SPÖRT

Hussain

by Vaughan

criticism of domestic cricket.

ing the right sort of players.

Former England captain Nasser

Hussain has leant his weight to

successor Michael Vaughan's

But he believes the problem is

not just with county cricket but at

grassroots level, where coaches,

schools and parents are not produc-

latest England skipper to point out

to Hussain to Vaughan, can it be said they all are wrong?" Hussain wrote

Hussain agreed with comments

made by Sussex captain Chris

Adams that too much cricket is

played, leaving insufficient time for

"practice, rest and mental and

"Each year £68 million comes

"All this gets filtered down

"The facts show that the money,

Hussain is the latest voice in the debate raging since Vaughan's

comments after the fourth Test

defeat to South Africa at Headingley.

Cricket Board chairman Lord MacLaurin claimed the number of

teams needed to be cut, an opinion

echoed by Hampshire boss Rod

Bracewell, an New Zealander,

criticised the England side for being

But Gloucestershire coach John

"There is a no-excuse environment in cricket but England haven't

Former England and Wales

into the game, thanks mainly to the

coverage that the England team

through the system to the grassroots

level in order to produce future

generations of England players.

to some extent, is being wasted."

physical strengthening".

receive," he added.

Bransgrove.

moaners.

bought into it," he said.

Woodbridge

approaches

new record

Australia's Todd Woodbridge will

play for his 77th career doubles title

here Sunday in the US Open men's

doubles finals, looking to move one

title shy of matching Dutchman Tom

Jonas Bjorkman beat the French

duo of Michael Llodra and Fabrice

Santoro 7-6, 6-1 on Saturday to

earn a berth against American

brothers Bob and Mike Bryan, who

beat Mark Knowles and Daniel

the final here," said Woodbridge,

who last reached the US Open

championship match in 1996 when

he and retired Aussie partner Mark

While still one shy of Okker,

Woodbridge would match American

John McEnroe for second on the all-

time list if he can capture a doubles

the Open. I'm sure he'll be pissed,"

"What a nice way to do it, here at

"In the locker room a few days

"This guy is an old competitive

ago, he even said, 'If you win, I'll

ICC take note!

protest expired the next morning.

In a match shrouded in contro-

versy, the Dar episode just went to

show that the International Cricket

Council (ICC)'s eagerness to man-

being practised properly, especially

when minnows like Bangladesh are

The ICC is paying the umpires

and the match referees only

because there is a great need for

neutrality in world cricket today. But

it is obvious that some of the officials

the game's ruling body have picked,

are not competent enough to handle

Dar and Sri Lankan umpire

Ashoka de Silva, who wittingly or

unwittingly managed to become

Bangladesh's enemy number one

following his 'performance' in the

third Test, are in the list of elite

umpires who will officiate during

Bangladesh's home series against

should have a second thought

before sending those two to the

Captain Inzamam

Inzamamul Haq (capt), Imran Nazir.

Given their track record, the ICC

England in October.

Tigers' den.

FROM PAGE 13

SQUAD

the demands of modern cricket.

have to get back out there.

guy. He still has it in him."

crown on McEnroe's home court.

"It has been a while since I was in

Woodbridge and Sweden's

Okker's all-time record.

Nestor 6-3, 6-0.

said Woodbridge

the victims.

AFP, New York

in his Sunday Telegraph column.

And he noted Vaughan is just the

"From Bob Willis to Mike Atherton

BBC ONLINE, London

stands

Marcus believes in Andy

Cricket

AFP. London

Marcus Trescothick said all-rounder Andrew Flintoff could take England to an improbable win in the fifth and final Test against South Africa here at The Oval

At stumps, on the third day, England were 502 for seven in reply to South Africa's first innings 484, a lead of 18 after left-hander Trescothick had posted a careerbest 219.

Although England's hopes of denying South Africa, 2-1 up, the draw that would give them a first



ANDREW FLINTOFF

series win in England since 1965 are slim, Trescothick believes that Flintoff, 10 not out, could have a vital

"Freddie's still there and he can

Harmison holds

Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-78, 3-346, 4-

do a job for us," said the opener. Trescothick, reflecting on his own performance, said: "It was a pretty good day. You've got to be

oleased with a double hundred. "But I was disappointed to get out," the 27-year-old Somerset ener added.

Trescothick was one of three late wickets that fell for 20 runs when he hooked fast bowler Makhaya Ntini to Jacques Rudolph at fine leg.

He batted for more than nine and a half hours in what was his first Test hundred since he made his previous Test-best 161 against Sri Lanka at Edgbaston in 2002.

Trescothick, who put on 268 with Surrey left-hander Graham Thorpe. who marked his return to Test cricket on his Oval home ground with 124, was understandably pleased with his own form after posting only his second century in 50 Test innings and fourth of his

"I was concentrating really well for me. I was spot on in my head." South Africa coach Eric Simons

remained upbeat after his bowlers endured a rare tough day at the

"There are 180 overs left. That'a lot of time and there's still a long way to go in this Test.

"But it's crucial we get early

Simons insisted England's revival was no shock. "We've said during this series that we respect the way England play and it was no surprise that they came back hard at us today (Saturday)."



MAGNIFICENT MARCUS: England opener Marcus Trescothick celebrates after scoring his first double hundred at The Oval on Saturday.

The toughest Belgian

Bill Harrison.

379, 5-480, 6-489, 7-502, 8-502, 9-FROM PAGE 13

Bowier	U	IVI	ĸ	V
Pollock	39	10	111	3
Ntini	31	4	129	•
Hall	35	5	111	2
Kallis	34	5	117	2
Adams	17	2	79	1
Rudolph	6	1	28	(
SOUTHAFRICA	: Sec	ond i	nning	JS
Smith Ibw b Bickr	nell			19
Gibbs c Stewart b	And	ersor	ı	9
Kirsten c Trescot	hick b	Harı	misor	າ29
Kallis Ibw b Harm	ison			35
McKenzie not out	t			3
Rudolph not out				4
Extras: (b-1, lb-1))			2
Total: (For 4 wkts	in 30	over	s) 10	1

Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-34, 3-92, 4-To bat: Boucher, Pollock, Hall,

Bicknell 30 46 Anderson Harmison 2 13 10

Umpires: Simon Taufel (Australia) and Sri Venkataraghavan (India)

We're closer

FROM PAGE 13

Toss: South Africa

He added: "I'll make sure they won't get carried away after this good improvement because England aren't an easy side either. The last time they toured the sub-continent they beat Sri Lanka.'

Bangladesh became the 10th Test-playing nation in 2000 but have taken constant flak for their belowpar performances. Critics have called for their Test status to be revoked.

They have lost 23 of their 24 Tests with a rained-off draw against 7imbabwe, and have won only three one-day internationals.

Pakistan and Bangladesh will play the first of five one-day games in Multan on Tuesday.

41 Solar

42 Catch-

51 Verdi

opera 52 Falco of

53 Petrol

54 Astronaut

Cannon

56 Raring to

DOWN

1 Lash

3 Black

2 "Laughing

Cavalie

phrase 45 Cowardly

offering

Sopranos'

emissions

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

5 Annika

Soren

stam's

8 Con

12 Mandli

13 Fuss

14 "Rikki-

Tikki-

18 Human

feelings

Angels"

24 Literary

hodae

podge

capital

Carter's

daughte

32 Surmise

article

34 Aachen

35 Branch

cated

39 Trench

lozenge

37 Medi-

28 Norway

31 Jimmy

20 Fervid

23 Lucy

21 Regatta

supply

16 Meadows 55 Actress

kova of

important points. That's what I did." induced endurance test of three Henin-Hardenne took home a matches in three days after a test one million-dollar top prize, twice like her 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 semifinal win. what Clijsters won. But the check

"What I did last night was unbeaward ceremony drew laughs when lievable,' Henin-Hardenne said. she was greeted with "Congratula-"We played a high level. I came back tions Christine" by bank executive from 5-3 in the second, 5-3 in the third. I probably didn't play my best While there was no repeat of the but my attitude was so good it gave third-set leg cramps that plagued me the chance to win."

have lasted through the rain-

the champion against Capriati Clijsters was amazed at her Henin-Hardenne knew she was not rival's win as well, saying, "That was one of the best matches of the year "My legs were feeling heavy for and maybe of the US Open, the sure. Mentally it was important to whole history.'

Henin-Hardenne's ordeal began "Kim wasn't playing very well in the moment she walked off the court the first three games. Then she and needed fluids to combat left leg started to play much better. I wasn't "When I got off the court I didn't ready for it. I needed a few games to be very aggressive. At 5-all, I think

know what to expect because I was feeling so bad. The doctors and trainers did an unbelievable job.' Henin-Hardenne said

"The doctor said to me I was

problem with my body. It's just I was feeling tired, a lot of fatigue. I didn't know if I was going to be able to compete and fight 100 per cent. "When I woke up, I knew proba-

healthy to play. There was no more

bly I was going to play. But I needed a little more time to see how I was feeling. I just wanted to wait until the practice to be sure I could play." Clijsters, the girlfriend of

Australian men's star Lleyton Hewitt, lost the first three games in seven minutes and blamed nerves. But in the end, her rival was simply too tough.

"Justine just played a great match. She was too good," Clijsters

"I knew it was going to be very tough. I felt comfortable gettng into the match, playing well against all my other opponents. It just wasn't good enough."

Roddick, Ferrero go

had to do it.'

the match turned."

"I'm just going to have to accept the cards I've been dealt," Roddick said. "I would have preferred to be out of there in three but that's the way I

forget it," Henin-Hardenne said.

Fitness has been a major

emphasis for Henin-Hardenne, who

said that a year ago she could not

Roddick will draw strength from a vocal and supportive home-nation crowd.

"It's going to be a little bit difficult because he's going to be very motivated with the crowd " Ferrero said. "He's playing his first final. He has a lot of confidence.

Ferrero will be playing for the fourth day in a row after an unprecedented Grand Slam match iam that

four days of rain forced upon organ-"I feel a little bit tired but I think I'm

going to be OK," Ferrero said. The endurance test figures to take a toll, but the thrill of achievement will help Ferrero find the

strength, Agassi said.

19 Reagan

member

fleece

24 Chum

25 French

Down

tional

discus

example

adjective

affliction

29 Abner's

30 Indivisi-

33 Evelid

36 OSU's

confer-

38 "Survivor

42 Exceed-

43 Tramp's

44 Kvetches

47 Valhalla

chief

Holly

50 West

love

46 Stead

26 Educa-

27 Lamb,

By Eugene Sheffer

4 San

5 Water

6 Okla-

coole

homa

7 Parks or

8 Artist's

work-

9 Rodgers

stein

11 Beauty

ball tactic 10 Claim

Solution time: 24 mins

Hammer

address

Bonheur

Chicken

"I'm sure it's not easy," Agassi

"He'll be all right. He's one match away. If there's ever a time to find a little extra, it will be tomorrow."

Roddick is 26-1 since Wimbledon and 36-2 since firing France's Tarik Benhabilies as his coach following a French Open firstround loss and joining forces with Agassi's former coach, Brad Gilbert.

That run includes titles at Queen's, Indianapolis, Cincinnati and Montreal, semifinal losses at Washington and Wimbledon.

Roddick broke his career record of aces in a match with his 38th on the penultimate point, surpassing by one the mark he set two years ago against Michael Chang at the French Open.

Nalbandian had a match point in the third-set tie-breaker but Roddick saved it with a service winner and seized momentum, capturing the

DQNC KRWC IIFXU

IKHWU VPXC LDWW VPXN

Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF THERE WERE AN OLIVE-FLAVORED MOUTHWASH, I SUPPOSE

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for

another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the

puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

DOOWX LKQOF

THEY MIGHT NAME IT GARGOYLE

DF IXDOKRF

tie-break, winning the fourth set with ease and taking a 4-3 lead in the

Roddick's rally prevented the first American-less US Open singles finals since 1988, following the semifinal failures of Agassi, Jennifer Capriati and Lindsay Davenport.

Agassi, 33, failed in his bid for a ninth Slam crown. He won US Open titles in 1994 and 1999 and lost last year's final to Sampras, but could not book a return trip by beating

"By the time I was getting into the match I was already down two sets,"

"Just a little too big of a hill to

Hitting out at **American bias**

AFP, New York

Frustration with US Open officials over perceived American favoritism boiled over for Argentina's David Nalbandian and Spain's Juan Carlos Ferrero after their US Open semifinal matches here Saturday.

Nalbandian was unhappy about having to play his third match in as many days, fighting a sore wrist and abdominal pull because of a raincreated compressed schedule that made an unprecedented endurance test of the final rounds.

"It's difficult to play three days in a row," Nalbandian said. "Very tough days, many games in a row. I don't know if it's because we didn't have a day off but it's very difficult to play tough matches three days in a

Nalbandian also objected to a close call that went against him to surrender to deciding break in the "Every time when it's close,

everything is for them," Nalbandian said, later adding in Spanish that, "In this tournament, there was more support for the Americans

Mohammad Hafeez, Yasir Hameed, Yousuf Youhana, Abdul Razzak, Shoaib Malik, Kamran Akmal (wicketkeeper), Junaid Zia, Umar Gul and Shabbir Ahmed.

Brave Tigers FROM PAGE 13

return home on September 10. On the other hand their replacements Tushar Imran, Hasibul Hossain and Mushfigur Rahman have arrived here to feature in the

Relief for Thorpe

Cricket

Graham Thorpe said he could not "have written it any better" after scoring a hundred for England against South Africa in his comeback Test match at his Oval home ground here Saturday.

Thorpe, 34, playing his first Test in over a year, scored 124 in England's gutsy bid to level the series at 2-2 in what was the fifth and final Test.

After briefly opting out of all cricket following the second Test against India at Lord's in July 2002 as his marriage collapsed, Thorpe told the England selectors he was ready to tour Australia only to change his mind.

That raised questions about his commitment to England and added to the pressure Surrey left-hander Thorpe felt when he was recalled after former captain Nasser Hussain was ruled out with a broken toe sustained in South Africa's fourth Test win at Headingley.

Thorpe, who made a hundred on his Test debut against Australia at Trent Bridge in 1993, admitted: "In the build up to the game I was quite

tense knowing it was my first game

"The two days before the match, coming back into a new environment, were probably harder than



GRAHAM THORPE

when I made my debut because I definitely wanted to do well." added Thorpe, appearing in his 78th Test

"You want to prove to yourself that you are good enough after a vear out of it and I was very happy with the way I controlled the expectation." said Thorpe who added 268 for the third wicket with fellow lefthander Marcus Trescothick.

Thorpe, who batted for over five-

and-a-quarter hours, facing 244 balls including 17 fours in what was his first Test hundred at The Oval. said the way he was received by his

home crowd helped settle his "It was a nice reception when I went out to bat. I desperately wanted to achieve. I have had a good summer but it was all about making the step up again. I am delighted to have done that," explained Thorpe who

was eventually bowled off his pads by paceman Jacques Kallis. When you come back into the team you want to prove your worth on the international stage. The levels of concentration are much higher and coping with that was

what I was most pleased about." But Thorpe insisted it had not all been plain sailing. "It was very hard in last night's (Friday's) session. I wasn't fluent, just intent on surviving.

"Today (Saturday) I felt a lot freer. I got confidence from last night. "There was the expectation of

doing well and getting a comeback century on my home ground, I couldn't have written it any better.

"There was a lot of emotion running through me at the time and a great feeling of relief as well."

Victory of heart & grit

US OPEN US OPEN

REUTERS, New York

Since the US Open began a fortnight ago, talk was the final Grand Slam of the season had been devalued by the absence of the injured Williams sisters, who had made the title their property in the last four But a priceless effort by Justine

Henin-Hardenne, who lifted the silverware behind a pair of courageous and sublime performances proved that heart and grit might be the currency to trade against the brute power of the American sib-An indomitable Henin-Hardenne

pummelled Belgian compatriot Kim Cliisters 7-5, 6-1 to lift the title on Saturday and cap one of the most remarkable recoveries in Grand Slam history.

Laid out on the Flushing Meadows infirmary with a drip in her arm following her three-hour, threeset epic semifinal win over American Jennifer Capriati 24-hours earlier, Henin-Hardenne returned to the court and produced a storming effort to claim her second Grand Slam of the season.

So impressive was Henin-Hardenne's performance that it very nearly exorcised any lingering thoughts of the Williams sisters from Flushing Meadows.

Certainly, the sisters were not on the new champion's mind after taking the title Serena won a year ago and adding it the French Open title she lifted from the younger

Williams trophy cabinet in June. "I really don't think about the Williams sisters right now," Henin-Hardenne said, her bravery rewarded with 1 million dollars

winner's cheque. "They've dominated the tour for so long and they're still great cham-

pions ... both of them. "Unfortunately they are injured "I don't know if they have to worry

Whether Henin-Hardenne's

Grand Slam success has sent a ripple of fear through the Williams household is uncertain but the sisters, like everyone else, would have to be impressed with the delicate Belgium's sublime performances in New York.

While Henin-Hardenne lacks the physical presence of the Williams and other power hitters proliferating through the women's game, she confirmed that the heart of champion, a gritty temperament and confidence could also get the job "Maybe I arrived a little later that

some other players but winning two

Grand Slams at 21, I think, is great," she said. "It gives me a lot of confidence for the rest of my career.

"I'm still very young and I want to play for a long time. "It's true that in the last few

months I have been very consistent. played unbelievable tennis and finished the matches I had to finish.

"I'm feeling very strong right now and think the other players can feel it

HENIN-HARDENNE BOX

Following is a factbox on Justine Henin-Hardenne, who beat Kim Clijsters in the final of the US Open to become the first Belgian to capture a singles title at Flushing Meadows on Saturday:

Born: June 1, 1982 in Liege, Belgium Turned professional: January 1999 1996: Plays first senior event on ITF circuit in Mallorca, where she

reaches second round. 1997: Despite being unranked, she wins two ITF events.

1998: Wins 10 consecutive matches and two ITF circuit titles to begin the year. Adds a third later in the season to finish the year ranked 226. 1999: Turns pro and wins her debut WTA Tour event in Antwerp.

Helps Belgium reach Fed Cup semifinals 2000: Skips French Open because of an arm injury and is plagued throughout the season with foot and toe injuries.

Reaches the fourth round of a Grand Slam for the first time at the US Open, defeating 12th seed Anna Kournikova en route. Breaks into top 50

in the rankings, finishing the year as world number 48. 2001: Reaches first Grand Slam semifinal at the French Open, where she

loses to Clijsters in three sets despite holding a 6-24-2 lead. Becomes the first Belgian to reach a singles final at Wimbledon, where

she is beaten by Venus Williams.

Wins three WTA titles and finishes the year ranked seventh. 2002: Triumphs in Berlin but illness leads to a shock first round defeat at

Reaches Wimbledon semis but is again beaten by Venus Williams. Wins second title of the year in Linz and reaches a career high four in the

2003: January: Falls in the semifinals of the Australian Open to Venus May: Defends her German Open title with victory over Clijsters.

June: Becomes first Belgian to win a Grand Slam title when she overwhelms Clijsters 6-0 6-4 in the final of the French Open. September: Wins her second Grand Slam title of the year with a 7-5 6-1

right now so it is bad for the tour, it's

US OPEN US OPEN

the big occasion again on Saturday but the Belgian insisted her capitulation to compatriot Justine Henin-Hardenne in the US Open final was

"Justine was too good again," Clijsters said after her loss at Flushing Meadows brought back memories of her defeat to the same player in the French Open final in

performance, but I played an opponent who was just the best today ... and the best of the whole tourna-

insane hunger to translate undoubted talent into major titles. But she stressed how eager she

was to make up for the latest anticlimax. Asked if it would become more

and more difficult to win a slam with each passing opportunity, she told reporters: "I don't know I would love to play some more Grand Slam

month on the back of a consistent year, she spent much of the Open won a Grand Slam.

Her semifinal defeat at the Australian Open in January also sprung to mind all too readily.

nervous (than at Roland Garros)," the 21-year-old said. "That's why I had a slow start.

in the other six matches here... but I always want to take the positives. "Although it's disappointing now, Justine had answers for a lot

"I definitely played a lot better



KIM CLIJSTERS

win over Clijsters in the final of the US Open.

Clijsters: finals' flop?

age the game in a fair manner is not

REUTERS, New York

Kim Clijsters appeared to freeze on not evidence of her frailty.

was disappointed with my

The feeling persists that Clijsters, admired for her personable character, lacks the killer instinct and

Crowned world number one last

deflecting criticism that she did not deserve the honour until she had Eventually the pressure of her

task negated the sort of superlative form which had carried her to the final in the previous six rounds.

It was almost a mirror image of her experience at Roland Garros, when she lost 6-0 6-4 to Henin-Hardenne in the final.

Then, leading Serena Williams 5in the final set, she lost it 7-5 as

another chance went begging. "I think I was a little bit more