

# Pak opener injured

## First Test against Proteas starts today

**Cricket**

AFP, Johannesburg

Pakistan will face top-ranked South Africa in the first Test at the Wanderers from Friday destabilised by the loss of rock-solid opener Taufeeq Umar.

The 31-year-old Umar, who has played 43 Tests and scored 2,943 runs, was pulled out of the tour after suffering a muscle injury in his shin.

Umar and regular partner Mohammad Hafeez had opened together in 18 consecutive Tests, a record for Pakistan, and the tourists were keen for the sequence to continue against South Africa's formidable fast bowling attack on a pitch likely to offer pace and bounce.

With Umar out, Nasir Jamshed is expected to make his Test debut after scoring half-centuries in the warm-up game against a South African Invitation XI which ended in a draw at East London on Monday.

Pakistan's batting could be the key to the three-match series after South Africa's bowlers swept aside the challenge of New Zealand in two Test matches earlier this month.

In Dale Steyn and Veron Philander, South Africa have the two leading bowlers on the International Cricket Council rankings, while fellow fast bowler Morne Morkel is ranked eighth.

Off-spinner Saeed Ajmal, at number three, is the only Pakistan bowler in the top 10.

The middle order failed against the Invitation XI, with only captain Misbahul Haq joining the openers in notching a half-century.

But if Pakistan can post respectable totals, they will be confident they have the bowling weaponry to test a strong South African batting line-up.

While Ajmal will be able to bowl long spells of spin, the experienced Umar Gul and the left-arm swing bowler Junaid Khan, together with the unknown factor of the 2.1 metre Mohammad Irfan, will provide a varied pace attack.

The teams last met in two high-scoring drawn matches in the United Arab Emirates in 2010.

Since then Pakistan have won nine of their 16 Test matches and lost only two -- against the West Indies in Guyana in May 2011 and against Sri Lanka in Galle in June 2012.

South Africa, meanwhile, have built a formidable record as they have climbed to the number one place in the rankings, winning their most recent five series, including away encounters against England and Australia.

Philander and batsman Hashim Amla were both passed fit after missing recent matches but left-arm spinner Robin Peterson remained a doubtful starter after splitting the webbing between fingers on his right hand.

South Africa captain Graeme Smith will become the first man to lead in 100 Test matches, an event which has dominated the build-up to the match.

**TEAMS**  
**SOUTH AFRICA** (likely): Graeme Smith (captain),

Alviro Petersen, Hashim Amla, Jacques Kallis, AB de Villiers (wkt), Faf du Plessis, Dean Elgar, Robin Peterson or Imran Tahir, Vernon Philander, Dale Steyn, Morne Morkel.

**PAKISTAN** (from): Misbahul Haq (captain), Mohammad Hafeez, Nasir Jamshed, Azhar Ali, Younis Khan, Asad Shafiq, Sarfraz Ahmed (wkt), Umar Gul, Saeed Ajmal, Junaid Khan, Mohammad Irfan, Ehsan Adil, Adbur Rehman, Haris Sohail, Faisal Iqbal, Tanvir Ahmed, Rahat Ali, Imran Farhat.



South Africa captain Graeme Smith (R) and Pakistan counterpart Misbahul Haq pose with the Test series trophy ahead of the first match that will start in Johannesburg today.

PHOTO: INTERNET

## Six-member team for Asian Chess

SPORTS REPORTER

A six-member squad of the Bangladesh Chess Team leaves here today for Sri Lanka to take part in the Asian Zonal Chess Championship, which will begin in Colombo from Sunday.

National champion GM Niaz Murshed, GM Ziaur Rahman, GM Reefat Bin Sattar and GM Enamul Hossain will be vying in men's section while national women champion Sharmin Sultana Shirin and WIM Shamima Akter Liza will be playing in the women's section.

The champion in men's section will advance to the Round-1 of the World Cup while the champion in women's section will qualify for the Women's World Cup directly, said a press release from Bangladesh Chess Federation yesterday.

## Rope extended

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The players were promised 25 per cent of their fees before the start of the tournament and for the foreigners, as soon as they arrived in Bangladesh, another twenty-five per cent before the last game and the final fifty per cent within 150 days of the end of the event. But the players are yet to receive any amount after two weeks of the tournament's start.

The players, especially the foreign cricketers, have started talking about the issue and are getting more nervous by the day.

"I'm really fed up with one broken promise after another. I don't want to make any comment at this moment because I will talk with our board president (Nazmul Hassan Papon) regarding this prevailing situation. I can only say that the time has come to take a hard line. You know two big companies are very much interested in buying a franchise, so there is no point in being worried," said Sinha.

# Landmark on birthday!

**Cricket**

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Graeme Smith will become the first cricketer to captain 100 Tests when he leads South Africa out against Pakistan on Friday, his 32nd birthday.

"To achieve what he has achieved, I don't think will be achieved very soon again, if ever," teammate Jacques Kallis told reporters in the build-up to the Johannesburg Test.

Friday at the Wanderers has been declared 'Biff Day' in a nod to the nickname that exemplifies Smith's dogged nature and bruising style.

"He's very driven to make the team the best it can possibly be, while at the same time maintaining his own high level of play," his predecessor Shaun Pollock told Johannesburg's The Star newspaper.

With South Africa ranked the top Test team, Smith has been basking in the adulation of his country in the days leading up to the Test.

It was not always so for a man propelled into the job at the age of 22 and in only his ninth Test some 10 years ago.

"When he took over there were still a lot of political issues that impacted on the team and it's not been easy on him," said Ali Bacher, former Test captain and administrator.

By his own admission Smith battled with the job in the beginning. His form with the bat was good but off the field he was out of his depth, targeted by the

opposition and media. His defence was to come across as brash and arrogant.

"Back then I thought captaining was just an on-field thing, making some decisions and showing some leadership; little did I know about what happened behind the scenes, the selection issues and the politics," Smith said in a television special to mark his achievement.

"Wherever I went early on teams were taking me on, the media was taking me on, and that was where I developed this hardness, this arrogance. It was my way of protecting myself and showing I can handle whatever is thrown my way. I came across in probably a very strong and not a very well-liked way."

The rough edges have been tempered by more recent success as Smith led his side to back-to-back Test series wins in England and Australia and top place in the International Cricket Council (ICC) rankings.

His win ratio in Tests is bettered only by the great Australian and West Indian sides of the last three decades.

"Being experienced now I see things differently but you have to have a lot of 'want' to do the job because it is a lot of pressure, it is a lot of time and effort, a lot of strain on you and the people around you," Smith said.

"I sometimes struggle to comprehend that I am so close to such a massive milestone. When I took over at the age of 22 I was just trying to make sure the next over was good enough."

## U-18 cricket

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Tafsir Ahmed 49; Nasiruddin 3-77, Noman Shariar 3-56).

**KHULNA:** First innings 149 all out in 63.4 overs and Second innings 159 for 5 in 54 overs (Imranuzzaman 50 not out, Shovon Morol 46; Samrat Shajahan 2-56).

**Result:** Match drawn

**Player-of-the-match:** Ashfaq Ahmed (Chittagong).

**RAJSHAHI:** First innings 118 all out in 54.2 overs and Second innings 145 all out in 65 overs.

**DHAKA NORTH:** First innings 109 all out in 53 overs and Second innings 70 all out in 46.5 overs (Parvez 27, Hamidur 4-17; Mehedi 3-15, Mohor 3-15).

**Result:** Dhaka North won by 84 runs.

**Player-of-the-match:** Mehedi (Rajshahi).

**SYLHET:** First innings in 197 all out in 61 overs and Second innings 306 all out in 79.5 overs (Mominul Islam Mohon 97 not out, Ijaj Mahmud 49; Shawon Gazi 5-114).

**BARISAL:** First innings 138 all out in 60.5 overs and Second innings 218 all out in 59.3 overs (Abu Sayeem 55; Kamrul Islam 5-50, Ijaj Mahmud 3-66).

**Result:** Sylhet won by 147 runs.

**Player-of-the-match:** Mominul Islam Mohon (Sylhet)

**DHAKA SOUTH:** First innings 144 all out in 56.3 overs and Second innings 229 all out in 81.2 overs (Md Asif 46, Shah Alam 43; Siratin Nabi 3-57).

**RANGPUR:** First innings 151 all out in 63 overs and Second innings 123 all out in 38 overs (Tanveer 43; Mahmud Koli 2-25).

**Result:** Dhaka South won by 99 runs

**Player-of-the-match:** Mahmud Koli (Dhaka South).

## IPL AUCTION Pak players snubbed again

PTI, New Delhi

Considered pariahs by the Indian Premier League since 2008, Pakistani cricketers were once again left out of the list of players to be auctioned for the event's sixth edition in April-May.

The 101-strong list of players, to be auctioned on Sunday, does not feature a single Pakistani player despite the resumption of bilateral cricket ties between the two neighbours in December last year.

Pakistani players have been ignored by IPL since the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.



India cricketer Thrush Kamini jumps in the air to celebrate her century during the opening match of the ICC Women's World Cup against West Indies at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## India off to a flier

STAR SPORT DESK

India beat West Indies by 105 runs in the opening match of the ICC Women's World Cup at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai yesterday.

Batting first India posted 284 runs for the loss of 6 wickets. In reply West Indies could only score 179 losing all their wickets.

Thrush Kamini top scored with exactly 100 runs for the winners.

## Warner out of first 2 one-dayers

AFP, Perth

Explosive opener David Warner has fractured his left thumb and been withdrawn from Australia's first two one-day internationals against the Windies on Friday and Sunday.

Warner will be reassessed next week ahead of the four-Test tour of India starting February 22, Cricket Australia said.

Usman Khawaja has been brought into the one-day squad to replace Warner who could still play in the final three ODIs.

Australia skipper Michael Clarke, who missed the final ODI against Sri Lanka last week due to an ankle injury, is expected to play on Friday.

Warner, averaging 44.5 from 15 Tests, was still expected to be in the squad for India due to be announced later Thursday, but a batsman might be put on standby.

Fit-again all-rounder Shane Watson would be favoured to return to his favoured opening slot if Warner fails to recover in time.

# PURSUING BANGLADESH TO TOUR PAKISTAN Afridi differs with PCB

**Cricket**

AGENCIES, Karachi

Former captain Shahid Afridi feels under current situation no international team will tour Pakistan and advised the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to stop trying to convince weak teams such as Bangladesh to play in their country.

Afridi said on a TV channel on Wednesday that while he understood the honest efforts made by the board to somehow revive international cricket in Pakistan but felt running after teams like Bangladesh would serve no purpose.

"I don't think teams will tour Pakistan in present circumstances. It is better if the board waits for the situation to improve in our country. When things improve all the teams will want to play in Pakistan it is a matter of time," Afridi said.

The flamboyant all-rounder, who rejected a lucrative offer of around 40 million rupees to play in the Bangladesh Premier League, said he was not in favour of the board trying to convince teams like Bangladesh or other weaker sides to come to Pakistan.

"It is unfortunate the way Bangladesh reacted. But it is serving us no purpose. It only creates negativity. It is better if we just focus on our domestic cricket and the

Super League is a step in the right direction," he said.

He pointed out that Pakistan was one of the leading teams of the world and had shown that it can do well anywhere in the world, despite not playing at home since 2009.

"Our cricket is doing well and our team is performing well. So we shouldn't be too worried about when teams will come to Pakistan it will happen eventually we just have wait patiently," he said.

Afridi said he would be playing against Afghanistan for the Pakistan A side next month.

"I might also play a four day match to get more practice to get back into proper form," he said.

Indications are that the board will appoint Afridi to lead the Pakistan A side against Afghanistan with senior wicketkeeper, Kamran Akmal also getting a chance to play after being sidelined for the Test series in South Africa.

Afridi also said that the Test series that starts in South Africa would be a real test for the players.

"But I think it will be an engrossing and tough series because our test team is well balanced and capable of surprising anyone anywhere. But we have to play to our best against the world's number one team," he said.

## Hockey might get two

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The FIH president, however, did not make any promises to provide the floodlights and the BHF officials were thinking of buying floodlights at a subsidised rate using the connection of the FIH president.

Leandro Negro will visit the hockey federation today to meet the BHF president and the national players who have been preparing for the World Hockey League (Round-2) to be held in New Delhi from February 18.

Meanwhile, Belgian coach Mike Keenan also arrived here yesterday as the FIH-provided expert will be working with the national team till February 8. The 43-year old coach had his afternoon time with the national hockey team.

"I will be working closely with the team. I have a little bit idea on Bangladesh side. First I have to see them in practice to get an overall idea as I have detailed plans of training. I will be trying to give my best during my stay here," said Keenan before the start of the training at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

## Burners win

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penultimate over to dash the last hope. Earlier, Barisal Burners batted well to put up a challenging total. Sabbir (40) and Mahmood (35) made the bulk of the contribution to the Barisal score.

## BFF to decide

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coming to a final decision. However, the BFF boss told the reporters at his office that he had already spoken again to Beximco Group which sponsored the FIFA friendly between Argentina and Nigeria in September 2011 in Bangladesh.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>DOWN</b>
1 Emanation	1 Dermatology subject
5 — de deux	2 Caspian feeder
8 Location	3 Hindu princess
12 Fiddler, e.g.	4 Calculator's ancestor
13 Right angle	5 Occult five-pointed star
14 Father (Fr.)	6 Hearty brew
15 "Peter Pan" pooch	7 No nealnik
16 Ultra-modernist	8 Ghost
17 Machu Picchu builder	9 Actress
18 Bring forth	
20 Northern	
22 Mex. neighbor	
23 Zilch	
24 Matter-horn et al.	
27 South African city	
32 Born	
33 Caustic fluid	
34 Actress	
35 Nearly a score	
38 Flushing team	10 "Jaws" boat
39 "CSI" evidence	11 Blue hue
40 Khan title	19 "The coast — clear"
42 Political meeting	21 Individual
45 Hang around	24 Mitt's Mrs.
49 Scandinavian city	25 Island neckwear
50 Mai — (cocktail)	26 Foucault's gadget
52 Symbol of thinness	28 Sailor's assent
53 Poker variety	29 Fine
54 Wood-shaping tool	30 Humor
55 Okla-homa city	31 Brooklyn-born rapper
	36 Write cryptograms
	37 Greek cross
	38 Lass
	41 "Monopoly" square
	42 Price
	43 Italian wine region
	44 Luminary
	46 Fork part
	47 Eastern bigwig
	48 Change the decor
	51 Fuss

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 12-27

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
15				16				17			
18			19			20	21				
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35			36	37					38		
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56					57				58		

## CRYPTOQUIP

C Q P G N Z Q T Z G T H " T  
H T Z M T R Q X V Z J M Q O H T O F  
T O Z J T I N J T V O Z " V O Q X T F Y J  
P G M M J Y G J G C G O R Z J G J Q X Q O J

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN MY FRIEND FINALLY BECAME A CELEBRITY LIKE ME, I HAD TO ASK HIM "WHO'S STARRY NOW?"  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals T