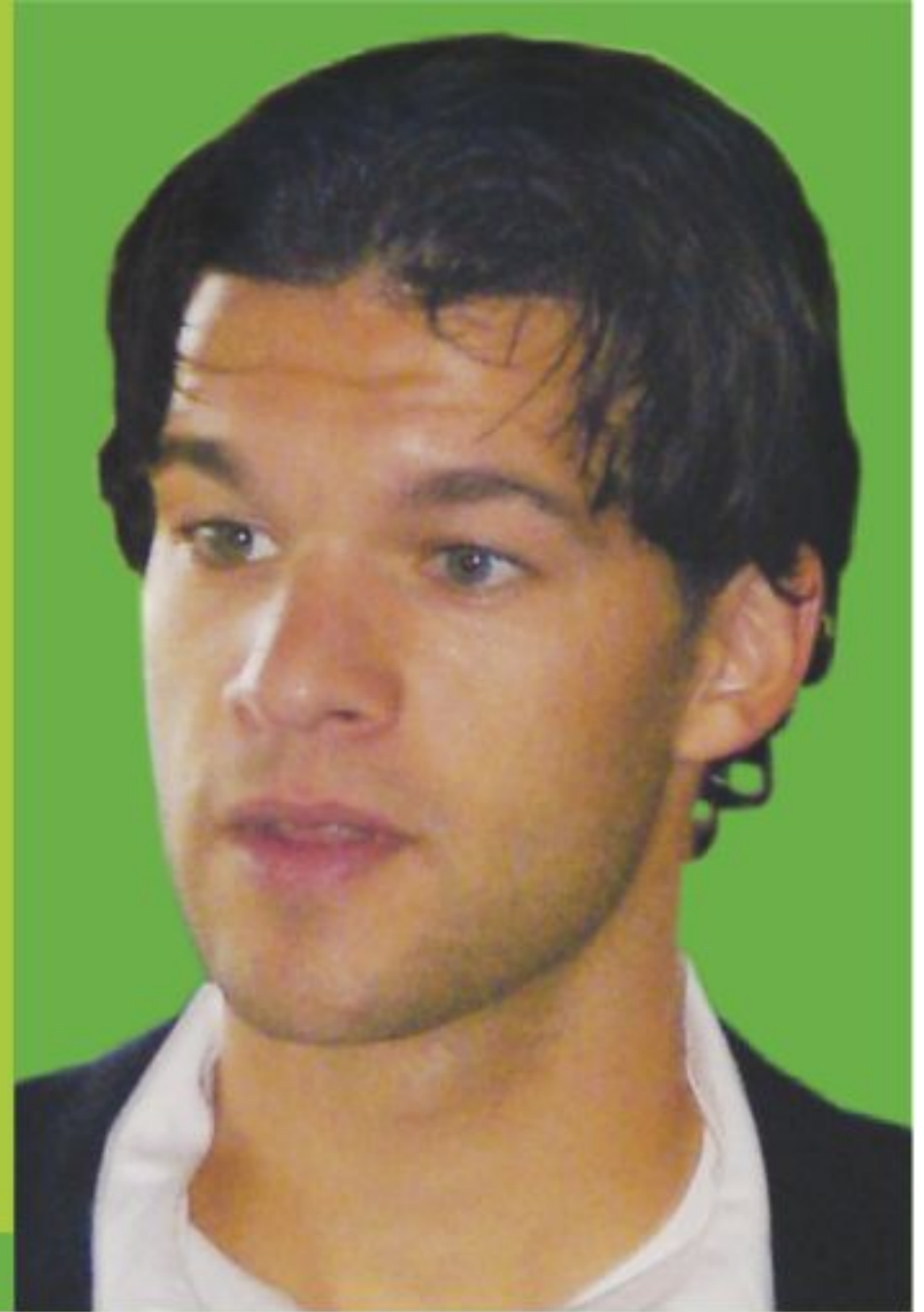


Star SPORT

DHAKA FRIDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Ballack banned from driving

Former Germany captain Michael Ballack has been banned from driving for 18 months and fined 6,750 euros (\$8,600) after he was clocked speeding at 211 kilometres per hour on a Spanish highway in October. The 36-year-old former Bayern Munich and Chelsea midfielder, who announced his retirement a couple of weeks before the incident, was driving his Audi Q7 at almost twice the speed limit of 120 kms per hour, according to the ruling by a court in Caceres



NARINE braces for battle with 'friend'

NAIMUL KARIM

West Indian Off-spinner Sunil Narine has said that his 'friendship' with Bangladeshi all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan will have to be kept aside when they go neck and neck on the field for the first match of the Test series which begins on Tuesday.

"We are good friends but when we are on the field, we'll give it our best for our own teams. I think he's a good player, good individual and gives out his heart and soul to the game," said Narine.

The spinner, originally from Trinidad and Tobago, played a couple of seasons at the Indian Premier League alongside Shakib. Most recently, the two players represented the Kolkata Knight Riders at the Twenty20 Champions League which took place in South Africa.

"I haven't discussed anything with the team management as yet (regarding Shakib's batting), but when the time comes, we'll see," said a calm-looking Narine, who had just finished training for the day.

The player, who started playing Test cricket in June this year, claimed that it wasn't too difficult to 'adjust' to the longer format of the game. "It is just the mindset, the way I go about what I'm doing. One has to be a little more consistent and a lot more patient. You have to bowl a lot more balls," said Narine.

He further stated that the conditions in Mirpur wouldn't make him change the way he approached his bowling. "We've been practicing for the last two days so I already have a mindset. I know what I'm capable of doing, so I think I just have to go out there and deliver the goods for West Indies."

The pitches at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, which will be hosting the first Test between the two teams, saw some good bounce in the last couple of weeks, during the two rounds of the National Cricket League. As a result, a majority of the batsman struggled to score runs.

The 200-run mark in fact was crossed just once in the last seven innings of domestic cricket played in this stadium. Acknowledging the statistic, Narine stated that while any bowler would welcome bounce on the pitch, the main aspect would be to bowl in the right areas.

A water-logged ground at the BKSP cancelled the only warm-up game that the visitors were supposed to play before the series. Danger-man Narine although a little dejected, was confident that the team would perform well. "It was a little disappointing, but you have to turn away from that. I just want to go out there on the match day and give it my all," said Narine.

With just four more days to go Narine, who has so far mesmerised some of the best batsmen in the business, will soon have the chance to try to spin a similar web around the Bangladeshi players.

WI, BCB XI warm-up called off

SPORTS REPORTER

The three-day warm-up match between the West Indies and BCB XI, scheduled to take place from November 8 to 11, was called off due to unplayable conditions at the BKSP.

Incessant rain in the last couple of days made the ground water-logged and it was declared unfit to conduct the tour match.

"We initially thought that we could have played two days of cricket, but when we went there along with the West Indies coach Ottis Gibson, we came to a decision to cancel the tour game," said Sabbir Khan, BCB's Cricket Operations Manager.

The cancellation of the warm-up game means that Bangladesh will now face the West Indies in the first Test starting on the 13th.

BCB president in the dark

SPORTS REPORTER

BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon was not clear about what would happen after the tenure of the current executive committee expires later this month.

The tenure of the present committee will expire on November 28 but there has as yet been no initiative taken by the National Sports Council (NSC) about the election of the country's most affluent board. The board is already in default as according to the new constitution the election process must start 45 days before the committee's expiration. Whether the new committee will be an elected one or an interim or ad-hoc committee will be decided by the NSC.

"Actually I'm not clear about what will happen next. I talked with legal experts and will hopefully get their feedback within the next two-three days

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Shohag Gazi (R) is the surprise choice of the selectors in the 14-man Bangladesh squad for the first Test against the West Indies. The man from Patuakhali is the first specialist off-spinner to have made the cut in a long time.

PHOTO: STAR

Bold pick by selectors

BISHWAJIT ROY



The national selectors broke from recent convention by picking a specialist off-spinner, Shohag Gazi, after a long time in the 14-member squad for the first Test against the West Indies. The squad, announced by chief selector Akram Khan yesterday, also had space for another newcomer in pace bowler Abul Hasan, and left-handed batsman Junaed Siddiqui who last played a Test in June 2010 against England.

The 21-year old off-spinner from Patuakhali hogged all the spotlight when Akram announced the squad in an official press conference at Mirpur yesterday. In another welcome

break from tradition, it was the first time that his panel announced the team -- previously the team had to be sent for approval to the board, which then made the announcement.

There have long been calls for a genuine off-spinner in the team to balance the presence of the left-

Barisal's first game (he has 11 wickets including a hatrick and a hundred from the two NCL matches this season) and you know West Indies also have a few left-handers, so we took the off-spinner," Akram explained the reason behind Gazi's inclusion, adding that Abul Hasan, who has

so excited with the call-up that he could barely express his emotions.

"I can't express how excited I'm with this call-up but I have had the confidence that this day will come sooner or later because of my performances at different levels. I started to play cricket in 2000 in



ABUL HASAN - FIRST-CLASS RECORD

DATE OF BIRTH: August 5, 1992, Sylhet

Mat	Inns	Runs	Best	Avg	50s	Wkts	Avg	Best
6	8	174	61	21.75	1	8	43.37	2/38

SHOHAG GAZI - FIRST-CLASS RECORD

DATE OF BIRTH: August 5, 1991, Patuakhali

Mat	Inns	Runs	Best	Ave	100s	50s	Wkts	Avg	Best	5w
18	28	764	140	27.28	2	2	87	24.12	7/79	7



arm spinners. The last time a specialist off-spinner played a Test for the Tigers was in 2002 when Fahim Muntasir played against Sri Lanka in Colombo.

"We have been looking for a genuine off-spinner for a long time and fortunately he [Shohag Gazi] has been doing well for the last two years with the Academy, A team and in the domestic competitions. He also bowled well during

been with the national team for the last six months and played four T20Is, got the nod ahead of Nazmul Hossain and Shafiul Islam for his extra pace.

The young spinner, who started his career as a pace bowler but later changed his mind due to a lack of pace especially after a hammering at the hands of Tamim Iqbal during an Under-13 match in Chittagong in 2000, was

Khulna when I was a student of class seven. I started my career in Khulna because at that time my father was a government service holder there," said Gazi in his instant reaction.

"I must thank my first coach Selim bhai who helped me a lot in my career. My parents were waiting for this day because their dream is to watch their son on the

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Wasfia sets off for Antarctica

QUAZI ZULQUARNAIN ISLAM

Bangladeshi adventuress Wasfia Nazreen will continue on her quest to conquer the Seven Summits with an expedition to climb Mount Vinson in Antarctica. Wasfia who became the second Bangladeshi woman to climb Mount Everest earlier this year, will set off for the frozen continent within a few days, it was revealed during her flag-off ceremony at the Brac Center auditorium last night.

Wasfia leaves the country this week and will first spend three weeks to train and acclimatise with Patrick Morrow, the first person to have finished seven summits, in the winter wilderness of Canada. Following her training she will then set foot on Antarctica via the Chilean territory. If everything goes according to plan, she is set to summit Vinson in early-mid January 2013.

Mount Vinson will be Wasfia's fourth expedition of the series. She has previously successfully summited Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa, Mount Aconcagua in South



Bangladeshi adventuress Wasfia Nazreen (C) is being handed a Bangladeshi flag by Brac chairperson Sir Fazle Hasan Abed (R) and social activist Khushi Kabir, during the flag-off ceremony for her expedition to Antarctica at the Brac Center in Mohakhali yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

America and Mount Everest in Asia.

Brac, BKash and Brac Bank are wholly financing her initiative. Brac also announced its pledge to collaborate with Wasfia by making her its Goodwill Ambassador for the next one year. In this one year, she will

work to champion the cause of women empowerment and motivate, encourage and inspire the young women leaders of the country.

Yesterday's flag off ceremony was attended by a host of luminaries

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Forget the past, says coach

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh's interim head-coach Shane Jurgensen stressed the importance of being in a positive frame of mind before entering the series. He stated that he didn't want to focus on the 'past records'. "I don't want any one to tell me what Bangladesh's past record is. I don't want to focus on any of that. For me, what's important is what's coming ahead and I just want to have the best possible practice sessions going into the series."

The Australian also said that he was 'quite satisfied' with the team picked for the first Test of the series against the West Indies. The coach was particularly happy about the inclusion of first-timers Abul Hasan and Shohag Gazi.

"Shohag Gazi (Right-arm off-spinner) is a talented young man. He has been in the wickets recently and has also got a few hundreds. West Indies have a lot of left-handers in their order so it's good to have a few bowlers who can turn the ball away from the bat. Abul has had an impressive run in the recent past as well" said Jurgensen.

Gazi had earlier picked up a hat-trick in the first round of the National Cricket League. He took seven wickets in that innings and also scored a quick century. Abul Hossain's extra pace was preferred over Nazmul Hossain.

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