

'Stay on, Nasser'

Cricket

BBC, London

Former England skipper Graham Gooch believes Mark Butcher would be a worthy future England captain.

But he would prefer Nasser Hussain to stay in the job, despite hints he will stand down after next year's World Cup in South Africa.

Marcus Trescothick and Michael Vaughan are thought to be the front-runners to succeed Hussain.

But Michael Atherton, Gooch's successor as England skipper, surprisingly backed Butcher to take over the role.

Gooch voiced his approval of Butcher's qualities as a potential skipper.

"I think he would be a very viable alternative for the next captain, whenever Nasser Hussain decides to pack it in," he said.

"He's pretty astute when it comes to tactics. In my experience of dealing with him he's very much a thinking cricketer and on the tactical side I'm sure he could do a good job."

"From what I gather, when he's captained Surrey they have been

very impressed with Mark and the way he has led the side on the few occasions he has done.

"He's come through some sticky patches and he's only really regained his place over the past 12 months but is playing pretty well.

"He has always had talent, but he's more consistent now and making bigger scores and that's



GRAHAM GOOCH

what you need to do in Test cricket."

But the Essex coach, who did not take over the captaincy until he was 37 and stayed at the helm until his 40th birthday, would be happier if

the England captaincy were not an issue for the foreseeable future.

"I think he's doing a good job and he should stay on as England captain as long as he's in the form he is showing at the moment," Gooch added.

"The way he is playing and the way the team are operating under him and Duncan Fletcher, I think they could conceivably stay on for quite a while.

"We're an improving side, it was a disappointing result at the Oval but they can turn that round. I think they're making progress."

Gooch also feels Vaughan or Trescothick could be a good choice.

"I don't know about their qualities as leaders, but they are two very level-headed guys who could both be thought of as someone who could step up to the job.

"There are a number of qualities you need and it's very difficult to say who should be captain until you know when the time is going to be.

"It could be six months, it could be two months, it could be a year.

"I don't think it's always easy talking about who is going to do the job next when you've got a guy still in place doing a good job."

Missing all-rounder

Cricket

BBC, London

England have confirmed that Andrew Flintoff will miss the final Test against India and the ICC Champions Trophy after surgery.

The Lancashire all-rounder will have a hernia operation on Friday, and is expected to be out of action for four weeks.

But he is expected to be fit for England's tour of Australia, beginning in October.

England are due to fly out to Australia on October 17th for the five-Test series and a triangular one-day series involving the hosts and Sri Lanka.

In his absence, England face a desperate search for a replacement capable of batting at seven and bowling adequately in next week's series-decider at The Oval.

Ronnie Irani is the latest surprise name in the frame, despite having undergone keyhole surgery on a knee injury only last Monday.

Irani had expected to be out of action for three weeks, but will see a specialist on Thursday in the hope of making the Test squad when it is

announced on Sunday.

The Essex captain made a successful return to the one-day side earlier this summer, with 169 runs and eight wickets during the NatWest Series.

But he has not played Test



ANDREW FLINTOFF

cricket for three years.

Having only just returned from knee trouble of his own, Dominic Cork broke a finger during fielding practice prior to the third Test at Headingley.

India won that match by an innings and 46 runs to level the series at 1-1 going into the final

rubber.

And Craig White's side strain is currently preventing him from bowling, although he expects to play as a specialist batsman for Yorkshire in Saturday's C&G Trophy final.

Surrey pair Adam Hoolioake and Rikki Clarke, along with Somerset spinner Ian Blackwell are the other names in the frame if England decide against a seventh batsman.

But they are more likely to figure in the one-day squad as injury replacements for the ICC Champions Trophy rather than the Test side.

There was no news, meanwhile, on Graham Thorpe.

The Surrey batsman is currently taking a self-imposed rest from all cricket while he comes to terms with difficulties in his personal life.

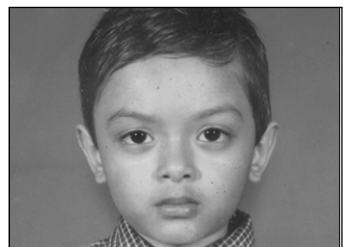
But England captain Nasser Hussain admitted last week Australia will view the tourists as a weaker team without Thorpe.

It was hoped Thorpe might contact England coach Duncan Fletcher this week to put himself in the reckoning for a place in the Ashes squad - but England's spokesman was unable to relate any developments on that front.

WHIZZ KID-178 correct answers

1. Name the Bangladeshi A team captain for the Kenya tour: Ans. Sanwar
2. Who became Asia's fastest woman? Ans. Jayasinghe
3. Asif Hossain clinched gold in which Commonwealth Games event? Ans. Shooting
4. Who won the Orient handball title? Ans. BDR
5. Who was man-of-the-match in the second Test between England and India? Ans. Vaughan

WHIZZ KID-177 winner



Rafat (Willes Little Flower School, Dhaka)

Yevgeny departs

FROM PAGE 13
lost pretty much without their help, on the plane back home tomorrow. It's a great feeling at this stage of my career. It's hard to describe how good that feels."

There had been whispers that the 28-year-old Seles was beginning to think about retirement. She dismissed those for the moment. Kafelnikov, however, did not.

Early in their careers, Hrbaty had hounded Kafelnikov, winning seven of their first eight meetings. But the Russian seemed to have reversed that trend by winning their last three meetings.

Suddenly, their fortunes turned again, Hrbaty winning easily 6-3, 6-1, 6-1. Kafelnikov, a semifinalist at the Open two of the last three years, was devastated.

What went wrong, he was asked.

He thought the long wait to play might have had something to do with it. He thought the winds might have had something to do with it. He thought Hrbaty might have had something to do with it.

Now he has three weeks to prepare for the Davis Cup. If he wins there he might walk away from tennis.

Agassi, Hewitt, Davenport,

Capriati and the others aren't going anywhere except the next round.

Agassi seemed in a hurry to get done with Gimelstob, dispatching him in 66 minutes.

Hewitt needed a set to get comfortable against Okun. After he took the tiebreaker, the next two sets were easy.

Davenport, whose match Wednesday was suspended by rain, made a cameo appearance, winning four games to complete her second-round victory.

Capriati dropped the first set and then came roaring back to win comfortably despite nine double faults.

In other men's results, it was: No. 13 Roger Federer, 6-3, 6-1, 6-3 over Michael Chang; No. 14 Jiri Novak over John van Lottum 6-4, 7-6, 6-1; No. 20 Younes El Aynaoui over Hicham Arazi 6-3, 6-4, 2-0 retired; No. 22 Marcelo Rios over Robin Soderling 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3; No. 25 James Blake, 6-3, 4-6, 6-1, 6-3 over Nikolay Davydenko; Jan-Michael Gambill, 6-3, 6-3, 6-1 over No. 9 Carlos Moya; and Wayne Ferreira, 1-6, 6-7, 6-4, 7-5, 6-4 over No. 8 seed Albert Costa, the French Open champion.



International pop artiste Enrique Iglesias and Russian tennis star Anna Kournikova arrive at the MTV Video Music Awards in New York on August 29.

Court queens battle

US OPEN 2002 US OPEN

AFP, New York

Four former women's world number ones advanced to the third round of the US Open here Thursday, two of them bouncing back after injuries and two of them pondering their final farewell.

Domination by world number one Serena and second-ranked Venus Williams has topped Martina Hingis, Monica Seles, Jennifer Capriati and Lindsay Davenport from atop of the WTA rankings. But none have given up their goal to get back on top.

"I'm really close and it just motivates me to want to get higher and even closer to moving up, maybe being number one again," said reigning Australian Open champion Capriati.

"I look at some of my previous matches and why I wasn't as sharp moving around the court and physically. I'm really trying to get back to that. It's important."

Seles, 28, won here a decade ago but has not reached a Grand Slam final in more than four years. A love of the game and past success keep her motivated, and she plans to play as long as she remains healthy and competitive.

"I'm going to play as long as I enjoy it," Seles said. "I don't want to

and Serena played in the French Open and Wimbledon finals and Hingis was an impressed spectator.

"The Wimbledon final was one of the best matches ever," Hingis said. "They not only have the game but the technique, the way they move on the court so fast, hit the ball hard. That's how you want to play, try to get to that level."

Capriati warns that Hingis will have to take her recovery slowly.

"She can't expect too much too soon. She has to have patience," Capriati said. "She's young enough where she has a lot of time left and she is definitely not out of it. She shouldn't be counted out. She is still one of the toughest players out there."

Davenport has lost weight and dropped weight to improve her fitness as she prepares for the speed and stamina challenges the Williams sisters present.

"I'm not getting as many nagging injuries as I used to get," Davenport said. "I'm recovering a lot faster from matches. Hopefully it adds a lot to my game."

No one has given up on catching the Williams sisters, even Australia's Alicia Molik, Venus' second-round victim.

"A lot of people can give her a run for her money," Molik said of Venus. "You can't count out Lindsay. Lots of players can take it to her."

"I knew the first set back I could still play, if my body would last. The passion has always been there."

The Williams sisters have not, but they are the mountain Hingis must climb to reclaim the tennis throne. During her absence, Venus

England's 4th in a row

Hockey

AFP, Macau

The Netherlands finally notched their first win in the elite six team Champions Trophy in Macau on Friday battering England 2-0 in a scrappy match, as the Commonwealth Games silver medalists crashed to their fourth straight loss.

Last year's beaten finalists Holland had watched their hopes of going one better in 2002 evaporate

when they drew their first four games in the event, but ended the series of round robin matches on a high with a salvo of goals in front of 300 fans at Macau Stadium.

"The game was not nice. But the important thing was that we had three points and it's a little step forward so we can on to the World Cup," said Dutch coach Marc Lammer.

A bright opening period saw England create the first clear opportunity when Jane Smith crashed a shot against the pads of Clarinda Sinnige.

Dutch captain Mijntje Donners returned the favour five minutes later rapping a fierce drive against the legs of young goalkeeper Beth Storry.

The first period appeared as though it would end scoreless until a hopeful cross from Donners somehow found its way to Maartje Scheepstra who weaved past two helpless challenges before firing past Storry.

Don't blame me: Azhar

Cricket

INTERNET REPORT, Mumbai

Former India captain Mohammad Azharuddin is still a big draw at public functions. He was the most sought after person at a five-star hotel here on Thursday during a felicitation function organised for the Indian cricketer of the century Kapil Dev.

Later, speaking to reporters, the former Hyderabad superstar who is now fighting a court case against the Indian cricket board for the life ban slapped on him for allegedly indulging in match-fixing, said, "I will know next year about my future in cricket as the court's verdict is expected to arrive by then."

When asked his comments about the on-going contract controversy, he said, "I am out of it, it doesn't concern me. I have nothing to say about the whole thing." The elegant batsman, however, admitted he watches the Indian team play 'on and off'.

He said, "I do watch some cricket whenever I find time from my busi-

ness commitments."

He also said he still practises and works out regularly in the gym. He certainly looks as trim as he used to in his playing days. "Yes, I'm very conscious about my physical fitness and train regularly," he said.

He expressed his happiness that Kapil Dev got the Indian cricketer of the century award but refused to say more about his bitter experi-



MOHAMMAD AZHARUDDIN

ence with the Wisden during the awards function earlier in London.

Tour of India WI open with a 3-dayer

Cricket

INTERNET REPORT, Mumbai

West Indies are scheduled to play their tour opener, a three-day tie, at Bangalore against the Indian cricket board (BCCI) President's XI from October 4 after arriving on October 1, the BCCI announced on Wednesday.

The first Test is to be held at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium from October 9, the second Test is slated for Chennai's Chidambaram Stadium (October 17) and the series decider starts at Kolkata's Eden Gardens on October 30.

The tourists will also engage India in a seven-match limited overs series from November 6-24 before winding up their 55-day tour and leaving for Bangladesh.

The visitors will play another three-

day tie, sandwiched between the last two Tests, against India A at Pune.

The complete itinerary is:
October 1: West Indies team arrives in India

October 4-6: v Board President's XI, Bangalore
October 9-13: **First Test, Mumbai**
October 17-21: **Second Test, Chennai**

October 24-26: v India A, Pune
October 30-November 3: **Third Test, Kolkata**

November 6: First ODI, Jamshedpur
November 9: Second ODI, Nagpur
November 12: Third ODI, Rajkot
November 15: Fourth ODI, Ahmedabad (D/N)

November 18: Fifth ODI, Baroda
November 21: Sixth ODI, Jodhpur
November 24: Seventh ODI, Vishakhapatnam

November 25: Depart for Bangladesh

Aussie blow

FROM PAGE 13

PAKISTAN

| | |
|---|-----|
| Nazir c Gilchrist b Gillespie | 1 |
| Razaq b McGrath | 5 |
| Afridi b Gillespie | 0 |
| Anwar lbw b McGrath | 3 |
| Y. Khan c Gilchrist b Warne | 13 |
| Malik c Gilchrist b Bichel | 25 |
| Mahmood c Bevan b Watson | 32 |
| Latif not out | 17 |
| Akram c Gilchrist b Gillespie | 0 |
| Waqar c Bichel b Gillespie | 2 |
| Akhtar c Watson b Gillespie | 2 |
| Extras: (lb-2, w-5, nb-1) | 8 |
| Total: (All out in 36 overs) | 108 |
| Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-1, 3-10, 4-13, 5-39, 6-67, 7-95, 8-99, 9-101, 10-108. | |

Bowler O M R W
McGrath 6 0 11 2
Gillespie 10 2 22 5
Bichel 7 0 33 1
Warne 8 1 20 1
Watson 5 0 20 1

Result: Australia won by 224 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Mathew Hayden.

Axe falls

FROM PAGE 13

The South Africa A squad includes Test fast bowlers Mfuneko Ngam and Morantau Hayward, and all-rounder Justin Kemp, who all return from lengthy injury layoffs.

SQUAD

South Africa (for ICC Champions Trophy): Shaun Pollock (captain), Dale Benkenstein, Nicky Boje, Mark Boucher, Alan Dawson, Boeta Dippenaar, Allan Donald, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Lance Klusener, Makhaya Ntini, Justin Ontong, Jonty Rhodes, Graeme Smith.

Arambagh

FROM PAGE 13

Brothers Union registered their second win in the league. Saurav Raju put Brothers ahead in the 11th minute while Walid equalised for Farashganj in the 44th minute.

Liton Khan grabbed the winner for the Gopibagh club in the 72nd minute.

The victory raised Brothers Union's tally to six points from seven matches. On the other hand, Farashganj remained at the bottom of the table with three points from same number of matches.

ICC softens

FROM PAGE 13

2002, to request our sponsors (competitive to the sponsors of the event) not to air any advertisements or publish any campaigns in newspaper for the period that the tournament is being played from September 12 to September 30," it states.

BCCI secretary Niranjan Shah said India was committed to playing in the tournament even if it was forced to send a second-string team.

"I can't say whether the ICC will accept a second-string team," Shah told the Hindustan Times from Dubai.

"People must not forget that India is a major market. Eighty percent of the money in cricket comes from Indian sponsors, who might want some of their money back if India's best do not play ICC tournaments."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Some ltrs.
- 5 Rolling stone's lack
- 9 Nurse a drink
- 12 Hodge-podge
- 13 "— and Away"
- 14 Bill's partner
- 15 Carte
- 16 Infinitesimal
- 17 Grain beard
- 18 The yoke's on them
- 19 Cartoonist Key
- 20 Salver
- 21 White House initials
- 23 Football filler
- 25 "Roscoe"
- 28 Dodgeball champ, maybe
- 32 Extremist
- 33 Squirrel morsel
- 34 Speaks sheepishly?

DOWN

- 1 Singer
- 2 TV host
- 3 Trebek
- 4 Movie score
- 5 Mumble
- 6 Mayberry moppet
- 7 Caloric treat
- 8 Agent
- 9 Cicatrix
- 10 Otumwa is there
- 11 Shetland, e.g.
- 20 Summer Olympics events
- 22 Concern for TV's Quincy
- 24 The Donald's ex
- 25 Center
- 26 Right angle
- 27 Noshed
- 29 100 cts.
- 30 Preceding
- 31 Hosp. personnel
- 35 Literary comparison
- 36 Not this way
- 39 Temperament
- 40 46-Down singer
- 41 Iditarod transport
- 43 "— for All Seasons"
- 45 Enticement
- 46 "Ritorna vincitor" for one
- 47 Broom closet supply
- 49 Pomeranian's perch?

Solution time: 28 mins.

ACROSS
1. SOME
5. ROLLING
9. NURSE
12. HODGE
13. AND
14. BILL
15. CARTE
16. INFINIT
17. GRAIN
18. THE Y
19. CARTO
20. SALVE
21. WHIT
23. FOOT
25. ROSCO
28. DODGE
32. EXTRE
33. SQUIR
34. SPEAK

DOWN
1. SINGER
2. TV HO
3. TREBE
4. MOVIE
5. MUMBL
6. MAYBE
7. CALOR
8. AGENT
9. CICATR
10. OTUM
11. SHET
20. SUM
22. CONC
24. THE D
25. CENT
26. RIGH
27. NOSH
29. 100
30. PREC
31. HOSP
35. LITER
36. NOT
39. TEM
40. 46-D
41. IDITA
43. "— F
45. ENTI
46. "RIT
47. BROOM
49. POM

CRYPTOQUIP

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|---|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | |
| 12 | | | | 13 | | | | 14 | | | |
| 15 | | | | 16 | | | | 17 | | | |
| 18 | | | | 19 | | | | 20 | | | |
| 21 | 22 | | | 23 | 24 | | | | | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | | | | | | 29 | 30 | 31 | |
| 32 | | | | | | | | 33 | | | |
| 34 | | | | 35 | 36 | | | | | | |
| 37 | | | | | | | | 38 | | | |
| 39 | 40 | 41 | | 42 | 43 | | | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 |
| 48 | | | | 49 | | | | 50 | | | |
| 51 | | | | 52 | | | | 53 | | | |
| 54 | | | | 55 | | | | 56 | | | |

F Y M U F J T U B N E N M H Q T M H T Q
Y K N K E S H K J U N B N M
W F E E F : " T K E H E J S H Q

E H W N K T B N K J T Q H Q N .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHY, EVEN THE OCEAN HAS A FULLY ACTIVE DATING LIFE. IT GOES OUT WITH THE TIDE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals S

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 appropriate give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.



Former German tennis queen Steffi Graf holds her son Jaden Gil as she watches her husband Andre Agassi in action at the US Open on August 29.