



Grand Master Ziaur Rahman (R) makes a move against Mohammad Javed during the sixth round match of the 37th Walton National Chess Competition at the BOA media hall yesterday. PHOTO: BANGLARCHOKH

**Warne-red**

AFP, Melbourne

Dynamic opening batsman David Warner thwarted Shane Warne's comeback to Twenty20 cricket with a pulsating century in Australia's Big Bash League at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Saturday.

The powerful left-hander smashed an unbeaten 102 off 51 balls to steer Sydney Thunder to a six-wicket win over Warne's Melbourne Stars.

Legspin legend Warne, playing for the first time since his final game in the Indian Premier League last May, only bowled two overs but was clouted for two sixes by Warner.

Warner, who last Monday scored his maiden Test century with an unbeaten 123 in the Hobart Test loss to New Zealand, belted a total of six sixes and six fours in his explosive century.

His big-hitting enabled Sydney Thunder to easily chase down the Stars' 153 for seven with 154 for four off 19 overs.

Warne, 42, played despite burning his right bowling hand while frying bacon at home on Monday and his two overs cost 19 runs.

**Fight at long**

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complete his second Test hundred. His first one came against New Zealand last year in Hamilton. During his 168-ball unbeaten 108, his highest in Tests, the left-hander smashed 14 boundaries that included some eye-catching cover drives.

Nafees, at the other hand, was more sedate and there was not a single reckless shot during his 177-ball 97 that contained 12 boundaries.

A short ball from Umar Gul shattered his dream of making his second Test hundred as the ball kissed his gloves before reaching the safe hands of wicketkeeper Adnan Akmal.

True, it could have been more satisfying if Bangladesh finished the day with Nafees at the crease but still for the first time in the series they brought some life in their performance.

**A worthy**

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from this. I wanted to keep myself in control. We talked normally, nothing big, in the middle, tried to enjoy the situation.

"Shakib is very cool when he bats. He can calm things down. He was doing it today, playing spin so well. It became easier at my end. We talked constantly. The best part of the partnership was that we took a lot of singles, it took the pressure off from us," said Nafees, who made his seventh Test half-century.

The dismissal at the end of the day, a rip-snorter of a delivery from Umar Gul caught Nafees's gloves before ending up in Adnan Akmal's gloves. But Nafees had little regret: "I couldn't move my hand, unfortunately. I was disappointed at once but I got out to a good ball so there isn't much to do. If I got out to a bad ball, then I'd have felt bad."

It is the journey that matters ultimately and Nafees would certainly endorse this view quite heartily on Saturday.

**MS will decide in 2013**



CRICINFO, Melbourne

India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni has said the chances of him being available to defend India's World Cup title in 2015 aren't guaranteed, and that he will take a call two years prior to the tournament in Australia-New Zealand. Dhoni, who has been around since 2005, has been captaining India in all three formats, in addition to his role as wicketkeeper-batsman.

"If you see 2015, three and a half years to go, I don't really know where I will stand. Everything needs to go off well and then close to 2013, I will have to take a call whether I can be 100 per cent available for the 2015 World Cup," Dhoni told the news channel CNN-IBN.

"Because at the end of the day you don't want a wicketkeeper part of the side who has not played at least 100-odd games -- at least close to 80-100 games going into the World Cup. So that's a call that needs to be taken. But if everything goes off well, 2013 end will be the time where we will have to carefully study the body and see what can be done." Dhoni was speaking to CNN-IBN after receiving the news channel's Indian of the Year -- Sports award for 2011.

India's packed schedule in recent years, with the IPL thrown in, has compelled Dhoni to prioritise and take adequate rest before important tours. This year, he skipped the one-dayers in the West Indies after an exhausting World Cup and the IPL, as well as West Indies' return series (ODIs) in India which concluded recently. Parthiv Patel took over the gloves in both.

Dhoni's trophy cabinet in limited-overs cricket includes the World Cup, the 2007 World

Twenty20, plus two IPL titles and the 2010 Twenty20 Champions League. The 2011 World Cup remains his most significant achievement till date, smashing an unbeaten 91 in a tense final against Sri Lanka in Mumbai, sealing the victory with a six.

The normally phlegmatic Dhoni didn't hide his emotions, as television cameras managed to capture scenes of several of his teammates openly crying with joy. Reliving the moment, Dhoni admitted that he too cried, though away from the camera.

"Yes I did [cry] you don't really have footage of that," Dhoni said. "It's very difficult to control an emotion like that. I was controlling it, quickly. I wanted to go up to the dressing room and I see two of my players crying and running onto me. Fortunately, all of a sudden, I started crying and I looked up and there was a huddle around me."

"It was one of the biggest things for us as Indian cricketers. The last time we won the proper 50-over version was 28 years back. So most of the people part of the side wanted to win the World Cup and as soon as we got into a position where we saw the World Cup coming into our dressing room, that was the time when emotions started to flow. If you see before the post-match presentation, almost each and every player cried."

Dhoni's unconventional batting style, full of improvised strokes, has won him plenty of attention over the years. One of his patented strokes is the 'helicopter shot', which he sometimes employs to dig out yorker length deliveries, in which he twirls the bat above his head in the follow-through.

He said it originated from his tennis-ball cricket days in Jharkhand.

**Venomous Vernon**

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Paranavitana was then given out lbw to Philander by umpire Steve Davis and successfully sought a review which showed the ball pitched outside leg stump.

Jayawardene, needing 16 to reach 10,000 Test runs, took his score to 15 with two boundaries in an over off Jacques Kallis.

He then pushed a ball from Kallis to the off side and was called through for a run by batting partner Thilan Samaraweera. Kallis reacted

quickly, picked up the ball, turned and threw down the stumps at the bowler's end with Jayawardene well short.

Samaraweera made a plucky 32 before he was caught behind off Morne Morkel, which effectively ended the tourists' resistance, although Thisera Perera and Rangana Herath hit sixes before Philander claimed the final wicket when Herath was caught behind.

South Africa were bowled out earlier for 411 with last wicket pair Mark Boucher and

Imran Tahir adding 22 runs in four overs to extend their last wicket stand to 61, a record against Sri Lanka.

Boucher added four boundaries to his overnight 49 before chasing a wide ball from Chanaka Welegedera to be caught behind by Kaushal Silva for 65. Tahir was unbeaten on 29.

**SCOREBOARD**

**SRI LANKA:** First innings 180 (Mathews 38, Samaraweera 36, Paranavitana 32, Jayawardene 30; Philander 5-53, Steyn 4-18)  
**SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings (overnight 389-9)

Rudolph c Paranavitana b Perera	44			
Smith lbw b Fernando	61			
Steyn run out (Herath)	0			
Amla c Mathews b Perera	18			
Kallis c Mathews b Welegedera	31			
De Villiers sub (Kurunaratne) b Perera	99			
Prince c Silva b Mathews	39			
Boucher c Silva b Welegedera	65			
Philander c Jayawardene b Dilshan	4			
Morkel c Samaraweera b Welegedera	4			
Imran Tahir not out	29			
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, nb-12, w-3)	17			
Total: (All out in 122 overs)	411			
Fall of wickets: 1-88, 2-90, 3-125, 4-136, 5-173, 6-270, 7-303, 8-344, 9-350				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Welegedera	31	4	96	3
Perera	24	1	114	3
Mathews	9	4	13	1
Fernando	28	2	128	1
Dilshan	7	1	17	1
Herath	23	4	41	0

**SRI LANKA:** Second innings

Paranavitana c Boucher b Steyn	4			
Dilshan c Boucher b Philander	6			
Sangakkara c Boucher b Philander	2			
Jayawardene run out (Kallis)	15			
Samaraweera c Boucher b Morkel	32			
Mathews c Boucher b Philander	5			
Silva c Kallis b Tahir	17			
Perera c Smith b Steyn	21			
Herath c Boucher b Philander	23			
Welegedera c and b Philander	10			
Fernando not out	4			
Extras: (lb-1, nb-10)	11			
Total: (All out in 39.1 overs)	150			
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-11, 3-19, 4-37, 5-66, 6-70, 7-104, 8-133, 9-145				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Steyn	10	2	36	2
Philander	11.1	1	49	5
Kallis	5	3	13	0
Morkel	9	0	36	1
Tahir	4	1	15	1



South Africa pacer Vernon Philander celebrates a wicket on his way to taking 5-49 in the second innings of the first Test against Sri Lanka at the SuperSport Park in Centurion yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

**Zia extends lead**

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman extended his lead in the 37th Walton National Chess Championship to one point after he beat FIDE Master Mohammad Zaved in the sixth round at the BOA media room yesterday. Zia, the top rated player in the country, took his tally to 5.5 points, and was followed by Grand Master Niaz Murshed who is on 4.5 points after he drew with Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar. Sagar is in third place with 4 points. The other Grand Master in this championship Reefat Bin Sattar, pulled out of the meet for personal reasons giving Golam Mostafa a walk over. In the other matches of the day, Abu Sufiyan Shakil beat Shafik Ahmed, Mahtabuddin Ahmed beat Mahfuzur Rahman and Monir Hossain drew with Sohail Chowdhury.

**Sachin to get Bharat Ratna?**

PTI, Mumbai

With the government changing rules to make sports persons eligible for the Bharat Ratna, the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) has passed a resolution to support the demand for bestowing the country's highest civilian honour on champion batsman Sachin Tendulkar.

"A resolution was passed at our Managing Committee meeting to back Tendulkar for Bharat Ratna. Our Joint Secretaries [Nitinand Dalal and PV Shetty] will now be writing to Maharashtra Government requesting it to take it up with the Central Government," said MCA vice-president Ratnakar Shetty.

**Primary school football**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Bangbandhu and Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Gold Cup primary school football tournament began at the Rangpur stadium on Saturday. Local MP Tipu Munshi inaugurated the tournament as chief guest.

In the opening match, Palichora Government Primary School of Rangpur upazila defeated Gajirhat Government Primary School of Kaunia upazila by 3-0 goals.

In the other match of the day, Jahangirabad Government Primary School of Pirganj upazila defeated Bujruk Hajipur Government Primary School of Badarganj upazila 1-0.

The final match will be held on December 20.

**LOCAL snippets**

**Abahani, Army in final**

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani and Bangladesh Army confirmed their berth in the final at the Victory Day Hockey Competition, after the two title contenders fought out a 4-4 draw at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Pushkor Khisha Mimo scored twice for newcomers Abahani while Hasan Jubayer Niloy and Mahbubur Rahman Chayan scored the other two. Milon Hossain and Sabbir Hossain scored a brace each for Army. Both teams are equal on 10 points each from four matches and still have a game in hand at the group stages.

Meanwhile, BKSP lost to Bangladesh Navy 4-3 despite a hat-trick from Din Islam. Murtoza, Zahid, Shihab and Rimon scored a goal apiece for Navy. In the other match, Bangladesh Air Force defeated Bangladesh Police 3-2. Rumman, Muktiul and Shamsul scored the three goals for Air Force while Rahad pulled two back for Police.

**Dhumketu, BGB win**

Dhumketu and Border Guard Bangladesh won their respective matches of the Citycell Federation Cup Basketball Championship at the Dhanmondi Indoor Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

Dhumketu won against Bangladesh Police by 80-65 points, after leading the first half by 32-26 points. Tarek caged 36 points for Dhumketu while Shahin scored 34 points for Police. The second match between BGB and BKSP was a much closer affair as BGB came out 49-43 point winners. BGB led the first half by 19-15 points. Linkon top

**PCB hopeful of India series**



PTI, Karachi

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has not given up hope of playing India in a Test series next year, revealed chairman Zaka Ashraf.

Ashraf, who is in Dhaka to meet the Bangladesh Cricket Board officials to discuss prospects of the country's team touring Pakistan next year, said he had not given up hope on the Indo-Pak series.

"The Indian board chief, N Srinivasan, didn't come to attend the Asian Cricket Council meeting in Singapore, so the issue of next year's series could not be discussed," Ashraf said.

"But I will meet him next month on the sidelines of the ICC meeting in Dubai and hopefully some solution can be found to having the series with India," he added.

PCB officials suffered a setback during the ACC meeting in Singapore recently as the Asian Council confirmed the Asia Cup would be held on schedule in March in Bangladesh, effectively ruling out prospects of Pakistan touring India around the same time for the FTP Test series.

The series has fallen into doldrums since the fifth edition of the IPL is scheduled to commence around April 12th.

Ashraf, however, said he was not disappointed with what had happened in Singapore.

"I think the Asia Cup had to be held on schedule. But when I meet with Srinivasan next month I see some ray of hope for the bilateral series," he insisted.

Ashraf also made it clear that Pakistan had no grievances against the Bangladesh board and instead he was in Dhaka to give their officials a detailed presentation on the security arrangements for their team if they decided to tour Pakistan next year as per the FTP.

"If we can't play India then we have to look at playing other teams and my main objective is to try to convince the Bangladesh board officials that we can host their team in Pakistan and provide them the best security," he said.

Bangladesh has made it clear that it would only tour Pakistan if it gets security clearance from its government and the ICC since no foreign team has toured Pakistan after March, 2009 attack on the Sri Lankan team in Lahore.

**BFF to get**

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already has two football fields, a tennis court, a gymnasium, a swimming pool, and a boarding house with 42 rooms.

BFF president, during his visit to the FIFA headquarters earlier this month, received verbal assurance from the FIFA president Sepp Blatter about assistance in setting up a full-fledged football academy and recruitment of coaching staff there. The FIFA boss is expected to formally inaugurate the academy when he visits Bangladesh in April 2012.

**CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer**

**ACROSS**

- Man of morals?
- Identify in a line-up
- Human
- You, me, him, whoever
- Sweater material
- Square
- Mexican money
- W.C. Fields prop
- Crafty
- Carrots' mates
- Fish eggs
- High times
- and crafts
- Alpha follower
- Fever time?
- "Yeah, right"
- Trig function
- Workout venue
- Moo — gai pan

**40 Columns' crossers**

- Scat singer's syllable
- Dance lesson
- Sicilian spouter
- Roma's land
- Steal gasoline, maybe
- Smooth fabric
- Un-broken
- Musical —
- Sleazy one

**2 Work units**

- Urban sitting spot
- Rowing need
- Posters
- Satyr's cousin
- Central
- Big Apple letters
- Zero
- Organic compound
- Depend (on)
- Chart
- "Royal Wedding" star
- Listener
- Kyoto

**24 Mex. neighbor**

- de deux
- Crucifixion wounds
- Condensed outline
- Your
- \$ dispenser
- Venusian vessel?
- Fresh
- Wicker-work willow
- Dividing membranes
- Platter
- Western state
- Soaks up some rays
- Compared to
- Notch for a bow-string
- Pismire
- Island neckwear
- Squid squirt

**DOWN**

- Top-notch

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

A	S	P	A	F	E	W	M	A	D	E
I	O	U	E	U	R	O	A	C	N	E
D	O	M	I	N	E	E	R	D	E	A
E	N	A	M	E	L	K	I	A		
		P	A	S		D	O	M	I	N
B	O	I	L	S		B	A	N	D	E
A	R	T	Y	G	A	F	L	E	A	
N	E	E	G	O	T	S	L	E	D	S
D	O	M	I	N	O	A	N	Y		
		M	U	D		M	A	N	T	I
P	O	M	P		D	O	M	I	N	I
E	D	I	E		A	R	A	L		L
W	E	L	L		Y	E	N	S		T

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12								13		
14								15		
16					17	18			19	
			20	21			22	23		
24	25	26		27			28	29	30	31
32			33				34			
35					36				37	
		38	39		40			41		
42	43			44	45			46	47	48
50			51					52	53	
54								55		
56								57		

**CRYPTOQUIP**

U T R T E C R U T Z U Z V V B E G D  
E D Q R D H L S V V I R H T S C C R Q  
U E B E G S M Z L E E Q R M I E A :  
X D Z U R R A C R X U Z U S E M H .

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** WELL-KNOWN POP HIT WHOSE LYRICS CONCERN A VERY FAMOUS MUSEUM IN PARIS: "THE LOOK OF LOUVRE."  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals X