

## Sport

## Hayden's Test reminder

BRISBANE, Nov 6 (AFP): Opener Matthew Hayden gave the Test selectors something to ponder when he put champions Queensland in control of their Sheffield Shield cricket match against Victoria here Monday.

Hayden scored a solid 81 as Queensland cruised to 243 for four at the close of the second day's play in reply to Victoria's first innings 249.

When a thunderstorm sent the small crowd scurrying for shelter in the final session, Queensland were poised to score first innings points in the four-day game.

Middle-order batsmen Andrew Symonds (39) and Clinton Perren (13) were leading the charge after Martin Love (51) and captain Stuart Law (29) fell to Victorian paceman Michael Lewis (2-33), who surrendered one run in a dazzling three-over spell.

Victoria, resuming the day at 229 for four, collapsed adding just 20 runs for the loss of their last six wickets.

Queensland's pace attack was led by Andy Bichel (4-69) and Adam Dale (3-50).

## Match-fixing shouldn't go unpunished'

CHENNAI, Nov 6: Offences like match-fixing should not go unpunished, Union Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs, Pon Radhakrishnan, said yesterday, reports PTI.

Answering questions from newsmen at the airport here, he said the government would do whatever was possible in law regarding those named in the CBI's report on match-fixing and betting in cricket.

On the appointment of a foreign coach for the Indian cricket team Krishnan said he would welcome the appointment of foreign coaches for any sport in the country, as it would help the players sharpen their skills and improve their capability.

While the government was willing to extend all facilities for such measures to improve the quality of sport, those who availed of these facilities should guard against falling a prey to evils like match-fixing. In such an eventuality, the government would not hesitate to take action against those concerned, he added.

## Waugh looks for big scores

SYDNEY, Nov 6 (AFP): Australian captain Steve Waugh has shrugged off a run of low scores and says he is close to peaking in the lead-up to the opening cricket Test against the West Indies later this month.

Waugh said Monday he was keen for more bat-biting time as he prepares to lead New South Wales against Tasmania in their Sheffield Shield match starting in Hobart Tuesday.

The four-day game gives the Blues' clutch of Test players an opportunity to put form on the board for the first Test starting in Brisbane on November 23.

Waugh, whose brother and NSW teammate Mark was among those mentioned in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) of India's match-fixing report released last week, has produced a series of early season cameos.

He made 13 and 25 in the Blues' only four-day fixture against Victoria and compiled scores of 27 not out, 49 and 36 in their three one-day engagements.

"I'm hitting the ball very well. I've been getting 20s and 30s every dig, but nothing substantial at this stage," Waugh said Monday.

"Melbourne was a bit tough. I missed out in the first dig and in the second we were looking for quick runs, so I don't want to read too much into that."

"But I'm feeling really good and I feel as if I'm peaking and going towards the right direction. I just want to keep that going and get some time in the middle."

Even with Test spearhead Glenn McGrath rested with a sore shoulder, NSW could field a pace attack comprising internationals, brothers Brett and Shane Lee.

## Queensland in command

BRISBANE, Nov 6: Matthew Hayden and Martin Love scored half centuries to put Queensland in a commanding position at the halfway stage of their Australian first class clash with Victoria today, reports Reuters.

Hayden smashed 81 and Love 51 as the reigning champions reached the close of play at 243 for four in reply to Victoria's first innings total of 249.

Victoria, beaten by Queensland in last year's national final, lost their last six wickets for 20 after resuming at 229-4. Paceman Andy Bichel took four for 69.

## M'singh soccer

MYMENSINGH, Nov 6: Abahani defeated Prothibati Sena 7-0 in the First Division football league at the local stadium today, reports UNB.

Sohel netted four goals while Alauar, Tipu and Jewel scored one each for the winners.

Mohammedan will take on Friends Eleven tomorrow at the same venue.

## Malaysia hold Vietnam



SONGHLA, Thailand Nov 6: Vietnam's fire-power came to nought against the Malaysians who defended stoically for a well-earned point against the favourites in their opening match of the Tiger Cup Sunday, reports AFP.

The Vietnamese, runners-up in the last tournament two years ago, saw numerous attempts at goal foiled by goalkeeper Kamaluzzaman Hassan and the defenders in the match held at the Tinsulanon Stadium.

It was indeed a frustrating night for Vietnam skipper Le Huynh Duc and his men as they sought to start the tournament on a winning note.

However the Malaysians, who were completely dominated in the first half but played much better in the second, were playing for a draw and that was exactly what they got.

Vietnam started on an emphatic note and in the ninth minute Nguyen Hong Son sent in a stiff shot from just outside the box but keeper Hassan had no problems.

In the very next minute skipper Le, in a one-to-one situation with Hassan, pushed the ball too far in front and the Malaysian goalkeeper made a gallant save.

Only after the first 20 minutes did Malaysia have a look at the Vietnam goal with striker Azman Adnan troubling Vietnam keeper Mai Tien Dung with a grounder.

However except for sporadic attacks by the Malaysians, it was the Vietnam team who enjoyed a fair share of the ball and came close to scoring.

Dogged defending by central defender B. Rajnikandhi and

company thwarted the Vietnamese strikers.

The second half saw the Vietnam continue the onslaught but they were frustrated time and again by the Malaysian defence and soon the Malaysians started building up some

fine moves.

However they never really came close to scoring and it was Vietnam who had the final try in the 87th minute when Vu Mien Hiep skied his volley, much to the anguish of the hundreds of Vietnamese fans.

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