

## Younus seeks guarantee?

AP, undated

Younus Khan wants guarantees he will be Pakistan skipper until the 2011 World Cup if he is to take back the captaincy following his sudden resignation earlier this week, local media reported Thursday.

Younus quit the captaincy Tuesday, in protest at match-fixing allegations that saw him brought before a parliamentary standing committee on sports. The committee exonerated Pakistan of match-fixing during the recent Champions Trophy.

Younus has placed a demand of captaining the side until World Cup 2011 if the PCB (Pakistan Cricket Board) wants him to take back the resignation, a GEO television said.

PCB chairman Ijaz Butt confirmed meeting Younus in the eastern city of Lahore on Thursday, but said there was no immediate resolution of Younus's concerns.

## Big guns win

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reply to a meagre total of 99 for nine by Partex who saw pacer Talha Jubair run through their top order with three for 13 before Shafiq Islam and Mosharraf Hossain Rubel took two wickets each to keep the minnows under the three-figure mark.

Moshfique consumed 40 balls in his 54-run knock and was given good company by Sharif Ullah who scored a 31-ball 28.

In the rain-interrupted match at DCS, newcomers Khelaghar recorded a 22-run win in D/L method over Victoria Sporting Club, who in reply to the opponents' 113 for nine were 58 for six in 14 overs when the rain came.

After going down in the first match, Kalabagan KC hit back to hand a six-wicket defeat to Cricket Coaching School, thanks a four-wicket haul from Enamul Haq.

Enamul gave away just 14 runs in his four overs to restrict CCS to a paltry 85 for nine in 20 overs and Kalabagan reached the target losing four wickets with eight balls to spare.



PHOTO: STAR  
Asif Reza Noor of BKSP powers his way to a record-breaking victory in the 200-meters breaststroke event in the under-14 group on the opening day of the National Age-group Swimming Championships at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday.

ONE-DAY SERIES AGAINST PAKISTAN  
NZ's twin gambles

AFP, Wellington

The New Zealand cricket selectors are gambling on injured captain Daniel Vettori and all-rounder Jacob Oram being fit for next month's limited-overs series against Pakistan.

Both were named in the 15-man squad announced Thursday for the series being played in the United Arab Emirates.

The squad also includes one new international and three former players recalled after New Zealand's stocks were decimated by injury during the recent Champions Trophy tournament where New Zealand were beaten finalists.

Vettori and Oram, who were unable to play in the final, remain subject to fitness assessments on their hamstrings while Jesse Ryder, Daryl Tuffey, Brendon Diamanti and Grant Elliott were not considered because of injury.

South African-born batsman BJ Watling is the new face following scores of 94 and 115 not out when he toured Australia with the New Zealand emerging players earlier this year followed by 97 with New Zealand A in India.

Scott Styris, Tim Southee and Nathan McCullum are back in the side while Aaron Redmond remains as a top order batsman after being called in to replace Ryder during the Champions Trophy.

"Coming off a great performance in the Champions Trophy there's a confidence in the squad that we can do well in this series on neutral ground," said Vettori, who is now also a New Zealand selector.

"It's disappointing that we will be without some key players, but our campaign in South Africa showed there's depth in the squad, with a number of players available to step up and perform."

New Zealand beat Pakistan by five wickets in the Champions Trophy semi-final before losing to Australia by six wickets in the final.

The series is being played in the UAE after New Zealand backed out of a scheduled tour to Pakistan when gunmen attacked the Sri Lankan cricket team bus in Lahore in March, killing eight Pakistanis and injuring seven members of the touring squad.

The first of three one-day internationals is on November 3 at Abu Dhabi and the series closes with two Twenty20 matches on November 12 and 13 at Dubai before both teams travel to New Zealand for a three-Test series.

## SQUAD

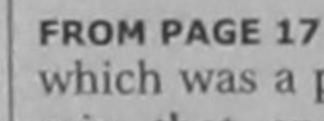
Daniel Vettori (captain), Shane Bond, Neil Broom, Ian Butler, James Franklin, Martin Guptill, Brendon McCullum, Nathan McCullum, Kyle Mills, Jacob Oram, Aaron Redmond, Tim Southee, Scott Styris, Ross Taylor and BJ Watling.



PHOTO: STAR

Winners of the Prime Bank ATF Under-14 Tennis Tournament pose with their trophies at the conference room of the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

## Rain keeps Ali, Ram



Did U Know?

The first golf balls were made of thin leather stuffed with feathers. Tightly-packed feathers made balls that flew the farthest. Feather balls were used until 1848.



Did U Know?

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which was a precursor to the rain that ensued. However, when the game started Ram looked in total command over Ali and took a 5-1 lead. Ali, though, clawed his way back a bit and won the next two games and was trailing 3-5 when the rain eventually set in to force the players off court. The unfinished business will be decided today when they once again take to the court at 9:00am.

As the two local boys were slugging it out for the boys' singles title on Court 1, girls'

title was being decided in a more lopsided affair on Court 2, between Hong Kong's Carin and India's Ram. Carin took the first set 6-1 in just twenty minutes. Ram showed bit more verve in her play in the second set yet lost it 6-2 to hand an easy victory for the Hong Kong girl, way before the rain intervened.

A brief prize distribution ceremony was held indoors after the play. Prime Bank's deputy managing director Reazul Karim, chief guest for the occasion, handed over prizes among the winners.

This five-day tournament was participated by 35 players from seven countries.

President of Bangladesh Tennis Federation Shahiar Alam, MP, general secretary Ishtiaq Ahmed and tournament director Ahmed Ziaur Rahman were also present among others. BTF vice-president and chairman of Runner Group of Companies Mohammad Ali Dween announced that they would give an amount of Tk 160,000 as sponsorship money for Ali and Ram over the next one year.

It was Bolivia's 38th qualifier away from their high-altitude fortress of La Paz without a win.

Fano, meanwhile, was later sent-off.

## Venkatesh, Robin given the sack



AFP, New Delhi

India's cricket chiefs on Thursday sacked the national team's bowling and fielding coaches after the side's first-round exit from the Champions Trophy in South Africa.

The Indian cricket board "has decided to discontinue the services of bowling coach Venkatesh Prasad and fielding coach Robin Singh with immediate effect," board secretary Srinivasan said in a terse one-line statement.

Srinivasan did not detail why the two former India internationals, who had been involved with the national team since the tour of

Bangladesh in May 2007, were removed. The board is expected to name their replacements before the seven-match one-day home series against world champions Australia, which opens on October 25.

An unnamed board official was quoted by Cricinfo as saying that head coach Gary Kirsten and captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni were not part of the decision.

Prasad and Singh had faced heavy criticism over the team's poor bowling and fielding, which saw India fail to make the semi-finals of the World Twenty20 in June and the Champions Trophy last month.

Prasad, a right-arm seamer who claimed 96 Test and 196 one-day wickets, said he had not been informed of his sudden removal.



Ronaldinho  
(AC Milan's Brazilian forward)

"I would like to beat Kaka and Real Madrid in the Champions League, that would give us a big boost to get back on track."

## Bolt padding up for celebs cricket game

AFP, Jamaica

Olympic 100m champion and world record holder Usain Bolt will switch from athletics to cricket on Sunday when he takes part in a celebrity match, organisers said.

Bolt will join the star line up of players for the 15-over tournament taking place at Discovery Bay here.

The one-day event also features West Indies stars Chris Gayle, Ramnaresh Sarwan and Jerome Taylor facing veterans such as Courtney Walsh, Richie Richardson and Curtley Ambrose.

Bolt said: "When I heard about the event that Chris Gayle was planning, I knew I wanted to be a part of it."

"In terms of sport, cricket is my first love. I grew up watching cricketers like Courtney Walsh take the West Indies to new heights -- and I am a big admirer of Chris Gayle for his power, bat and calm attitude; he is my favourite player right now. So, to have the chance to play with these guys is a dream come true for me."

## Records roll

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freestyle clocking 4 minutes 38.33 seconds. The previous best was 4:54.51 minutes.

After having won the 100m freestyle gold in the 11-12 girls' group, Nazma created a record in 100m butterfly clocking 1:21.40 minutes, bettering the previous best by three seconds.

Lucky followed her teammate in the 200m breaststroke, winning the event with a timing of 3:15.14 minutes. The previous record in this event was 3:15.26 minutes.

Babita, also from Ansar, set up a record in the 400m individual medley in the 18-20 girls' group, clocking 6:15.66 minutes. The previous best was 6:17.44 minutes.

Asif set a new 200m breaststroke record with a timing of 2:48.73 minutes, bettering the previous mark by five seconds in the 13-14 boys' age group while his teammate Nazma set up a new 100m breaststroke record in the 11-12 girls' age group. She took 1:32.05 minutes. The previous record was 1:32.90 minutes.

Apart from them, BKSP lad Titu Mia grabbed three golds in the 100m freestyle, 100m butterfly and 100m breaststroke in the 11-12 boys' group while Ansar's Rozina Khatun claimed two golds in the 15-17 age group. She won the 100m freestyle and 200m individual medley.

Jenidah claimed the other gold decided on the day.

## Argentina

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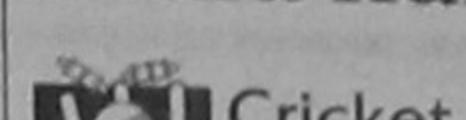
group winners, Brazil were held to a 0-0 draw at home by Venezuela and they too finished with 10 men after Sao Paulo defender Miranda was red-carded.

Paraguay also ended on a low note, losing 2-0 at home to Colombia.

Rock-bottom Peru completed their programme with a 1-0 win over Bolivia, who had defeated Brazil at the weekend, thanks to a second-half strike from Johan Fano.

It was Bolivia's 38th qualifier away from their high-altitude fortress of La Paz without a win.

Fano, meanwhile, was later sent-off.

Rahul's future in doubt  
India name squad for Aussie ODIs

AFP, Chennai

Veteran Indian batsman Rahul Dravid's one-day future looked in doubt Thursday after he was dropped for the first two home matches against world champions Australia starting later this month.

The 36-year-old had returned to the team for a tri-series in Sri Lanka last month after spending nearly two years in the wilderness. He figured in three more matches in the recent Champions Trophy in South Africa before being axed again.

Dravid, only the third Indian after Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly to have completed 10,000 one-day runs, fared reasonably well on his return as he scored 180 in the last five matches.

Hard-hitting opener Virender Sehwag and all-rounder Yuvraj Singh returned to the squad after

recovering from injuries.

Sehwag, who missed the World Twenty20 in England in June and the Champions Trophy due to a shoulder injury, has scored 6,592 runs in 20 one-dayers with 11 centuries.

Yuvraj was ruled out of the Champions Trophy after suffering a finger injury during a practice session before India's first match in the competition.

India failed to qualify for the semi-finals of both global events.

## SQUAD

Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Yuvraj Singh, Suresh Raina, Virat Kohli, Ravindra Jadeja, Harbhajan Singh, Ashish Nehra, Munaf Patel, Sudeep Tyagi, Praveen Kumar, Ishant Sharma, Amit Mishra.

## SCHEDULE

Oct 25 1st ODI at Vadodara

Oct 28 2nd ODI at Nagpur

Oct 31 3rd ODI at Delhi

Nov 2 4th ODI at Mohali

Nov 5 5th ODI at Hyderabad

Nov 8 6th ODI at Guwahati

Nov 11 7th ODI at Mumbai

## T&amp;T top Group A, Deccan crash out

CRICINFO, undated



They've tried

nine times

but Deccan

Chargers have

not won in

Hyderabad

yet. This latest defeat by a three-

run margin to Trinidad &amp; Tobago,

had serious consequences -- it

made the 2009 champions the

only IPL team to crash out in

the first round of the Champions

League after losing both Group A

matches. T&amp;T, on the other hand,

are unexpected topers and will

carry forward two points to the

second round from beating

Somerset.

Neither team took decisive

control of the game at any stage

both outfits were haphazard but

T&amp;T lifted at pivotal moments to

prevail in a tense finish. Their

batsmen entertained, playing a

shot a minute, but didn't stay long

enough to cause significant

damage -- scoring only 149 on a

terrific batting surface. Their

bowlers took early wickets but

wilted under Adam Gilchrist's