

BOUNCING BACK: Australia's Sally Pearson crosses another hurdle on way to winning the women's 100m hurdles gold of the isers later Monday saying the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi yesterday. results were expected "within

Shooter Vijay joins Sachin's fan club

PTI, New Delhi

Master blaster Sachin Tendulkar is a role model for many and the newest member to join the fan club is Commonwealth Games gold medallistVijay Kumar.

Kumar, who won the coveted medal in 25-metre rapid fire pistol shooting event, said, "Though there are many players who give guidance, Sachin is the ideal one.

"All the players are good. Senior players like Abhinav Bindra and Jaspal Rana give us good guidance. We improve by learning from them, from their experiences.

"However, it is not necessary to have an ideal player. But, yes, we can call Sachin

an ideal player," said Vijay in a press conference on Monday.

The reticent army man is not new on the shooting circuit -- Kumar had won gold medals in the last Melbourne Games too.

But, despite bringing laurels to country, Vijay still remains a name unheard of.

Anand heads Tennis chess ratings

PTI, Bilbao

World champion Viswanathan Anand defeated Norwegian Magnus Carlsen and jumped to top spot in unofficial live ratings after the end of the second round of the ongoing Bilbao Final Masters chess tournament.

The Indian chess master cashed in his chances with black pieces and the victory gave him the top ranking in live ratings as Carlsen, who arrived here as the number one chess player, is losing important rating points now.

After the victory over Carlsen, Anand, with one win and one draw, is just two points behind the Russian Vladimir Kramnik, who is in sole lead on six points after defeating Alexei Shirov of Spain in the category-22 tournament that has a football like scoring system.

Shirov is long-way third with just one point that he earned after drawing with Anand in the opener.

Sushil on

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three to four medals from the next Olympics in 2012.

May be India are behind the domineering nations such as USA, Iran, Sweden, Turkey and Russia but it is evident that India making great

advances in the freestyle, one of three styles in wrestling where most of India's Commonwealth Games medals came from.

Where Bangladesh struggle to run the short-term training camp ahead of international games, neighbouring India run their training camp round the year and their wrestlers are sent abroad for advanced training which makes the big difference between the two nations in sports.

Ouster upsets Warne

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

AFP, Beijing

Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki

celebrated her new world num-

ber one ranking on Monday by

capturing her sixth title of the

year at the China Open, outlast-

ing her Russian rival Vera

20-year-old Wozniacki -- who

has dethroned injured

American superstar Serena

Williams as the WTA's top player

-- came as sweet revenge for her

loss to Zvonareva in the US

the start of the match, which was

postponed from Sunday due to

heavy rain. She looked especially

The Dane looked tentative at

The victory in Beijing by the

Zvonareva, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

Open semi-finals.

Australian Test great Shane Warne said he was shocked by the news that Rajasthan Royals and Kings XI Punjab have been thrown out of the Indian Premier League (IPL) over ownership issues.

Warne, who captained the Royals to success in the inaugural IPL tournament in 2008, said he hoped the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), who own the cash-rich Twenty20 event, would "come to their senses".

The BCCI announced Sunday it had decided to terminate the franchise agreements with Punjab and Rajasthan "based on legal opinions" it had obtained and also issued notices to the new Kochi franchise to resolve ownership disputes.

The BCCI did not specify the alleged breaches.

Warne, who was returning home from England on Monday, tweeted: "Thank you for all your messages of support, still shocked at

Wozniacki's

6th in a year

IPL news re the Royals, what are other owners saying? Hope to know more asap."

The leg-spin wizard added: "What now for the youngsters?"

He said he hoped the BCCI would reconsider. "The Royals gave young unknown Indian players a chance and I as captain backed them, and our coaching staff supported them... we were a team.

"Three seasons ago Royals won the first-ever IPL, underdogs come good, what a story, it helped give credibility to the competition.

"Nowlook." Kings XI Punjab were bought for 76 million dollars in 2008 by a consortium of businessmen, while Rajasthan Royals were snapped up for 67 million dollars by businessmen, among them Australian media mogul Lachlan Murdoch.

Apart from Warne, fellow Australians Shane Watson and Shaun Tait, South African Graeme Smith and Pakistan's Kamran Akmal and Younis Khan have played for the Royals, while Australian paceman Brett Lee, Sri Lankans Mahela Jayawardene and Kumar Sangakkara played for the Kings.

Runs helping

many victories for the Tigers in 2010 but it is the biggest improvement for the country's cricket in the last decade. Batsman have come into the team, settled for some time and made their place their own with runs under their belt.

The product of this improvement has been the heightened level of competition among the batsmen.

A few more good showings from Nafees, Imrul and Zunaed would lead to the question of who would make way once Tamim is fit to play. It would be a welcome headache for the team think-tank who usually grapple with handling poorly performing batsmen.

In the third, Wozniacki Maybe predicting the showed why she is the best player in the world, stepping up her game and painting the lines with blistering backhands despite the Russian's have runs under the belt.

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Maybe it hasn't spelled too

starting XI for the World Cup opener against India is a long way away, but one can certainly say that whoever gets picked, he would certainly

vulnerable on the forehand side, tough counter-punching to giving Zvonareva several free build an early 3-0 lead. Tigers aim for galaxies

been very different for Shakib

if he had lost the match. The

all-rounder had risked the ire

of the watching thousands

when he chose to field first

under the conditions. But the

still raised and Shakib had his

explanation: "What I thought

was that the pacers might get a

little help from the pitch as it

had been covered for the last

The question was however

win put to bed any such talk.

points on mis-hits and falling

But she stormed back to

take the next five games and

the set, unleashing ferocious

cross-court backhands and

keeping the 26-year-old

Russian off-balance by chang-

ing up the speed of her

momentum shifted and

Zvonareva found her range,

securing the key break to go up

3-1 and closing it out to force the

decider under the floodlights at

the Olympic Green Tennis

Centre on a chilly night.

In the second set, the

behind3-1.

groundstrokes.

FROM PAGE 17 10-over spell, but Shakib was not happy with the bowling during Powerplay as Ross Taylor smashed all over the park during his unbeaten 72-

ball 62 that saw four sixes and three boundaries. "The spinners did a good job especially Shuvo was exceptional after Shafiul

(Islam) set the tone removing Brendon McCullum but we didn't bowl well in the Powerplay. Our fielding was also good but not extraordinary, so we have to look at these areas," said Shakib adding that this New Zealand side is inexperienced compared to the last one who visited in 2008. To Shakib the most exciting

aspect of his team is that it's full of performers. While he himself was the hero in the first game there were numerous performers in the second

"You see so many players N McCullum b Rubel who performed in the match which is the main strength of this team. We play as a team and as an unit," he said.

Things however could have

few days due to rain." SCOREBOARD Scoreboard of the third oneday international between Bangladesh and New Zealand at the Sher-e-Bangla National

Stadium in Mirpur yesterday: NEW ZEALAND B McCullum c Mushfigur b Shafiul 0 Ryder c Kayes b Shuvo Watling c Zunaed b Razzak Taylor not out Elliott b Shakib Vettori c and b Shuvo Stewart Ibw b Shuvo

Mills 20 Mills c Rubel b Shakib Southee lbw b Mahmudullah seven wickets. McKay c Mushfigur b Mahmudullah 0 Extras: (nb-2, w-3) Total: (All out in 42.5 overs) Sohrawardi Shuvo. 173

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-55, 3-56, 4-62, 5-79, 6-98, 7-101, 8-173, 22 Rubel Razzak

Shakib Shuvo Mahmudullah BANGLADESH Kayes c Elliott b N McCullum Nafees c B McCullum b N McCullum 73 Zunaed c N McCullum b McKay Rokibul not out

Shakib not out Extras: (lb-1, nb-3, w-5) Total: (For three wkts in 40 overs) 177 Did not bat: Rahim, Mahmudullah, Razzak, Rubel, Shafiul, Shuvo Fall of wickets: 1-127, 2-134, 3-

Bowler M R W 38 0 20 0 Southee N McCullum 10 31 28 McKay 10 36 Vettori 20 Ryder Taylor Result: Bangladesh won by

36 Conger, e.g. 37 Support-Man-of-the-match: 38 Muscular "Any positive test, whether

100m gold medal sport given it came in such a winner Osayemi Oludamola high-profile event. Commonwealth Games in a high-profile event or not, is something we very much regret because we all strive for a clean Games and a clean sport," said Fennell.

The Common-

wealth Games was

plunged into a

new crisis on

Monday after

women's track

Shakib ended their resistance

with Mills skying his well-

to deliver a Botham-esque

performance every time he

enters the field so it was quite a

relief for the No 1 all-rounder

in the world to bowl a tight

spell, rotate the bowlers and

forward the case for the three

left-armers to start more

regularly, especially in home

plunged into a new crisis

when women's 100m gold

medal winner Osayemi

Oludamola of Nigeria failed a

Federation president Mike Fennell said the 24-year-old,

who was promoted to gold

following Pearson's disqualifi-

cation, tested positive for the

banned stimulant

the 200m final which itself

proved controversial with

Elena Artymata of Cyprus, the

fastest qualifier, disqualified

from her semi-final for step-

A Cypriot appeal prevented

the final going ahead on

Sunday as scheduled and

when it was finally run on

Monday the Cayman Islands'

Cydonie Mothersill handed

her country their first-ever

champion Dani Samuels miss-

ing, India pulled off a clean

sweep with Krishna Poonia

taking gold with a throw of 61.51

metres ahead of Harwant Kaur

athletics gold since Milkha

Singh won the 440 yards in

It was the country's first

and Seema Antil.

Cardiffin 1958.

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With Australian discus world

Commonwealth gold medal.

Oludamola failed to make

methylhexanamine.

ping out of her lane.

Commonwealth Games

The victory would also put

hit the winning runs.

India win

conditions.

FROM PAGE 20

drugs test.

One couldn't expect Shakib

floated delivery to long-on.

"We don't know what sort of damage will accrue but we want to let everyone know that we are very vigilant and we are "As far as anti-doping is doing all we can to eliminate doping in sport." Organising committee

and we've had results from secretary general Lalit Bhanot said the positive test showed "Unfortunately I have to no-one could get away with report to you we have had a cheating. "We want dope-free games,

"This result was in relation he said. "That's why 1,500 tests are being conducted. If someone is caught, action will be taken as per the rules. "At the same time it is a

one can escape." If Oludamola is stripped of sample be tested with an her medal, then Natasha Mayers of St Vincent and The Grenadines would be pro-

moted to first with England's

48 hours" and that she would Kathryn Endacott taking silver and Bertille Atangana of remain suspended until then. It was the first positive test

Cameroon coming third. of the Games, now in their Nigerian news website eighth day of competition, Vanguard quoted Athletics and Fennell said it remained Federation of Nigeria president Solomon Ogba as saying to be seen how much damage it would do to the image of the Oludamola was given prescription medicine to fight a nagging toothache.

"She took medication for



OSAYEMI OLUDAMOLA

her toothache and we strongly suspect that it was that, which led to her failed drug test," he said, adding that they were fighting the case.

Despite the positive result from Thursday's final, Oludamola competed in the 200m heats on Sunday, but finished fourth to narrowly miss the final.

That medal race was due to be held Sunday evening but was postponed after more chaos when Elena Artymata of Cyprus, the fastest qualifier, was disqualified from her semifinal for stepping out of herlane.

She appealed but it was turned down. However, it became too late to hold the race which will now be run later Monday.

The 100m final had already been controversial after Pearson, who was first over the line, was stripped of her gold for a false start after a chaotic chain of events.

She was forced to endure an agonising wait for the outcome of a series of protests and eventually had her medal taken away hours later despite being taken to the medallists' waiting room.

Fennell later blasted the inexperienced organisers at the track venue for handling the situation badly.

England's Laura Turner of England was also disqualified for a false start and if Oludamola's medal is taken away then it would mean only five athletes would be classified from the eight who started the race.

Black Caps Title goes to Djokovic FROM PAGE 17 batsmen taking full advantage of their third Powerplay.

Tennis

AFP, Beijing

World number two and defending champion Novak Djokovic captured his second ATP title of the year at the China Open on Monday with an easy 6-2, 6-4 win over Spain's David Ferrer in a rain-delayed final.

The top-seeded Serb, who took home a 500,000-dollar winner's cheque, qualified for the season-ending ATP Championships in London thanks to his stellar week in Beijing, where he won Olympic bronze in 2008.

"This is definitely a confidence boost for me. In the last two or three months, I've been feeling much more comfortable and confident on the court, playing an aggressive game, and my serve is working for me," Djokovic said. "Let's see if I can keep it up," added the 23-

year-old, who now heads to Shanghai for the Masters event, with his first match set for Wednesday. Djokovic led Ferrer 3-1 in the first set on

Sunday when play was suspended at the Olympic Green Tennis Centre due to heavy rain, forcing the players to come back for a second day. The Serb seemed energised by Monday's

bright sunshine, picking up where he left off to quickly wrap up the first set as the speedy Ferrer made a number of ill-timed unforced errors from the backcourt. The 28-year-old Spaniard, the eighth seed,

mounted a spirited challenge in the second, breaking Djokovic to go up 3-2 and then consolidating the break. "I kind of lost the rhythm, let him back into the match with some unforced errors,'

Djokovic admitted. But the Serb then roared back, repeatedly pressuring Ferrer on his serve with long baseline rallies until he cracked, bringing the score to 4-4.

Ferrer admitted he had missed his moment, telling reporters: "When I lost that game, I lost my concentration a little bit. I couldn't come back to play well after that."

Djokovic indeed went into cruise control, holding his serve at love and punishing Ferrer with his powerful forehand in the final game. He closed out the win when Ferrer dumped a backhand into the net on the second match point.



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Novak Djokovic of Serbia poses with the winner's trophy after beating David Ferrer of Spain in the China Open final at the National Tennis Centre in Beijing yesterday. Djokovic won 6-2, 6-4.

16

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OPEN-AIR VENUE FEATURING SPECIALTY VENDORS SELLING BATHROOM CABINET MODELS: THE VANITY FAIR.

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22

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CRYPTOQUIP

BZRNVW IUPVKUWE NU LQ UXVR KZNGNYK XSYM PΕ

QUF PV, L MYVII L BUYSW

GLFV Z XVFIURZS WFZLRVF.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals M