

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 function 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, 25-19, 25-21 while PDB beat Azad Sporting Club 25-20, 18-25, 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 Kanaraon Joy Bangla Krira 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

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avenge 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 Minnand but whose contract is just for the tour, brushed aside suggestions that lack of batting practice could affect his key batsmen such as Inzamamul, 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 Inzamam 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

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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.



Narayanganj 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 Jado," which will run extensively across print and TV media.

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

Schedule

Series	Month/Year	No. of Matches
England vs Pakistan	May/June 2001	2 Test Matches
England	June 2001	10 ODIs
/Pakistan/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

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.

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.

He died in his睡房 at the BCB office yesterday.

Earlier Hungary's Rita Kuti Kis defeated former French Open champion Iva Majoli of Croatia 6-4, 6-4 to set up a second-round date with second seed Jennifer Capriati of the United States.

Kuti Kis had little trouble in seeing off Majoli, whose career has been blighted by injury since she won the French Open in 1997.

It was a fine performance by Nagyova, who rallied from a set down and in the end prevailed with something to spare against the Spaniard, who becomes the first to walk out of the tournament.

And Nagyova was the first of three women from Slovakia to progress to round two and she was joined by Daniella Hantuchova and Janette Husarova.

Hantuchova disappointed the Italian crowd by seeing off Adriana Zanetti on Centre Court 6-7, 6-2, 6-4 while Husarova eclipsed Frenchwoman Anne-Gaelle Sidot 6-3, 1-6, 6-3. Husarova next faces Spain's third-seeded former Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez, a four times champion here.

Spain's Gala Leon Garcia was also quickly through to round two with a 6-4, 6-4 triumph over Russian qualifier Anastasia Myskina.

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, 5-0 and South Africa's Joanne Kruger who vanquished another Italian Giulia Casoni 6-4, 6-1.

There was further disappointment for France when Nathalie Dechy exited 4-6, 6-0, 6-0 at the

hands of Anne Kremer of Luxembourg.

Dechy needed treatment at the end of the second set and finished the match at walking pace.

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