

Campbell fails to qualify for Olympics

AFP, Kingston

World champion Veronica Campbell failed to qualify for the Beijing Olympics in her signature event and Usain Bolt won the clash of the sprinting titans at the Jamaican Olympic track and field trials.

Campbell equalled her season-best time of 10.88 seconds but it wasn't good enough as she placed a shock fourth in the 100 metre final on Saturday.

Campbell, the bronze medal winner at the 2004 Summer Games, needed to finish in the top three to qualify for Beijing.

Kerron Stewart won the 100m in 10.80, edging out Shelly-Ann Fraser who finished in 10.85. Sherone Simpson was third in 10.87.

National women's h'ball from today

SPORTS REPORTER

Seven matches will be held on the opening day of the Exim Bank 19th National Women's Handball Championship, which kicks off this morning at the Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium in Mirpur.

Eleven teams split into four groups will take part in the group phase. The semifinals are due tomorrow while the final is slated for Wednesday.

Maj Gen Abdul Hafiz, DG of Bangladesh Ansar will inaugurate the event in the afternoon.

Private satellite TV channel ATN Bangla will telecast the opening ceremony and the final live.

The participating teams are: Group A: Ansars, Tangail, Chittagong; Group B: Dhaka, Jessore, Joypurhat; Group C: Narail, Rangamati; Group D: Rajshahi, Khagrachhari and Faridpur.

Murali targets Akram's feat

AFP, Karachi

Sri Lanka's spin wizard Muttiah Muralidaran said his immediate target at international level is to overhaul Pakistani bowler Wasim Akram's world record of one-day wickets.

"I want to take 30-odd wickets to get to Wasim's world record in one-day cricket and try out for 1,000 wickets in Tests," Muralidaran said before his team's crucial Super League match against hosts Pakistan in the Asia Cup.

The off-spinner already holds the record for most Test wickets with 735 in 120 matches and needs 37 more to overhaul Wasim's long standing one-day record of 502 wickets.

The 36-year-old Sri Lankan, regarded as one of the greatest spinners ever, said he is at a stage of his career where he takes it match by match.

"I love this game, so I want to play on but it would depend on my fitness and how I contribute to the team's performance. That is very important for me because you must contribute to the team's performances," he said.

He added that the game -- with three demanding forms of Twenty20, 50-over one-day cricket and five-day Tests -- has become more demanding.

"I have played all forms of the game and I admit that it's getting tougher not because I am getting older but there are lots of expectations in a tight schedule."

Viva Espana!

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Spain last lifted the European championship in 1964 with victory over the former USSR in what was its only previous triumph at a major tournament. The country last reached the Euro final in 1984 when it lost to France.

A win against Italy last week ended what was seen as a "curse", in which Spain had lost three times on penalties in the quarter-finals of major competitions, and on the same date, June 22. In Thursday's semifinal, they demolished Russia 3-0.



Spainiard Rafael Nadal celebrates after beating Nicolas Kiefer of Germany in the third round of the Wimbledon Championships at the All England Club in London on Saturday.

A Spaniard already wins

AFP, London

Rafael Nadal struck a blow for Spain on the eve of the Euro 2008 football final when he beat Germany's Nicolas Kiefer to reach the Wimbledon last 16 on Saturday.

Second seed Nadal, bidding to become only the third man to win the French Open and Wimbledon in the same season, won 7-6 (7/3), 6-2, 6-3 and will meet Mikhail Youzhny of Russia for a place in the quarterfinals.

"It's always difficult to play Nicolas on a fast surface like this so I am happy to be in the fourth round," said Nadal who'll now turn his attentions to Sunday's soccer showdown in Vienna.

Dhoni blasts schedule

CRICINFO, undated

Mahendra Singh Dhoni doesn't usually complain at press conferences so his statements on Saturday night, after a match where India were visibly tired against a spirited Bangladesh, should make the game's administrators sit up and take notice. "We were a bit disappointing, but one of the reasons for it is that we have played cricket for 36 of the last 84 hours," Dhoni said. He didn't mention the travel, the training sessions, the warm-ups, the cool-downs, the post-match presentations and the press conferences.

"Back-to-back games make it really tough for the players. I am not really happy with the schedule: two teams are playing back-to-back games, and two teams are not. Under these conditions it is really tough, you are playing cricket throughout the year, and then you play back-to-back matches. You could make out from the start the intensity was not there."

India's display in the field was characterised by Gautam Gambhir's dropping of Tamim Iqbal early in the innings, and India's pace bowlers, who have been their strength recently, performing below par. In the last 10 overs fielders and bowlers combined to allow Bangladesh to score 97 runs.

It couldn't have been India underestimating Bangladesh -- at his pre-tournament press conference, when asked about the weak teams in the fray, Dhoni had specifically said Bangladesh shouldn't be taken lightly.

Dhoni's statements beg the question of why a team must play on consecutive days -- especially in the heat of June, the least natural time to play cricket on the subcontinent, when people won't bother to come to the stadiums to watch anything less grand than India v Pakistan.

Luckily for India, their chase of 283 saw two batsmen in superb form come together and Bangladesh, too,

"We have an unbelievable team and a very good chance. Myself and some of the other Spanish players will watch the game tomorrow and hope for a win."

British 12th seed Andy Murray set-up a fourth round clash with French eighth seed Richard Gasquet, a semifinalist in 2007, with a 6-4, 6-7 (4/7), 6-3, 6-2 win over Germany's Tommy Haas.

"I maybe had the chance to win in straight sets but, apart from the last few games of the second set, I thought it was a really good match," said Murray, bidding to become the first home men's champion since Fred Perry in 1936.

Gasquet put out compatriot Gilles Simon 6-3, 6-3, 6-7 (3/7), 6-3 while Arnaud Clement made sure of further French participation by beating Austria's Jurgen Melzer 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

Germany's Rainer Schuettler,

the oldest man left in the draw at 32, reached the fourth round for the first time since 2003 with a 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 win over Spain's Guillermo Garcia-Lopez.

Schuettler, now 94 in the world after reaching a career high of five in 2004, will face Janko Tipsarevic of Serbia for a place in the quarter-final.

Tipsarevic, who put out sixth seed Andy Roddick in the last round, defeated Russia's 25th seed Dmitry Tursunov 7-6 (7/1), 7-6 (7/3), 6-3.

Russian fifth seed Elena Dementieva also went into the last 16 with a 7-6 (7/2), 7-5 win over Argentina's Gisela Dulko.

Dementieva will face Israel's Shahar Peer who put out Russian ninth seed Dinara Safina, the French Open runner-up, 7-5, 6-7 (4/7), 8-6 in a three and a half hour marathon.

There will be six Russian women in the last 16.

after an energetic fielding display for a few overs, showed they were just as tired by dropping two crucial catches. Suresh Raina and Gautam Gambhir matched each other shot for shot, including the chances they gave to the fielders.

Gambhir, it seemed, had been waiting impatiently for his Bangladeshi friends. His last three innings against them now read 101, 107 not out, and 90. The first of these was only his second ODI century and came to be a turning point in a four-year career that hadn't taken off till then. He latched on to them right from the start today (Saturday) and must have been disappointed not to get a third hundred against Bangladesh.

Meanwhile it is getting increasingly difficult to get Raina off the National Stadium pitch, where he aggregates 301 from three innings. However it was not always like that; Raina has just made a comeback to the side after a not-so-impressive first stint.

Tigers in 'what if'

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and also have full tours to the West Indies and South Africa lined up, each one their second tour to those countries -- they've yet to play at the venues that get them really excited: a Test at the Eden Gardens or an ODI in Guwahati.

As an observer pointed out, Bangladesh will have to force India to change the state of affairs. And that will happen if they can beat India more often. And that could be one of the reasons why Bangladesh, so hopeless against meaningful opposition over the last year -- they haven't beaten one for a year now -- suddenly came up with an inspirational show on Saturday for about 70 overs. That could be one of the reasons why India are the only Test-playing nation they have beaten twice in ODIs. That could be one of the reasons why the last time they scored close to 250 in a

Kumar, Ajantha SL stars

AFP, Karachi



Kumar Sangakkara hit a fighting hundred and spinner Ajantha Mendis took four wickets to power Sri Lanka to a 64-run win over Pakistan in their Asia Cup Super League clash here on Sunday.

The left-hander scored 112 to lift Sri Lanka to 302-7 after Pakistani paceman Sohail Tanveer notched up career-best figures of 5-48.

Mendis, who took 4-47, then unleashed his quality spin to restrict Pakistan to 238-9 in 50 overs on a slow National Stadium pitch.

For Pakistan, Misbahul Haq enjoyed a late flurry, smashing four sixes and three fours during his 70-ball 76 but by then the asking rate of 15 an over was beyond Pakistan's reach.

Skipper Shoaib Malik also hit a subdued 52 off 79 balls with three boundaries but the Pakistani batsmen could not cope with the accurate Sri Lankan bowling.

Sri Lanka, who qualified for the Super League stage with two carry over points, boosted their chances of reaching the July 6 final with the victory. They now have four points and take on Bangladesh on Monday.

The defeat left Pakistan all but out of the event. They now have to win both their matches against India (Wednesday) and Bangladesh (Friday) and hope India also lose to Sri Lanka to have a chance of qualifying for the final.

India beat Bangladesh by seven wickets in the first match of the Super League on Saturday.

All four teams play each other once to decide the finalists.

Sri Lankan captain Mahela Jayawardene said he was surprised at Malik's decision to put his team in after winning the toss.

Pakistan had a disastrous start to their run chase, losing Salman Butt off the first ball of their innings, bowled by paceman Chaminda Vaas for naught.

Malik added 72 for the second

wicket with Younis Khan (47) but the rest of the batsmen found the going tough as Mendis made life difficult for them with his beguiling action.

Mendis removed Mohammad Yousof lbw for 19, lured Malik out of his crease for a stumping, then trapped debutant Mansoor Amjad in front for five before ending Misbah's fight.

Earlier, it was left-hander Sangakkara who set the foundation for Sri Lanka's imposing total after they were sent into bat by Pakistan.

The 30-year-old added 93 for the fourth wicket with Chamara Silva (46) and 88 for the third with Chamara Kapugedera (43) to boost Sri Lanka after Tanveer removed Sanath Jayasuriya (eight) and Jayawardene (29).

Sangakkara, who hit 101 against Bangladesh in the first round in Lahore, took 56 balls to reach his half-century and then opened up, hitting debutant leg-spinner Amjad for a six on his way to his ninth one-day hundred.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Asia Cup Super League match between Sri Lanka and Pakistan at the National Stadium in Karachi on Sunday:

SRI LANKA				
Jayasuriya lbw b Tanveer	8			
Sangakkara b Tanveer	112			
Jayawardene c Misbah b Tanveer	29			
Kapugedera c Younis b Amjad	43			
Silva c Sarfraz b Tanveer	46			
Thushara c Riaz b Tanveer	28			
Dilshan b Riaz	8			
Vaas not out	4			
Kulasekera not out	1			
Extras: (lb-10, nb-2, w-11)	23			
Total: (For seven wks in 50 overs)	302			
Did not bat: Muralidaran, Mendis.				
Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-62, 3-150, 4-243, 5-271, 6-288, 7-298.				
PAKISTAN				
Butt b Vaas	0			
Malik	52			
Amjad	8			
Younis	47			
Misbah	76			
Muralidaran	10			
Kulasekera	9			
Yousuf	19			
Mendis	47			
Tanveer	5			
Sarfraz	19			
Riaz	7			
Muralidaran	10			
Extras: (lb-1, w-2)	3			
Total: (For nine wks in 50 overs)	238			
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-72, 3-108, 4-133, 5-135, 6-153, 7-219, 8-223, 9-238.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
aas	10	1	44	1
Kulasekara	9	1	35	2
Thushara	7	0	44	0
Muralidaran	10	0	46	1
Mendis	10	0	47	4
Jayasuriya	4	0	21	1
Result: Sri Lanka won by 64 runs.				
Man-of-the-match: Kumar Sangakkara				
Toss: Pakistan				
Umpires: Tony Hill (NZL), Ian Gould (ENG)				
TV umpire: Akhtaruddin (BAN)				
Match referee: Alan Hurst (AUS)				



Sri Lanka's batting mainstay Kumar Sangakkara sweeps during their Asia Cup Super League match against Pakistan at the National Stadium in Karachi yesterday.

Wimbledon round of 16 line-up

AFP, London

Wimbledon schedule (Round of 16) on Monday, the seventh day of the 2008 championships (x denotes seeding):

WOMEN

Svetlana Kuznetsova (RUS x4) v Agnieszka Radwanska (POL x14)
Nicola Pietrangeli (CZE x18) v Anna Chakvetadze (RUS x8)
Venus Williams (USA x7) v Alisa Kleybanova (RUS)
Bethanie Mattek (USA) v Serena Williams (USA x6)
Nadia Petrova (RUS x21) v Alla Kudryavtseva (RUS)
Tamarine Tanasugarn (THA) v Jelena Jankovic (SRB x2)
Elena Dementieva (RUS x5) v Shahar Peer (ISR x24)
Zheng Jie (CHN) v Agnes Szavay (HUN x15)

MEN

Roger Federer (SUI x1) v Lleyton Hewitt (AUS x20)
Richard Gasquet (FRA x8) v Andy Murray (GBR x12)
Mikhail Youzhny (RUS x17) v Rafael Nadal (ESP x2)
Marat Safin (RUS) v Stanislas Wawrinka (SUI x13)
Janko Tipsarevic (SRB) v Rainer Schuttler (GER)
Marcos Baghdatis (CYP x10) v Feliciano Lopez (ESP x31)
Fernando Verdasco (ESP x22) v Mario Ancic (CRO)
Marin Cilic (CRO) v Arnaud Clement (FRA)

I'm a new

FROM PAGE 17

I knew that if I was there after 40 overs then I could play those big shots and that's why I started off playing as straight as possible and with low-risk shots. I practice those lofted shots too."

Meanwhile, Bangladesh will field the same eleven from the game against India in today's Asia Cup super league match against Sri Lanka at the Karachi National Stadium.

live ODI was against India, more than a year ago in Mirpur.

The ICC's Future Tours Programme by the end of which every Test-playing team should have toured each other twice, ends in 2012, and regardless of how well or badly Bangladesh are playing, India will have to invite them twice in the next three years. The BCB, for its part, hasn't really pushed for a tour either. Perhaps India touring Bangladesh is much more advantageous, commercially, for them than vice versa. "We have been playing Test cricket for the last eight years, but haven't toured India," Ashraful, Bangladesh's captain, said. "I think this is very bad for us. I think if we go there and play, it will improve our cricket. It all depends on the boards, though."

It depends on the players too -- and on Saturday they did their bit.

Kiwis clinch series

AFP, London

remember forever."

New Zealand, well-beaten 2-0 by England in the preceding Test series and thrashed by nine wickets in the lone Twenty20 international were hammered by 114 runs in the opening match of this NatWest Series at the Riverside.

They then suffered the frustration of a no-result washout at Edgbaston with the game over away from being declared a match.

Despite being bowled out for 182 at Bristol, they won the third one-day by 22 runs before holding their nerve to clinch a one-wicket win off the last ball at The Oval on Wednesday.

"The guys showed a lot of character. We have found it hard on this tour but we are a confident one-day team," said Oram.

Pietersen, leading England for the first time after regular one-day captain Paul Collingwood was banned for four matches following the team's slow over-rate at The Oval, said the team's batting was not up to standard.

"We didn't bat well enough this series, the consistency wasn't there. It's something we need to work on."

New Zealand made a slow start at Lord's after losing the toss but added 96 runs in the final 10 overs, 61 in the last five alone.

All-rounders Styris and Grant Elliott (23 not out) put on an unbroken 65 for the sixth wicket.

The 32-year-old Styris, appearing in his 152nd one-day international, struck three sixes and five fours.

Together with the big-hitting Oram he upped the tempo with a

run-a-ball fifth wicket stand of 77.

England openers Ian Bell and Alastair Cook shared a fifty stand only for both to depart in quick succession as their side slumped to 60 for two.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the fifth and final one-day international between England and New Zealand at Lord's on Saturday:

NEW ZEALAND: 266 for 5 in 50 overs (How 22, McCullum 23, Styris 87 not out, Flynn 35, Oram 52, Elliott 23 not out, Broad 2-50, Swann 2-33)

ENGLAND

Bell lbw b Gillespie 27
Cook c McCullum b Southee 24
Pietersen c Oram b Southee 6
Bopara b Vettori 30
Shah c sub b Southee 69
Wright b Vettori 6

Ambrose c sub b Vettori 2
Swann c McCullum b Mills 12
Broad c Flynn b Mills 5
Sidebottom not out 10
Anderson c Oram b Gillespie 2

Extras: (b-1, lb-10, w-10, nb-1) 22
Total: (All out in 47.5 overs) 215
Fall of wickets: 1-53, 2-60, 3-86, 4-101, 5-130, 6-138, 7-164, 8-186, 9-209, 10-215.

Bowler O M R W
Mills 9 1 55 2
Gillespie 9.5 2 29 2
Oram 6 0 22 0
Southee 9 0 49 3
Vettori 10 1 32 3
Styris 4 0 17 0

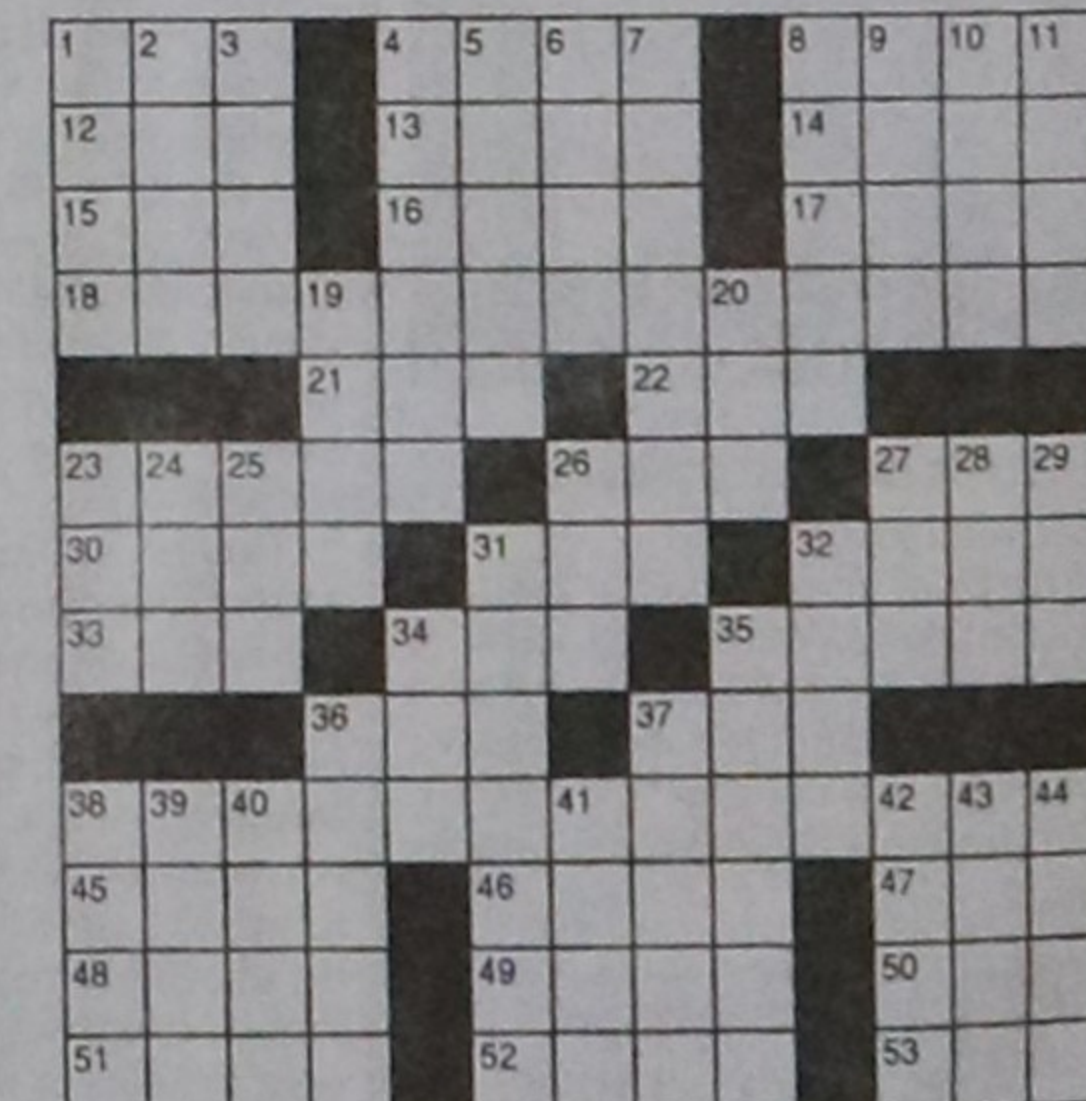
Result: New Zealand won by 51 runs and clinched five-match NatWest Series 3-1.

Man-of-the-match: Scott Styris.

Man-of-the-series: Tim Southee.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

CROSSWORD by Eugene Snygar			
ACROSS	35 Honey-comb	52 R.L.S.	11 Sawbucks
1 Computer key	36 Compartments	53 villain	19 Challenge
4 Has a bug	37 Scull tool	54 Greek vowel	20 Succor
8 Wonderful, in rap slang	38 "Caught ya!"	DOWN	23 Frat party need
12 Excessively	39 Books, magazines, etc.	1 And others (Abbr.)	24 Aye undoes
13 Glaswegian, e.g.	40 Surrounding	2 Ticked off	25 Doctrine
14 Auditioner's hope	41 Enrages Rooter's yell	3 Imogene comedy	26 Wiretap
15 Lob path	42 "The Immortalist" author	4 Have high hopes	27 Wire measure
16 Yearn	43 Without	5 Hockey infraction	28 Conger
17 Fairly tale	44 Exploit	6 Yearn	29 Driller's deg.
18 Former Ingenuities, maybe	45 Constellation component	7 Outstanding	31 Supply
21 Tall tale	46 Piece of cutlery	8 Early modest	32 It may be included
22 Piece of	47 Bear	9 Arizona tribe	33 In this part
23 Not sm., or lge.	48 Skedaddled	10 Lotion additive	34 Sliding dance step
24 Uncomplicated	49 Phys ed	Solution time: 27 mins.	35 Not so typical
25 Bear hair	50 Embrace		37 "Fox Trot" cartoonist
32 Skedaddled			38 Alger's "before"
33 Phys ed			39 Verdi
34 Embrace			40 Verdi opera
			41 CSA
			42 Authentic shade
			43 Right on the map
			44 Comical
			45 Caroline



CRYPTIC

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