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# SPORT

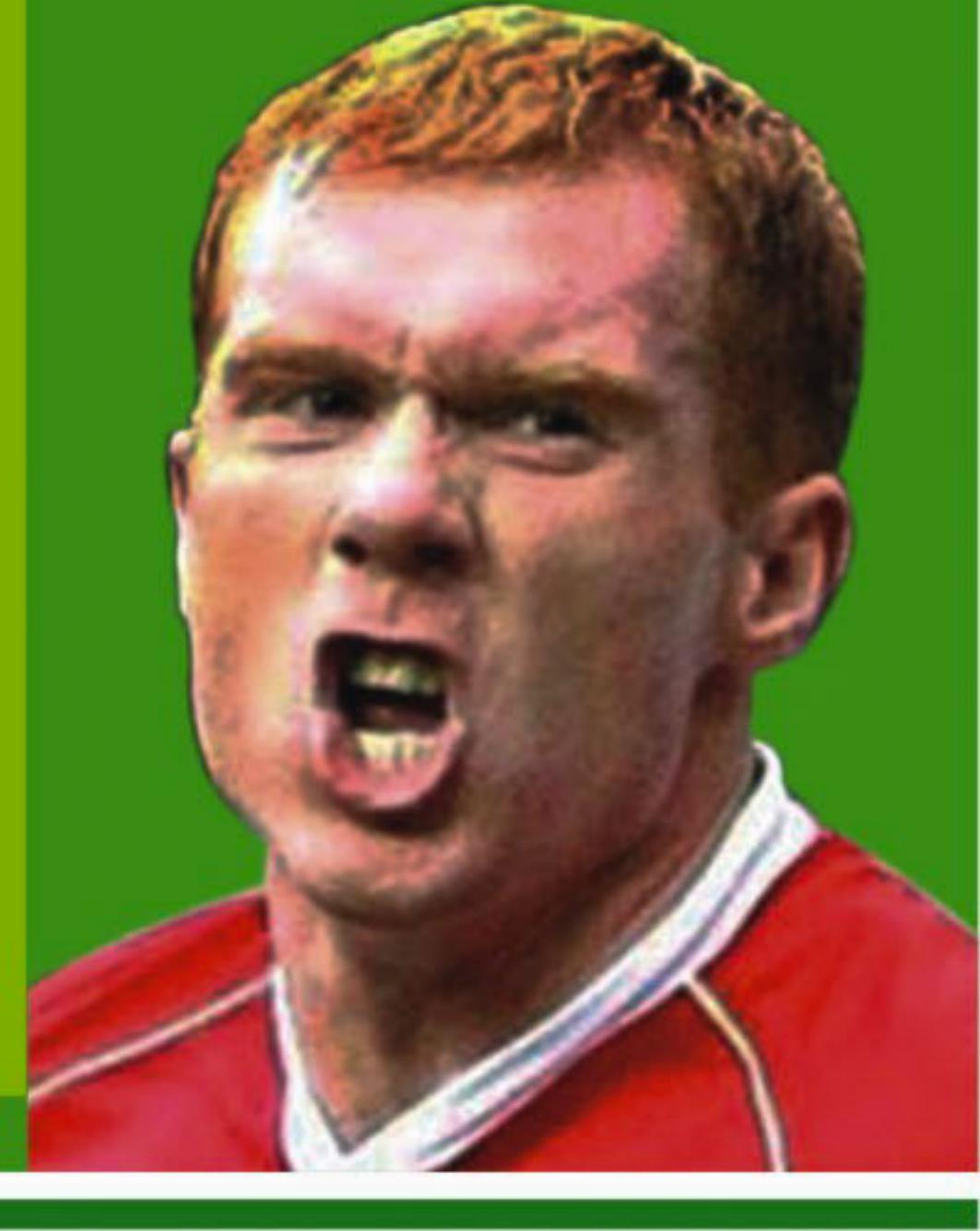
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## Scholes calls it a day

Manchester United midfielder Paul Scholes on Tuesday announced his retirement from football with immediate effect and will join the club's coaching staff. The 36-year-old made 676 appearances for the club, with his last coming as a second-half substitute as United lost 3-1 to Barcelona in Saturday's Champions League final at Wembley. The midfielder won 10 Premier League titles as well as two Champions Leagues and the FA Cup three times in a career spent entirely at United.

- AFP



## New calendar to avoid old mistakes

### Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has started their work to make a domestic calendar for the coming season.

BCB's tournament committee chairman Gazi Ashraf Hossain hoped that they will complete the new calendar by the middle of June.

"What I know is that the cricket operations committee already sought opinions from the different committees regarding the calendar and our CEO also started to work on it. He will join the office on June 7 and I hope we will get the new calendar by June 15," said Gazi Ashraf.

The game's governing body also prepared a calendar last season but failed to arrange the competitions according to the schedule which is nothing new in the domestic scene.

But Ashraf firmly said that everybody should strictly follow the calendar if they want to improve the standard of the game in the country and he also suggested a fixed calendar, so that everybody can be well aware of the schedules.

"We are investigating about why we failed to handle the calendar properly. There is no

point in making a calendar if we change it without any special reason. I think there must be a provision that one should take the permission from board president or from the board executive committee members if they want to change the schedule," said Ashraf yesterday.

He expressed his dissatisfaction over the way the National Cricket League, which is considered the backbone of the country's cricket, was organised last season and apparently the decision of holding the one-day competition in the middle of the longer-version game upset him most.

Ashraf, a former national captain and also an influential director of the board, emphasised on good coordination between different committees to prepare a suitable and permanent

domestic calendar. It was reported earlier in February that a Premier League game between Old DOHS and Cricket Coaching School had to be called off because the groundsman at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium wasn't even aware of the fixture.

"My observation is that there has been a lack of coordination. For example, we must have the ground committee informed at least two months before the season about the selected grounds for the competitions so

*"You need dedicated people for every single competition so that it would not be hampered for any individual."*

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5



UK tennis star Andy Murray stretches to hit a return during his come-from-behind victory over Serbia's Victor Troicki in their French Open fourth round match at the Roland Garros in Paris yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## High Court stays MSC election

SPORTS REPORTER

The High Court yesterday slapped an injunction on Mohammedan Sporting Club Limited barring it from holding elections for the next three months.

A High Court bench presided over by Justice Mamoon Rahman passed the order after hearing a petition filed by club member Lutfar Rahman Badal, who sought rectification of the club's 213 registered members.

Badal, who is known to be a key ally of former president Mosaddeq Ali Falu, in his petition claimed that 54 members among the 213 registered violated the deadline of submission of money while eight of the 213 were not in the initial list of 720 aspirants.

The club was registered as a limited company with the office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies on March 24, deeming the existing committee valid till June 23.

A total of 213 members were registered as permanent members, who are currently

SEE PAGE 17 COL 8



Grameenphone Open squash tournament under-18 champion Imaan Azim Rahman (R) receives his trophy from state minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker at the Dhaka Club yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Swapan lifts squash title

SPORTS REPORTER

Swapan Parvez became Grameenphone Open Squash tournament champion (Premier Division) yesterday.

He defeated Shaheed 11-8, 11-6, 9-11, 11-5 on the final day at the Dhaka Club court.

In the under-18 competition, Imaan Azim Rahman again outshined much older opponents by becoming the champion after defeating Mohammad Shaheen.

In the 45-plus category, Irshad Hossain beat Anisul Haque in the final.

State minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker was present as the chief guest and distributed prizes among the winners.

## Murray sweats into qtrs

### Schiavone sails into semis

AP, Paris

Lethargic at times and brooding at others, Andy Murray worked his way into the French Open quarterfinals by coming back to beat Victor Troicki 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 7-5 on Tuesday in a match that started a day earlier.

The three-time Grand Slam runner-up won the final five games of the fifth set despite injuring his right ankle in the previous round. The first four sets were played Monday before darkness suspended the match.

Defending women's champion Francesca Schiavone also rallied, reaching the semifinals by beating Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia 1-6, 7-5, 7-5. Later Tuesday, Roger Federer is set to face Gael Monfils for a spot in the semifinals, and 2009 champion

Svetlana Kuznetsova is scheduled to play No. 11 Marion Bartoli of France.

Murray looked out of it in the opening two sets on Court Suzanne Lenglen, often pacing around the clay with his head low and sometimes screaming to no one in particular. But he soon started placing his shots and quickly worked his way back into the match before play was suspended.

When the match resumed Tuesday, the pair held serve until Troicki broke for a 4-2 lead shortly after a ball boy interfered with play on a point won by the 15th-seeded Serb. Troicki complained, but the point was replayed and Murray eventually took a 15-0 lead.

"I won that game, but still, I never saw it on TV or ever," Troicki said. "I mean, since I watched tennis and I played tennis, I have never seen such a situation. Kid just jumped in and messed up my point."

Two games later, Troicki was serving

for the match. He took a 30-0 lead, putting him two points from victory, when Murray rallied again and broke back.

It is the fifth time that Murray has come back from two sets down to win. The fourth-seeded Briton is now 11-5 in five-set matches.

It's the first time since 1984 that the top five seeded men all reached the quarterfinals at the French Open, and the first time since Wimbledon in 1989 that it happened at any of the Grand Slam tournaments.

Like Murray, Schiavone was also two points from losing in her match. The 14th-seeded Pavlyuchenkova, at 19 the youngest quarterfinalist at this year's tournament, won 10 of the first 12 games to lead 4-1 in the second set before Schiavone turned things around.

Last year at Roland Garros, Schiavone became the first Italian woman to win a Grand Slam singles title.

## Afridi quits int'l game

### Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan's Shahid Afridi told AFP on Monday he was retiring from all international cricket, saying he was dejected after being replaced as one-day captain following a fiery clash with coach Waqar Younis.

The 31-year-old experienced difficulties with Waqar during the team's 3-2 win against the West Indies earlier last month and his public criticism of the coach ultimately led to him losing the captaincy.

"Yes, I am now retired from all international cricket," Afridi said by telephone from London. "I am dejected and hurt and whatever I said about the coach it was in the best interest of the team."

Afridi, who took over as Test and one-day captain last year, abruptly retired from the longer version of the game after a heavy defeat against Australia at Lord's in July 2010.

He then led Pakistan to two one-day series defeats against England and South Africa before winning a 50-over series in New Zealand and guiding the team to the semi-finals of World Cup 2011 where they lost to eventual champions India.

Afridi lashed out at Waqar on his return from the West Indies.

"Everyone should do his job and should be accountable for his work,"

said Afridi, reportedly irked at Waqar's interference in team selection.

When asked about his reported problems with the coach, Afridi replied: "The differences are not at a stage where they cannot be resolved."

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) took heed of the public criticism and served a show cause notice to Afridi before announcing that Test captain Misbahul

Haq would lead the team in two one-day matches against Ireland.

Pakistan won the series 2-0 under Misbah on Monday.

Afridi, who withdrew from the Ireland matches due to his father's illness in the United States, said he was roughly treated by the PCB.

"I play for my country and for my

people," he said. "I led the team to the semi-final of the World Cup but the reward was such that I was not sure about my captaincy."

Afridi said his decision to retire was final, as he would not play under the current PCB, headed by chairman Ijaz Butt, but hinted at a comeback if there was a change in leadership.

"This current board treats players roughly and I will not play under this set-up. But if this set-up is changed only then will I consider coming back because I have always played for my people and will play for them."

Afridi said he had battled against the game's match-fixing menace and had put a disjointed Pakistan team back together.

"When I retired from Test cricket and sensed spot-fixing in the team, I fought against it and after the fixing episode united the team which was broken and divided," said Afridi, referring to last year's fixing scandal in England.

That controversy, related to last year's Lord's Test against England, ended in lengthy bans on former Test captain Salman Butt and paceman Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Aamer.

Afridi, who still holds the record for the fastest one-day hundred, scored off 37-balls against Sri Lanka at Nairobi in 1997, was the joint leading wicket-taker with 21 in this year's World Cup, with India's Zaheer Khan.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6

## Archery fest ends with India's dominance

SPORTS REPORTER

The final of the recurve junior men's team final of the Asian Youth Archery Championships got underway amid light drizzle and windy weather at the Army Stadium in Dhaka where India took gold edging hosts Bangladesh out by 189-183 points after some fierce competition.

The Bangladesh team comprising Emdadul Haq Milon, Sajib Sheikh and Sujan Rahman fought neck and neck till the 18th arrow (two-thirds of the game) scoring 141 points, trailing by a single point, before letting slip in the final six arrows.

On of the archers, Sajib blamed the inclement weather and inexperience for the defeat: "We lost our concentration in the final phase after the drizzle and Sujan, who was playing his first international tournament, could not perform as well as we expected from him."

Milon, the most experienced archer from Bangladesh who was drafted in for the junior level competition, felt disappointment with the result but indicated he was not ready to compete



Winners of the 3rd Asian Archery Grand Prix and the Asian Youth Archery Championship pose with their trophies with Bangladesh Chief of Army Staff Abdul Mubeen at the Army Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

the hosts won also bagged six bronze medals from the competition.

For India, the junior recurve men's team gold was just another evidence of their dominance in the Asian Youth Championships as well as Asian Grand Prix as the neighbouring country finished with 12 gold out of 15 available.

"What our boys and girls achieved here is overwhelming. We did not

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2