Langer's no to IPL

AFP, Perth

Former Australian opener Justin Langer has turned his back on the inaugural Twenty20 Indian Premier League, opting to honour a prior commitment to English county side Somerset.

Langer fetched 218,000 US dollars from the Jaipur franchise in Wednesday's player auction, but The West Australian newspaper said here Saturday that he declined the offer.

In rejecting Jaipur's offer, Langer said he feared for the direction of world cricket, concerned that the riches of the IPL would change the priorities of some players.

"Before the auction, I don't know if many people anticipated what an issue these massive player payments would become," Langer said, echoing the fears of Australian captain Ricky Ponting.

"But when you see how much money is being paid out, I think we have to be very careful to protect the integrity of the game.

"A' few days ago, playing for Australia would have been the main goal for just about every young player in the country. "Now that might not be the

case." Langer warned other players not to put quick cash ahead of personal achievement.

"When you go to your grave, people will remember what you did with your life rather than how

much money you made," he said. Langer's comments came as pressure mounted on the International Cricket Council to create a gap in the international scheduling for the annual IPL tournament, which is generating plenty of controversy in Australia.

Some of Australia's premier batsmen have appeared somewhat distracted during the current oneday tri-series, over which the ongoing IPL machinations have cast a huge shadow.

Ricky needs more time

AFP, Melbourne

Embattled Australian captain Ricky Ponting believes time at the crease is the only cure for his current slump in form.

The normally prolific Ponting failed again in the rain-shortened tri-series win over Sri Lanka on Friday, run out for 11.

It took his tally for the series to just 64 runs at 10.66, and follows a relatively unproductive Test series, where his only score of note was a dour century on a flat Adelaide

pitch in the final Test. Speaking here after Friday's rain-shortened win over Sri Lanka, Ponting said tricky pitches and good bowling had contributed to his run of outs.

He also revealed he had rejected an offer of a break from the Australian selectors, and said he was confident of turning his form around, starting with Sunday's triseries clash against India in Sydney.

"I really do only think it's getting half-an-hour to an hour in the middle and every batsman says that," he said here.

"When you are in a rut you keep finding ways to get out.

"Hopefully it's on Sunday that I get that hour in the middle and a few balls from the middle and things will start to turn around."



The Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum was opened in 1977.





Jonty Rhodes

(South Africa's fielding coach) "No, I wouldn't pay 900,000 dollars for him -- I'd pay I million dollars for him."

How much he would have bid for Jacques Kallis in the recent Indian Premier League auction.

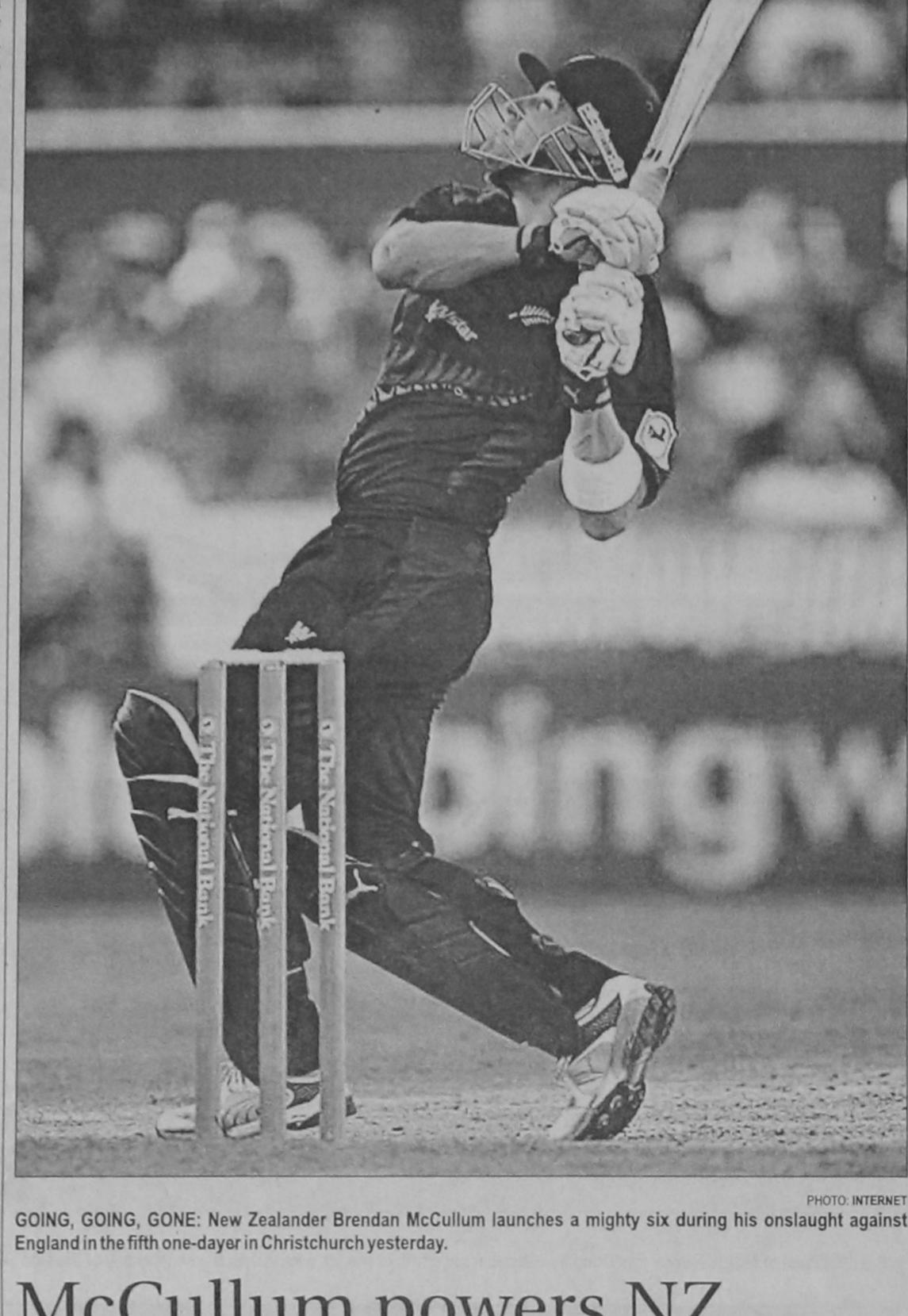


PHOTO: INTERNE

23

32

28

33

0 37

McCullum powers NZ

FROM PAGE 17

Dimitri Mascarenhas belted 22 off the final over to complete a 65-run surge over the final five overs to lift the innings out of mediocrity and Collingwood believed 242 was defendable were it not for McCullum and Ryder.

"They came out and performed the way they can and again took the game away from us," he said.

"The bowlers obviously find it hard to bowl against them. They hit it both sides of the wicket and they hit it a long way as well.

Vettori had put England into bat after winning the toss on the grounds that his side performs best when chasing a total.

It was a tactic which nearly backfired in the fourth match in Napier on Wednesday, when New Zealand needed 341 to win and stumbled in the final overs for the game to end in a rare tie.

But 242 never looked an imposing target, and without Mascarenhas and Luke Wright, England would have struggled to reach 200.

47 off 40 balls, while ahead of him the top-order pace was pedestrian. Kyle Mills, the pick of the New

Wright top scored for England with

Zealand bowlers, finished with four for 36 including the wickets of Wright and Owais Shah (29) in Styris three balls after the pair produced a 69-run stand for the sixth wicket.

Vettori took two for 28 with the wickets of Alastair Cook (42) and Collingwood (14), while Jeetan Patel snared the wicket of Kevin McCullum b Collingwood Pietersen for 39 for match figures of one for 33.

SCOREBOARD

Complete scoreboard in the fourth one-day international between New Zealand and England at AMI Stadium in Christchurch on

Saturday:				
ENGLAND				
Cook Ibw b Vetto	ori			4
Mustard c How	b Mills	3		
Bell c Flynn b M	ills			2
Pietersen c Ryde		tel		3
Collingwood st McC			ń	1
Shah c McCullu				2
Wright c Taylor l	b Mills			4
Mascarenhas no				2
Broad not out				1
Extras: (lb-3, nb	-2)			
Total: (For 7 wkt	sin50	over	s) :	24
Fall of wickets:	1-5, 2	-57,	3-105	, 4
119,5-128,6-19	7,7-20)1		
Bowler	0	M	R	V
Mills	10	2	36	

50 Ryder NEW ZEALAND Ryder run out (Pietersen) How c Mustard b Sidebottom Taylor not out Styris c Broad b Anderson Flynn lbw b Sidebottom Oram b Sidebottom Vettori not out Extras: (lb-6, w-9) Total: (For 6 wkts in 37 overs) 213 Fall of wickets: 1-103, 2-118, 3-147 4-196, 5-197, 6-197 R Bowler 65 Anderson Sidebottom 51 41 Broad 26

Vettori

Patel

Collingwood 1 24 Mascarenhas Result: New Zealand won by 34 runs under Duckwork-Lewis system.

Man-of-the-match: Brendon McCullum. Toss: New Zealand.

Umpires: Asad Rauf and Billy Bowden.

London derby

FROM PAGE 20

spotlight on the game's grandest stages. He has scored in Chelsea's last three cup final appearances, including a double to win the League Cup final against Arsenal last season.

The Ivory Coast striker, who also bagged the winner in the FA Cup final against Manchester United, is determined to be the main man again.

"I want to score in the final again. I have scored in all the finals Chelsea have played so far," Drogba said. "I am a big game

that cost Chelsea a combined 39 million pounds, but Tottenham defender Jon Woodgate believes Tottenham boast an even more

valuable strike-force. Dimitar Berbatov and Robbie Keane have scored 36 goals between them this season and Tottenham's hopes of winning their first silverware since 1999 rest

on the duo firing again on Sunday. "At the moment I don't think there is a better striking partnership in England than Keane and Berbatov," Woodgate said. "No pair

scores more goals than them. "Any defence that comes up against them is going to have their hands full, including Chelsea. They just click and it's because they are

both top players. he can adapt his game and Berba is training is nine months away."

Next time FROM PAGE 17

goals." Spurs finally put to bed their woeful record against Arsenal when they beat the Gunners in the semifinals, but now they have to overcome another dispiriting

the same. The two of them have

terrific movement and can score

sequence. Juande Ramos's team have won just two of their last 42 meetings with Chelsea. It is an astonishing run and Ramos admits the Blues will be favourites on Sunday.

"We know Chelsea are a good team and probably go into the final Drogba could play alongside as favourites because they are higher Nicolas Anelka in a partnership upintheleaguetableasus,"hesaid. "But anything can happen in football and we need to play with the

maximum level of concentration." Only thinking

FROM PAGE 20

and walk with crutches for at least a month and a half to ensure the scar tissue is solid.

"He'll be able to put his foot on the ground but he'll have to be careful not to make a sudden move-

"After that we can look at fitting something more flexible if his knee allows it. In terms of being able to run he won't be able to do that for four and a half to five months.

"And he'll have to wait six months before working on build-"Robbie can play with anyone, ing up his muscular strength. Full

Unfortunately for me it ended up as a catch and I was given out.

"I queried the umpire later but he mentioned that it needed to bounce three times for it to be a no-

"So next time, I will just keep it on the ground," joked the 24-year

Steve Waugh, Michael Vaughan, Andrew Symonds, Salman Butt and Inzamamul Haq are the ones in recent memory to fall victims to bizarre dismissals.

While Waugh and Vaughan were slightly the culprits in Chennai and Bangalore against India in 1998 and 2001 when they handled the ball, Inzamam was just terribly unlucky to jump at the wrong time to Steve Harmison's throw at Faisalabad in 2006.

Salman Butt handed Shaun Udal his first Test wicket in 2006 courtesy of a deflection of Marcus Trescothick's forehead and Andrew Symonds had non-striker Michael Clarke to blame for taking the sting out of his shot at Melbourne in their VB Series game against Sri Lanka in 2006.

But in a weird turn of events, Ashraful himself once survived a stunning dismissal. At Sophia Gardens in Trent Bridge in 2005, he prodded forward to a Chris Tremlett delivery which was played on, smack on to the top of his middle-stump. By some divine blessing neither bail were disturbed.

Smiling the same sheepish grin as he sported today, Ashraful proceeded to smash a remarkable 92 off 54 balls.

outcome this time.

Bond handed county lifeline AFP, London

SPORT

New Zealand fast bowler Shane Bond will play for Hampshire in the opening weeks of the 2008 season, the English county announced on Friday.

Bond is scheduled to arrive at the Rose Bowl in April and play through until the start of the Twenty20 while Hampshire captain Shane Warne is away playing in the inaugural Indian Premier League which cuts across the start of the English domestic season.

"I'm really excited about the signing of Shane Bond for the start of our season," said Hampshire team manager Paul Terry.

"With the very busy international programme going on at this time of the year, finding a bowler with his genuine quality that has the time and the desire to play county cricket has been difficult -so I'm delighted that Shane has agreed to join Hampshire."

Bond, who late last year signed a deal with the Indian Cricket League, the IPL's Twenty20 rival, turned down a move to Worcestershire.

His new employers are in no doubt about the pedigree of the 32year-old, who has 79 Test wickets to his name in an injury-interrupted career but faces an uncertain international future thanks to his links with the breakaway ICL.

"He is regarded as one of the best quick bowlers in the world in all forms of the game," added Terry.

Drama

FROM PAGE 17

thinking on any outcome rather our only concentration is on how we could managed a reasonable score on the board," he said.

And it would be only possible if left-handed opener Zunaed Siddiqui keep his temperament to occupy the crease and try to follow the path of Shahadat: to pay attention what coach Jamie Siddons has told them.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the first Test between Bangladesh and South Africa at the Sher-e-Bangla Mirpur Stadium in Mirpur on Saturday:

BANGLADESH: First innings 192 (Aftab 44, Ashraful 34; Morkel 5-50) SOUTH AFRICA: First innings

(overnight 76-4) Mckenzielbwb Shahadat Smith b Shahadat Amla lbw b Rafique Kallis b Rafique Prince run out Botha Ibw b Shahadat De Villiers c and b Ashraful Boucher lbw b Shahadat Morkel c Rahim b Shahadat Steyn b Shahadat Ntini not out Extras: (b-1, lb-5, w-1, nb-3) Total: (All out in 60.3 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-19, 3-54, 4-69, 5-77, 6-145, 7-156, 8-158, 9-163 O M R W Bowler 43 Mortaza Shahadat 15.3 27 55 Rafique Shakib 30 Ashraful 9 0 BANGLADESH: Second innings Siddigui not out Iqbal b Steyn Nafees lbw b Steyn

Basharlbw b Steyn Ashraful c Boucher b Ntini Aftab not out Extras: (lb-1, w-1, nb-2) Total: (For 4 wkts in 48 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-25, 3-29, 4-85 O M 38

Bowler Stevn 21 Ntini Morkel 33 Kallis 10 0 18 Botha Mckenzie

Nayeem stars

FROM PAGE 17

off 24 balls hitting two boundaries. Nayeem Islam of Bangladesh, who hit the match highest 30 runs, also grabbed two wickets for 21 runs to be adjudged man-of-the-match.

Pacer Delwar Hossain also picked up two wickets for 21 runs.

Div 1 Cricket

FROM PAGE 17 (3-28) made sure CCS were bowled

out for only 137 runs in 42.1 overs. In the other matches, Rupali Bank (174-5) beat Jatrabari (173-10) by five wickets in Savar, Gazi Tank (182-8) defeated Uttara (177 all out) by two wickets at the

Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium and

Kathalbagan (228-10) outplayed

Sadaran Bima (191-10) by 37 runs at the Dhaka University ground. Youths' date

FROM PAGE 17

England, instead of Bangladesh. For South Africa, the challenge will be to negotiate Bangladesh's off-spinners Nasir Hossain and Mahmudul Hasan, and Shuvo. The Bangladesh top order strug-

gled against England's pace attack: Harris took 5 for 29 out of which four batsmen were dismissed for ducks. South Africa have a line-up filled with medium-pacers who keep a tight line and length. Their accuracy is heightened by excellent fielding and also because the wicketkeeper often stands up to One will hope for a similar | the stumps, making it hard for the batsman to leave his crease.

Batting remains worry

CRICINFO, undated



Australia and India considering how the two sides have played in the tournament so far. Even though Australia are nine points ahead of India, Ricky Ponting's team are facing the same hard questions as Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Co. Batting remains the main concern for the both these teams with majority of

their famed batting line-ups struggling for consistency. The problems begin at the top with the openers unable to provide stability. Except for Adam Gilchrist, the others like Sachin Tendulkar, Matthew Hayden and Virender Sehwag have struggled for runs through the series. The problems get compounded when you take into the account the brittle nature of their middle orders, especially Australia's with batsmen like Ricky Ponting and Andrew Symonds in a rut -- Ponting has an average of 10.66 while Symonds has made 42 in six games at 8.40.

India might gather confidence from the fact that most of their batsmen have got the starts. Batsmen like Gautam Gambhir Rohit Sharma and Irfan Pathan have shown the character to hang around and have come up with some constructive innings. They have tried at least if not convincingly. For Australia it's been a matter of squeezing out a respectable target and then relying on their bowling to turn the match in their

individuals who have shown a

job. And these guys have carried It's hard to the burden of the collective failure of their mates without complaining. If Dhoni has proved he is an and Hussey -- have delivered for

Australia. that will be good," Dhoni said, as India came out for their final practice session at the SCG on Saturday. India have been experimenting with their batting order but Dhoni insists that is not the reason for the batsman's problems. "We are pretty much sure about the pattern of the batting order. One of the good things is that most of our batsmen adapt well at any position,

so that really helps." In the previous game, against Sri Lanka in Adelaide, Dhoni remained undefeated on 50 as he led India to victory. Surprisingly, despite his explosive batting skills, the Indian captain didn't even score one boundary or a six. He altered his game according to the conditions. "It's difficult to adapt, but it's important to get runs and play according to the demands of the game," he said. "As long as you can maintain a strike-rate it doesn't matter if you don't hit fours."

Despite reaching the finals, Australia are not sitting pretty and the main cause is their batting failure. James Hopes, the Australian allrounder, had a different take on the situation. "You can call it bad batting or exceptional bowling. The wickets are slow and it takes a bit to get in for a batsman.

"The batsmen are not scoring a lot of runs given the conditions we are playing in where some of the pitches are low and slow," Hopes And both teams have relied on said. Still Australia have lost only one game so far and Hopes feels strong temperament to hang in the one advantage is the toss which

middle and carry out the rescue Ponting has called right on most occasions. "We are getting to bat first, so our bowlers know what they are bowling to."

Hopes insisted Australia won't able leader, the Michaels -- Clarke be taking tomorrow's game lightly. "India have some of the form bowlers and class players like Sachin, "We are doing well in bits and Sehwag, and Yuvraj [Singh] have pieces. If they can be consistent started to score runs. They will come hard knowing that if they beat us tomorrow they will be the form team going into the final," he said. "We will be trying to get the psychological edge tomorrow regardless of whether it is a high

scoring or low scoring game." Meanwhile, India need to work out whether to continue the fivebowler theory the Indians utilised in their last two games or go with an extra batsman. "To play five bowlers the batsmen need to be on the top of their form", Dhoni said, "With five bowlers you are getting the opposition out early but you are not getting the runs. But at the same time, if you play four bowlers your part-timers might give some

With runs being the need of the hour, India might recall Sehwag at the expense of allrounder Praveen Kumar. As for Australia, with Brett Lee coming back after a two-game break, Mitchell Johnson is likely to sit out.

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA (likely): Adam Gilchrist, Matthew Hayden, Ricky Ponting (captain), Michael Clarke, Andrew Symonds, Michael Hussey, James Hopes, Brad Hogg, Brett Lee, Mitchell Johnson, Nathan Bracken. INDIA (likely): Virender Sehwag, Sachin Tendulkar, Gautam Gambhir, Rohit Sharma, Yuvraj Singh, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Robin Uthappa, Irfan Pathan, Harbhajan Singh, Ishant Sharma, Munaf Patel.

Hosts dominate Day One

FROM PAGE 17 home side also won the gold medal in 400m sprint by completing her run in 58 seconds.

In the 4X100 metres sprint,

Bangladesh's men won gold in 41.6 seconds while the West Bengal team won the gold in the women's event finishing it in 47.1 seconds. In both the events, new records were set. Among other events, 800-

metre men's sprinter and 400metre women's sprinter witnessed new records. Meanwhile, Bangladesh Athletics Federation (BAF) has

5,000 each for gold medal winners. **SWIMMING** A total of five Indo-Bangla records minute and 20.83 seconds. have been made in swimming on

announced prize money of Tk

the day. Local boy Rubel Rana won two gold medals in the men's 50m backstroke and 400m medley, breaking the records he himself

made during the first event in 2007.

In the 50m backstroke, it took

28.44 seconds for Rana to break the previous record which was at 29.4 seconds. In the 400m medley, he took 5 minutes and 1.84 seconds this time

compared to 5 minutes and 8.9 seconds he took earlier. In the men's 100m freestyle, Jewel Ahmed of Bangladesh became gold medal winner by touching the

finishing line in 56.25 seconds. In the women's 100m freestyle West Bengal's Mona Lisa Mondal won the gold medal by breaking her own record of the previous Games. This year, she took one minute

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and 5.14 seconds as against the medal but the women lost. past record of one minute and 7.16 seconds. She, too, won two gold medals

on the opening day of the Games. She became the champion in 50m backstroke, once again breaking an earlier record. She took 34.61 seconds while the previous record was 34.91 seconds.

Bangladesh won gold medals in 100m breaststroke both men's and women's events. In the men's event, Kamal

Hossain took one minute and 9.53

seconds while Dolly Akhter broke her own record of one minute and 20.83 seconds. Kamal broke Shahjahan Boni's record of one

In the 200m butterfly, Bangladesh's Niamul won gold.

minutes and 27.39 seconds. SHOOTING In the men's 50m rifle, Pankaj Poddar won gold and so too did

The men's team of Bangladesh

took three minutes and 53.96

seconds while the women's winner

team of West Bengal took four

event scoring 1734 points. Bangladesh's Sabrina Sultana won the first place in the women's 50m rifle event, collecting 575 points. In the 10m air pistol, Mahendra Singh of Bangladesh too won a gold. Bangladesh won the

West Bengal, winning the team-

team even, scoring 1663 points. In the women's 10m air pistol, West Bengal's Chhaya Ghosh got the gold but Bangladesh had the last laugh, clinching gold in the In the 4X100m relay, the men's team event, with 1044 points in team of Bangladesh won gold their bag.

Sharapova now plays

Radwanska, the elder of two rising

sisters, the first Polish woman ever

nent twice in a row, so I am quite

excited about getting an opportu-

nity to play her again and give

myself a chance to beat her," said

"I don't like losing to an oppo-

Maria, Li into qtrs

FROM PAGE 20 Australian Open champion Sharapova maintained her unbeaten record in 2008 as she thundered her way to the semi-

finals in less than an hour. The strident brevity of Sharapova's win over Wozniacki, the promising 17-year-old Dane, suggested she is unofficial favourite for her second title of the year as well provided her with her 12th succes-

sive victory in all competitions. "It was a pretty solid performance apart from one game in the

second set," said Sharapova. "I felt pretty comfortable from the beginning. I was aggressive. I served and returned pretty well

because she had nothing to lose

and felt pretty good.

out there.

12 Unfore-

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23 Pedestal

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Badge of 25 Chances,

Courage" for short

author 26 Sausage

part

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down

org.

Solution time: 21 mins.

7 Bed-

breaths

the Russian. Radwanska achieved her first Grand Slam quarter-final in Australia last month and has now reached her first WTA Tour semifinal with a three-hour 4-6, 7-6 (7/1), 6-4 win against another 18-year-old,

to make the world's top 20.

Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia. Zvonareva, an unseeded former top ten player, reached a semi-final "I had to treat her with respect, for the second time this year, overcoming Sybille Bammer, the 15th seeded Austrian.

12-19 CRYPTOQUIP

VF OVFFZ OBTYKT

DWKTK LHUWF RKBRJK WVYU BPF DWKY FWKZ'TK NRTKVQHYU

LVJHOHBPN UBNNHR? QBDY

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF TWO BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY MEMBERS SCORED IDENTICALLY IN A

GAME, MIGHT IT BE A WINDSOR TIE? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals P

