



PHOTO: AFP

TENTHOUSANDULKAR! Sachin Tendulkar acknowledging the applause from the Eden Gardens crowd after reaching ten thousand Test runs during the opening day of the second Test against Pakistan yesterday.

India light up Day One

AFP, Kolkata



Sachin Tendulkar became only the fifth batsman to complete 10,000 runs and Rahul Dravid scored an elegant 110 as India survived a late Abdul Razzaq blitz to post 344-6 on the first day of the second Test against Pakistan on Wednesday.

Dravid's 19th Test century and Tendulkar's 52 built on a blazing 113-ball 81 by Virender Sehwag to put the hosts on course for a big total.

Dravid added 122 for the third wicket with Tendulkar before falling in the day's last over, caught behind off leg-spinner Danish Kaneria.

India were strongly placed at 278-2 after winning the toss on a good batting pitch before losing three wickets in the space of 20 runs in the final session, with seamer

Razzaq taking two off successive deliveries.

Tendulkar, who turns 32 next month, was given a standing ovation by some 35,000 spectators at the Eden Gardens when he turned Razzaq to long-leg for a single to join the elite 10,000-club.

Tendulkar is one three-figure knock short of surpassing Gavaskar's world record of 34 Test centuries. He had missed out on the world mark in the drawn opening Test at Mohali, scoring 94.

This time, he fell shortly after completing his 40th Test half-century when he was caught behind off leg-spinner Shahid Afridi.

But there was no stopping Dravid, who looked in good form from the start as he drove and cut flawlessly and fluently to keep pressure on the Pakistani bowlers and fielders.

Even Tendulkar could not upstage Dravid, who gave the

spectators plenty to cheer about with his rich stroke-play. He reached his century in the final session when he on-drove paceman Mohammad Sami for his 15th boundary.

Dravid was in the 90s when he lost skipper Sourav Ganguly and Venkatsai Laxman, both falling to Razzaq. The Indian captain was caught behind driving away from the body, while Laxman was trapped leg-before next ball.

Dinesh Karthik survived the hat-trick ball and went on to make 28 not out.

Razzaq's twin-strike came after Pakistan had struggled for wickets on a track which had neither bounce nor pace even on the first morning.

Even Kaneria, Pakistan's best bowler in the first Test at Mohali with six wickets, failed to keep constant pressure on the batsmen.

India feasted on the Pakistani attack in the first two sessions, with Sehwag showing the way with his aggressive knock containing 11

fours. He put on 80 for the opening wicket with Gautam Gambhir (29) and 76 for the second with Dravid.

Sehwag, who scored 173 in the previous Test, looked set for a second successive hundred before throwing away his wicket.

He attempted a big shot off Afridi, but top-edged it into the covers where skipper Inzamamul Haq held a well-judged running catch.

Pakistan managed just one wicket in the morning session when Kaneria dismissed Gambhir. He was given out leg-before by West Indian umpire Steve Bucknor, standing in a record 100th Test.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the second Test between India and Pakistan at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Wednesday:
INDIA: First innings

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

Pushkin passes away untimely

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) joint secretary and Abahani's hockey committee secretary Zahir Rahman Pushkin died of brain hemorrhage yesterday evening at the Bangladesh Medical College Hospital (BMCH). He was only 41.

Pushkin, who devoted his post-playing days as an organiser after retiring from Abahani as a player in 1989, left behind his mother, wife



PHOTO: STAR

An unconscious Pushkin at the ICU of Bangladesh Medical College Hospital.

and an eight-year-old son.

Merely a month ago, Pushkin was running through the corridors of this same hospital to save the life of his close friend Monem Munna, the national football captain who died of kidney ailments on February 12.

The irony is that the amicable organiser, who was busy organising Munna's chehlum later this month, breathed his last at the same ICU where his old friend had been admitted.

Pushkin, who managed the Abahani hockey team virtually with his lone efforts, suffered a stroke yesterday morning and was rushed to the BMCH. He was on life-support system before being declared dead by the doctors at 6.55 pm.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 3

Chhadak CHT Gold Cup soccer champs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, R'mati

Chhadak Club clinched the title of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Gold Cup Football Tournament beating Rangamati Mohammedan Sporting Club 5-4 in tiebreaker in the final at the local stadium yesterday.

The match rolled into spot-kicks after the 90-minute regulation time ended goalless in front of a huge enthusiastic crowd.

After the match, Santu Larma, the CHT Regional Council chairman and chief of Parbatya Chattagram Jono Sanghaty Samity, distributed the prizes.

CHT Regional Sports Association organised the tournament with the financial aid from the United Nations Development Programme.

Rani, Liza share lead

SPORTS REPORTER

International Women Master Rani Hamid and Shamima Akhter Liza jointly led the table with 4.5 points each in the 26th National Women Chess Championship after the fifth round at the federation hall room yesterday.

Reigning champions Rani beat Afroza Khanam and Liza beat Nazrana Khan Eva, who slipped to second position with 4 points.

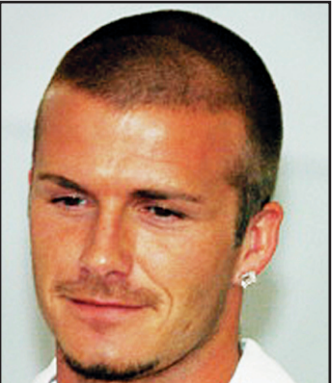


Did U Know?

Football goalkeepers didn't have to wear different coloured shirts from their teammates until 1913.



DD Sports & TEN Sports
India vs Pakistan
Second Test, Day Two
Live at 10:00 am
ESPN
Brazilian Cup
Paulista vs Botafogo
Live at 6:45 am
New Zealand vs Australia
Second Test, Day One
Live at 3:30 am (Friday)
STAR Sports
Sportsline
Live at 8:00 pm
Indian Wells Tennis Masters Series
Quarterfinals
Live at 4:00 am (Friday)



David Beckham

(Real Madrid and England star)
"I'm happy at Real Madrid and want to stay at Real Madrid as long as I can. But in football and life, you never know what is going to happen."

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

Rajani, Kanchan let Muktis down

Al Faisaly-3, Muktijoddha-0

SPORTS REPORTER



the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The skillful visitors struggled in the first half, taking a 1-0 lead against the run of play but comfortably sealed three points against a 10-man Muktijoddha after star defender Rajani got the marching order three minutes into the second half.

Fresh after a creditable draw against Kolkata giants East Bengal last week the Reds looked the likely team to struck the first salvo in front of two thousand home crowd with Belal terrorising the Al Faisaly defence with his trademark long throws. And it was in the 12th minute

when his menacing throw from the left side sailed over the giant Al Faisaly wall to find unmarked striker Kanchan, whose header hit the sidebar much to the horror of his coach Shafiqul Islam Manik.

After surviving the close shave the Jordan league champions, who fielded six national caps and an Iraqi international, took the lead in the 37th minute through a scorching volley by Salim Monsour.

After meeting a cross from Hatem Iqbal at the right side of the box, Mansour fired a right-footed side volley that crashed into the far corner giving no chance to national and Muktijoddha custodian Aminul.

Despite the late first-half goal Muktijoddha promised a lot. But the Federation Cup champions irrevocably lost the battle when their 'Wall' Rajani received a second yellow card following an aerial tackle with his knee dangerously fixed on Shamoun — an offence that also earned him the first yellow.

The departure of Rajani left an irreparable hole at the right-hand

side and there was no stopping of a series of Al Faisaly attacks.

Muktijoddha's make-shift rightback Safiul Islam looked like a fish out of water and Belal apart from those throws rarely showed his defensive skills. Although Aminul had to work overtime along with Ghanaian defender Ghansha, the defence finally fell apart in the 63rd minute when Faisaly striker Al Mahameh stabbed the ball home off a pass by Iraqi midfielder Akram Shamoun who received a fine chip from speedy left-winger Khaled Maltaa.

Woodwork saved the Muktijoddha four minutes later when Hussein Ziad shot the ball onto the crossbar, inspiring the home side to go for a last gasp effort to reduce the margin.

Arman, the only player to earn the foreigners' recognition with his dazzling sway and immaculate passing, set Titu free at the left flank in the 34th minute. Titu's brilliant through caught Faisaly defenders

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

ALMOST A FULL BELAL EFFECT: Muktijoddha's Bangladesh international striker Rokonzaman Kanchan (L) heads towards an open net from another sensational long throw from teammate Belal that evaded the Al Faisaly defence and their goalkeeper during the AFC Cup match yesterday. Unfortunately the ball came off the post.

Kolkata crowd cheers Bucknor

AFP, Kolkata

Some 30,000 Indian fans gave West Indian Steve Bucknor a standing ovation on Wednesday for becoming the first umpire in cricket history to stand in 100 Test matches.

The 58-year-old Jamaican was presented a silver plaque on behalf of the Board of Control for Cricket in India before play started in the second Test against Pakistan at the Eden Gardens here.

He will also receive the Golden Bails award from International Cricket Council (ICC) president Ehsan Mani on Saturday, the scheduled fourth day of the Test.

Bucknor, who has officiated in four World Cups, stood in his first international game during the fourth Test between India and the West Indies in his native Kingston, Jamaica, in April 1989.

He was a qualified football referee before switching to cricket full-time in 1992.

Second Test from Friday

Lee may go home if left out of team



REUTERS, Wellington

Fast bowler Brett Lee may be allowed to return home to Australia if he is left out of the team to play New Zealand in the second Test starting in Wellington on Friday.

Lee was 12th man in Australia's nine-wicket win in last week's first Test and could be cleared to return home to play in the domestic first-class final if he is overlooked again.

Chairman of selectors Trevor Hohns said it was possible Lee could return to Australia if he was not in the team but only after the match had started in case any of the other pacemen suffered a late injury.

"Firstly we haven't picked a side and that won't be happening for a day or so and we don't see any reason to change what is normal

policy for our Test match side," Hohns said.

"There are lots of things to be taken into account if somebody was to leave the Australian Test side and obviously the captain and team management have to be satisfied that it's okay."

The Australians won the first Test in Christchurch inside four days without Lee and are overwhelming favourites to win the second Test at the Basin Reserve.

While Lee may be going home, fellow pace bowler Glenn McGrath has his eyes on reaching 500 Test scalps before the series ends.

McGrath needs 12 more wickets to become just the fourth bowler to reach the milestone and is hoping for another big haul in Wellington.

"Hopefully the wicket's a little bit quicker, a little bit bouncier," he said.

"If we can make early inroads one way or the other if we bat or bowl, then the pressure will be

straight back on."

The Kiwis have not won a Test against Australia in over a decade and have been given little hope of ending their drought this week after they were thrashed 5-0 in the one-day series and then comprehensively lost opening Test.

Stephen Fleming's men dominated the first two days in Christchurch but the match turned Australia's way when Adam Gilchrist and Simon Katich hit individual hundreds in a double-century partnership.

New Zealand coach John Bracewell said his team's chances of winning were dependent on dismissing Gilchrist early.

"We know he's a nervous starter," Bracewell told reporters.

"He's quite fidgety with his bat and pads at the start and wants to get

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

Rice's cricket diplomacy

AFP, New Delhi

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice displayed a swift grasp of the intricacies of India-Pakistan ties on Wednesday by jumping on the bandwagon of cricket diplomacy.

With President Pervez Musharraf due to arrive shortly to watch Pakistan play on Indian soil for the first time in six years, Rice promised to learn about cricket in a bid to inject pace into a slow peace process between the arch rivals.

"We respect this great democracy, we respect what it has been able to achieve for its people, we respect the challenges that it has to achieve more for its people and we respect the possibilities that the United States and India enjoy for global partnership," she told a press conference.

"And I am going to make a promise to the (Indian) foreign minister (Natwar Singh) right now, and that is

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2