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Siddons sues CA

AGENCIES, undated

Bangladesh coach Jamie Siddons is suing Cricket Australia, claiming he injured his shoulder throwing cricket balls during his time as Australia's assistant coach.

The Herald Sun reported a writ had been lodged in the Victorian Supreme Court in which Siddons says he has suffered injury, loss and damage.

Siddons states he seriously injured his right shoulder during the 2005 Ashes tour.

The former ace batsman was Australia's assistant coach and would spend hours in the nets with the team.

He says his continuing shoulder problems are a result of being required to throw cricket balls on a "constant, repetitive and forceful basis".

In a writ lodged in the Victorian Supreme Court, the former free-scoring batsman for Victoria and South Australia says he has suffered injury, loss and damage.

No figure has been put on the claim but Supreme Court actions can involve sums of several hundred thousand dollars.

Siddons' Bangladesh side will be in Australia in late August for a three-match ODI series. The Herald Sun reported the case was due for pre-trial discussions in October.

On the Ashes tour, Siddons was assistant coach to John Buchanan.

"I can verify he threw a lot of cricket balls on the tour," Buchanan said.

"We knew he was injured when he returned from the tour. We knew he had an injury sustained from throwing. There's no doubt about that."

Cricket Australia expressed surprise. A spokesman said it was unaware of the writ.

"We can't talk about Jamie Siddons but it is common for a batsman to have a member of the coaching staff involved at the training session to stand relatively close and to throw the cricket ball at pace," the spokesman said.

"It's a throw-down, and is common

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Did U Know?

The new translucent cover was introduced onto the Centre Court of the All England Club in 1998 and weighs 1 tonne.



BTV & STAR Cricket

Asia Cup Cricket
Bangladesh v Pakistan
Live from 4:00pm

STAR Sports

Wimbledon Championships
Men's Singles Semifinals
Live from 4:30pm

TEN Sports

West Indies v Australia
4th One-Day International
Live from 7:30pm



Mahendra Singh Dhoni
(India cricket captain)

"This is the first time all the policemen are sitting comfortably and watching the match. You can say we are playing for them, and it is good for them."

On the policemen in the stands outnumbering the crowds at non India-Pakistan games so far in the Asia Cup.



Young batsman Chamara Kapugedera drives the ball square on the offside during Sri Lanka's Super League Asia Cup match against India at the National Stadium in Karachi yesterday.

Venus strolls into final

AP, Wimbledon



Defending champion Venus Williams beat Elena Dementieva 6-1, 7-6 (3) to advance to the Wimbledon final Thursday, setting up a potential championship matchup with sister Serena.

Venus Williams, a four-time Wimbledon winner, overpowered the fifth-seeded Russian in the first set and then prevailed in an error-filled tiebreaker to improve her record to 7-0 in semifinals at the All England Club.

Her opponent in Saturday's final could be two-time champion Serena, who was next up on Centre Court to face 133rd-ranked Chinese wild-card entrant Zheng Jie.

It would be the first all-Williams final since 2003 when Serena beat Venus in the championship match for the second year in a row.

"I am dying for S. Williams to get through," said Venus, who will be going for her seventh Grand Slam title. "This is my seventh final here and I'm looking forward to playing Serena in our third final, and I'm going to be rooting her on."

Dementieva, playing in her first Wimbledon semifinal, looked nervous and was completely over-matched in the first set by Williams' sheer power and pace, but settled down and made it competitive in the second.

After Dementieva knocked a forehand into the net to end the 1 hour, 42 minute match, Venus skipped and hopped up and down with joy.

Venus hasn't dropped a set in five matches.

"It's so exciting," she said. "I lost serve once every match. That's pretty impressive, too. I'm looking forward to that final."

Venus' attacking game produced 28 winners and 19 unforced errors. The more defensive Dementieva had 12 winners and 22 errors.

Venus, the biggest server in

women's tennis, averaged 118 mph on first serves and had a fastest serve of 125 mph. Dementieva, known as one of the weakest servers in the game, averaged only 102 mph on first serves.

Dementieva was highly animated throughout the match, shrieking at the top of her voice and spinning around in frustration after errors.

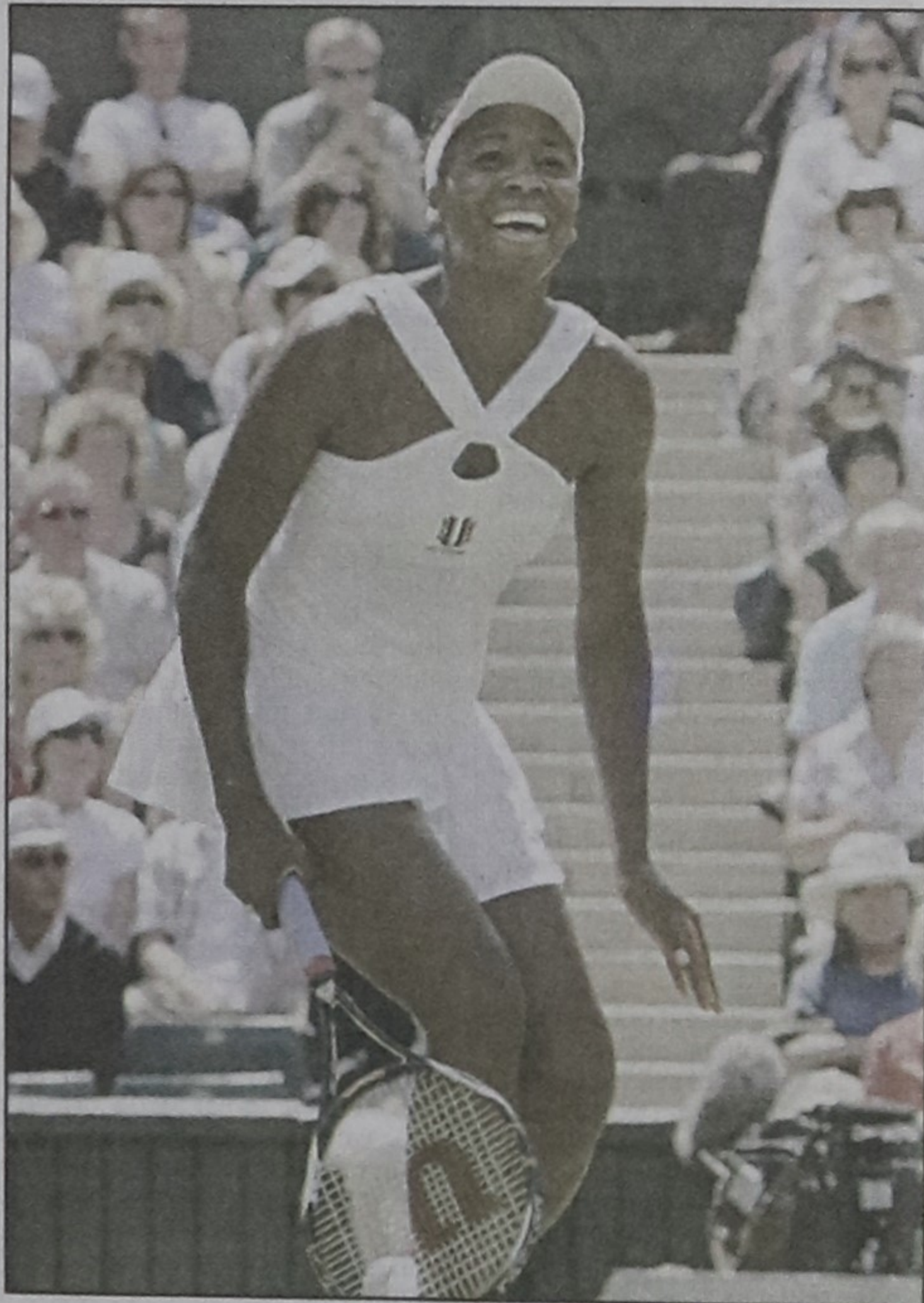
Venus broke immediately to open the match, saved four break points in the next game and moved to a 4-0 lead before Dementieva finally got on the board after 29

minutes of play. The Russian saved four break points in a game that went to deuce six times, but Venus quickly closed out the set, flying high for a putaway forehand volley smash.

Venus continued a run of four straight games and seemed ready to pull away. But Dementieva raised her level, broke for 2-1 on a forehand net cord and stayed even until 6-6.

Dementieva faded badly in the tiebreaker, however. After a service winner from Venus on the first

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American Venus Williams is all smiles during her Wimbledon semifinal against Russia's Elena Dementieva in London yesterday.

Mercurial they remain

CRICINFO, undated



What is it that makes the Pakistani cricketer tick? In this sport, it is among the most compelling questions, unanswered till now and probably never to be fully resolved. If you didn't know any better you'd think, from various results over the years, some strife, considerable friction within the side, a run of bad results and a boggling glut of off-field controversies spurs them on.

Pakistan had no business winning Wednesday and that too chasing 300-plus; perhaps this is precisely why they won. They have been poor in this tournament thus far, their bowling without sting, their batting uncertain. The future of at least one from captain and coach has been on the line.

The latter has been intent on making matters worse for himself. The former pulled out at the last minute, in typically tragi-comic circumstances after a rare public

announcement on Tuesday had confirmed his place in the playing XI; not that he has been particularly inspirational. But it was in the air on Tuesday at Pakistan's practice, this vague feeling that something might happen, even with this depleted side. Nobody could really articulate it, but it hung in the air.

It is a well-worn cliché, but Imran Khan was on to something when he spoke of cornered tigers. This is not quite the same stage but Pakistan's position in the tournament is as perilous. Their progress is still in other hands: if India wins against Sri Lanka on Thursday, Pakistan are out. However, if India loses, Pakistan will go through to the final if they beat Bangladesh.

One thing that makes sense is that Younis Khan was at the centre of this win, for he well represents Pakistan's mood swings. He is a difficult man to decipher: brave, committed, but also impulsive and tempestuous, his next move as difficult to predict as his last. One day he is magnificent, the next as frustrating. One day he wants the

captaincy, the next he doesn't. But when he clicks Pakistan does too, as Misbahul Haq pointed out later. He has been at the heart of Pakistan's last three big wins over India and twice he has organised chases over 300.

Significantly, a fresh debate will also begin now on Misbah's role. As disenchantment grows with Shoaib Malik's leadership, eyes move to the deputy and an emphatic triumph over India in trying circumstances is a sure way to speed up and heat up the debate. It is unwise to judge Misbah's leadership on one match alone, though understandably he was elated. "I enjoyed it a lot. The pressure is always there as a professional cricketer and you just have to face these difficulties."

And it was no surprise that the first question asked of him later, mischievously, was what the future held for the man he replaced. "Malik has performed well in this tournament and his place remains," Misbah straight-batted

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INDIA-SRI LANKA SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard after the Sri Lankan innings in the Asia Cup Super League match against India at the National Stadium in Karachi on Thursday:

SRI LANKA				
Jayasuriya c Dhoni b Ishant	43			
Sangakkara c Dhoni b Ishant	7			
Jayawardene c Gambhir b Ojha	50			
Kapugedera lbw b Kumar	75			
Silva run out	50			
Dilshan c RP Singh b Pathan	15			
Weeraratne c Gambhir b RP Singh	23			
Thushara run out	23			
Kulasekera not out	6			
Muralidaran not out	1			
Extras: (b-1, lb-11, w-3)	15			
Total: (For 8 wks in 50 overs)	308			
Did not bat: Fernando				

Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-71, 3-149, 4-217, 5-245, 6-263, 7-287, 8-307

Bowler	O	M	R	W
RP Singh	10	1	44	1
Ishant	10	0	55	2
Pathan	10	0	80	1
Kumar	6	0	36	1
Ojha	10	0	55	1
Schwag	3	0	22	0
Rohit	1	0	4	0

INDIA: Dhoni, Sehwag, Gambhir, Yuvraj, Rohit, Raina, Pathan, Ojha, RP Singh, Ishant, Kumar

Toss: Sri Lanka.

Umpires: Simon Taufel and Brian Jerling.

Countrywide U-18 soccer camp on

SPORTS REPORTER

The special project of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) to find a stock of under-18 footballers will be on full swing from today.

The programme, jointly organised by the BFF and the district Football Associations, has already started on July 1 but all the coaches have yet to start their jobs at the respective districts.

The 14 coaches under the BFF payroll will run coaching camps in 28 districts this month with each coach being assigned two districts.

Over 2000 players are expected to join the trials and the selected 800 (approximately) will take part in the two-week long camps.

The BFF will later run the programme centrally, in Dhaka, with the promising footballers.

The caps, however, will continue in different phases to cover all the 64 districts.

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Stamps to observe Beijing Olympics

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Post Office will release four commemorative stamps on the occasion of the 29th Olympic Games to be held in Beijing August 8-24 this year.

Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser for Post and Telecommunications Ministry Brigadier General MA Malek (retd) will release the commemorative stamps on Sunday at 11am at a function at the conference room of Postal Bhaban.

Post and Telecommunications Secretary Iqbal Mahmud will be present as special guest.

The four stamps valued at Tk 10, 15, 20 and 25 along with the first day cover valued at Tk 8, will go on sale Sunday at the country's four General Post Offices (GPOs).

Aktel boost for BFF

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Cellular phone operating house Aktel has showed interest to become Bangladesh Football Federation's (BFF) partner in progress.

The newly elected executive committee of the federation, looking for sponsors to meet the high expenses of leading its office to professionalism as well as running the game countrywide, has been in talks with several leading business houses and Aktel's visit to the BFF Bhaban yesterday could be a giant step towards fulfilling its goal.

Aktel's CEO and MD Jefri Ahmed Tambi met BFF president Kazi Salahuddin and other high-ups for initial talks and Salahuddin said that the discussion was fruitful.

"I believe that Aktel will be partners with us. It would take

some time to work out the details but a few more meetings with them will take us to agreement soon," said the BFF chief.

"We need fund to run the activities and Aktel is likely to be our sponsors for many tournaments."

Salahuddin said he is eying the mobile phone house to become their sponsors for the B. League, Federation Cup, the National Championship and school and district leagues.

"Even if they do not support all the events we have lined up for them, they are certain to do the major ones."

"The Aktel MD, who will be abroad and returns home on July 14, has already instructed his office to learn about our programmes."

The lack of activities in the last few years has already forced some of the BFF sponsors to turn back from football but Salahuddin said he would try to convince them to rejoin the federation.

"I have some new names (of

sponsors) in hand and hope to strike deals with them as well," added the former national footballer, whose first target is to sign a deal for the Federation Cup, which kicks-off the domestic season on July 31.

"Whatever I sell, I am not going to sell cheap. It has been done in the past but not now," he commented referring to the curtain raiser event.

It can be mentioned that the Prime Bank has already promised to support the BFF for the B. League and another major competition.

"Football is a very popular game and we are very much interested to be involved with it. We are looking to make the collaboration with the BFF," said Tambi after the meeting.

Bidyut Kumar Basu, chief commercial officer of Aktel, said after the initial discussion that they were hoping to be a partner of football.

"Aktel will feel proud if it is involved with the new-look football federation," said Basu.

ICC still undecided

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

The ICC board meeting will reconvene for an unscheduled third day on Friday to take up the Zimbabwe issue, with today's discussions failing to reach any conclusion.

Most of the second day of its annual conference in Dubai was spent tackling the issue of Zimbabwe's status within the ICC. Lunch was delayed by an hour as cricket's most powerful officials sought to reach a consensus. "We are right in the middle of the issue," one official present at the discussion told Cricinfo, "but nothing has

been decided yet."

The Zimbabwe issue was taken up after the board discussed the security report on Pakistan -- with respect to the Champions Trophy later this year -- and saw various official presentations.

Zimbabwe's status in the ICC was not officially discussed on Wednesday, though it dominated the talk on the sidelines. A compromise is believed to have been identified -- that Zimbabwe stay out of the World Twenty20 to be held in England next year but retain its Full Member status -- but did not gain acceptance among the various board representatives gathered at the Westin Hotel.

There can be three different possible scenarios of resolutions. If

Zimbabwe are allowed to participate, The UK government is likely to act on its threat to bar the team entry into the country. The tournament will be moved elsewhere but England -- maybe Australia and New Zealand too -- may refuse to participate. Shifting the tournament will entail a loss of £10 million for their inability to host the tournament on political grounds.

If Zimbabwe are not allowed to participate, they will protest that by saying they have the sporting credentials to participate.

There is a strong possibility for the matter to be put on vote. If that happens, whatever the resolution, it will need seven votes out of the ten Full Members -- though that

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Tigers play Pakistan today

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh have a chance to spoil Pakistan's chances of making it to the final when they play their last Asia Cup Super League match at the Karachi National Stadium yesterday.

If Bangladesh upset Pakistan, it will not matter what happens in Thursday's crucial match as both India and Sri Lanka would make it to the final with higher points tally.

But if India lose to Sri Lanka and Pakistan beat Bangladesh, Pakistan go through. This scenario will have

both India and Pakistan tied at four points, but Pakistan would head into the final by virtue of more wins in the Super Four stage.

If either of the India-Sri Lanka or Pakistan-Bangladesh games is tied or has a no-result, then Pakistan won't be able to catch up with India on points, and will be out of the final.

But the match could end up becoming inconsequential if India beat Sri Lanka.

The Tigers have so far had a poor tournament as they could muster only one victory, that too against United Arab Emirates in their opening first round match. But individually and especially the batsmen, the

Tigers have done well.

Captain Mohammad Ashraful and comeback man Alok Kapali have both notched up centuries while almost every top-order batsmen have made some sort of mark in the tournament. Tamim Iqbal made a couple of half-centuries while Rokibul Hasan remained consistent. Nazimuddin made 40 against Sri Lanka in the Tigers' last outing and confirmed that his place will not go up for grabs with left-handers Shahriar Nafees and Mehrab Hossain waiting in the wings.

But a change in bowling can be a reality as Mosharraf Hossain could be given a chance.



Bangladesh vice-captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (R) runs up to bowl as teammate Shahadat Hossain returns to his mark during a training session at the National Bank of Pakistan ground in Karachi yesterday.