can win next week's fifth Sydney Test, but the Ashes are gone.

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## ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP HISTORY

### 'Pakistan win very special'

Aminul Islam led Bangladesh in their first World Cup campaign in 1999. The right-handed batsman was one of the vital cogs in the 1997 ICC Trophy triumph, so much so that it was a smooth transition for him to reach the World Cup. Now working as the Asian Cricket Council's cricket development officer, Aminul is regarded as one of the driving forces behind China's cricket growth over the last few years. Here Aminul talks to The Daily Star Sport about his World Cup experience.

Daily Star Sport (DSS): How excited were you before the start of the 1999 World Cup?

Aminul Islam (AI): The World Cup excitement had started for Bangladesh from the moment we qualified through the 1997 ICC Trophy win. It was a preparation that was long, we played the Asia Cup, and we toured England in 1998.

One thing that changed for me though was that I was confirmed captain a few months ahead of the World Cup in 1999, and so I had to make a plan, though not written, but it was to prove to the world that Bangladesh can play exciting cricket.

DSS: When you took the field against New Zealand for the first match, what was going through your mind?

AI: Here I would like to thank the cricket board for arranging the 1998 tour and also ensuring we arrived in England a month ahead of the World Cup. We beat Middlesex and Essex in the warm-up matches and as a result, I didn't



AMINUL ISLAM

feel too nervous in our opening match against New Zealand. I thought we could give them a good fight and play some hard cricket.

DSS: How nervous was the dressing room when Bangladesh were five for 26 against Scotland?

AI: We lost six wickets very early and yes, we thought we might lose the game. Scotland were the only team who were close to us in terms of strength, so it was the one game

we thought we should win. It was in their condition but we had targeted them.

DSS: How memorable was the win then?

AI: It was a big win for our identity. We wanted to be the superior Associate nation at the time, and the way we didn't give them a chance in Malaysia two years ago, it was a vital win.

DSS: Was there any sadness attached to the campaign?

AI: Apart from the Gordon Greenidge sacking, everything went well. He was a very successful

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PHOTO: INTERNET

AS PROMISED: England's Graeme Swann (front) leads his teammates in a performance of the 'sprinkler' dance yesterday in front of the Barmy Army. The dance was fashioned by the spinner, who had promised that the team would perform it if England won the Ashes, which they did on the fourth day of the fourth Test against Australia at the MCCG.