

## 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 Khan 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," 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 Paritex who saw pacer Talha Jubair run through their top order with three for 13 before Shafiqul Islam and Mosharraf Hossain Rubel took two wickets each to keep the minnows under the three-figure mark.

Mushfiqur 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

Cricket

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 Gupthill, Brendon McCullum, Nathan McCullum, Kyle Mills, Jacob Oram, Aaron Redmond, Tim Southee, Scott Styris, Ross Taylor and BJ Watling.

## 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 batting 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 girl's 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.

Jhenidah 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

Cricket

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.

David, 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 205 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.

"The selectors were advised that Yuvraj would definitely be fit to play [in the second one-day at Nagpur] on Oct 28," Indian cricket board secretary N Srinivasan said in a statement.

"It is possible that he may be able to play the first match as well. The decision on the playing eleven for the first match will be made based on Yuvraj's fitness on October 25."

The hosts made five changes from the Champions Trophy squad, with paceman

Munaf Patel and all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja making comebacks. Seamer Sudeep Tyagi is the lone new face in the 15-man squad.

All-rounders Yusuf Pathan and Abhishek Nayar, left-arm seamer Rudra Pratap Singh and batsman Dinesh Karthik were also dropped.

The squad for the remaining five games of the seven-match series will be announced later.

### 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&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 & 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&T, on the other hand, are unexpected topers and will carry forward two points to the second round from beating fellow qualifiers Somerset.

Neither team took decisive control of the game at any stage: both outfits were haphazard but T&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 flashing bat and, when they fought back, Venugopal Rao threatened to snatch victory from them. With only eight runs to defend in the final over, Darren Ganga gave Dwayne Bravo the responsibility and T&T's most experienced player delivered.

The whole match had a feeling of unpredictability to it; performances were neither clinical nor efficient. Deccan aided T&T's start by bowling short at the bowler's end. Perkins, though, batted without restraint, pulling Pragyan Ojha to the midwicket fence, lofting Symonds over cover, and playing a scoop on to the grill of his helmet, before moving across his stumps and falling lbw to Edwards.

They were 92 for 4 after 13 -- the run-rate was alright but the wickets weren't -- when Dwayne

chaos, William Perkins top-scored with 38, Keiron Pollard blasted 31 off 14 balls, and fiery Fidel Edwards finished with 3 for 32.

Edwards was charged up for this contest and not merely because he was a Barbadian playing against local rivals; he had been barred against Somerset for bowling too many bowlers and then sent down a fast, if not always well-directed, first over. Perkins tried to flick one of those speedy deliveries but the leading edge bounced just once before going over the point boundary. The first delivery Edwards aimed at middle stump brought him a wicket -- Lendl Simmons played across and was lbw.

RP Singh then bowled a shocker. He had drifted down leg often in his first over and bowled a hat-trick of front-foot no-balls in his second. Darren Bravo missed the first two free-hits but pulled the third over midwicket for four. RP then delivered a wide outside off stump but the worst was yet to come. An overthrow off the last ball cost Deccan five leg byes and Gilchrist's disgust was plain to see.

T&T raced to 49 for 1 after five overs and Gilchrist brought a fourth bowler into the attack. Darren Bravo welcomed T Suman with a leg-glanced boundary but then smacked one straight back to him. A ball later Andrew Symonds' direct hit caught Darren Ganga short at the bowler's end. Perkins, though, batted without restraint, pulling Pragyan Ojha to the midwicket fence, lofting Symonds over cover, and playing a scoop on to the grill of his helmet, before moving across his stumps and falling lbw to Edwards.

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Bravo cut hard to Suman at point. The catch was spilled but Suman recovered and ran out Bravo. The dismissal brought Pollard into play and he tore into the spinners. Ojha disappeared to the long-off and midwicket boundaries and Suman watched two full balls sail over his head. Edwards suffered too -- Pollard pulling him for a flat six -- before recovering to uproot the leg stump.

T&T's innings lost steam thereafter. Ramdin had fallen to a lucky stumping off Symonds, when Gilchrist failed to collect, but the ball bounced off his gloves on to the stumps. The tailenders could not cope with the death bowling -- Dave Mohammed took an RP Singh bouncer on his neck -- and they settled for 149.

Determined to end the home-ground jinx, Gilchrist kick-started the chase with an upper cut for six and an edge for four to take 11 off the first over. T&T fought back by striking regularly and at 30 for 3, with Symonds run out, Deccan's chase was coming apart. Their captain, however, continued to charge -- driving, hooking and playing his devastating pick-up shot over midwicket with success.

### BRIEF SCORES

Trinidad & Tobago 149 for 7 (Perkins 38, Pollard 31; Edwards 3-32) beat Deccan Chargers 146 for 9 (Gilchrist 51; Bravo 3-24) by three runs.

## Pexatech Open

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A total of 208 players including one IWM and two FIDE masters from Bangladesh and Nepal are taking part in the 9-round Swiss-League system based tournament. The second round matches will start at 10:00 am today at the same venue.



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.



## 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.



## TALK TURKEY



### 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."

## Rain keeps Ali, Ram

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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.

President of Bangladesh Tennis Federation Shahiar Alam, MP, general secretary Ishiaq 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.

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

## Venkatesh, Robin given the sack

Cricket

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 N 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.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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### CRYPTOQUIP

V T N Z E K S V B V N Y J D K D X D K O  
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