



THANKING THE HEAVENS: Indian stalwarts Sourav Ganguly (L) and Sachin Tendulkar look skywards after reaching their hundreds during the second day's play in the first Test against Bangladesh at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIDKER

## Sachin ton for dad

BISHWAJIT ROY from Chittagong



If Habibul  
Bashar's men  
take the word  
of master bats-  
man Sachin  
Tendulkar  
after the com-  
pletion of the  
rain  
interrupted  
second day's

play, then there was a reason for them to have serious concern in the first Test at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium.

"The wicket becomes low and the bounce also varies. But as time goes on, the ball will stop coming to the bat," was the observation of a man who smashed his 36th Test hundred. Along with former skipper Sourav Ganguly, Tendulkar gave their side the upper hand despite the fact that only twenty overs were possible due to heavy rain.

India have already piled on 384 for 6, riding on twin hundreds from Tendulkar and Ganguly, who contributed 189 runs for the fourth-wicket, and the former said that he enjoyed batting with his long-time partner, who scored exactly hundred runs.

"Sourav is a wonderful player. He knows how to make runs and it's a pleasure to bat with him. We enjoyed our innings and had fun in the middle. The idea was that the mind does get bogged down. We basically remained focused as we tried to keep each other going. The conditions were tough and you have to encourage each other," said Tendulkar, who was rested for the one-day series along with Ganguly, which triggered huge controversy.

"I would dedicate this to my father as it was his eighth death anniversary," said an emotion-

choked Tendulkar who recalled his family members' and friends' contribution behind his success.

"It is really good to get a century after a long time as it is important to score a hundred here. After South Africa (in 2006), I have not played Test cricket for a long time and that's why I was looking forward to playing here. The century has come at the right time. I am looking forward to playing such important innings," said Tendulkar, who reached the three-digit figure after a gap of 17 innings.

He however was not ready to focus on only century.

"Century is not the only thing. How you play is more important. I was happy with the way I batted in South Africa. I had a couple of 60s and 70s. I didn't end up getting a 100 there. It does not mean I was not playing well," he explained adding that he had no point to prove after so many years he has playing the game.

He also explained the reason behind his dismissal just after scoring the hundred.

"The plan was to score quick runs. The target was to achieve 4.5 to 5 runs an over. And I got out by

mistiming the ball. I played the way I wanted to play and the team wanted me to play. Today's plan was to bat for four and half hours and tomorrow it will be a lot of aggression," he said.

"Over this entire career I have concentrated on my job only and my job is to go out and bat," he added.

Undoubtedly the World Cup debacle in South Africa was one of the most disappointing event in his career and as a result, questions were asked in the press conference.

"We were disappointed at not having played well at the World Cup. The ultimate dream was to go out there and play well. Anything else that happened didn't matter much. We lost out on the bigger goal," he said.

Tendulkar also revealed how he recovered from the great disappointment.

"I think my family -- my close friends, brother, mother, wife and kids -- were always around. The people close to me were disappointed too. Nobody wants to go out there and not perform. When it

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### BANGLADESH-INDIA FIRST TEST SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the first Test between India and Bangladesh at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium on Saturday:					
INDIA:	First Innings (overnight 295-3)	R	B	4s	6s
Dinesh Karthik c Mohammad Ashraful b Mashrafe Bin Mortaza	0	1	0	0	0
Rahul Dravid c Khaleel Mashud b Shahadat Hossain	56	102	8	0	0
Sachin Tendulkar c Mohammad Ashraful b Shahadat Hossain	61	99	11	0	0
Sourav Ganguly c Mohammad Ashraful b Shahadat Hossain	101	169	9	0	0
Mahendra Dhoni not out	36	35	6	0	0
Ramesh Powar c Mohammad Ashraful b Shahadat Hossain	7	12	1	0	0
Anil Kumble not out	1	9	0	0	0
Extras: (b-2, lb-8, w-2, nb-10)		22			
Total: (For 6 wickets in 97 overs)		384			

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Board of Control for Cricket in India president Sharad Pawar (2nd from L) and his Bangladesh counterpart M Abdul Aziz (2nd from R) wave at the crowd at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

## BCCI to name new coach by mid-June

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said that the final decision on appointing a new coach for the Indian team would be taken by the second week of June by a seven-member committee.

"The final decision will be known by the first or second week of June. The coach selection committee will meet in Bangalore on June 4 and within the next four-five days, things will be finalised,"

Niranjan Shah, the BCCI secretary, said, while adding that two separate teams would be picked for the one-day series in Ireland and the bilateral visit to England later in the summer.

Shah, who arrived in Chittagong as part of a four-member delegation headed by president Sharad Pawar, denied that the BCCI's top brass had travelled to Bangladesh to talk to outgoing Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore, but said he was open for a discussion if Whatmore desired. "If he wants to meet me, I am open to it. There is no problem."

Whatmore was the front-runner for the job and claimed that the Board had some other names as well before it. "It will not be right to talk about this now as the series is mid-way. The committee will decide everything. But we have a lot of names."

Rajeev Shukla, the BCCI vice president, said Whatmore led the race as far as the coach's job was concerned. "Yes there are a few names. The BCCI is approaching it with an open mind. However, considering the availability of the best coaches, Dav could be a frontrunner." Shukla, however, made it clear that Pawar would not hold any discussions with Whatmore at this stage. "Cricket manager Ravi Shastri is here to

talk to him. Pawar will not speak to him." The Board's Chief administrative Officer Ratnakar Shetty is the other member of the BCCI team currently in Bangladesh.

Regarding the ODI teams for Ireland and England, Shah denied any specific instruction had been given to the selectors. The teams are expected to be selected before June 10. Asked whether the seniors would rest for the ODI series in Ireland, Shah said, "that is for the selectors to decide depending on the number of games we play and the stress on the players."

Shah, however, gave clear indication that the policy of rotation and giving chance to fringe players would be adhered to, especially with a cramped itinerary looming ahead. "The selection also depends on the bank of players that we have at our disposal," he said. "There will be some players for both the tournaments and some who will be series specific."

India are scheduled to play three ODIs in Belfast, one against hosts Ireland (June 23) and three against South Africa (June 26 and 29 and July 1). They then travel to England for a full-fledged series, from July 7 to September 8, preceded by a charity match against Pakistan on July 23 at Glasgow.

## Monty gets WI in trouble

What to  
WATCH

Cricket

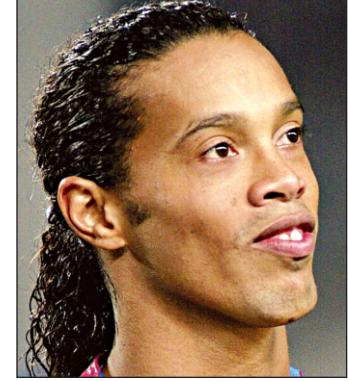
BTV & NEO Sports

Bangladesh v India  
First Test, Day Three  
Live at 10:00 am  
ESPN

England v West Indies  
First Test, Day Four  
Live at 4:00 pm  
Primera Liga

Recreativo De Huelva v Real Madrid  
Live at 11:00 pm  
STAR Sports

Primera Liga  
Atletico Madrid v Barcelona  
Live at 1:00 am (Monday)



Ronaldinho

(Barcelona star forward)  
"I haven't had a run of good matches. I've scored more goals than ever but without enjoying the

Empty Abahani  
urge delay

SPORTS REPORTER

Premier League leaders Abahani have asked Bangladesh Cricket Board to delay the ongoing super league matches after the India tour as they are finding it difficult to employ eleven players due to various problems.

In the letter sent by the club high-ups to BCB president M Abdul Aziz, it was mentioned that three of their players -- Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Khaled Mashud and Tushar Imran -- are with the national side in Chittagong where they are involved in the first Test against India, three others are injured and ill while Suhardi Shuvo is finding it difficult to play as he is appearing for the HSC examinations. The three injured

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out.

Panesar, who'd bowled Devon Smith with his first ball of the morning session, soon struck again in a spell broken only by the lunch break.

He had West Indies captain Rammal Sarwan, hiding his bat behind his pad, given out lbw for 35 by Pakistan umpire Asad Rauf to a ball that would have gone on to hit the stumps.

Before this match some pundits had suggested Panesar be dropped as seam-bowler friendly were the expected conditions at Lord's.

That meant they were still 137 shy of the follow-on although with seamer Matthew Hoggard, one of four specialist bowlers, off the field with a thigh strain whether stand-in England captain Andrew Strauss would make West Indies bat again if he got the chance was doubtful.

But with Hoggard off the field and Liam Plunkett losing his line, Panesar again showed how a good spin bowler could provide both variety and control in an otherwise all-right-arm seam attack.

And he ended Daren Ganga's near three-hour innings when the opener, on 49, pushed forward

uncertainly and was lbw.

West Indies were now struggling at 165 for four.

Ganga's exit brought in the experienced Chanderpaul, who three years ago against England at Lord's scored 128 not out and 97 not out.

West Indies lost that Test by 210 runs and it looked as if they would need all of Chanderpaul's customary resilience to avoid another heavy defeat.

But at the other end Runako Morton, who scored a century in the tourists' lone warm-up match against Somerset, also fell lbw to Panesar's arm-ball after, like Ganga and Sarwan, he didn't offer a shot.

Panesar, in his first Test against the West Indies, had now taken

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## Dav drawing whose attention?

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

Overnight drizzle and heavy rain in the morning kept both Bangladesh and India in their team hotel until the sun appeared to make sure that there would be some overs to be bowled in the last session of the second day of the first Test. But outgoing Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore was seen at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium from the morning when it looked unlikely that there would be any action possible.

The Sri Lanka-born Australian patiently observed the situation in the outfield and inspected the ground several times. Then once his charges entered the ground, he was seen busy preparing them for the day's play.

His long presence in the ground captured the attention of many.

It is now an open secret that Whatmore is favoured to take over the role of India's coach and the fact was BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) president Sharad Pawar along with some of his other colleagues arrived in Chittagong yesterday morning after being invited by BCB.

Although it was called a 'goodwill' trip, many believed that the India board high-ups would sort out many important issues here.

The Indian delegation were able to watch the action in the last session but what upset many was the length of time it took for the groundsmen to make the ground fit for play although there was sunshine from 1pm.

The groundsmen had to work extra hard to dry the outfield because of poor drainage system in this ground, unlike the Mirpur venue where it would have hardly taken a couple of hours to do the same work.

"The final decision will be known by the first or second week of June. The coach selection committee will meet in Bangalore on June 4 and within the next four-five days, things will be finalised,"

Niranjan Shah, the BCCI secretary, said, while adding that two separate teams would be picked for the one-day series in Ireland and the bilateral visit to England later in the summer.

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ROCKET LAUNCHER: Pakistan batsman Shahid Afridi launches one of the four sixes that he hit in one over from Sri Lanka spinner Malinga Bandara in the first one-day international at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP  
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## Tri-series plans under threat

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

Bangladesh Cricket Board's plan to hold a triangular series involving India during South Africa's tour to Bangladesh in February next year has been dented as their Indian counterparts are not ready to send their side during that time.

And with the development, BCB are trying to get the assurance from the visiting BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) high-ups that in that case, they have to play a triangular series also involving Pakistan.

BCCI president Sharad Pawar, along with board secretary Niranjan Shah, arrived in Chittagong yesterday in invitation from the Bangladesh Cricket Board and not to negotiate