

## Ton-dulkar topples England

Cricket

AFP, Chennai

Batting great Sachin Tendulkar hit an unbeaten 103 as India achieved the fourth-highest run chase in history to stun England by six wickets in the first Test here on Monday.

The hosts surpassed the seemingly improbable victory target of 387 on a wearing wicket with 20.3 overs to spare on the fifth and final day to take a 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

Tendulkar swept off-spinner Graeme Swann to fine-leg for the winning boundary that also brought up his 41st Test century amid loud cheers from 30,000 home fans at the Chidambaram stadium.

Tendulkar, showing the form that has made him the all-time leading scorer in both Tests and one-day cricket,

anchored India's chase for five hours, during which he hit nine boundaries.

"This is a very, very special victory," said the 35-year-old Mumbai resident.

"To score 387 is something to be proud of on a track where the ball was bouncing and jumping at the end."

The first Test match in India since last month's terror attacks in Mumbai provided a thrilling finale with all four

results -- victory for either side, a draw or a tie -- possible going into the final session.

India required 83 runs from 40 overs and England needed six wickets in the last two hours of play, but Tendulkar and Yuvraj Singh survived the second new ball to fashion a remarkable win.

Left-hander Yuvraj chipped in with 85 not out in a fifth-wicket stand of 163 with Tendulkar to dash England's

hopes after Kevin Pietersen's men dominated a major part of the match with both bat and ball.

Yuvraj, recalled to the Test side following the retirement of former captain Sourav Ganguly, made up for his first innings score of 14 by coming good when his team needed it most.

The top three run chases in history are the 418-7 by the West Indies against Australia in 2003, 406-4 by India against the West Indies in 1976 and 404-3 by Australia against England in 1948.

India's victory was set up the previous day by flamboyant opener Virender Sehwag, who smashed 83 off 68 balls with 11 fours and four sixes to leave the hosts 131-1 at the close.

When play resumed on Monday, India suffered a blow in the third over when Andrew Flintoff had the struggling Rahul Dravid caught behind

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### HIGHEST LAST INNINGS WINNING TOTALS

Score	Team	Against	Venue	Year
418-7	West Indies	Australia	Antigua	2003
406-4	India	West Indies	Trinidad	1976
404-3	Australia	England	Leeds	1948
387-4	India	England	Chennai	2008
369-6	Australia	Pakistan	Hobart	1999
362-7	Australia	West Indies	Guyana	1978
352-9	Sri Lanka	South Africa	Colombo	2006
348-5	West Indies	New Zealand	Auckland	1969
344-1	West Indies	England	Lord's	1984
342-8	Australia	India	Perth	1977



PHOTO: AFP

TO HARD TO ACCEPT: A dejected England captain Kevin Pietersen adjusts his hat as he waits for the presentation ceremony on the last day of the first Test at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai yesterday.

## Bitter pill for Kevin

MS praises team for fighting back

Cricket

AFP, Chennai

India's six-wicket win in the first Test after achieving the fourth-highest run chase in history was a "bitter pill to swallow," England captain Kevin Pietersen said on Monday.

"Our boys tried our hearts out," he said. "We did not come here just to compete, we wanted to win and we thought we were in a pretty good position to do that."

"But unfortunately we got pipped today. It is a very, very bitter pill to swallow in our dressing room."

Batting great Sachin Tendulkar hit an unbeaten 103 as India surpassed the seemingly improbable victory target of 387 on a wearing wicket with 20.3 overs to spare on the fifth and

final day.

The win gave the hosts a 1-0 lead in the two-match series with the second Test starting in Mohali on Friday.

Pietersen admitted it was particularly hard to take after his team had dominated for a major part of the match with both bat and ball and gained a 75-run first innings lead.

Flamboyant opener Virender Sehwag set up the memorable win by smashing 83 off 68 balls with 11 fours and four sixes to leave the hosts 131-1 at stumps on Sunday evening.

Left-hander Yuvraj Singh, recalled to the Indian team following the retirement of Sourav Ganguly, chipped in with 85 not out in an unbroken fifth-wicket stand of 163 with Tendulkar.

"I think after day one if we said we had to defend 250 on the final day we would have taken that," Pietersen said.

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## Sachin ton for Mumbaikars

PTI, Chennai

Guiding India to victory with a four that also fetched him his 41st Test hundred, Sachin Tendulkar on Monday said his knock in the first Test against England among his "very, very special" centuries.

"If the team wins the 100 becomes very, very special, so this is right among my special centuries," said Tendulkar, who scored an unbeaten 103 to guide India to a six-wicket victory at the MA Chidambaram Stadium here.

The Mumbai batsman hoped his feat would give some happiness to the people after the recent terror attacks in his city.

"What happened in Mumbai was extremely unfortunate. Cricket cannot lessen whatever happened... I hope this 100 will give some amount of happiness to the people," he said.

"I dedicate this century to the people of Mumbai."

"I thank those who stood up to the terrorists and who made sure that they were captured or shot dead as the terrorists were many."

"I salute the NSG commandos, Taj hotel staff, police, public and everyone," he said paying rich tributes to the victims of recent terror attacks in Mumbai and saluted those who salvaged the lives of others.

Tendulkar said it was a very difficult track to bat on and that made the win all the more significant.

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PHOTO: AFP

THIS ONE IS SPECIAL: Indian cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar smiles as he picks a stump as a souvenir after guiding his side to a famous victory against England on the fifth and final day of the first Test at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai yesterday. Tendulkar struck an unbeaten 103 as India chased down a mammoth fourth innings target of 383.



Paul Harris

(South Africa left-arm spinner)

"We're not good friends at all, I just pretend to get on with him because he's bloody fast and I don't want him to hurt me in the nets."

Revealing the real motives behind befriending Dale Steyn.



National Cricket League (Four-Dayer, Day 3)  
Khulna v Dhaka  
Venue: Khulna Divisional Stadium  
Rajshahi v Sylhet  
Venue: Rajshahi Divisional Stadium  
Chittagong v Barisal  
Venue: Chittagong Divisional Stadium

## Draw at Dunedin

Wash-outs raise questions

Cricket

AGENCIES, Dunedin

The first Test between New Zealand and the West Indies ended in a draw after rain washed out the fifth and final day here Monday.

With New Zealand on 44 for two in their second innings at close of play on Sunday, the match had already appeared destined to end all-square after many hours were lost to rain earlier in the match.

Earlier, the West Indies scored 340 in their first

innings, including a quickfire 106 from number eight Jerome Taylor, in reply to New Zealand's 365.

All of Friday was washed out and part of Saturday was lost to the wet weather.

The second Test will be played in Napier from Friday, with top all-rounder Jacob Oram a doubt for the home side.

The injury-prone Oram was a last-minute withdrawal from the first Test team after straining a calf muscle and New Zealand said he would play as a batsman only if selected for the second Test.

The 30-year-old -- who has

missed 16 out of 48 Tests through injury since his debut in 2002 -- needs to prove he is capable of running between the wickets, team manager Lindsay Crocker said.

Batsman Ross Taylor dislocated and chipped a bone on his right ring finger on Sunday, when he dropped West Indies debutant Brendan Nash in the slips. He left the field and took no further part in the West Indies innings.

But he had been expected to bat in the second New Zealand innings if needed and Crocker said Sunday he was

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## Victory Day cricket today

SPORTS REPORTER

The traditional Victory Day exhibition cricket match between Shaheed Jewel XI and Shaheed Mushtaque XI will be held at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium today.

Shaheed Jewel XI will look to avenge last year's defeat in the 50-overs a side affair that was first organized in 1972 in memory of Liberation War martyrs. Shaheed Abdul Halim Chowdhury Jewel and Shaheed Mushtaque Ahmed.

Shaheed Jewel, who was an attacking right-handed opening batsman for Azad Boys Club, was one of the first active cricketers of erstwhile East Pakistan to take up arms and join the fight for freedom.

After a heroic nine months in the battlefield he was captured by the Pakistan army towards the end of the War and was killed just days before Bangladesh became independent. Shaheed Mushtaque was a devout cricket organizer of the same club.

On the blood-splattered night of March 25, 1971 Mushtaque was shot dead by the Pakistan army near his beloved Azad Boys Club which was then situated in Dhaka's Gulistan.

The only novelty match in the domestic calendar will feature upcoming players, seasoned performers and a fallen star.

TEAMS  
SHAHEED JEWEL XI: Mehrab

Hossain (captain), Habibur Rahman, Mashiur Rahman, Sanjay Chakraborty, Mehedi Hossain, Mohammad Rahi, Mominul Hoque, Rafi Mahmood, Al Amin Mia, Ariful Islam, Latiful Azam, Mohibullah, Kuntal Candra, Raihanuddin Arafat, Nazmul Islam. Coach: Mizanur Rahman Babul.

SHAHEED MUSHTAQUE XI: Rashedul Hoque (captain), Fazle Rabbi, Raseel Al Mamun, Nizamuddin Ripon, Suvagata Chowdhury, Anhoor Newaz, Shahriar Habib, Sadaf Sarkar, Aslam Khan, Niaz Morshed, Iqbal Hossain, Rifatuzzaman, Mohammad Sokran, Nur Hossain, Ashikul Islam. Coach: Golam Faruque Chowdhury.

## 10 nominated for Sports Awards

BSS, Dhaka

The government yesterday approved the nomination of ten sports personalities for National Sports Award 2008 for their outstanding contributions to different fields of sports.

The nominees are: General Moeen U Ahmed, NDC, PSC (organiser), Sunil Krishna Dey (football), Lt (retd) Mohammad Amzad Hossain (athlete), Senior Warrant Officer (retd) Mohammad Lutfur Rahman (swimming), Alhaj Mohammad Ruhul Amin (weightlifting), Khondokar Abul Hasan (volleyball), Brig General Mohammad Shawkat Hossain, PSC (bodybuilding), Mohammad Saidul Haque Sadi (table tennis), Syed Abdul Majid (cricket) and Mohammad Jahangir Alam Chowdhury (kabaddi).

## Pepsi V-Day volleyball

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Police and Bangladesh Rifles made a good start in the Pepsi Victory Day volleyball competition at the volleyball stadium yesterday.

Bangladesh Police beat Bangladesh Air Force 3-0 in the first match while BDR defeated Bangladesh Fire Services and Civil Defense by same margin.

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## Nayeem rescues Rajshahi

SPORTS REPORTER



Nayeem Islam showed a rare brand of patience by occupying the crease for five hours as leaders Rajshahi recovered from an early hiccup to post an impressive first innings total against Sylhet on the second day of the ninth round National Cricket League match at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium yesterday.

From 56 for five, the home side scored 264 before being bundled out in 90.4 overs thanks to an 87-run innings by the national all-rounder Nayeem. For the second successive day play was hampered by fog.

At Khulna, it was not Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraful but rather all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan who shone as the hosts tightened their grip on Dhaka in the second day.

Away at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium, the bowlers brought a creditable first innings lead for Barisal as the hosts were all out for 198 runs after resuming the day on 51 for one.

### RAJSHAHI-SYLHET

Rajshahi was desperately seeking a partnership when they resumed the day on 56 for five and Nayeem got good support from his skipper Anisur Rahman to take his side away from trouble with a 83-run sixth wicket stand.

Anisur scored his runs quickly as the right-hander smote seven boundaries during his 66-ball 44. But his partner Nayeem kept cool to make 87 off 207 balls that contained 12 boundaries before being caught by Mohammad Mithun off Sumon Shaha -- who went on to capture four wickets for 55 runs.

The effort was still not enough to cross the 200-mark but Sabbir Rahman provided good support to Nayeem as the pair added 71 runs for the seventh wicket. Sabbir made 32 off 70 balls with the help of two fours and a six. Sylhet scored 1 run in 4 overs before the play stopped due to bad light.

### KHULNA-DHAKA

Ziaur Rahman and Dollar Mahmud equally shared six wickets as Khulna managed a huge 174-run first innings lead after skipper Ashraful declared Dhaka's first innings on 181-9 to ensure bonus points.

Khulna stretched their lead to 320 runs as they made 146 for 5 in their second essay before stumps were drawn for the day.

After taking two wickets Shakib, who hit a half-century in the first innings, was not out on 34 while Raihan Anas accompanied him with 17.

Earlier, all eyes were on the out-of-form Tigers skipper when Dhaka resumed the day on 38 for 2 but the right-hander failed to come up with a big one although he looked settled in the middle.

Ashraful however made team highest 37 off 49 deliveries that featured four boundaries and a six while the second team highest 32 came from number eight batsman Arafat Sunny.

Dollar picked up three for 51 runs and Zia took one more wicket yesterday to finish with figures of 3-33.

### CHITTAGONG-BARISAL

Poor top order batting from the home team enabled Barisal to take a 46-run first innings lead. Talha Jubair, Sajju Datta and Tariqul Islam captured two wickets each as Barisal were all out for 198 runs after resuming the day on 52 for one.

Chittagong however was lucky enough to reach a respectable total as Yasin Arafat and Tareq Aziz Khan added 48 runs for the ninth wicket stand. Yasin top scored with 34 off 62 deliveries that saw four boundaries while Tareq was not out on 21.

Barisal improved their lead to 139 with eight wickets in hand in their second innings as they scored 93 for 2 in the second essay before stumps were drawn for the day.

Nasiruddin Faruque scored an unbeaten 36 and Hannan Sarker made 36 before giving a

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