



PHOTO: REUTERS  
Sri Lanka all-rounder Thisara Perera (2nd L) is congratulated by teammates for taking the wicket of Australia's Daniel Christian during their tri-series one-day international in Sydney yesterday.

# SL drown Aus in the rain

## Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Sri Lanka posted their biggest-ever one-day international win over Australia in Sydney on Friday with a crushing eight-wicket tri-series ODI victory with 101 balls to spare.

Sri Lanka bounced back into finals contention with a bonus-point victory on the Duckworth-Lewis method after skittling out Australia for 158 off 40.5 overs and rattling up a revised winning target of 152 for two in just 24.1 overs.

It was Sri Lanka's largest ODI win over Australia in terms of balls remaining.

The Sri Lankans, who were winless before Friday's game after being held to a tie in their previous match by leaders India, moved to within three points of the Indians after four games in the tournament.

Skipper Mahela Jayawardene steered his side to victory with an unbeaten knock of 61 off 67 balls with opener Tillakaratne Dilshan hitting 45 off 41.

"The intent was good, the aggression, the tempo... it was a good, clinical finish," Jayawardene said.

"The bonus point was brilliant, we just wanted a

win, but now we're definitely back in it. The bonus point was the icing on the cake."

Kumar Sangakkara reached 10,000 career ODI runs in his innings of 30 off 29 balls.

Thisara Perera was judged man-of-the-match in a wide open vote having taken two for 29 and also effected two run outs in Australia's innings.

It was Australia's fifth-biggest loss in one-day cricket in terms of balls remaining.

It was also Australia's second straight defeat in the tournament and they face India in Brisbane on Sunday, when they will again be led by Ricky Ponting in the continued absence of injured skipper Michael Clarke.

"A really poor day with bat, ball and in the field," Ponting said. "No doubt we'll have a chat about it as a group, but the bottom line is we're going to have to move on pretty quick."

"Full credit to Sri Lanka, they bowled and fielded really well, and played their shots in the chase."

"We thought we could use the seam of the ball and capitalise, but that wasn't the case. Hopefully Sunday is better than tonight."

Of the Australians, only Clint McKay (1-23 off six overs) enjoyed a good night

with the ball while Brett Lee, on his return 16 days after fracturing his toe, finished with one for 42 off seven overs.

Sri Lanka set up their emphatic victory by dismissing Australia for 158 off 40.5 overs in the match, which was reduced to 41 overs-aside by afternoon rain.

It was Australia's lowest ODI total at the Sydney Cricket Ground since 1997 and fourth-lowest in all ODIs in Sydney.

David Hussey rescued Australia from an even lower score after the home side had tottered at 88 for six before a two-hour rain delay. He hit a determined 58 off 64 balls for his third half-century of the tournament after being dropped on eight and 31.

David Warner went for 13 being deceived by a slower ball from Lasith Malinga and hitting straight to Farveez Maharoof at mid-on.

Ponting's run of single-figure scores in the series continued when he was caught and bowled by Maharoof for two.

Michael Hussey (13), brought in for Clarke, clouted a huge six off Angelo Mathews but was caught behind off the next ball and Peter Forrest followed shortly afterwards for 16 to leave Australia 74 for five. All-rounder Maharoof,

brought in for spinner Sachithra Senanayake, claimed two for 18 off eight overs.

### SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA			
Warner c Maharoof b Malinga	13		
Wade run out (Perera)	15		
Ponting & b Maharoof	2		
Forrest c Mathews b Maharoof	16		
M Hussey c Sangakkara b Mathews	13		
D Hussey c Thirimanne b Perera	58		
Christian lbw b Perera	6		
McKay lbw b Herath	3		
Lee run out (Perera)	0		
Starc run out (Kulasekara)	17		
Doherty not out	2		
Extras: (lb-2, w-11)	13		
Total: (All out in 40.5 overs)	158		
Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-37, 3-37, 4-60, 5-74, 6-81, 7-95, 8-104, 9-153, 10-158.			

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Malinga	8.5	0	42	1
Kulasekara	8	1	29	0
Maharoof	8	1	18	2
Mathews	4	0	26	1
Perera	7	1	29	2
Herath	5	1	12	1

SRI LANKA			
Jayawardene not out	61		
Dilshan c D Hussey b McKay	45		
Sangakkara c Doherty b Lee	30		
Chandimal not out	6		
Extras: (lb-5, w-5)	10		
Total: (For 2 wickets in 24.1 overs)	152		
Did not bat: Thirimanne, Mathews, Perera, Maharoof, Kulasekara, Malinga, Herath.			
Fall of wickets: 1-74, 2-133.			

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Lee	7	0	42	1
Starc	4	0	32	0
McKay	6	1	23	1
Christian	5.1	0	32	0
Doherty	2	0	18	0
Result: Sri Lanka won by 8 wickets				

## Clarke out of ODIs

AFP, Sydney

Injured skipper Michael Clarke will miss Australia's weekend tri-series one-day international against India, allowing George Bailey to join the squad, Cricket Australia said on Friday.

Clarke missed Australia's crushing eight-wicket loss to Sri Lanka in Sydney on Friday and Ricky Ponting will again lead the side in Brisbane on Sunday.

Team physiotherapist Alex Kountouris said Clarke was not quite ready to return to action.

"Michael Clarke is progressing well in his recovery from a right hamstring injury but remains unavailable for selection in Brisbane," Kountouris said.

"His availability for the ODI in Hobart (on February 24) will be determined early next week."

Australia Twenty20 skipper Bailey will join the squad as a standby batsman and spinner Jon Holland will remain with the squad after being called up on standby for Xavier Doherty.

Bailey has been taken out of Tasmania's Sheffield Shield match in Hobart to provide batting cover for Australia, who have lost their last two matches in the tri-series.

"While it is not ideal having to take George away from the Sheffield Shield match currently underway in Hobart, we feel it is important we have sufficient batting cover in our squad," team coach and selector Mickey Arthur said.

"This selection is reward for George's excellent form with Tasmania this season and recognition that the selectors consider him the next batsman in line for Australian one-day selection."

### SQUAD

Ricky Ponting (captain), David Warner, George Bailey, Daniel Christian, Xavier Doherty, Peter Forrest, Ben Hilfenhaus, Jon Holland, Dave Hussey, Mike Hussey, Brett Lee, Clint McKay, Mitchell Starc, Matthew Wade.

## FIFA positive

FROM PAGE 16  
District Football Associations (DFA) will have their voting rights intact. Since this decision is against a previous ruling by FIFA, the BFF high-ups are positive on their talks with FIFA on this issue.

The visiting team will hold a meeting with BFF's development committee at the BFF office today.

## Westfield

FROM PAGE 16  
23, became embroiled in the scam after an approach by Kaneria.

Prosecutor Nigel Peters QC said the deal emerged after another Essex player, Tony Palladino, showed Westfield "the most money he had ever seen".

Kaneria was arrested in connection with the case in 2010 but later released without charge. Before Friday's hearing, the identity of the player who had made the initial approach to Westfield had not been disclosed.

Speaking in Karachi, Kaneria's lawyer Farogh Naseem dismissed Westfield's claims. "It is Westfield's words against Kaneria and a lot will depend on what evidences he puts before the court against my client," Naseem told AFP.

Naseem reiterated that Kaneria had not been charged by the police.

"At the time of the police inquiry, Kaneria was not charged and cleared. The ICC (International Cricket Council) cleared him so we feel that Kaneria was discharged in the case," he said.

## Gayle out for

FROM PAGE 16  
Shaun Tait had to withdraw from the event when he sustained an elbow injury and the Dolphins were unable to sign a replacement player in time for the competition.

# 'Cook is an inspiration'

## England-Pakistan third ODI today

### Cricket

AFP, Dubai

Senior batsman Kevin Pietersen on Friday praised one-day captain Alastair Cook for the successive one-day hundreds that gave England an unassailable 2-0 lead against Pakistan in their four-match series.

Cook hit 137 and 102 in the two wins in Abu Dhabi and England will look to wrap up the series in the last two matches here on Saturday and Tuesday.

Pietersen said it was a good turnaround after losing the preceding Test series 3-0.

"It's been a really good turnaround after the Test matches," said Pietersen, who flopped in the Tests with just 67 runs.

"The team have done really well. Cook and Ravi (Bopara) have done a brilliant job, and (Steven) Finn has been remarkable."

Paceman Finn finished with identical figures of 4-34 in both games to give England wins by 130 and 20 runs respectively.

Pietersen said Cook had stood up to the mark since being made captain last year.

"Cook's such a good player, who is fulfill-

ing his role in the team really, really well. You can't complain when you get two hundreds in successive games."

On his own form, Pietersen said he was trying his best to score with the help of coach Andy Flower after being used as opener in the one-dayers.

"Andy's a great believer, and the team realise, that not every single person in the team is always going to be on form -- and few of us haven't been in the best nick, Pietersen said.

"But dovetailing is a word Andy has used a lot over the last few years, since he's come into the job, and you need that. That's why we've done so well."

"We were fortunate to have a lot of players in a lot of good form over the last 18 months, and then quite a few who have struggled on this trip."

"But the dovetailing in the one-day team has certainly been there, and it's proven by the way we've played in the last couple of games."

Dubai's worst sandstorm for six years spoiled the teams' early practice on Friday. The storm may also affect Saturday's match.

# Azarenka moves on

## Tennis

AFP, Doha

World number one Victoria Azarenka swept into the quarterfinals of the Qatar Open with a swift demolition of Romanian Simona Halep on Thursday as Lucie Safarova claimed another top scalp.

Belarusian Azarenka, the Australian Open champion, won 10 games in a row on the way to beating the 63rd-ranked Halep 6-3, 6-1, while Safarova, who had knocked out the second seed Caroline Wozniacki on Wednesday, sent former US and French Open cham-

pio and 14th seed Svetlana Kuznetsova packing with a 7-6 (8/6), 6-3 victory. Kuznetsova was the 12th of the 16 seeds in the 64-player draw to crash out of the event over the first four days.

Halep produced only brief moments of brilliance to secure a break in either set, but that was not enough to quell Azarenka, who stepped up her game after trailing 3-1 in the first set and raced to victory thereafter.

"I started slow but I am glad I turned it around," said Azarenka, the first Belarusian to win a Grand Slam tournament and take the world number one ranking.

She could have won the second set at love, but suffered a glitch in the sixth game when she was broken by the Romanian.

But Azarenka broke back in the next game to clinch the issue.

"I kept my composure," said Azarenka, who will now meet Belgian Yanina Wickmayer in the quarter-finals. Wickmayer defeated Kazakhstan's Ksenia Pervak 6-4, 6-0.

Azarenka was once again asked whether being the winner of a Grand Slam title made her a more 'legitimate' world number one, but she shrugged off the question.

Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska fought back from a break down to advance to the last eight with a 7-5, 6-1 win over the USA's Varvara Lepchenko.

Radwanska, the world number six and fourth seed in Qatar, was too strong for the Uzbek-born Lepchenko who is yet to win a WTA title after turning pro as a 15-year-old way back in 2001.

Meanwhile, Australian third seed Samantha Stosur ousted the Czech Republic's Petra Cetkovicova 6-3, 6-2, but Israeli Shahar Peer's quest for a first title in the Middle East ended prematurely.

Peer, whose participation in events in the Gulf has often generated a furor, was beaten 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 by the USA's Christina McHale.

# Cloud over Haddin status

## Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Players and newspapers Friday sought answers from selectors over the status of Test wicketkeeper Brad Haddin in Australia's team for the tri one-day series against India and Sri Lanka.

Vice captain Shane Watson said Haddin deserved clarity given his service to Australian cricket, while former skipper Ricky Ponting said confusion was rife over the player's place in the ODI team.

Selectors said Haddin was being "rested" when he was left out of Australia's opening three games in the tri series. But he was again omitted, without explanation from the selectors, when a new squad was named earlier this week.

The outspoken Haddin, who played in all six home Tests against India and New Zealand this season, said at the time of his first omission that he had in fact been dropped from the ODI team.

Watson, who is fighting his way back to fitness after missing all of the Australian season with hamstring trouble, said he sympathised with Haddin's predicament.

"I actually feel really sorry for Brad at the moment. He's been left in a bit of limbo unfortunately," Watson told reporters.

"He doesn't know which way he's going, whether he's being rested or dropped ... someone who's played an important role over the last five years in all forms of the game for Australia I think definitely deserves to be told either way what his future holds."

Ponting backed Haddin in his interpretation of events.

"I think Brad's been spot on the mark

with everything he's had to say," Ponting told The Sydney Morning Herald.

"It's been made pretty clear now that what Brad's had to say at the start of the one-day series looks like it's the way it is. He's been unmoved in his stance on his situation."

The Australian newspaper demanded that chief selector John Inverarity clear up the "tedious" situation surrounding Haddin since his first omission.

"At the time, John Inverarity said it was 'very clear' and that 'as far as the selectors are concerned, he (Haddin) has not been dropped'," the newspaper said on Friday.

"Then, when the squad was named for the second group of one-day games, Haddin was not mentioned at all."

## Sahara back as sponsor

AFP, New Delhi

India's cricket chiefs thrashed out a compromise with the Sahara group on Thursday, paving the way for their long-time sponsor to remain on board.

Sahara had severed ties with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on February 4 for what it said was a "one-sided emotional relationship" with the governing body.

After negotiations over the past fortnight, both sides agreed that Sahara will continue as the national team's sponsor and also field their Pune Warriors franchise in the Indian Premier League.

Among Sahara's complaints was that the BCCI had not allowed Pune to include five foreign players -- instead of the stipulated four -- in the playing XI for this year's IPL due to the unavailability of their star Yuvraj Singh.

# Red-hot Guptill burns SA

## Cricket

AFP, Wellington

New Zealand batsman Martin Guptill continued a dream run of form as the Black Caps posted a six-wicket win over South Africa in the opening Twenty20 international in Wellington on Friday.

Guptill's undefeated 78 off 55 balls was his sixth successive international half-century, steering New Zealand to four for 148 with four balls to spare in reply to South Africa's six for 147.

The opener, who put Zimbabwe's attack to the sword in the recent tour whitewash, looked comfortable against more challenging opposition in South Africa's first trip to New Zealand in eight years.

He smashed four sixes in his innings, one booming effort off Lonwabo Tsotsobe's bowling sailing onto the roof of Westpac Stadium before it bounced back down onto the pitch.

Kane Williamson also made a valuable cameo with 24 off 22 balls, while paceman Tim Southee took three for 28 to limit South Africa's total.

New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum's decision to send South Africa into bat on a slow pitch after

winning the toss paid dividends with early wickets, preventing the Proteas building momentum.

JP Duminy top scored for South Africa with 41, while Justin Ontong, returning to the national team after a three-year absence, hit four successive sixes in his 32 off 17 balls.

Hashim Amla, who had looked threatening, was the first to go after trying to snatch a quick single off a mis-field in the fourth over, only for Guptill to dive in from the field with ball in hand and knock over the stumps.

Colin Ingram departed for a duck in the next over when he charged down the sword to attack a Nathan McCullum off-break, leaving himself stranded when it slipped past him and into the hands of Brendon McCullum behind the wicket.

Southee then joined the attack, smashing Levi in the helmet with his second ball, then going on to claim the wicket with the last ball of the over when Levi mis-judged a slower ball and sent it sailing to Doug Bracewell.

AB de Villiers came to the crease with his side reeling at 38 for three but could only manage eight off 17 balls before being ruled out to a debatable catch and the carnage continued.

De Villiers hit spinner Ronnie Hira to short cover, where Guptill swooped and claimed a low catch, the South African captain initially standing his ground until third umpire Chris Gaffaney ruled him out after inconclusive TV replays.

New Zealand, their tails up, then restricted Ontong and Duminy to just six runs an over through the middle of the innings, forcing the batsmen onto the back foot with aggressive bowling and sharp fielding.

It was the Black Caps' turn to question the umpire when Ontong appeared to edge the ball to wicketkeeper McCullum, with the umpire ruling the ball hit his body.

The decision proved costly for the home side when Ontong belted four successive sixes off part-time spinner Kane Williamson to add some respectability to South Africa's score.

But he was dismissed in the next over, caught and bowled by Southee, who just got his fingertips to the ball as he lunged to his right.

Southee claimed his third wicket when Duminy, who battled doggedly to steady South Africa's innings, departed for 41.

The next T20 of the three match series will be played at Hamilton on Sunday. The

tour includes three T20s, three one-day internationals and three Tests.

### SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA			
Levi c Bracewell b Southee	13		
Amla run out	19		
Ingram st B. McCullum b N. McCullum	0		
De Villiers c Guptill b Hira	8		
Duminy c Mills b Southee	41		
Ontong c & b Southee	32		
Morkel not out	13		
Botha not out	14		
Extras: (lb-7)	7		
Total: (For 6 wickets in 20 overs)	147		
Did not bat: Theron, Morkel, Tsotsobe.			
Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-34, 3-38, 4-52, 5-102, 6-127.			

Bowler	O	M	R	W
N McCullum	4	0	16	1
Mills	4	0	44	0
Southee	4	0	28	3
Hira	2	0	12	1
Bracewell	3	0	10	0
Williamson	2	0	27	0
Nicol	1	0	3	0

NEW ZEALAND			
Nicol c Amla b Theron	13		
Guptill not out	78		
McCullum b Duminy	16		
Williamson run out	24		
De Grandhomme c Levi b M. Morkel	2		
Franklin not out	8		
Extras: (lb-3, w-2, nb-2)	7		
Total: (For 4 wickets in 19.2 overs)	148		
Did not bat: N McCullum, Bracewell, Mills, Hira, Southee.			
Fall of wickets: 1-49, 2-90, 3-127, 4-136.</			