

SPORT

Teary-eyed SACHIN walks into sunset

#Thankyou Sachin

ANJALI, wife of Sachin Tendulkar: "I have always known, from even before we got married, he is not only mine. Cricket comes first. He belongs to Mumbai, he belongs to the country and then he belongs to us. "I can imagine cricket without Sachin but I can't imagine Sachin without cricket."

ROGER FEDERER, tennis great: "What a remarkable career @sachin_rt. Wish you the very best moving forward #ThankYouSachin"

SANIA MIRZA, India tennis player: "So emotional...the whole country is...we will miss u #RESPECT #SACHIN #LEGEND"

MICHAEL CARRICK, England footballer: "A true great of sport @sachin_rt retiring, had some innings!! The little master will be missed."

GRAEME SMITH, South Africa captain: "Sorry I missed @sachin_rt last game.what can you say about a man that did so much for our great game! all the best in retirement & thank you!"

MATTHEW HAYDEN, former Australia cricketer: "Chase dreams and no short cuts, be a good person #dad patience, prayers and sacrifices #mum whatever you do, do it 100%#brother #Sachin"

BRETT LEE, former Australia cricketer: "Congrats to the legend @sachin_rt well done mate on everything you have achieved. A phenomenal career"

DARREN LEHMANN, Australia coach: "Congratulations to Sachin on a magnificent career! One of the best of all time in the world of cricket, plenty of memories from him!"

DAMIEN FLEMING, former Australia cricketer: "Well done on a great career #Sachin And #ThankYouSachin all the headaches bowling to you in your prime"

TOM MOODY, former Australia cricketer: "Moving & classy speech by the "little master" composed & graceful to the very end. #ThankYouSachin"

GRAEME SWANN, England cricketer: "I'm not sure if you heard but Sachin Tendulkar retired today! What a great little player and lovely bloke #ThankYouSachin"

LUKE WRIGHT, England cricketer: "Such a honour to have watched and played against Sachin. He is a different class and yet still a great person. #ThankYouSachin"

CHRIS GAYLE, West Indies cricketer: "Was absolutely a pleasure being a part of history Sachin Tendulkar 200 Test Match. #legends"

VIRENDER SEHWAG, India cricketer: "Been an emotional time for me since the announcement #SRT. Can't articulate what he means to me, it's so personal! #ThankYouSachin"

SANJAY MANJREKAR, former India cricketer: "He was the first to reach the ground & last to leave for 29 yrs. Don't think any cricketer will miss the game as much as Tendulkar will."

AAKASH CHOPRA, former India cricketer: "Damp eyes...lump in my throat. A final goodbye. #ThankYouSachin"

HARBHAJAN SINGH, India cricketer: "Let's salute the master. Cricket won't be the same without u. For me u r cricket. Thank u paji for everything"

IRFAN PATHAN, India cricketer: "Most emotional retirement of world cricket but Sachin Tendulkar

AFP, Mumbai



Indian cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar wept as he left the pitch for the final time on Saturday after his 200th Test match, ending a dazzling career spanning nearly a quarter of a century.

The master batsman, who has god-like popularity across India, waved to thousands of cheering, emotional fans and wiped tears from his eyes as he left the field through a guard of honour formed by his teammates at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium.

At the age of 40, Tendulkar is retiring from the game as the world's leading scorer in both Test and one-day cricket and the only man to score 100 international centuries.

In a lengthy and poignant speech on the field after the match against the West Indies in his hometown, Tendulkar thanked everyone who had supported him, from family members and friends, coaches and managers through to teammates and ardent fans.

He began by paying tribute to his father who passed away in 1999, saying that "without his guidance I don't think I would be standing here in front of you".

The cricketer thanked his mother and other relatives individually, prompting tears from his wife Anjali as he praised her and his "two precious diamonds" -- their son Arjun, 14, and daughter Sara, 16 -- who stood close by as he spoke.

Calling his marriage to Anjali "the best partnership I've had in my life", he promised his children "the next 16 years and beyond, everything is for you".

"I know there are so many guys who've fasted for me, prayed for me, done all sorts of things for me. Without all that life wouldn't have been like this for me," he told the teary-eyed crowds in comments broadcast on Indian television.

"I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart and say that time has gone by rather quickly, but the memories that you've left with me will always be with me forever and ever."

He said the chanting of "Sachin! Sachin!" would "reverberate in my ears until I stop breathing", prompting deafening shouts of his name from spectators.

Tendulkar was then hoisted on to his teammates' shoulders for a victory lap around the field, waving a giant Indian flag.

Soon after the match he was chosen for India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna, in an announcement from the president's office, making him the first sports person to receive the honour.

To the disappointment of his followers, the "Little Master" only batted for one innings during his last match, failing to clinch a fairytale final century when he was out for 74 on Friday.

His dismissal was met with a stunned silence followed by a standing ovation from the crowd, who had greeted his every run with thundering cheers.

Spectators nevertheless praised his last performance, which included 12 well-timed boundaries to remind them of the best that Tendulkar has produced since his international debut in 1989 at the age of 16.

"His 74 runs captured all we have come to love and celebrate about him," said a piece in the Hindustan Times daily, with the headline: "Thank you, thank you, thank you".

"A billion dreams end," said the Times of India.

During his glittering career, Tendulkar gained a reputation for humility and integrity in a country where public figures are often tarred by corruption.

He told his Indian teammates that he believed they would "continue to serve the nation in the right spirit, with the right values".

"Each generation gets the opportunity to merely take care of this sport and serve it to the best of our ability," he added.

BATTING AND FIELDING AVERAGES									
M	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	6s	Ct
200	329	33	15921	248*	53.78	51	68	69	115

BOWLING AVERAGES									
M	Inns	Balls	Runs	Wkts	BBi	BBM	Ave	Econ	SR
200	145	4240	2492	46	3/10	3/14	54.17	3.52	92.1



Fed Cup from Nov 21

Teams complete registration

SPORTS REPORTER



The new football season will kick off on Thursday with the Federation Cup where 12 teams will take part, decided the Professional Football League Committee of Bangladesh Football federation yesterday. The ten teams from Bangladesh Premier League clubs, Bangladesh Championship League side Rahmatganj and one among BKSP and Bangladesh Police – which will be deiced through a play-off match today – will take part in the competition which will end on December 6. The premier league will start in the middle of December, it was also decided in the meeting.

Meanwhile, ahead of the new season, four-time professional league champions Abahani, two-time Super Cup champions Mohammedan, Brothers Union, newly-promoted Uttar Baridhara and Chittagong Abahani completed their players' registration formalities on the last day of the transfers on Friday.

Abahani have formed a squad which has four current national players – goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohel, defenders Wali Faisal and Atiqur Rahman Meshu and forward Mithun Chowdhury. They have retained three of their foreign players and included four new ones and will be hoping

these four to fire if the Sky Blues have to challenge for title contention. Abahani has a new coach in young Australian Nathan Hall, and it will be quite a task for him to deliver the success with a side which looks short of star quality. Manager Satyajit Das Rupu, though believes that they can win back the league title.

"We have a strong squad. We are hopeful of winning all the silverware after the barren last season," said Rupu, at the players' registration ceremony on Friday.

Abahani's arch-rivals Mohammedan, who are yet to win a single professional league title in its six editions, have formed a formidable side this season. The cash-strapped side have five of the key players from the national side – forwards Zahid Hasan Emily, Zahid Hossain, Wahed Ahmed, defender Ariful Islam, and goalkeeper Mamun Khan – with a number of promising young talents such as Yusuf Sifat and Hemanta Biswas. However, it is their almost untested foreign recruits that might be a cause of concern for the Black and Whites.

Brothers Union's Indian coach Syed Nayeemuddin feels if his side, which according to him is a blend of youth and experience, can be guided well, they can win titles too. However, for the promoted sides Uttar Baridhara and Chittagong Abahani, it might be a challenge to impress and to survive in the top tier.

T20 WC tickets on sale today

SPORTS REPORTER

Tickets for the ICC World Twenty20, which begins on March 16 at Mirpur, will be available from today at selected MoneyGram booths of NCC Bank Limited and Agrani Bank from 10am onwards. Customers who have access to Visa, Master and Nexus cards can buy them online at www.iccworldtwenty20.com.

The race for tickets heated up last night as people were seen lining up outside the Motijheel branch of the NCC bank to have a head start today morning.

Each customer will be entitled a maximum of four tickets for a single match and a total of 10 tickets for the entire tournament. Buyers will need to present their national ID cards while purchasing the tickets.

India sweep series 2-0

PTI, Mumbai



The legendary Sachin Tendulkar got a memorable gift in his emotionally-charged farewell Test which lasted just about two and a half days as India crushed a hapless West Indies by an innings and 126 runs to complete a 2-0 whitewash in one of the most lopsided contests in recent history.

Starting the day at 43 for three, the West Indies were skittled out for a paltry 187 in their second innings as Pragyan Ojha completed a match-haul of 10 wickets taking his second five-for.

Only seven sessions

of play was possible in a Test match in which one of the most respected and celebrated cricketers in the history bid goodbye to the game in front of his home crowd and his family, many of whom watched him for the first time from the stands.

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES: First innings 182 (Powell 48, Bravo 29, Chanderpaul 25, Deonarine 21; Ojha 5-40, Ashwin 3-45)

INDIA: First innings
Vijay c Sammy b Shillingford 43
Dhawan c Chanderpaul b Shillingford 33
Pujara c and b Shillingford 113
Tendulkar c Sammy b Deonarine 74
Kohli c Sammy b Shillingford 57
Sharma not out 111
Dhoni c Sammy b Best 4
Ashwin c and b Gabriel 30
Kumar c Sammy b Shillingford 4
Ojha run out (Powell) 0
Shami c Best b Deonarine 11
Extras: (lb-8, lb-2, w-2, nb-3) 15
Total: (All out in 108 overs) 495
Fall of wickets: 1-77, 2-77, 3-221, 4-315, 5-354, 6-365, 7-409, 8-414, 9-

Bowler
Sammy 9 1 41 0
Gabriel 16 0 85 1
Shillingford 43 6 179 5
Best 18 0 93 1
Samuels 11 0 42 0
Deonarine 11 0 45 2
WEST INDIES: Second innings
Gayle c Dhoni b Ojha 35
Powell c Shami b Ashwin 9
Best lbw b Ojha 9
Bravo c Vijay b Ashwin 11
Samuels st Dhoni b Ojha 11
Chanderpaul lbw b Ashwin 41
Deonarine c and b Ojha 0
Ramdin not out 53
Tendulkar c Sammy b Ojha 1
Shillingford lbw b Ashwin 8
Gabriel b Shami 0
Extras: (lb-4, lb-5) 9
Total: (All out in 47 overs) 187
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-28, 3-43, 4-74, 5-87, 6-89, 7-157, 8-162, 9-185

Bowler
Kumar 3 0 4 0
Shami 7 0 28 1
Ashwin 17 4 89 4
Ojha 18 6 49 5
Tendulkar 2 0 8 0
Result: India won by an innings and 126 runs and clinched the 2-Test series 2-0.

Player-of-the-match: Pragyan Ojha.
Player-of-the-series: Rohit Sharma.

415
Bowler
Sammy 9 1 41 0
Gabriel 16 0 85 1
Shillingford 43 6 179 5
Best 18 0 93 1
Samuels 11 0 42 0
Deonarine 11 0 45 2
WEST INDIES: Second innings
Gayle c Dhoni b Ojha 35
Powell c Shami b Ashwin 9
Best lbw b Ojha 9
Bravo c Vijay b Ashwin 11
Samuels st Dhoni b Ojha 11
Chanderpaul lbw b Ashwin 41
Deonarine c and b Ojha 0
Ramdin not out 53
Tendulkar c Sammy b Ojha 1
Shillingford lbw b Ashwin 8
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