

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 team-mates 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 Sourav 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 steadied 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, AKumble 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 Sehwa g b Kumble	36
Jaffer b Balaji	1
Morris lbw b Balaji	4
Tendulkar c Balaji b Zaheer	50

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

REST OF INDIA: Second innings

Bangar lbw b Agarkar	1
Sehwag c Powar b Morris	36
Dravid not out	16
Balaji not out	0
Extras: (b-1, w-1)	2
Total: (For 2 wkts in 18 overs)	55
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-55	
To bat: Ganguly, Yuvraj, Patel,	
Harbhajan, Kumble, Laxman,	
Zaheer	
Bowler	O
Salvi	6
Agarkar	5
Morris	2
Powar	3
Tendulkar	2
	M
	1
	2
	2
	2
	R
	18
	9
	4
	0
	0
	W
	0
	1
	0
	0



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.

Band of Brothers

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number one team," said Joy. Masud Rana on the other hand said that he has planned to retire at the club that launched his career.

Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra made a brief appearance at the DMFA office to sign up some lesser-known players. But they signed their biggest asset and country's number one goalkeeper Aminul Haq on commission along with Rokonzaman Kanchan, Azmol Hossain Biddyt and Kabir.

Defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club also entered the bourse, but there was little enthusiasm among the black and white supporters. Mohammedan, who were mourning at the loss of so many big names, had to find solace by roping in some mediocre players.

Besides, they have ensured the services of aging warriors Jewel Rana, and Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib along with Aniful Kabir.

BD leave

FROM PAGE 13
29 and the last on December 31.

4-NATION FIXTURES

Oct 31: Bangladesh v Pakistan

Sri Lanka v India

Bangladesh v Sri Lanka

India v Pakistan

Bangladesh v India

Pakistan v Sri Lanka

Nov 6: Final

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 \$85,000-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

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

GROUPINGS

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 play a match in Mumbai," 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

Indian Rohan Bopanna hits a forehand against Dutch Martin Verkerk in their Davis Cup play-off match.



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 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 Kratochvil was thumped by former world number one Lleyton 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

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.

Federer's class prevailed with two mini-breaks to hold three match points and he clinched it on his first with 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

start, I had my chances, but he played the bigger points a lot more solid than me, any chance I had he came out with a big serve on a big point."

On the Malaga clay, meanwhile, French Open champion Ferrero, currently top of the world rankings, blitzed Argentina's Gaston Gaudio 6-4, 6-0, 6-0 before 1998 French Open champion Moya took advantage of an ailing Mariano Zabaleta, overcoming a two-set deficit to win 5-7, 2-6, 6-2, 6-0, 6-1 in just over three hours.

Zabaleta was suffering from the third set and at 2-2, he had to call the trainer to massage his aching thighs.

Argentina went into the tie without their two top players David Nalbandian and Guillermo Coria who were both injured.

Among the play-offs US Open champion Andy Roddick crashed to an embarrassing defeat to Dominik Hrbaty as Slovakia gained an early edge in Bratislava.

Hrbaty won 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 to register his first ever win over the American but Mardy Fish came to the rescue as he fought back from a set down to level the tie at 1-1 when he defeated veteran Karol Kucera 4-6, 7-5, 7-5, 6-1.

Roddick's defeat broke his 19-match winning streak, although all of those wins had come on hard courts while the American struggled on the clay of the Slovakian capital.

"This surface is rather slow," said Roddick. "The balls kept fairly low and I didn't know how to adapt."

Fish too seemed to be heading for defeat when he trailed 6-4, 5-5 to Kucera.

Bopanna fails to dent Dutch

Tennis

AFP, ZWOLLE (Netherlands)

"I have never played against a player ranked beyond 300 but he is someone who is more talented than his ranking shows," said Verkerk after his first ever victory in the Davis Cup.

Bopanna, ranked a lowly 344 by the ATP, had been regarded as

mere fodder for Verkerk who has risen to 14 in the world following his surprise run to the final of the French Open in June.

But there have been signs in recent weeks that all was not well with Verkerk managing only two wins for six defeats since his tri-

umphs at Roland Garros.

Bopanna took early control of the match moving the slower Verkerk around the court to win it 7-5.

United Airlines golf title Jalal's

PRESS RELEASE, Dhaka

Colonel Jalal Uddin Mohd Akber lifted the title of the keenly contested United Airlines Golf Tournament at the Army Golf Club on Friday.

Nilla Aziz became the ladies' winner while Iqbal Mahmood the senior winner and Jafri Ishtiaq the junior.

Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Hasan Mashhud inaugurated the tournament in the morning by releasing balloons. US Ambassador Harry K Thomas was present.

Later in the evening, the Army chief and the US official gave away the prizes at the Kurmitola Golf Club.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	36 Story-teller	DOWN	21 Pitch
1 Wall	37 Scoury	21 Clear the tables	22 Portent
Street	38 Preventives	2 Stately tree	23 Fuzzy fruit
5 "Simpsons"	39 Psychiatrist	3 Literary collection	24 Prosecutor Ken
shop-keeper	41 French nobleman	4 Dishonest scheme	25 Offers an opinion
8 Anything but that!	42 Squad	5 On in years	27 Pre-diploma hurdle
12 Radius neighbor	43 No workaholics, these	6 Average	28 Hoarfrost
13 Hiatus	48 Gymnast Korbut	7 On a higher level	29 Close kin
14 Harvest	49 Where (Lat.)	8 He has all the answers	31 Epidemic
15 Moolah	50 Incessantly	9 Medal earner	34 Pinnacle
17 Therefore	51 Pinnacle	10 Othello's foe	35 Defeated
18 Tease	52 Night-wear	11 Location	37 Captain Jean-Picard
19 Additionally	53 Actress Moore	16 Relatives	38 Old portico
21 Memento		20 Formerly	39 Lend a hand
24 Logical			40 Anger
25 Leave out			41 Speaker's platform
26 Bumper adornments			44 White House monogram
30 Wield a needle			45 She raised Cain
31 Extra			46 Sleep phenom
32 Sundial notation			47 Lanka lead-in
33 Popular candy bar			
35 Gentle soul			

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			

CRYPTOQUIP

N J T ' R H P M Z H C L X F M X

E M O P L O V B F J Z O J B

G L M C T X V B J T Y R F J G L

X F M X X F L N V F L Y Y E M V X .

Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN HIS FAVORITE FANCY SOCK RIPPED, THE VERY FIRST REMARK HE MADE WAS "DARN IT!"

Today's Cryptquip Clue: X equals T

The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.