

Sports

Abbas destroys Australia to put Pakistan in dominating position

Pakistan stretched lead to 281 as they were 144 for two at close

SCOREBOARD

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates: Scoreboard on the second day of the second Test between Pakistan and Australia played at Sheikh Zayed Stadium yesterday:

Pakistan 1st innings 282 (Fakhar Zaman 94, Sarfraz Ahmed 94; N. Lyon 4-78, M. Labuschagne 3-45)

Australia 1st innings

| | |
|---|-----|
| Usman Khawaja c Sarfraz b Abbas | 3 |
| A. Finch c Zaman b Asif | 39 |
| P. Siddle lbw b Abbas | 4 |
| S. Marsh c Sohail b Abbas | 3 |
| T. Head c Shafiq b Abbas | 14 |
| M. Marsh c Shafiq b Yasir | 13 |
| M. Labuschagne run out (Yasir) | 25 |
| T. Paine lbw b Asif | 3 |
| M. Starc lbw b Abbas | 34 |
| N. Lyon b Asif | 2 |
| J. Holland not out | 2 |
| Extras: (lb 3) | 3 |
| Total: (all out: 50.4 overs) | 145 |
| Fall of wickets: 1-16 (Khawaja), 2-20 (Siddle), 3-36 (S. Marsh), 4-56 (Head), 5-75 (M. Marsh), 6-85 (Finch), 7-91 (Paine), 8-128 (Labuschagne), 9-132 (Lyon). | |
| Bowling: Abbas 12.4-4-33-5, Hamza 9-2-27-0, Yasir 19-3-59-1, Asif 10-3-23-3. | |

Pakistan 2nd innings

| | |
|--|-----|
| Fakhar Zaman c and b Lyon | 66 |
| Mohammad Hafeez c Head b Starc | 6 |
| Azhar Ali not out | 54 |
| Haris Sohail not out | 17 |
| Extras: (nb 1) | 1 |
| Total: (for two wks: 44 overs) | 144 |
| Still to bat: Asad Shafiq, Babar Azam, Sarfraz Ahmed, Bilal Asif, Yasir Shah, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Abbas. | |
| Fall of wickets: 1-15 (Hafeez), 2-106 (Zaman). | |
| Bowling: Starc 4-0-22-1 (Inb), Siddle 6-0-28-0, Lyon 20-3-59-1, Holland 10-3-17-0, Labuschagne 4-0-18-0. | |

ABU DHABI: Medium pacer Mohammad Abbas registered a five-wicket haul to steer Pakistan into a dominating position in the second Test against Australia in Abu Dhabi yesterday. Abbas finished with five for 33 to bowl out Australia for a paltry 145 to give Pakistan a 137-run lead in the first innings on the second day at Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

Pakistan stretched that lead to 281 as they were 144 for two at close, with Azhar Ali not out on 54 for his first half century in the series and Haris Sohail was 17 not out. With eight wickets in hand Pakistan were in a great position to force a 1-0 lead in the two-match series after the first Test ended in a fighting draw in Dubai last week.

Azhar, who fell for disappointing scores of 18, four and 15 in the last three innings, batted with resolve, having so far hit three boundaries. But it was once again debutant Fakhar Zaman who lifted Pakistan with a brilliant 66 following up his 94 in the first innings, before giving a return catch to Nathan Lyon who took an evasive action but still managed to hold onto the ball. Zaman hit seven boundaries in an enterprising knock. Zaman said Pakistan were in the driving seat. "Yes, our position is good," said Zaman. "If we score 100-150 runs more on Thursday then with a turning wicket we have a very good chance of winning this Test." Zaman said he was lucky to have played this Test. "I was with the squad from the start but during the first Test I was about to return to Pakistan before, unfortunately, Imam-ul-Haq got injured and I got this chance of playing my first Test."

Mohammad Hafeez, who scored a hundred in the drawn first Test, fell to a lazy shot off pacer Mitchell Starc, caught at short mid-off for six. Earlier, Abbas and spinner Bilal Asif (3-23) wrecked Australia for 145 in their innings. Abbas had Shaun Marsh, in the fourth over of the day, for three and Travis Head for 14 before wrapping up the innings by trapping Starc leg-before for 34. This becomes Abbas's third five-wicket haul in a burgeoning career of ten Tests. Asif had removed Aaron Finch (39) and in the last over before lunch trapped Tim Paine leg-before for three.

Marnus Labuschagne offered some resistance during his 25 before falling to a freakish run out, backing up too far as a drive from Starc was deflected to the stumps by Yasir Shah with Labuschagne out of his



ABU DHABI: Pakistan cricketer Fakhar Zaman (C) plays a shot during day two of the second Test cricket match in the series between Australia and Pakistan at the Abu Dhabi Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday. — AFP

crease. Abbas, whose first wicket of the match made him the joint second fastest Pakistani to 50 wickets, gave Pakistan an early wicket in the fourth over of the day, removing Marsh with a catch in the slip.

He then had Head caught in the second slip to leave Australia at 56 for four. Leg-spinner Yasir made it 75

for five with the wicket of Mitchell Marsh, caught close to the wicket for 13 before Australia lose two more to reach lunch at 91 for seven.

After the Tests both the teams will play a series of three Twenty20 international with the first in Abu Dhabi on October 24. — AFP

Morris in, Amla and Duminy out for Australia tour

CAPE TOWN: South Africa will be without limited-overs stalwarts Hashim Amla and JP Duminy for their white-ball tour of Australia next month but welcome back all-rounder Chris Morris from injury.

Amla and Duminy have been sidelined along with 20-year-old all-rounder Wiaan Mulder as South Africa juggle a number of injury concerns. Morris had been a regular in the limited-overs side before missing series against Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe in 2018, and is likely to play a key role Down Under.

Also returning to the squad are all-rounders Farhaan Behardien and Dwaine Pretorius, while veteran seamer Dale Steyn has been included after he made a successful return to international action in the recent series against Zimbabwe.

"Chris confirmed his fitness with his excellent form for the Titans in the first two rounds of the 4-Day Domestic Series," Cricket South Africa (CSA) National Selection Panel (NSP) convener Linda Zondi said in a statement yesterday.

"He is the leading wicket-taker in this competition to date and also adds value as a batting option in the lower-order. "With Wiaan Mulder ruled out at the moment through injury we need to look at our resources as far as batting all-rounder options are concerned and



Chris Morris

Dwaine, in particular, fits into this category.

"We have also lost a lot of experience in our specialist batting order through the injuries to Hashim Amla and JP Duminy, and Farhaan gives us another experienced option in the top order."

South Africa will play three one-day internationals, starting in Perth on Nov. 4, followed by a one-off Twenty20 international on the Gold Coast on Nov. 17.

Squad:

Faf du Plessis (captain), Farhaan Behardien, Quinton de Kock, Reeza Hendricks, Imran Tahir, Heinrich Klaasen, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Chris Morris, Lungisani Ngidi, Andile Phehlukwayo, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Tabraiz Shamsi, Dale Steyn. — Reuters

Christian to play in South African Super League T20

JOHANNESBURG: Dan Christian, Samuel Badree and Jeevan Mendis headlined a modest list of international stars drafted into South Africa's new Mzansi Super League Twenty20 tournament yesterday.

Australian all-rounder Christian, Sri Lankan all-rounder Jeevan Mendis and West Indian leg-spinner Badree were signed for 750,000 rand (\$52,600) each for the month-long tournament, from November 15 to December 16. They will play for the Jozi Stars, Tshwane Spartans and Cape Town Blitz respectively.

Apart from six international marquee players, who had already been announced, none of the foreign players attracted bids in the top salary bracket of a million rand during a draw function in Johannesburg.

All the million rand players were South Africans: David Miller, Dane Vilas, Tabraiz Shamsi, Andile Phehlukwayo, Lungi Ngidi and Chris Morris.

Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan was assigned to Durban Heat, who had first choice of the international marquee players.

West Indians Chris Gayle and Dwayne Bravo will play for the Jozi Stars and Paarl Rocks respectively while England's Eoin Morgan, Jason Roy and Dawid Malan will represent the Tshwane Spartans, Nelson Mandela Bay Giants and Cape Town Blitz.

None of the international marquee players will be available for the full tournament because of commitments to international cricket and a T10 tournament in Abu Dhabi but they will all be available for the final 13 days of the South African event.

South African marquee players are AB de Villiers, Hashim Amla, Kagiso Rabada, Faf du Plessis, Imran Tahir and Quinton de Kock, with the latter replacing the injured JP Duminy.

Other foreign players who will play in the league are Asif Ali (Pakistan), Sean Williams, Brandon Mavuta and Sikhandar Raza (Zimbabwe), Ben Duckett (England) and Paul Stirling (Ireland).

The six teams were allowed to pick a minimum of three and maximum of four international players, including South African Kolpak players. Kolpak players selected were Vilas, Kyle Abbott, Marchant de Lange, Simon Harmer, Cameron Delpont and Heino Kuhn. — AFP

England rain hits Sri Lanka tour

KANDY: England yesterday blamed the crowded international cricket calendar for its decision to tour Sri Lanka during the rainy season as bad weather hit the third straight one-day international.

England said the number of tours left it no "wriggle room" in organising a tour of the island currently in the grip of inter-monsoonal storms. Heavy rain also hit yesterday's game in Kandy, England won the rain-disrupted second ODI on a faster-run rate and the first game was abandoned after just 15 overs.

A warm-up match against the Sri Lanka Cricket XI side on October 6 was also abandoned and England players and fans have become increasingly frustrated by rain interruptions during the two month tour.

"In respect of touring Sri Lanka at this time of year: The Future Tours Programme is congested involving 13 boards whose schedules all interconnect, so there are unfortunately a number of tours that have to take place outside prime match-staging periods," England Cricket wrote on its Twitter page.

It added that after hosting England, Sri Lanka spend coming months touring New Zealand, Australia and South Africa. "They play their first match in New Zealand on December 8, which left very little wriggle room," it said. The final Sri Lanka-England Test ends on November 27.

Weather permitting after the one-day games, England will play a Twenty20 international and three Tests against Sri Lanka on the tour. — AFP



PALLEKELE: Sri Lankan cricketer Kusal Mendis (R) gets dismissed by England Adil Rashid (unseen) as wicketkeeper Jos Buttler look on during the third one day international (ODI) cricket match between Sri Lanka and England at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium in Pallekele yesterday. — AFP