

## Bangladesh humbled

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh hockey team finished a miserable tour in Russia as they suffered a 6-3 defeat against hosts Russia in the place-deciding match of the four-nation invitational international hockey tournament yesterday.

In the group-phase match Bangladesh lost to the same opponents 4-2. The hosts came from behind to hold the visitors 2-2 in the first half.

Jimmy, Manik and Rana scored one goal apiece.

They had earlier lost 6-2 to Canada and 8-0 to South Africa.

Bangladesh is scheduled to return home today.

## Prasanna in doubt for first Test

CRICINFO, undated

Sri Lankan wicketkeeper Prasanna Jayawardene is likely to miss the first Test against Pakistan starting on Saturday in Galle after picking up a finger injury during a practice game. The team's physiotherapist Ranjith Nanayakkarasam indicated that the injury might need at least two weeks to heal.

"We are going to have a review on him on Monday and will take a final decision whether he could play or not," Nanayakkarasam told the Daily Mirror. "Some players get healed rather quickly, and he might be fit by Monday."

If the 29-year-old specialist wicket keeper is deemed unfit on Monday, the selectors would call up either Kausar Silva or Chamara Kapugedera, depending on captain Kumar Sangakkara's willingness to don the wicketkeeping gloves.

If Sangakkara does agree, Kapugedera is likely to get the nod as an extra batsman, otherwise Silva, the 23-year old Sinhalese Sports Club wicketkeeper-batsman, is likely to earn his maiden Test cap.

## Steffen sets new swim WR

AFP, Berlin

Double Olympic champion Britta Steffen of Germany set a new world record for the women's 100 metres freestyle here on Saturday with a time of 52.56sec.

That bettered the previous record of 52.85sec which she set Thursday also at the German National Championships.

Steffen took gold in both the 50 metres and 100 metres freestyle at last year's Beijing Olympics, Germany's first at the Olympics since 1992. She also took four gold medals at the 2006 European Championships.

## Vaughan

FROM PAGE 17  
Vaughan is highly likely to remain close to the action this summer, however, as he is sure to be welcomed straight into the Sky commentary box, alongside his former teammates and fellow England captains, Mike Atherton and Nasser Hussain, and his most formidable Ashes foe, Shane Warne.

## Veterans on

FROM PAGE 17  
Juan Carlos Ferrero justified his wildcard by beating Chilean 10th seed Fernando Gonzalez 4-6, 7-5, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 in a match completed under threatening dark skies on Court One.

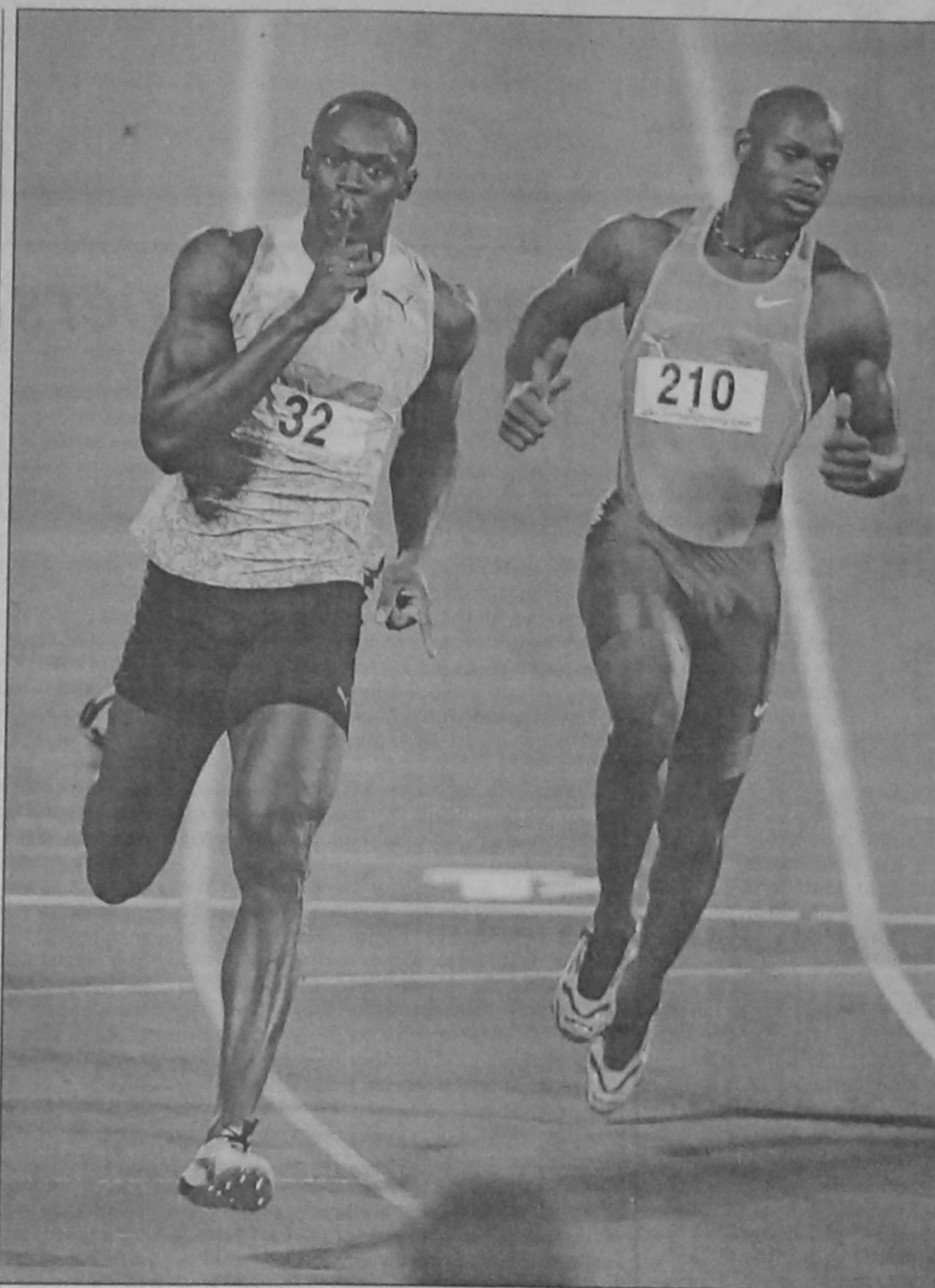
As a precaution, Centre Court's 80-million-pound roof was rolled out in readiness if the match had to be shifted off its neighbouring arena.

In the end, it wasn't required and the much-discussed roof still waits for its competitive bow.



## Did U Know?

The last married woman to win the Wimbledon women's singles title was Chris Evert Lloyd in 1981.



Olympic champion Usain Bolt (L) of Jamaica crosses the finish line on way to winning 100m final in the Jamaican Athletics Championships at the National Stadium in Kingston on Sunday.

## Pietersen ready for Johnson

CRICINFO, undated

The Ashes have not yet begun but the duel between England's best batsman and Australia's fastest bowler already has. Kevin Pietersen said he would welcome the short-pitched tactics proposed by Mitchell Johnson during the week, and added that Australia's "big all-rounder" could struggle in English conditions.

Johnson previously sought to apply the blow-torch to Pietersen by stating: "Is he vulnerable? I think there's definitely going to be a lot of pressure on him, so we'll look to get him as cheaply as you can."

Typically, Pietersen brought his on-field swagger when replying to Johnson's statements. "It's going to be difficult for him, tough for him," Pietersen said. "There's obviously all the pressure on his shoulders now, he's Australia's best player, Australia's big all-rounder. We'll wait and see how that tag goes down with him."

"I played against him in India, South Africa and Melbourne. He's improved a lot, and he's a good cricketer. But bowling on wickets in Australia and

South Africa is a totally different story to bowling on wickets here in England. There are a few bowlers out there who know that the faster you bowl in England the further you go."

Johnson, who broke Graeme Smith's hand twice in recent series against South Africa, said he noticed how batsmen struggled against deliveries angled into the body. "We always talk about it, getting a nice one at the top of the badge. It's uncomfortable to get one in the ribs. That's something we'll think about nearer the time, depending on conditions."

Pietersen shrugged this off, saying he preferred a short-ball approach from Johnson. "Left-armers talking about bowling into your ribs is quite nice. It's when they start swinging it into your stumps it becomes a bit of a problem," he said. "There are plenty areas you can score, you can work it through midwicket, square leg, or fine leg, and on English wickets you can stand back and hook and pull from leg."

"So when bowlers start talking about the aggression side of things, which I don't believe is strictly true, it's just the Aussie way of talking. It's when you start talking of swinging and seaming and going for the stumps, that's a bit more threatening."

## Coach positive too

FROM PAGE 17

going to work against us."

But Siddons was honest and forthright about the problems of captaining and coaching a side like Bangladesh which supposedly has all the talent to be giant killers but got killed themselves by minnows Ireland.

"Bangladesh is a tough side to captain and coach as well. The captain does not have a [Shahid] Afridi to throw the ball to, doesn't have a [Sanath] Jayasuriya to go open the batting for him. No [Lasith] Malinga to bowl the last four overs. But we want to do well with whatever resources we have and I think this tour of West Indies is the time for it."

It was during Siddons's absence that the captaincy of Bangladesh team went into the hands of Mashrafe Bin Mortaza from his predecessor Mohammad Ashraful.

"I was the first person to propose to the board that Ashraful needs a break. Let's take the pressure off him. We all know what he is capable of and playing without the added pressure of captaincy will do him good. Mashrafe is a good choice a captain. He is a senior player in the side who has performed well for Bangladesh in the past."

He also said that although the captain is new but the players are still the same, which gives the team a new environment and welcomed the addition of assistant coach Khaled Mahmud.

"It will be nice to have another voice around as many of you remember I lost my assistant coach Sean Williams when I was first appointed, so I look forward to working together with Mahmud whom I will need to get to know better as we have just run into each other during a few practice

sessions."

Siddons's next assignment and his captain's first is the tour of West Indies next month. The team departs for the Caribbean tonight and their first stop will be Barbados where they play a practice match before their first Test match on July 9 at St. Vincent. And the Aussie believes that West Indies is an important tour for the Tigers and that the wickets and conditions there will suit us.

"The wickets in the West Indies will suit us. As I have seen in the past few home series of the West Indies the pitches have been flat and have turned from the third day onwards. It will suit our batsmen, medium-pacers and spinners, so there is plenty to look forward to on this tour."

Captain Mashrafe was positive on the eve of the Tigers' departure to the Caribbean saying that he wanted all his players to give their hundred per cent in every match regardless of the outcome.

"The first thing I said after becoming the captain is that we have a problem with our confidence level. It's not that we can't play at the international level, we have played Test matches for five days in the past and beaten international teams. However, there is no use dwelling on the past and I have spoken to the boys to believe in themselves and keep their confidence high throughout the tour. We all are confident at the moment and as the captain I expect my players to hold this confidence together and do well. I know we haven't played well in the World Twenty20 and if we start playing well from the first match we will go into the first Test match with a good momentum. As the captain I want all of them to give their

hundred per cent, win or loss comes secondary to it."

The Bangladesh team reach the Caribbean tomorrow for two Test matches and three ODIs along with one-off Twenty20 international.

## Aus A ride on McKay

CRICINFO, undated

Clint McKay record his first six-wicket haul in first-class cricket to keep Australia A on top after the third day against Pakistan A in Townsville. McKay, the Victorian fast bowler, grabbed a career-best 6 for 75 to ensure a handy first-innings lead for the home team.

At stumps, Australia A had reached 4 for 128 in their second innings with Cameron White on 21 and Tim Paine on 3. Wahab Riaz picked up two wickets to add to his five from the first innings but the visitors faced an uphill battle with one day to play.

McKay started the damage early by removing Azhar Ali for 78, having added only five to his overnight score. Fahad Iqbal (42) and Sarfraz Ahmed (56) steadied the Pakistan innings with a 75-run partnership before they fell in consecutive overs.

Although the Australians finished in a strong position they received some bad news with the fast bowler Burt Cockley ruled out of the second and final four-day match due to a gluteus medius tear. He will be replaced in the squad by the Tasmanian all-rounder Luke Butterworth.

## Another Bolt

AFP, Kingston

Beijing Olympic double sprint champion Usain Bolt won the 100 metres at the Jamaican Athletics Championships on Saturday in 9.86 seconds, the fastest wind-legal time in the world this year.

Bolt, running into a 0.2m/sec headwind and racing in lane four next to rival Asafa Powell, eased down with a finger across his lips at the finish as he booked a berth in the World Championships in August at Berlin.

"I am feeling good," Bolt said. "I am now looking forward to get into better shape."

Powell finished second in the showdown with his top rival in 9.97 with Michael Frater third in 10.02.

Bolt, who took control of the race from the 50-metre mark, said the "run showed that I am getting back into shape."

In the women's 100m, Shelly-Ann Fraser showed she has recovered from her appendix surgery in April by posting 10.88, the fastest wind-legal time in the world this year, into a 1.5m/sec headwind.

Kerron Stewart was second in 10.93 while Sheri-Ann Brooks was a distant third in 11.16.

In the 400m hurdles, Isa Phillips won the men's event in a world leading 48.05 while Olympic champion Melaine Walker took the women's, edging Kaliese Spencer at 54.70 by .01 of a second.

## Stosur on a high despite exit

AFP, London

Australia's Samantha Stosur is feeling in the form of her life, despite a Wimbledon run that failed to emulate her shock breakthrough to the French Open semi-finals.

A former doubles world number one with 24 titles to her name, Stosur insisted her decision to kick on with her singles game was paying dividends.

On a career-high ranking of 18 after reaching the semi-finals at Roland Garros, the 25-year-old is adamant that there is much more to come.

"It's definitely been my best year ever," the Australian number one told AFP.

"I've been a lot more consistent with my results and I think as far as my game goes, I've really taken it up a step and I feel a lot more confident when I'm out on the court, I know exactly what I'm doing."

"There's still things I want to work on but for sure this has been my best year."

Stosur went out of the Wimbledon singles in the third round, beaten 7-5, 6-2 on Saturday by 13th seed Ana Ivanovic.

Despite failing to match her French Open run, she is nonetheless thrilled with how her season is going.

"The third round compared to a semi-final is not great but it's the furthest I've ever got at Wimbledon so it's something to be happy with," the Brisbane-born right-hander said.

## 'I'm no alcoholic'

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Disgraced Australian all-rounder Andrew Symonds said Sunday he had been diagnosed as a binge-drinker, not an alcoholic, and had felt "caged in" as his celebrity status grew.

Symonds, 34, his international career in limbo after losing his Cricket Australia contract, was sent home from the World Twenty20 in England earlier this month after the latest in a series of alcohol-related indiscretions.

The controversial but highly talented cricketer said in a television interview here he understood why supporters were disappointed with how his international career had gone so badly off the rails.

"Still to this day I realise how lucky I am (to have played for Australia)," he said, adding

he had "desperately" wanted to play for his country.

He admitted he had a drink problem, but stopped short of saying he was an alcoholic.

"I would drink too much, too fast, too quickly," he said,



ANDREW SYMONDS

adding it would make him aggressive.

"I'm not an alcoholic, I've been diagnosed as a binge-

drinker."

He said he had felt the pressure of being an international cricketer for one of the world's top teams.

"I sit back now and I look at it and I think at some point I was going to blow, I was gonna bust. Whether it was now, or whether it was in two months' time."

Symonds said he broke an agreement not to drink outside the team environment when he got caught up in London watching on television the rugby league State of Origin opening game between New South Wales and Queensland.

"And for me, with Origin football, comes a few beers," said Symonds, a keen Queensland fan.

Symonds still has a year left to run on his lucrative Indian Premier League contract with the Deccan Chargers after he helped the Chargers win the Twenty20 title in South Africa last month.

## Younus for better IPL contracts

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Pakistan captain Younus Khan has asked his teammates to push for better Indian Premier League (IPL) contracts following their success in the World Twenty20. "These players are now world champions and highly marketable. There is a higher value to their performances," Younus said.

While many in the team turned out for their respective franchises in the inaugural season of the IPL in 2008, political tensions between India and Pakistan prevented them from playing in the second season. Younus, who played for Rajasthan Royals, noted, however, that top players like Kamran Akmal, Sohail Tanvir, Umar Gul and Misbahul Haq were now worth more than the 100,000-dollar contracts they had signed last year.

"Now the scenario is different. These players should talk to their agents in India and ask them to

go for a hike in price from the IPL franchises. I am happy if any of our players can be better packages in the IPL for next season," Younus said.

IPL commissioner Lalit Modi had said that after Pakistan's World Cup win he perceived no problems in the players returning to play in the IPL next year, provided both national governments were okay with it.

Eleven Pakistani players, including Shahid Afridi and Gul, the stars of Pakistan's World Twenty20 campaign, were recruited by the Kolkata, Rajasthan, Delhi, Hyderabad and Bangalore franchises before the inaugural IPL. However, the franchises opted to retain the contracts of only four of them -- Akmal and Tanvir (Rajasthan Royals), Misbah (Royal Challengers Bangalore) and Gul (Kolkata Knight Riders) -- after it became clear that they would not be able to play in the second season of the league.

Younus though, turned his back on the league after announcing his retirement from the Twenty20 format soon after Pakistan won the world event.

## Venus reveals secret

AFP, London



Venus Williams admits her seemingly unstoppable march towards a sixth Wimbledon title is being driven by the painful memory of the last time she dropped a set at the All England Club.

When Venus walks on court for her fourth round clash against Ana Ivanovic, the defending champion will be bidding to extend her winning streak on the south-west London grass courts to 18 matches.

Even more remarkable than that run, which stretches back to her defeat against Jelena Jankovic in 2006, is Venus's record of winning 29 consecutive sets dating back to a third round match against Japan's Akiko Morigami in 2007.

Morigami is the last player to seriously threatened Venus's reign as the queen of Wimbledon.

Although the Japanese eventually lost 6-2, 3-6, 7-5, she came within touching distance of eliminating the America after taking a 5-3 lead in the final set.

In a match played over two days due to rain, Williams got into trouble with 14 double faults and 42 unforced errors but emerged unscathed thanks to her bloody-minded refusal to accept defeat.

"That was an intense match and she was playing so well," Venus recalled. "She played long groundstrokes. I just remember playing very

aggressive from 3-5, just returning aggressively."

"When the chips are down, I start to force the issue even more. Usually it works. You live and learn. I attribute it to that match."

The way she ground out that win showed Venus that no situation is completely hopeless and she has never looked back. Two successive Wimbledon titles followed and a third is well within her reach.

If she does lift the aptly named Venus Rosewater Dish again this year, Venus will become the first woman to complete a hat-trick of Wimbledon titles since Steffi Graf in 1993.

She would also move within one title of Graf's total of seven and within three of record holder Martina Navratilova. Yet Venus insists thoughts of writing her name in the Wimbledon history books rarely entered her head.

"No, I don't think about it. But each one that I can manage to get, it's all mine, that's the good part about it," she said.

To achieve her goal this year, Venus will have to get past former French Open champion Ivanovic, the 13th seed, who she defeated easily in the 2007 semi-finals.

"We had a lot of great exchanges. I just remember playing aggressively," Venus said of that match.

"Obviously she's talented. I think this is a good surface for her. As far as her game she does everything well."

"I definitely feel calm and I know what I need to execute on the court. I feel good."

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	50 Means of betrayal	7 Love not wisely but	28 Reveal
1 Bill	55 "— Got a Secret"	8 Park	29 Sand-
4 Garden intruder	56 Needle case	9 Spoon-	wich
8 Cougar	57 Sharpen	bender	treat
12 Exist	58 Fresh	Geller	30 Picture
13 Bullets and such	59 Flex	10 Witticism	of health?
14 Un-	60 On the —	11 Whatever	31 Eli's
yielding	(unfriend-	amount	campus
15 Meadow	ly)	17 Charged	35 1960s
16 Country quaint-	61 See	bit	T-shirt
ness	43-Across	19 Kimono	patterns
18 Yuletide rendition	DOWN	closer	38 Wan
20 A billion years	1 Body powder	22 Chan-	40 Book-
21 Conks on the noggin	2 Vicinity	teuse	keeper
24 Halos	3 Tolerate	Edith	(Abbr.)
28 Poison level	4 Spelling whiz?	23 Scatter about	42 Main-
32 Witty one	5 Ostrich's kin	25 Creche	lander's
33 Mess up	6 Ambu-	trio	memento
34 Gold measure	lance abbr.	26 Unruly	45 Vocal
36 Cowboy's sweetie		kid	come-
37 Bound		27 Without	back
39 Kerri Russell series		doing	47 Galva-
41 Trust-		anything	nizing
worthy			48 Eternally
43 Shed tears			49 Moist,
44 Shelter			in the
46 In a stunned state			morning

Solution time: 21 mins.

FEUD	AVON	CAD
EASE	MENU	RUE
BRACKETED	ANN	
RENO	NASTY	
GREEN	SIGHTED	
RILE	JACKETED	
ICE	REBUS	ERA
POCKETED	PSST	
TICS	LATTE	
DELITY	PIETER	
ILLO	CRICKETED	
MAN	LEEK	NODE
ENS	EDDY	TOON

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
28	29	30					31		32	
33				34			35		36	
37		38		39					40	
41			42		43					
		44		45			46		47	48
50	51	52			53	54			55	
56					57				58	
59					60				61	

## CRYPTOQUIP

J G S Y M K I H L M G K Z J M Z  
I J Y N L F L X B H M M N S H J N L  
W M K U J R E F B S W F E L W V L S X  
S B F X J N J Z R X L B L U V H S Z Y L  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SUPPOSING A  
MEDIEVAL TENANT OWNED TWO SHIPS, I GUESS  
ONE COULD CALL THEM THE VASSAL'S VESSELS.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals Y