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 daynight match at Dambulla on February

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

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

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

pace, although experts are not

convinced that he has recovered the

blistering speed that saw him timed

at 150kmh when he was first picked

Smith (captain), Mark Boucher,

Nicky Boje, Boeta Dippenaar,

Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis,

Lance Klusener, Albie Morkel,

Mfuneko Ngam, Andre Nel,

Makhava Ntini. Robin Peterson.

Shaun Pollock, Ashwell Prince,

TEST SQUAD: Dippenaar,

Prince, Peterson and Klusener will

be replaced by Paul Adams, Gary

Kirsten, Neil McKenzie and Martin

one-day contests to 222 for once

Big-hitting Lance Klusener

Kallis was on 94 at the start of the

joined Kallis in an unbeaten fifth

wicket stand of 107 off 93 balls,

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

The West Indies added to their

The wides cost a total of 14 runs

problems by sending down 12 no-

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 Gavle

But the momentum swung as

bility

36 Aviator

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

35 Responsi- 57 Connors'

competi-

tor

early as the second over of the West

and a six.

ACROSS

Satisfied

5 Diploma

balls and eight wides

hitting 41 not out off 38 deliveries.

out, including an unbeaten century

in the first match in Cape Town.

ONE-DAY SQUAD: Graeme

Gradually he has built up his

would be put out of action again.

Proteas

FROM PAGE 13

bowl too fast.

for South Africa.

Jacques Rudolph

van Jaarsveld.

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

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

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 **PROBABLES**

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

Saman Jayantha, 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

Feb 20: First one-dayer at Dambulla Feb 22: Second one-dayer at Dambulla

Feb 25: Third one-dayer at Colombo 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

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

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

unexpected resistance with his top score of the tour of 36 from 48 balls before he was caught behind by standin captain Rahul Dravid off the bowling

its first of the best-of-three finals matches against Australia while Zimbabwe will head for home tomor-

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the triangular interna-

Sibanda c Laxman b Pathan Taibu Ibw b Pathan Ebrahim c Laxman b Pathan

Carlisle run out (Yuvrai) Ervine c (sub) Kartik b Bhandari 23 Streak c Laxman b Balaji Matsikinyeri c Dravis b Bhandari 36 Friend c Gavaskar b Bhadari Blignaut c Sehwag b Nehra Price c Laxman b Pathan Mahwire not out Extras: (lb-9, w-15) Total: (All out in 34.4 overs) 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 1 24 10 1 32 Balaji 1 39 Bhandari

Sehwag c Matsikinyeri b Blignaut23 Tendulkar c Taibu b Streak Laxman b Ervine Dravid b Blignaut 10 Yuvraj c Friend b Ervine Badani not out Gavaskar run out (Matsikinyeri) Pathan not out

Extras: (lb-6, w-15, nb-2) Total: (For 6 wkts 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

0 36 Streak 10 0 41 8.3 2 29 0 24 Result: india won by 4 wickets.

Gayle c Peterson b Pollock

C'paul c Boucher b Pollock

Extras: (b-4, lb-3, w-5)

Total: (For 3 wkts in 45 overs) 300

Did not bat: Smith, Jacobs, Hurley,

10 0 40

6 0 63

8 0 51

Result: West Indies won by 7

Man-of-the-match: Shivnarine

Falls of wickets: 1-31, 2-92, 3-200

Dillon, Rampaul, Collymore

Sarwan not out

Lara not out

Bowler

Pollock

Ntini

Kallis

Smith

wickets

Chanderpaul.

Toss: South Africa.

Klusener

36

95

R W

0 58

0 52

0 65

0 53

0 49

2 0 15 1

O M R W

37

0 51

6 0 45

0 6

92

77

12

Zim make India sweat

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

through mid-wicket.

Stuart Matskinyeri offered some

India now travels to Melbourne for

Kallis spree not enough

Sunday's innings took his total in the Nel over long-off for six, before WEST INDIES

balls in the fourth over.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA

Gibbs c Smith b Dillon

Dippenaar b Sarwan

Klusener not out

Pollock, Ntini, Nel

11 Libretto

16 Oklahoma

Smith b Gayle

Kallis not out

4-190

Bowler

Rampaul

Collymore

Dillon

Centurion Park on Sunday:

Peterson c Gayle b Rampaul

Extras: (lb-5, nb-12, w-14)

Total: (For 4 wkts in 50 overs), 297

Fall of wickets: 1-53, 2-108, 3-124

Did not bat: Rudolph, Boucher,

10

10

tional series one-day cricket match between India and Zimbabwe at the Western Australian Cricket Association ground on Tuesday: ZIMBABWE

Indian reply when Gayle slammed Sarwan

hitting Nel for 4,6,4 off successive

Final scoreboard in the fourth one-

day international between South

Africa and the West Indies at

7.4 4 31

Man-of-the-match: Irfan Pathan.

overs and in reply Noapara Jagarani Sangha were all out for 94 in 20.5

ground last Saturday.

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

Batting first Nalta Sharif Ekadas

scored 178- 5 in the stipulated 25

Tigers sweep FROM PAGE 13 secured the series against the minnows when they took an unas-

sailable 2-0 lead. Ashraful, 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 valuablé 44 not out.

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

Max

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 FROM PAGE 13

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

The only disappointment for the home sidé 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

SCORES IN BRIEF BANGLADESH U-19: 285/6 in 50

overs (Nafees 101, Naeem 13, Aftab 48, Nazimuddin 37, Ashiqur Rahman 31, Dhiman 44 n.o, Nadif Chowdhury 0, Talha 4 n.o, Lakpa **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

Push peace FROM PAGE 13

doned a cricket tour of Pakistan after a suicide car bomb on May 8, 2002, outside Karachi's Sheraton hotel, which killed 11 French engi-

The black-caps refused to play in Karachi during their tour of Pakistan in December last year, but finally a team was sent India is sending a three-member

delegation to assess security for the tour, after which the final itinerary will be announced.

"I have asked the government for top security, but I don't know whether they will deploy commandos or paramilitary rangers," he

Shaharvar also indicated that surveillance cameras may be installed in the stadium and that people would be searched at the entrance gates.

Relations between Pakistan and India are improving after Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and Musharraf last month agreed to restore talks to resolve their disputes, including the festering problem of Kashmir, during a landmark meeting on the sidelines of a

regional summit in Islamabad. Foreign secretary level talks between India and Pakistan are scheduled to be held in Islamabad from February 16 to 18.

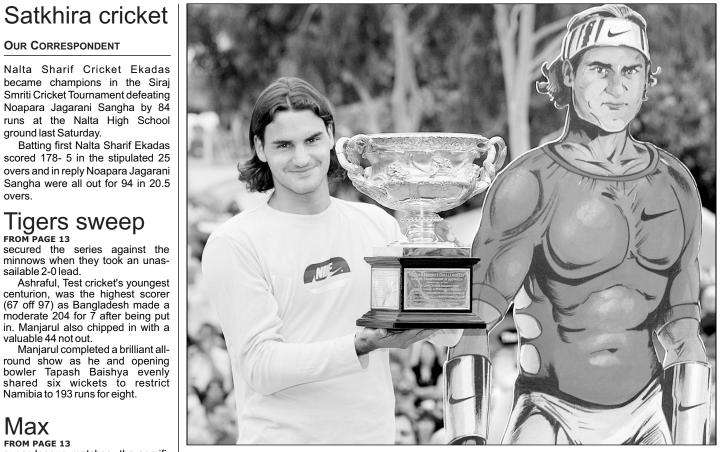


PHOTO: AFP

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

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.

Such is the grace and technical brilliance of Federer that he has been compared with 14-time Grand Slam champion Pete Sampras. 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.

a little bit (on) the backhand. So Roger, he had everything -- and a

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

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 Only two men, American Don

Budge and Australian Rod Laver, have completed Grand Slam 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

"But after I lost the first set it was difficult because he became more confident and it was difficult to keep But Safin left the tournament with

the big scalps of former world number one Andy Roddick and four-time champion Andre Agassi in the semi-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

masterful all-round display in a pulsating five-set quarterfinal, but those Herculean efforts cost him in Australian hopes fizzled on the

ational day holiday wher 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.

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 Zimoniic 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.

Kapıl FROM PAGE 13

"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 allrounders 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.

club official brought Kapil a platefu 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.

Davenport breezes

Tennis

AFP, Tokyo

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



her match against Russian Maria Sharapova at the Pan Pacific Open tournament in Tokyo yesterday.

with an easy win over Maria Vento-Kabchi, saying afterwards she felt "more confident than last year' The American second seed, who

game, trumping her 6-2, 6-1 to become the first player to reach the quarter-finals. "I feel just a lot more confident right now than I was last year, but I still have a couple of more steps to take before I really feel, like, great,

said "But I feel physically I'm doing well, feel mentally this is the end of the five-week trip, so I just want to stay calm, stay positive out there and I know I can play well here."

She added: "At the end of the year I had surgery for the foot that was bothering me pretty much since April and I really felt a lot of this kind of

pressure go off my shoulders when I had the surgery.' The 27-year-old three-time champion here had surgery for a nagging

received a first-round bye, was left foot injury in October and missed never in danger of losing to the the remainder of the season before Venezuelan in a second round returning to action in a pre-Australian Open tournament in Sydney last

However she withdrew from her semi-final in Sydney with a strained right shoulder, and then crashed out of the quarterfinals at Melbourne, both against eventual champion and like, positive and confident," she current world number one Justine

Henin-Hardenne of Belgium. But Davenport said she "had a great start to the year" and shrugged

off any idea that she would retire soon. "I still like to play. Certainly last year I thought about it (retirement) enough and a lot, and just said I wasn't quite ready to give up yet," said Davenport, looking forward to retaining the only

She added though: "I really don't want to be like a perennial quarterfinalist for the rest of my career.

winning as many titles as I used to...' In the quarter-finals Friday Davenport will take on eighth seed Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia, who won a battle of two tennis pin-ups

"I haven't had those big wins in a

Grand Slam situation, I've stopped

In the first round, seventh seed Jelena Dokic of Serbia and Montenegro needed three sets to adjust her shots in her season-opener before beating Cara Black of

against Maria Sharapova of Russia 7-

Zimbabwe 3-6, 7-6, 6-1. Qualifier Janette Husarova of Slovakia earned a place against Dokic when she shocked Thai ace Tamarine Tanasugarn with 7-6, 6-3

India happy to be at MCG

title she won last season.

Friday's opening finals match with the return of talented leg-spinner Anil Kumble.

Indian officials confirmed in Perth on Wednesday that Kumble would be available to play in the first of the best-of-three matches, after recovering from a shoulder

The veteran has not played

since his side's 24-run victory over Zimbabwe in Brisbane on January Kumble sat out India's last two

one-day matches in Perth. He played in India's opening four matches of the tri-series,

taking two wickets at an average of 95.5 with an economy rate of 4.77. For Australia, paceman Andy Bichel has been dropped from the

bowler Michael Kasprowicz. Captain Ricky Ponting was also

brought back after a brief rest in the only other change to Australia's 13man squad.

Mike Hussey was dropped to

squad in favour of Queensland

make space for Ponting while Simon Katich, who replaced the injured Michael Bevan last week, remained in the team for the final series that begins Friday in Melbourne Damien Martyn also retained

his place despite a string of low scores and a reprimand he earned last week for making an obscene

gesture to a television cameraman. Kasprowicz returns to one-day international action following his role in Australia's successful tour of India last year. This season, he has taken 11 wickets in the ING Cup at an average of 15.81. Trevor Hohns, chairman of the

selectors, said Kasprowicz deserved his recall due to consistently good one-day and four-day performances, while Bichel had been disappointing. "It is fair to say that Andy Bichel

has not been bowling as well as we would like, and we feel that a spell at state level might help him recapture his form." he said. **SQUAD** Ricky Ponting (captain), Adam

Gilchrist, Matthew Hayden, Damien Martyn, Andrew Symonds, Michael Clarke, Simon Katich, Ian Harvey, Brad Hogg, Brett Lee, Jason Gillespie, Brad Williams,

12 Get a 40 Asian 59 Group of kick out holiday 41 Applaud of DOWN 13 Caviar. 43 Alterna-1 Radiate essen tive to 2 "Damn tially whether 45 Burning 14 Take on Yankees' 15 Dressing 47 V-shaped vamp ingredient dents 3 Eager 17 Glenn, in 51 Harvest-4 Mephistopheles "Fatal Attraction" collection 5 Offspring 18 Kiddie-52 Poppy-6 - polloi pool 7 Perry's cock activity 54 Elmo's secretary 19 Clingy fans, 8 Rug mollusk 21 Whopper 55 Erstwhile 9 Rem-22 Angel's brandt's instru-56 55-Across, supply 10 Gratis (Ital.) Solution time: 21 mins. 23 Long March leader 26 "CSI" evidence 28 With one — (unanimously) 31 Eastern potentate 33 Shrill bark

abbr. Post 58 "What did 20 Columnist 8 Like some 38 Rotation I tell Kupcinet 23 Kitten's drinks duration vou?" tive

comment elephants 24 "- Blue?" 25 Shelf covering material 27 Succor 29 Shuffle board stick 30 Superlaending treat 37 Red Sox 42 Mexicar 44 Saw things? 45 Official

proceed ings 46 Family biz abbr. 48 Links call 49 Layer

32 Backslide 34 Breakfast legend, to 39 Egg part

KFU LYZOLBJM OLFJZVZBX

GARDEN: "BEAST OF EDEN." Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals E The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for 50 Coaste another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the 53 Dundee puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe

CRYPTOQUIP BNTBQR

RBFAD DBN BXLAFRZCY Yesterday's Cryptoquip: RECENT FILM ABOUT A MONSTROUS FÎGURE ÎN A FAMOUS BIBLICAL

RMTBU,

Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia reacts after winning a point in give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.