Younus wants ban lifted

Cricket

AFP, Islamabad

Former Pakistan cricket captain Younus Khan asked lawmakers on Monday for justice after being banned indefinitely from playing for his country, denying that he ever created problems within the team.

"I was banned without giving a chance to clarify my position and I want justice because I want to play for my country again," a frustrated Younus told a meeting of the lower house's sports committee.

The 32-year-old was one of seven players banned and fined by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) after a committee investigated the team's dismal tour of Australia, and preceding tours of New Zealand and the United Arab Emirates.

Pakistan lost all three Tests, five one-day internationals and a Twenty20 international in Australia between December-February.

PCB chairman Ijaz Butt earlier assured the committee that the penalties would be reviewed after receiving a report from a oneman arbitrator who is hearing appeals from the players.

Younus, who relinquished the captaincy and pulled out of the New Zealand tour after differences with fellow teammates, was banned indefinitely along with Mohammad Yousuf because of "infighting in the team."

Yousuf replaced Younus on the tour of New Zealand and Australia. Younus joined the team after the Tests in Australia and featured in the one-day matches only.

Another former captain, Shoaib Malik, and all-rounder Rana Navedul Hasan were each banned for one year and fined two million rupees (24,000 dollars), while Shahid Afridi, Kamran Akmal and Umar Akmal were fined

heavily. The PCB said all the players were charged with discipline breaches and "infighting within the team.'

Younus said he had never created any problems or rift in the team.

"I pointed out problems within the team to the PCB and they banned me," said Younus, who replaced Malik as captain in January 2009. "Malik thought that I contrived to replace him as captain, which wasn't true."

Younus said he had received offers to play outside Pakistan.

"My career has been derailed because of this ban and although I am getting offers to play in England and South Africa, I want to play for my country, for my people," said Younus who signed for Surrey in England.

Butt backed Younus as a player "who always played for the country."

"Younus is a patriot and has always played for the country and I am sad that his career was derailed by same baseless allegations of matchfixing by a parliamentary committee member," said Butt.

Butt was referring to allegations levelled by former sports committee chairman, Jamshed Dasti, over Pakistan's semifinal defeat against New Zealand in the Champions Trophy held in South Africa last year.

Younus dropped an easy catch in that match.

Vaughan's Ashes advice

Cricket

AFP, London

Former England captain Michael Vaughan has said the lesson of last year's Ashes triumph is that England must deploy five bowlers in Australia.

November will see the start of the latest Test contest between cricket's oldest international rivals, with England well aware they haven't won an Ashes series in Australia since 1986/87, when Mike Gatting was captain and Ian Botham still a thorn in Aussie sides.

In 2005, Vaughan led England, on home soil, to their first Ashes series win since Gatting's tour -- and did so with a five-man attack of Stephen Harmison, Andrew Flintoff, Simon Jones, Matthew Hoggard and Ashley Giles.

Vaughan expects England to win all six of their six upcoming home Tests, two against Bangladesh and four against Pakistan.

But he said the underlying talking point ahead of the Ashes would revolve around the balance of the England team, with Vaughan fearing coach Andy Flower and Test captain Andrew Strauss will opt for an extra batsman.

"The debate all summer will be about England's formation. Will it be six batters and four bowlers, or five and five?" Vaughan told AFP in an interview here on Monday.

"I firmly believe they are going to need five bowlers in Australia but I think this management group and Strauss will go with six and

four. "They will say they win as many games with four (bowlers) as they do with five. I guess the

question I will say is 'well how many real top teams do we beat with four?' "We beat Australia last year with 'Freddie'

(Flintoff, who retired from Tests after the Ashes) in the team twice, at Lord's and the Oval, and with five bowlers.

Swann

best

AFP, London

England's

Graeme Swann, England's

newly crowned cricketer-of-

the-year, had resigned himself

to accepting his time in the

international arena had long

The 31-year-old off-

spinner, who has taken 99

wickets in 45 matches across

all formats for England during

the past 12 months, was

named as the England and

Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Brit

men's cricketer of the year

during a ceremony at Lord's

He first toured with

But Swann's distinctive

England as a 20-year-old in

sense of humour failed to

impress then England coach

later and a change of both

coaching regime and county --

the bowler joined Nottingha-

mshire, with whom he won the

County Championship in 2005,

from his native Northamp-

tonshire, that Swann was back

less accepted his England

career might be limited to a

lone one-day international in

Bloemfontein in January 2000.

give up, but you accept you're

not going to play," Swann, set

to be in the England team that

plays in the first Test against

Bangladesh starting at Lord's

no matter how well you do,

you see other people being

picked ahead of you, that you

assume you've missed your

"You get to a point when,

"Maybe you don't exactly

By then Swann had more or

It was not until eight years

South Africa in 1999/2000.

since been and gone.

here on Monday.

Duncan Fletcher.

in Test contention.

on Thursday, said.

chance."

"We beat South Africa in Durban (in achievement, it's right up there."

December) but I look back at that series drawn 1-1 -- and think well, those last two games we looked pretty tired and our bowlers looked a little bit innocuous, particularly with the (Australian) Kookaburra ball.

"I think we need five bowlers. I think Tim Bresnan is a good enough batter to bat at seven with Graeme Swann and Stuart Broad at eight and nine. But I think they will go in with six (batsmen)."

Vaughan praised Swann, who on Monday was named as the England team's player of the year, but feared for the consequences if Australia 'collared' the off-spinner as a member of a four-man attack.

"He's had a wonderful year but I just worry that if Swanny doesn't get it right and the opposition do attack him a little bit more, three seamers on days one and two looks very, very light," said the 35-year-old former Yorkshire batsman, who retired from senior cricket last

"Maybe they'll get some overs out of Kevin Pietersen and Paul Collingwood but they are not going to do much damage. We'll wait and see. But from what I've seen of Andy Flower, I think they'll go with six batters."

Meanwhile Vaughan added England's win over Australia in the World Twenty20 final in Barbados this month -- the first time the team had won a major international limited overs tournament -- was an "amazing achievement".

"Four or five weeks ago, did anyone give England a chance? No. "Did anyone give England a chance six or

seven months ago when we were getting hammered by Australia 6-1 (in a one-day international series)? No.

"We were a laughing stock almost. "So for us (England) to win the World

LOCAL SNIPPETS

Viqarunnissa contributed to

Gendaria's total with 51 extras

Tasnim Jarin and Mariam

Khanam took two wickets

Rahatul Ferdous gave Sylhet a

huge chance to topple BKSP

when the left-arm spinner

took seven wickets in the first

innings on the first day of the

Standard Chartered Young

Tigers U-16 National Cricket

competition final at the

Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

The left-armer's impressive

figures of 7 for 61 sent the

country's lone sports institute

packing for 194 runs in 67.5

overs. Sylhet were 81 for four

Apart from Rahat, Nasum

Ahmed took two wickets for

I need to adjust to every

for the first Test have been

blighted by illness as well as

injury, with captain, Shakib Al

Hasan, being forced into quar-

antine after contracting

chicken pox early in the tour.

He took a full part in training on

Monday and is sure to lead the

team out on Thursday morn-

ing, but the disruption is not

what Bangladesh needed

ahead of such a tough assign-

now, he's running around,

batting and bowling, and he'll

be there in the first Test to

captain our side," said Tamim.

"We were not allowed to go

anywhere near him [last any conditions."

"I think he's fully recovered

Bangladesh's preparations

ground and every wicket."

that had 48 wides.

U-16 CRICKET

each.

yesterday.

from 28 overs.

FROM PAGE 17

ment.

Twenty20, after we lost to Holland in last year's tournament, is an amazing achieve-"It's not as important as the Ashes, don't get

me wrong. The Ashes is the pinnacle but, as an

for BKSP.

took 2 for 26.

yesterday.

games.

Tamim to defy pain?

the north-eastern divisional

team. Moniruzzaman Joy (65)

and Salehin Rifat (42) were the

only batsmen who stood out

But Sylhet's reply left a lot to be

desired as they are trailing by

113 runs. Mizanur Rahman

made 30 while BKSP's Rifat

WFM Shamima Akter Liza, FM

Mohammad Abdul Malek and

Mongolian Enkhtuul Altanulzii

led the points table of the Six

Seasons International chess

tournament at the convention

centre of the Narayanganj Club

Malek beat Liza while

Enkhtuul defeated Shirin in

The trio reached 2.5 points

while FM Joydeep Dutta of

India earned 2 points out of 3

week], he was staying alone,

and only the guys who'd had

chicken pox before were

allowed to go and see him. I

asked my mother if I'd ever

had chicken pox and she said I

hadn't, but then I did a test

and it said that I had had,

can overcome their setbacks

to field a full-strength side,

Tamim hopes that they can

build on the encouraging

displays that they showed

against England earlier in

the year. "We know that we

are an improving side, we

are doing okay in interna-

tional games, but we are just

not winning games," he

said. "We've got to prove to

the world that we can play in

Assuming Bangladesh

which was funny."

the fourth round games.

SIX SEASONS CHESS

Afridi to captain in all three formats

PTI, Karachi

Pakistan's Twenty20 captain Shahid Afridi is all set to take over the reins of the ODI and Test side as well for the upcoming Asia Cup and the tour of England.

Although the board was yet to make a formal announcement in this regard, sources confirmed that Afridi along with team manager Yawar Saeed yesterday met Butt in his office to discuss the future tours where the flamboyant all-rounder was offered the captaincy for all three formats of the game.

"The meeting also discussed the scenario in view of Monday's meeting of the National Assembly standing committee on sports which recommended that the bans and fines on players be removed," a source said.

Jatrabari, T&T post first wins

SPORTS REPORTER

Jatrabari Krira Chakra and Motijheel T&T Club won by similar margins in the Senior Division Football League at the Bir Shrestha Shaheed Mostofa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Sohel and Irin struck goals in the second half to ensure a 2-0 victory for Jatrabari over Mohakhali XI to register their first win after drawing their opening game.

In the day's second match, the Motijheel outfit also won 2-0, thanks to a brace from Arman who struck in the 35th and 78th minutes.

This was Motijheel's first win after they lost their previous game.

Rajib reaches 3rd place

SPORTS REPORTER

GM Enamul Hossain Rajib beat IM Situru Nathanael of Indonesia in the fifth round of the 2nd SCS International Open Grandmaster chess tournament in Bhubaneswar yesterday. Rajib reached third place

with four points after his victory.

FM Abu Shakil, FM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar and FM Mohammad Javed earned 3.5 points each while Mehdi Hasan Parag earned three points.

Shakil drew with IM Vikramaditya Kamble of India, Pagar drew with GM Iuldachev Saidali of Uzbekistan, Javed beat IM Murali Krishnan of India while Sagar beat Vikramaditya Sahu of India.

U-14 booters return home

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-14 football team returned home emptyhanded yesterday after completing the AFC U-14 Festival of Football in Iran.

Captain Rezaul, goalkeeper Rony and Ilias were good in the tournament though they won two, drew two and lost five matches, said a Bangladesh Football Federation press release.

Bangladesh beat Sri Lanka twice, drew against Sri Lanka and Pakistan and went down against Nepal, Iran, Afghanistan, Maldives, and Pakistan.

Sanath signs for Worcs

AFP, London

Sri Lanka star Sanath Jayasuriya has agreed to play for Worcestershire for part of the English county's forthcoming Twenty20 campaign. Jayasuriya will replace

Steve Smith at New Road after five matches of the Twenty20 competition as the Australian has been picked for his country's one-day internationals in England later this year.

The 40-year-old Sri Lankan all-rounder has played 110 Tests, 444 oneday internationals and 30 international Twenty20 matches and Worcestershire director of cricket Steve Rhodes was delighted to snap up such an experienced player.

"Sanath will bring a wealth of experience to the squad during a critical part of the forthcoming campaign," Rhodes said on Tuesday.

S Africa take 2-0 lead

Cricket

AFP, North Sound

South Africa withstood a late West Indies fight-back led by Darren Sammy to prevail by 17 runs in the second one-day international on Monday and take a 2-0 lead in the five match series.

The South Africans appeared to be coasting to victory, when West Indies, chasing 301 for victory from their 50 overs, slumped to 236 for eight in the 45th over.

But the Proteas came under attack from Sammy, whose unbeaten 58 from 24 balls contained two fours and six sixes, as he dominated a ninth-wicket stand of 47 with Ravi Rampaul. South Africa were fortunate

however, when fast-medium bowler Ryan McLaren skillfully fielded a drive from Sammy on his follow-through, and Rampaul was run out off the last ball of the 48th over backing up too far. Graeme Smith, the South

African captain, had the privilege of finishing the match, when Kieron Pollard, running for Nikita Miller, was run out off the first ball of the next over, with a direct hit by Smith at the bowler's end from short cover. "We weren't at our best,

and we let a few key chances

go earlier, which probably

could have gone on to cost us the game," said a relieved Smith. "Outside of our fielding, I think we controlled the game very, very well, and up to Sammy's 58, we were in control, but our fielding, our

catching in particular, we need to take another look." The third and fourth ODIs will be contested this coming Friday and Sunday at Windsor Park in the Dominica capital of Roseau.

South Africa conceded three half-centuries to West Indies, with Dwayne Bravo hitting the top score of 74 from 70 balls, and the newly-arrived opener Dale Richards 51 from 85 balls.

The Proteas put West Indies under early pressure, but Richards and Chris Gayle still gave the home team a steady start of 40. South Africa tightened

their grip, when they reduced West Indies to 119 for three, but Bravo added 63 for the fourth wicket with Pollard, as the hosts ran into deep trouble, and Sammy nearly carried

them over the threshold.

"I have to commend the guys for the effort of chasing 300 runs, and in particular, Darren for giving us a bit of hope at the end," said Gayle.

"The middle overs continue to cause our downfall because there are too many dot-balls in that period of our innings, and the run rate creeps up on us, and makes it difficult for the batsmen towards the end."

Earlier, Hashim Amla continued his rich vein of form with 92, and Jacques Kallis supported with 85 to lead South Africa to 300 for five from their 50 overs.

Amla struck seven bound-



South Africa's Hashim Amla pulls the ball during the second one-

day international against West Indies at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in St John's on Monday.

aries from 95 balls, and Kallis -- playing his 300th ODI -- hit four fours from 89 balls in a stand of 79 for the second wicket, after the South

Africans chose to bat. The Proteas benefited from an opening stand of 89 between Amla and Smith before left-arm spinner Miller bowled the South African captain behind his legs for 37 in the 16th over.

Amla continued to grind away, and reached his 50 from 45 balls with a dab to third man off Bravo before he was caught at mid-wicket off Jerome Taylor in the 32nd over. Kallis, who became only

the second South African behind Shaun Pollock to appear in 300 ODIs, and the 15th player overall, turned Rampaul through square leg for a single to reach his half century from 59 balls. A.B. de Villiers joined him

to consolidate South Africa's position with a stand of 71 for the third wicket with Kallis before he was caught inside the long-off boundary for 41 off Kieron Pollard in the 43rd In the closing overs, Kallis

was caught at point off Pollard in the 47th over, and Alviro Petersen was lbw playing across Taylor for one, as South Africa hunted quick runs. **SCORES IN BRIEF**

SOUTH AFRICA: 300 for 5 in

50 overs (Smith 37, Amla 92, Kallis 85, De Villiers 41, Miller 26 not out; Taylor 2-50, Pollard 2 - 39)WEST INDIES: 283 all out in

48.1 overs (Gayle 26, Richards 51, Bravo 74, Pollard 29, Sammy 58 not out; Morkel 3-

Result: South Africa won by 17 runs and lead five-match series 2-0. Man-of-the-match: Hashim

Amla.

Abahani's hattrick triumph praised the management the Abahani officials did not

FROM PAGE 17 three more goals.

Substitute Abul tapped in Enamul's cross home in the 77th minute and the provider turned scorer as Abahani's national striker struck twice in the 79th and 87th minutes respectively to raise his goal tally to 21, three more than rival Zahid Hasan Emily.

Captain Biplob Bhattacharjee was ecstatic after leading the side to the glory and gave all the credit to the players' determination.

"It is a big achievement in my football career as I led Abahani to a hattrick of titles after 25 years," said the experienced goalkeeper. "After the draw against

Mohammedan in the last match of the first leg, we were confident to win the league with a four-point lead as the players were committed to present the professional league title to the club after going down in the Federation Cup final to Mohammedan," said Biplob who, however, believed that there was a big difference among the title contenders and the lightweights.

Nevertheless, striker Enamul was an architect behind Abahani's success as the long-haired striker proved himself with 21 goals from 23 matches. It also proved that

make a mistake of choosing him in place of Emily, who joined rivals Mohammedan from Abahani. "I am happy after having

Abahahi's treble triumph and it was only possible because of the fantastic support from my teammates on the field," said Enamul, who is almost on the verge of winning the golden boot as Emily have 18 goals with two matches in hand. "I struck 12 goals last sea-

son for Farashganj and my target was to increase that tally this season," Enamul said. "I am confident of scoring against Mohammedan and confirm the golden boot." Manager Satyajit Das Rupu

said that they had targeted the hattrick before the start of the transfers and roped in some good players after retaining the services of some of their old players. "We motivated the players from the beginning and always remained besides

them throughout the league.

We did not stop the training

camp during the breaks and

that kept the players fit for the

season," explained the former national booter. Rajani, who is in his first season with the Sky Blues, also something that their cross town rivals lacked. "I had a dream to play for

Abahani and win the league and it came true today. I am now a proud member of contributed something in Abahani, Mohammedan Brothers Union and Muktijoddha Sangsad's league winning squads," said Rajani, who last season played for Mohammedan.

WIAlead

FROM PAGE 17 overs (Phillips 47*, Dowlin 20

Nash 32*, extra 1; Rasel 1-11, Hasan 1-42, Nazmul 1-20) BANGLADESH A: First innings (overnight 205-5 in 66 overs) (Mehrab 29 Nazimuddin 72, Faisal 100, Sahagir 35, extras 11; Brown 3-79, Pascal 2-38, Shillingford 3-83, Tonge 1-34).

England trump

FROM PAGE 20

12

Gerrard struck the resulting free-kick just wide and that was as close as England came to adding to their score until, with eight minutes left Rooney had a chip cleared off the line with Perez scrambling to get back after charging out of his area to deny substitute Jermain Defoe.

13

Bapa serves

FROM PAGE 17 playground and that instruc-

tions from higher authorities were awaited regarding the removal of illegal structures from the playground area.

Earlier Bapa and Institute of Architect had filed a writ in 2004 challenging the construction of semi-pucca building at the Dhanmondi playground/ park located between road 8 and road 9 of Dhanmondi and failure to prevent illegal occupation and illegal construction of semi-pucca building by Dhanmondi Club.

The High Court had ordered the Mayor's office to file a report on this in 2004 and explain what action it had taken to maintain the park in line with the Open Space Protection Act 2000, but it failed to take any action until it received a notice from Bapa/IAB's lawyers to issue proceedings for contempt of court, said a press release of Bapa.

In a report filed with the court the Mayor's office confirms that the Dhanmondi playground is designated as such in the Dhaka Metropolitan Plan.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer **ACROSS** 32 Remove DOWN 16 Wading

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CRYPTOQUIP

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