

## After Pune debacle Organisers at Bengaluru assure 'sporting' pitch for second test

**NEW DELHI, FEB 28** /-/- Barring a last-minute intervention from the home side, the second test between India and Australia will be played on a "sporting" pitch which will be fair to both teams, organisers in Bengaluru have said.

Pitch talk dominated reaction in India to their series-opening defeat inside three days in Pune, where Australia's left-arm spinner Steve O'Keefe claimed 12 wickets, the best figures recorded by a visiting spinner on Indian soil. Many believe India's play to roll out a turning track backfired on the hosts, who would do well not to ask for a similar pitch as they chase a series-leveling victory in the second test on Saturday, Karnataka State Cricket Association secretary Sudhakar Rao said they had not received

## State cricket associations seek deadline extension for compliance report from COA

**NEW DELHI, FEB 28** /-/- The Committee of Administrators (COA) running the BCCI have received multiple pleas from various state associations to extend the deadline for submitting compliance report on Lodha recommendations till March 27. The COA on February 28 had written to all state associations to submit a compliance report adhering to all Lodha diktats by March 11. However, disqualified members of 20 state units have written to COA led by Vinod Rai that they need more clarity and seek a secretary Amithabh Chaudhary's plea in Supreme Court is pending regarding cumulative tenure of 9 or 18 years. It will be prudent if we can wait rather than being in a hurry to fill up compliance report, a state unit official told PTI today. Amithabh Chaudhary has filed a plea in SC that seeks clarification on scope of COA taking over the management rather than ensuring smooth transition to the new administration.

## Ex-Test players to develop young Aussie talent



**SYDNEY, FEB 28** /-/- Former Test stars Ryan Harris and Matthew Elliott were appointed to nurture young Australian talent, with the pair's first assignment an under-19 series against Sri Lanka. Fast bowler Harris and batsman Elliott beat off competition from 38 other applicants to be picked as high performance coaches at the National Cricket Centre, entrusted with developing the country's future stars. "We have undertaken a thorough process to find the best coaches to mentor Australia's emerging talent and we are extremely excited to have both Matthew and Ryan joining," said Cricket Australia executive general manager Pat Howard. "Both have come through the Cricket Australia coaching pathway... and have a strong understanding of the challenges that are ahead in developing Australian cricketers to be ready for first-class and international cricket."

## Rangana Herath to lead Sri Lanka in Test series against Bangladesh

**COLOMBO, FEB 28** /-/- Legend Rangana Herath will lead the Sri Lanka Test squad in the two-match home series against Bangladesh beginning March 7 in Galle. Herath led the Sri Lankan team to victory in November last year, when he led a clean sweep of 2-0 against Zimbabwe in his first series as captain. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's domestic left-arm spinner Malinda Pushpakumara has also been included in the squad for the upcoming series against Bangladesh. Herath has since been appointed as the Australia team batting coach, while the second coaching role is newly created. The pair start work next week. Their first assignment will be leading Australia's under-19 side in a home series against Sri Lanka in April, with Elliott and Harris his assistant.

## Vardy lifts Leicester to post-Ranieri win

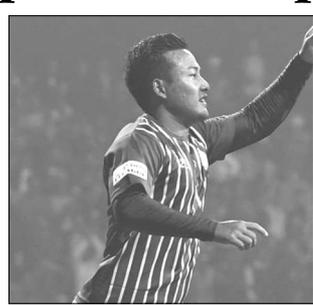
**LEICESTER, FEB 28** /-/- Jamie Vardy scored twice as a revitalised Leicester City started life without sacked manager Claudio Ranieri by sinking Liverpool 3-1 to spark their Premier League survival hopes. Ranieri, 65, was dismissed last Thursday, nine months on from Leicester's fairy tale title win, and fans honoured him with banners, masks and a smartphone light show in the 65th minute. His former charges were unrecognisable from recent weeks, with Danny Drinkwater also on target yesterday as they snapped a run of five straight defeats to climb out of the relegation zone to 15th place.

## Metabolism disorder sidelines Goetze indefinitely

**BERLIN, FEB 28** /-/- Borussia Dortmund will be without Mario Goetze for the foreseeable future after a medical check revealed a metabolism disorder, the latest setback for Germany's World Cup hero. "I am in the process of getting treatment and I will do everything I can to get back into training as quickly as possible to help my team achieve our common goals," Goetze told the club website yesterday. The 24-year-old scored in extra-time of the 2014 World Cup final to seal a 1-0 win over Argentina. But this season he has endured a difficult return to Dortmund, struggling with form and injuries, following three unhappy years at Bayern Munich spent mainly on the bench. It cost Dortmund 22 million euros to buy Goetze back from Bayern, having been forced to sell him in 2013 for 37 million euros when the Bavarians triggered a release clause in his contract. He has not played at all this month after showing there is a medical reason for the Germany star's woes.

# Mohun Bagan thrash Club Valencia 4-1 in AFC Cup South Zone playoff

**KOLKATA, FEB 28** /-/- Sports, Recreation of Maldives and Abahani Limited Dhaka in Group E and face the Indian League champions in their first match in an away fixture on March 14. Mohun Bagan started the return leg with a bang when Ahmed Usam's handball inside the box earned them a penalty straightaway in the first minute with Jeje easily slotting it home for an early lead. Jeje and Sony Begam attacking but they had to wait till the stroke of break for a 2-0 lead. Balwant went down the right and swung a cross with both Jeje and Sony in the box as the Indian AIFP Player of the Year Jeje led the crossbar that ricocheted in.



Capitalising on a defensive lapse, the Maldives outfit made it 2-1 with Omotobi easily deceiving Debit Majumder under the bar. Jeje completed his hat-trick with Katsumi Yuzua surging down the centre and finding Prabir Das down the right as he brilliantly curled in for Jeje to finish. Balwant set up the fourth goal for Katsumi to slide it sideways and Sony smashed it across the face of the goal to complete the rout. In the first leg, Club Valencia striker Godfrey West Omotobi netted Darryl Duffy's sixth minute lead with his strike in the 71st minute and Mohun Bagan had to settle for a 1-1 draw.

## 'Box-office' Ben Stokes deserves every penny of Rs 14.5 crore: Ian Botham

**LONDON, FEB 28** /-/- Ian Botham says "box-office" Ben Stokes deserves every penny of the more than £1.7 million (\$22 million) he has earned in the Indian Premier League. Stokes set a record for an overseas player in the cash-rich Twenty20 competition.



**Hales called up to England tour after rapid recovery**  
**LONDON, FEB 28** /-/- England manager Trevor Bayliss should play a role after his England's tour of the West Indies after earning a call-up to the England squad. Hales had been omitted because of a right hand fracture. The 28-year-old Nottinghamshire batsman has had 11 Tests and 40 One Day Internationals under his belt - suffered the injury during a Test match in his tour of India. However, having been left out when the original squad was announced, Hales has been summoned after a scan confirmed he has sufficiently recovered although he will have to undergo rehab when he gets to the West Indies to ensure he is fully fit. Hales, who last year made England's highest individual ODI score - 171 against Pakistan at his Trent Bridge home in August, has his international team-mates three days before the first match in Antigua on March 3. Hales is expected to start tomorrow. Can't wait to get back amongst it!"

## IPL 2017

**Pune Superchargers** have been named as the 11th franchise to join the Indian Premier League. The 25-year-old Stokes has come up through the ranks at Durham, where Botham is the head coach. The chairman having finished his illustrious playing career with the English county. Botham, one of the outstanding all-rounders of his generation, said he was glad that Stokes - set to have fresh responsibilities with England as vice-captain - was being well-rewarded.

very loyal to Durham County Cricket Club. Meanwhile Botham said cash-strapped Durham would bounce back from last season's relegation to the second division of the County Championship, imposed because of their financial problems. Durham's sanction was agreed with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) on Monday as a condition of £3.8 million financial support from the governing body.

## Dhoni-led Jharkhand secure 7-wicket win over Services in Vijay Hazare Trophy

**KALYANI, FEB 28** /-/- Fans who turned up to watch a M S Dhoni special returned disappointed even as Jharkhand cruised to a comfortable seven-wicket win over Services for their second victory in the Vijay Hazare Trophy here today. Chasing a stiff 277, Jharkhand's special services of their captain (102 not out off 108 balls; 3x4, 6x6) and Ishan Jaggi (116 not out off 92 balls; 10x4, 4x6) put together an unbroken 214-run partnership to seal a comfortable fluent chase with 22 balls to spare. He may not have played a role with the bat but Dhoni's tips during the drinks break played a big role in their win. Jaggi later revealed, "Mahi bhai advised us to play in a calm and composed manner. He told us, 'If you play with patience runs will come. It's about staying there and finish the game.' Jaggi said, "The left-hander Tiwary added, "We played without any pressure well aware of the fact that MS comes next." Jharkhand had a shaky build-up and were reduced to 63-3 inside 17 overs but poor fielding from Services led the duo to open on a firm stand. Tiwary opened the bat to open while Tiwary followed suit reaching his second List A hundred in 100 balls. Having trolled by the crowd in his exquisite knock, Tiwary later acknowledged his hundred to the crowd gesturing that keep shouting. But Dhoni returned on the field during the customary handshake after the win and walked midway on to the boundary rope near the spectators and waved at them. Thousands gathered outside the venue while the solid left-right combination. They kept rotating strikes and got an odd boundary or six in every over providing the assurance in the dressing room as the crowd started to become frustrated and shouted Saurabh Tiwary Hai Hai! Tiwary however took it in a positive spirit and said, "We must understand that they're emotional as Mahi bhai never played here...Being a professional I did not mind. We were subjected to much more sledging on the field." Having slowly built their innings, the duo took charge of the show and Jaggi completed his sixth List A century in 82 balls with a boundary in the 42nd over, while Tiwary followed suit reaching his second List A hundred in 100 balls. Having trolled by the crowd in his exquisite knock, Tiwary later acknowledged his hundred to the crowd gesturing that keep shouting. But Dhoni returned on the field during the customary handshake after the win and walked midway on to the boundary rope near the spectators and waved at them. Thousands gathered outside the venue while the solid left-right hundreds managed to get in with passes, while rooftops of the residential buildings and a school surrounding the stadium were a packed look since 9 am in a never-before atmosphere.

But the only action they could have of Dhoni was his two run-outs and a caught-behind dismissal on a flat deck of Bengal Cricket Academy in the small industrial township of Kalyani about 50 kilometres from Kolkata. Earlier Services could not capitalise on a solid 104-run opening partnership between Gaurav Kochhar (50) and Nakul Verma (48) to be restricted for 276/9. Fresh from his 124 against Saurashtra here two days ago, Verma missed a half-century narrowly when Vikash Singh gave the first breakthrough of the day in the 20th over. Dhoni produced a spectacular run-out to dismiss Abhijit Salvi (31) before his caught-behind dismissal the skipper Soumya Swain's wicket for 12 to reduce them to 158/4 in 32nd over. Salvi played on the legside for a single but Dhoni was quick to gather the ball and hit the stumps directly at the opposite end. But it was Shamar Yadav and Rahul Singh who added a quick 84-run for the fifth wicket for 13.2 overs to wrap the lower order.

## Leicester City's Craig Shakespeare keen on full-time manager job after win over Liverpool

**LONDON, FEB 28** /-/- Leicester City caretaker manager Craig Shakespeare said he was ready to take on the role full-time after overseeing an impressive 3-1 win against Liverpool in his first game. Shakespeare was promoted from his role as assistant following Claudio Ranieri's sensational dismissal last Thursday nine months on from Leicester's 5,000-1 Premier League title triumph. Leicester looked a team reborn in Monday's game, prevailing through Jamie Vardy's first-half double and a sweet Danny Drinkwater strike, and Shakespeare said the experience had whetted his appetite. "Do I think I'm capable of it? Yes. Does it faze me? No," he told reporters at the King Power Stadium when asked to take the job. "But it's the owners who decide and they'll do their diligence and look. I think it'll take time. They'll sit down and I'll try and prepare the team as rightly as I can for Hull unless told otherwise. Ranieri may have gone, but Leicester's faithful showed the much-loved 65-year-old Italian he will not be forgotten. Several fans brandished banners thanking him and there was a coordinated smartphone light show in his honour in the 65th minute, accompanied by chants of his name. Asked what Ranieri would have made of Leicester's dramatic return to form, Shakespeare replied, "Knowing Claudio he'll say, 'That's football.'"

He said that to me on Thursday night and bottom of Hull City on Friday morning. "The performance was tonight. I saw it against Man City (who Leicester beat 4-2 in December). We have done it, but not often enough." Leicester, who host second-round Premier League action Saturday, had lost their previous five league games and were the last team in Europe's five major leagues to find the net in 2017.

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## PHED NIT

The Executive Engineer, Northern Metropolitan Water & Sewerage Board, Kolkata, is invited to submit proposals for the supply of electrical materials for the renovation of electrical installation at Alghata 1 complex, Kalympur under from 01.03.17 at 10AM to 28.03.17 upto 2.00 PM. & submission from 01.03.17 at 10AM to 28.03.17 upto 2.00PM. can be made online through the website <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> Tender ID - 2017, PHED, 103594.1.

## NOTICE INVITING OPENTENDER

NT/No.-WB/PWD/EE/DED/6-NIT-57 of 2016-17 (2nd Call), e-Tender Id.: 2017, WB/PWD/103629.1, EE/DED, P.W.Die invites open tender for the work "Renovation of the El within Darjeeling District Correctional Home, Darjeeling under Darjeeling Electrical Section-II (PWD), in the district of Darjeeling". Bid submission Closing 07/03/2017 12:00 pm further details may be obtained from <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> and [www.pwdwb.in](http://www.pwdwb.in)

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## NOTICE INVITING OPEN QUOTATION

NIC/No.-WB/PWD/EE/DED/6-NIC-34/Q of 2016-17, e-Quotation Id.: 2017, WB/PWD/103670.1, EE/DED, P.W.Die invites open quotation for the work "SITC of 2TR capacity Split type AC machine at Islampur Circuit House". Bid submission Closing 07/03/2017 12:00 pm further details may be obtained from <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> and [www.pwdwb.in](http://www.pwdwb.in)