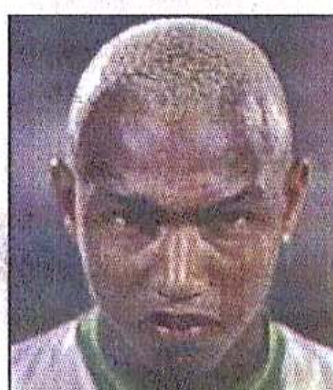




## Did U Know?

Yuvraj Singh of India scored the highest number of runs (36) off an over in the just concluded, ICC Twenty20 World Championship in South Africa. He achieved this feat against England.



## El Hadji Diouf

(Senegal football captain)  
"I have stopped my international career. There are so many problems with the national team. The team has a scheduled friendly match in a week and we don't even know who we are playing against. This is unacceptable."  
While announcing his retirement from international football.

**What to WATCH**

**DD Sports**  
India v Australia  
Fifth ODI  
Live from 9:30am

**TEN Sports**  
Pakistan v South Africa  
Second Test, Day Four  
Live from 10:45am

**ESPN**  
Sportscenter India  
Sports News  
Live at 8:30pm

## BCB forms 2 more sub-committees

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) formed two more sub-committees in its working committee meeting yesterday.

A three-member committee comprising Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, chairman of the cricket operations committee, coach Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury and Lt Col M Abdul Latif Khan (ret'd), chairman of development committee, has been formed to evaluate the national team's performance in Sri Lanka tour and the ICC World Twenty20 Championship in South Africa.

A steering committee has been formed with chairmen of tournament, cricket operations, ground and facilities, umpires and media committees to look after the coming national cricket league and other issues.

"We feel it is important to evaluate the past performance for a better future," said media committee chairman Ahmed Sajjadul Alam Bobby.

The Tigers had a disastrous tour in Sri Lanka, losing all three Tests and as many one-day internationals badly, in June-July while returned from South Africa with a mixed bag, having qualified to the second group stage after beating the West Indies. The second stage, however, was poor.

The board has also decided that the cricket operations committee would allot match referees in

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# 400 up for Sachin

## Fifth Indo-Aussie ODI today

Cricket

AFP, Vadodra

When Sachin Tendulkar makes his 400th one-day appearance today against Australia, he will realise fan expectations have not changed since his first match in 1989.

Millions of his supporters still want him to showcase the flair and flamboyance which has seen him dominate and demoralise rival attacks during an illustrious 18-year career.

But Tendulkar is ageing and injuries have taken a toll on his body since he made his one-day debut in Pakistan at the age of 16. He may not be as devastating now as he was a decade ago, but still remains a solid bat.

Chief selector Dilip Vengsarkar was quick to warn senior batsmen when they underperformed in the initial matches against Australia, saying they could not take their places for granted.

The 34-year-old Tendulkar refused to react to those comments.

"Performance, not age, should be the criterion. I don't wish to join in any debate, but what I've said is what I believe in," he told the Kolkata-based Telegraph newspaper on Wednesday.

Under-pressure Tendulkar, who had made 0, 16 and 43 in the first three games, responded like a champion with a solid 79 to help India to an eight-run win in the fourth game in Chandigarh on Monday.

He said his approach will remain the same in Thursday's landmark match, which his team must win to level the series 2-2.

"It feels nice. I'm soon also going to complete 18 years of international cricket. It's been a long journey and I have fond memories. I feel honoured that I've been able to play for the country for so many years," he said.

"It will be a special day, but I intend treating it like any other match. It's not that I'm going to get carried away."

Tendulkar, who will become only the second batsman after Sri Lankan Sanath Jayasuriya to figure in 400 one-day internationals, said

it was his love for the game that kept him going.

"I have not stopped enjoying it. When you love doing something, you don't have to worry about motivation," he said. "The enjoyment remains."

He said his three standout performances were the last over he bowled in the 1993 Hero Cup semi-finals against South Africa, his 435 runs in five matches at Sharjah in 1998 and a 98 against Pakistan in the 2003 World Cup.

Teammate Harbhajan Singh said he was fortunate to play with the master.

"It's not easy to play cricket like him. He has played all his cricket so authoritatively. It's absolutely stunning what he has done for the country," Harbhajan told the Indian Express newspaper.

"Playing alongside him, sharing the same dressing-room, is a feeling I really can't explain. His presence in the dressing-room itself is so important for us."

Tendulkar has already set three world records in one-day international cricket -- highest runs

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# Smith puts SA in control

Cricket

AFP, Lahore

Graeme Smith hit a brilliant half-century to put South Africa in a commanding position against Pakistan in the second and final Test here at the Gaddafi Stadium on Wednesday.

Smith's unbeaten 75 and Jacques Kallis's 37 in a second innings score of 154-2 gave South Africa an overall lead of 305 when bad light stopped play on the third day.

The tourists dismissed Pakistan for 206 in their first innings.

Smith, whose team has not won a series in the subcontinent since 2000, hit 11 boundaries in his 233-minute knock to guide his team into a winning position.

Pakistan, bidding to level the two-match series, saw their main

hope Inzamam-ul-Haq falter in his final Test, scoring just 14 when the team looked to him to avert a large South African lead.

South African spinner Paul Harris said his team looked good to clinch the series after winning the first Test in Karachi by 160 runs.

"We are confident about our position in the Test. It is not an easy pitch to bat as it is definitely deteriorating and up and down for both spinners and seamers," he said.

Pakistan's chances of getting quick wickets when South Africa returned to bat were dented by an elbow injury to spearhead bowler Mohammad Asif.

Asif, who bowled 34 overs in the first innings, managed just four in the second before walking off.

"Asif was in pain in his elbow and he will have a MRI (scan) on Thursday to assess his injury," said team manager Talat Ali.

It left Pakistan, who entered the

Test with just two frontline seamers and two spinners, severely depleted. Smith and Kallis took full advantage of the home side's miseries by adding 88 runs for the unbroken third-wicket stand.

It built the innings after the loss of Herschelle Gibbs, caught behind off a wild shot on the bowling of fast bowler Umar Gul for 16.

Leg-spinner Danish Kaneria bowled Hashim Amla for 17 to leave the tourists at 66-2 before Smith and Kallis took charge.

Earlier, South African paceman Makhaya Ntini took three wickets in an over to help South Africa take a big first innings lead of 151.

Ntini's burst, in his second over of the day, included the wickets of Misbahul Haq (41), Gul and Kaneria without scoring as Pakistan lost their last six wickets for just 66 runs after resuming at 140-4.

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South Africa captain Graeme Smith drives the ball past the bowler during the third day of the second Test against Pakistan at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on Wednesday.

# Ex-keepers praise Dhoni

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

It's often said that the wicketkeeper sets the standards of fielding for a team. If that is true, then this Indian team should do well in the coming years for Mahendra Singh Dhoni's glove work has been outstanding in recent times. It's premature to suggest that the elevation to captaincy may have played a part in this, but from someone who was seen as a batsman who could keep wickets adequately, Dhoni has grown into a force behind the stumps.

In Baroda, a city that has produced two of the best Indian wicketkeepers of the recent past, there was rich conversation about glove work, especially in the light of Dhoni winning the Man-of-the-Match award in the fourth one-day in Chandigarh. "Looking at his percentage of taking catches it's better than any of the other keepers we have had recently," Kiran More,

one of the former Indian wicketkeepers from Baroda, told Cricinfo. "He doesn't miss when the chances come his way. He's really good at assessing situations and his temperament is fantastic. He doesn't look good in the conventional sense in that he's not a stylish wicketkeeper but his temperament under pressure sets him apart."

But it was not long ago that Dhoni was struggling in England, especially in the early part of the tour having to contend with the considerable movement after the ball crossed the batsman. This is something all keepers have to adjust to when playing in England. The other Baroda wicketkeeper, Nayan Mongia, points out that it was a flaw in technique that caused Dhoni problems in England. "He struggled in England because his technique was not right. He was half-squatting and so could not always gather the ball," said Mongia. "But after that he has done really well. He is improving with every match. He is watching the

ball, staying low and moving with the ball. Hence, his mistakes have come down considerably."

More too concedes that Dhoni struggled in England, but says that was only to be expected. "In England people criticised him but you should understand that wicketkeepers always struggle there," said More. "To his credit Dhoni's concentration level is very high. He has improved a lot. Look at one-and-a-half years ago and now. Look at his hand position. He picks things up quickly."

Mongia, who was an expert at keeping wickets on rank turners and even under prepared pitches where Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh made the ball explode out of the rough, says Dhoni will be tested fully in such conditions. "It is always difficult to keep in India because the ball keeps low. But Dhoni is high on confidence and that is helping him do well," said Mongia. "When keeping to the pacers, he dives around to collect the ball. If there's one area in which

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GEARING UP FOR THE BIG ONE: Sachin Tendulkar enters the practice area of the Reliance Cricket Stadium in Vadodra on Wednesday with his batting gear on the eve of the fifth one-day international against Australia.

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS Bangladesh bag 15 gold, beat India in cricket final

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh clinched two more gold medals at the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai, China yesterday.

Bangladesh earned the cricket gold beating India in the final before adding another in table tennis.

The Bangladesh athletes completed their events yesterday with 15 gold medals. The team will return home on October 13 after participating in today's closing ceremony.

In the cricket final, Bangladesh recorded a six-run win over India. Batting first, Bangladesh scored 126 for seven in the stipulated 20 overs before restricting their neighbours to 120-7.

Bangladesh pair Nipa Bose and Sultana Mushfiqa Phil won the women's doubles title to capture the day's second gold medal in table tennis.

## Euro Famous Div 3 soccer champs

SPORTS REPORTER

Euro Famous became Third Division Football League champions when they comfortably beat Gazirchot XI 3-1 in the final yesterday.

The match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, however, came alive in extra time after both the sides failed to break the deadlock in regulation 80 minutes.

Dolon opened the floodgate in the 85th minute while Murad made it 2-0 two minutes later. Sakahuddin put the result beyond doubt with a 98-minute strike, just a minute before Sabbir's consolation goal for the losers.

In the third-place play-off earlier on the day, Matuail Udayan Sangsad twice came from behind to edge Friends Social Welfare Organisation 3-2.

Prolific scorer Chowmmim Rakhine put Friends ahead twice but Mosharraf and Turjo equalised for Udayan before Sailesh struck the match winner in extra time.

All four teams have been promoted to the second division.

# England need 212

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Kumar Sangakkara scored a gritty half-century to help Sri Lanka post a respectable 211-9 in the fourth one-day international here on Wednesday.

The 29-year-old left-hander broke a prolonged poor run of form to top score with 69 off 102 balls and bail out the home team which was struggling at 20-3 after electing to bat first in the day-night game.

Sangakkara also shared a crucial 126-run partnership with Chamara Silva (67) for the fourth wicket in the face of some disciplined bowling by the visitors.

Paceman Ryan Sidebottom was the pick of the bowlers with figures of 3-27 while James Anderson (3-

LATEST

STAR SPORT MONITOR

England were poised for a historic series victory in Sri Lanka as they were a hundred runs away from taking an unassailable 3-1 lead in the one-day series.

After the end of 30 overs, England were 127 for 2.

Opener Alastair Cook was batting on 54 and mainstay Kevin Pietersen was on 24 as the two batsmen look to take England to their winning target of 212, set by hosts Sri Lanka. Paceman Lasith Malinga removed Phil Mustard (19) with a good return catch and then caught Ian Bell (25) at mid-off, off leg-spinner Kaushal Lokurachchi.

33) and Stuart Broad (2-54) also impressed in a game which Sri Lanka must win if they are to square the five-match series 2-2.

The Sri Lankans got off to a disastrous start, losing their openers cheaply for the second time in a row in the series.

Upul Tharanga was dismissed again by left-arm paceman Sidebottom when he had him caught by Owais Shah for four.

Sanath Jayasuriya, playing in his record 402nd one-day, fumbled around for 22 balls before hoisting out to Kevin Pietersen off Anderson.

The Lancashire man soon dealt another blow to the home team when he sent back Mahela Jayawardene for a duck, the skipper slashing one to third-man fielder Broad.

Sangakkara and Silva then batted sensibly to put the innings back on rails.

The wicketkeeper-batsman reached his 41st ODI fifty with a single off Bopara while Silva also followed suit before falling to Broad for a 101-ball 67, inclusive of five fours.

Silva tried to uppercut a wide bouncer only for Bopara to take a fine running catch near the third man boundary.

Sangakkara fell to the same combination with Bopara this time taking the catch near the square-leg fence. His 102-ball innings included four fours.

After Sangakkara's dismissal in the 42nd over, the Sri Lankans kept losing wickets at regular intervals, with only Tillakaratne Dilshan (17) and Jehan Mubrak (20) offering some resistance.

The last match of the series will be played at the same venue on Saturday.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Sri Lanka innings in the fourth one-day international against England at the Premadasa Stadium on Wednesday:

SRI LANKA	
Tharanga c Shah b Sidebottom	4
Jayasuriya c Pietersen b Anderson	3
Sangakkara c Bopara b Broad	69
Jayawardene c Broad b Anderson	0
Silva c Bopara b Broad	67
Lokurachchi lbw b Collingwood	9
Dilshan lbw b Anderson	17

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SCOOP GONE WRONG: England fast bowler James Anderson (L) celebrates after knocking over Sri Lanka batsman Tillakaratne Dilshan during the fourth one-day international at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on Wednesday.