



## Did U Know?

Tiger Woods won the Masters, his first Major as a professional in 1997.



## What to WATCH

### ESPN

Football Focus  
Live at 6:30 pm

Sportscentre  
Sport News  
Live at 8:30 pm

### STAR Sports

Sportsline  
Sport News  
Live at 8:00 pm

### TEN Sports

India vs Pakistan  
First Test, Day Three  
Live at 11:00 am



## TALK TURKEY



### Colin Croft

(Former West Indies fast bowler)  
"I am not saying the players will get any better - but they can't become any worse."

### Star WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION 209

Tick the correct answers, post to  
**The Daily Star**  
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm  
April 9, 2004 and draw

- Who will captain the Bangla-desh football team at the SAF Games?  
Monwar Alfaz Rana
- How many ODI hundreds has Sachin Tendulkar scored?  
37 36 32
- Who clinched the Indian Wells ATP Masters Series title?  
Federer Roddick Agassi
- Who lifted the Spanish Cup?  
Zaragoza Real Madrid Villarreal
- Who became man-of-the-match in the fifth and final one-day international between India and Pakistan?  
Laxman Inzamam Tendulkar

Name .....

Class .....

School Address .....

Phone: (if any) .....

## No First Division cricket too

### SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka's First Division clubs took queue from their Premier Division big brothers when they expressed their unwillingness to take part in the First Division Cricket League for the 2003-04 season.

The Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) had a meeting with representatives of 13 of the 16 First Division clubs yesterday where almost all the clubs refused to play in the league. It is believed that their decision could be prompted by the fact that the competition would not have any significance as no team could be promoted to the Premier Division with the cancellation of the 2003-04 edition of that league.

"All the clubs except Surjo Taron said that they didn't want

# Sehwag moves to new plain

REUTERS, Multan



thrown his head back and laughed.

Known for his explosive shots and kamikaze approach, it seemed he had little chance of getting the nod from purists.

But the 25-year-old, nicknamed 'poor man's Tendulkar' for his similarity of shots to teammate Sachin Tendulkar, put one past his mentor on Monday by becoming the first Indian to score a Test triple-century during the first Test against Pakistan.

Playing his 21st match, Sehwag broke Vangipurappu Laxman's Indian record of 281, set against Australia in Calcutta in 2001. Tendulkar's Test best is 241 not out.

He also silenced critics who felt he was too aggressive and technically unsound to handle the new ball regularly.

Sehwag's 309 came off 375 balls in 531 minutes and put him on a list featuring Don Bradman, Garfield Sobers and Wally Hammond.

He is only the 17th batsman in history to cross 300 and the first since Australian Matthew Hayden scored the world record 380 against Zimbabwe last year.

But Sehwag's aura is not just about how many runs he makes -- it is how he makes them.

He goes hell for leather after the bowling in any circumstances, unruffled and unfazed.

"I'm just built that way. I never feel any pressure," he has said. "I go out and play my natural game and nobody has ever told me to do otherwise."

Sehwag still has a long way to go before he can be compared with Tendulkar, who has 33 Test centuries and 37 more in one-dayers but he has captured the imagination of India like his idol did 14 years ago against Pakistan as a curly-haired 16-year-old.

For Sehwag, the son of a contractor in a flour mill, the journey to fame was not smooth.

A cricket fanatic ever since he was a child, Sehwag's heroics as a youngster were limited to street matches in his native Najafgarh, a Delhi suburb.

It was only after his matriculation exams that the 15-year-old could take up the game seriously, playing for his school and then breaking into the Delhi under-19 team.

He used to travel by bus for over two hours to the Ferozeshah Kotla stadium dreaming that one day he would have a car of his own.

Even his start to international cricket was a disaster, scoring one run and going for 35 in three overs against Pakistan in Mohali in 1999 on his one-day debut.

But his breakthrough came when captain Sourav Ganguly, playing without the injured Tendulkar in a triangular one-day tournament in Sri Lanka in 2001, asked Sehwag to open.

India needed a big win against New Zealand to qualify for the final but the Kiwis piled up nearly 300 on a slow wicket and things looked ominous.

Sehwag, uncannily resembling Tendulkar, hammered the Kiwi pacemen to all corners of the park, cracking seven consecutive fours at one stage while racing to a match-winning hundred off 69 balls, the seventh fastest in history.

A century in his debut Test against South Africa at Bloemfontein, another against England at Trent Bridge as an opener and a swashbuckling 195 at Melbourne against Australia last year have become part of the growing Sehwag folklore.

Monday's innings has taken his

glory to even grander proportions.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the first Test between Pakistan and India at the Multan Stadium on Monday:

INDIA: First innings (overnight 356-2)

Chopra c Farhat b Saqlain	42
Sehwag c Umar b Sami	309
Dravid c Yasir b Sami	6
Tendulkar not out	194
Laxman run out	29
Yuvraj c and b Farhat	59
Extras: (b-8, lb-20, nb-7, w-1)	36
Total: (For 5 wks decl in 161.5 overs) 675	
Fall of wickets: 1-160, 2-173, 3-509, 4-565, 5-675	

Did not bat: Patil, Kumble, Pathan, Balaji, Zaheer

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Akhtar	32	4	119	0
Sami	34	4	110	2
Shabbir	31	6	122	0
Saqlain	43	4	204	1
Razzaq	15	3	61	0
Farhat	6.5	0	31	1

PAKISTAN: First innings

Farhat not out	17
Umar not out	20
Extras: (lb-3, nb-2)	5
Total: (For no loss in 16 overs) 42	

To bat: Hameed, Youhana, Inzamam, Razzaq, Moin, Saqlain, Akhtar, Sami, Shabbir

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Zaheer	4	2	5	0
Pathan	5	1	18	0
Kumble	4	1	9	0
Balaji	2	0	2	0
Sehwag	1	0	5	0

## HIGH INDIANS

AFP, Multan

Leading scorers for India in Test cricket following Sehwag's record 309 in the first Test against Pakistan here on Monday:

Runs	Batsman	Opponent	Venue	Season
309	Sehwag	Pakistan	Multan	2003-04
281	Laxman	Australia	Calcutta	2001-02
241*	Tendulkar	Australia	Sydney	2003-04
236*	Gavaskar	Windsies	Madras	1983-84
233	Dravid	Australia	Adelaide	2003-04
231	Mankad	New Zealand	Madras	1955-56

(\* denotes not out)

## Booters take on Afghanistan today

### SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Bangladesh will have goals on their mind when they take on newcomers Afghanistan in their second encounter of the 9th SAF Games football competition today at the Jinnah Stadium in Islamabad.

This will be the first ever meeting between the two sides. The Afghan national team did come to Bangladesh to participate in the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship last year, their first outing since the fall of the Taliban rule, but were placed in a different group to Bangladesh's. The war-torn nation is making its maiden appearance at the regional meet.

Shahidur Rahman Shantoo's charges played out a goalless draw with arch rivals India in their first Group A match on Sunday and a win against Afghanistan will brighten their chances of qualifying for the semifinal.

Hosts Pakistan, the other team in the group, had beaten Afghanistan 3-0 on Sunday.

The 1999 SAF Games football gold medalists will play their last group match against Pakistan on April 1 at the same venue.

## Bashar, Rafique talking again



### SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar was looking ahead to the tour of West Indies in May and also wanted to put the incident involving left-arm spinner Mohammed Rafique in Zimbabwe behind him.

"It is very sad that everybody wanted to focus on Rafique affair and that overshadowed our performances in Zimbabwe," said Bashar after the first day of the national team's camp at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

"I don't want the sad incident in Harare to spoil our good friendship. I have talked to him (Rafique) today and sooner or later things will be ok," said the new Bangladesh captain.

Bashar led the Tigers to win their first one-day match after a nearly five years when his side scored an exciting eight-run victory against the Zimbabweans in the third game at Harare. The result ended a 47-match losing streak.

However, the successful Zimbabwe tour turned sour after Rafique, the country's top wicket-taker in both versions, was involved in a heated argument with Bashar during a practice session the day before Bangladesh's final

one-day international at Harare.

The incident prompted the Bangladesh team management to send the player home to face a disciplinary hearing.

The committee has already submitted its report to Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Ali Asghar, who is now abroad, on Sunday night.

Although the report of the disciplinary committee is yet to be made public, it seems both players have buried the hatchet and are on speaking terms during the training.

Coach Dav Whatmore, who was furious after the incident, was also trying to forget the incident.

The 50-year-old Sri-Lankan born Australian, however, will fly home to spend a week with his family before returning to take charge.

But Bashar is eagerly awaiting Sri Lankan batting coach Owen Mattau, who worked with the Tigers before the Zimbabwe series.

"Mattau will join us on April 10. The team's batting remains our main headache. Also I'm worried about certain technical problems with my batting. So his presence will help us a lot to overcome the mistakes," said Bashar, whose main contribution in Zimbabwe was a half-century in the third one-day, which Bangladesh won.

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## SAF Games opened

AFP, Islamabad

President Pervez Musharraf Monday declared the ninth South Asian Federation (SAF) games open at a colourful ceremony attended by some 2,000 players and officials from the member states.

"I declare the 9th South Asian Federation Games open," Musharraf told a cheering crowd at the Liaquat Gymnasium which glittered with laser shows and a massive fireworks display.

Athletes from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan will compete in 15 disciplines between March 29 and April 7.

The ceremony which started with the national anthem of Pakistan is being attended by some 2,000 players and officials from the participating countries.

The Games, postponed three times since October 2001, are taking place under a tight security cordon.



**Bangladesh A vs Zimbabwe A**  
Second One-Day Match  
Venue: Shaheed Chandu Stadium, Bogra



MIGHTY MEN: Virender Sehwag (R) is being congratulated by teammate Sachin Tendulkar after the Indian opener reached his maiden triple century on the second day of the first Test against Pakistan in Multan yesterday. Tendulkar himself scored 194 not out.

## Not quite a celebration

AFP, Multan



Virender Sehwag was delighted at scoring India's first triple century in Test cricket on Monday, while master batsman Sachin Tendulkar was disappointed at missing a double.

Sehwag smashed a monumental 309 and Tendulkar hit 194 not out to lift India to 675-5 when stand-in captain Rahul Dravid declared an hour before close on the second day of the first Test here.

"It is obviously very disappointing to have come so close and not be able to achieve it," said Tendulkar, whose 33rd Test hundred left him only one short of former Indian captain Sunil Gavaskar's world record tally of 34.

"I was aware the declaration was round the corner but I was surprised when it happened."

"The plan was to give Pakistan an hour to bat and I thought we will

get a few overs more to go for it. "But once the declaration was made, there was nothing I could do."

Dravid is leading India in only his second Test following a back injury suffered by skipper Sourav Ganguly in the preceding one-dayers which India edged 3-2.

Tendulkar put aside his personal disappointment to pay tribute to Sehwag, who surpassed the previous Indian record of 281 by Venkatsai Laxman against Australia in Calcutta in 2001.

"It is a great moment for Indian cricket," he said of Sehwag's feat.

"A 300-man was needed in India because almost every other country has one. It may have taken a long time to come, but it is better late than never."

"It was such a fabulous knock, watching it at the other end was thrilling."

"Such kind of strokeplay is rare. I thought he would go for Mathew Hayden's world record of 380 after he crossed the 300-mark."

"I think Pakistan made such a lifeless wicket because our bowlers

had done so well in the one-day series.

"The batters have done their job, now it is up to the bowlers to do for it, but we must back them with good fielding."

"The pitch will get slower over the next three days, but I do not think it will trouble anyone much."

Sehwag, who publicly stated on Sunday he would go for 300 after ending the first day on 228, said he was a happy man.

"I was ready for 300 since the morning because I had slept well," the 25-year-old Delhi opener said.

"I am delighted to achieve the highest score for India. Maybe I am a bit disappointed at missing Hayden's record, but I will settle for a 300 any day."

"This innings will increase my confidence when I bat the next time. I hope I can continue the same form for the rest of the series."

India, who have never won a Test match in Pakistan, are visiting their neighbours for a full tour for the first time since 1989.



LET THEM RUN! Pakistan off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq sits on the pitch as India's Tendulkar (L) and Yuvraj Singh (background) complete a run on the second day of the Multan Test yesterday.

## Returns, plays & wins



AFP, Colombo

It was a Shane Warne show in Sri Lanka, such was his charisma that he grabbed headlines even before he had bowled his first ball in Test cricket after serving a 12-month ban for taking drugs.

The Australian leg-spin genius remained in the news until the last day of the third and final Test here on Sunday, as he needed seven wickets to break retired West Indies fast bowler Courtney Walsh's world record of 519.

Warne could manage only four to miss out on the world mark, but played a key role in Australia's 3-0 sweep on turning tracks prepared specially for Sri Lankan spinners.

All of his wickets came in the last session when it looked Sri Lanka would avoid the humiliation of suffering the first whitewash in a home Test series.

The hosts could not absorb Warne's blows, losing the match by 121 runs. Soon, their cricket was in

turmoil, with Hashan Tillakaratne immediately stepping down as captain.

The same day, ace Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan was reported for suspect bowling action, especially for his new delivery which spins away from the right-handers.

But Warne overshadowed all, including Ricky Ponting's successful debut as Test captain.

Ponting led Australia to its first Test series win on the sub-continent in six years, but had to compete with Warne for a place in the sun.

Australia's first Test series after the retirement of Steve Waugh will be remembered more for Warne's exploits and his rivalry with Muralitharan than for Ponting's feat.

Warne finished with 26 wickets and Muralitharan with 28, the Australian becoming the first spinner to complete 500 Test wickets in the first match and the Sri Lankan the youngest and fastest to reach the landmark in the second.

Muralitharan (513 wickets) has better chances of pipping Warne to the world mark as Sri Lanka tour Zimbabwe next month for two Tests. He needs seven more scalps to surpass Walsh, not a difficult task considering his recent form.

Warne (517) will have to wait as Australia play their next Test series



SHANE WARNE

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