

Fernando blow for Lanka

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka suffered a setback on Wednesday when fast bowler Dilhara Fernando was ruled out of the home one-day series against world champions Australia due to a back injury.

Team physiotherapist Paul Klarenaar said the paceman would not be able to bowl for four weeks as the scans had shown that he had a stress fracture on the right side of his lower back.

Australia arrive in Sri Lanka on February 14 for five one-day internationals and three Test matches. The one-day series begins with a day-night match at Dambulla on February 20.

Fernando, 24, played a big role in his team's series-clinching victory over Michael Vaughan's England in December, bagging four wickets in the third and final Test at Colombo. The first two Tests were drawn.

The nippy paceman has so far grabbed 73 one-day and 37 Test wickets. His absence means that seasoned left-arm seamer Chaminda Vaas will be without an effective new-ball partner against Australia.

Sri Lanka, meanwhile, named leg-spinner Kaushal Lokuarachchi among 25 probables for the one-day series.

The spinner returns after serving a four-month disciplinary ban following his involvement in a car accident. The hosts are expected to rely on spin to trap the Australians on slow pitches, having included as many as six specialist spinners among the one-day probables.

Sri Lanka beat Steve Waugh's Australians 1-0 in the last home Test series in 1999.

PROBABLES
Marvan Atapattu (captain), Sanath Jayasuriya, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Upul Chandana, Chaminda Vaas, Murali Muralitharan, Kumar Dharmasena, Nuwan Kulasekara,

Saman Jayanatha, Avishka Gunawardena, Russel Arnold, Chamara Silva, Kaushal Lokuarachchi, Rangana Herath, Nuwan Zoysa, Dinusha Fernando, Chamila Gamage, Charitha Buddhika, Dinuka Hettiarachchi, Thilina Kandamby, Darshana Gamage, Ruchira Perera.

SCHEDULE
Feb 14: Arrival
Feb 17: One-day practice game at Moratuwa
Feb 20: First one-dayer at Dambulla (D/N)
Feb 22: Second one-dayer at Dambulla
Feb 25: Third one-dayer at Colombo (D/N)
Feb 27: Fourth one-dayer at Colombo (D/N)
Feb 29: Fifth one-dayer at Colombo
Mar 2-4: Three-day practice match at Colombo
Mar 8-12: First Test at Galle
Mar 16-20: Second Test at Kandy
Mar 24-28: Third Test at Colombo

Satkhira cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Nalta Sharif Cricket Ekadas became champions in the Siraj Smriti Cricket Tournament defeating Noapara Jagarani Sangha by 84 runs at the Nalta High School ground last Saturday.

Batting first Nalta Sharif Ekadas scored 178- 5 in the stipulated 25 overs and in reply Noapara Jagarani Sangha were all out for 94 in 20.5 overs.

Tigers sweep

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secured the series against the minnows when they took an unsalable 2-0 lead.

Ashraf, Test cricket's youngest centurion, was the highest scorer (67 off 97) as Bangladesh made a moderate 204 for 7 after being put in. Manjarul also chipped in with a valuable 44 not out.

Manjarul completed a brilliant all-round show as he and opening bowler Tapash Baishya evenly shared six wickets to restrict Namibia to 193 runs for eight.

Max

FROM PAGE 13
super league matches, the semifinals and final.

State-run Bangladesh Television (BTV) will show the opening ceremony live from the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) on February 10 and has reportedly struck a deal with SetMax to cover the nine matches also.

Nafees

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Pacer Rajib claimed four wickets for 13 runs in seven overs while new ball bowler Nazmul Hossain captured three for 24 in nine overs as Nepal were routed for 94 in 29.3 overs.

The only disappointment for the home side was paceman Talha Jubair giving away 37 runs in four overs without success.

Both teams will meet again today at the same venue. The third and final practice match is on February 7.

SCORES IN BRIEF
BANGLADESH U-19: 285/6 in 50 overs (Nafees 101, Naem 13, Aftab 48, Nazimuddin 37, Ashiqur Rahman 31, Dhiman 44 n.o., Nadif Chowdhury 0, Talha 4 n.o., Lakpa Lama 2-60)
NEPAL U-19: 94/10 in 29.3 overs (Kanishka 26, Shakti 13, Paras 12, Nazmul 3-24, Rajib 4-13, Nadif 1-10, Enamul Jr 1-7)
Result: Bangladesh Under-19 won 191 runs.

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Safin was asked after the final how Federer compared with the great Sampras.

"Yeah, they have some kind of same things. I don't want to take anything away from Pete. I mean, mentally, he was the strongest player on the tour. He has the biggest serve in the world, has an unbelievable forehand and very good hands in the volley," he said.

"But sometimes, he was missing a little bit (on) the backhand. So Roger, he had everything – and a backhand."

Federer only dropped two sets in seven matches on his way to the Australian title, prompting the question about whether he could carry off a calendar-year Grand Slam of the four majors.

"I really have no idea what it



PHOTO: AFP

Switzerland's Roger Federer holds up the Australian Open men's singles trophy while standing next to a cardboard cut-out of himself in Melbourne.

Hail King Federer

Australian Open
AFP, Melbourne

The tennis world was acclaiming Roger Federer's further confirmation as the game's leading player after his straight sets execution of Marat Safin in the Australian Open final.

Federer capped a momentous fortnight when he put the unseeded Russian, the 2000 US Open champion, to the sword 7-6, 6-4, 6-2 in 2hr 15min Sunday.

Safin had conquered former world number one Andy Roddick and four-time champion Andre Agassi on the way to the final, but he could not match the virtuosity of the 22-year-old Swiss ace.

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"I really have no idea what it

takes, but I feel like not many guys can do it," Federer said.

"If there is anybody (who thinks that way) I would like them to step forward, say they can do it, because I think it's really difficult.

"You know, I'm the only guy who has a chance this year to do it, so that's not a bad situation. We'll see what happens after the French Open."

Only two men, American Don Budge and Australian Rod Laver, have completed Grand Slam sweeps.

Federer, without a coach since late last year, was the class act of the fortnight, disposing of bogeymen Lleyton Hewitt, David Nalbandian and Juan Carlos Ferrero, before reducing Safin to a head-shaking, desolated figure as his power serve deserted him.

Asked if he had the most complete game, Federer, the first Swiss man to win the Australian Open, said: "I'm maybe the most natural ball-striker, but just for me, my game feels natural."

"I feel like I'm living the game when I'm out there. I feel when a guy is going to hit the ball, I know exactly with the angles and spins, I just feel that I've got that figured out. And that is just a huge advantage."

Federer has won Wimbledon, the Tennis Masters Cup and now the Australian Open in the space of seven months as well as usurping American Andy Roddick as the new world number one.

Federer took over as world number one after crushing Spanish third seed Juan Carlos Ferrero in straight sets in the semifinals.

Safin, who had equalled the record for number of sets played in a single Grand Slam during his run to the final, said his exertions in earlier

rounds had taken their toll.

"I was a little bit too tired to keep up with him. I had to be there from the beginning to the end," Safin said.

"But after I lost the first set it was difficult because he became more confident and it was difficult to keep up with him."

But Safin left the tournament with the big scalps of former world number one Andy Roddick and four-time champion Andre Agassi in the semifinal.

In the match of the tournament, Safin scaled the heights to end Agassi's unconquered 26-match reign at the Australian Open with a classic five-set semifinal victory.

Safin won the opening two sets in tiebreakers of unbearable tension and then weathered a determined Agassi rally to come back and win an epic match, 7-6, 7-6, 5-7, 1-6, 6-3 in 3hr 42min.

Safin's tour de force win ended 33-year-old Agassi's quest for five Australian Open titles and was the American's first loss here since going down to compatriot Vince Spadea in the round of 16 in the 1999 Slam.

He also downed Roddick with a pulsating five-set quarterfinal, but those Herculean efforts cost him in the end.

Australian hopes fizzled on the national day holiday when Moroccan Hicham Arazi humiliated Mark Philippoussis in straight sets and later in the night match Federer doused the competitive fire of Lleyton Hewitt with a spectacular four-set performance.

Davenport breezes

Tennis

AFP, Tokyo

Lindsay Davenport opened her defence of the Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament title Wednesday



PHOTO: AFP

Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia reacts after winning a point in her match against Russian Maria Sharapova at the Pan Pacific Open tournament in Tokyo yesterday.

Martina, Leander's final heartbreak

REUTERS, Melbourne

Martina Navratilova plans to play in the last three Grand Slam tournaments this year before finally ending her illustrious career.

The 47-year-old American said she had played her last tournament in Australia after she and Leander Paes were beaten 6-1, 7-6 by Nenad Zimonjic and Elena Bovina in the Australian Open mixed doubles final on Sunday.

"I just wanted to go out on a winning note," said Navratilova, the winner of 18 Grand Slam singles titles.

"Losing in the final really stinks. I'm not saying goodbye to Australia, I'm just saying goodbye to tennis here."

The American, who began playing on the women's tour in 1973, has also won a staggering 173 women's doubles titles and nine mixed doubles Grand Slam crowns.

Navratilova and Paes, who was playing his first tournament since being sidelined with a brain abscess last August, were the defending mixed doubles champions in Melbourne.

The pair also triumphed at Wimbledon last July before Paes was struck down by an illness first thought to be cancer.

"I had a great run here. In August we were wondering if he was going to be alive, so let's count our blessings," Navratilova said of her 30-year-old partner.

Serbian Zimonjic and Russian Bovina broke both Navratilova and Paes' serves as they raced through the first set in 23 minutes.

Navratilova and Paes forced the second set to a tiebreaker, where Zimonjic and Bovina quickly opened a 6-1 lead before taking the decider 7-3 to win their first title together.

After her retirement, Navratilova hopes to work in the media and wants to get involved in tennis administration. "I'd like to do some TV work. It's much easier talking about it than doing it," she said.

"I'd also like to get involved in the game at the political level."

Kapil

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"I am young and want to be strong, so that I can become a fast bowler for India," replied Kapil.

"Forget it," scoffed Tarapore. "No extra helpings for you or anyone. I know a fast bowler when I see one."

Kapil, who made his international debut two years later in 1978, ended up as one of cricket's leading all-rounders with a then world record tally of 434 wickets in 131 Tests and 5,248 runs.

On Tuesday evening, Kapil, 45, returned to the CCI to give a pep talk to the Indian under-19 team that will take part in the Youth World Cup to be held in Bangladesh later this month.

Kapil, whose many business interests include owning a hotel in hometown Chandigarh, related the incident to his young listeners.

As the session ended and the group walked over to the dinner table, a club official brought Kapil a plateful of chapatis.

"You can have as many as you want, sir," the official said.

"I will," replied a bemused Kapil, "but please don't forget these young kids also. They need them more than me now."

Tarapore, who played just one first-class match but was a renowned coach, died in 2001.

Proteas

FROM PAGE 13
though, Ngam was diagnosed with a stress fracture of the right thigh. Since then, it has been a litany of injury woes, two operations on his right shoulder and a total of five stress fractures. He would no sooner make a comeback than he would be put out of action again.

This season, a special diet and patient rehabilitation seem to have worked. Ngam has played for Eastern Province throughout the domestic season, which started in October. Initially coach Kepler Wessels, the former Test captain, ensured that Ngam bowled in short spells and he was told not to try to bowl too fast.

Gradually he has built up his pace, although experts are not convinced that he has recovered the blistering speed that saw him timed at 150kmh when he was first picked for South Africa.

ONE-DAY SQUAD: Graeme Smith (captain), Mark Boucher, Nicky Boje, Boeta Dippenaar, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Lance Klusener, Albie Morkel, Mfuneko Ngam, Andre Nel, Makhaya Ntini, Robin Peterson, Shaun Pollock, Ashwell Prince, Jacques Rudolph.

TEST SQUAD: Dippenaar, Prince, Peterson and Klusener will be replaced by Paul Adams, Gary Kirsten, Neil McKenzie and Martin van Jaarsveld.

Zim make India sweat

FROM PAGE 13

The agony worsened two balls later when fellow opener Tatenda Taibu was out for a first ball duck with Pathan trapping him leg-before to leave the Africans two wickets down with just one run on the board.

Pathan struck yet again in the seventh over, tempting Ebrahim to hang out his bat to a rising delivery which he too edged to Laxman.

Zimbabwe's poor going was highlighted by the fact that it was the 11th over before the first boundary of the day was hit a four to Stuart Carlisle through mid-wicket.

Carlisle and Sean Ervine launched a mini-fightback for Zimbabwe, adding 63 runs to the total but it was not enough.

Stuart Matsikinyeri offered some unexpected resistance with his top score of the tour of 36 from 48 balls before he was caught behind by stand-in captain Rahul Dravid off the bowling of Bhandari.

India now travels to Melbourne for its first of the best-of-three finals matches against Australia while Zimbabwe will head for home tomorrow.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the triangular international series one-day cricket match between India and Zimbabwe at the Western Australian Cricket Association ground on Tuesday:

ZIMBABWE
Sibanda c Laxman b Pathan 0
Taibu lbw b Pathan 0
Ebrahim c Laxman b Pathan 7

Carlisle run out (Yuvraj) 28
Ervine c (sub) Kartik b Bhandari 23
Streak c Laxman b Balaji 6
Matsikinyeri c Dravis b Bhandari 36
Friend c Gavaskar b Bhadani 1
Blignaut c Sehwal b Nehra 2
Price c Laxman b Pathan 0
Mahwire not out 8
Extras: (lb-9, w-15) 24
Total: (All out in 34.4 overs) 135
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-1, 3-11, 4-74, 5-79, 6-85, 7-103, 8-114, 9-115

Bowler **O** **M** **R** **W**
Pathan 10 1 24 4
Balaji 10 1 32 1
Nehra 7 1 39 1
Bhandari 7.4 4 31 3

INDIA

Sehwal c Matsikinyeri b Blignaut 23
Tendulkar c Taibu b Streak 3
Laxman b Ervine 32
Dravid b Blignaut 10
Yuvraj c Friend b Ervine 4
Badani not out 34
Gavaskar run out (Matsikinyeri) 4
Pathan not out 3

Extras: (lb-6, w-15, nb-2) 23
Total: (For 6 wks in 30.3 overs) 136
Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-34, 3-61, 4-73, 5-105, 6-115
Did not bat: Balaji, Bhandari, Nehra

Bowler **O** **M** **R** **W**
Streak 7 0 36 1
Blignaut 10 0 41 2
Ervine 8.3 2 29 2
Friend 5 0 24 0
Result: India won by 4 wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Irfan Pathan.
Toss: Zimbabwe.

Kallis spree not enough

FROM PAGE 13

Sunday's innings took his total in the one-day contests to 222 for once out, including an unbeaten century in the first match in Cape Town.

Big-hitting Lance Klusener joined Kallis in an unbeaten fifth wicket stand of 107 off 93 balls, hitting 41 not out off 38 deliveries.

Kallis was on 94 at the start of the final over, bowled by Corey Collymore but although he faced four balls in the over he could add only one more run. He made his 95 off 97 deliveries with seven fours and a six.

The West Indies added to their problems by sending down 12 no-balls and eight wides.

The wides cost a total of 14 runs, with two extra being scored off one from Gayle and Sarwan's first delivery, well down the leg-side, going for an additional four. Off-spinner Ryan Hurley bowled an astonishing six no-balls and Gayle two.

But the momentum swung as early as the second over of the West

Indian reply when Gayle slammed Nel over long-off for six, before hitting Nel for 4, 6, 4 off successive balls in the fourth over.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard in the fourth one-day international between South Africa and the West Indies at Centurion Park on Sunday:

SOUTH AFRICA
Smith b Gayle 46
Gibbs c Smith b Dillon 18
Peterson c Gayle b Rampaul 36
Kallis not out 95
Dippenaar b Sarwan 30
Klusener not out 41
Extras: (lb-5, nb-12, w-14) 31
Total: (For 4 wks in 50 overs) 297
Fall of wickets: 1-53, 2-108, 3-124, 4-190
Did not bat: Rudolph, Boucher, Pollock, Ntini, Nel

Bowler **O** **M** **R** **W**
Dillon 9 0 58 1
Collymore 10 0 52 0
Hurley 10 0 65 0
Gayle 10 0 53 1
Rampaul 9 0 49 1

Sarwan 2 0 15 1

WEST INDIES

Gayle c Peterson b Pollock 26
C'paul c Boucher b Pollock 92
Powell b Kallis 34
Sarwan not out 77
Lara not out 59
Extras: (b-4, lb-3, w-5) 12
Total: (For 3 wks in 45 overs) 300
Falls of wickets: 1-31, 2-92, 3-200
Did not bat: Smith, Jacobs, Hurley, Dillon, Rampaul, Collymore

Bowler **O** **M** **R** **W**
Pollock 10 0 40 2
Nel 6 0 63 0
Ntini 7 0 51 0
Kallis 7 0 37 1
Klusener 8 0 51 0
Peterson 6 0 45 0
Smith 1 0 6 0

Result: West Indies won by 7 wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Shivnarine Chanderpaul.
Toss: South Africa.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Satisfied
5 Diploma
8 Like some
12 Get a
13 Caviar,
14 Take on
15 Dressing
17 Glenn, in
18 Kiddle-
19 Clingy
21 Whopper
22 Angel's
23 Long
25 "CSI"
26 With one
31 Eastern
33 Shril
35 Responsi-
36 Aviator
38 Rotation
40 Asian
41 Applaud
43 Alterna-
45 Burning
47 V-shaped
51 Harvest-
52 Poppy-
54 Elmo's
55 Erstwhile
56 Across-
57 Connors'
58 "What did
59 Group of
61 Libretto
62 Oklahoma
63 Columist
64 Kucpinct
65 Kitten's
66 "— Blue?"
67 Shelf
68 covering
69 material
70 Succor
71 Shuffle-
72 board
73 Eager
74 Mephis-
75 topholes
76 Offspring
77 — polloi
78 Perry's
79 secretary
80 Rug
81 cleaner
82 Rem-
83 brand's
84 acorn
85 supply
86 money
87 legend,
88 fans
89 Egg part
90 Mexican
91 Saw
92 things?
93 Official
94 proceed-
95 ings
96 Family biz
97 abbr.
98 Links
99 call
100 Layer
101 Coaster
102 Dundee
103 denial

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 49 50
51 52 53
54 55 56
57 58 59

CRYPTOQUIP

F U F Y B N T B Q R Z Y
K Z R A D A Q F V R R M T B U , Z
K F U L Y Z O L B J M O L F J Z V Z B X
R C R B F A D D B N B X L A F R Z C Y .
Yesterday's Cryptquip: RECENT FILM ABOUT A MONSTROUS FIGURE IN A FAMOUS BIBLICAL GARDEN: "BEAST OF EDEN."
Today's Cryptquip Clue: B equals E
The Cryptquip 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.