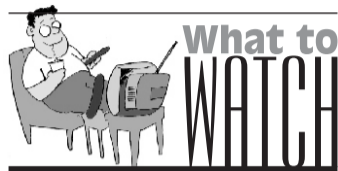




## Did U Know?

The first international Horse Show was held at Turin in 1901 when German and Swiss Army Officers competed against the Italians.



## What to Watch

### ESPN

#### ATP Masters Series

Fourth Round

Live at 11:00 am

#### Sportscentre

Sport News

Live at 8:30 pm

### STAR Sports

Sport News

Live at 8:00 pm

#### New Zealand vs South Africa

Second Test, Day Two

Live at 3:27 am (Friday)

### TEN Sports

Sri Lanka vs Australia

Second Test, Day Three

Live at 10:30 am



## Talk Turkey



### Gary Kirsten

(South Africa star batsman) "I have been extremely fortunate to have the privilege of playing for my country for so long. It has always been a massive honour to play for South Africa and I have enjoyed every moment of my career."

While announcing his retirement plan.

## Confident Tigers home

### Cricket

#### SPORTS REPORTER

The national cricket team returned home from Zimbabwe yesterday after burying the ghost of another series whitewash.

Although there were not many fans around to greet Habibul Bashar's men, who ended a 47-match losing streak in one-day internationals at Harare on March 10, the players were understandably holding their heads high when they arrived at the Zia International Airport in the morning.

The Tigers lost the two-Test series 1-0 and went down fighting 2-1 in the one-dayers in their second away series against the Africans. Although rain spoiled the second Test and first two one-day internationals at Bulawayo, Bashar's men came tantalisingly close to winning their first one-day series after their exciting eight-run victory in the third match.

The tourists were only denied by a giant Zimbabwean captain Heath Streak, who held his nerves in the final two one-day games and batted his side to safety on both

occasions.

"I'm very upset that we didn't win the series although we came so close. Still, the fighting spirit the boys showed in the last two games was our biggest achievement," told Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore to the reporters at the airport.

The Australian, who turned 50 on Tuesday, celebrated his first success as Bangladesh coach at the VIP Lounge of the airport after BCB chief executive Macky Dudhia presented him a birthday cake.

"Bangladesh is a more organised team now and the boys are much more confident after that victory in Harare," said a smiling Whatmore, who took over the job in June last year.

Whatmore, who coached Sri Lanka to World Cup triumph in 1996, said that he was happy to see the "never-say-die" mentality of his charges in the last three one-day internationals.

"I was delighted to see the boys fight till the end. I think it will help them grow in confidence ahead of our next assignment in West Indies," he said.

The Tigers will take a month's rest before flying out to the Caribbeans in the first week of May to play two Tests and three one-day

internationals.

Whatmore however was not happy with his consistently inconsistent batting line-up.

"We have tried different combinations at the top-order. May be Alok Kapali has failed in the first two games, but I still think that he can make a good opening batsman," Whatmore hoped.

He also defended captain Habibul Bashar despite the country's top batsman managed only one fifty in three games against three ducks that included a pair in the first Test.

"Everybody made small mistakes like Bashar. It is unfair to blame only the captain," he said responding to a question about the new captain's performance.

Whatmore however declined to make any comment on Rafique's surprise departure from Harare just before the start of the fifth and final one-day.

"You can ask, but you will get nothing from me," he said. The team management in Harare sent the left-arm spinner home for breaching the code of conduct after his alleged involvement in a

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THANKS FOR THE HALF-CENTURY! Bangladesh cricket captain Habibul Bashar offers coach Dav Whatmore a piece of cake after their arrival at the Zia International Airport yesterday morning. The coach turned 50 on March 16.

## Rafique faces disciplinary panel today

### SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh spinner Mohammed Rafique will sit before a disciplinary committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) today morning.

Rafique, who was sent home by the team management from Zimbabwe prior to the Tigers' final one-day international against the home side on Sunday reportedly for misbehaving with captain Habibul Bashar, will give his side of the story to a four-member committee at the BCB's management office in Gulshan.

The disciplinary panel is headed by National Board of Revenue (NBR) chairman Mahmudur Rahman. Former Bangladesh captain Roquibul Hassan, Managing Director of Janata Bank Murshidkuli Khan and Advocate Salam are the other members.

The committee is also expected to hear from Tigers coach Dav Whatmore, captain Bashar, left-arm spinner Manzarul Islam Rana and computer analyst Nasir Ahmed Nasu.

On completion of the hearing, the committee would recommend possible disciplinary measures to the Board if the 34-year-old is found guilty of breaching the players' code of conduct.

## Gilchrist pulls Aus back

### Cricket

#### SPORTS REPORTER

yet when the captain would come in to bat. Ponting had left the field after complaining of a severe pain in his right hand. He has strained muscles in his upper back," said Alex Kontouri, Australia's physiotherapist.

"It is a lot better now after quite a lot of treatment and we expect him to bat tomorrow. I would be more concerned if it was in the lower back the upper back is easier to treat."

Ponting suffered the injury while fielding in the morning and day after conceding a lead of 91 runs. Damien Martyn said it was unbeaten not certain



Australia's Adam Gilchrist follows the path of a powerful sweep on way to an unbeaten 140 on the second day of the second Test against Sri Lanka in Kandy yesterday.

## Zim A look good despite Tushar ton

### SPORTS REPORTER

Captain Tushar Imran cracked a century but it was not enough to inspire Bangladesh A to a decent total against touring Zimbabwe A on day one of the first four-day Test at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium yesterday.

The stylish middle-order batsman hit 103 but it only salvaged his side from the prospect of humiliation as they recovered from 53 for five to 200 all out after being put in.

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## Inzamam & co heavily fined

### AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq was on Wednesday fined 80 per cent of his match fees for his team's slow over-rate in the second one-day international against India.

Match referee Ranjan Madugalle of Sri Lanka also penalised the entire Pakistan team 15 per cent of their fees for bowling three overs short in the Rawalpindi game on Tuesday.

Inzamam faces a ban of two to four Tests -- or four to eight one-day internationals -- if found guilty of a similar offence over the next 12 months, Madugalle told this news

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## Pakistan bring back Taufeeq

### AFP, Islamabad

Prolific left-handed opener Taufeeq Umar has been included in the Pakistan squad for the third one-day international against India in Peshawar, selectors announced on Wednesday.

Umar, who has played 17 one-dayers, hit a match-winning 104 for Pakistan A against India in a practice match at Lahore last week.

"We thought Umar played a brilliant innings and deserved a place in the national team," chief selector Wasim Bari told this news

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

## 'Sachin the greatest'

### AFP, Rawalpindi

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq heaped lavish praise on India's Sachin Tendulkar despite the hosts winning the second one-day by 12 runs to level the five-match series 1-1.

"There is no doubt he is the greatest batsman," said Inzamam of Tendulkar, who smashed 141 off 135 balls.

"In the last 13-14 years, he has worked so hard and has proved to the world he is outstanding and when he is playing so well, you can only wait to get his wicket."

"The wicket was so good that winning the toss did not make a difference," Inzamam said.

"Even a target of 330 was gettable. But we batted first because we wanted to bowl under lights."

"We never relaxed. We just wanted to get them out."

Indian captain Sourav Ganguly said his team did not give up till the end.

"In high scoring games like this, anything is possible," he said.

"Our tail-enders did well to get us close to the total and I admire the courage they have shown in the face of fast bowling."

"In the remaining three games, whoever bowls first must restrict the other to below 300, but that could be difficult on such good wickets."

The first match at Karachi on Saturday had ended as the highest-scoring one-dayer in history with Pakistan making 344-8 in reply to India's 349-7.

The remaining matches of the absorbing series will be played at Peshawar on Friday and at Lahore on March 21 and 24.

Tendulkar, named man-of-the-match, said he would have been happier with his effort if India had won.

"The pitch took more turn in the evening. The ball was stopping and it was not easy to bat out there."

"We took some time to settle down and were more selective in our strokeplay. But the Pakistanis bowled very well."

Tendulkar, already the most successful batsman in one-day history, made a gallant effort to win the match for India before he was caught in the deep off Shoaib Malik

Laxman lbw b Sami	4
Ganguly st Moin b Afridi	15
Dravid b Sami	36
Yuvraj c Shabbir b Afridi	19
Kaif c Malik b Akhtar	7
Powar not out	18
Zaheer lbw b Akhtar	0
Belaji run out	14
Nehra b Sami	0
Extras: (b-3, lb-21, nb-7, w-6)	37
Total: (All out in 48.4 overs)	317
Fall of wickets: 1-56, 2-71, 3-140, 4-245, 5-260, 6-282, 7-284, 8-284, 9-314	

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4



I HAVE TO GET THE TICKET: A Pakistani female cricket fan just can't wait in a long queue to get her ticket as many stand in front of the counter in Lahore yesterday. Pakistan and India meet in Lahore in the fourth and fifth ODIs on March 21 and 24.

## Musharraf greets Indo-Pak players

### AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf voiced hope on Wednesday that the cricket series between Pakistan and India would help improve relations between the rival South Asian neighbours.

Speaking at a reception for the Indian and Pakistani players at his official residence here, he lauded the performance of the two sides as the five-match series was tied 1-1 after the first two one-day internationals played so far.

"The wins by each team emanate the message that in politics give and take is the answer to harmony, better understanding and better relationship," the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) quoted him as telling the players.

## 'Take wickets'

### REUTERS, Rawalpindi

Pakistan coach Javed Miandad has told his bowlers to concentrate on taking wickets rather than containing India's batsmen for the remainder of their run-filled one-day series.

Pakistan levelled it at 1-1 on Tuesday with a thrilling 12-run win over the touring team, who made 317 in reply to Pakistan's huge total of 329 for six.

In the first match at Karachi, Pakistan fell short by just five runs chasing a mammoth target of 350.

"I feel sorry for the bowlers on

both sides. The pitches have been perfect for batting and they've had to struggle against quality batsmen," Miandad told this news agency on Wednesday.

"In conditions where batsmen are so comfortable playing strokes, the best line of defence is to take wickets even though the bowlers might go for some runs in the process."

Miandad believes the series is still wide open.

"The bowlers have to bowl in limited conditions. Last night, I thought Shoaib (Akhtar) and (Mohammad) Sami bowled their hearts out and got crucial wickets even when Sachin Tendulkar was batting so well," he said.

Tendulkar hammered 141, his

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## The milestone man

### REUTERS, Peshawar

When India's Sachin Tendulkar made his Test debut in Pakistan more than 14 years ago, many observers predicted he would be one of the all-time greats.

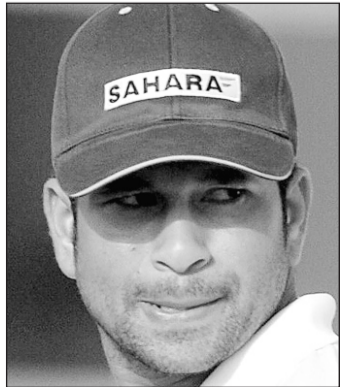
The 30-year-old, widely considered to be the best batsman of his generation, has spent his career proving them right as he has passed one milestone after another.

Tendulkar added another landmark to his illustrious list during the second one-day international against Pakistan on Tuesday by becoming the first player to score 13,000 one-day runs and hit 37 centuries.

The achievement came during India's first full tour to Pakistan

since 1989-90 and completed the circle on a batting record that can compare with the best in cricket history.

Tendulkar had long wanted to return to Pakistan, where he



SACHIN TENDULKAR

started his career as a curly-haired 16-year-old with 215 runs in four Tests against the searing pace of Wasim Akram and an upcoming Waqar Younis.

But with political tension between India and Pakistan clouding cricket relations, his only opportunity before the current tour was a three-match one-day series in 1997.

"I'm happy at getting runs in Pakistan, where I started my career," Tendulkar said. "I always wanted to do well here."

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq is second on the all-time one-day list, way back with 9,607 runs. Indian skipper Sourav Ganguly is the second-highest one-day century-maker with 22.

"I didn't know I'd crossed 13,000 runs till after I got out," Tendulkar said.

Not surprising for someone who

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

## Bhandari takes Nehra's place

### AFP, Islamabad

India have asked seamer Amit Bhandari to join the team on the Pakistan tour after deciding to send the injured Ashish Nehra home, it was announced Wednesday.

Bhandari, 25, who has played two one-day internationals, will be available for the last two matches of the ongoing limited-overs series at Lahore on March 21 and 24.

Nehra received two stitches when he split the webbing of his bowling hand while fielding during the second one-dayer at Rawalpindi on Tuesday and was ruled out for at least two weeks.

"Nehra is returning home as soon as possible for further treatment," team official Amrit Mathur told this news agency.

It is unlikely the left-arm seamer will be considered for the three-

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## Day's Event

Bangladesh A vs Zimbabwe A (Day Two) Four-Day Match