

## Warne given mentor role

AFP, Melbourne

Champion cricketer Shane Warne will coach and develop young spin bowlers in a new initiative announced Wednesday by Cricket Australia.

Warne, who revolutionised leg-spin bowling during his 15-year playing career, will work for Cricket Australia (CA) encouraging young aspiring spin bowlers, the sport's governing body here said.

Warne, who captured a then world record 708 wickets in 145 Tests before his retirement after last January's home Ashes series against England, will pass on his skills and knowledge to a new generation of Australian spinners.

CA said Warne, 38, will also spend time at the CA Centre of Excellence and work with the Australian women's and men's squads.

He will be part of preparations for the Australian Under-19 team before they head to the ICC World Cup in 2008, the organisation said.

Warne said he was looking forward to giving something back to cricket.

"The work I'm going to be doing with young spinners and their state captains is a really important role and I believe I've got a lot to offer," Warne said in a CA statement.

## Sourav.

CRICINFO, undated

paperboard replica of a stadium, adorning it with 100 balloons and the same number of cricket balls.

Another 100 flowers were used to write 'Sourav', as the tri-colour and the Australian national flag fluttered, while a makeshift scoreboard showed Ganguly and Laxman as the batsmen in the middle.

Homemade pancakes were distributed among the people, with youths constantly raising slogans eulogising the talismanic player who made a stellar comeback scoring more than 1,000 Test runs this year.

## Rajshahi-Khulna

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Stadium in Chittagong, the hosts take on Dhaka while basement side Sylhet are up against Barisal at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in the other matches of this round after a gap of nine days due to the Eid-ul-Azha holidays.

Third-placed Chittagong (77) are just a point above Dhaka while Barisal are in fifth place with 59 points. They are also struck by departures to New Zealand as captain Shahriar Nafees is also missing from their team.

## FIFA warns BFF

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which expired on April last year, has been given the responsibility of forming divisional and district football associations without involvement of any government officials.

However, the EC's tendency to go alone by avoiding popular demands as well as the BFF councillors, who have not endorsed the new statutes, have raised eyebrows.

Many have stated Sultan's resignation to the FIFA president instead of tendering it to the executive committee of BFF as simply an eyewash to avoid clash with the Caretaker Government. It is speculated that the EC is trying to stay in power for another term showing the immunity given by FIFA.

Fath also informed that Sultan, who recently engaged himself in altercations with sports adviser Tapan Chowdhury and the media, sent a letter to the sports adviser on December 18 regretting his behaviour with the country's sports boss. The BFF chief, however, has yet to apologise to the media for his baseless and accusing remarks.

## 'My best spell'

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spins it more than me. It was a bit soft so I tried him early. He bowled well, kept things tight. We bowled well together. He kept it tight at one end. He was a bit unlucky. But I'm sure he'll be really effective in the second innings."

It's been thirty years since India have visited Australia with a bowler leading the side. Kumble, though, didn't think he was under any additional pressure with the ball in hand. "I was happy the way it went. I had this problem in India when I played as a captain. When I held back and was not bowling, the rest of the players kept saying, 'Why have you stopped, keep bowling. Today I had to do that. It's important that I ensure I bowl the number of overs I do as a bowler. Today they kept encouraging me to bowl more.'

Kumble has gone through a career with question marks over his effectiveness abroad. His previous tour to Australia dispelled a few of them but recent efforts in Cape Town and The Oval prompted a few to raise their eyebrows. This time he's here as a captain and responsibility seems to have spurred him on. Four years ago it was another captain, Sourav Ganguly, who made the early dent on the series. Kumble matched that without breaking much sweat.



Monwar Anis Khan, chairperson of the Women's Wing Committee of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), speaks at a press conference ahead of the inaugural Women's Divisional Cricket League at the board's management office in Gulshan yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## A timely revival



CRICINFO, undated

mayhem in Multan and you have a forgettable record for the Indian team. West Indies began the 2002 series with 270 for 4 on the first day in Georgetown, England managed 257 for 4 at Lord's, Australia smacked 262 for 2 in Brisbane four years ago, Pakistan piled up 326 for 2 in Lahore and England settled into 268 for 4 at Lord's earlier this year. Things aren't that different when India bat first: 187 all out in Galle, 161 in Wellington, 241 in St John's, and 156 for 5 in Johannesburg.

At lunch Wednesday, Anil Kumble might have been wishing he'd won the toss but there was some comfort in the logic that it's better to slip up on the field rather than collapse with the bat. Also, he could always bring himself on, peg away and irritate. He had his googlies, toppies, and legbreaks to bank on. More importantly, he had been in this position all his life.

India returned from lunch revived -- fittingly, given that their countrymen were waking up back home. Kumble set the alarm bells ringing with a fizzing googly past Jaques before Zaheer Khan, slicing through Ricky Ponting's defences, showed he was wide awake as well. Kumble then accounted for Mike Hussey with another googly, probably his best ball of the day. The ground was buzzing. Yuvraj Singh was bouncing up and down at point. India had finally arrived, not

only in body but also in mind. Australia had dealt the early blow, India were unleashing a counter-punch.

RP Singh wasn't to be left behind. He had missed the previous series against Pakistan and started shakily here but he cranked it up a notch. "Drink, drive, bloody idiot," said a hoarding on the boundary. Michael Clarke couldn't be accused of the first count but he tried to drive a wide one at a wrong time and edged to slip. VVS Laxman's eyes lit up and, crouching low, he snapped up a beauty. This was the sort of cricket India usually play on the second day of the series, fighting back gallantly after being down. Instead they had turned their body clocks a good day ahead. What a difference five-and-a-half hours makes.

It wasn't naked aggression that won India the day (that was left to the two streakers who interrupted the show towards the end) but a controlled, planned, thought-filled approach. Put a short midwicket in for Andrew Symonds, who was swishing wildly, and you had a wicket. Slip in a googly to Adam Gilchrist and you had a wild hoick -- a shot that was as ugly as the word itself. India will be thrilled that they've got rid of the first-day blues. There's little more they could have done to earn a wonderful night's sleep.

Local coordinator Fazlur Rahim Babul, Bangladesh Football Federation vice-president Monir Ahmed were present in the daylong trip to Savaramong others.

## England

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students.

"They have made significant improvements. I believe that they will be competitive enough to win places in our age-group teams," said Tipu who feels the need of an academy for training purpose as all residential camps depend on the availability of space at the BKSP, country's lone sports institute at Savar.

Local coordinator Fazlur Rahim Babul, Bangladesh Football Federation vice-president Monir Ahmed were present in the daylong trip to Savaramong others.

## Senior Division

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Arambagh are the only B. League club playing in the competition.

The team: Arambagh, Badda Jagarina, Victoria, Wanderers, Youngmen's, Dipali, Mohakhali, Wari, Agrani Bank, Purbachal, City Club, Jatrabari and Sunrise.

## Mashud, Rafique

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to the condition and his last Test performance in Sri Lanka was also not bad. That's why we didn't find any reason to send Mashud despite his good form in the national league and in addition we have yet to get a full fitness report on him," he explained of Mashud's omission.

"In Rafique's case what we felt was that a spinner like Enamul who can bowl a little slower would be more effective than him. Enamul has already proved his worth as a longer-version bowler and his performance in the national league was also noteworthy."

"On the other hand we still believe that Rafique has been completely out of sorts since the last home series against India and his performance in the domestic competition and attitude towards the competition also forced us to take the decision," he added.

The former national player also explained the reason behind the selection of Bashan and Nafees, who got the nod because of his late comeback in the national cricket league.

"The time has yet to come to think about the Test fate of Bashar because we don't want to forget his contribution as a Test batsman. On the other hand we always believe that Nafees is a very important player for us. We dropped Nafees from the one-day squad because of his woeful performances but he has returned among runs lately to get back his place," said Rafiqul.

He will be part of preparations for the Australian Under-19 team before they head to the ICC World Cup in 2008, the organisation said.

## Kumble stifles Aussies

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events that I really enjoy," Hayden said.

"I really enjoy playing spin bowling, and the majority of overs (today) were spin on a first-day wicket as well."

Hayden was finally out when he miscued to Rahul Dravid at mid-on off Zaheer Khan, a half hour after the wrist-spinner.

Hayden shared in a century opening partnership with Jaques and departed at the fifth wicket down to massive acclaim from the 68,465 Boxing Day crowd.

He struggled early in the morning but was in imperious form in the afternoon, and batted for 268 minutes and struck nine fours off 183 balls.

Jaques was deceived by a Kumble delivery and was smartly stumped by Mahendra Singh Dhoni. He put on 135 for the first wicket with Hayden in 142 minutes.

Jaques, who has replaced retired opener Justin Langer, continued his impressive summer, following up his scores of 100, 150 and 68 in last month's two Tests against Sri Lanka and bringing up his first century opening stand with

### AUSTRALIA: First innings

Jaques st Dhoni b Kumble	66
Hayden c David b Zaheer	124
Ponting b Zaheer	4
Hussey lbw b Kumble	2
Clarke c Laxman b RP Singh	20
Symonds c Karki (sub) b Kumble	35
Gilchrist c Tendulkar b Kumble	23
Hogg c David b Zaheer	17
Lee lbw b Kumble	0
Johnson not out	10
Clark not out	21
Extras: (lb-5, w-1, nb-9)	15
Total: (For 9 wkts in 90 overs)	337

Fall of wickets: 1-135, 2-162, 3-165, 4-225, 5-241, 6-281, 7-288, 8-294, 9-312.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Zaheer	22	1	93	3
RP Singh	19	3	77	1
Harbhajan	20	3	61	1
Ganguly	3	1	15	0
Kumble	25	4	84	5
Tendulkar	1	0	2	0

INDIA: Jaffer, Dravid, Laxman,

Tendulkar, Ganguly, Yuvraj, Dhoni, Kumble, Harbhajan, Zaheer, RP Singh.

Toss: Australia

Umpires: Mark Benson (ENG), Billy Bowden (NZL)

Third umpire: Steve Davis (AUS)

Match referee: Mike Procter (RSA)

## Blazing Ash takes blame

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when they flighted the ball.

"I don't want to blame the middle-order batsmen. They are the best we have and given time they will become very good players. I think it was Tamim and Ashraful who should take the blame because they gave it away after getting in and I believe they'll feel the same way," said coach Jimmy Siddle.

The batters forgot some team rules out there, the bowlers bowled as well as they could but New Zealand had good batsmen and there was never enough runs to put pressure on them."

I think this was a 260-plus wicket and even if we could have got to 230-240 then the match might have been interesting because traditionally this is not a very high-scoring venue. So I must take responsibility for the batting debacle after 25 overs. We will learn from this and hopefully make fewer mistakes in the next match in Napier because in every game we have shown improvement on this tour. In the past we used to lose too many early wickets but now the top

Martin 10 1 35 0

Gillespie 8 0 27 3

Vettori 9 0 48 0

Oram 8.3 1 36 3

Styris 1 0 9 0

NEW ZEALAND

Hewitt Aftab b Shrikant 88

McCullum c & b Reza 40

Fulton c Mehrab b Shrikant 35

Stryers not out 25

Taylor lbw b Shrikant 8

Sinclair not out 1

Extras: (lb-4, w-2) 6

Total: (For 4 wkts in 42.4 overs) 203

Fall of wickets: 1-90, 2-157, 3-173, 4-194.

ASHRAFUL: 20

Reza 0 0 12 0

Ashraful 2 0 12 0

Result: New Zealand won by 6 wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Jamie How.

Toss: New Zealand

Umpires: Gary Baxter (NZL) and Peter Parker (AUS)

Mills 10 2 46 3

Blazing Ash takes blame

## Women's Div Cricket from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The first-ever Women's Divisional Cricket League gets underway today with Rajshahi taking on Khulna at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Maj Gen Sina Ibn Jamali will inaugurate the meet where Dhaka and Chittagong are the other teams to take part in the next four days.

"The fact is we are facing quite a difficult wicket. It's definitely a par effort (Australia's