INTERNET, undated

Middle-order batsman Misbahul Haq on Wednesday made it clear that he does not want to become the Pakistan captain and is very much happy with his vicecaptaincy role.

want captaincy

Misbah, who helped Pakistan progress to the final of the inaugural Twenty20 World Cup in South Africa, said he just wants to concentrate on his game and is not keen to shoulder extra burden.

"Obviously leadership brings extra load of responsibility and I am enjoying my present status of vice-captain in the team," Misbah told APP.

With questions being raised regarding the captaincy of Shoaib Malik, Misbah was tipped to be one of the contenders for the highprofile job along with Younis Khan and Shahid Afridi, but the stylish batsman said he is just too happy with his position in the team.

"I know it is a great honour to be the captain of the team but I feel contended the way I am," he said.

With Misbah turning it down, it is now a two-horse race between Younis and Afridi for the captain's post.

Tri-series

FROM PAGE 17

operating officer, told Cricinfo. "The situation will be clearer once the commercial viability of the proposal is assessed."

It is believed that the PCB, eager for the series to go ahead, has offered to help CSA in trying to attract a broadcaster as well as sponsors. As of now, however, no dates are confirmed and neither is the availability of Sri Lanka just yet.

The Champions Trophy postponement left Pakistan with their second big gap in the year, after Australia refused to tour in March-April, also due to security concerns. Board officials are privately concerned at the lack of matches in Pakistan, not just because of the effect it has on the development of the side, but also the financia

Though neither the Australia tour nor the Champions Trophy have been written off as losses, some estimates suggest the PCB was looking to earn 7 million dollars from each series. "It isn't just that this team needs to play to learn more and develop. Financially it is very important that we just play," one official present at the meeting told Cricinfo.

Pakistan will not play a single Test this year and have played most of their ODIs against weaker teams such as Bangladesh and Zimbabwe. Members of the current administration have long been unhappy with their predecessors, who, under Shaharyar Khan's tenure, negotiated such a lopsided Future Tours Programme (FTP) last time round. "We were left with very few commitments for this year and that is something we must address when the next FTP cycle is finalised," the official said.

Naghmi will now meet the governing board during the second week of September for approval of any potential assignments.

Kirsten backs

FROM PAGE 17

"I respect Anil for what he has achieved. He has done enough for India and I think it's time for him to take a bow at a time when he is still counted as one of the best," Akram told ESPN.

Though Kirsten said Dhoni's anointment as Test captain should not be rushed, for Kumble was doing a fine job, Akram felt the veteran spinner should not prolong his retirement and call it quits at a time when he is still regarded among the best in the business. "Dhoni is the man" to replace

Kumble, said Akram. Thoroughly impressed by Dhoni's leadership qualities,

Akram pointed out India's string of good shows under the star stumper-batsman and also referred to how Dhoni remodelled himself from a hard-hitting batsman to a middle-order mainstay. Akram in fact went on to say that

Pakistan captain Shoaib Malik should take a leaf out of Dhoni's book and learn how to lead from the front.

Marsh carves

FROM PAGE 17

Paul Collingwood was widely criticised for not calling him back. On this occasion Nazmul erred on the side of caution.

"When he saw the collision he decided against throwing it because he saw them on the ground and he thought he might hit the batsman or the bowler," Mohammad Ashraful, the Bangladesh captain, said. "We play within the spirit of cricket and this was one of those instances. There was a very good run-out opportunity there and he decided

against throwing it." Ashraful would have loved one of his batsmen to show the assuredness of Marsh but he conceded the side's confidence took a pounding following Saturday's 180run loss. Dhiman Ghosh's entertaining 30 and the tight bowling of Mashrafe Mortaza were positives for Bangladesh but to Ashraful the eight-wicket defeat was just as

disappointing as the first failure. "We are a much better team than this," he said. "We can play much better cricket. We are just not being | Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-9, 3-15, 4-53, able to do that at the moment."



Mohammedan veterans pose for photograph with the Abdur Rahim-Gafoor Baloch Memorial Futsal trophy at the Woodenfloor Gymnasium yesterday.

Kevin learns from wife

Cricket

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 2008

INTERNET, undated

Kevin Pietersen has revealed how he has leaned on his wife Jessica's experience of life in the public eye to deal with the extra pressures of being England's new captain.

The 28-year-old Hampshire batsman was appointed as England's captain just four weeks ago after Test skipper Michael Vaughan and one-day chief Paul Collingwood stepped down simultaneously having both struggled to cope with the intense pressures of

He has handled the elevation in status admirably, guiding England to a final-Test victory at The Oval and four successive wins in the NatWest Series against South Africa which puts his side in sight of a potential series whitewash at Cardiff on Wednesday.

But behind the calm and confident leadership he has displayed on the pitch, Pietersen has revealed how he has turned regularly for advice to wife Jessica, a former member of pop group Liberty X. "I'm very fortunate that I have a

wife who has been in the spotlight for a lot longer than I have," explained Pietersen.

"She had seven or eight years of a very successful music career and I can go home and she can talk to me about stuff and we can chuck ideas

"One day I'll just get out of bed and

come down to the ground and think

'I've had enough'. Whether that

comes in July, August, September or

while in a gym in October, who

knows, but I've always hoped that's

eve of his 40th birthday, two years

and three seasons ago, and his

Aside from a niggling elbow injury

that has hindered his participation

this summer, there was no obvious

sign that the end -- finally -- was

nigh. Had Hick taken guard for one

more season in 2009, no-one would

have been the slightest bit taken

aback, except perhaps the county

bowlers who must now be breath-

ing a wistful sigh of relief that their

month of the 2008 season remain-

ing, and with Worcestershire sitting

at the top of the second division of

the Championship, Hick has the

chance to sign off with a measure of

the glory that his lengthy service

deserves. But win or lose, he will

There is still the best part of a

25-year sentence has been lifted.

prophecy has proven to be spot-on.

That was Graeme Hick on the

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

the way it will happen."

around together and I know Colly didn't have that.

"It's very important to be able to speak to her about stuff and she just comes off a different wavelength completely. She gives me different ideas and so much help and advice.

"When you're in the music industry you're under the pump all day and every day and you have a lot harder and tougher days travelling

"She did it for eight years and some of the days she's told me about and some of the stuff they've done was unbelievable -- far worse than mysort of schedules.

"She has been brilliant for me to talk to and I know I have that extra advice at home, which is great."

Pietersen's revelations follows Vaughan's emotional resignation speech, when he admitted he had begun changing as a person at home because of the pressures, while Collingwood claimed he had struggled to switch off during his year as one-day captain and it had begun to affect his Test form.

The new captain insists he is still enjoying the job, but will take the first opportunity -- probably shortly after Wednesday's final match of the one-day series -- to jet off on holiday and take advantage of the Champions Trophy being postponed for a year because of security fears in Pakistan.

"I try my hardest to get a really good approach to time off, which helps," said Pietersen, talking at a day."

soon be gone, and while those

whose judgment derives solely

from feats achieved at the highest

echelons will size up his Test record

and shrug, countless others will

rightly mourn the passing of one of

Graeme Hick has come to embody-

- for better and for worse -- the

fading magnificence of county

cricket, a version of the game that

has existed since the early 1800s but

whose relevance in this 100mph

world of Twenty20 cricket seems to

face new questions on a daily basis.

But those that live fast, die young,

and leave little for the memories.

Hick chose instead to slow down

and endure -- like a stately galleon,

he proved ill-equipped for the iron-

clad warfare of modern Test cricket,

but his billowing sails patrolled the

calmer waters of the shires for a full

wanting at the very highest level?

Curtly Ambrose during that trau-

Does it matter that he was found

quarter of a century.

More than any other cricketer,

the gentle giants of the game.

Hick's had enough

touch rugby session involving England players Alastair Cook, Graeme Swann and Luke Wright and several members of the Cardiff Blues and Ospreys rugby union teams organised by sponsors

Vodafone. "As soon as I finish on Wednesday that will be it, I'll be gone. I'll be in the country for four or five days and then I'll be away for a long time spending time with my wife and getting away from it all . it's come as a real blessing in disguise the cancellation of the Champions Trophy.

"The mobile phone never stops and I can see why most people only last in this job for four or five years because of the pressures in this country

"They are huge, it's one of the toughest jobs to do in this country. "I got told that when I took it over and I'm starting to realise that with everything that's going on but when you're winning it's not as hard when you start losing I bet it gets

really difficult." Knowing the huge expectations also placed on the captain of India as he prepares to lead his first overseas tour there in November, Pietersen added: "I think the job as captain of India and England are

definitely on a par. "When you get to Australia their media pretty much looks after their team and I know here and in India you're under the pump every single

he could have read the match

situation better at Sydney in 1994-

95, and hustled to his hundred

Atherton to leave him high and dry

AFP, Melbourne

Former India coach Greg Chappell has been appointed as the new head coach of the Cricket Australia (CA) Centre of Excellence in Brisbane.

CA announced Chappell's appointment on Wednesday, and the former Test batsman was expected to start his new role later this year.

The appointment follows his controversial and ultimately unhappy two-year stint as coach of India, which came to an end after the side's demise at last year's World Cup.

That was followed by a similar role at the Rajasthan Cricket Association's Centre of Excellence.

The 60-year-old said he was looking forward to passing on his experience to some of the country's most exciting young players in a new era of Australian cricket.

"I believe I have a lot to offer the younger players, especially in the mental area of the game from both a personal and coaching point of view, and have a lot of knowledge when it comes to individual and team preparations for cricketing

First futsal

FROM PAGE 17 On way to the final, Mohammedan eliminated Farashganj 7-0 and the National Sports Council 5-0.

Brothers Union and Bangladesh Sports Writers Association were the other participants in the eight team event dedicated to two great coaches of the yesteryear, Gafoor Baloch and Abdur Rahim.

The floor proved to be slippery and the heat was at times unbearable, complained the booters who played for the first time in the skillenhancing type of the game.

The real show, however, begins today with eight B. League clubs from the capital vying for the Citycell Futsal competition.

The tournament will kick off at the same venue with the Abahani-Rahmatganj match at 1pm.

Abahani and Mohammedan, who are top-ranked sides of groups A and B respectively, are expected to use second-string sides with a few big names. Players who have not been used much during the just

concluded Federation Cup, will get

priority in selection for the 5-a-side competition. Also, the injured players will be totally rested with the B. League scheduled for a September 13 kick

The 12 group matches will end in three days while the semifinals are slated for September 7.

The final will be held on September 8.

TEAMS GROUP A: Abahani, Sheikh Russel, Arambagh and Rahmatganj. GROUP B: Mohammedan, Brothers, Muktijoddha, and Farashganj.

Federer wins

FROM PAGE 17 year to this point," Roddick said. "It's a matter of if you want to look

back 10 days or 10 months." On the women's side, secondinstead of compelling Mike seeded Jelena Jankovic and No. 5 Elena Dementieva won their

quarterfinal matches in straight sets. Federer will face a much bigger underdog than Andreev in the quarterfinals. His opponent is 130th-ranked Gilles Muller of Luxembourg, only the second qualifier to advance this far in the

Openera. Muller knocked off No. 5 Nikolay Davydenko 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (10). Muller has posted big upsets before, though much earlier in tournaments.

In 2005, he beat Rafael Nadal in the second round at Wimbledon and Roddick in the first round at the U.S. Open when each was ranked third. "He didn't beat Andy for noth-

ing here a few years ago," Federer places him eighth on the all-time said. "That's why I definitely won't underestimate him, because he's a good player." A sure thing for so long,

> of uncertainty. He advances in the Open still seeking his first Grand Slam title of the year. He refused to characterize Tuesday's 3 1/2 -hour marathon as a sign of decline. Federer sounded like somebody who's not familiar

with tennis describing a trip to the

Federer's matches now carry an air

Open: educational, and an enjoyable change of pace. "I was really happy because in five sets you go through different stages of feelings, of playing well, playing bad," Federer said. "In the fifth set you try not to make that many errors, and hopefully you'll get off on a good start. That's

Powell turns

FROM PAGE 17 he did not get near his world record of 19.30sec set in China, his 19.63sec in Lausanne was well

Bolt's time equalled that of American Xavier Carter two years ago on this same track. "Asafa proved just before that the track here was fast," said Bolt afterwards. "With the support of a lively crowd, it's fantastic.

Jewish

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Jamaica is a country of top sprinters and women's 100m Olympic champion Shelly-Ann Fraser was also in good form, winning in 11.03 ahead of compatriot

reigning 400m Olympic champion Lashawn Merritt of the USA went under 44 seconds (43.98) for the Czech-born tennis ace Martina third time.

Chappell made Academy coach Jaffer stays positive

Cricket

INTERNET, undated

Wasim Jaffer is confident of making a comeback into the Indian team. Despite losing his Test opening slot to Gautam Gambhir and knowing that it would be a daunting task to regain his place, Jaffer is confident of making a comeback to the Test team during the home series for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy against Australia next month.

"The future of Indian cricket is looking very good with so many young players emerging in recent

times," Jaffer told cricketnext.com. "But I need to be positive in my thought and work hard towards making a comeback to Test cricket. Only scoring heavily in domestic cricket will help my cause because, Gautam, who replaced me after the series against South Africa, is doing a superb job at the moment," Jaffer, who is using the Kanga League and other national level tournaments like Buchi Babu as his comeback vehicles, said on Wednesday.

"Making it to the current Indian team is probably the toughest task for a cricketer even with some experience. I blame myself for the position I find myself in today.

"To make a lasting impact, a cricketer needs to do well against Australia and South Africa, the top two teams in the world. Unfortunately, I had a forgetful

series against Australia and not very impressive series against South Africa and was dropped," he

added. "Gautam came good and topped the batting in domestic cricket and also did well in the Twenty20 format and deserved to be called up for Test duty. But I am not going to lose hope. I need to score heavily in domestic tournaments to make an impression first to regain my place in the Test side and then to make it to the playing observed.

Despite the senior and junior talks in the Indian team gaining momentum day by day, Jaffer refused to get drawn to debate on the topic and pointed out that it was just media made concept.

"There is no such thing as senior-junior divide in the Indian team. The senior players go out of their way to pass on their knowledge of the game to the juniors and the juniors are very comfortable discussing cricket with the seniors and there is a healthy respect ence for everyone involved. It has among the team members. Probably these are just media made concept," Jaffer, who will be leading the Mumbai team in the Buchi Babu tournament in Chennai said.

Speaking about the Mumbai team, which has a bunch of youngsters like Rohit Sharma, Abhishek Nair, Sahil Kukreja, Iqbal Abdullah, Dhawal Kulkarni and Ajinkya

Rahane showing promise in different stages of their careers, Jaffer said, it was not only good for Mumbai but also for the game in

general. "Not so long ago there were talks that Mumbai, which has produced greatest of players in the past, has stopped producing quality players of late but now when you see so many youngsters making their mark you will feel that Mumbai future or for that matter Indian cricket future is in safe hands. Not eleven," the mild mannered Jaffer, only from Mumbai but even from other parts of the country many youngsters have made their mark and such competition is good for

the game," Jaffer pointed out. Despite not making a big impression in the last edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL), when he represented Team Bangalore, Jaffer said he had learnt a lot during the IPL stint and was now looking forward to next edition even though his first priority was to regain the Test

spot for the home series. "IPL was a magnificent experidone more good than any harm to the careers of many international cricketers.

"The first time experience of playing with so many international stars has made me a better cricketer and I am looking forward to the next edition even though my first priority is to regain my Test spot in the Indian team," the stylish

'Laxman lacks aggression'

Cricket

INTERNET, undated

Pakistani all-rounder Shahid Afridi on Tuesday denied undermining the authority of VVS Laxman, his captain at Deccan Chargers, but maintained that the Indian lacks aggression.

The flamboyant all-rounder started a war of words with Laxman with his unflattering remarks that the Indian lacked both aggression and leadership qualities. Afridi also felt that Adam Gilchrist would have been a better skipper for the Deccan Chargers who cut a sorry figure in the inaugural edition of the Indian Premier League.

Stung by Afridi's remarks, Laxman said the Pakistani lacked team ethics and criticised him for his outburst without any provoca-

Seeking to placate Laxman,

stood but maintained that Laxman Citing his own example, Afridi was not aggressive enough.

"Perhaps what I said about the Chargers team on the television show has come out a bit too strong but my only point was that Laxman needs to be more aggressive on the field," Afriditold PTI on Tuesday.

Afridi also denied senior players forming groups against Malik in the side but said there was a number of problems in the dressing

"I don't want to say much because I am a centrally contracted player with the board but I think there is a need to have a culture in the team where more respect is shown to the few senior players in the side," Afridi said.

"I think they are only two or three match-winners in the side and there is a need for the captain to give them encouragement and respect and consult them in team decisions on and off the field, because they are the ones who can Afridi said he was being misunder- win you matches," Afridi told Geo

said he is consulted whenever he is in form but is conveniently forgotten at other times. This should not happen. Even if a player is not performing, he must be backed and involved in every-

thing," Afridi said. Asserting that he

has nothing against Malik and his only concern was the team's well being, Afridi said the skipper should take the seniors into confi-"He has done this in the past and he can do it again," he said.

Afridi has not been among the runs of late but the hard-hitting allrounder exuded confidence that he would regain his form soon.

"The thing is that I am also not getting a chance to bat at the position I want I go to bat. At six or seven, when few overs are left, I just have to push for runs. But hopefully I can play one good innings and get the confidence back and not let down my fans again," he said.

Elena Dementieva of Russia hits a forehand return against Patty Schnyder of Switzerland during their US Open fourth round match at Flushing Meadows on Tuesday. Dementieva won 6-2, 6-3.

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHY DO YOU THINK THE COOK MIGHT WELL BE CONVICTED AND

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QE-TGDTMW 44 Jailer's janglers 46 Vast SERVE TIME? BECAUSE HE'S AN EGG BEATER. expanse Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals T 47 Scratch

Siddons says sorry

FROM PAGE 17 "They again stood out but the Bowler bowlers had nothing to bowl at,' said Ashraful.

The Tigers have optional training at the Marrara Oval this morn-The third and final one-day will

be held at the same venue on

September 6. SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second one-day international between Bangladesh and Australia at the TIO Stadium in Darwin on Wednesday:

BANGLADESH Tamim ct D Hussey b Bracken Mehrab ct M Hussey b Bracken Zunaed ct Haddin b Johnson 21 Ashraful ct White b Clark Shakib lbw b Johnson Kapali ct Watson b Hopes Dhiman ct Watson b Clark Razzak ct Clarke b White

5-57, 6-59, 7-85, 8-104, 9-106, 10-

Shakib Mashrafe ct Haddin b Johnson Najmul lbw b White Shahadatnotout Extras: (lb-8, w-10) Total: (All out in 36.1 overs) 117 Umpires: Bruce Oxenford (AUS),

O M R W Bracken 16 Clark 2 16 Hopes 0 17 6.1 Iohnson 39 White 5 0 Watson AUSTRALIA Marsh not out

Watson lbw b Shakib Clarke st Dhiman b Shakib MHusseynotout Extras: (lb-7, nb-2, w-2) Total: (For two wkts in 22.4 overs) Did not bat: Hopes, D Hussey, Haddin, White, Johnson, Bracken, Clark.

Fall of wickets: 1-73, 2-79. Bowler Mashrafe 6 0 38 Shahadat Razzak 6.4 0 38 Result: Australian won by eight wickets and lead three-match series 2-0.

118

Man-of-the-match: Shaun Marsh. Toss: Bangladesh

Amiesh Saheba (IND)

worth 50,000 euros (73,000 euros) apiece are awarded each year in categories such as arts, scientific

Asturias region. included retired US athletics legend Carl Lewis and US naturalised

Navratilova.

on 98 not out. If only the security of the central contract system had arrived ten years earlier, and bonded him to a team ethic that was palpably lacking for much of his piecemeal international career. Whatever the reasons for his shortcomings, the

limelight never suited him. Instead the definitive period of Hick's career was not his turbulent decade in and out of the England team, but the 15 languidly brilliant years at New Road that bookended his time at the top. His six Test hundreds are mementoes he'll doubtless treasure, but for his county he scored no fewer than 106 -- out of a grand total of 136 that

list of first-class century-makers. That list, however, is already a Of course it does, and doubtless living anachronism. Mark retirement will afford him plenty of Ramprakash, whose career mirrors time to dwell on the moments that Hick's in so many ways (and whose might have made a difference. If England debut came in the same only he could have adopted a less Headingley Test in 1991) became cluttered mindset when facing the 25th man to reach 100 hundreds earlier this season, but the matic debut series in 1991. If only chances of anyone ever emulating that feat are as good as nonexistent.

Nadal awarded

FROM PAGE 17 He has won eight titles this season including his fourth French Open crown and first Wimbledon trophy the latter a marathon epic effort to dethrone Federer - along with the Olympic gold medal and is presently competing to win the US Open title. Eight Prince of Asturias prizes

research, sports, letters and humanities. The recipients also receive a specially commissioned Joan Miro sculpture, a diploma and an insignia. Named after Spain's Crown Prince Felipe, they are presented each fall in the northern Spanish city of Oviedo, capital of the

The Prince of Asturias prize for sport was awarded last year to Germany's seven times Formula One champion Michael Schumacher. Past winners of the Prince of Kerron Stewart, who ran 11.06. Asturias prize for sport have also

under what was once a formidable barrier of 20sec.

exactly what happened."

In another performance of note,