



## Did U Know?

Italy reached the FIFA World Cup final every 12 years since 1970. They lost in 1970, won in 1982, lost again in 1994 and won it back in 2006.



### Duncan Fletcher

(England cricket coach)  
"Not only a spinner. He's got the capabilities of helping anyone in international cricket on how to play the game."  
On Shane Warne.



#### ESPN

India Premier Hockey League  
Chandigarh Dynamos v Maratha Warriors  
Live at 2:30 pm  
Shere-e-Jalandhar v Bangalore Lions  
Live at 7:00 pm  
Sportscenter India  
Live at 9:30 pm

## Waqar quits Pakistan job

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan cricket received a fresh blow as national bowling coach Waqar Younis resigned in protest at what he called "mistreatment" by the sport's authorities, officials said Sunday.

The 35-year-old former fast bowler announced his decision hours before he was to leave with batsman Mohammad Yousuf to join the squad in South Africa, where Pakistan is due to play three Tests and five one-day internationals.

"I am disappointed that they (Pakistan Cricket Board) wanted me for only the Test series on the South Africa tour, which is mistreatment," Younis told AFP.

Younis, who played 87 Tests and 262 one-day matches for Pakistan until 2004, was appointed bowling coach in 2006 for a one-year contract, which was to expire in April this year.

"I have conveyed my decision of leaving the post to the PCB chairman," said Younis, who returned with Yousuf Saturday from Saudi Arabia after performing the Hajj annual pilgrimage.

"Respect is something that the PCB needs to learn. I am a bowling coach and not a clerk," said Younis.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

## SA remain the same

AFP, Cape Town

South Africa named an unchanged 16-man squad for a three-Test series against Pakistan after defeating India by five wickets in the decisive third Test at Newlands Saturday.

All 14 men who played in the series against India were selected, together with back-up spin bowler Paul Adams and batsman Jacques Rudolph.

The first Test against Pakistan starts at Centurion Thursday and the teams will play three Tests in successive weeks.

Pakistan started their tour with a three-day warm-up match against a Rest of South Africa team in Kimberley Saturday and made a promising start.

Openers Imran Farhat and Mohammad Hafeez both made centuries as the Pakistanis reached 401 for three at the end of the first day.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

## Mashud doesn't know why



BISHWAJIT ROY

Many might have doubts over his poor batting form but the man himself is not ready to accept the blame. And it is none but the long-standing wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud, the man under scrutiny, who found no reason why he should still not be an automatic choice in the national team.

Ahead of the coming Zimbabwe tour and more importantly the World Cup, questions have raised if the national selectors have any plan about the former national skipper's fate following their confusion over his service, especially in the one-day side, as they had him sidelined for the country's last four one-day internationals.

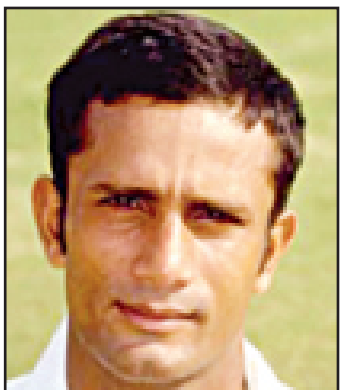
Many have said, though off the record, that his batting is simply futile for one-day cricket, especially when he holds a very important batting position as a wicketkeeper-cum batsman, but the 30-year-old Rajshahi man hit back on his critics saying that it was not all downhill.

"Bangladesh played 28 one-dayers last year and most against opponents like Zimbabwe, Kenya and Scotland where I had little opportunity to bat. I don't think my performances in those few matches were quite bad to draw a conclusion about my batting," the veteran stumper justified his demand.

"I played a crucial knock against Zimbabwe in Harare, so how can

one claim that my days are over?" he asked. The right-hander scored a valuable unbeaten 48, his highest score in the last season, in Bangladesh's 62-run victory in the second match against Zimbabwe last August.

Mashud, who has an average of 21.90 in his 126 ODI appearances, played 24 matches out of Bangladesh's 28, scoring 282 runs in the 16 innings where he got the



KHALED MASHUD

chance to bat, averaging 28.72.

But the question was raised specially after his show against West Indies in the ICC Champions Trophy, where his batting looked so poor during a 59-ball 22, and against Zimbabwe in Bogra when he had looked completely out of touch to fulfil the team's demand with a 28-ball 11.

"I agree that I failed to fulfil the team's demand in the last couple of

matches but it can happen to any player. But it is not true that I have completely lost my touch," he explained.

Mashud, still unparalleled behind the stumps, cleared his position saying that he was not thinking to quit the limited version after World Cup.

"I am still fit enough and I have the self-belief that I still have a long way to go to serve the team. I know performance is the key to keep place in the team and I am ready to take the challenge," said a confident Mashud.

"Yes, I can only give up the fight if anyone flings a real challenge to me. There is no one who showed extraordinary performance for me to think about quitting one-day cricket," he said.

No doubt, the experienced campaigner was indicating towards his possible replacement - Mushfiqur Rahim who has failed to make any impression so far in his short international and domestic career -- for the specialist job. It should also be noticed that he played his matches against the minnows -- teams who are nowhere near the big guns of international cricket.

Mashud also could not understand why he was sidelined in the last four one-day internationals.

"The national team is not a development squad where you try a player to groom for future. I don't think there is any reason right at the moment not to think of me as an automatic choice," he said.

## Brothers apparently happy



SPORTS REPORTER

Having enjoyed fabulous outings in the previous two seasons, Brothers Union might have to struggle making it three in a row.

The Gopibagh club, who returned from a decade's wilderness to supreme success, won their maiden Premier and the National League titles in 2004 -- 30 years after being introduced to the top flight of domestic football.

The Oranges followed it up with their second consecutive Premiership crown in 2005 but as the new season starts come February with the inaugural Professional Football League, they would be under the threat of losing their present status.

With Abahani and Muktijoddha sharing all the top footballers even before the transfer talks had begun, local heavyweights Brothers and National League holders Mohammedan were left in the cold.

Brothers, however, could consider themselves more fortunate than Mohammedan regarding the

cache of experienced booters they have.

While Mohammedan will have to entirely rely on mediocrity, Brothers secured contracts of 19 footballers including a number of veterans in Jewel Rana, Masud Rana, Monwar, Liton and Shuvra and tested players like striker Topu and goalkeeper Mohammed Ali just before the Eid vacation. They have three more players as reserve but without contract.

There had been rumours that the Gopibagh outfit suffered due to fund crisis but manager and former club captain Amer Khan denied the claims.

"It is not true. Actually, we have lost most of our players to Abahani who paid huge amounts to get them. We did not want to double the transfer money for the footballers," Amer told The Daily Star Sports Yesterday.

"We also lost several players in the last season but replaced them with guys who had spent mostly in the bench in big clubs. They have gone on to play for the national team and I know it is difficult to find equal alternatives. But we have

roped in players who are promising," said Amer mentioning Mohammedan fullback Rony, Youngmen's defender Ariful, Arambagh midfielder Rintu and Victoria's Polo.

They lost half a dozen Bangladesh internationals and the major players to leave Gopibagh are goalkeeper Tarek, defenders Siraji, Sujon, midfielders Pranotosh, Abul and striker Emily (all Abahani) apart from utility player Parvez Babu (Muktijoddha).

"With a mix of youth and experience, I believe we have the team that can go for the championship again. We can also use four foreigners and that would add to the strength.

"However, I don't want a local player to sit out because of foreign recruits. Footballers have been the losers because of the one-year gap. So if one player misses two seasons, he might be finished. We will see how the young players respond in the camp and then decide whether we would use our full quota of foreign imports or not.

"We were due to start camp  
SEE PAGE 18 COL 8



PHOTO: AFP

Chelsea's stand-in skipper Frank Lampard plays a delicate cross through the Macclesfield midfield during their FA Cup third round match at Stamford Bridge on Saturday.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar (L) takes a rickshaw ride back home along with national opener Javed Omar after a gym session during yesterday's countrywide blockade.

## U-13 soccer trial to be delayed

SPORTS REPORTER

The start of the open selection trials for Bangladesh Football Federation's (BFF) under-13 football team will be delayed due to the ongoing blockade programme.

The countrywide trials were due to begin today at three venues -- Rangamati, Sylhet and Rajbari -- but Rangamati and Sylhet will host the trials on January 16 and Rajbari on January 17 according to the new schedule.

The trials at each of the other venues will be deferred by one day and now start on January 10 at Chittagong and Barisal, followed by Feni, Mymensingh (Jan 11), Naogaon, Jessore (Jan 13), Dinajpur (Jan 14) and Dhaka (Jan 15).

The BFF coaches will be working as selectors to form the juvenile national team that will represent hosts Bangladesh in the AFC U-13 Football Festival to be held from May 4-8.

## Sanath at sixes peak

PTI, Auckland

Seasoned Sri Lankan campaigner Sanath Jayasuriya on Saturday established a world record for most career sixes during his superb half-century knock against New Zealand in their fourth one-day international cricket match on Saturday.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 7

## Vaughan back at helm



AFP, Sydney

Michael Vaughan returned Sunday as England captain and stated his aim was to restore the shattered confidence of the team following their 5-0 Ashes Test series whitewash to Australia.

Vaughan, who missed the Ashes debacle after knee surgery mid-year, replaced Andrew Flintoff as England captain for the triangular one-day series starting later this week against Australia and New Zealand.

Flintoff said he wanted to keep the job, but England chairman of selectors David Graveney said it was always understood that the star all-rounder was only in the role until Vaughan was fit enough to resume.

Vaughan, who became a national hero when he led England to the 2005 Ashes victory over Australia, will have his first match back at the helm in Tuesday's international Twenty20 match against Australia in Sydney.

"I am sure they will be a little bit affected by what's happened over the last few weeks, but my job as the captain is to challenge them and to try and raise the confidence," Vaughan told a press conference in Sydney Sunday.

"I will try to get them to go out on the cricket pitch and express themselves so we can produce some good results."

Vaughan, whose last match for England was in the third Lahore Test against Pakistan in November

2005, has been in Australia during the Ashes series testing his knee in a couple of low-key practice games.

"It's a good feeling to be back playing, it's great to be in the squad and an added bonus that I am reinstated as the England cricket captain in circumstances which are very different to when I first got the job," he said.

"What I have now is two and a half years of experience ... so I feel I am in a good position to carry on as the captain.

"The team have had a real tough time in Australia, Australia played good cricket and we realise that we've made a few mistakes and not played to the standard of what we expect."

Australia claimed the first 5-0 Ashes clean sweep in 86 years when they thrashed England by 10 wickets in the final Sydney Test on Friday.

Graveney stressed that Flintoff  
SEE PAGE 18 COL 3



PHOTO: AFP

Michael Vaughan speaks at the press conference where he was announced as captain of England in Sydney on Sunday.

## Lampard treble lifts Chelsea

AFP, London



1 victory.

The England midfielder produced a consummate performance to book his side's place in the fourth round, but the late deluge of goals at Stamford Bridge should not detract from a plucky performance from the League Two side.

The Silkmen even had the temer-

ity to level the scores at 1-1 through John Murphy before Lampard's brilliance and, more pertinently, the 47th-minute dismissal of goalkeeper Tommy Lee for a professional foul overwhelmed them.

Macclesfield were thus denied the one million pounds cash reward they had been promised by an online betting firm for beating Chelsea, but they returned to Cheshire with their honour intact.

For Jose Mourinho, there was only relief. Under normal circumstances, the visit of England's second-worst league club would prompt the Portuguese to give his Premiership regulars the afternoon off, but Chelsea's recent league jitters forced him to include Ashley Cole, Ricardo Carvalho and, most

significantly, Andriy Shevchenko.

For all Chelsea's early control, the visitors' goal was hardly under siege. It took 12 minutes for Chelsea to muster a shot -- Shevchenko's scuffed effort drawing a comfortable save from Lee -- and Mourinho cut an agitated figure on the sidelines.

His bad humour was soothed, however, by a familiar face. Lampard appeared to be on a personal mission to ensure Chelsea were not embarrassed and, in the 16th minute, he swept his side ahead after Salomon Kalou's cross had deflected off Shaun Wright-Phillips.

The goal calmed Chelsea's nerves and Macclesfield began to wobble. The champions thought

they had forged further ahead when Carvalho thumped in from close range after Shevchenko's freekick had only been parried by Lee, but the visitors were saved by an off-side flag.

But Chelsea's new-found confidence bred complacency. In the 39th minute, Carvalho should have cleared Matt McNeil's nod-down but the ball skidded under his foot on the greasy surface. Murphy seized the loose ball, tore towards goal and thumped a low shot between Hilario's legs.

Murphy's strike sparked bedlam among Town's travelling fans and their team seemed equally shell-shocked. That probably explained why, moments later,

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1