

Sachin Stand at Wankhede

AFP, New Delhi

Cricket chiefs in Sachin Tendulkar's home city of Bombay honoured the batting star on Tuesday by naming a stand after him at the Wankhede Stadium.

The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) named the north stand at the Test venue the Sachin Tendulkar Stand to celebrate his feat of becoming the first batsman in history to score 10,000 one-day runs.

"It is a deserving honour for a great cricketer who has brought joy to millions with his outstanding batting and his commitment," MCA official Mayank Khandwala said.

"Sachin Tendulkar is an icon, who has glorified India and Mumbai and it is only apt that such an honour should be bestowed on him."

There was no immediate reaction from Tendulkar, who is attending the national team's training camp in Bangalore ahead of the upcoming tour of Zimbabwe.

The MCA will also present the cricketer with a silver bat at a luncheon in Bombay on May 23, Khandwala said.

NBL v'ball

Bangladesh Police and Power Development Board (PDB) won their respective matches in the National Bank Limited Premier Division Volleyball League yesterday.

Police defeated Wari Club 25-19, 25-21 while PDB beat Azad Sporting Club 25-20, 18-25, 25-21, 25-20.

TODAY'S MATCH

Titas Club vs Bangladesh Bank Water Development Board vs Brothers Union.

Bhawal cricket

BSS, Dhaka

The final of the Bhawal cricket tournament between Bhawal Eleven and Kanargao Joy Bangla Kira Chakra will be held at Aati Bhawal High School ground under Keraniganj upazila today.

Mariam Begum, MP, will witness the final as chief guest.

Pybus warns

FROM PAGE 13

avenger their series loss last winter. "It's great just to see him (Shoaib) running in, the gastroenteritis he had took a hell of a lot out of him," Pybus said.

"It's important for him that he's working hard, he's got a smile on his face again. He's had a long time out of cricket," he added.

Pybus, who replaced former Pakistan batting legend Javed Miandad but whose contract is just for the tour, brushed aside suggestions that lack of batting practice could affect his key batsmen such as Inzamam-ul-Haq, who was one of the few players to dominate the English bowlers in the winter.

"We have got plenty of cricket in, but it's a short timescale and we have not had a lot of time to get up to speed with English conditions," he said.

"But I think we are getting there. Inzamam's such a key figure in our batting and I think he'll be fine."

"These are experienced Test players and guys like 'Inzi' know when to turn it on. I don't think he's got any concerns himself so from the coaching side, if the player is confident, I am happy."

"Players of their quality are confident in themselves. I remember a situation a couple of years ago where Saeed Anwar hadn't played any cricket at all for four months, got called to the Sahara Trophy and took his bat and went out and scored 80-odd against the West Indies."

"If the guys are mentally tough enough they can adapt," he added.

With it starts

FROM PAGE 13

cricket publication Wisden since 1996, comes after more than 120 years and 1,500 Test matches.

ICC president Malcolm Gray added: "Test match cricket is the purest form of the game and commands the following of millions of fans around the world."

"An ongoing Test Championship, that tracks the fortunes of each side and provides a talking point for enthusiasts is one way of rekindling interest and adding context to all future Test series."

Sadly for Thursday's teams, however, they will not be able to claim the honour of table-toppers even if they win at Lord's.

The ICC has drawn up its starting table based on recent results rather than beginning from scratch.

Australia, who produced a world-record run of 16 consecutive Test wins earlier this year, lead ahead of South Africa, England, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, West Indies, India, Pakistan, Zimbabwe and Test newcomers Bangladesh.

A trophy has been commissioned which will be presented to Australia at the start of the Ashes series in July.

It will be handed on with every change of leader.



Narayananj Club president Alhaj Khabir Ahmed inaugurates the Shamsul Alam Master Smriti Snooker Tournament at the club yesterday. 48 players are taking part in the week-long meet.

Cricket all the way on ESPN Star Sports

PRESS RELEASE

ESPN Star Sports, the premier sports network, has lined-up a comprehensive live telecast schedule showcasing a bonanza of top quality international cricket this season, from across the world. Starting with the England-Pakistan series in May 2001, ESPN Star Sports will feature nine of the ten Test-playing nations, as they battle it out across the globe for cricket supremacy.

"The total forthcoming live cricket coverage on ESPN and Star Sports will cover a whopping 2008 hours spread over 246 days of international cricket featuring 35 Tests and 71 one-day internationals."

In view of the forthcoming cricket bonanza, the ESPN Star Sports network has launched an aggressive promotional campaign titled, "Cricket Er Ashol Jadoo," which will run extensively across print and TV media.

The upcoming cricket bonanza on ESPN Star Sports includes The Ashes series featuring

traditional rivals, England and Australia; Pakistan's tour of England in the forthcoming summer season; the triangular series be-

tween England, Pakistan and Australia; the Kiwi tour of Pakistan; followed by the South African and New Zealand tour of Australia.

Series	Month/Year	No. of Matches
England vs Pakistan	May/June 2001	2 Test Matches
England	June 2001	10 ODIs
/Pak/Australia		
Zimbabwe vs India	June 2001	2 Test Matches
Zimbabwe	June/July 2001	7 ODIs
/India/West Indies		
England vs Australia (Ashes)	July/August 2001	5 Test Matches
Pakistan vs New Zealand	September 2001	3 Tests / 3 ODIs
South Africa vs India	October/Nov 2001	3 Tests / 7 ODIs
Australia/South Africa/New Zealand	Nov 2001 to Feb 2002	6 Tests / 18 ODIs
New Zealand vs England	Feb./March 2002	3 Tests / 5 ODIs
South Africa vs Australia	Feb./March 2002	3 Tests / 7 ODIs
West Indies vs India	April 2002	4 Tests / 4 ODIs
England /India/Sri Lanka	May to July 2002	10 ODIs
England/India	June to August 2002	4 Tests

Pierce departs Rome

Tennis

AFP, Rome

Nadia Petrova of Russia beat France's 10th seed Mary Pierce 6-2, 6-4 here Tuesday to set up a second-round clash with American Lilia Osterloh in the 1.2 million-dollar WTA Tennis Masters Series tournament.

Pierce, 26, looked lethargic in the opening games and did not chase many balls, but although she pulled her game together a bit in the later stages Petrova was always more alert.

And ninth-seeded German Anke Huber was also a first-round casualty eliminated 6-2, 6-3 by another Russian Lina Krasnoroutskaya.

Pierce and Huber become the second and third seeds knocked out of the tournament after Spain's Magui Serna, ranked 16, was eliminated on Monday.

Also through was Italy's Francesca Schiavone who dispatched Japan's Ai Sugiyama 6-4, 6-0 and South Africa's Joannette Kruger who vanquished another Italian Giulia Casoni 6-4, 6-1.

Hewit marches into R 2

Tennis

AFP, Hamburg

Russian second seed Marat Safin, bidding to go one better than last year's runner-up finish, reached the second round of the Hamburg Masters Series on Tuesday, beating German wildcard Jens Knippschild 6-2, 6-4.

Safin, who has had persistent injury problems this season having just missed out on taking the year-ending number one slot, had won the pair's only previous meeting when Knippschild retired at the French Open two years ago.

Safin duly served out to win the contest in 70min and the 21-year-old US Open champion next faces Argentine Gaudio.

Afterwards he said he was glad to put several weeks of relative inactivity behind him, listing a straight sets first-round loss in the Monte Carlo Masters as his low point for the year.

Australian seventh seed Lleyton Hewitt joined Safin in the second round after beating unseeded Frenchman Arnaud di Pasquale 6-3, 6-2.

Hewitt said although the conditions were very heavy he made the most of them.

Swedish fifth seed Magnus Norman booked his passage with a 6-3, 7-5 win over giant Swiss Marc Rosset.

Inter-service hockey

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Navy reached the final of the Inter-service hockey championship beating Air Force 3-1 in the last leg match at Moulana Bhasani Stadium on Tuesday.

Top seed and defending champion Gustavo Kuerten was in action later Tuesday against unseeded Max Mirnyi of Belarus.

After the warm sunshine of the opening day Tuesday was marked by persistent drizzle, which forced the early use of the venue's retractable canvas roof.

On the inaugural day Monday, American Pete Sampras fell at the opening hurdle to Spain's Alex Calatrava.

Sampras, winner of a record 13 Grand Slam singles titles but who is hoping to complete his collection with the French crown, looked sluggish throughout and although he raised his game briefly to take the opening set tiebreak Calatrava made him look ordinary thereafter as he won the second and third sets.

The Spaniard, who beat Andre Agassi in the Rome opening round last week, then had to steel himself for the kill as Sampras saved seven match points before finally suc-

cumbing 6-7, 6-3, 6-4.

Agassi, meanwhile, bounced back from his Italian shock defeat by beating Davide Sanguinetti of Italy 6-1, 6-4 as the runaway Champions Race leader, seeded three and playing here for the first time since a quarterfinal appearance in 1995, cantered into the second round.

Agassi, who next meets Frenchman Fabrice Santoro, was happy with his form, which bore no resemblance to his Rome nightmare.

Sampras, the fourth seed, was in a sober mood after his loss.

"I definitely had my chances — I had a lot of breakpoints in the second and the third, especially the third, but didn't convert on any of them."

"Going into Paris it would have been nice to have won a little bit more, but we'll see what happens there," the 29-year-old added.

Joining Sampras on the scrapheap was British ninth seed Tim Henman, who slumped to 25-year-old German wildcard Lars Burgsmuller, who walloped his opponent 6-1, 6-4.

Todd Martin beat Swedish 13th seed Thomas Enqvist in straight sets and Argentine Franco Squillari put out Swiss 16th seed Roger Federer 6-3, 6-4, while former French Open champion Michael Chang ousted Swedish qualifier Magnus Gustafsson 6-4, 6-4.

Rajshahi Div II soccer

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Barendra Sports Academy beat Baktearbad Jubo Sangha 2-1 in a Second Division Football League match at the local Stadium here today.

The match was locked 1-1 in the first half.

Yusuf and Hanif scored once each for the winners while Ganesh pulled one back for Baktearbad.

The day's other match between Chandu Smriti Sangha and Hasan Imam Smriti Sangha ended in a goalless draw.

White causes Eng a concern

AFP, London

England face an injury worry just two days before the start of the opening Test against Pakistan with all-rounder Craig White unable to take full part in Monday's practice at Lord's because of a stiff back.

A decision on his participation in Thursday's start of series will be taken Tuesday, team physiotherapist Dean Conway said.

"We'll be monitoring it overnight and see how he is in the morning," said Conway. "It's something that has bothered him for the last few days and he struggled a bit to get through his bowling."

Langley no more

AFP, Sydney

Former Australian Test wicket-keeper Gil Langley died in Adelaide Monday night, aged 81, after suffering from Alzheimer's disease, his family said.

He played 26 Test matches between 1951 and 1957 in which he held 83 catches and made 15 stumpings.

He was also a Labor Party member of the South Australian parliament for more than 20 years.

Langley was voted one of Wisden's five international cricketers of the year in 1957.

He remained Australia's first choice wicketkeeper until 1956, playing his last Test match against India at Eden Gardens, Calcutta. In addition to his 98 dismissals, he scored 374 runs in Tests at 14.96 with a top score of 53.

Kenya tri-series

FROM PAGE 13

said this while talking to newsmen at the BCB office yesterday.

He said due to cancellation of the proposed series billed for July Bangladesh will not tour in Kenya before their home series against Zimbabwe in November.

Earlier, BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury and national captain Naimur Rahman had informed that Bangladesh would play in Kenya in a tri-nation series.

About all-rounder Khaled Mahmud, who was not called for the residential camp, Ashraf said this doesn't mean that he has no further chance to be included.

"This is continuous process. We have decided to call 27 players beyond the BCB pay-roll and after six weeks we will call nine more players for the camp," he added.

The experienced cricket organiser, however, believes that Mahmud has no future prospect because of his age but he has a chance to play one or more international matches if needed.

About the Board's two-member committee formed to search sponsors for the domestic leagues, he said it has failed to find any.

Time is Wright

FROM PAGE 13

with the juniors is vital as it brings in an element of experience being shared by everybody," Wright said.

He added fielding would be a key factor in India's success. "Fielding needs improvement and we are focussing more the technical aspects of fielding."

Indian cricket authorities have prepared grassy practice pitches to help Indian batsmen get accustomed to conditions in Zimbabwe.

"We have left some grass on the pitch. It will help the players to have a feel," he said.

Senior players in the team including batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar and skipper Sourav Ganguly are holding separate "pep talk sessions" with junior players at the camp.

Ganguly, meanwhile, brushed off his poor form against the Australians and predicted a bagful of runs against Zimbabwe.

"I failed in only one series," said the elegant left-hander who managed just 106 runs in six Test innings with a best of 48.

"There is a lot of talk going on. I have been around for five years, it's the first time I have struggled. This is bound to happen but it's past now."

"I am pretty positive about the next series," he said.



American golf superstar Tiger Woods shares a light moment after arriving at Baden-Baden Airport in Germany by his private jet yesterday.

'Kemp and I did no wrong'

Cricket

REUTERS, Kingstown

South Africa fast bowler Andre Nel has denied smoking marijuana at a party to celebrate the team's Test series victory over West Indies.

Nel told Afrikaans national newspaper Beeld that he and all-rounder Justin Kemp were innocent bystanders during a party at



JUSTIN KEMP

which marijuana was smoked after the side's fourth Test win in Antigua on April 10.

"Justin Kemp and I did nothing wrong. We were in the same room with the other guys when it happened and stood by them afterwards," Nel told the newspaper.

"People must understand that I would never do anything so stupid when I am on the verge of my

international debut."

Five players — Nel, Kemp, Herschelle Gibbs, Roger Telemachus and Paul Adams — as well as physiotherapist Craig Smith were fined after reportedly admitting they had smoked the drug to team manager Goolam Rajah.

Smith, however, who has served with the team for over a decade and also acts as their assistant manager, has confirmed his participation.

"For every personal indiscretion there are about 10 excuses that can be made," Smith wrote in an internet column on Monday.

"But in reality there are no excuses. It was wrong. It was dealt with in-house, fines were issued and the team moved on."

"Now that it has come out, each of the guys involved, including myself, has to deal with it and face the music, accept the criticism, live with the headlines and put up with the jokes from our mates at the 19th hole."

"But how and why it came out is perhaps to the team a far bigger issue."

"Everyone decided at a special team meeting in Jamaica that nothing would be said about it, that the UCB had issued fines 'in camera' and considered the matter closed and that we were going to move on and concentrate on winning the fifth Test match and the one-day series. That is exactly how it should have stayed."

"An isolated case, just like the

others dealt with in the same manner on other tours that have not emerged for public laundering and consumption."

"I would like to stress that the dope smoking issue was a one-off case where a few guys got caught up in the celebration of a historic Test match series win against the West Indies in the Caribbean."

"I would urge the forgiving people of South Africa to back all



ANDRE NEL

the young guys involved and give them another chance to prove themselves as very fine cricketers and ambassadors for their country," Smith said.

Rajah, meanwhile, said on Monday: "We are just going to finish the tour on a positive note and leave the United Cricket Board to deal with the situation as they see fit when we return."

Up-Ward

Cricket

REUTERS, London

A few years ago, Ian Ward was cleaning jumbo jets, his hopes of a cricket career apparently dashed. On Thursday, he could well be named in the England team to play Pakistan at Lord's.

The 28-year-old Surrey opening batsman will take part in the first of the two-Test series if the home side, as expected, opt for seven specialist batsmen and a four-man seam attack against the tourists.

"It's just fantastic to be here," said Ward, who is likely to bat down the order. "To be honest, I will bat where I'm told. If that means dropping down the order to six or seven, I'll get on and do it."

"Even if they tell me to bat right down the order I'd do that as well. It's just another challenge I'll have to face." Ward's career looked to be over before it had begun when he was sacked as a

20-year-old by Surrey in 1992.

He approached other counties but attracted little interest, forcing him to spend the next four years managing a cricket coaching academy, as well as cleaning planes.

"I cleaned the inside of aircraft which was interesting," he said on



IAN WARD

Monday during an England training session at Lord's.

"But standing here is a little bit better, I have to say. It's been a real turnaround for me."

"While I was working there, I still had the ambition to play cricket but I thought the chance had gone."

Even after being offered a way back into the game when Surrey invited him to a trial for their second team, Ward hesitated.

"It was a phone call out of the blue," he recalled. "I ummed and aahed about whether I should go along but I did in the end. I scored a 100 in that trial game and it sort of went from there." England batsman Graham Thorpe believes his Surrey teammate has the attributes to succeed at the highest level.

"He's a batsman who has a very simple technique, a very uncomplicated player," Thorpe said. "He's battled his way back after being sacked. That shows a lot about his character and you need character in Test cricket."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	DOWN	23	Says grace
1 More important	43 Obedience	25	Chart format
6 Less	44 Luring device	27	Illustrations
11 Gomer Pyle, e.g.	46 Ron of baseball fame	29	Young hare
12 Smarts	47 Less intelligent	31	Gridiron gains
14 Strong dislike	49 Swains Island resident	32	South
15 Swiss metropolis	51 Must-have commodity	33	American rodent
16 Fleur-de-	52 Role for Julia Louis-Dreyfus	34	"Color of Money" Oscar winner
17 Cobbler's stack	53 Enlarge-ment of a map segment	35	Command to an attack dog
19 Boundary (Abbr.)	54 Hollers	36	Flinch
20 Diner sign		37	"11"
22 Rather or Rosten-		38	"Funny Girl" compos-er
23 Soccer legend		41	Saunter
24 Mischievous one		44	Take out of context?
26 Led		45	Ivy League school
28 Grease		48	Dr.'s office readings (Abbr.)
30 Coach		50	de mer
31 2000 Series champs			
35 Novices			
39 Author James			
40 Energy			

	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				49		50			
51								52					
	53							54					