

# What to WATCH

**SONY SIX**  
*The Ashes*  
England v Australia  
Third Test, Day Four  
Live from 4:00pm

**SONY ESPN**  
Sri Lanka v New Zealand  
Second Test, Day Four  
Live from 10:00am  
*Serie A*  
Roma v Genoa  
Live from 12:45am  
(Monday)

**TEN 1**  
West Indies v India  
First Test, Day Four  
Live from 7:30pm

**TEN 2**  
*Serie A*  
Udinese v Milan  
Live from 10:00pm  
Torino v Sassuolo  
Live from 12:45am  
(Monday)

**STAR SPORTS SELECT 1**  
English Premier League  
Bournemouth v Man City  
Live from 7:00pm  
Tottenham v Newcastle  
Live from 9:30pm

**STAR SPORTS SELECT 2**  
*Bundesliga*  
Leipzig v Eintracht  
Live from 7:30pm  
Hertha v Wolfsburg  
Live from 10:00pm



England captain Joe Root plays a drive during his knock of 75 not out against Australia on the third day of the third Ashes Test at Headingley yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Steadfast Root revives England

AFP, Leeds

 England captain Joe Root restored a measure of batting pride for his side with an unbeaten 75 in the third Test at Headingley as Australia were denied an Ashes-clinching win inside three days on Saturday.

At stumps, England were 156-3, still needing a further 203 runs to reach a target of 359 made all the more imposing after they had collapsed to a woeful 67 all out in the first innings -- their worst Ashes total for 71 years.

Their second innings threatened to go the same way at 15-2.

But Root, out for ducks in his previous two knocks, was still there at the close after a third-wicket stand of 126 in 53 overs with Joe Denly (50). Ben Stokes was two

not out from 50 deliveries.

An Australia victory would see the holders retain the Ashes at 2-0 up with two to play in a five-match series. The odds were still in their favour but England now have an outside shot at a win that would rival their celebrated '500/1' success of 1981 when they beat Australia at Headingley after following-on.

Only three sides, however, have made more than 300 to win in the fourth innings of a Test at Headingley -- Australia (404-3 in 1948), England (315-4 against Australia, 2001) and the West Indies with 322-5 two years ago.

No one was consulting that page in the record books though, when England slumped to 15-2.

Left-hander Rory Burns edged Pat Cummins to David Warner at first slip before Surrey team-mate Jason Roy was bowled playing down the

wrong line to Josh Hazlewood, who took 5-30 in the first innings.

Denly, the only England batsman to reach double figures in the first innings with 12, repeatedly played and missed either side of being hit on the head by a Cummins bouncer but hung on there.

The more-assured Root cover-drove off-spinner Nathan Lyon for four to complete a 120-ball fifty acclaimed by the Yorkshireman's adoring public.

Root had a brief scare on 59 when given out lbw to Hazlewood but his immediate review revealed a clear edge which had somehow escaped the attention of New Zealand umpire Chris Gaffaney.

Earlier, Marnus Labuschagne missed out on a maiden Test hundred as he top-scored with 80 in Australia's second-innings 246. It was his third successive fifty

since becoming world cricket's inaugural concussion substitute in place of star batsman Steve Smith in the drawn second Test at Lord's.

Labuschagne had moved on to 70 when, as happened with his second ball at Lord's, he was hit on the helmet grille by a Jofra Archer bouncer. But he was cleared to bat on by Australia's team doctor.

There was now a risk that wickets at the other end might deprive Labuschagne of a hundred but he ran himself out instead.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**AUSTRALIA:** First innings 179 and second innings 246 (Labuschagne 80, Wade 33; Stokes 3-56, Archer 2-40)

**ENGLAND:** First innings 67 and second innings 156 for 3 (Root 75 not out, Denly 50; Hazlewood 2-35)

## Latham century drives Kiwis

AFP, Colombo

 A sparkling century by Tom Latham powered New Zealand's first innings reply after Sri Lanka posted 244 on day three of the rain-hit second Test in Colombo on Saturday.

Latham, on 111, put together an unbeaten 70-run stand with B.J. Watling, on 25, to thwart the Sri Lankan bowling attack that had made early inroads into the Kiwi batting.

The tourists were 196 for four at stumps, still trailing Sri Lanka by 48 runs. Earlier Dhananjaya de Silva made 109 to lift Sri Lanka after they resumed the day on 144 for six.

But Latham made the day his own as he registered his 10th Test hundred. Latham hit 10 boundaries in his 184-ball stay at the wicket so far.

### SCORES IN BRIEF:

**SRI LANKA:** First innings 244 all out (Karnaratne 65, Silva 109; Southee 4-63, Boult 3-75)

**NEW ZEALAND:** First innings 196 for 4 (Latham 111 not out, Watling 25 not out; Perera 2-76)

## BD U-15s gear up for SL tie

SPORTS REPORTER



Fresh from a moral boosting 5-2 win over Bhutan, defending champion Bangladesh will now aim to keep their winning run intact when they take on Sri Lanka in their second match of the SAFF U-15 Championship at the Kalyani Stadium in Nadia, West Bengal today. The match will get underway at 12:30pm.

Although the boys in red and green faced a few hurdles while overcoming Bhutan in the opening match, they ultimately regrouped and established their supremacy to leave the field with their heads held high. More importantly however, it was a victory that will spur on the two-time champions throughout the

tournament.

Instead of training in rainy conditions yesterday, the Bangladesh team underwent a swimming session as a part of their recovery. The players were also brought into review the Bhutan match as well as study tactical information on today's encounter with Sri Lanka.

"The boys will be trying to carry their first-match performance into the second against Sri Lanka, however, we have to work on the backline and goalkeeping as we conceded two goals against Bhutan due to the mistakes of the goalkeeper and defenders," said coach Mostafa Anwar Parvez Babu yesterday.

"We watched the Sri Lanka-Nepal match to find out the strongest and weakest points of Sri Lanka. I think their goalkeeper is good one. We will now design our game plan on the

basis of our strongest points because we want to win the match against Sri Lanka," continued Babu, who took the reins of the squad after regular head coach Robert Martin Ryles of Britain fell ill.

Coach Babu also voiced his concerns over the humid weather in Nadia as a few players suffered from dehydration after the first match, which was played under scorching afternoon heat.

"Whether it is rainy conditions or humid conditions, both teams will have the same impact but cooling conditions is always better than playing under humid condition. However, the players must cope with this condition here," said Babu, who wants to play attacking football against Sri Lanka, who won their first match against Bhutan 3-2 before going on to lose their second encounter against Nepal 2-0.

## Tuchel coy over Neymar

AFP, Paris

 Paris Saint-Germain coach Thomas Tuchel said Neymar is "ready" for Sunday's Ligue 1 game but whether he plays depends on developments in the Brazilian's bid to leave the club.

The 27-year-old is angling for a return to Spain but reports this week suggest PSG have rejected an offer from Real Madrid of 100 million euros (\$111 million) plus players.

Neymar arrived amid deafening fanfare from Barcelona two years ago as the world's most expensive player in a 222 million euros deal.

Barca's own attempt to bring him back to the Camp Nou on loan with an obligation to buy for 160 million euros at the end of the season has also been reportedly rejected in Paris.

Tuchel toyed with reporters on Saturday when asked if his wantaway forward would figure for the first time since injuring his ankle at the end of May.

"He can play (against Toulouse) if the situation between him and the club is clear....today it's not clear, perhaps tomorrow it will be."

## 'Want a sustainable BPL model'

SPORTS REPORTER



BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury (R) and former Finance Minister AMA Muhith, chief patron of BPL franchise Sylhet Sixers, make their way to a discussion between the Governing Council and franchises in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: BCB

The Sylhet Sixers urged for continuity and a sustainable tournament model during an ongoing series of discussions between the franchises and the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) Governing Council, which came to an end at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

"We spoke of the grounds and match officials. We also spoke about the revenue like the majority of the teams. We are now to provide a written proposal to the BCB [Bangladesh Cricket Board] which will not only mention revenue signing but also direct signing of the players, players' retention policy for this year and years to follow," Sylhet Sixers chief executive officer Yasir Obaid told reporters.

"What we basically want continuity and a sustainable BPL model. The franchises spend a lot to run the teams and it will be quite a difficult job to run the team for the next four years. But we are all working together to make this entire tournament successful like it has been in the past. Going ahead it is important to have a fixed schedule given we have the FIP till 2023. BCB should now be able to let us know when

the tournament can be held in coming years. When BPL clashes with other tournaments, it becomes difficult for us to plan and also get good players," he added.

The BPL Governing Council will now make their observations and once again sit for a common meeting with the franchises before drafting an agreement to complete the renewal procedure.

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