



WIMBLEDON GOSSIPS

on Sunday, admitted they don't take their partnership particularly seri-Long-suffering British tennis fans ously, but they still win.

will at least get the chance to see "We have a lot of fun out there," said one of their own in action in the new singles champion and world men's singles final on Sunday. As number one Serena. "We just laugh and giggle. As Venus Lleyton Hewitt and David

AFP, London

just 17.

Nalbandian slugged it out, the

action was being overseen by

umpire Mike Morrisey. The Surrey-

educated 33-year-old was officiat-

ing his fourth men's final following

similar duties in 1994, 1998 and

2000. Morrisey first officiated at

Wimbledon in 1987 when he was

SISTERS STAND AT EASE

Worrying news for the legion of

hapless women trying to find a dent

in the armour of the Williams sisters.

Serena and Venus, who were

plaving in the women's doubles final

Cricket

tournament final at Lord's.

and Ajit Agarkar seven not out.

just 187 after winning the toss.

bowler Fernando that he steered to

one six and four fours in his latest

Yuvraj faced 68 balls including

Chandana at backward point.

impressive inninas this series.

with India nine runs short.

as he savoured victory.

played a fantastic innings."

support his side received from a

have been difficult.

AFP, Birmingham

on Saturday.

there as well.

movement

in a stand of 91

said the other day, on her resume she puts 'singles player, not doubles player. PAPER CHASE TO THE

TITLE During the changeovers in the women's singles final, Serena Williams was seen to delve into her bag and take out a sheet of paper which she read attentively. Great words of philosophy? Lyrics from a favourite song, perhaps? No, just timely reminders to 'keep low' and 'hit the ball down the middle.' **ARGENTINA CALLING**

David Nalbandian was hoping to deliver a victory against Lleyton Hewitt to try and cheer up a country still despondent over both its economic crisis and the early departure from the World Cup by its much-

vaunted football team "I hope the people watch me on the television. I think it's important because they are not having a very good time at the moment. If I win, hopefully that can make a difference," said the 20-year-old. However, if he does pull off a shock

win, he was hoping that not too many people would call up to offer the congratulations. "After I beat Xavier Malisse in the

semi-final, many, many people telephoned to offer their best wishes, but after a while I stopped answering the phone because I couldn't get to sleep."

India book Lord's berth

ANNA KOURNIKOVA

Anna again ambushed



AFP, London

Russian beauty Anna Kournikova's bid to salvage a disappointing showing at the All England Club was scuppered Saturday when she crashed out of Wimbledon twice in the space of just over an hour.

The 21-year-old Muscovite went out in both the doubles and mixed doubles events to bring to an end a controversial two weeks at Wimbledon

Kournikova, who lost in the first round of singles, and American partner Chanda Rubin threw away a one-set advantage in their doubles semi-final tie to super sisters Venus and Serena Williams.

The Williams sisters, the third seeds, came back out on Centre Court after Serena defeated Venus 7-6. 6-3 in the singles final to win her first Wimbledon title

A lapse in concentration by the Russian early in the second set allowed the Americans back into the match and they won through 6-7, 6-0, 6-3 and will take on Spaniard Virginia Ruano Pascual and Argentina's Paola Suarez, the second seeds, in Sunday's final.

Over on Court One, Kournikova then teamed up with Swedish partner Jonas Biorkman, the seventh seeds, in their quarter-final and were defeated 6-4, 6-2 by thirdseeded Mahesh Bhupathi of India and Russia's Elena Likhovtseva.

The Russian double faulted in her final service game to end all hopes of a Wimbledon title this year. Kournikova dominated the headlines early in the tournament after she threw a tantrum during a televised interview, which led to criticism and praise from former tennis players of the Russian who

has never won a singles title, but has 15 doubles titles and earns millions in sponsorship. Meanwhile Serena warned that she and Venus were determined to win their fifth Grand Slam doubles

title together here. "I want to go home with two trophies," warned Serena.

The Americans were the 2000 Wimbledon doubles champions and have won all four Grand Slam doubles titles and the Olympic gold.

"We're going to really go out there and fight. We've won before and want to do it again," said Serena. "It's the final of Wimbledon again and I'm out there for me and for Venus.

"It is amazing to see so many people turn out. With so much noise it is like Eden Gardens

Fernando's figures of two for 22 were impressive but it would have Rahul Dravid's 64 guided India to a taken something truly extraordinary four-wicket triangular series victory for the bowlers to defend such a low over Sri Lanka here at Edgbaston score - a point Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasuriya readily con-The result sent India, yet to lose a ceded.

series match, into next Saturday's "Today we needed more runs but we have not batted well throughout And Sri Lanka's fourth straight the series.

defeat guaranteed England's place "We have been bowling well in patches but not consistently. I think we need to look into that for future dames.

Chaminda Vaas did give Sri Lanka hope when, with the first ball of the innings, the left-arm quick bowled Virender Sehwag off an They then suffered a collapse of inside edge.

> huge appeal for caught behind against Ganguly turned down by experienced West Indian official Steve Bucknor.

in the next over, he was dropped by Chandana at backward point of Fernando. undone by a slow full toss from fast

for 24, a cut off Pramodya Wickramasinghe rebounding from Mahela Jayawardene at first slip to wicket-keeper Romesh Kaluwitharana. That left India wob-

ing one six and five fours, ended It seemed as if Sri Lanka had when he was run out by Fernando missed a major opportunity when "I thought we played pretty well." said India captain Souray Ganguly leg-spinner Chandana.

three balls later.

was not coming onto the bat and short extra-cover.

> for five when Dravid was 'caught' off a Fernando no-ball.

match award but it was India's

media centre and created the hill

with the big screen," he told the BBC

Radio Five Live's SportsWeek

build a roof, we'd already have done

roof. It doesn't matter to rugby or

football matches if they get conden-

sation or sweating - but it matters a

the States, feeding in British sum-

mer forecast information. They work

'We've done expensive tests in

lot on a grass tennis court.

able number of occasions.

"So if it was straightforward to

"But there are problems with a

bowlers who laid the foundations for victory.

Left-arm paceman Ashish Nehra out the block on from the start his first seven overs yielding just 10 runs. Nehra finished with two for 28.

But it was leg-spinner Anil Kumble (two for 36) who dismissed top scorers Javawardene (36) and Atapattu (50) in quick succession after the pair had put on 84 in 19

overs. From there on the rest of the batsmen, excepting Vaas' 20-ball 26, failed to make much impression, Sri Lanka losing their last eight wickets for 62 runs in 18 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the India innings during their triangular series oneday international match against Sri Lanka at Edgbaston on Saturday: INDIA Sehwag b Vaas

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	Dravid run out		64					
y ff	Yuvraj Singh c							
	Chandana b Ferna	dnd	0		37			
11	Kaif not out				7			
а	Agarkar not out				7			
n	Extras: (lb-3, w-17,	1	25					
С	Total (6 wkts, 48.1 d	18	188					
n	Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-30, 3-33, 4-							
-	59, 5-150, 6-179							
	Did not bat: Z. ł	Khar	η, A.	Kum	ble,			
b	A. Nehra							
n	Bowler	0	Μ	R	W			
4	Vaas	10	1	26	2			

26 22 47 10 0 2 Fernando Wickramasinghe 9 0 6.1 32 Chandana 0 0 Samaraweera 10 1 35 0 0 23 Jayasuriya 3 0 Result: India won by 4 wkts

Man-of-the-match: Rahul Dravid Umpires: Steve Bucknor (WI), Neil Mallender (Eng); Third umpire: Peter Willey (Eng); Match referee: Mike Procter (Rsa)

bowler to have his action ques tioned by the ICC in recent years **All-weather Wimbledon** following Muttiah Muralitharan, Kumar Dharmasena and Suresh Perera

Prophecy fulfilled

REUTERS, London

"Welcome to the Williams show" Richard Williams's proclaimed on a courtside banner when his daughters Venus and Serena battled it out in the Wimbledon semifinals two years ago.

On that occasion, the phenomenal sisters had only won one Grand Slam title between them -- younger sister Serena had captured the family's first major at the 1999 U.S. Open -- and were nowhere near dominating the women's tour.

Just 24 months later, the Williams travelling show took centre-stage on women's finals day and although Richard was absent from the latest battle between the siblings Wimbledon champion Serena felt his presence from the moment she stepped on court for her historic showdown with Venus."When I first walked out there, I was just thinking I wanted to win but I was also thinking that my dad always said that one day we'd be playing in the finals of Wimbledon, in the finals of the U.S. Open, just the big ones," said Serena, who stopped her sister from completing a hat trick of All England crowns by winning the absorbing clash 7-6 6-3

"And here we were 10, 15 years later.

"It's really amazing if you think about it because it's hard to get one champion but my dad and mom now have two. "And this is unbelievable really."

The sisters have not only won three of the last four grand slams --Venus triumphed in Flushing Meadows in 2001 while Serena avenged that defeat at Roland Garros last month -- they have also both attained the world number one status in a space of five months this

Perera given FROM PAGE 13

Kaluperuma. The three-man panel met the INTERNET, London BCCSL's director of cricket operations Bandula Warnapura on Friday the 2002 season with only one to submit their report. After the Grand Slam title under her belt. meeting one of the panellists said: "When we studied the footage, which the ICC had given us, there was an obvious problem and we rectified that with Ruchira." a set.

The panel stressed that Perera's suspicious action had developed just prior to or during Sri Lanka's tour of England. According to coach Dav Whatmore, the problem arose when Perera modified his wrist action, possibly during an A tour to Namibia in March. Although ICC regulations allow a bowler to continue playing during the first stage, Perera played no further part in the Test series. However, he was very close to playing the final Test after injuries to Nuwan Zoysa and Charitha Buddika

Perera, one of Sri Lanka's brightest fastest bowling prospects despite the controversy, is now expected to play a warm-up game against Bangladesh so that the BCCSL can obtain fresh video clippings for their final report.

Perera is the fourth Sri Lankan



SERENA WILLIAMS

Keeping her appointment

explained.

"At the time, I thought some day you're going to be telling your grandchildren about how you blew it. And the new champion paid

tribute to her father who predicted that his young daughters would one day contest the Wimbledon final as the world's best players.

But she followed up her French Your say: Can anyone stop the Open triumph in April by winning the Williams sisters? Wimbledon trophy without dropping

"My dad always said we'd be here and here we were," she said. "It's amazing when you think

"At the beginning of the year. I told myself I don't care what else about it - it's hard enough to get one happens this year. I want to win champion, now he has two. Wimbledon," she said. "But I did a lot of work to get here

Tennis

past of history."

The younger Williams sister began

"I really wanted to win the French and I don't regret any of it." but that was an extra bonus. I just The defeated finalist admitted wanted to win Wimbledon. that her sister had out-performed "I wanted to become a member

her on the day as the 21-year-old of so much prestige. I wanted to be a was denied a hat-trick of Wimbledon titles The 20-year-old admitted that "She was tremendous today,'

her quarter-final loss at last year's she said. Wimbledon to Jennifer Capriati had "There wasn't a lot between us

spurred her on to a level of consisbut on some points, she was playing tency which has also seen her claim shots I just couldn't get. the world number one spot from her "I kept my balls deep and on the line and she did the same - what can

"Times were low a year ago but you do? But the older sibling said she was "It's all changed mentally - I'm

pleased that Serena was finally fulfilling her early promise. "I think it's great to see Serena doing well because for a while she

An Upul Chandana wide, off the first ball of the penultimate over, saw India win with both Mohammad Kaif India bowled out Sri Lanka for

their own as they slumped to 59 for In the same over he also had a four on a pitch assisting seam But Dravid, caught off a Dilhara Fernando no-ball on nine, and

Yuvrai Singh (37) steadied the ship The left-hander's luck held when It looked as if both men would see India home before Yuvraj was

But it turned when Ganguly fell

And Dravid's 95-ball stay, includbling at 33 for three. Sachin Tendulkar (18) was dropped by Fernando at short third man off

"It was not an easy wicket to bat on and anything over 220 would

committee meeting.

show

his total when he spooned Fernando to Marvan Atapattu at

But Fernando redeemed himself

Tendulkar had added just one to "It did quite a lot on the pitch, it

was difficult to play shots. Rahul India then almost declined to 75 Ganguly also paid tribute to the

Dravid won the man-of-thesell-out crowd mainly made up of

Vaughan spins

FROM PAGE 13

Sangakkara in place of Romesh Kaluwitharana.

Nuwan Zoysa and Silva were also called up by the former world champions, who have lost all four of their clashes so far leaving England to contest next Saturday's final at I ord's with India.

England also made changes. Tudor came in for James Kirtley, who broke his hand in the nets Saturday and Snape taking over from left-arm spinner Ashley Giles.

SCOREBOARD

furniture

35 Appre-

Scoreboard of the Sri Lanka innings in their triangular series one-day international against England here at Old Trafford on Sunday: **SRILANKA** Atapattu run out 23 Javasuriva c Hussain b Tudor 70 Sangakkara Ibw b Vaughan 42 Jayawardene run out Arnold c and b Snape C Silva c Collingwood b Vaughan 9

Samaraweera st Stewart b Vaughan 3 Chandana c sub b Flintoff 15

Vaas b Vaughar Zoysa c Knight b Gough Wickramasinghe not out Extras: (lb-9, w-5, nb-1) Total: (10 wkts, 49.4 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-59, 2-73, 3-162, 4-185, 5-191, 6-200, 7-205, 8-205, 9-224, 10-229

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England: Marcus Trescothick, Nick Knight, Nasser Hussain (capt), Michael Vaughan, Ronnie Irani, Paul Collingwood, Alec Stewart (wkt), Andrew Flintoff, Jeremy Snape, Alex Tudor, Darren Gough Umpires: David Orchard (Rsa), Peter Willey (Eng) Third umpire: Jeremy Lloyds (Eng) Match referee: Mike Procter

(Rsa)



The first week of the Championships was played under sunny skies but then the rain arrived causing scheduling headaches with many high-profile matches disrupted. All England Club officials said that they were ready to put a cover

over the Centre Court once problems with condensation and ventilation have been solved. Costly experiments have been

underway in the USA to assess the effect a roof would have on grass.

would we need in an 80-year-old Wimbledon chairman Tim Phillips is expected to further disbuilding? And how would it affect the cuss the possibility of renovation at flight of the ball? the tennis complex in Sunday's

"We are actively trying to overcome serious obstacles. Until we get a really good solution, we're not "In the last decade, we've built a new Number One Court, a new going to do it."

Phillips also emphasised the need to strike a happy balance between the wishes of fans who queue for hours to gain access to the All England Club and the players who entertain them.

"We'd need to get planning approval and create a tennis court which provides top-quality play," he said "We have an obligation to fans

and TV audiences in 170 different countries. But we also have an obligation to playrs in terms of safety on court.

out whether condensation would "We'll do it if we can solve these occur - and it would on a considerproblems - which we haven't managed to yet." "So what ventilation system

Sweet taste of success

Dravid looks

FROM PAGE 13 a crucial role. The wicket seamed a bit all day and it was probably a 220 wicket but the bowlers on both sides did quite well "

His captain Saurav Ganguly is also convinced that playing Dravid as a wicketkeeper-batsman has given his side an ideal balance for one-dav internationals.

Dravid has played in 173 limitedovers matches for his country but his place was in danger before he switched to keeping wicket on the recent tour of the West Indies and current triangular series in England. "I'm not surprised by the way he's batted and he's keeping very well," Ganguly said. "Playing him as a wicketkeeper has allowed us to pick an extra batsman and that's given the team a good balance."

handed her sister an opportunity to get back into the match when she was broken leading 4-2 in the second set

do," she said. "I would have liked to have won today but once again it just wasn't to

mobile she can compete, but you

have to have variety. You have to

mix it up, try to make them wonder

what you are doing out there,'

Navratilova told the BBC after

witnessing Serena's 7-6, 6-3 victory

The win gave Serena her third

For good measure, the younge

"You need someone who has the

It will be of no comfort to the other

women on the tour that Serena said

she has no intention of sitting back

on her achievements and that she

intends to add to them in the future.

"When I was able to win the first set, I got a little too satisfied and I hit a couple of ridiculous shots," she

Ominous signs!



it's high-tide now," she said.

stronger and I have a little more

experience under my belt. And I

AFP, London

over Venus which followed her win Nine-time Wimbledon champion at the French Open last month. Martina Navratilova has warned that Serena Williams' Wimbledon tri-Grand Slam title while Venus, who umph over sister Venus on Saturday was the defending champion here. represents the start of what could be already has four under her belt. a decade of Grand Slam domination by the American duo.

sister succeeded Venus as world "I think if they both stay commitnumber one. ted they can do this for another 10 "The others simply have to get better. The women will have to get in years, easy.

"Right now they are dominating the gym, get on the track and be and they have been doing it all year,' faster and stronger," added added Navratilova who said that in Navratilova. the absence of the injured Lindsav Davenport and Martina Hingis, it variety, someone who can get into was the responsibility of the other the net as well as play at the basetop women players to toughen up line. and mount a serious challenge to

the sisters. "Lindsay Davenport matches up with power but not the speed, and Martina Hingis needs to get a better serve, she is losing too many points on her second serve

"If Lindsay gets a little more



PHOTO: COURTESY

Dhaka City Mayor and Fisheries and Livestock Minister Sadek Hossain opens the Lifebuoy-Community Football Tournament at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

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y's Cryptoquip: IF THERE WERE AN OUBLE OF TEXAS, WOULD IT BE HE CLONE STAR STATE?

day's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals T

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.

Tennis

AFP, London

In 1999. David Nalbandian cursed the All England Club as he left in tears having been defaulted from the semifinals of the boys tournament.

Three years later, he is setting records all over the place.

He has become the first Argentinean to reach the Wimbledon men's final, is playing in his first senior grass court tournament and is the youngest player to reach the final in his debut year.

But the frustration of what happened three years ago here, as well as irritation at still not having played on the Centre Court, burns deep and he fully intends to take out his frustrations on Australian top seed and world number one Lleyton Hewitt in the final here on Sunday.

"That moment in the juniors was just terrible," said 20-year-old Nalbandian after his 7-6, 6-4, 1-6, 2-6, 6-2 win over Belgium's Xavier Malisse in the semifinal.

"I was supposed to be playing in the junior semifinal against Jurgen Melzer, but I had played the quarterfinal in the morning and had to play the semifinal later in the day Marat Safin and Yevgenv because of rain delays.

"The guy in the locker room said that I was playing at 3pm so I went to eat and when I came back. I was told it was 2.30pm. 'That was terrible because the

Wimbledon juniors is a very big very important event and to default



DAVID NALBANDIAN

was just awful," said Nalbandian, who is seeded 28 here, and never dreamed of getting beyond the first week here, let alone the final.

But aided by being in the bottom half of the draw from where the likes of Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi.

Kafelinikov were all eliminated in the first few days, he has seized his chance in only his fourth Grand Slam event to reach a final showdown against the best player in the world

Last year, when Goran Ivanisevic was enjoying his magical run to the title here, Nalbandian was scratching out a living in Challengers in Italy and the Netherlands.

"I can't describe what it feels like to be in the final. This has to be the best week of my life.

"When we arrived, I said to my coach that if we reached the third round that would be a great tournament. I even told my mum that I would be home in the second week and now I am in the final." added Nalbandian who won the first title of his career earlier this year on clay at Estoril and has lost the only time he has met Hewitt, in Barcelona this spring

"It's incredible. I was supposed to play my first grass court event in Nottingham two weeks ago but injured my leg, but I got some practice on grass courts in Argentina.

"I played against my coach and juniors and I kept losing.