

Bob ponders new role for Younis

REUTERS, Peshawar
Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer believes batsman Younis Khan could have a future as a one-day wicket-keeper after scoring a match-winning 77 against Zimbabwe in a triangular series one-day match on Sunday.
Woolmer said Younis, who kept wicket in place of the regular keeper Moin Khan, could play a similar role to Rahul Dravid in the India team.
"I knew he could keep well. And Moin being ill gave us the ideal opportunity to try him out today and I think he did an excellent job," Woolmer said.
"Now we have another good option before us for one-day cricket which is a positive step forward for the team."
Younis said he had found no difficulty in concentrating and added he had enjoyed the experience.
"They had told me before the match that I was going to keep wickets. So I was mentally prepared. I think nowadays in one-day cricket which is all about all-rounders it puts me in a healthy position for the future," he said.



PHOTO: STAR
Action from yesterday's Challenge Cup under-21 invitational hockey tournament match between India and Oman at the BKSP in Savar.

Series comes to India

Hockey

AFP, New Delhi

A band of young Indian field hockey players who were considered no-players till recently have raised expectations of victory over Pakistan in an ongoing Test series.
India trail 2-1 at the half-way mark of the eight-match series. But their showing on the Pakistan leg was encouraging and they have the home advantage in the remaining four matches.
A new-look team without experienced players like Dhanraj Pillay, Prabhjot Singh and Gagan Ajit Singh, and a recent dismal run against their arch-rivals, meant they were the underdogs before the series.
But they surprised many by scoring a resounding 4-1 victory in the second match to level the series and then drew the fourth to ensure they were still very much in contention.
"We took the Indian team lightly at the beginning but after their 4-1 win at Quetta we knew we had to fight it out," said Pakistan's Dutch coach Roelant Oeltmans.

India, who had lost all six matches this year against their arch-rivals before this series, had the satisfaction of seeing players like penalty-corner specialist Sandeep Singh emerge with flying colours.
Sandeep, who scored three goals in Pakistan including two in the Quetta win, has been one of the finds for India. Their German coach Gerhard Rach is happy at the way the team has shaped.
"This team is without stars and they are playing well as a team," said Rach, whose coaching methods were criticised by senior players like Pillay and Prabhjot during the Athens Olympics.
"The youngsters are coming up brilliantly and the seniors can't take their places for granted any more," said Rach. "We can expect some keen matches in the coming days."
Indian captain Dilip Tirkey conceded that he was surprised to see the team gel so well, scoring 11 goals to Pakistan's 10 so far in the series.
"The youngsters in the team have done better than expected. They give us a lot of hope for coming matches," said Tirkey. "The fact that we are thinking in terms of

winning the series shows how well they have done."
Pakistan's famed drag-flicker Sohail Abbas said he hoped the series would help improve relations between the two countries.
"We hope the series will help bring peace and understanding," said Abbas, who has scored 41 goals against India and is just two short of equalling the world record of 267 held by Dutch legend Paul Litjens.
"Crowds have been thronging the grounds, which is good for the game. This series can help give a boost to the game in the two neighbouring countries," the penalty-corner specialist said.
The Indian leg commences with a match here on Monday with the remaining matches to be played in Chandigarh (October 6), Amritsar (October 8) and Hyderabad (October 10).
This is the seventh series between the two countries, with Pakistan having won four. India's only series win came in 1986 while a series in 1988 ended in a draw.



Brian Lara
(West Indies cricket captain)
"It is an opportunity for us -- it is not the be-all-and-end-all, we have not won the World Cup -- but it is something we can work on."
After winning the ICC Champions Trophy.

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 21
Tick the correct answers, post The Daily Star
Competition closes at 8 pm Oct 15, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards

1. West Indies defeated England in the ICC Champions Trophy final by:	2 wickets	50 runs	33
2. Who won the China Open tennis title?	Serena Hingis	Sharapova	Hingis
3. How many times was Pavel Nedved capped before announcing his retirement?	83	84	81
4. Who became man-of-the-tournament in the ICC Champions Trophy?	Sarwan Flintoff	Lara	Flintoff

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (if any)

Bond eyes comeback

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

Shane Bond, the New Zealand paceman who is one of cricket's most injury-prone performers, insists he could be bowling again by the end of November.
Bond told Kiwi newspaper the Sunday Star-Times: "I've got running to do for the next six weeks. If the surgeon's happy I'll be bowling in about six to eight weeks."
On August 19, Bond underwent a complicated back operation.
Bone was grafted from his hip to his vertebrae with bolts and titanium wire and his surgeon is pleased.
The 29-year-old is aiming to play club cricket soon after Christmas.
His first international appearance could be against Australia when they start a tour in February 2005 for five one-dayers and three Tests.
"The biggest thing is that the surgeon thinks my back is in perfect

condition apart from that one vertebra," said Bond.
"The true test is when I start bowling and for now it's just a matter of doing the hard yards until the bowling kicks around. I'm pretty optimistic."
However, if his back fails when he resumes bowling, he accepts that his career will probably be at an end.
"I know that if it doesn't work, that's probably it. And I think I could live with that, knowing that I'd tried everything within my power."
Bond burst back on to the scene in the summer of 2001-02, dumping the Australians out of their own VB Series, and when he has been fit he has been one of the finest fast bowlers in the world.
The enforced break has been hugely frustrating for Bond but the birth of his daughter 11 weeks ago helped put things in perspective.
"We've been very lucky. It has been awesome and everything is going great," he said of first-time fatherhood.

Parag, Javed win third round ties

SPORTS REPORTER

Mehdi Hasan Parag and Mohammad Javed won their respective third round matches in the Pilo Mod International Chess Tournament in Lucknow yesterday.
Parag beat India's Y Sandipan and Javed beat VTS Svothayan of Sri Lanka.
With the wins, Parag stretched his collection to 1.5 points and Javed bagged his first point.
Grand Master Marat Dzumaev of Uzbekistan is leading the table with maximum three points.
A total of 46 players including six Grand Masters and 10 International Masters from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Russia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are participating in the tournament which began on October 1.

Qamar back in business

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh hockey coach Qamar Ibrahim has recovered from an illness and joined the under-21 squad's training at the BKSP yesterday.
The former Pakistan international was admitted to a local clinic on Saturday after suffering a heat stroke.
"He got tired for overwork and it got worse due to excessive heat. It was nothing serious and Qamar is already back in BKSP. He also recorded the India-Oman match for video analysis," told joint-secretary of Bangladesh Hockey Federation Jahidur Rahman Pushkin.

Yusuf becomes Russel coach

SPORTS REPORTER

National under-20 football team coach Abu Yusuf yesterday signed a one-year contract with last year's Premier League sensation Sheikh Russel Kriya Chakra.
Former national footballer Yusuf, regarded as one of the best coaches in the country, will replace veteran Wajed Gazi who helped Russel finish runners-up in their Premiership debut last season.

Federer lifts Thai Open title

AFP, Bangkok

World number one Roger Federer crushed Andy Roddick for the third time this season in a final, producing a 6-4, 6-0 burst of form to win the \$50,000-dollar Thailand Open Sunday.
The superlative Swiss won his 10th title of 2004 and is now undefeated in the last dozen finals he played stretching back to October 2003, when he beat Carlos Moya in Vienna and started the run to glory which has included three of the four majors this year.

Korea Open Sharapova's

AFP, Seoul

Russia's Maria Sharapova, this year's women's singles winner at Wimbledon, won the Korea Open WTA tournament Sunday with an easy 6-1, 6-1 victory over Poland's Marta Domachowska.
The 17-year-old Russian dominated the 53-minute final at the packed Olympic Tennis Court in southern Seoul.
Blistering serves and powerful ground strokes from corner to corner by Sharapova, who ranks eight in the world, overpowered the 18-year-old Domachowska who ranks 10th.
Sharapova needed only 27 minutes to take the first set 6-1 and another 26 minutes to take the second 6-1.

'We hold the edge'

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ICC Champions Trophy.
Ganguly, India's most successful Test captain with 15 wins, concedes the Australian series will test his leadership qualities.
"Maybe you are only as good as the team you lead, but I have never shirked away from the responsibility given to me," he said.
"It's my job to lead from the front. There will always be a lot said when we are not doing well but in the end what matters is that the captain and the team are willing to stand up and be counted."
It was Ganguly's 144 in the first Test at Brisbane last summer that sparked India's resurgence which almost ruined Steve Waugh's farewell series.
Like him or hate him, the proud Calcuttan is not easily ignored.
"Many rivals, most famously

Pakistan's narrow win

Cricket

REUTERS, Peshawar

Younis Khan produced a fine all-round performance to guide Pakistan to a battling three-wicket win over Zimbabwe in the second match of a triangular one-day tournament on Sunday.
He followed a decent display as stand-in wicketkeeper for the hosts in a tournament also involving Sri Lanka.
Younis shared a fifth-wicket stand of 114 from 128 balls with Shoab Malik (80) to rescue his team from a precarious position of 89 for four chasing a target of 253.
Zimbabwe did well to stretch the Pakistan innings to 48.1 overs and take three more wickets before flamboyant all-rounder Shahid Afridi finished the match with two huge sixes in six balls.
It was Zimbabwe's 12th straight defeat since 15 white players rebelled against the Zimbabwe Cricket Union in April accusing it of racism.
Eighteen-year-old seamer Tinashwe Panyangara gave his side a sniff of victory when he removed Yasir Hameed (0), Bazid Khan (0) and Salman Butt (30) by the time Pakistan had scored 48.
When Douglas Hondo had Misbahul Haq (23) caught behind the underdogs appeared in control

of in front of a capacity crowd.
The early joy followed a disciplined batting performance by Zimbabwe in which half centuries by Brendan Taylor (73), Dion Ebrahim (71) and a chirpy 46 from 33 balls by skipper Tatenda Taibu led the visitors to a total of 252 for four.
Younis and Malik struck the ball cleanly to all parts of the ground as the limited Zimbabwean attack was exposed once more after a bright start.
Malik enjoyed a let-off on 10 when Mark Vermeulen dropped him at second slip of Panyangara but after scoring his sixth ODI half century, he was brilliantly caught at wide long on by Stuart Matsikenyeri inches from the ground.
Yousuf Youhana fell for 14 with Pakistan just 13 runs short of victory and Younis was run out before the hosts reached their target to seal their second victory over the Zimbabweans in the tournament.
The hosts beat Zimbabwe by 144 runs in the tournament's opening match on Thursday.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the second match of the triangular limited-overs tournament between Pakistan and Zimbabwe in Peshawar on Sunday:

ZIMBABWE
Matsikenyeri c Sami b Afridi 41
Taylor c Youhana b Naved 73
Sibanda run out 7
Ebrahim not out 0
Vermeulen b Naved 1
Taibu not out 46

Extras: (lb-2, w-11, nb-7) 20
Total: (For 4 wks in 50 overs) 252
Fall of wickets: 1-87, 2-87, 3-159, 4-161
Did not bat: Chigumbura, Nkala, Utseya, Panyangara, Hondo
Bowler O M R W
Sami 10 1 43 0
Ifkhar 8 1 32 0
Naved 10 0 82 2
Afridi 10 0 39 1
Malik 10 1 43 0
Bazid 2 0 11 0

PAKISTAN
Butt c Chigumbura b Panyangara 30
Hameed c Taibu b Panyangara 0
Bazid lbw b Panyangara 0
Malik c Matsikenyeri b Nkala 80
Misbah c Taibu b Hondo 23
Younis run out 77
Youhana b Hondo 14
Afridi not out 16
Naved not out 0
Extras: (lb-3, w-14, nb-1) 18
Total: (For 7 wks in 48.1 overs) 258
Fall: 1-1, 2-25, 3-48, 4-89, 5-203, 6-240, 7-252
Did not bat: Ifkhar, Sami

Bowler O M R W
Panyangara 9 1 28 3
Hondo 10 0 61 2
Chigumbura 5 1 31 0
Utseya 10 2 34 0
Matsikenyeri 4 0 23 0
Taylor 3 0 23 0
Nkala 5.1 0 41 1
Sibanda 2 0 14 0
Result: Pakistan won by 3 wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Younis Khan.
Next match: Pak v SL, October 6.

Bring on Indian spinners

Cricket

AFP, Bangalore

Australia's caretaker captain Adam Gilchrist is confident India's spin wizards will hold no demons for his team when the Test series starts here on Wednesday.
"We are all ready to go," Gilchrist told reporters as his team prepared for the keenly awaited four-match series that has caught the imagination of cricket lovers around the world.
"We've toured India and Sri Lanka and we feel very comfortable with our game plans and how we approach the spinners."
"All the guys are looking forward to the Test. There are no real demons out there for us now."
The world champions consider India the 'last frontier' where they have not won a series since 1969 and lost five of the last seven Tests.
The most memorable contest between the two came in 2001 when the hosts rode on Venkatesh Laxman's 281 in the second Test and a 32-wicket series haul by off-spinner Harbhajan Singh to stun Steve Waugh's world-beaters.
India, who lost the first Test inside four days and trailed by 274 runs in the second, fought back to win the series 2-1 in the last session of the third and final Test in Madras.
Harbhajan will once again carry India's hopes along with seasoned leg-spinner Anil Kumble, who needs

three wickets to join the exclusive 400-wicket club.
Gilchrist, standing in for the injured Ricky Ponting for the first two Tests, said his team was better prepared now to tackle the hosts.
The flamboyant wicketkeeper-batsman was delighted at his side's totals of 302-7 declared and 207-1 in the three-day practice match at Mumbai on a wicket where the ball turned and jumped viciously.
"We had a quality time out in the middle against the spinners," he said.
Left-handed Justin Langer beat the stifling hot weather to take 108 while opening partner Matthew Hayden, Damien Martyn and Michael Clarke hit half-centuries.
"It was good to start the tour like this," Gilchrist said.
"We lost half a day due to rains, otherwise there could have been a result. Still we had a few good days in Mumbai."
Clarke looks certain to make his Test debut, while Simon Katich is likely to move to the pivotal number three place left vacant by Ponting.
Particularly heartening for the tourists was the form shown by premier fast bowler Glenn McGrath, who missed the home series against India and the tour of Sri Lanka earlier this year through injury.
The 34-year-old was his usual accurate and miserly self, picking up 4-25 in 21.2 overs, and ended speculation he may be replaced by Brett Lee for the first Test at the Chinnaswamy Stadium here.
McGrath, Test cricket's fourth highest wicket-taker with 440 victims, will join Jason Gillespie, Michael Kasprowitz and spinner Shane Warne in a formidable attack to browbeat the Indians.
The New South Wales paceman is three matches away from his 100th Test, a feat he should accomplish in the third Test of the current series at Nagpur.
"Glenn is coming out of one-day cricket and it was good to see him settle into a nice groove," Gilchrist said. "It bodes well for us."



ADAM GILCHRIST

said of the game against Ranji Trophy champions Mumbai which ended in a draw on Saturday.
"Now it depends on how we take this lesson into the Test series."
"We have come with a game plan on tackling the Indian spinners. It depends on how we execute that plan."

Canas crushes Burgsmuller

Tennis

AFP, Shanghai

Shanghai Open on Sunday, conceding just one game in the 57-minute match.
Third seed Canas outclassed his 123rd ranked opponent 6-1, 6-0 in an awesome display of speed and power to come away the victor of the \$380,500 dollars event.
An aggressive Burgsmuller tried

to take the game to Canas, attacking from all angles, but the quicker and determined Buenos Aires native always had an answer as he outran and outgunned the 28-year-old German.
Canas, 26, set the tone of the match early as he broke Burgsmuller in the third game of the first set.
It was a harbinger of what was to come as the unseeded Mulheim resident succumbed in the fifth game and again in the seventh as too many nearly certain winners sailed wide or into the net.
A change of shirt from white to black did little to change Burgsmuller's fortunes in the second set. He continued to struggle to hit the mark with his first serve, while also faltering on key points that could have kept him apace of his opponent.
Shanghai was Burgsmuller's second singles final this year after Heilbronn. He was a finalist in Casablanca four years ago and he won his only ATP trophy in Copenhagen in 2002.
For Canas, who is set to move up in the world rankings from his current 24th, it was his third title of the year and a vindication for missing most of 2002 and last year recuperating from surgery on his wrist.
With his sixth career ATP title in the bag, following back-to-back tournaments at Umag and Stuttgart in July, Canas has no doubts about where he wants to go.



PHOTO: AFP
Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova of Russia holds the winner's trophy after defeating Poland's Marta Domachowska in the final of the Korea Open in Seoul yesterday.

Eves' soccer

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expected to be present as the special guest.
The teams, splitting into two groups, will play in the first round from where top two finishers from each group will advance into the semifinals.
Thana will take on VDP in the opening match.
GROUP A: Dhaka, VDP, Kraghachari and Jessore Education Board.
GROUP B: Bangladesh Ansar, Chittagang Division, Khulna and Narayanganj.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Pond growth
5 Pirouette pivot
8 Snatch
12 Dart off
13 Chapeau
14 Carson's successor
15 Stolen stuff
16 Guitar's cousin
17 Medley
18 Preserve from decay
20 Judicial garb
22 Stay-at-home's restlessness
26 Bushel divisions
29 "You dirty —!"
30 Big fuss
31 Blunders
32 Actor
33 Kournikova or Karennina
34 Whopper

DOWN
1 Skilled
2 Come into view
3 Amorphous mass
4 Goes on the offensive
5 Hitch a ride
6 Erstwhile
7 Everlasting
8 It's a small world
9 Germane

Solution time: 25 mins.

12 Singer
13 DiFranco
11 Halloween shout
19 Part of UNLV
21 Frequently
23 Baghdad resident
24 Writer Ferber
25 Bellow
26 Ill-gotten gain
27 One of HOMES
28 Deep fissure
32 As luck would have it
33 Jock
35 To and —
36 Perfect serve
38 Lucy's pal
39 "— Entertainment!"
42 Duo
43 Squared
44 Start over
45 Upper limit
46 Gorilla
48 Wade opponent

CRYPTOQUIP
Z I I P O I O S S F R R K V V M U
R I A H O , A S O L A K M Q
R K V V A R O I P O U ' H O
D A S D O H S Q L F I P S O I R Z M O R .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU SPOT A CRIME OCCURRING IN PAVING GOO, YOU MIGHT SERVE AS THE TAR WITNESS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals N
The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.