Chappell's no to PCB

AGENCIES, *Adelaide*

Former Australian captain Greg Chappell says he won't pursue a possible offer to become the first foreigner to coach the Pakistan cricket team.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Lieutenant General Tauqir Zia said Wednesday Chappell was one of two candidates being considered for the job made vacant when Javed Miandad was sacked this week.

"We are considering (South African) Barry Richards and Greg Chappell and we are trying to contact them, but nothing has been finalised as yet," Zia said.

"When we talk of a qualified coach to effect good results, why not bring (in) a foreigner."

But Chappell, who is South Australian state cricket manager, said he would not take the position.

"Due to my commitment to the SACA (South Australian Cricket Association), and other commitments, I would be unavailable for the position even if it was offered to me," Chappell said Thursday.

Pakistan sacked coach Miandad on Tuesday and named a 15-member coach-less team for the limited-overs tri-series in Sharjah starting on Sunday.

Chappell was interviewed in India last October about coaching the Indian team, a position which subsequently went to former New Zealand opener John Wright.

The Pakistan cricket authorities have given no reason for firing former star batsman Miandad, but there have been reports of senior players refusing to play for him.

Hick stays put

AFP, *London*

Worcestershire re-affirmed Graeme Hick's position as county captain Wednesday following his omission from England's list of centrally contracted players for the new season.

Secretary Mike Vockins said: "The committee was unanimous in deciding that we want Graeme to continue as captain.

"This does not mean in any way that we believe his Test career has ended but it is now easier for us and for him to focus on his role here."

Last year the Zimbabwe born batsman Hick missed half of the county programme due to England duty in his first season as captain.

Former England wicketkeeper Steve Rhodes, who led the side when Hick was away last season continues as vice-captain.

Streak-smart

FROM PAGE 13

babwe and Bangladesh. Nevertheless, he was very much aware of Bangladesh cricket and its players.

"I have seen a few of the players and watched most of the Inaugural Test against India. I was impressed with the way the guys played. I thought they were a bit unlucky losing the match after putting up 400 odd runs in the first innings. I thought the worst scenario could be a draw."

The right-arm pacer has proved himself a world-class bowler after making his debut against Pakistan in Karachi in 1993, taking 53 wickets at an astonishing average of less than 20 in the first couple of years. But a knee injury caused him to lose some ground.

"Unfortunately, because of my knee trouble I could not put into practice what I wanted to. But now I'm working hard and hope to come near to what I was bowling at the start of my career."

Apart from his injury, Streak also faced the problem of building his side as a unit after some key players deserted the country.

"Obviously we lost few quality players like Neil Johnson and Murray Goodwin. They were definitely difficult to replace. Fortunately, we have some good young players and also with some cricketers in form. Andy is playing superb cricket and Allistair Campbell is really maturing, Stuart Carlisle is another batsman who is coming good for us. Also some young players are waiting in the wings and a couple of them will start to establish their places in the Test side. We have also got some reasonable bowlers. Young Mathew is a leg-spinner. There are also a couple of young quick bowlers like Marillier and Watambwa who are going to play in the one-day sides."

However, there are a few changes in the side that played in India early this year.

Paceman Henry Olonga and impressive young bowler Travis Friend have been rested for the one-day series due to injury. They are expected to be included in the Test side.

Despite being faced by overwhelming odds Streak still believed that the game would prosper in the country. What they needed was a major trophy in the international cricket.

PHOTO: INTERNET

Indian batting star Venkatasai Laxman responds to the crowd's applause after he reached his maiden one-day hundred during the fifth match against Australia in Goa on Friday.

'ICC is a talking shop'

Cricket

AFP, *London*

Cricket's world governing body has been labelled as "little more than a talking shop" for its failure to take decisive action over last year's match-fixing crisis by the new edition of Wisden Cricketers' Almanac.

The 138th edition of cricket's yellow bible, published here Thursday, takes the International Cricket Council (ICC) to task for not calling a world-wide inquiry in the immediate aftermath of the revelations from former South African captain Hansie Cronje.

"The ICC's few years as a governing body — it can hardly be called independent or autonomous — have not been glorious," claims the Wisden editorial in the 1,648-page publication.

"It is still perceived as little more than a talking shop, not always the sum of its fractious parts and impotent to act without the agreement of its member countries, with their own vested interests.

"The ICC's initial response to Cronje's admission of guilt was to resist calls for a world-wide inquiry into match-fixing, preferring that each country should determine its own methods of inquiry and this after India and Pakistan had already held inconclusive inquiries in recent years."

Wisden claims the ICC, which is run by the member countries, should be given independent status with full-time officials and given the powers to take action.

"The time must be coming for the member countries to put the ICC on a proper business footing, with full-time executives empowered to take decisive, unilateral action as a centrally functioning administration," stressed Wisden.

Elsewhere in the almanac, England's recent revival is reflected by three Englishmen being selected among the five cricketers of the year for the first time since 1996 when Dominic Cork, Angus Fraser and Dermot Reeve were given the honour.

Unlike last year and 1998, when no English players were chosen, Gloucestershire captain Mark Alleyne, Surrey fast bowler Martin Bicknell and England's Andrew Caddick are all given the honour for outstanding seasons in 2000.

Alleyne won the award for guiding unfashionable Gloucestershire to a domestic one-day treble trophy triumph to add to their 'double' success of the previous season while Bicknell claimed 60 First Division wickets to help Surrey to their second successive county championship.

Caddick earned his recognition for playing a large part in England's first series victory over West Indies in 31 years last summer, including claiming four wickets in an over during the incredible two-day victory at Headingley.

The remaining cricketers of the year are, predictably, Australian, with Justin Langer being recognised for scoring 1,003 runs during their 13 Tests in the 1999-2000 season and establishing himself as a key member of the best side in the world.

Compatriot Darren Lehmann completes Wisden's list having topped England's national averages with 1,477 runs at an average of 67.13 to help Yorkshire finish third in the Championship.

Bevan defies India

FROM PAGE 13

looking for a well-deserved break before starting the Ashes tour in England in June.

Ganguly said his team fell 20 runs short in the end, but congratulated the Australians for a good win.

"They got a good start which helped Bevan finish the match," he said.

"But I am happy with the way my team played on the whole tour. Whatever happened today, no one can take away the success we have enjoyed over the last seven weeks."

Ganguly, with just 19 runs in the previous four one-dayers, smashed nine boundaries and two sixes before he was removed by an umpiring error.

The left-hander fended off a rising ball from Glenn McGrath that was going over the batsman's shoulder and should have been called a no-ball by the two local umpires.

Ganguly stood his ground for a while, glaring at the square-leg umpire, before trudging back to the pavilion.

Laxman, who came to the crease in the fourth over after Tendulkar was caught behind off Nathan Bracken, shored India's innings till the 44th over.

The wristy right-hander added 105 for the second wicket with Ganguly and 97 for the third with Rahul Dravid (31) before top-edging a pull off Harvey.

SCOREBOARD

Full scoreboard of the fifth and final one-day international between Australia and India on Friday:

INDIA

Ganguly c Ponting b McGrath	74
Tendulkar c Gilchrist b Bracken	12
Laxman c Gilchrist b Harvey	101
Dravid c Waugh b Symonds	31
Badani b Harvey	7
Yuvraj run out	19
Dahiya not out	15
Zaheer not out	0
Extras: (lb-3, w-3)	6
Total: (For 6 wkts in 50 overs)	265

Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-121, 3-218, 4-230, 5-230, 6-262

Bowler	O	M	R	W
McGrath	8	0	37	1
Bracken	10	1	37	1
Harvey	10	1	49	2
Warne	8	0	62	0
Symonds	8	0	40	1
Lehmann	6	0	37	0

AUSTRALIA

Hayden c Ganguly b Srinath	36
Gilchrist b Tendulkar	76
Ponting c Dahiya b Srinath	4
Bevan not out	87
Waugh c Agarkar b Tendulkar	17
Lehmann c Yuvraj b Tendulkar	1
Symonds c Badani b Srinath	7
Harvey not out	25
Extras: (b-4, lb-9, w-1, nb-2)	16
Total: (For 6 wkts in 48 overs)	269

Fall of wickets: 1-70, 2-74, 3-142, 4-187, 5-195, 6-202

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Srinath	10	1	62	3
Zaheer	9	0	43	0
Agarkar	6	0	45	0
Harbhajan	10	0	55	0
Tendulkar	10	0	35	3
Yuvraj	3	0	16	0

Result: Australia won by four wickets and therefore the series 3-2.

Man-of-the-match: Michael Bevan.

Man-of-the-series: Matthew Hayden.

Independence Cup golf held

SPORTS REPORTER

Brig Gen Md Ahsan Habib and Jung Sook Jung clinched the Independence Day golf tournament titles at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday.

258 golfers from home and abroad took part in this prestigious meet.

Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Abu Taher inaugurated the meet and later he distributed prizes.

OTHER RESULTS

Senior Winner: M H Samad

Team Winner

Col M Aminul Islam
Yamamoto
Brig Gen Rafiqul Islam
Col Md Enamul Haque (Retd)

Team Runner-up

Mj Gen AKF Kabir
Reazur Rahman (Soheil)
Ashrafuddin Ahmed
Col FHM Nazrul

Team 2nd Runner-up

CR Kim
Maj Gen S Ameer Ali
Brig Gen Abdullah Hasan
Lt Col Shahriar A Chowdhury

Junior Winner: Gordon; Runner-up: ABM Kamaluddin; Ladies Runner-up: Yamamoto; 2nd Runner-up: Reazur Rahman (Soheil); 3rd Runner-up: Mashuk Jinnah; Front Nine Winner: Pervez Rashid; Back Nine Winner: Saber Afzal; Longest Drive: Raiyan Rab; Nearest to pin: Brig Gen Chowdhury Khalequzzaman; Best Score in per 5 Hole: CS Jung; Best Score in per 3 Hole: Brig Gen Mahbub Hasan.

Participants of the 26th Independence Day Golf Tournament are seen with the Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Abu Taher (5th from R) at the Kurmitola Gold Club on Friday.

Rakib takes solo lead

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master Abdullah Al-Rakib of Bangladesh Biman took a solo lead in the Professor Abdur Razzak 27th National Chess Championship with a win over International Women Master Rani Hamid at the NSC chess room on Friday.

Playing with black pieces, Rakib adopted a Caro-Kan Defence and checkmated the veteran national women's champion after 47 moves.

It was Rakib's third successive win in as many outings which raised his tally to three points, half a point more than IM Ziaur Rahman and FIDE Master Enamul Hossain Rajib.

Rajib beat Abdul Maleque of Chittagong while Zia drew with Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Imon to remain second in the table with two and a half points each.

However, there was an upset when qualifier Abu Sufian Shakil of Bangladesh Ansars handed Grand Master Niaz Murshed his first defeat in the championship.

Playing with whites against the Modern Defence of Niaz, Shakil won the board after Niaz ran out of time after 40 moves.

In the other matches, holder IM Reefat-bin-Sattar of Biman drew with Taibur Rahman Sumon of Leonine while Aminul Islam of Ansar drew with teammate Nasir Ahmed.

Moya's debut in movie

REUTERS, *Madrid*

Former world number one Carlos Moya swapped centre court for the silver screen when he made his acting debut in a Spanish movie.

The 1998 French Open champion appears in "Torrente II" as a tennis coach.

"It was a great experience," the Spaniard said after the film premiered in Madrid at the weekend.

"It was a lot of fun because of the role I played. The reason why I worked in the movie is because I am a big fan of the director and main character, Santiago Segura," he said.

Zia puts

FROM PAGE 13

Anis not out	2
Extras: (b-2, lb-6, nb-2, w-12)	22
Total: (For 9 wkts in 50 overs)	228

Fall of wickets: 1/9, 2/9, 3/21, 4/46, 5/156, 6/183, 7/199, 8/199, 9/217.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Al-Amin	8	0	26	2
Shahnewaz	10	3	26	3
Towhid	5	0	24	0
Magsi	9	0	46	2
Shamsul	10	0	52	1
Sohel	8	1	46	1

YOUNG CRICKETERS

Sajid c & b Anis	4
Monir c & b A Wasim	26
Adil b A Wasim	21
Magsi lbw b Ziaur	10
Towhid c Mukter b Ziaur	29
Jewel st Mukter b Majed	15
Iftekhar c K Mahmud b Majed	50
Sohel st Mukter b Ziaur	1
Shahnewaz c Athar b Ziaur	7
Shamsul c Anis b Ziaur	4
Al-Amin not out	5
Extras: (b-1, lb-5, w-9)	15
Total: (All out in 45 overs)	187

Fall of wickets: 1/14, 2/56, 3/64, 4/76, 5/115, 6/117, 7/125, 8/135, 9/147.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anis	8	1	40	1
Aminul jr	7	0	21	0
K Mahmud	7	0	26	0
A Wasim	9	1	32	2
Ziaur	10	0	38	5
Majed	4	0	24	2

Result: Biman won by 41 runs.

Champs brush

FROM PAGE 13

Hasan not out	8
Arman run out	2
Morshed st Jahangir b Masroor	0
Extras: (b-2, lb-4, w-28)	34
Total: (All out in 45 overs)	269

Fall of wickets: 1/76, 2/122, 3/132, 4/155, 5/215, 6/243, 7/258, 8/262, 9/268.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Al-Amin	7	1	31	0
Talukder	9	0	54	2
Joy	4	0	25	0
Shimul	9	0	46	1
Sohel	9	0	59	2
Rahim	3	0	21	0
Masroor	4	0	27	2

BROTHERS UNION

Imran c Hasan b Morshed	14
Sadique c Arman b Masud	29
Masroor b Hasan	26
Jahangir st Salim b Masud	28
Mahbub run out	1
Shimul not out	50
Joy c Hasan b Masud	0
Al-Amin c Arman b Hussain	1
Sohel c Anis b Nafees	9
Talukder b Nafees	6
Extras: (lb-2, nb-1, w-7)	10
Total: (All out in 44.3 overs)	179

Fall of wickets: 1/37, 2/89, 3/93, 4/107, 5/107, 6/109, 7/130, 8/139, 9/165.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Neeyamur	4	1	23	0
Morshed	6	0	23	1
Arman	8	1	28	1
Hasan	6	0	29	1
Masud	7	0	21	3
Hussain	9	2	22	1
Nafees	3.3	0	21	2
Anis	1	0	10	0

Result: Abahani win by 90 runs.

Waqar foresees good time

Cricket

AGENCIES, *Karachi*

A charged-up Waqar Younis Wednesday said good times were around the corner after Pakistan's recent lean patch in international cricket.

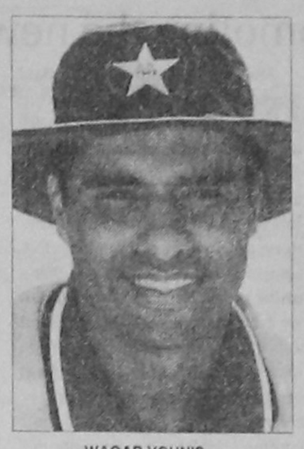
The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Tuesday named Younis as captain for the limited- overs Sharjah Coca-Cola tri-series contest after sacking coach Javed Miandad following a disastrous tour of New Zealand last month.

Pakistan suffered a 3-2 one-day series loss to New Zealand and was humiliated in the final Test at Hamilton which the Kiwis won to level the three-match series 1-1.

"Good times are just around the corner," the 29-year-old paceman told AFP. "The Pakistan team is passing through a time when the youngsters are taking over but the process should be gradual.

"Captaincy is a challenge for me and I love to take challenges."

The tri-series, which also involves Sri Lanka and New Zealand, gets under way on April 8.



WAQAR YOUNIS

Younis led Pakistan in one Test in 1993, and in the triangular one-day series in Singapore last August where Pakistan lost to South Africa in the final.

After the New Zealand tour Javed Miandad was sacked as coach amid much talk of discord within the camp.

Younis said reports of a rift in the team were blown out of proportions.

"A team is like a family and there are always issues which are debatable and contentious. The media makes small things look big," said the veteran of 204 one-dayers and 71 Tests.

"You win some and you lose some, seniors will go but talented youngsters are there to take over."

Younis said if he maintained fitness he could play until the 2003 World Cup in South Africa.

3 of top five are English

Cricket

INTERNET, *London*

The dominance of Australian batsmen on the English County Championship has been emphasised by the appearance of two of them in Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Year.

Justin Langer, who captained Middlesex in 2000, and Darren Lehmann, who plans to return for a fourth season with Yorkshire in 2001, both make the five, which is completed by the presence of Mark Alleyne, Andrew Caddick and Martin Bicknell, in the annual cricketing bible, which hits the shelves on Friday.

It is the first time since 1996 that three English players have made the grade. That year was also the last time that no one from a touring side made the five. The West Indies had toured in 1995, as they did again in 2000, going down 3-1 this time around. No Zimbabwean was judged worthy of the honour, after a 1-0 defeat in their first two Tests in England.

Langer made 1003 runs in 13 Tests for Australia in 1999/2000, including the 223 against India at Sydney which prompted his captain Steve Waugh to describe him as the best batsman in the world on current form. Despite his side finishing second-from-bottom in the Championship, Langer won praise for his captaincy, and made 1490 runs at 62.08 into the bargain.

Lehmann carried his outstanding Pura Cup form of 1999/2000 — in which he hit seven centuries from 10 matches — into the 2000 county season. The Queensland left-hander was the country's leading run-scorer, making 1477 at 67.13, and was a major factor in Yorkshire's finishing third in Division One.

Caddick joined the five after a remarkable return to the fore for England after being all but forgotten by his adopted country. The New Zealand-born pace-bowler was omitted from the Ashes tour in 1998/99 and had a disappointing series against the Kiwis in 1999 but, under new coach Duncan Fletcher, he was a man reborn. England's top wicket-taker in South Africa, with a career best 7/46 at Durban, he went on to take 22 victims, at an average of just 19.18 in the 3-1 series victory over the West Indies. The highlight of that must be his figures of 5/14 in 11.2 overs — including a memorable four wickets in a single over — in the two-day defeat of the tourists at Headingley.

All-rounder Alleyne gained the accolade, which can only be given to a player once in his career, after leading Gloucestershire to an unprecedented treble of one-day competition successes, with victories in the Benson and Hedges Cup, the NatWest Trophy and the Norwich Union National League. In all one-day matches, Alleyne chipped in with 24 wickets and 401 runs, but it was the way in which he engendered team spirit which made him the nation's most successful captain of 2000.

Wisden traditionally reserves a place in its Five for a cricketer who has not played for his country, and this year that slot went to Bicknell. The 31-year old enjoyed an Indian summer as Surrey cruised to the Championship for a second year running. His 60 wickets came at 17.53, more than complementing the more-heralded spin exploits of Saqlain Mushtaq and Ian Salisbury. The highlight of the domestic year must have been his match figures of 16/119, with which he single-handedly annihilated Lancashire at Guildford in July. He also made a valuable 500 runs.

M'singh cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

Renaissance Club defeated County Nabin by 90 runs in Pepsi First Division Cricket League at the local Circuit House ground yesterday.

Winning the toss, Renaissance batted first and scored 181 runs all out in 38.5 overs.

In reply, County were all out 91 runs in 28.4 overs.

In another match, Al-Helal AC beat Abahani Krira Chakra by five wickets in Beg Steel Premier Division Cricket League at the local stadium yesterday.

Abahani batted first and made 230 losing seven wickets in 43.1 overs.

Chasing the target, Al-Helal scored 232 for five in 45 overs.

PHOTO: STAR

IM Reefat-bin-Sattar (L) and Taibur Rahman Sumon during their third round engagement of the Professor Abdur Razzak 27th National Chess Championship at the NSC on Friday.

CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

ACROSS

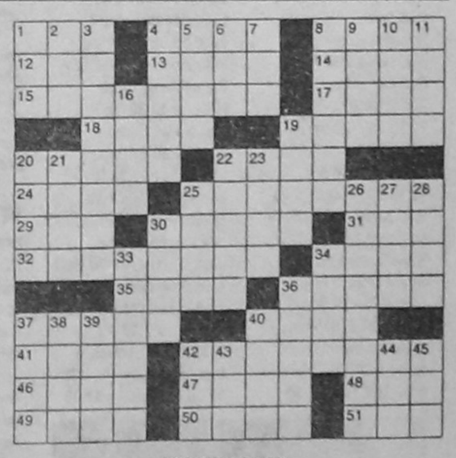
1 Atl. counterpart
4 Actor Pitt
8 Pickle variety
12 Khan title
13 Kenny Rogers song
14 Falco of "The Sopranos"
15 Sally Field movie
17 Greatly
18 Cinderella's horses
19 "— we devils?"
20 Elegant
22 Desire
24 Hear the alarm
25 Boreal
29 Expert
30 Cultivates
31 Bill's partner?
32 D-Day venue
34 Disposition
35 Vacationing
36 Drop-kicks
37 Long for
40 Prince Charles' pastime
41 Formerly, formerly
42 Old Scandinavian
46 Oppositionist
47 Sun-block ingredient
48 "— not choose to run"
49 Check
50 Energizes
51 Herd member

DOWN

1 Zero-star review
2 Past
3 Detroit business
4 Roulette bet
5 Exceptional
6 Computer language
7 Turn green, maybe
8 Paucity
9 Cleese companion
10 Celebrity
11 Latvian
16 Greedy one's outcry
19 Picnic invaders
20 Ugly duckling, eventually
21 Texas city
22 Verbal
23 Host
25 Zola book
26 Re resources
27 Origin
28 Agrees silently
30 Bambi, e.g.
33 Notch-tailed swallow
34 Army mascot
36 Acts like a model
37 Calendar quantity
38 Sea eagle
39 Italian wine area
40 Brace
42 Siesta
43 Flamenco cheer
44 Commotion
45 Without delay

Solution time: 23 mins.

C	L	O	G		B	O	D		M	I	L	E
H	A	V	E		U	R	I		A	N	O	N
I	V	E	S		R	E	V		G	E	T	Z
P	A	R	T	O	N		O	V	I	D		
			A	N	T	H	R	A	C	I	T	E
L	A	T	T	E		A	C	T		B	O	B
A	L	O	E		R	Y	E		B	L	O	B
M	A	R		S	A	D		P	E	E	K	S
B	I	T	U	M	I	N	O	U	S			
		O	N	U	S		O	P	T	I	O	N
A	V	I	D		I	S	H		M	O	D	E
D	E	S	I		N	E	E		A	W	E	S
A	X	E	D		G	A	D		N	A	S	T



CRYPTOQUIP

F H B S I F J H X I K W U Y Y J X F N J S K S B V J B Q B S I , I J ' Y P B U U H K N I F X N K Q Q J N Y W P V .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE VAPID JOGGER JUST OVERSLEPT AGAIN, AND SO HE'S RUNNING LATE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals E

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.