

Sangakkara out of India ODIs

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's in-form batsman Kumar Sangakkara was on Saturday ruled out of the remaining two one-day internationals against India with a fractured finger.

The left-hander suffered the injury after being struck by a delivery from Indian pacesman Ashok Dinda during his 73 in the third one-day in Colombo.

Sri Lanka team manager Charith Senanayake said the wicketkeeper-batsman, who scored a century in the opening one-day of the five-match series, would be out of action for a minimum of four weeks.

Dinesh Chandimal kept wicket in Sangakkara's absence.

The fourth one-day will be played in Colombo on Tuesday and the last in Pallekele on August 4.

India lead 2-1 in the series following their five-wicket victory in the third match.

Dragon in semis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Dragon SC moved into the semifinals of the Manikganj DFA Cup Football Tournament with a 6-4 win over Dautia Bulbul Club at the Shahid Miraz-Tapan Stadium here yesterday.

The game rolled into a penalty shootout after the regulation timesaw both sides finish goalless.

In today's match, Manikganj City Club will take on Green Boys' Society.

Sheva calls it quits

THE GUARDIAN

The Ukrainian striker Andriy Shevchenko has quit football to begin a career in politics, he said in a statement from his club, Dynamo Kyiv, late on Friday.

"Perhaps, I will shock everyone: my future has nothing to do with soccer," Shevchenko said. "It is related to politics."

The 35-year-old former Milan and Chelsea forward ended his international career when Ukraine failed to progress from the group stage at Euro 2012, which they co-hosted with Poland.

Shevchenko did not say if he planned to join one of Ukraine's existing political parties or create his own ahead of October's parliamentary election. He promised to announce the details on Saturday.

Another famous Ukrainian athlete, the heavyweight boxing champion Vitaly Klitschko, already runs a political party called Udarny (Strike).

Shevchenko started his career with Dynamo and then moved to Milan, becoming one of the most famous Ukrainian players. His following stint with Chelsea was less successful and he returned to Dynamo in 2009.



HERE COMES THE VOS: Dutch cycling sensation Marianna Vos shouts for joy as she crosses the finish line for the women's road race gold at the London 2012 Olympic Games on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

Vos the boss

AFP, London



Dutch cycling sensation Marianna Vos finally added Olympic road race gold to her impressive collection of titles after dominating Britain's Lizzie Armitstead in a two-up sprint on Saturday.

Armitstead finished second at over a bike length behind to take the silver with Olga Zabelinskaya of Russia winning the bronze after 140 km of road racing.

Vos, the Olympic champion in the track points in Beijing, came into the race having won five stages of the women's Giro d'Italia as well as the event's overall title.

And she proved that form had not deserted her with a powerful sprint inside the final 200 metres that Armitstead simply could not match.

Defending Olympic champion Nicole Cooke of Britain finished with the main chasing peloton less than 30sec behind the leading trio, who came into the capital on their own to contest the medals.

With the pressure on Britain to claim a medal after the men's road race whitewash on Saturday, the British women made sure there would be no repeat with both Emma Pooley and Armitstead among the main

protagonists.

After a series of attacks and counter attacks by climbing specialist Pooley on the Box Hill circuit, Armitstead did well to follow Vos when the Dutchwoman counter-attacked Zabelinskaya with 45 km to go.

American Shelley Olds joined the trio and together the four leaders soon went on to build a lead of 30sec on the peloton over the next 15 km.

Germany, Italy and Sweden were among the big teams not represented in the attack and were left in a desperate chase that was made even more difficult when the rain that had marred the start of the race came on again.

The leaders' bid to stay away suffered a minor blow when Olds dropped out after appearing to suffer a puncture. Almost simultaneously, Swede Emma Johansson suffered the same setback in the chasing peloton.

Vos, Armitstead and Zabelinskaya were not to be outdone, however.

Despite the Americans and Italians moving to the front of the chasing bunch in a bid to help close the gap, the leaders' continued collaboration gave them a lead bordering on 45secs with 18 km remaining.

In the end, it proved enough to secure them the medals.

Murray's winning return

AFP, London

Britain's Andy Murray made a winning return to Centre Court after his Wimbledon final defeat as the world number four beat Switzerland's Stanislas Wawrinka 6-3, 6-3 in the first round of the Olympics on Sunday.

Murray was back in action on the All England Club's showpiece arena exactly three weeks after crying tears of frustration following his four-set defeat against Roger Federer in his maiden Wimbledon final.

Murray played the first full match under the Centre Court roof when he defeated Wawrinka in a five-set classic in the fourth round in 2009 and the pair had to duel indoors again after hail and rain forced the arena to be covered on Sunday.

The Scot had lost his first match since the Wimbledon final when he and brother Jamie were beaten in the doubles on Saturday.

But singles gold is Murray's real aim and he looked back in the groove against Wawrinka.

Wawrinka won doubles gold with Federer in Beijing in 2008 and the Swiss great was in the players' box to support his compatriot.

But women's world number two Agnieszka Radwanska suffered a miserable return to Wimbledon as Olympic Games tennis was played indoors for the first time in 100 years.

Second seeded Radwanska, defeated by Serena Williams in the Wimbledon final three weeks ago, suffered more Centre Court disappointment as she was beaten 7-5, 6-7 (5/7), 6-4 by Germany's Julia Goerges in the first round.

Hail and heavy rain had drenched the All England Club in south-west London just as play was set to get underway with organisers deciding to shut the Centre Court roof.

It was the first time Olympic tennis has been played indoors since the Stockholm Games of 1912.

Radwanska, 23, was the first Pole to reach a Grand Slam singles final since 1939 when she got to this year's Wimbledon title match, an achievement which lifted her to a career-high second place in the world rankings.

Later Sunday, world number two Novak Djokovic was up against Italy's Fabio Fognini while Maria Sharapova, the Wimbledon champion in 2004, was facing Israel's Shahar Peer.

Judo in hijab debate

REUTERS, Jeddah



A female Saudi Arabian judo competitor, one of the first two female athletes sent to the Olympics by the conservative kingdom, will withdraw if she is not allowed to wear her hijab, during bouts, her father was quoted as saying.

Wojdan Ali Seraj Abdulrahim Shaherkani is due to compete in the +78kg judo category on Friday. A Saudi official said earlier this month that its female athletes would have to obey Islamic dress codes.

But last week, International Judo Federation (IJF) president Marius Vizer said Shaherkani would have to fight without a headscarf to comply with "the principle and spirit of judo".

Olympic and Saudi officials are in talks with judo chiefs in order to find a solution, IJF spokesman Nicolas Messner told Reuters on Friday. "We are confident a solution will be found," he said.

The father was quoted as telling al-Watan that he had not heard back from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on the matter.

Female participation in sports has long

been a controversial issue in Saudi Arabia, where conservative Muslim clerics have said it is immodest and goes against women's nature.

Until this year, Saudi Arabia was one of three countries, alongside Brunei and Qatar, never to have sent female athletes to the Olympics. Human rights groups urged the IOC to ban the countries from the Games unless they agreed to send women.

Saudi Arabia reached an agreement on the participation of Shaherkani and Sara Attar, an 800 metre runner, just two weeks ago after talks with the IOC.

Alf adds from London, the IOC has dismissed rumours Saudi Arabia will withdraw over the hijab row.

The Saudis have brought women athletes to the Olympics for the first time ever and one of their two female competitors, Wojdan Shaherkani, is due to fight in the heavy-weight judo competition on Friday.

However, judo rules stipulate fighters cannot wear a head covering on safety grounds, whereas Saudi authorities said they would only let their women compete if they respected Islamic dress, including the wearing of a hijab.

That led to speculation Shaherkani would be forced to withdraw and even rumours that the whole Saudi delegation would do likewise.

But IOC communications director Mark Adams insisted Sunday that the IJF and the Saudi delegation were working to find a mutually agreeable solution.

NZ put under pressure

Cricket

AGENCIES, North Sound

A double-strike by Kumar Roach, getting rid of two specialist batsmen immediately after a short rain interval in the fifth morning Sunday, raised West Indies' hopes of closing out the game, after a difficult fourth day in the field.

The wickets heaped pressure on New Zealand as the battle for survival got tougher against an incisive Roach and Sunil Narine, who looked like striking every over. Neil Wagner impressed with his defence and perseverance for a night-watchman, but New Zealand expected more from their specialist batsmen in the tense morning session to reach 225 for 5 for an overall lead of 54.

With fielders hovering around the batsmen, run-scoring was a challenge. New Zealand managed just two boundaries, one off an outside edge by Wagner which beat second slip, and the other a neat cover drive by Ross Taylor past mid-off. That New Zealand managed just 26 runs off as many overs in the session exemplified the battle of attrition.

Earlier, the Black Caps were up against it at stumps on Saturday after two breakthroughs for the hosts left

them at 199 for 3, just 28 runs ahead. Looking to erase a 171-run first-innings deficit, opener Martin Guptill and Brendon McCullum strove manfully to move the Black Caps towards positive territory but both fell after taking the tourists to 170 for 1 at one stage in the final session.

West Indies spinner Sunil Narine, who pulled out a maiden five-wicket Test haul in the first innings, made the first breakthrough in the second innings after trapping Daniel Flynn lbw for 20 in an early blow for the Kiwis.

But thereafter Guptill, who just missed a century in the first innings, and McCullum piled on the runs before falling for 67 and 84 as Narine and Kumar Roach claimed their respective scalps.

Guptill and McCullum had put on 123 for the second wicket before spinner Narine had opener Guptill caught by Assad Fudadin at shortleg. Kumar Roach then bowled McCullum to leave nightwatchman Neil Wagner on four not out with skipper Ross Taylor on 11.

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 351 (Guptill 97, Flynn 45, Bracewell 39; Narine 5-132, Roach 2-44)

WEST INDIES: First innings 522 (Gayle 150, Powell 134, Fudadin 55, Deonarine

79; Martin 3-134, Bracewell 2-96)	
NEW ZEALAND: Second innings	
Guptill c Fudadin b Narine	67
Flynn lbw b Narine	20
McCullum b Roach	84
Taylor lbw b Roach	21
Wagner not out	13
Williamson b Roach	0
Brownlie not out	5
Extras: (b-3, lb-8, nb-4)	15
Total: (For 5 wks in 90 overs)	225
To bat: Bracewell, Martin, Van Wyk, Vettori.	
Fall of wickets: 1-47, 2-170, 3-194, 4-217, 5-217.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Rampaul	11	0	37	0
Roach	18	3	47	3
Narine	38	12	76	2
Sammy	16	6	25	0
Samuels	3	1	22	0

Zulfiya lifts gold with record

AFP, London

Kazakhstan's Zulfiya Chinshanlo set a world record in the clean and jerk as she powered to Olympic gold in the women's -53kg class on Sunday.

The two-time world champion, 19, snatched 95kg and then registered a best of 131kg in the clean and jerk for a combined total of 226kg.

Asian champion Hsu Shu-Ching of Taiwan took silver with a total of 219kg (96, 123), on countback from Moldova's Cristina Iovu, who took bronze with 219kg (99, 120).

LONDONdiary
29 July, 2012

SPORTS REPORTER from London

Spotted at Horse Guards Parade, home of beach volleyball, was the former secretary general of the United Nations, Kofi Annan.

Annan spent about an hour at the event and joined in, though briefly, a Mexican wave triggered by the party atmosphere among a first-day attendance of 10,081 spectators. Organisers had predicted the central London venue would attract a regular number of dignitaries and celebrity spectators.

Prince Harry is likely to attend next week, while Lord Coe, chair of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games, joined the crowd for part of the afternoon session.

Spectators were welcomed to Horse Guards Parade by marching bands and the event's very own dancing troupe. Organisers promise a mix of music to satisfy what James O'Brien, head of sport presentation, describes as an "energy theme".

He said: "Due to the location of the venue and the juxtaposition of a beach in the political heart of London, we have tried to mirror this clash of cultures in our music programming."

Music from the Beatles, the Kinks, Rita Ora and the Arctic Monkeys were among the mix.

Faucheron picture perfect

Thomas Faucheron hit the centre of the target at the archery on Sunday with his second arrow in the men's team quarterfinal defeat to Mexico -- and also the camera positioned there.

Hungarian GP Hamilton's

AFP, Budapest

Lewis Hamilton delivered a flawless drive from pole position to the chequered flag to win Sunday's Hungarian Grand Prix for McLaren and revive his challenge for this year's Formula One drivers World Championship.

The 27-year-old Briton took control of the race from the start and stayed in front, pit stops apart, as he resisted strong late pressure to come home ahead of Finland's Lotus driver Kimi Raikkonen. Hamilton's win was his second of the year and the 19th of his career.

Raikkonen pushed hard to find a way of passing Hamilton in the closing laps, but the Englishman resisted despite having to fight to preserve his worn tyres.

Raikkonen finished a strong second ahead of his Lotus team-mate, Frenchman Romain Grosjean, and defending world champion Sebastian Vettel of Red Bull.

Current world championship leader Fernando Alonso of Ferrari came in fifth.

Ticket scandal hits Games

REUTERS, London

Olympic organisers scrambled on Sunday to quell a scandal over depressing TV images of half-empty stands at the London Olympics as a government minister said an urgent inquiry had been launched to identify just who had failed to show up, and why.

Fans from all over Britain who had been charmed by the Olympic publicity offensive, but were let down by a complex ballot system, were outraged by footage of empty seats at key venues including Wimbledon -- one of the hottest tickets in world tennis.

"It's infuriating to see so many empty seats on TV. Surely it can't be beyond the organisers to allow real sports fans to fill them up on a first come first served basis?" said Ed Shortrose, a London-based father of two who has been trying for months to get tickets to see the Games.

More vacant seats were reported on Sunday, the second day of the Games.

Organisers said they were in touch with the International Olympic Committee to discover who failed to show up and why.

A Games official told Reuters it was still unclear whether the empty seats in several events, including Wimbledon, swimming, gymnastics and basketball, had been allocated to sponsors, international federations and athletes' families.

"We are trying to find out who these tickets belonged to," said the official.

British Olympic Association Chairman Colin Moynihan told a briefing on Sunday one solution might be a 30-minute rule whereby fans would be allowed to take up vacant seats if spectators were late or did not arrive.

Moynihan said the search was on for who had not taken up tickets. "Where you have large blocks of seats you can pretty quickly know," Moynihan said.

Spectators reported more empty seats on Sunday.

"We've got a few empty seats, so please shout twice as loud for those empty ones," announcer Ian Oswald said at one men's weight-lifting event.

More empty seats were reported at the women's gymnastics, particularly close to the mat. Soldiers, apparently who had been on security duty, occupied some of the empty chairs.

Seats were also vacant at the evening dressage despite the appearance of Zara Phillips, Queen Elizabeth's granddaughter, who is part of the British team.

Culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt, the minister responsible for the Olympics, said he was disappointed by the empty seats and that the London Organising Committee (LOCOG) were looking into it.

"LOCOG are doing a full investigation into what happened," Hunt told publicly funded broadcaster BBC after a widely praised surreal and exuberant opening ceremony starring the queen, Paul McCartney and Rowan Atkinson.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Pleasant opera
- 5 Arrest, slangily
- 9 Long, crosser
- 12 Press
- 13 Colorful fish
- 14 Id counterpart
- 15 Huge victory
- 17 Eccentric
- 18 Like — of bricks
- 19 Wild West show
- 21 Inane
- 24 Antitoxins
- 25 Seed covering
- 26 Country-wide
- 30 Cooler
- 31 Heathen
- 32 Before
- 33 Try
- 35 Long story
- 36 Farm fraction
- 37 Cook-wear?
- 38 Cultural character
- 40 Verdi opera
- 42 CNN alumnus
- 43 British capitalists?
- 48 Sun Yat —
- 49 Sea eagle
- 50 Final blow
- 51 Superlative suffix
- 52 Favorable votes
- 53 Beefy entree
- DOWN**
- 1 Zero
- 2 A
- 3 Opposed
- 4 Ultimate goal
- 5 Philippine knife
- 6 — arms
- 7 Despondent
- 8 Regarding
- 9 that matter
- 9 Listen
- 10 Chills and fever
- 11 Dorothy's dog
- 16 Pigpen
- 20 Acapulco gold
- 21 Secure
- 22 Persia, now
- 23 "The Year of Living Dangerously"
- 24 Oscar winner
- 24 Celebrity
- 26 Church area
- 27 Past
- 28 Jason's ship
- 29 Slender
- 31 Garnishing
- 34 Environmentally friendly
- 35 Paddles
- 37 Fuss
- 38 Other-wise
- 39 "Piggies"
- 40 — Karenina"
- 41 Mid-month date
- 44 Raw rock
- 45 Chow down
- 46 Deli loaf
- 47 Boar's mate

Solution time: 21 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

VRPT PTOPZOHDTFZ BPOPZ
DGBXJPP R DJ XVT ZWFP
WBXT BPXBFP D JWBXJP
ORHO J GHZJRHFF FHV

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NOVEL ABOUT THE VERY SMART PURCHASE MADE BY A PROMINENT NAVIGATOR: "GOOD BUY, COLUMBUS."

Today's Cryptoquip clue: B equals P