

## Pakistan c Sehwag b Tendulkar India win first ODI by 87 runs

AFP, Cochin

Sachin Tendulkar struck telling blows with the ball as hosts India delighted a sell-out home crowd of 75,000 with a 87-run victory over Pakistan in the first one-day international on Saturday.

Tendulkar made amends for failing with the bat by picking up five for 50 with his leg-spin as India bowled out Pakistan for 194 in reply to their own 281-8 from 50 overs at the Nehru Stadium.

Mohammad Hafeez top scored for the tourists with 42, but wickets tumbled at regular intervals to hand India a 1-0 lead in the six-match series.

India's challenging total was built by centuries from Virender Sehwag and Rahul Dravid, who put on a record 201 for the third wicket after seamer Navedul Hasan removed Tendulkar and captain Sourav Ganguly off consecutive balls in the day's second over.

Sehwag smashed 108 off 95 balls with nine boundaries and three sixes after being dropped twice before he had reached double figures. Dravid made a gutsy 104 in stifling heat and humidity in this southern coastal town.

India were pegged to 48 runs in the last 10 overs as off-spinner Arshad Khan finished with 4-33 in six overs after conceding 13 runs in his first over.

Pakistan openers Salman Butt and Kamran Akmal made a rollicking start by hammering 45 in the first six overs, before India hit back with three wickets in the space of four

runs.

It became 64-4 in the 12th over as Zaheer Khan took a tumbling return catch at the start of his second spell to dismiss Yousuf Youhana for zero.

Captain Inzamamul Haq and Hafeez put on 48 for the fifth wicket when Tendulkar, cheered lustily from the overflowing stands, finally made his presence felt.

Tendulkar clipped Inzamam's off-ball,

when the Pakistan skipper looked dangerous on 37, and then ripped through the lower order to seal India's victory.

Earlier, India slumped to 4-2 in the first two overs after electing to take first strike in good batting conditions.

Tendulkar, one-day cricket's most successful batsman with more than 13,000 runs and 37 centuries, skied a miscued pull shot from Navedul Hasan after hitting the previous ball for a bound-

ary.

Ganguly's horrendous run with the bat, which saw him make just 48 runs in five innings during the drawn Test series against Pakistan, continued when he was bowled round his legs first ball as he attempted a flick.

Sehwag, who scored 544 runs at an average of 90.66 in the Test series, was dropped by Hafeez off the first ball of the

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HEROIC TRIUMVIRATE: (L) India opener Virender Sehwag (R) raises his arms upon reaching his hundred as Rahul Dravid, who also scored a century, dashes towards him to congratulate during the first ODI against Pakistan at Cochin yesterday. (R) Sachin Tendulkar, who had his share of the day with five wickets, grimaces in pain after hurting his hand.



PHOTOS: AFP

## Loreeto ride on Fahim century

SPORTS REPORTER

Fahim Ahmed hit 155 as Loreeto handed National Bank Public School a 138-run defeat in the Standard Chartered Young Tigers Under-17 National School Cricket at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Fahim's big ton and a breezy 57 by Asif helped Loreeto amass a huge 277 for 7 in stipulated 50 overs and then bowled out National Bank for 139 in 38.5 overs as Shadlee Islam returned devastating figures of 6-43.

At the City Club ground, Cephalon also registered a facile 135-run victory over Mastermind.

Rezanur Rashid smashed 61 as Cephalon scored 244 before being all out in 44 overs and they then restricted Mastermind to 109-8 in their share of 50-over.

Dhanmondi Club ground watched a high-scoring match which was won by Dhanmondi Tutorial against Birshreshtha Munshi Abdur Rouf Rifles College by six wickets, thanks to brilliant knocks by three Ahmed brothers.

Moin remained unbeaten on 74 while Tasin also added 74 and Saqib 62 as the winners scored 291 for 4 in 43.1 overs in reply to Munshi Abdur Rouf's 287 all out in 48.4 overs.

B K S P (86-1) crushed Bangladesh International School (81-10) in a low-scoring match at the Mirpur Outer Stadium.

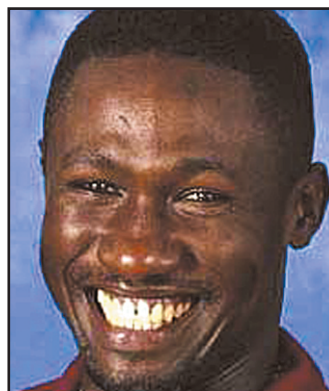
In another low-scoring affair, Parajour Kalindi High (103-2) recorded an eight-wicket victory against Adhunik Shishu High School (99-10) at the Orient Club ground.

In the day's other matches, Scholastica (158-10) defeated Bangladesh International Tutorial (97-10) by 61 runs at the Lalmatia Housing Society ground and Rashid Adarsha High (121-3) beat Paramount High (117-10) at the Gulshan Youth Club ground.



## Did U Know?

Football was the first team sport added to the Olympics in 1900.



## Wavell Hinds

(West Indies batsman)  
"We had to come out and show our worth, show that West Indies cricket is bigger than anyone."

After reaching his fifth Test hundred against South Africa in the first Test in Guyana.

## Ganguly feels relieved

AGENCIES, Cochin

India's comprehensive 87-run win over Pakistan in the first one-day international has come as a big relief for captain Sourav Ganguly who confessed that his team's victory had relieved him of some pressure.

Ganguly, who received a big cheer from the crowd during the presentation ceremony, appeared quite relaxed and said it was important for his team to start the series on a winning note.

"For a change, I heard something different," Ganguly said referring to the cheer from the crowd.

When asked whether the win came as a relief for him, Ganguly, who is struggling with his own batting form, said, "It does. That's important.

But this is the way life goes."

Turning to the match, Ganguly praised his deputy Rahul Dravid and opener Virender Sehwag for their fine effort with the bat.

"Sehwag batted once again brilliantly -- in these conditions it's outstanding," said Ganguly at a baking Cochin.

"We were 220 after 35 overs and lost a bit at the end but we understand with the heat it gets harder.

"But I still thought 280 was a good total on this wicket because after fielding for three hours to come and bat wouldn't have been easy."

Man-of-the-match Sehwag said he made a conscious decision to see the India innings through, rather than playing in his usual attacking style.

India were 4-2 before Sehwag's 201-run stand with Dravid.

"When Sachin (Tendulkar) and Sourav got out I decided to bat until

the end," he said.

"The wicket was not that good in the morning -- there was a little extra bounce -- so I decided to wait for my shots."

"Rahul and Sehwag can do nothing wrong these days," said Ganguly.

He was also all praise for Tendulkar, who took 5 for 50 with his leg-spinners.

"Sachin is a very decent bowler who has the knack of picking up wickets. It was very nice to see him bowl the way he did today."

Inzamamul Haq admitted Pakistan looked unlikely to reach a target of 282 after losing early wickets.

"After 12 overs with four wickets

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## PM to reward Zim series heroes

SPORTS REPORTER

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is expected to reward the heroes of Bangladesh's Test and one-day triumph over Zimbabwe.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) had earlier announced a lucrative bonus for the cricketers, which had recorded first Test (1-0) and one-day (3-2) series victories against the Southern African nation on home soil in January.

"The Prime Minister gave her consent to distribute the cash and a medal on April 6 at her office," said Reazuddin Al Mamun, BCB advisor and chairman of the media committee yesterday.

Coach Dav Whatmore and other officials will also receive awards.

## Eyeing a brush with Lord's



SPORTS REPORTER

Skipper Habibul Bashar said that he would not be intimidated when Bangladesh embarked on their first full series in England next month.

Rather, the dashing right-hander said that he was eagerly looking forward to lead the Tigers at Lord's, the home of cricket, which will host the first Test from May 26-30.

"It will be a dream come true when I walk onto the hallowed turf at Lord's for the toss. I've been to England twice first as a member of the Under-19 team in 1989 and along with my club side Bangladesh Biman in 1999. But I have never played at the historic venue," said the 32-year-old yesterday, two days before he along with 19 other

probables start training for the demanding tour that includes two Tests followed by a triangular one-day series also involving world champions Australia.

Bashar will not be the only one who will enjoy a Lord's experience for the first time in his career but that special moment will be cherished by the others members too.

Bangladesh had earlier been involved in two one-day events in England, the 1999 World Cup and the ICC Champions Trophy last year, but on both occasions the Tigers played somewhere else other than Lord's.

"We have grown up hearing so much about Lord's, its history and tradition. I think that will be an added inspiration for us," said Bashar, who was not considered for the 1999 World Cup and missed the Champions Trophy because of

injury. After a break from cricket for nearly two months since the historic home series triumph against Zimbabwe, the Bangladesh captain said that the England tour would be a different ball game for his young side.

"Obviously, there is a great difference when you compare the strengths of both teams. Besides, it is always a big challenge for any subcontinent player to perform in English conditions," Bashar said.

The premier batsman, however, did not want to read too much into the Test and one-day success against a depleted Zimbabwe side that was missing many of its experienced players.

"It will be foolish to expect the same kind of results what we did against Zimbabwe. But I believe that

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## Shoab available Shabbir likely to join Pak team in India

BBC ONLINE/PTI, undated

Pakistan fast bowler Shoab Akhtar has made himself available for the one-day series in India after playing against Leicestershire in a Twenty20 match.

Shoab, who has been out with a hamstring injury, bowled four overs for a Pakistan Cricket Board XI.

He conceded 21 runs but the home side still won their first ever Twenty20 match in Asia by 53 runs in Karachi.

"I am 100 per cent fit now but it's up to my trainer to say if I need more time to be declared fully fit," Shoab said.

However, trainer Grant Compton believes Shoab needs more time to recover from his injury.

There was more positive news for Shabbir Ahmed, who took two wickets for nine runs from three overs.

The paceman was expected to join the Pakistani team for the last two games of the ongoing six-match one-day series in India.

A national selector committee, headed by Wasim Bari, was impressed with the fitness of Shabbir, who last played a one-day in August last year before breaking down with knee injuries. Later he received treatment in South Africa.

## Rain in Guyana

STAR SPORT DESK

Heavy rain prevented play before lunch on Day Three of the first Test at Guyana, leaving South Africa still waiting to get on with their first innings.

The tourists were 2-0 overnight, 342 away from the follow-on target, after West Indies declared on 543-5.

## What to WATCH

- TEN Sports**  
West Indies vs South Africa  
First Test, Day Four  
Live at 8:00 pm
- ESPN**  
Football Crazy  
Live at 9:00 am
- English Premier Football League**  
Newcastle United vs Aston Villa  
Same Day Delay at 1:30 pm  
Fulham vs Portsmouth  
Live at 6:25 pm  
West Bromwich vs Everton  
Live at 9:00 pm
- Brazilian Football**  
Santos vs Sao Paulo  
Live at 1:00 am (Monday)
- New Zealand vs Sri Lanka**  
First Test, Day One  
Live at 4:30 am (Monday)
- STAR Sports**  
ATP Masters Series (Final)  
Live at 10:00 pm  
Primera Liga  
Albacete vs Real Madrid  
Live at 12:30 am (Monday)