

# SPORTS

## Courtesy D/L, India win Kanpur ODI; lead series 3-0

Kanpur, Nov 20  
After Yuvraj Singh's assault in the first two ODIs, the D/L method came to haunt England in the third match as India were declared winners by 16 runs. The home team needed to be at 183 for the loss of five wickets at the end of 40 overs to win the match under the D/L system. Instead, they were 198/5 at the end of over 40. The loss distances England further more from the Hero Honda Cup.

India now lead the seven match series 3-0. England would be surely frustrated by the way the match went in favour of the hosts as the match was evenly poised and was headed towards a thrilling end at the time when the umpires called off play due to bad light.

Earlier in the morning, England captain Kevin Pietersen won the toss and chose to bat first which meant India were fielding first for the first time in the series. RP Singh made way for Ishant Sharma. For England, spinner Greame Swann came in for Steve Harmison.

Haze at the stadium delayed the start of the match and it started at 0945 IST. The game was reduced to 49 overs a side due to the delayed start. It may not have been a flying start for the visitors but once the openers saw through the claustrophobic opening spells by Zaheer Khan and Munaf Patel, things looked quiet easy for them.

They remained cautious in the early phase when there was some juice in the wicket and sniffed an opportunity to free their arms when Ishant Sharma came as the first change bowler. Bell greeted Ishant with two boundaries in the first over, upsetting the lanky pacer's rhythm by repeatedly stepping out of the crease.

Bell was not quite convincing when he nicked Ishant through the vacant slips but made amends with a fierce cut that raced to the boundary in no time. With Bell on song, Bopara chimed in, proving the perfect foil for his partner. Bopara, who got off the mark with a flicked four of Zaheer, inside edged the pacer for another four before driving Ishant through covers for the same result.

The run-rate was nothing to write home about but England crossed the 50-mark in 11 overs without any loss. This was a marked improvement, considering the fact that their opening stands had yielded just 12 and 6 in

captain Kevin Pietersen and the latter perished when he attempted a slog. Zaheer caught Pietersen for 13. He then bamboozled Paul Collingwood with a 'doosra' dragging him forward to give Dhoni an opportunity to prove his swiftness behind the stumps.

Indian captain and wicketkeeper MS Dhoni showed his class behind the stumps again as he collected a Yuvraj delivery and whipped the bails in a flash to give half centurion Ravi Bopara no chance to get back in the crease and thus sent him back on a long walk to the hut. Bopara became Dhoni's third (1 ct, 2 st) victim of the day.

Big Freddie's brief stint at the crease came to an end when Yousuf Pathan caught him plumb in front of the wickets for 26 runs. Flintoff's dismissal meant half the English team was back in the pavilion with the scorecard reading 167 in the 37th over.

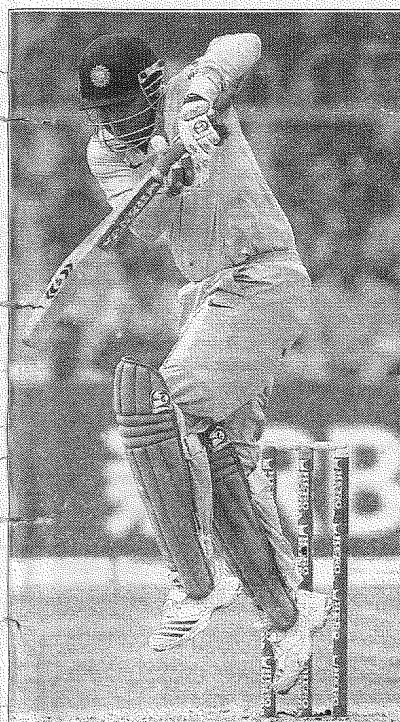
Samit Patel, who had replaced Flintoff at the crease, joined hands with Owais Shah to steer England past the 200 run mark and bail the visitors out of trouble and save them from an embarrassment of being bowled out under 200.

Singh returned for his second spell and spelled doom for Owais Shah who was leading the charge for England. In an attempt to up the tempo, Shah, who had hit a four off the previous delivery, lofted one in the deep for Zaheer Khan. Owais Shah became Harbhajan's 200th wicket in ODIs.

Ishant Sharma struck twice after going haywire in his ninth over where he bowled two no balls and a wide that rushed to the fence. Then he dismissed Samit Patel and Matt Prior off consecutive deliveries in the 47th over. Zaheer then surprised Stuart Broad with a snorter and Dhoni did the rest.

Munaf Patel bowled the final over and rattled James Anderson's furniture off the second last ball. England were, thus, bowled out for 240 setting India a score of 241 to attain a 3-0 lead in the seven match series. Harbhajan was the star of the show picking up 3 wickets for 31 runs off his quota of 10 overs.

Andrew Flintoff provided England with a much-needed breakthrough when he had the in-form Gautam Gambhir caught at deep third man for 14 runs. The Indian



Virender Sehwag top scored with 68 as India won the third ODI by the D/L method after bad light stopped play 40 overs into their innings in Kanpur

to the crease. Sharma also could not last very long and perished to Greame Swann after scoring 28 runs and taking India past the 100 run mark with Sehwag. The duo also put up a fifty run partnership for the third wicket. Sharma edged one into the gloves of wicketkeeper Matt Prior.

Paul Collingwood pulled off a blinder to dismiss the ominous looking Sehwag and in the process of the dismissal stunned the emphatic crowd into silence. Sehwag departed after scoring 68 runs. Andrew Flintoff induced Sehwag into slicing one

## Gilani to request India PM for sending cricket team to Pak

Islamabad, Nov 20  
Pakistan Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani today said he would personally request the Indian government to send its national cricket team for a tour early next year even as security fears are threatening to derail the trip. The chances of India coming to Pakistan depend on the clearance of their government, which recently refused to send their junior hockey team

across the border for a Test series on security grounds.

The Prime Minister's assurance came during a meeting with Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman Ejaz Butt, who apprised Gilani about the situation regarding India's tour. "In a meeting with Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Ejaz Butt, Gilani said as cricket was loved by the people of both countries, he would per-

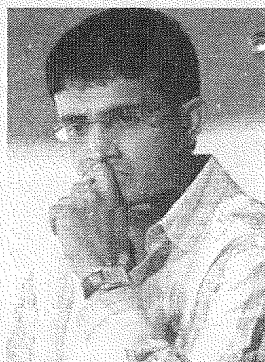
sonally request the Indian Prime Minister to allow Indian team to visit Pakistan," an official statement said.

The Prime Minister said the Indian government would be provided assurance regarding the security concerns. Indian team is scheduled to arrive in January next year to play three Tests, five one-dayers and a Twenty20 match in Pakistan.

## Ganguly nominated to BCCI's technical committee

New Delhi, Nov 20  
After retiring from international cricket, former Indian captain Sourav Ganguly will begin his second innings outside the fence as a technical committee member of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). "Sourav Ganguly has been nominated to the technical committee of the BCCI," board secretary N. Srinivasan said in a statement on Thursday.

Ganguly bid adieu to international cricket in the fourth Test against Australia in Nagpur earlier this month. Ganguly, however, has expressed his interest in playing Ranji Trophy for Bengal. The technical committee deals with the rule changes and other technical aspect related to the game. The committee, headed by former captain Sunil Gavaskar also has chief selector Krishnamachari Srikkanth and former Test batsman Chetan Chauhan, among others.



### One convicted... (Contd from page 1)

On March 17, 2000 P.S. Pahargaoan received information that one Pyare Lal, resident of Bimblitan is admitted in G.B. Pant hospital with sharp cutting injury and he is unconscious. On this information, immediately A.S.I. Ramakant of PS Pahargaoan rushed to G.B. Pant Hospital and recorded statement of one eye witness namely Pramod Ram that on March 17 in the afternoon he along with his cousin

## Gavaskar hits back at Ponting

New Delhi, Nov 20  
Sunil Gavaskar hit back at Ricky Ponting for his "uncalled for" remarks that the former India captain was no angel in his hey-days, saying the Australian skipper's comments

