

### It's no problem for Tendulkar

CRICINFO, Mumbai  
Sachin Tendulkar has said his decision to skip India's last three one-day assignments was not predetermined, and that he had no difficulty in switching across the three versions of the game. It has been eight months since Tendulkar's last ODI, in which he scored the format's first double-century.

Since then, he has missed the Asia Cup and the tri-series in Sri Lanka, as well as the home one-day series against Australia. In the meantime, he has been in top form in Test cricket, where he is currently ranked No. 1 in the world, and in non-international Twenty20s for the Mumbai Indians franchise.

"The decision to skip the last two ODI series was taken at the last moment and was not pre-decided. My kit always contained coloured pads," Tendulkar said. "I have been playing cricket for some time now. If I were not playing cricket there would be something to think about. Having been around for some time, I know how to adjust to the formats. I know my body. I would do whatever is needed for the World Cup and it won't be pre-decided."

Tendulkar was guarded against losing sight of the upcoming New Zealand series by focusing on the potentially bigger challenges that lie ahead. "It's tough to talk now about the South Africa series and the World Cup. The focus is on the Test series against New Zealand. We have got three Tests to play before South Africa. When we go there the focus would be on that. Before the World Cup, there's a lot of cricket to be played."

Tendulkar's form in Test cricket has coincided with India's rise to the top of the world rankings, and he cherished being a part of it. However, he was keen to keep improving as a batsman. "What we have been able to achieve as a team in the last few years is remarkable. We want to continue doing this. It feels good to be No. 1, but we want to continue playing well to stay there."

"I would like to do better, would like to work harder. I don't like to count the numbers. The closer I look at the ball is more important than the numbers."

Tendulkar will seek to score his 50th Test century during the series against New Zealand, which begins in Ahmedabad on November 4.

### 'T20 easiest to corrupt'

PTI, Melbourne  
Cricket Australia should be mindful that Twenty20 is the "easiest form of the game to corrupt" when it accepts private investment, including from India, in the country's domestic Twenty20 league from next year, feels former captain Ian Chappell.

Cricket Australia has given the go ahead for private investment in its Twenty20 Big Bash from next year and Chappell says CA should firmly be in control of the money flowing in to keep corruption at bay.

### SA 286/8

FROM PAGE 17  
The left-hander put on 84 for the second wicket with opener Amla (65) and then another 86 for the third wicket with AB de Villiers (29) as Pakistan bowlers found it hard to put brakes on the South African innings.

Jean-Paul Duminy chipped in with a swift 43-ball 54.

It was Ingram who built the innings, hitting ten boundaries and a six off paceman Abdul Razaq before he was trapped leg-before by fast bowler Wahab Riaz who replaced Umar Gul in the Pakistan squad for the only change. He faced 119 balls.

South Africa, who lead the five-match series 1-0 after winning the first match by eight wickets here on Friday, had to leave out captain Graeme Smith and all-rounder Jacques Kallis, who were both unfit.

Amla started the run feast with three boundaries in paceman Shoaib Akhtar's first over of the match, before fellow opener Robin Peterson fell leg-before to Razaq in the fourth over.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**SOUTH AFRICA:** 286 for 8 (Amla 65, Ingram 100, De Villiers 29, Duminy 54; Riaz 2-43, Afridi 2-59)  
**PAKISTAN:** Hafeez, Fawad, Younis, Asad, Misbah, Afridi, Razaq, Haider, Wahab, Ajmal, Shoaib.



Kim Clijsters of Belgium pumps her fist with joy after beating Samantha Stosur of Australia in the WTA Championships semifinal in Doha on Saturday.

## Kim cruises to final

Tennis  
AFP, Doha  
US Open champion Kim Clijsters reached the final of the WTA Championships despite being involved in a "scary" car crash on the way to the venue on Saturday.

Clijsters's 7-6, 6-1 win over Australia's Samantha Stosur was ultimately impressive despite slipping to an early 0-3 deficit, which some attributed to the upset of her vehicle being smashed into by a large truck.

She was physically unhurt, but she admitted that it was "a bit of a shock," and that her manager Bob Verbeek suffered from cuts.

"I don't know exactly what happened," she added. "But there was a lot of glass, and Bob was cut, and we got lucky."

Her vehicle was abandoned by the side of the highway while a replacement was being summoned.

Clijsters tweeted: "We just had an accident on the way to the courts. So scary. Bob, my manager took the hit. We are all okay...Just the car is ready for the junk yard."

Clijsters quickly went 0-3 down and did not really seem herself until 20 minutes into the match. Then she carved out a break back point with a topspin backhand down the line which

combined great pace with magnetic accuracy. She converted that chance quickly, and served her way back to 3-3, but had to save a set point at 4-5, 30-40, when she came up with a similarly brilliant winner, unerringly parallel to the sideline.

Her next crucial push came in the tie-break, when a heavy forehand drive went for a winner off the edge of the baseline to make a mini-break for 5-3.

Clijsters reached 6-3 when Stosur missed with a drive volley from a good position, and from that point on the match changed character. Clijsters won her first set point, and immediately took charge of the second set.

Ever the diplomat she denied though that her play had been adversely affected by the accident.

Clijsters now has a showdown with Caroline Wozniacki, the year-end world number one from Denmark, who produced a crowd-rousing fight-back to overcome Vera Zvonareva, the world number two from Russia, by 7-5, 6-0.

Wozniacki led 4-1 and then slipped to 5-4, 40-15 down before tenaciously saving two set points in a row with her mobile, consistent game.

Once she had done that the match utterly changed, and the favourite hurtled through nine games in a row to reach the final.

## Inter-private university football

SPORTS REPORTER  
The fifth Inter-Private University Football Tournament, sponsored by Mentors and organised by Auritro, starts at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur tomorrow.

Ten teams divided into three groups will fight for the football supremacy among the private universities in the 12-day event.

In the opening match, Northern University will take on University of Liberal Arts at 2pm.

A press conference in this connection was organised at the BFF House yesterday. AKM Nuruzzaman, councillor of BFF, Abdullah Al Mamun, CEO of Auritro, Dilruba Muzaddid, representative of Mentors, were present at the press conference.

North South University are the current champions while Independent University are runners-up of this event.

## Lanka crush Australia

Cricket  
AFP, Perth  
Australia captain Michael Clarke again failed with the bat as his side lost their first Twenty20 game at home in their one-off international against Sri Lanka at the WACA Ground in Perth on Sunday.

After winning the toss and batting first, the home side, featuring only four players expected to play key roles in the upcoming Ashes series, struggled to 8-133, after slumping to 5-43 in the 11th over.

Sri Lanka cruised to 3-133 in reply, winning with 21 balls to spare, inflicting Australia's first home defeat in 11 matches.

Clarke went into the game under pressure to retain his spot in the Australian side in the shortest form of the game, as he is averaging just over 20 in the format.

He promoted himself to the top of the order and the move very nearly backfired on the second ball he faced, with an inside edge just missing the stumps.

Clarke should then have been run out on two, when he was sent back by strike Dave Warner and was well out of his ground as the throw by Tillakaratne Dilshan from close range somehow missed.

The 29-year-old briefly looked as if he would capitalise on the good fortune, hitting Dilhara Fernando through mid-wicket for four, before

lofting Muttiah Muralidaran, playing his last game in Perth, down the ground for six in the next over.

But on 16, his luck ran out when he lobbed a mistimed drive off Thisara Perera (2-22) down to long on, where a back-peddling Dilhara Fernando -- who had started the Australian rot when he had Warner caught at mid-off for two -- misjudged the flight of the ball but stuck out his right hand to cleanly snare a remarkable catch.

Clarke had faced 19 balls, and his departure left the home side struggling at 2-22.

It got much worse though, with Perera then claiming Test opener Shane Watson for four and David Hussey (7) and Cameron White (8) both going cheaply as Australia collapsed to 5-43.

Brad Haddin (35) and Steven Smith (34) then came to the rescue, their 66-run partnership at least giving Australia a modestly competitive total to defend, before both fell in quick succession to Suraj Randiv, who impressed with 3-25 with his off-spinners.

The Sri Lankans had few problems overhauling the total, with captain Kumar Sangakkara unbeaten on 44 and Dilshan making 41.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**AUSTRALIA:** 133 for 8 in 20 overs (Clarke 16, Haddin 35, Smith 34; Randiv 3-25, Perera 2-22)  
**SRI LANKA:** 135 for 16.3 overs (Sangakkara 44 not out, Jayawardene 24, Dilshan 41, Perera 17 not out; Nannes 1-28)  
**Result:** Sri Lanka won by seven wickets.  
**Man-of-the-match:** Suraj Randiv.

## Meat executive Afridi!

Cricket  
PTI, Karachi  
Pakistan's troubled captain Shahid Afridi, who is already under pressure because of his team's continuous dismal performance against South Africa, has now found himself dragged into another unnecessary controversy.

The Express news channel played up a report on Sunday that though he was struggling as captain and player, the flamboyant all-rounder had not missed the opportunity to make some money by setting up a stall at the market for sacrificial animals in Karachi.

The channel reported that Afridi had set up a VIP stall at the market with the help of some other business partners and was selling high breed animals for sacrifice at Eid.

Taking obvious jibes at the fact that Pakistan captain had now turned to a meat business man after opening up his car showroom and launching his own brand of clothes, the channel said animals at the VIP stall had become centre of attraction for visitors because of Afridi's involvement in it.

To compound matters, Pakistan's former captain and senior batsman, Muhammad

Yousuf also visited the market and performed the ribbon cutting ceremony of the stall.

He also spoke about the benefits of the meat business.

The story clearly upset the Pakistan captain, who is in Abu Dhabi, as shortly after the story was aired a couple of times, his brother Mushtaq Afridi was on air.

"Who told you that my brother has opened a stall at the sacrificial animals' market? Tell me where is it? I have not seen it," Mushtaq questioned the newscaster on phone.

When reminded that Yousuf had performed the opening ceremony, Mushtaq, himself a first class cricketer, replied, "Prove to me this is our stall, we have no investment in it at all and we have nothing to do with it. Why drag my brother's name into it?"

Former players like Inzamam-ul-Haq and Yousuf have set up a chain of stores in Karachi and Lahore to sell top grade meat.

"We are even importing high breed animals from New Zealand and Australia as we want to provide top quality to our customers," said Yousuf.

The senior batsman pulled out of the Twenty20 and ODI series against South Africa due to a hamstring strain, but he is now said to be fit for the forthcoming Tests against the Proteas.

## No stopping Siddikur

FROM PAGE 17  
heads by sinking an astonishing six birdies.

According to the Asian Tour website, Siddikur has been one of the revelations of Asian golf. His ultimate dream would be to play in America and after upstaging stars such as two-time US Open champion Retief Goosen of South Africa and Asia's first Major winner Y.E. Yang of Korea, he believes he can achieve his goal.

"Next year, I'll go to the US Tour qualifying school. I want to go far in my career. I'm not concerned about the money. My plan was to learn something from the players," said Siddikur.

He said his concentration was on learning the nuances from the great players rather than earning money. "I don't know how much I have won but I believe it is big money. I want to go far in my career, not concerned about the money. My plan was to learn something from the players," he said.

### TOURNAMENT LEADERBOARD

| Pos | Country | Name            | Par | R1 | R2 | R3 | R4 | Total |
|-----|---------|-----------------|-----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| 1   | USA     | Ben Crane       | -18 | 67 | 64 | 66 | 69 | 266   |
| 2   | ENG     | Brian Davis     | -17 | 65 | 70 | 66 | 66 | 267   |
| T3  | SCO     | Martin Laird    | -16 | 66 | 69 | 67 | 66 | 268   |
| T3  | ENG     | Luke Donald     | -16 | 67 | 67 | 67 | 67 | 268   |
| T5  | AUS     | Robert Allenby  | -14 | 72 | 66 | 68 | 64 | 270   |
| T5  | RSA     | Ernie Els       | -14 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 66 | 270   |
| T5  | USA     | Rickie Fowler   | -14 | 68 | 67 | 68 | 67 | 270   |
| T5  | USA     | DJ Trahan       | -14 | 67 | 67 | 68 | 68 | 270   |
| T5  | USA     | Ryan Moore      | -14 | 64 | 68 | 69 | 69 | 270   |
| T5  | SIN     | Mardan Mamat    | -14 | 66 | 70 | 65 | 69 | 270   |
| T11 | USA     | Tom Gillis      | -13 | 69 | 66 | 69 | 67 | 271   |
| T11 | AUS     | Adam Scott      | -13 | 69 | 65 | 69 | 68 | 271   |
| T11 | BAN     | Siddikur Rahman | -13 | 69 | 68 | 65 | 69 | 271   |
| T11 | USA     | Ricky Barnes    | -13 | 63 | 69 | 69 | 70 | 271   |
| T15 | USA     | Kevin Strelman  | -12 | 69 | 66 | 67 | 70 | 272   |
| T15 | SWE     | Carl Pettersson | -12 | 65 | 68 | 66 | 73 | 272   |

## Ansar dominate pool Tendulkar

FROM PAGE 17  
Seven new national records were set on the fourth and final day of the meet yesterday. Sonia of Ansar set a new record in 100m backstroke with a 1:17.44 sec timing, while her teammate Dolly Aktar clocked 35:21 secs for a new mark in the 50m breaststroke. Sabura, also from Ansar, rewrote two new records on the day. The first came in the 800m freestyle in a 10:48.74 min time, while the second was set in 100m freestyle with a timing of 1:05.91 min. Sonia, Sabura, Dolly and Jui won the 4X100m relay gold in record timing of 5:02:20 minutes.

Mahfizur of Army clocked a record timing of 53:56 secs for the men's 100m freestyle gold while he teamed up with Shahjahan Ali, Wahidul and Kamal to set a 4X100m relay record in 4:05:12 minutes.

In the Water Polo Championship, Bangladesh Navy emerged champions beating Bangladesh Army in the final on Sunday while Bangladesh Police finished third.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarkar was the chief guest in the closing ceremony and distributed medals among the winners.

President of Bangladesh Swimming Federation (BSF) and Navy Chief Vice-Admiral Zahiruddin Ahmed and deputy director of the meet's sponsors Walton FM Iqbal Bin Anwar were present as special guests.

## 14 massacred

FROM PAGE 20  
Another police spokesman in San Pedro Sula, Juan Lopez, said five to eight hooded assailants came out of the risers and opened fire on the 14.

Deputy Security Minister Armando Calidonio said authorities thought the blood-bath could be a case of score settling between criminals but did not offer more details.

Honduras is on track to finish the year with the world's highest murder rate, with a rate of 78.8 per 100,000 people, according to a report by the government human rights ombudsman.

## Barca, Real hit

FROM PAGE 20  
French striker David Trezeguet, who scored the golden goal in France's Euro 2000 final win over Italy, headed Hercules into a third-minute lead and it was the first time Real had gone behind this season under Mourinho.

Seven minutes after the break Madrid were level with Ronaldo's dipping shot spilled by goalkeeper Juan Calatayud and Argentine Angel di Maria pounced on the error to equalise.

Real had to wait until the 82nd minute to go ahead with Ronaldo tapping in after French substitute Karim Benzema had his shot saved.

Benzema was again the provider four minutes later with his cut-back slotted in neatly by Ronaldo.

Earlier title hopefuls Valencia dropped two more points in a disappointing 1-1 home draw against 10-man Real Zaragoza on Saturday with a performance that inspired little confidence ahead of a vital Champions League clash with Rangers.

Valencia have fallen to successive defeats to Barcelona and Real Mallorca and this drew against winless Zaragoza meant one point from the last six at home and leaves them fourth six points behind Real.

"We didn't think we could surrender five points in two home matches, however, we don't have to look for excuses but solutions," said Valencia coach Unai Emery.

## Sehwag in favour of UDRS

PTI, Mumbai  
The BCCI is opposed to it but Indian opener Virender Sehwag on Sunday gave a big thumbs up to the controversial Umpires Decision Review System (UDRS) which has not been favoured even by his idol Sachin Tendulkar.

"I am a big fan of UDRS. I want it to be there for the India-New Zealand series, India-South Africa series and in the World Cup. But this is my personal opinion," said the star India opener at a media conference here Sunday.

Sehwag, who has been signed up by cricket legend Sunil Gavaskar's company Professional Management Group in a five-year deal for handling his endorsements, said that he favoured the UDRS as he had got the rough end of the umpiring stick on a few occasions in the past.

## ICC rejects Pak duo's appeal

FROM PAGE 17  
The two cricketers arrived with their lawyers -- Salman with Khalid Ranjha, a former law minister, and Aftab Gul, a former Pakistan player, and Aamer with his lawyer Shahid Karim.

Beloff said all three cricketers, including Asif, will have to appear before a ICC code of conduct commission which he will announce in due course.

"The players have denied the charges, but they will remain suspended before a code of conduct commission is formed to hear the case.

"It was not up to me to decide whether they committed any crime, the commission will establish their guilt and if they are found guilty then they will be given punishment as per the ICC code of conduct."

The scandal broke after a report by British tabloid The News of the World prompted Scotland Yard to launch an investigation into allegations of spot-fixing during the Lord's Test against England in August.

Police raided the team's hotel in London and questioned Salman, Aamer, Asif and bowler Wahab Riaz, but they have yet to formally level any charges.

Owing to their suspensions, the trio has been excluded from Pakistan's current tour of the United Arab Emirates, where South Africa is the opposition.

Pakistan Cricket Board legal adviser Taffazul Rizvi said the decision was under the ICC jurisdictions.

"The decision is within the ICC's jurisdiction but it will not affect the actual case which we hope will be heard soon," said Rizvi.

ICC in its brief statement said: "The chairman code of conduct commission heard the case in which players had challenged the suspension under the ICC Anti-Corruption code. After considering all the evidence Mr. Beloff has rejected the chal-

lenges.

"As such, the players remain provisionally suspended from all cricket pending the outcome of the independent Anti-Corruption Tribunal which will hear their disciplinary case in due course."

The ICC said Asif also remained suspended.

"As Asif chose not to challenge his provisional suspension, he also remains suspended. The ICC will make no further comments."

The ICC code of conduct carries a minimum of a five-year punishment if corruption charges are proved. The maximum punishment is a life ban.

Salman's lawyer Ranjha termed the decision as "unhappy."

"The decision has left us unhappy," Ranjha told reporters. "The hearing was fair and thorough, and now we have 40 days to fight the disciplinary case and we will decide our course of action."

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

| ACROSS                    | DOWN                       |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 40 Chaps                  | 11 Magic stick             |
| 1 Fast flier              | 16 Japanese sash           |
| 4 Chicago football team   | 20 In due time             |
| 43 Ailment                | 21 Part of a Batman outfit |
| 45 Non-sense              | 22 Met melody              |
| 9 Kitten's call           | 23 Burlington resident     |
| 12 — carte Little Kittens | 27 Upper surface           |
| 13 Whole, in a way        | 29 Scratch-ed (out)        |
| 14 Man-mouse link         | 30 Say it isn't so         |
| 15 Six times a year       | 32 Tug hard                |
| 17 Diarist Ana's          | 34 Write music             |
| 18 "See ya"               | 37 Make statuary           |
| 19 Cheered up             | 39 Hurt                    |
| 21 Ritzy cracker spread   | 42 Abrasive powder         |
| 24 Actress Russo          | 44 Rent                    |
| 25 Raw rock               | 45 Betty of cartoons       |
| 26 Butterfly catcher      | 46 Destroy                 |
| 28 Took a nap             | 50 Swab the decks          |
| 31 Lean and supple        | 51 Tatter                  |
| 33 "What's up, —?"        | 52 Ram's ma'am             |
| 35 Micro-wave, slangily   | 53 Conger, e.g.            |
| 36 Actor Lorenzo          |                            |
| 38 Father                 |                            |

### Solution time: 24 mins.

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| O | I | L | B | O | A |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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### CRYPTOQUIP

G R A J H G K E O J Y Z O Q Q H I E  
K X N A X J F J X N A Q E X I W Y H Q C E,  
X M A K X A N A I R A W C F E I R O N A  
I H Z O W Q H H C O J Y M X Q Y.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: FILM IN WHICH THE MAIN CHARACTER IS A THIEF OF LARGE, FRAGRANT FLOWERS: "STEAL MAGNOLIAS."  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals O