



Serbian star Jelena Jankovic kisses the winner's trophy after defeating world number one Dinara Safina of Russia in the Western & Southern Financial Group Women's Open final in Cincinnati on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

Sehwag wants to 'leave' Delhi

CRICINFO, undated

Virender Sehwag is reported to be seeking a move from Delhi, the state he has represented since 1998, to Haryana from the 2009-10 season, citing the heavy interference in selection matters.

"My smile is back and I'm having fun playing the matches," said Jankovic, who started the year atop the world rankings but has seen her status slip with a series of lacklustre results. "This is what I missed. I missed this for maybe seven months this year."

Jankovic bounced back from a tough semifinal victory on Saturday night to claim her second title of 2009, after a victory in a claycourt tournament in Marbella in April.

"When I woke up this morning I felt really sore, especially after going to sleep at 2 am," said Jankovic, who needed almost three hours to overcome Elena Dementieva in the semis -- a match in which Jankovic trailed 6-2 in the third-set tiebreaker.

But she showed no sign of weariness as she had just nine unforced errors in pocketing the

first set over struggling Safina.

"I was just a little bit off today, I would say," Safina said. "I was feeling very confident stepping into the court, and then I was just totally off."

Jankovic got a scare in the second set when she landed awkwardly on her left leg. She received treatment on her thigh and didn't seem to be slowed as she finished off a victory that was especially sweet in light of her struggles this season.

Jankovic claimed the world number one spot last August, but couldn't break through for a Grand Slam victory.

Hoping to improve her fortunes in the majors she changed her training regime, putting on 15 pounds in a bid to beef up her game.

Instead, she just felt slow. After falling to teenager Melanie Oudin in the third round at Wimbledon, Jankovic took time off to regroup, and also help her ailing mother -- usually her companion on tour -- get through surgery.

On Sunday her time away appeared to have been well-spent.

"I'm happy that I'm back," said the 24-year-old, who will move from fifth to fourth in the rankings on Monday. "I'm back in this (leading) group of players."

## Cincy crowns Jankovic

### Tennis

AFP, Cincinnati

Serbia's Jelena Jankovic boosted her US Open hopes with a brisk 6-4, 6-2 victory over world number one Dinara Safina on Sunday in the final of the two million-dollar WTA Cincinnati Open.

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## 2 IPL sides bailed out

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money has already been paid to the two franchises. Modi declined, however, to comment further on the issue or provide details.

The other teams that were invited for the tournament last year were Victoria and Western Australia, the domestic Twenty20 finalists from Australia, and Titans and Dolphin, the South African topers, Middlesex, the England champions, and Sialkot Stallions from Pakistan.

Cricket Australia is planning to provide some financial compensation for Victoria and Western Australia from the revenue it hopes to gain from the tournament this year. But these amounts, which will cover advance travel booking, team preparation and lost sponsorship opportunities, are not expected to match the Indian payout. Cricket South Africa declined to comment on the issue but Cassim Docrat, chief executive of Dolphins, confirmed that he has received no information about any compensation.

The BCCI is a founding partner of the Champions League Twenty20, along with Cricket South Africa (CSA) and Cricket Australia (CA), with all three countries enjoying joint decision-making control over the multi-nation, multi-club event. The England and Pakistan boards have no management stake in the tournament.

An official familiar with the decision said there are two opinions within the Indian

board on the compensation amount for the IPL teams. "Some feel that the compensation is reasonable considering the money that the franchises would have possibly earned from the tournament," the official said. "But others have expressed concerns that such a move could set a bad precedent. They fear that other IPL franchises may demand similar bailouts if such situations crop up again in the future, even during the IPL."

However, a member of the IPL governing council said the hefty compensation package for the Indian franchises was reasonable given the amounts they would have gained from the tournament and loss of the sponsorship money that had been committed to the two teams. The BCCI's original agreement with the IPL franchises included a possible slot in the Champions League for the finalists, and this was factored into most of the major sponsorship agreements the franchises had entered into.

"The IPL's duty and obligation is towards its franchises and a fruitful, long-term relationship," the IPL official said. "The IPL's promise to the franchises was that if you qualify for the Champions League, you will play. But due to unfortunate circumstances, that didn't happen last year and we had to honour that commitment in the best manner possible."

The Champions League Twenty20 was set to start on December 3 last year but was

aborted after terrorists attack on Mumbai, one of the main venues, on November 26. The tournament has now been expanded to include 12 teams and invitations have been extended to this year's domestic topers from seven countries, including three teams from India, two each from Australia, South Africa and England and one each from New Zealand, Sri Lanka and West Indies.

### Tigers get

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After the series Bangladesh will fly for West Indies to play the ICC World T20 in April-May. Bangladesh has been pitted in a group with Australia and Pakistan.

In 2010, Bangladesh cricket team will also visit England to play one-day warm-up game, two three-dayers, one four-day, three ODIs and two Tests from May 6 to June 17.

### Bolt blitzes

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record times, had overcome a nervy semifinal in which he false started for the first-ever time in his career.

But when it came to the final, he enjoyed his normal start, his head staying down over the first 40 metres before slowly bringing his towering 6ft 5in frame fully upright and lengthening out his stride to attain maximum velocity.

After having enraptured the crowd with his trademark bow-and-arrow posing before starter's orders, his pull was exemplary and he was soon away from Gay -- who had a marginally better reaction time -- and his other rivals and celebrating another new world record.

In sultry conditions at the Olympic Stadium, with a temperature of 28C (82F), Bolt's training partner Daniel Bailey of Antigua finished in fourth at 9.93sec on a photo finish with Trinidad's Olympic silver medallist Richard Thompson.

Dwain Chambers, the world indoor 60m silver medallist who is competing here after having served a two-year doping ban, came in sixth with 10.00sec.

"I am very aware of it," said the 92-Test veteran who has scored 3,220 runs and claimed 293 wickets since his debut against England in 1997.

Vettori needs seven more wickets with his left-arm spin to become only the ninth player in history to achieve the double of 3,000 runs and 300 wickets.

"I am a statistically minded person so it is a real goal for me and hopefully I will have a lot more years in Test cricket."

"There are some stats I would like to achieve and hopefully I will join some pretty esteemed company."

## Dilshan set for new

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The injuries forced Dilshan to miss the subsequent One-day series against Pakistan, but signalled his comeback by making 68 in a tour game against New Zealand in Colombo last week.

"It will not be difficult for me to open in Tests," he said. "I have done it in one-day and Twenty20 matches and the idea is still to hit the loose ball. I look forward to it."

Dilshan's excitement may be tempered by bad weather over this southern coastal town where heavy rain over the past two days denied the teams serious practice.

Seasonal monsoon thunder showers have been forecast over the next five days.

The tourists will rue their best chance in the two-Test series in Galle, where seam bowlers took 21 of the 40 wickets during the Pakistan match last month.

New Zealand last won a Test series in Sri Lanka in 1984, but managed to draw both matches on their last trip under Stephen Fleming in 2003.

Daniel Vettori's team face a tough challenge against a home side fresh from a 2-0 win over Pakistan, but a personal milestone beckons the captain in the series.

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## Punter's biggest Test

### Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Ricky Ponting is not given to hyperbole, so when he declares this week's Ashes finale the most important match of his 135-Test career, it is worth taking note. In a revealing column in the Daily Telegraph, the Australian captain predicted the pain of England's 2005 Ashes victory would prove a motivating factor for his side entering The Oval Test, and hinted reverse swing could play a role in determining the outcome of the match.

But by far Ponting's most eye-catching statement was that regarding the personal significance the fifth and final Ashes Test holds for him. In a career that has spanned 14 years, four continents and every major trophy, Ponting insisted his 136th Test would be the pre-eminent match of his career.

"I have played in 135 Test matches but never played in a match as big as this one," Ponting wrote. "There is nothing bigger than playing a deciding Test in an Ashes series, and you have to grab these moments when they present themselves because you may never experience such a match ever again."

"That kind of excitement adds a bit of zip to your training and when that starts

happening it generally spills over into the week of the game. There has been a very positive feel about our training during the last couple of days. We enjoyed a few days of rest in Leeds but since arriving in Canterbury we have trained very hard and I'm happy with where we are at the moment."

Ponting has previously denied any lingering disappointment from the 2005 Ashes defeat but, since Australia's series-leveling triumph at Headingly last week, has been more forthcoming in discussing the topic. Immediately after the fourth Test, Ponting conceded redemption in England was "a chance I've been waiting this whole tour for", and has since gone on to discuss the pain of watching Michael Vaughan hold aloft the urn at The Oval.

"The only motivation I need this week is the memory of having to search out Michael Vaughan, congratulate him and shake hands at the end of the Ashes series of four years ago," he wrote. "We were off the field when we lost the match due to bad light and the fact that we never had a chance to have a crack at chasing down our target left a bitter taste in the mouth."

"I also remember we made sure we stood outside and watched the ticker tape, the popping of champagne corks and the fireworks. We made sure we took it all in to make us better and stronger for the next time we played in 2006-07. But heading to

The Oval this week it is clear that roles have been reversed completely since 2005."

"Then we were the team facing questions over selection. They had a settled line-up and just come off a victory in the fourth Test at Trent Bridge. Now it is us who have the momentum gained from comprehensively winning at Headingley. We are comfortable with what we have achieved in the last Test-and-a-half."

Most pundits have given Brett Lee little chance of breaking into the Australian XI at The Oval, but Ponting has kept the door ajar for his most senior paceman to make an improbable comeback. The Australian captain suggested reverse swing could play a role in deciding the outcome of the final Test; an art at which Lee has proven particularly adept in recent years, never more so than when he claimed 6 for 76 against England Lions at Worcester six weeks ago.

"Brett Lee is jumping out of his skin to get involved," he wrote. "It was very exciting watching him bowl with reverse swing in the match at Worcester, and if he had not been injured he would have played in the first Test."

"In 2005 reverse swing dominated the series. This year it has probably been a dumper summer and we have only seen conventional swing. The Oval is the one ground where that may change, especially if we have a dry, hot week."

### BD-Zim 5th

ROM PAGE 17

ODI after Mohammad Ashraful and Shakib Al Hasan guided the Tigers in the first two victories with their swashbuckling centuries.

But on the bowling front, the Tigers have real cause for concern. Touring without pace spearhead Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and subsequently losing pace duo Rubel Hossain and Nazmul Hossain to injuries, the Tigers' bowling attack has looked toothless and the spinners also had very little impact on the Zimbabwe batsmen who twice took the total beyond 300 mark.

However, Bangladesh are not tinker with the winning side while Zimbabwe need to get in a regular fifth bowler to bolster their attack, which has been continually bleeding runs.

The match starts at 2:30pm Bangladesh time, with Bangladesh Television and Ten Sports beaming the live telecast.

### PROBABLE SQUADS

BANGLADESH: Tamim Iqbal, Zunaid Siddiqui, Mohammad Ashraful, Shakib Al Hasan (captain), Rokibul Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim (wk), Mahmudullah, Naeem Islam, Mahbubul Alam, Enamul Haque, Syed Rasel.

ZIMBABWE: Hamilton Masakadza, Mark Vermeulen, Charles Coventry, Brendan Taylor, Sean Williams, Elton Chigumbara, Stuart Matsikenyi, Prosper Utseya (captain), Ray Price, Tawanda Muparwa, Ed Rainsford.

### Lee's Ashes

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took 2-43 to help his case to oust seamer Stuart Clark from The Ovaline up.

Sunday's two-day match was awarded to Australia on first-innings score after England were bowled out for 237 in response to the tourists' 340.

Gloucester's Jamie Dalrymple was the pick of the home batsmen with 58 off 122 balls.

## Korean tames Tiger

### Golf

AFP, Chaska

South Korea's Yang Yong-Eun became the first Asian to capture a major championship Sunday, doing the unthinkable by rallying past Tiger Woods for one of the biggest upsets in golf history.

The 37-year-old fired a two-under par 70 to win the 91st PGA Championship by three strokes over the world number one, snapping Woods's perfect 140 record when leading a major tournament after 54 holes.

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