

## Sachin, Sourav

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But India skipper Dravid (61) ensured that his side enjoy a good lunch break, which was extended by almost an hour because of a short spell of rain just after the break. Dravid associated in a 124-run second wicket stand with opener Dinesh Karthik, who himself contributed a well-composed 56.

Runs came thick and fast in the first session as Dravid, one of the finest Test batsmen in this era, hardly hesitated to punish the bad deliveries mainly coming from Mashrafe, who was struggling in his first spell before getting back the rhythm.

Dravid reached his 47th Test fifty in only 59 balls with ten sweetly-timed boundaries and his strokeful knock helped his side to finish the first session on 113-1.

But the home side made a fresh start after lunch to pile on the pressure as some disciplined bowling from Mashrafe and left-arm spinner Enamul Haque tested the patience of two settled batsmen.

In the seventh over of the second session Mashrafe gave the much-needed breakthrough with a brilliant back-of-length delivery with Karthik mistiming a pull to the safe hands of Mohammad Ashraful at mid-off.

Vice-captain Ashraful, who led the side in the entire second session in absence of cold-hit captain Habibul Bashar, intelligently brought aggressive Shahadat Hossain in action to utilise the extra bounce and the lanky right-arm paceman justified the decision by removing dangerman Dravid in the first over of his second spell.

Dravid wanted to cut but edged the short ball to wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud who brilliantly held the catch as India slipped to 132-3 suddenly.

The rest of the day was the story of experienced campaigners Tendulkar and Ganguly, who kept cool to keep India on course for a huge total.

Mashrafe finished with 2-64 in 18 overs while Shahadat, who was forced off the ground in the crucial stage due to a knee injury, captured the other wicket conceding 33 runs in his nine overs.

The left-arm spinners failed to penetrate the Indian defence although Enamul showed some character with variation in flight, but they must get better on the second day if they want to stop the Indians' run spree.

## US forces detain six Iraqis

AFP, Baghdad

US forces seized six militants in the Iraqi capital yesterday accused of smuggling sophisticated explosive devices into the war-torn country from Iran, the US military said.

"Coalition forces are targeting the terrorists, searching them out in the places they hide," said US military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Chris Garver in a statement.

"This morning's operation is one more step in removing the terrorist networks from Iraq," he added.



PHOTO: STAR

Visitors at an exhibition of photographs titled 'Stolen Forests' by Philip Gain and Ronald Halder that began at Drik gallery in the city yesterday.

# Polar ocean losing ability to soak up climate change gases

BBC online

One of Earth's most important absorbers of carbon dioxide (CO2) is failing to soak up as much of the greenhouse gas as it was expected to, scientists say.

The decline of Antarctica's Southern Ocean carbon "sink" - or reservoir - means that atmospheric CO2 levels may be higher in future than predicted.

These carbon sinks are vital as they mop up excess CO2 from the atmosphere, slowing down global warming.

The study, by an international team, is published in the journal Science.

This effect had been predicted by climate scientists, and is taken into account - to some extent - by climate models. But it appears to be happening 40 years ahead of schedule.

The data will help refine models of the Earth's climate, including those upon which the predictions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) are based.

Of all the CO2 emitted into the atmosphere, only half of it stays there; the rest goes into carbon sinks.

There are two major natural

carbon sinks: the oceans and the land "biosphere". They are equivalent in size, each absorbing a quarter of all CO2 emissions.

The Southern Ocean is thought to account for about 15 percent of all carbon sinks.

### Sink efficiency

It was assumed that, as human activities released more CO2 into the atmosphere, ocean sinks would keep pace, absorbing a comparable percentage of this greenhouse gas.

The breakdown in efficiency of these sinks was an expected outcome, but not until the second half of the 21st Century.

Lead researcher Corinne Le Quere and colleagues collected atmospheric CO2 data from 11 stations in the Southern Ocean and 40 stations across the globe.

Measurements of atmospheric CO2 allowed them to infer how much carbon dioxide was taken up by sinks. The team was then able to see how efficient they were in comparison to one another at absorbing CO2.

"Ever since observations started in 1981, we see that the sinks have not increased [in their absorption of CO2]," Corinne LeQuere told the BBC's Science in Action

programme.

"They have remained the same as they were 24 years ago even though the emissions have risen by 40 percent."

The cause of the decline in the Southern Ocean sink, the researchers explain, is a rise in windiness since 1958.

This increase in Southern Ocean winds has been attributed to two factors.

The first is the depletion of ozone in the upper atmosphere, which changes the temperature of this region.

The second is recent climate change, which warms the tropics more than the Southern Ocean.

Both these processes change atmospheric circulation over the Southern Ocean, resulting in stronger winds.

### Churning waters

Oceans store much of their CO2 in deep waters. But, explained Dr Le Quere, "as the winds increase, the water in the ocean mixes more".

The British Antarctic Survey (BAS) scientist added: "The CO2 that would normally be in the deep ocean and would just stay there instead gets brought up to the surface and outgasses to the atmosphere."

sphere."

The ocean surface becomes saturated with CO2 and cannot take up any more from the atmosphere.

Dr Sus Honjo, from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) in Massachusetts, US, is working on a separate project to assess the efficiency of the Southern Ocean carbon sink, using a different method.

He said recent developments in technology now made possible very detailed monitoring of marine carbon sinks, with some data available in real time.

"We have been way behind the modellers, who are hungry for numbers. But now we are starting to catch up because of the new tools and instruments available," he told BBC News.

Dr Honjo said recent evidence suggested the north-western Pacific appeared to be another significant CO2 sink.

As CO2 is absorbed by the oceans, it makes them more acidic, harming populations of marine organisms such as coral. The latest study suggests that phenomenon will only get worse over the century.

# OIC members call for Iraq pullout

AFP, Islamabad

Foreign ministers from Muslim nations called Thursday on international forces to pull out of Iraq as soon as possible.

The joint declaration came at the end of a three-day meeting in Islamabad of foreign ministers from the 57-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

"We emphasise ... accelerating the capacity of the Iraqi security forces and securing the earliest possible withdrawal of foreign forces from Iraq," it said.

The declaration also warned that Iraq should not be split along Sunni-Shia lines.

It made no reference to Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf's suggestion that a UN-mandated Muslim force should be deployed in Iraq.

The OIC declaration called for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and an end to the "foreign

occupation" of Muslim countries to promote global peace and security.

The ministers denounced the "growing trend of Islamophobia and systematic discrimination against the adherents of Islam," the declaration said.

It also "strongly" condemned the global menace of terrorism and vowed to make collective efforts to fight against it.

The declaration covered Lebanon, the Kashmir dispute between Pakistan and India, Afghanistan, the row over Iran's nuclear programme, conflicts in Sudan and other Muslim countries.

Earlier Malaysia, the chair of the 57-nation Organisation of the Islamic Conference, Friday urged immediate United Nations intervention to end the deadly violence in Gaza.

Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said the international com-

munity led by the United Nations must seek a solution to bring peace in the region.

"All this violence must stop. The international community must intervene. I think the United Nations must intervene," Syed Hamid told AFP.

Fighting has erupted between rival factions in Gaza between Hamas and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah Party, with nearly 50 dead and 100 wounded since Sunday.

Israel has also launched a series of air strikes on the Gaza Strip in retaliation for Palestinian rocket attacks on southern Israel.

Syed Hamid said Hamas and other Palestinian groups must stop the fighting and "get together in order to resolve their differences."

Malaysia supports a Palestinian statehood and does not have diplomatic ties with Israel.

# Breast cancer treatment breakthrough

BBC online

Some women with breast cancer may be able to avoid chemotherapy by taking an extra drug, research suggests.

LHRH agonists like the drug Zoladex switch off the ovary and stop the production of a female hormone which can encourage some tumours to grow.

Four London centres found that even when used alone, the chemical worked as well as conventional chemotherapy in some cases, the Lancet journal said.

Breast cancer charities say that younger women might benefit the most.

Many types of breast cancer are sensitive to hormones produced naturally by a woman, including

the sex hormone oestrogen, and can grow faster if a woman is producing them.

The treatment works by preventing another hormone, luteinising hormone, from doing its job - stimulating the release of more oestrogen.

The London researchers, from the Cancer Research UK Centre for Epidemiology, the Wolfson Institute for Preventive Medicine, and Queen Mary's School of Medicine and Dentistry, combined the results of 16 other research projects into LHRH agonists and breast cancer.

When all the different results are added together, the overall findings offer a more reliable indicator as to how well the treatment works.

### Cancer return

They found that pre-menopausal women given LHRH agonists did as well as those given standard chemotherapy.

When the two treatments were given together, the women did even better - with cancer 13 percent less likely to come back.

As expected, LHRH agonists were effective only where a tumour was proven to be sensitive to oestrogen.

The study authors said that the results proved that this was an additional, effective class of drugs in the fight against breast cancer.

Dr Sarah Cant, from Breakthrough Breast Cancer, said that additional research was now needed to see how the drug worked with the most up-to-date types of cancer chemotherapy.

She said: "Women tell us that they like to have treatment choice and this could be another option for some younger women with hormone positive breast cancer. We encourage anyone wanting to find out more to speak to their doctor."

Maria Leadbeater, Clinical Nurse Specialist at Breast Cancer Care, said that the drugs would be particularly useful to younger patients who faced losing their fertility with conventional chemotherapy.



PHOTO: STAR

Abul Hossain Asad and Maniruzzaman set off for Rajshahi from Dhaka yesterday as part of a campaign to raise awareness among the people about corruption. Earlier, the cyclists also toured Barisal in the first phase of the anti-corruption campaign organised by Bangladesh Solidarity Movement.

## GDP to decline, per capita income

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boro reduces, the overall agricultural growth in the current fiscal will also decline.

The manufacturing sector performed well, Zaid noted, which is evident from the import volume of capital machinery and industrial raw materials. Exports from this sector marked a healthy 20 percent growth this year, he mentioned.

The BIDS research chief, however, expressed doubt about the growth of service sector in the current fiscal as the anti-corruption drive by the present caretaker government in the second half of the fiscal year has slowed down economic activities.

### BBS PROJECTIONS

According to the BBS provisional estimation, the manufacturing sector, which accounts for 17.79 percent of the GDP, grew 11.19 percent in FY'07, whereas its growth last year was 10.77 percent.

Meanwhile, the power sector growth declined to 4.52 percent this fiscal year, compared to last year's growth of 7.45 percent.

The construction sector grew 7.05 percent, compared to last

year's 8.31 percent. The sector constitutes 9.16 percent of the GDP basket.

Fishery, which accounts for 4.73 percent of the GDP, grew 3.99 percent compared to its 3.91 percent growth in FY'06, the bureau reckons.

The transport, storage and communications sector, which makes up 10.21 percent of the GDP, grew by 8.24 percent in FY'07 compared to its 7.98 percent growth in FY'06.

Wholesale and retail trade representing 14.17 percent of the GDP marked a substantial rise of 7.44 percent in FY'07 compared to last year's 6.75 percent.

According to the BBS estimation, real estate, renting and business activities have marked a 3.77 percent growth, which was 3.69 percent in FY'06. The sector comprises 7.65 percent of the GDP.

Community, social and personal services, representing 7.09 percent of the GDP, grew by 4.51 percent compared to last year's 4.09 percent growth.

FINAL ESTIMATE OF FY'06 GDP GROWTH

The final estimate of BBS puts the growth of agriculture and forestry sector in FY2005-06 at 5.23 percent, which in its provisional estimation was 4.67 percent.

In FY'06, growth in manufacturing had been set at 8.73 percent as a provisional estimation, but it ended up growing 9.23 percent.

BBS estimated construction sector growth at 8.37 percent in FY'06, but it accomplished 8.31 percent growth. Wholesale and retail growth was projected at 7.26 percent, but it grew by 6.75 percent.

BBS sources said the GDP growth in FY'06 was down, mainly due to poor output from the service sector.

## Pak troops deployed to fight Taliban militants

AFP, Peshawar

Pakistan yesterday deployed soldiers to the tense northwestern town of Tank, where earlier clashes between Taliban militants and security forces left eight people dead.

"We have deployed troops to prevent sabotage activities," local administration chief Syed Mohsin Shah told AFP.

The troop movement comes after intelligence reports of increased numbers of militants entering Tank, which adjoins the volatile tribal region of South Waziristan bordering Afghanistan.

"We had reports that around 200 militants entered the town," Shah said.

Fighting in Tank on Wednesday between Taliban and security forces left six civilians dead and 17 others, including five security personnel, wounded.

On Monday, militants threw grenades at a paramilitary vehicle in the town, killing a soldier and sparking exchanges of rocket and mortar fire that left one civilian dead.



Building Technology and Ideas Ltd organised a clean-up programme titled 'Let's keep our city clean' at Swamibagh in the city yesterday. Those who took part in the programme pose for photograph.