

# Sachin puts Mumbai atop

## Cricket

### AFP, Madras

Sachin Tendulkar geared up for next month's Test series against New Zealand with a second successive half-century against his India teammates in a major domestic match here on Saturday.

The master batsman followed his first-innings 94 with an impressive 50 to keep alive national champions Mumbai's hopes of winning the Irani Cup against Test captain Saurav Ganguly's formidable Rest of India squad.

Needing 340 to win, the Rest were 55-2 in their second innings at stumps on the third day of the five-day game.

Mumbai were struggling at 15-2 against a near-Test attack before Tendulkar steamed the innings with a 66-run stand for the third wicket with opener Vinayak Mane (36).

Tendulkar hit five fours in a 109-ball knock before being caught flicking left-arm seamer Zaheer Khan.

Off-spinner Ramesh Powar, who grabbed four wickets in the first innings, also batted well as he smashed a 68-ball 57 with one six and five fours to build on Tendulkar's effort.

Test off-spinner Harbhajan Singh bagged 4-79 off 25 overs, but failed to stop the Tendulkar-inspired Mumbai from consolidating their position.

New Zealand are due to arrive in India next week for two Tests and a triangular one-day series also involving world champions Australia.

India tour Australia later this year for four Test matches and a tri-series also featuring Zimbabwe.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the five-day Irani Trophy match between Mumbai and Rest of India at the Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai yesterday:

**MUMBAI:** First innings 297 all out in 97.2 overs (S Tendulkar 94, S Bahutule 58, W Jaffer 43; Z Khan 5-77, L Balaji 2-47, A Kumble 2-64)

**REST OF INDIA:** First innings 202 all out in 73.2 overs (R Dravid 41, Zaheer Khan 34, S Bangar 29; R Powar 4-61, A Agarkar 2-29, A Salvi 2-52)

**MUMBAI:** Second innings (overnight 11-0)

Mane c Suhag b Kumble 36

Jaffer b Balaji 1

Morris lbw b Balaji 4

Tendulkar c Balaji b Zaheer 50

Kambli c Balaji b Kumble	0	Bangal lbw b Agarkar	1
Shetty c Yuvraj b Harbhajan	17	Sehwag c Powar b Morris	36
Bahutule c Ganguly b Bangar	36	Dravid not out	16
Power Dravid b Harbhajan	57	Balaji not out	0
Agarkar c Laxman b Harbhajan	22	Extras: (b-1, w-1)	2
Samant c Balaji b Harbhajan	2	Total: (For 2 wkt in 18 overs)	55
Salvi not out	0	Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-55	
Extras: (b-10, lb-7, nb-2)	19	To bat: Ganguly, Yuvraj, Patel, Harbhajan, Kumble, Laxman, Zaheer	
Total: (All out in 74 overs)	244	Bowler O M R W	
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-15, 3-81, 4-81, 5-109, 6-115, 7-199, 8-242, 9-244		Salvi 6 1 23 0	
Bowler O M R W		Agarkar 5 2 18 1	
Zaheer 16 2 44 1		Morris 2 0 9 1	
Balaji 8 3 23 2		Power 3 2 4 0	
Harbhajan 25 5 79 4		Tendulkar 2 2 0 0	
Kumble 22 3 66 2			
Bangar 3 0 15 1			

REST OF INDIA: Second innings



PHOTO: AFP  
Mumbai master Sachin Tendulkar is about to whack one on way to scoring his half-century against Rest of India at Madras yesterday.

## Dementieva to meet Rubin

### Tennis

#### AFP, Shanghai

Top seed seed Elena Dementieva fought off a gutsy performance Saturday by Japan's Ai Sugiyama, beating the third seed 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 to reach the final of the WTA Shanghai Polo Open here.

The 22-year-old Russian is now one match away from capturing the 585,000-dollar tournament, as well as a second straight title in less than a week after downing Chanda Rubin in Bali, Indonesia.

Dementieva will face Rubin in Sunday's final, a match she predicts will not be easy despite having trounced the American 6-2, 6-1 a week ago.

"It's difficult to play someone you just played and beat very easily," Dementieva said.

Rubin, the number two seed, reached the finals by besting the tournament surprise Akiko Morigami of Japan, 6-0, 7-5, 6-3, in a match where the American squandered chance after chance to put away her fatigued and outclassed

opponent.

Dementieva outpowered her smaller but quicker opponent with deep and powerful ground strokes.

After a first set riddled with mistakes that gave the Russian an easy 6-1 victory, Sugiyama, 14th in the WTA rankings, stormed back to a 5-2 lead in the second set. She eventually won the set 6-3.

The 28-year-old, who last year bowed out in the semifinals of this tournament to Russian Anna Kournikova, looked on the verge of a comeback as she broke Dementieva in the third set to jump to a 2-0 lead.

Unruffled, Dementieva won the next three games, trading points on long rallies that more often than not saw Sugiyama succumb to unforced errors.

"I can't say there was any point where I felt I could win the match. It was a very close match," said Dementieva.

"Only when it was love-40 on her serve did I feel a little chance to win."

Dementieva said she felt somewhat sluggish on the court after a late-night match Friday.

## National h'ball

### UNB, Dhaka

Seven matches of the Pepsi 16th National Men's Handball Championship were decided on the opening day yesterday at the outer stadium ground.

In the opening match, Rajshahi beat Faridpur 26-21 after leading the first half 15-10 while Bangladesh Rifles defeated Khulna 27-12 after dominating the first session 15-3.

In the day's other matches, Dhaka beat Faridpur 31-19 after commanding the first session 14-9 while Bangladesh Police outplayed Dinajpur 35-13 after leading the first-half 20-4.

Bangladesh Ansars registered a massive 37-13 victory over Banderban after dominating the first session 19-7 while Police recorded a 30-17 victory over Chittagong Metropolis after leading the first-half 16-4.

Rifles beat Sunamganj 32-21.

Twelve teams, split into four groups, are taking part in the meet.

## Munshiganj win nat'l kho kho

### UNB, Dhaka

Munshiganj clinched the title of the Pepsi 2nd national women's kho kho competition, beating Dhaka by 19-7 points at the Outer Stadium ground yesterday.

## Asian war

### FROM PAGE 13

Ipoh.

While Bangladesh and Hong Kong are not expected to put up much resistance, China -- coached by Pakistani former international K.M. Junaid could surprise.

### GROUPS

The draw for the field hockey Asia Cup due to begin Sunday:

**Group A:** Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea

**Group B:** Bangladesh, China, India, Pakistan

### FIXTURES

**Sunday, September 21**

Pakistan v Bangladesh

Japan v Hong Kong China

China v India

Malaysia v South Korea

**Monday, September 22**

Japan v Malaysia

Pakistan v China

**Tuesday, September 23**

South Korea v Hong Kong China

India v Bangladesh

**Wednesday, September 24**

Hong Kong China v Malaysia

Bangladesh v China

South Korea v Japan

India v Pakistan

**Friday, September 26**

Classification Matches and Semifinals

**Saturday, September 27**

Classification Matches

**Sunday, September 28**

Final

## PCB shocked

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But now they have cancelled the whole trip. It's really unfortunate for cricket," lamented said.

He added that International Cricket Council (ICC) held a meeting in Mumbai, India, quite successfully despite a huge bomb blast and the chief executive of UCB was also present there without any fear.

"Again, New Zealand have not cancelled their tour of India despite that bomb blast that killed so many people. Even the Kiwis are still set to go to it," Samiul said, adding that Pakistan were eagerly waiting for this tour.

Samiul, however, added that PCB would still try to convince the South African officials to make the tour.

It may be mentioned that New Zealand abandoned their tour of Pakistan after a bomb blast outside their hotel last year.

After that Pakistan had to play their home series against West Indies and Australia at neutral venues as they declined to tour Pakistan.

Bangladesh have led the return of foreign cricket to the terror-hit Islamic republic, launching a three-Test series and five one-day matches last month. Their Test matches in Karachi and Peshawar passed without any security incidents.

They will play their last match at the Karachi National Stadium today.



PHOTO: AFP  
Australian doubles players Wayne Arthurs (R) is congratulated by teammate Todd Woodbridge after their five-set victory over Swiss pair of Roger Federer and Marc Rosset in their Davis Cup semifinal yesterday.

## Fed Cup roundup

# Spain ride on Ferrero, Moya

## Swiss, Aussies evenly poised

### Tennis

#### AFP, Melbourne

Juan Carlos Ferrero and Carlos Moya put Spain in sight of the Davis Cup final on Friday when they opened up a 2-0 lead in their semifinal clash over Argentina while Australia and Switzerland were locked at 1-1 in their match.

Roger Federer repeated his Wimbledon final mastery over Mark Philippoussis to put Switzerland level in Melbourne with a 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (7/3) win.

Earlier, Michel Kratovil was thumped by former world number one Leyton Hewitt in the opening rubber with Hewitt improving his Davis Cup singles record to 21-5 with his two-hour 6-4, 6-4, 6-1 just over an ace.

"He was a little down early in the third set but he came back and I had to give it everything to come back in the third, who knows what would happen if it went four or five sets," said Federer.

Philippoussis said: "He just played too good for me. I had a slow

victory over the 129th-ranked Swiss.

It was Federer's 10th straight Davis cup singles win and 30 unbeaten sets stretching back to April 2001 for Switzerland as they chase their first-ever Davis Cup crown.

The winner of the tie has a home final against either Spain or Argentina on November 28-30.

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