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# The Island Sports

Wednesday 25th November, 2009

## Solid India reach 417 for two in second Test



India's centurions: Virender Sehwag (L) and Gautham Gambhir. (AP Photo)

**Rex Clementine**  
reporting from Kanpur

Centuries by Virender Sehwag and Gautam Gambhir and an unbeaten 85 by Rahul Dravid helped India to post a mammoth 417 for two at stumps on the opening day of the second Test Match

against Sri Lanka on a batting paradise here at the Green Park Stadium in Kanpur yesterday. Prior to the game, the curator in Green Park had predicted that the track will suit bowlers more than it did in Ahmedabad, but other than the slight assistance the seam bowlers received in the first hour of the morning,

SCOREBOARD	
<b>India 1st Innings</b>	
G. Gambhir ct & b Muralitharan	167
V. Sehwag ct Dilshan b Muralitharan	131
R. Dravid not out	85
S. Tendulkar not out	20
Extras: (b 4, lb 7, nb 3)	14
<b>Total: for two wickets</b>	<b>417</b>
<b>Overs:</b> 90	
<b>To bat:</b> V.V.S. Laxman, Yuvraj Singh, M.S. Dhoni (captain), Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, S. Sreesanth and Pragyan Ojha.	
<b>Fall of wickets:</b> 1-233, 2-370.	
<b>Bowling:</b> Welagedara 18-3-73-0 (3rd), Mathews 14-2-38-0, Herath 18-0-91-0, Mendis 19-0-87-0, Muralitharan 18-0-100-2, Dilshan 3-0-17-0	
<b>Sri Lanka:</b> T. Dilshan, T. Paranavithana, K. Sangakkara, M. Jayawardene, T. Samaraweera, A. Mathews, P. Jayawardene, R. Herath, A. Mendis, C. Welagedara and M. Muralitharan.	
<b>Toss:</b> India	
<b>Umpires:</b> Nigel Llong (Eng) and Tony Hill (NZ)	
<b>Match Referee:</b> Jeff Crowe (NZ)	

the track turned out to be a nightmare for bowlers as the Indians made maximum use of winning the toss.

A 233 run stand for the first wicket, a 137 runs stand for the second wicket and an unbroken 47 run stand for the third wicket enabled India to post their highest score in a single day, during a Test Match.

Chanaka Welagedara and Angelo Mathews bowled well and kept things tight in the morning. Welagedara even took the outside edge of Sehwag before the batsman had opened his account in the very first over of the morning. But wicketkeeper Prasanna Jayawardene dived in front of Mahela Jayawardene, blocking the first slip's view, and hence a straight forward chance was put down. The reprieve would prove to be extremely costly for the Sri Lankans.

Sehwag also survived an extremely close leg before shout off Welagedara when on five. His attacking stroke play in the first Test had come in for some criticism and he was just happy to block and play watchfully for the first hour. At one point, Gambhir was unbeaten on 24 while Sehwag had only made six.

But the introduction of spin in the

16th over opened the floodgates and from thereon, there was no stopping the flow of runs. Gambhir made his intentions clear when he stepped out for the first ball of left-arm spinner Rangana Herath and drove him for four. Herath's first over went for 14 runs with Gambhir hitting three boundaries. He was taken off after just one over and Mendis was introduced to the attack, but the result was the same as Sehwag hoisted his fifth delivery - a terrible full toss - for a six.

India took lunch on 131 for no loss with both batsmen posting half-centuries, having scored at a rate of more than five runs an over. After the lunch-eon interval they accelerated even further. Sehwag reached his 16th Test hundred and the second against Sri Lanka in just 97 deliveries. That was Sehwag's first Test hundred since he reached three figures last year in the second Test against Sri Lanka in Galle. Gambhir too reached his fourth consecutive Test hundred soon and proved why he was named as Test Player of the Year at the ICC awards in Johannesburg, a few weeks ago.

Muralitharan picked up Sehwag when Dilshan took a smart catch at extra cover. He made 131, but his dismissal didn't stop the flow of runs as Gambhir was involved in another big partnership with Dravid. Such was the Indian batsmen's domination that by tea they had scored at a rate of 5.2 runs an over and none of the Sri Lankan spinners managed to bowl a maiden over despite sending down 58 overs among the four of them.

The track offered no assistance and the batsmen were just happy to rock back and pick up runs at will. Muralitharan's 18 overs went for 100 runs while Herath conceded 91 runs in same number of overs. Mendis meanwhile bowled 19 overs and 87 runs were scored off him. Sri Lanka saw the back of Gambhir when

Muralitharan took a spectacular diving catch off his own bowling showing that even at the age of 37 his enthusiasm hadn't waned.

In the final session the Sri Lankan bowlers, particularly the seamers, had a better control of things. The new ball was taken in the 87th over; but Welagedara and Mathews weren't able to make a breakthrough with Dravid remaining unbeaten on 85 and Sachin Tendulkar on 20.



## Veluwana in pre-quarters

by Reemus Fernando

Veluwana may be a name yet to cement its position as a prominent cricket playing school in Colombo, but their Under-13 cricketers have bludgeoned some of the fancied Colombo power houses to book a pre quarter final berth in the Inter School Under-13 Division I tournament.

Among the 16 schools who have advanced to the knockout stage of the Inter School Under-13 Division I tournament, Veluwana Vidyalaya stands out as they entered the knockout stage beating some prominent schools in the rain hit season. The team, captained by Upamal

### Under-13 Division I Cricket

Dias scored first innings victories over Prince of Wales College, Moratuwa and Nalanda College Colombo in the second round to earn their pre quarter final spot.

Playing against some of the fancied teams in the first round, two first innings victories against St. Benedict's College and Dharmapala College, Kottawa was sufficient for them to advance to the second round. Their first round matches against St. Peter's, St. Joseph's, D.S. Senanayake and De Mazenedo College ended in no results.

Veluwana will now meet Vidyartha College, Kandy, in the pre quarter finals. The Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association announced the knockout stage match schedule yesterday and requested the respective schools to play the pre quarter final matches on or before December 7.

The quarter finals will be played at Ananda, Royal and St. Peter's Grounds on December 10 and 11. The semi finals will be played at MCA Ground on 17 and 18 while the final is scheduled for January 5, at MCA.

#### Pre quarter final schedule

Isipatana Vs Dharmasoka  
Royal Vs Joseph Vaz  
Vidyartha Kandy Vs Veluwana  
St. Peter's Vs Devananda  
Ananda Vs St. Anthony's Wattala  
Prince of Wales Vs Mahanama  
St. Servatius' Vs D.S. Senanayake  
Trinity Vs Royal Panadura

## Ponting: Gayle will play a vital role

Australia captain Ricky Ponting has predicted Chris Gayle's hurried preparation for the opening Test will have minimal impact on how the West Indies captain performs at the Gabba, cricket365.com reported on its website, Monday.



Chris Gayle

Gayle rushed home to Jamaica last week on the eve of the Windies' four-day tour match against Queensland to be with his sick mother.

Her condition has since improved and Gayle was expected to arrive in Brisbane yesterday and plans to take his place at the top of the order when the first Test gets underway on Thursday.

The talented batsman is expected to arrive on Tuesday and some pundits have questioned how influential he will be due to the lack of match practice or time in the nets, on top of jetlag.

Ponting believes otherwise, suggesting Gayle's trademark ice-cool character will ensure he overcomes the less than ideal preparation.

"It'd be hard, but Chris finds a way not to get out of first gear too much," Ponting said after Australia's first training session in Brisbane on Monday.

"He's a dynamic player, but he's pretty relaxed in the way he goes about things, so I don't think there will be any muscle strains or hammys blowing off the bone.

## Terrorist attack on SL cricket team

### PCB ordered to sack security officials

A Parliamentary Committee on Sports in Pakistan requested the country's governing board of cricket to immediately sack its security officials and file a case against them for not providing the Sri Lanka cricket team with adequate protection, according to reports emanating from Pakistan.

The Sri Lanka cricket team was attacked by terrorists in Lahore, Pakistan, in March this year wounding some of them seriously and killing several Pakistani Policemen.

In a very strongly worded report, the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Sports, said those who were in charge of the visiting Sri Lankan cricket team should be sacked and prosecuted, for blatant negligence of duties.

The Sri Lankan cricketers were ambushed while they were on their way to the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore.

The Sports Committee said if the Pakistan Cricket Board failed to take any action they would take up the matter with the Prime Minister.

## Bayliss rues missed opportunity

Rex Clementine  
reporting from Kanpur

Sri Lanka's coach Trevor Bayliss rued the dropped catch off Indian opener Virender Sehwag that cost the tourists dearly in the second Test Match here as the right-handed batsman went onto post his second Test century against Sri Lanka yesterday. After India opted to bat first, Chanaka Welagedara induced an outside edge of the batsman only for wicketkeeper Prasanna Jayawardene to dive in front of first slip and prevent what would have been a straight forward catch to first slip. Sehwag was yet to open his account then and brought up his 16th Test hundred in just 97 deliveries.

"It would have been nice to take that chance and that could have changed the complexion of the game. You never know what would have happened had we taken that catch. We could have put the next guy under pressure and maybe taken a few wickets like we did in the first Test," the Sri Lanka coach said addressing the media.

The Sri Lanka coach also conceded that it was tough for his players on a dead track



Trevor Bayliss

that offered no assistance whatsoever for the bowlers. "It was a very tough day for us. It wasn't easy to stop the flow of runs. Little bit of off line or a fraction short, the batsmen would rock back and hit it away. The scope for error was not very large. The first hour was a good one and the pleasing thing was that they made the last hour a good one as well by showing some character."

