



## Did U Know?

American William Lamed was the oldest men's US Open singles champion. He won the title at the age of 38 years 242 days in 1911.



**Michel Platini**  
(UEFA president)  
"Soon in England you will have no English players, no English managers, just foreign speculators."



## What to WATCH

- BTV**  
Bangladesh v New Zealand  
Second Test, Day Four  
Live from 9:00am
- ESPN**  
Sportscentre India  
Sports News  
Live at 8:30pm
- English Premier League**  
Bolton v Everton  
Live from 2:00am (Wednesday)
- STAR Sports**  
English Premier League  
Middlesbrough v Man City  
Live from 2:00am (Wednesday)
- TEN Sports**  
ICL Twenty20  
Kolkata v Chandigarh  
Live from 8:00pm



**Nat'l Cricket League**  
(Four-Day, Day Three)  
Chittagong v Khulna  
Venue: Chittagong Divisional Stadium  
Rajshahi v Dhaka  
Venue: Rajshahi Divisional Stadium  
Barisal v Sylhet  
Venue: Shaheed Chandu Stadium, Bogra

## BOA signs deal with KOC

UNB, Dhaka

An agreement was signed in Seoul yesterday with Korean Olympic Committee to enhance cooperation in the field of sports between South Korea and Bangladesh.

Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed, also the president of Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA), signed the agreement on behalf of Bangladesh while president of the Korean Olympic Committee (KOC) Lee Yun Take signed for the Koreans.

"The agreement will usher in a new era of sports cooperation between the two Olympic committees," General Moeen said.

The BOA chief hoped that concrete programmes under the umbrella of the present agreement would immensely benefit development of sports sector in the country. The agreement provides for exchange of sports teams, arrangement for joint training programmes and exchange of technical officials and trainees between the two countries, the release said.

In particular, the agreement is expected to open up opportunities for Bangladeshi athletes to receive training from the high quality Korean trainers.

Earlier, the president of BOA

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# Another holiday

SPORTS REPORTER



The contest in the second and final Test between Bangladesh and New Zealand is all but over as no play was possible on the third day at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The first two days of the match were also called off due to rains under the influence of the depression over the Bay of Bengal. However the difference between the first two days and the third day was that the covers were taken off the pitch at about 11:00am as there was no rain from the morning.

Initially it was guessed that play might start in the afternoon with the fact that the drainage system at the home of cricket is brilliant but the ground was too heavy to start the match and umpires Daryl Harper and Asoka de Silva had the same verdict for the third successive day: the day's play is called off.

And most importantly it started to drizzle again after that.

The weather may be more promising today with sunny intervals expected, but too much time has already been lost to think about any result in this match and it's now all but confirmed that the Kiwis won the two-match series 1-0.

Nobody expected a premature finish to a series which saw a good contest, especially from the home team, and understandably the Tigers were frustrated by the "no action" on the first three days but still they are looking forward to playing some cricket in the next two days.

"It's really disappointing but we cannot do anything about weather. The contest is over considering the possibility of a result but still we are looking forward to the next two days," said Bangladesh skipper Mohammad Ashraful, who along with his teammates appeared at the venue to have some practice.

"We have had a target of winning sessions, so it would be great for us if we take the opportunity

when the game rolls on to the ground. There is still six sessions left and we want to capitalise on it," he added.

With entire three days already washed out, the fate of the match is almost decided for a draw if ultimately the game takes to the field and if not it will go down in cricket history as one of the very rare abandoned Test matches.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) however took the opportunity to share views with the national cricketers regarding the next play.

"We met with the whole team to exchange views about next contact and ongoing New Zealand tour performance. You know the player's contact will expire at the end of November and that's why we took the opportunity to discuss the issue," said Gazi Ashraf Hossain, chairman of the BCB's cricket operations committee.

"It was a lively discussion where players gave their opinions. It was discussed how we can improve the salary in the national team as well as the payment in the first-class cricket," he said.

## 'Time to stand up'

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Ricky Ponting has asked his senior men for a greater impact in Delhi when Australia attempt to fight back from a 1-0 series deficit in Wednesday's third Test. The elder statesmen, particularly Matthew Hayden and Brett Lee, have been quiet overall during the opening two games and are desperate to show their worth against a committed India.

Michael Clarke, the vice-captain, is one of those who want to lift after the start of his campaign peaked with his first half-century of the series in the second innings at Mohali. In the four years since making his debut in India, Clarke has grown into a mature figure and will also look to help the team's large group of inexperienced players through the final two games of the series.

"Ricky spoke to us about a little more responsibility going on the senior guys," Clarke said. "It's hard enough playing in India for the first time and for the first couple of Tests, so it's important the extra expectation gets put on the captain, vice-captain and senior players. Hayden, Lee, Clark, Hussey, it's up to us guys to really stand up, with bat or ball."

"I'm certainly going to take a little bit more responsibility in my own performances. It's crucial for us to win in Delhi, and important for the senior guys to stand up."

Stuart Clark's elbow will continue to be monitored in the lead-up to the match, but he has bowled strongly in training and will come into the side if fit. The Australians will also keep a close eye on the pitch, which had a slight covering of grass on Sunday, but is expected to turn heavily late in the match.

One of the issues discussed when the Australians returned from a short break this week was

the importance of not thinking about the glut of engagements they have over the next two years. The India series is the start of a run that won't settle down until well into 2010.

"What did come out was we weren't going to look backwards or too far forward," Clarke said of the meeting. "There's been a lot of talk about how much cricket we have coming up over the next 12 to 15 months and it's important to look at what we have right now."

Clarke admitted he had been guilty of gazing too far ahead, but it wasn't because he was concerned about too much cricket on the horizon. "It's excitement over who we're playing," he said. "We've got some really tough cricket. India in India is a good start, then a big Australian summer, South Africa in South Africa, then the Ashes, which is something you always look forward to."

Since taking over the vice-

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REMEMBERING OLD TIMES: Australia legend Steve Waugh shares a joke with opener Matthew Hayden after a practice session at the Feroz Shah Kotla ground in New Delhi yesterday.

## Shouhardo Cup begins today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The Shouhardo Cup football tournament will kick off at the Tangail Stadium today with eight teams taking part in the event organised by 21 AD Regiment Artillery and Tangail District Sports Association under the overall supervision of 98 Composite Brigade.

Tangail Municipality will take on Modhupur Adivashi Ekadash in the inaugural match at 3:30pm. The other teams are Maulana Bhasani University of Science and Technology (MBUST), Govt Sa'adat College Karatia, Govt MM Ali College Kagmari, Tangail Police Team, Zila Krira Shangstha and Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge (JMB).

Vice-chancellor of MBUST Dr. Prof Monimul Haque will declare

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## Waugh praises India pacers

Cricket

PTI, New Delhi

After spin legend Bishan Singh Bedi lent his helping hand to Ricky Ponting and his men in Sunday's practice session, former Australia skipper Steve Waugh attended the nets on Monday as the visitors left no stone unturned in their preparation for the third Test against India.

Waugh, who was here to attend the two-day MCC World Cricket Committee meeting that concluded on Sunday, attended the entire net session, interacting mostly with Ricky Ponting, Brett Lee and Matthew Hayden.

"I just came to have a look at their practice session," Waugh later said. Asked what did he suggest to Ponting and his men who trail the four-match series 0-1, Waugh said he told them to relax and not think much about the result.

"I didn't give any tips as such. I told them to relax and enjoy. Sometimes you tend to think too much about the outcome. They need to relax," said the former captain.

When he had any special piece of advice for out-of-form Hayden, Waugh said, "Not really. He is a quality player and a world class batsman, he knows his game well. It's all about spending some time in the middle and runs will come automatically."



Match referee Javagal Srinath walks off the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium square after the covers were taken off for a while yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Dhaka restrict Mumbai to 151-6

SPORTS REPORTER

CRICINFO, undated

An expensive 40 runs in the last two overs saw Dhaka Warriors let Mumbai Champs off the hook in their fifth match of the Indian Cricket League at the Tau Devi Lal Stadium in Gurgaon yesterday.

Electing to bowl after winning the toss, Warriors captain Habibul Bashar almost looked a happy man with a near-perfect effort from his bowling battery till the 18th over where his two pacers Mohammad Sharif and Tapash Baisya and the spin trio of Mohammad Rafique, Alok Kapali and Mosharraf Hossain not only contained Mumbai to 111-6 but also achieved an outstanding feat of not conceding a single extra run.

But the balance swayed the other way when Rafique, an otherwise miser bowler, conceded 22 runs in the penultimate over that featured a huge six and three fours including the only wide of the innings, a wild delivery from the wily left-arm spinner that raced down to the third man boundary.

Sharif bowled the final over and it yielded 18 runs. Khirid (51 off 25 balls) was the man who tormented both the bowlers in a stunning slog-hitting that helped Mumbai post a challenging 151-6.

Still, it was not a fairly safe total given the fact that the Warriors scored 173 at this very ground and lost against Royal Bengal Tigers a couple of days back with in-form Kapali and Aftab Ahmed hitting sparkling half-centuries.

The Dhaka Warriors were 29 for 1 after four overs.

## No play in NCL

SPORTS REPORTER

There was no play for the second successive day in the third round of the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea 10th National Cricket League (NCL) yesterday due to inclement weather.

The first day's play had to be called off due to rain which has been continuing under the influence of the depression over the Bay of Bengal.

Rajshahi face Dhaka at Rajshahi Divisional Stadium, holders Khulna are scheduled to meet Chittagong at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium while Barisal are to play Sylhet at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.

Waugh, who took a then world record 708 wickets in 145 Tests, said

## Changes likely in team for Myanmar

SPORTS REPORTER

The think-tank is considering making a few changes in the national football team for next month's Myanmar trip.

Bangladesh will compete in the 3rd Grand Royal Challenge Cup from November 11 in Yangon where Shafiqul Islam Manik's side will be pitted against the hosts and Indonesia in Group A.

After playing the Merdeka Cup with 20 players, the squad will have to be reduced to 18.

The task could be little easier as Hassan Al Mamun, who was injured during the game against Myanmar in Kuala Lumpur last week, is unlikely to regain fitness.

With enough backup defenders already in the side, Manik need not

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## 'Mishra unlikely'

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

While the stadium itself has retained none of the charm of the old world, the surroundings suggest you have entered a town of forts. Once you have entered the Feroz Shah Kotla and it's mighty tower given the security - just look up and you'll find a policeman at most of the high points, overlooking the movements outside the stadium, almost like the guards in a fortress. They may as well be guarding India's lead in the series, welcome to the Fortress Feroz Shah.

Leading 1-0, India couldn't have come to a better venue. Kotla itself means a citadel - to try and kill the series; they have won the last seven Tests played here. India's build-up going into the third Test is in stark contrast to the one going into Mohali, where they won comprehensively. In Mohali, India were not sure of the final XI till about half an hour before the start; here they are almost sure two days before the match that Anil Kumble will

replace Amit Mishra, who took a five-for on debut.

If Kotla is the fortress, Kumble has been its king. He has taken 55 wickets in six Tests here, at an average of 15.41. After having missed the Mohali Test, he seems to have recovered from the shoulder injury, and has been bowling in the nets. "He is looking good," Gary Kirsten, India's coach, said. "We are very happy with the way he is progressing. And if he is fit, he is the captain of the team, and he will take Mishra's place."

Harbhajan Singh's fitness comes into question because of a toe injury he had picked towards the end of the Mohali Test. Yesterday he bowled less than an over in the nets. Today he did the fielding drills, bowled about three overs, and also batted. "We will just wait and see. We have got two days to go, but hopefully it's not too serious," Kirsten said of the injury.

If Harbhajan and Kumble are both fit, Mishra will have to go back to what he has done for the last eight years: wait his turn. It may sound harsh, but that's what

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## BCB polls on November 12

SPORTS REPORTER

The election of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) under the new constitution will be held on November 12.

National Sports Council (NSC), the apex body of the country's sports, announced the schedule on Monday for the country's most affluent sports body's election.

The draft voter-list will be announced today and after objection and hearing the final list will be published on October 30 and the nomination papers will be distributed on November 2 from 10am to 4pm.

The nomination papers submission date is fixed for November 5 and the trial the following day. One can withdraw nomination paper on November 9 and the final list of the candidates will be put on the board on the following day.

According to the new constitution, the election will be held in three categories as 70 district and divisional councillors will elect 10 directors while 52 club councillors

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## Warne expects comeback

Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

Legendary leg-spinner Shane Warne said Monday there is no need for him to come out of retirement and he expects Australia to bounce back in their Test series in India.

Warne, who played his last Test in January 2007, said he was confident Ricky Ponting's struggling side would make amends for their record 320-run defeat in the second test in Mohali last week.

There has been a vacuum in Australia's spinning stocks since the retirements of Warne and leg-spin rival Stuart MacGill, heightening speculation that Warne might consider making a comeback at the age of 39.

But Warne scotched suggestions he was contemplating a comeback with less than a year to the next Ashes series in England.

Warne, who took a then world record 708 wickets in 145 Tests, said

he was confident his former teammates could still have a say in the four-Test Border-Gavaskar Trophy series.

"I think Australia will bounce back, I think that really hurt them, that last Test match, and I'm sure they'll fight back in the Aussie way," Warne told reporters here Monday.

He expected the team's senior group, led by Ricky Ponting, Michael Clarke and Matthew Hayden, would lead from the front and score more runs, starting in Wednesday's third Test in New Delhi.

"Hopefully, they will win the toss and put some big runs on the board," he said.

"I think it's been a fantastic series so far and I'm sure the Aussies will fight back."

"But as far as I'm concerned, I am very happily retired."

Warne launched an exhibition Monday at Melbourne's National Sports Museum which focuses on his career and also spoke about his latest book, a list of the 100 best cricketers he played either with or against.

## A soft target

Cricket

OSMAN SAMI UDDIN

Though the manner of it should not have pleased anyone, the sacking of Geoff Lawson, it is safe to say, has done just that. An easier target hasn't been seen round this way since Pervaz Musharraf stepped down earlier this year. As all the country's ills were thrown onto Musharraf's shoulders, so too all the cricketing ones have been on Lawson's.

He made a convenient scapegoat, did Lawson. Spiky, aloof, without a laptop, picking fights with the media: what did he even do? Results weren't great on the field, but Pakistan was also hardly on the field during his tenure.

Five Tests he helmed in 15 months, in none of which was remotely the strongest XI available to him. There were a few more



GEOFF LAWSON

ODIs, 28 of them, but 13 were against the might of Zimbabwe, Bangladesh and Hong Kong; Pakistan may be weak right now but not that weak.

So there were no Test wins and nine losses in 15 ODIs against established teams, but really, how much time was he given? Barely had he started than he finished.

And why stop at just the coach? Has Shoaib Malik played no role in this decline? His time might be coming too. He is contracted to lead till the end of this year, when a review will take place. If it is an honest review, only one outcome should emerge.

Many will point to Lawson's example as final proof, were it needed, that foreign coaches just don't work in Pakistan. Is there

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