

ENGLAND'S BROAD ON TOP OF THE WORLD

LONDON: Stuart Broad found himself ranked as the number one Test bowler in the world after leading England to victory over South Africa in Johannesburg.

Broad's best overseas innings figures of six for 17, including a spell of five for one in 31 balls on Saturday saw England to a series-clinching win. The England pacer's haul saw him replace India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin and South Africa fast bowler Dale Steyn, who didn't play at the Wanderers because of injury, into top spot.

Stephen Harmison was the last England

bowler to get to the top of the International Cricket Council rankings, in 2004, with Ian Botham also achieving the number one spot back in 1980.

Broad now sits on 880 points and leads Ashwin by nine points. England's win knocked South Africa off the top of the Test team rankings, with their place being taken by India. Joe Root's 110 at the Wanderers saw him return to second place in the Test batting rankings, above New Zealand's Kane Williamson and South Africa's AB de Villiers, but with Australia captain Steven Smith still on top.

NZ BEAT PAKISTAN BY 10 WICKETS IN 2ND T20

HAMILTON: Martin Guptill made 87 and Kane Williamson 72 in an unbroken record partnership of 171 that steered New Zealand to a 10-wicket win over Pakistan in the second Twenty20 cricket international yesterday, leveling the three match series at 1-1.

New Zealand took four leg byes from the fourth ball of the 18th over to win the match with eight balls to spare. In doing so Guptill and Williamson surpassed the Twentyn20 record partnership for all wickets against all nations that had been held for South Africa by Graeme Smith and Loots Bosman at 170.

Pakistan won the opening match by 16 runs on Friday, defending a total of 171-8 and left itself in a similar position at Seddon Park when it made 168-7 after winning the toss and batting.

While New Zealand botched its run chase in the first match, losing seven wickets for 48 runs after Williamson had made 70 and Colin Munro 56, the two New Zealand openers made no mistakes Sunday in steering their team to victory.

Williamson ran out Guptill for 2 in one of the most serious blunders of the first match at Eden Park and there seemed a clear determination from both batsmen to avoid similar missteps this time around.

Guptill and Williamson controlled New Zealand's chase, posting their century partnership in 12 overs to ensure the home team remained ahead of the required run rate and to leave Pakistan with few defensive options.

Outstanding bowling by Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi and Wahab Riaz in the first match sowed panic among the New Zealand middle order after Williamson and Munro were out but Williamson ensured there was no repeat of that incident.

There were moments during the New Zealand innings when Pakistan seemed set to slow New Zealand's scoring and when Guptill showed signs of concern. But Williamson helped him and New Zealand through those moments and eventually Guptill became the more vigorous of the two, reaching his half century from 40 balls and finishing with 87 from 58 balls with nine fours and four sixes.

Williamson's innings was just as influential. He had been the more productive of the two for much of the partnership, show-

ing an outstanding ability to punish even a fragmentary lapse in length or line.

BACKBONE

The boundaries at Seddon Park are relatively short, particularly square on the off side and Williamson punched anything short to boundaries that could not be adequately guarded. Williamson reached his half century from 35 balls and finished with 72 from 48 balls with 11 fours.

"I think we made those improvements that we wanted to from the last game," Williamson said. "I thought the bowling effort was pretty good considering that short side and the wind pushing the ball to the long side, so it wasn't easy.

"The Pakistan score was perhaps par and it was just good to get off to a good start in the second innings and watch (Guptill) bat at the other end."

Pakistan seemed to have posted a more-than-competitive total when it came in after batting on winning the toss with 168-7, just short of its winning tally in the opening match.

Umar Akmal provided the backbone of the innings with a superb 56 from 27 balls that included four fours and four sixes. He had support from Shoaib Malik who made 39, Mohammad Hafeez with 19 and Shoaib Maqsood with 18.

New Zealand took an innovative approach to containing the Pakistan batsmen, opening the bowling with left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner and allrounder Corey Anderson. While the tactic didn't work emphatically, it helped curb Pakistan's total.

"We wanted to mix it up and I guess when you play to spinners you want to share the seam over throughout," Williamson said. "That was a small plan. I guess it didn't come off today but that's Twenty20 cricket."

The teams next head to Wellington for the deciding match of the series on Thursday. "I think I don't have any words to describe the match but I think they played outstanding cricket," Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi said. "Especially Guptill and Williamson, they played very well, they played extraordinary. "I was happy, the team was happy with our total but the one thing, we didn't bowl with enough variation and that was the thing we missed." — AP



MELBOURNE: Australia's batsman Glenn Maxwell (R) plays a shot as India's wicketkeeper MS Dhoni looks on during the third one-day international cricket match between India and Australia at the MCG in Melbourne yesterday. — AFP

MAXWELL HEROICS GUIDE AUSTRALIA TO VICTORY

MELBOURNE: Glenn Maxwell blasted 96 from just 83 deliveries to lead Australia to a thrilling three-wicket win over India in the third one-day international yesterday and a series victory.

After Australian captain Steve Smith won the toss at the Melbourne Cricket Ground and sent India in to bat, the visitors made 295 for six from their 50 overs thanks largely to a superb 117 from Virat Kohli.

The Indians were well in contention for their first win of the series when they had Australia in trouble at 215 for six. But Maxwell, who was out just one run short of victory, combined with James Faulkner to guide Australia home.

"The wicket was quite slow so I had to try and hit the ball in front of square," Maxwell said. "I tried to hit them as clean as I could over cover and luckily enough they came off the middle. "I feel like I've been making big strides over the last few months," he added.

"The way I'm hitting the ball and approaching the game is different to what I've been doing over the last few years." The win gives Australia an unassailable three-nil lead in the best-of-five series, but the match was much more of a contest than the first two encounters in Perth and Brisbane.

Indian captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni said poor fielding had again cost his side. "It's tough to take," he admitted. "We didn't field well tonight. There were at least three boundaries we should have easily stopped."

Australia successfully chased down 309 and 308 in the opening two matches. On a lifeless MCG wicket, 295 did not look substantial enough to challenge the strong Australian batting lineup.

"The batsmen are working hard but we're always talking about 10-15 extra runs," Dhoni said. "This was a slightly different wicket but there was not much the batsmen could have done — 295 was a good total."

IN CONTROL

Australian openers Shaun Marsh and Aaron Finch attacked from the outset and cruised in the first few overs, punishing some wayward Indian bowling. Australia raced to 48 before Finch edged Umesh Yadav to wicketkeeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni for a quickfire 21. Marsh (62) and Steve Smith (41) continued the assault, but left arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja got the vital breakthrough when he had Smith caught at slip by Ajinkya Rahane. Jadeja managed to extract some turn from the otherwise placid wicket and struck again when he got a ball to spin past the edge of George Bailey's bat. Dhoni whipped off the balls to leave the Australians on 150 for three.

Shaun Marsh then edged a ball to Dhoni off Ishant Sharma and when Mitchell Marsh (17) and Matthew Wade (6) both fell cheaply, India were

right back in the game.

However, Maxwell stayed in control and gradually lifted the scoring with a mixture of audacious boundaries and quick running. Earlier, Kohli was in magnificent touch as he smashed his runs off just 117 balls, hitting seven fours and two towering sixes to the delight of the huge contingent of Indian supporters at the MCG.

In the process Kohli became the fastest man to reach 7,000 runs in one-day internationals, taking 161 innings to reach the milestone-four fewer than South Africa's AB de Villiers.

The 27-year-old from Delhi came in with India on 15 for one after in-form opener Rohit Sharma edged Kane Richardson to wicketkeeper Matthew Wade for six.

Kohli played superbly to notch up his 24th ODI century. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

MELBOURNE: Scoreboard from the third one-day international between Australia and India at the Melbourne Cricket Ground yesterday:

India		Australia	
R. Sharma c Wade b Richardson	6	S. Marsh c Dhoni b I. Sharma	62
S. Dhawan b Hastings	68	A. Finch c Dhoni b Yadav	21
V. Kohli c Bailey b Hastings	117	S. Smith c Rahane b Jadeja	41
A. Rahane c Maxwell b Hastings	50	G. Bailey st Dhoni b Jadeja	23
M.S. Dhoni c Maxwell b Hastings	23	G. Maxwell c Dhawan b Yadav	96
G. Singh b Faulkner	8	M. Marsh run out	17
R. Jadeja not out	6	M. Wade c S. Dhawan b I. Sharma	6
R. Dhawan not out	3	J. Faulkner not out	21
Extras (lb5 w9)	14	J. Hastings not out	0
Total (6 wickets, 50 overs)	295	Extras (lb3 w5 nb1)	9
Fall of wickets: 1-15 (R. Sharma), 2-134 (S. Dhawan) 3-243 (Rahane), 4-265 (Kohli), 5-274 (Singh), 6-288 (Dhoni)		Total (7 wickets: 48.5 overs)	296
Did not bat: U. Yadav, I. Sharma, B. Sran		Fall of wickets: 1-48 (Finch), 2-112 (Smith), 3-150 (Bailey), 4-167 (S. Marsh), 5-204 (M. Marsh), 6-215 (Wade), 7-295 (Maxwell)	
Bowling: Richardson 10-0-48-1 (2w), Hastings 10-0-58-4 (1w), Faulkner 10-0-63-1 (3w), Boland 9-0-63-0 (1w), Maxwell 9-0-46-0, Marsh 2-0-12-0.		Did not bat: K. Richardson, S. Boland	
		Bowling: Yadav 9.5-0-68-2 (1w 1nb), Sran 8-0-63-0 (2w), I. Sharma 10-0-53-2 (1w), R. Dhawan 6-0-33-0, Singh 5-0-27-0, Jadeja 10-0-49-2 (1w).	
		Result: Australia won by three wickets.	



HAMILTON: Corey Anderson of New Zealand bowls during the second Twenty20 cricket match between New Zealand and Pakistan at Seddon Park in Hamilton yesterday. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

HAMILTON, New Zealand: Completed scoreboard in the second Twenty20 between New Zealand and Pakistan in Hamilton yesterday:

Pakistan		New Zealand	
Mohammad Hafeez c Astle b Santner	19	M. Guptill not out	87
Ahmed Shehzad c Williamson b Anderson	9	K. Williamson not out	72
Sohaib Maqsood c Santner b Elliott	18	Extras (lb6, w6)	12
Shoaib Malik b McClenaghan	39	Total: (no wickets; 17.4 overs)	171
Umar Akmal not out	56	Did not bat: Colin Munro, Corey Anderson,	
Shahid Afridi c Williamson by Milne	7	Ross Taylor, Grant Elliott, Luke	
Imad Wasim c Milne b McClenaghan	8	Ronchi, Mitchell Santner, Todd Astle, Adam	
Sarfraz Ahmed run out (Milne)	1	Milne, Mitchell McClenaghan.	
Wahab Riaz not out	0	Bowling: Umar Gul 2-0-18-0 (w1), Mohammad	
Extras (b1, lb3, w7)	11	Amir 3-0-34-0, Imad Wasim	
Total (7 wickets; 20 overs)	168	4-0-32-0, Shahid Afridi 4-0-38-0, Wahab Riaz 3-	
Fall of wickets: 1-29 (Shehzad), 2-34 (Hafeez), 3-67 (Maqsood), 4-130 (Malik), 5-137 (Afridi), 6-161 (Wasim), 7-163 (Sarfraz)		0-30-0 (w1), Shoaib Malik	
Did not bat: Umar Gul, Mohammad Amir		1.4-0-13-0	
Bowling: Santner 3-0-29-1 (w2), Anderson 4-0-26-1 (w3), Milne 4-0-37-1 (w1), McClenaghan 4-		Result: New Zealand won by 10 wickets.	

BANGLADESH WIN 2ND T20 BY 42 RUNS TO LEAD SERIES 2-0

KHULNA: Bangladesh tightened its grip on the four-match T20 series against Zimbabwe, securing a comfortable 42-run win in the second game yesterday.

The hosts scored a competitive 167-3 after opting to bat first, and a disciplined bowling display then restricted Zimbabwe to 125-8.

Sabbir Rahman was key to Bangladesh's victory with a brilliant all-round performance. He first hit an unbeaten 43 and then claimed 3-11 off 2.1 overs to rattle Zimbabwe.

Opener Soumya Sarkar also contributed 43 off 33 balls to give his side a fluent start. Shakib Al Hasan added 27 not out. Zimbabwe started well but Bangladesh's bowlers hit back to stall progress. Opener Hamilton Masakadza resisted with 30 while Malcolm Waller made 29.

Bangladesh leads the series 2-0. "Our goal was to win each and every match," Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Mortaza said. "We played well as a bowling unit. Batting wasn't that bad but we need more improvements. Those who get set should play a long innings."

Soumya and Tamim Iqbal combined for 45 runs in six overs in a boundary-filled start for Bangladesh but Tamim, who scored 23 off 17 balls, was dismissed before the first powerplay ended after a top edge off a slower delivery from Taurai Muzurabani.

Soumya continued hitting out but his aggressive mood led to his dismissal, caught while trying to hit leg spinner Graeme Cremer over the deep mid-wicket boundary.

Mahmudullah (1) was caught behind after trying to cut a delivery that didn't rise as he expected. Mushfiqur Rahim brought some calm to the crease, while Sabbir hit three sixes in three overs as Bangladesh gained the momentum.

While Sabbir was clearing the ropes effortlessly, Rahim smartly rotated the scoreboard with a series of singles and made 24 before retiring with a right hamstring injury, having added 52 runs with Sabbir.

Shakib accelerated the scoring with Sabbir to ensure Bangladesh set Zimbabwe a challenging total. The tourists also had a good start as Masakadza and Vusi Sibanda brought up 50 in seven overs. Mashrafe broke the partnership by dismissing Sibanda for 21 and Sabbir Rahman struck a bigger blow by removing in-form Masakadza after he looked set to hit out. Masakadza scored 30 off 28, leaving Zimbabwe at 55-2.

His dismissal sparked the collapse with Waller the only non-opener to make double figures. Left arm fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman had 2-19. "The bowlers did well to restrict them to 160-odd. We just needed a bit more with the bat than we managed," stand-in captain Masakadza said. The third T20 is on Wednesday. —AP

SCOREBOARD

KHULNA, Bangladesh: Scoreboard of the second Twenty20 international between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday:

Bangladesh		Zimbabwe	
Tamim Iqbal c Vitori b Muzarabani	23	V. Sibanda b Mortaza	21
Soumya Sarkar c Waller b Cremer	43	H. Masakadza c Mahmudullah b Sabbir	30
Sabbir Rahman not out	43	R. Mutumbami c Soumya b Sabbir	7
Mahmudullah c Mutumbami b W. Masakadza	1	S. Williams lbw b Shuvagata	7
Mushfiqur Rahim retired hurt	24	M. Waller c Soumya b Al-Amin	29
Shakib Al Hasan not out	27	P. Moor b Mustafizur	9
Extras (b2, lb1, w3)	6	N. Madziva b Mustafizur	0
Total (for three wickets)	167	G. Cremer c & b Sabbir	8
Fall of wickets: 1-45 (Tamim), 2-75 (Soumya), 3-76 (Mahmudullah)		W. Masakadza not out	6
Did not bat: Shuvagata Hom, Nurul Hasan, Mashrafe Mortaza, Al-Amin		Extras (lb5, w2, nb1)	8
Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman		Total (for eight wickets)	125
Bowling: Vitori 4-0-29-0, Madziva 3-0-30-0, Muzarabani 4-0-35-1 (w2), W. Masakadza 4-0-32-1, Cremer 4-0-29-1 (w1), Williams 1-0-9-0		Fall of wickets: 1-50 (Sibanda), 2-55 (H. Masakadza), 3-65 (Williams), 4-68 (Mutumbami), 5-105 (Waller), 6-108 (Madziva), 7-109 (Moor), 8-125 (Cremer)	
		Did not bat: T. Muzarabani, B. Vitori	
		Bowling: Shuvagata 3-0-18-1, Shakib 4-0-26-0, Al-Amin 3-0-21-1, Mustafizur 3.5-0-19-2 (w1), Mortaza 4-0-25-1 (nb1), Sabbir 2.1-0-11-3 (w1)	
		Result: Bangladesh won by 42 runs, lead four-match series 2-0.	