

## Rangnick set to take over at Man Utd, says his lawyer



German Ralf Rangnick attends a match (file photo)  
AFP | London

Ralf Rangnick is poised to take over as interim manager of Premier League giants Manchester United, after his lawyer said yesterday the contract is being finalised.

Rangnick's legal representative confirmed to AFP subsidiary SID that the final points of the deal are being ironed out.

The 63-year-old Rangnick is currently head of sports and development at Russian club Lokomotiv Moscow.

The German is poised to take over at Old Trafford until the end of the season after the sacking of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer following a dreadful start to United's Premier League campaign.

According to German magazine Kicker, Rangnick is poised to sign a deal until May 2022 and then work as a consultant at Man Utd for two further years.

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Having helped oversee RB Leipzig's rise from the fifth tier of German football to the Bundesliga and Champions League, Rangnick comes with huge experience.

Michael Carrick took charge of the United team for Tuesday's Champions League win at Villarreal, which secured progress to the knockout stage.

If Rangnick takes the helm of United, he will be the third German manager currently in England's top flight alongside Liverpool's Jurgen Klopp and Thomas Tuchel at Chelsea.

# Southee five-for triggers Kiwi fightback against India

Tom Latham, Will Young make India's spinners toil after Shreyas Iyer's 105

Tim Southee's 5 for 69 keeps India to 345 despite Iyer's debut century

AFP | Kanpur

India finished the second day of the first Test on the defensive with New Zealand's openers unbeaten on 129 after Tim Southee's five-for restricted the hosts to 345.

The Black Caps' openers Tom Latham on 50 and Will Young on 75 survived 41 testing overs of spin by Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel.

Starting the second day on 258-4 in their first innings in Kanpur, all the Indian batsmen except debutant Shreyas Iyer found Southee a handful.

The 32-year-old pacer finished with five for 69 in his 274-over spell, four of the wickets coming in yesterday's morning session, getting New Zealand back into the game after Iyer's maiden Test century.

India's stand-in skipper Ajinkya Rahane introduced Ashwin's spin after seven uneventful overs by pacers Ishant Sharma and Umesh Yadav on a slow pitch.

Latham and Young looked in control, rotating strike at will



India's Shubman Gill jumps in air to avoid getting hit by New Zealand's Tom Latham's shot

and hitting 16 fours between them to keep the scoreboard moving.

Latham hit four fours in his 165-ball innings against Young's 12 fours off 174 balls.

Latham, on 50, was given out caught behind off Ashwin in the penultimate over of the day before bad light stopped play, but was reprieved on review.

The World Test Championship holders now trail India by 216 runs in the first innings, with the pitch expected to further aid Indian spinners on Saturday.

Ashwin finished the day with 17 wicket-less overs for 38 runs. Jadeja bowled his 14 economical overs for 28 runs and Patel — the other left-arm spinner in the

Indian team — went for 26 runs off his 10 overs.

Sharma was taken out of the attack by Rahane only after six overs and Umesh bowled his 10 for 26 runs.

Southee stopped the Indian advance in the first session yesterday when he bowled Ravindra Jadeja in his 12th delivery of the day for 50, the all-rounder having failed to add to his overnight score.

This broke Jadeja's 121-run partnership with Iyer and started the Indian collapse.

Iyer looked fluent and picked up from his overnight score of 75 to hit two fours in the first over off Kyle Jamieson, the Black Caps' standout bowler on Thursday.

BETTER YOU KNOW

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White-ball specialist Iyer hit 13 fours and two sixes in his 171-ball innings of 105 before he was undone by Southee and caught by Young at cover to reduce India to 305-7.

Southee also removed Saha for one off 12 balls when he edged a delivery to Tom Blundell behind the stumps.

Patel too fell to Southee after edging a delivery to Blundell after scoring three off nine balls.

The hosts went to lunch at 339-8 and lost the last two wickets immediately after the break, both to Ajaz Patel.

Ravichandran Ashwin was bowled by Patel for 38 off 56 balls and the spinner also claimed Ishant Sharma for zero.

## Cummins named Australia Test captain as Paine takes break

AFP | Sydney

Australia named paceman Pat Cummins as their Test captain and Steve Smith as deputy yesterday after a sexting scandal led Tim Paine to quit the post last week, just ahead of the Ashes.

On a dramatic day for Australian cricket, the Cummins appointment came hours after it was announced that former captain Paine will take a break from the sport, ruling him out of the home Ashes series against old rivals England.

Cummins becomes the 47th captain of the Australian men's Test team while Smith returns to a key leadership role, having been forced to stand down as skipper for his part in the 2018 "Sandpaper-gate" ball-tampering scandal.

Cummins, 28, is the first fast bowler to lead Australia since 1956.

After Paine's downfall for sending lewd text messages, Cummins knows that there will be intense scrutiny of his behaviour on and off the field, especially with the Ashes starting on December 8 in Brisbane.

"When it comes to moral character, I am my own harshest judge," said Cummins, who takes on one of the highest-profile roles in Australia.

"I am not perfect and there will be things that pop up, but as long as I can sleep at night, I am really comfortable with the rest of that."



Australia's Pat Cummins, left, celebrates after taking a wicket (file photo)

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PAT CUMMINS

Cummins is one of the world's premier bowlers. His 34 Tests have yielded 164 wickets at 21.59, to go with 111 ODI scalps and 42 in T20s.

But he has little experience as a leader, despite being elevated to vice-captain in 2019.

Cummins, who described himself as "excited rather than

nervous", said that he will be drawing heavily on the experience of controversial batter Smith, 32.

Smith will have "a bit more of an elevated vice-captain role", Cummins told reporters.

Smith acknowledged that "there will be some negativity" surrounding his return to the leadership fold, but added: "I am a more rounded individual (than back in 2018) and in turn that's turned me into a better leader".

**Paine steps away**

Earlier yesterday, Cricket Tasmania said that the 36-year-old Paine would immediately leave all forms of the game for the "foreseeable future".

The Tasmanian wicketkeeper quit as Test captain a week ago

YOU KNOW WHAT

The last fast bowler to lead Australia at test level was Ray Lindwall for a single match in 1956, and only as a stand-in. Cummins is Australia's 47th test captain

over the public revelation of an exchange of sexually graphic text messages with a female colleague in 2017.

His decision yesterday to step out of the limelight altogether put an abrupt end to fierce debate in Australia over whether he should take part in the Ashes.

"Following discussions over the last 24 hours, Tim Paine has advised Cricket Tasmania that he will be taking a leave of absence from all forms of cricket for the foreseeable future," Cricket Tasmania said in a statement.

While stepping down as skipper, Paine said at the time he wanted to remain a "committed member" of the Australian Test side and was looking forward to facing England.

There had been a groundswell of support in the Australian changing room for Paine to remain in the Ashes side.

## Haaland set to make suprise return from injury for Dortmund

AFP | Berlin

Erling Haaland is set to make a surprise return for Borussia Dortmund this weekend after a five-week absence with a leg injury, his coach Marco Rose said yesterday.

The 21-year-old Norwegian, who has scored 18 goals in 13 games this season for club and country, missed crucial matches as Dortmund were knocked out of the Champions League and Norway failed to qualify for the World Cup.

But he could be in line to return on Saturday at Wolfsburg, albeit as a substitute.

"He'll be on the bus. He feels

good, but it will be a short appearance at best," said Rose.

Dortmund exited the Champions League on Wednesday when a 3-1 loss at Sporting Lisbon handed them a third straight defeat in Europe.

Second-placed Dortmund are eager to get Haaland fit again before their showdown against Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich a week on Saturday, with only a point currently separating the clubs in the table.

"If he joins us in Wolfsburg and things go well during the week, then he is of course an option (against Bayern)," Rose added.

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