

Sports

# Australia complete dominant 4-0 Ashes series rout of England

## Root hailed for leaving sick bed to bat

**SYDNEY:** Australia ruthlessly extinguished England's resistance to claim an innings victory in the fifth Ashes Test and complete a 4-0 series rout on the final day in Sydney yesterday. The beleaguered tourists, with skipper Joe Root weakened by a stomach bug and unable to continue batting, dissolved after lunch, losing their last four wickets for their fourth comprehensive defeat of the series.

"It has been a great couple of months. The cricket that we have played in the last couple of months has been outstanding," Australia skipper Steve Smith said. "We have just been able to get on top and win those key moments and not let them back in the game which is crucial."

Paceman Pat Cummins led the Australian offensive in Sydney with four wickets for 39 to finish man-of-the-match and the leading wicket taker in the series with 23. "To get through the five Tests and end the series here at home, I couldn't ask for much more," said an ecstatic Cummins.

All four of Australia's front-line bowlers finished with 20 or more wickets each for the series. "I think all the bowlers did an exceptional job. The guys have bowled together as a group, bowled in partnerships, bowled for one another and helped us take the wickets that we've needed to take four Test matches," Smith added.

England finished at 180 for nine off 88.1 overs as Australia won by an innings and 123 runs. It followed comprehensive losses on the troubled five-Test tour in Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth. The fourth Test was drawn in Melbourne.

Stricken Root did not come out to bat after lunch as he continued to experience discomfort after his overnight stomach bug. "He has a gastro bug and he has not been too well through the night and the heat yesterday didn't help. He is asleep in the dressing-room trying to recover," said vice-captain Jimmy Anderson, deputising for Root at the post-



**SYDNEY:** Australia's cricket team celebrates after retaining the Ashes trophy, defeating England on the final day of the fifth Ashes cricket Test match at the SCG in Sydney yesterday. — AFP

match presentations.

"To be honest we have been outplayed in the key moments of each game," he added. "We have been in the games to an extent but just not been able to capitalise on any opportunities. Australia have played great in this series."

### CHANCES DISAPPEAR

Cummins struck twice in three balls after lunch, trapping Jonny Bairstow leg before wicket for 38 and having Stuart Broad caught behind off a brutish bouncer for four. Mason Crane got another vicious Cummins bouncer which he gloved to wicketkeeper Tim Paine for two and Anderson was caught behind off Josh Hazlewood for two to end the innings.

Root went to hospital overnight with England initially saying he had "severe dehydration" after fielding and batting in intense heat on Sunday. But team officials later said Root had in fact been weakened by the

effects of a gastroenteritis bug.

He came out to bat on the dismissal of Moeen Ali for 13 an hour into the final day's play and reached his fifth half-century of the series, although he was unable to convert any of them to a century. England's remote chances of saving the Test disappeared when Root failed to appear at the crease after lunch, retiring ill for a second time.

Spinner Nathan Lyon claimed Moeen's wicket for the seventh time in the series when he trapped him leg before in the morning session, which Moeen did not review. Lyon took three wickets for 54 off 35 overs to finish with 21 wickets for the series and 290 in his career.

The Australians took a grip on the final Test with a massive 303-run innings lead and then reduced the battle-weary tourists to 93 for four by the close on the fourth day and finished off the job mid-afternoon Monday. All five Tests went into the fifth day, indicating the attritional nature of the series. — AFP



### SCOREBOARD

**SYDNEY:** Scoreboard at the close on the final day in the fifth Ashes Test between Australia and England in Sydney yesterday:

<b>England first innings 346</b> (J. Root 83, D. Malan 62; P. Cummins 4-80)	J. Anderson c Paine b Hazlewood 2 Extras (lb2, pen5) 7 Total (all out: 88.1 overs) 180
<b>Australia first innings 649</b> for 7 declared (U. Khawaja 171, S. Marsh 156, M. Marsh 101; M. Ali 2-170)	Fall of wickets: 1-5 (Stoneman), 2-15 (Cook), 3-43 (Vince), 4-68 (Malan), 5-121 (Ali), 6-144 (Bairstow), 7-148 (Broad), 8-156 (Crane), 9-180 (Anderson) Bowling: Starc 16-4-38-1, Hazlewood 17.1-6-36-1, Lyon 35-12-54-3, Cummins 17-4-39-4, Smith 2-0-6-0, M. Marsh 1-1-0-0.
<b>England second innings</b> (overnight 93 for 4)	Result: Australia won by an innings and 123 runs Series: Australia 4-0 Man-of-the-match: Pat Cummins (AUS) Man-of-the-series: Steve Smith (AUS)
A. Cook b Lyon 10	
M. Stoneman lbw b Starc 0	
J. Vince c Smith b Cummins 18	
J. Root retired ill 58	
D. Malan lbw b Lyon 5	
J. Bairstow lbw b Cummins 38	
M. Ali lbw b Lyon 13	
T. Curran not out 23	
S. Broad c Paine b Cummins 4	
M. Crane c Paine b Cummins 2	

## Philander blasts South Africa to win over India

**CAPE TOWN:** South Africa's fast bowlers, led by Vernon Philander, blasted through India's batting as the host nation gained a 72-run win on the fourth day of the first Test at Newlands yesterday. Set 208 to win the first of three matches between the world's two leading Test teams, number one-ranked India were bowled out for 135 by their nearest challengers. Philander took six for 42 with Morne Morkel and Kagiso Rabada claiming two wickets each as India were subjected to a pace barrage in bowler-friendly conditions. South Africa were reduced to three fast bowlers because of a heel injury suffered by Dale Steyn while bowling on Saturday. Earlier, it had been the Indian bowlers who held sway when South Africa were bowled out for 130 in their second innings, losing their last eight wickets for 65 runs. India's run chase started promisingly with Murali Vijay and Shikhar Dhawan putting on 30 for the first wicket, although Vijay was reprieved on review twice after being given out against Philander, for leg before wicket and a catch behind the wicket.

But then Dhawan was caught at gully off his bat handle when he got into a tangle against a lifting ball from Morkel. Six balls later it was third time lucky for Philander as Vijay edged a catch to AB de Villiers at third slip. Philander claimed the key wicket of Indian captain Virat Kohli, who had looked confident in scoring 28 before he was trapped leg before wicket.

Philander struck again when Rohit Sharma was bowled off an inside edge and Rabada dismissed first innings top scorer Hardik Pandya for one, caught by a diving De Villiers at third slip. Rabada trapped Wriddhiman Saha leg before with the last ball before tea to leave India in a desperate situation in a match which hastened to a conclusion despite the loss of the third day because of rain.

Ravichandran Ashwin and Bhuvneshwar Kumar put on 49 for the eighth wicket before Philander took the last three wickets in the space of four balls. Wriddhiman Saha became the first Indian wicketkeeper to make ten dismissals in a Test match when he held five catches in South Africa's second innings on the fourth day of the first Test at Newlands yesterday. Saha also took five catches in the first innings. He broke the record held by Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who made nine dismissals, with eight catches and a stumping, against Australia in Melbourne in 2014/15.

Mohammed Shami and Jasprit Bumrah were the main destroyers of the South African batting, taking three wickets each. Shami started the collapse, dismissing Hashim Amla with the ninth ball of the morning and taking three wickets for 28 runs. Bumrah took three for 39, including



**CAPE TOWN:** South Africa bowler Vernon Philander (3rd R) celebrates dismissing India batsman Jasprit Bumrah and winning the match by 72 runs during day four of the First Test between South Africa and India in Cape Town, yesterday. — AFP

the wicket of South African captain Faf du Plessis, who fell to an unplayable delivery which lifted sharply off a good length and flicked a glove.

Despite being ruled out of the rest of the series, Steyn, who arrived at the ground on crutches, limped to the wicket as the last batsman in an effort to keep company with De Villiers, who top-scored with 35. He managed to

defend four balls from Kumar but De Villiers was caught off Bumrah in the next over by Kumar, one of eight fielders stationed on the boundary. Wicketkeeper Saha set an Indian record by taking ten catches in the match, five in each innings. After being under covers for two nights and a day, the pitch offered plenty of seam movement and occasional steep bounce. — AFP

### SCOREBOARD

**CAPE TOWN:** Final scores on the fourth day of the first Test between South Africa and India at Newlands yesterday:

<b>South Africa, first innings, 286</b>	<b>India, second innings</b>	
<b>India, first innings, 209</b>	M. Vijay c De Villiers b Philander 13	
<b>South Africa, second innings</b> (overnight 65-2)	S. Dhawan c sub (Morris) b Morkel 16	
A. Markram c Kumar b Pandya 34	C. Pujara c De Kock b Morkel 4	
D. Elgar c Saha b Pandya 25	V. Kohli lbw b Philander 28	
K. Rabada c Kohli b Mohammed Shami 5	R. Sharma b Philander 10	
H. Amla c Sharma b Mohammed Shami 4	W. Saha lbw b Rabada 8	
A. de Villiers c Kumar b Bumrah 35	H. Pandya c De Villiers b Rabada 1	
F. du Plessis c Saha b Bumrah 0	R. Ashwin c De Kock b Philander 37	
Q. de Kock c Saha b Bumrah 8	B. Kumar not out 13	
V. Philander lbw b Mohammed Shami 0	Mohammed Shami c Du Plessis b Philander 4	
K. Maharaj c Saha b Kumar 15	J. Bumrah c Du Plessis b Philander 0	
M. Morkel c Saha b Kumar 2	Extras (lb1) 1	
D. Steyn not out 0	Total (42.4 overs) 135	
Extras (w2) 2	Fall of wickets: 1-30 (Dhawan), 2-30 (Vijay), 3-39 (Pujara), 4-71 (Kohli), 5-76 (Sharma), 6-77 (Pandya), 7-82 (Saha), 8-131 (Ashwin), 9-135 (Shami)	
Total (41.2 overs) 130	Bowling: Philander 15.4-4-42-6, Morkel 11-1-39-2, Rabada 12-2-41-2, Maharaj 4-1-12-0.	
Fall of wickets: 1-52 (Markram), 2-59 (Elgar), 3-66 (Amla), 4-73 (Rabada), 5-82 (Du Plessis), 6-92 (De Kock), 7-95 (Philander), 8-122 (Maharaj), 9-130 (Morkel)	Result: South Africa won by 72 runs	
Bowling: Kumar 11-5-33-2 (2w), Bumrah 11.2-1-39-3, Mohammed Shami 12-3-28-2, Pandya 6-0-27-2, Ashwin 1-0-3-0.	Series: South Africa lead the three-match series 1-0	

Zimbabwe starting January 15 — would be hauled from the stands and tried on the spot by judges in temporary courtrooms, a cricket board official said.

"Betting will be treated as a public nuisance. Anyone found involved will be convicted and punished instantly in the stadium," Bangladesh Cricket Board chief executive Nizamuddin Chowdhury told AFP.

The special courts will continue to target gamblers during Sri Lanka's tour of Bangladesh, which starts at the end of January after the tri-nation series. Bangladesh and Sri Lanka will play two Test matches and two Twenty20 internationals.

Gambling is illegal but rampant during cricket

matches in Bangladesh, where punters exploit a brief delay between live play and the official broadcast of results to place frantic bets. Authorities threw nearly 80 spectators out of matches for placing bets using their mobile phones during the latest edition of the Bangladesh Premier League Twenty20 tournament, which concluded last month.

At least a dozen of them were foreigners. Police in November deported at least five Indians caught gambling during these short format matches. So-called "mobile courts" are popular in Bangladesh. In October, more than 200 people accused of abuses against Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh's southeast were jailed by special courts there. — AFP

## No need for England overhaul despite Ashes defeat: Anderson

**SYDNEY:** England are on the right track and do not need to overhaul their squad despite crashing to a 4-0 Ashes series defeat to Australia, vice captain Jimmy Anderson said yesterday. Anderson has experienced two 5-0 whitewashes in Australia, including the chaotic 2013-14 trip Down Under which resulted in a string of retirements and the resignation of coach Andy Flower. But despite England's bowlers failing to take 20 wickets in any of the matches and the batsmen scoring just three centuries, one of those after the series was lost, Anderson felt England were on the right trajectory. "We have improved over the last 18 months. We've definitely made strides in the right direction," the 35-year-old said after the tourists fell to an innings and 123-runs defeat in the fifth and final test in Sydney. "It doesn't feel like a series where it should be a big upheaval. We've actually played some good cricket along the way. We've not been blown away in every game."

"Every game has gone to the fifth day. It doesn't feel like a completely disastrous series. We know we've got to improve in a number of areas." Anderson said the absence of all-rounder Ben Stokes, who was suspended after an incident outside a nightclub in September, and various off-field incidents at the start of the series had not had an impact on the series.

He also thought the preparations had been adequate. "I don't know what we could have done differently," he added. "You can do all the preparation you want. We've worked tirelessly in the nets. We've planned very well, meticulously. But you can't prepare for being out in the middle when the pressure is on. "The only thing that can prepare you for that is being in it and we've not dealt with those pressure situations well with bat or ball and that's been the difference in this series." A veteran of seven Ashes series, Anderson said he hoped to be around to play an eighth in England next year as a 37-year-old. "I'm going to do everything I possibly can be to be ready for that series in 2019," said the seamer, who took 17 wickets at 27.82. "I'm still hungry to play. I'm delighted I've got through these five test matches and bowled pretty well."

Anderson also thought Joe Root, who left his sick bed to try to save a draw on Monday, had been outstanding as captain. "You ask any captain that has toured Australia, it is not an easy place to come, not an easy place to play, especially when you're on the wrong end of results," he said.

"I think the way he has carried himself is a real credit to himself. He's been fantastic all the way through, a very level-headed guy. "He's not looked down at any stage and he's led the guys brilliantly both on and off the field. He should be very proud of what he's done this trip." — Reuters

## Bangladesh to try cricket gamblers in special courts

**DHAKA:** Bangladesh will set up special courts at its cricket stadiums to try and convict any punters caught gambling during an upcoming international series, an official said yesterday. Gamblers caught during the tri-nation series against Sri Lanka and