



BRISBANE: Australia's batsman Peter Handscomb plays a shot as Pakistan's wicketkeeper Sarfraz Ahmed (R) looks on during the second day-night cricket Test between Australia and Pakistan in Brisbane yesterday. —AFP

AUSSIES DECIMATE PAKISTAN INNINGS TO TAKE CHARGE

BRISBANE: A withering spell of fast bowling backed up by exceptional catching had Pakistan on their knees as Australia took charge of the day-night first Test in Brisbane yesterday. Australia's three-man pace attack—Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Jackson Bird—decimated the tourists' first

innings under the Gabba lights. Starc and Hazlewood took three wickets each and Bird chimed in with two for seven to leave skipper Steve Smith pondering whether to enforce the follow-on after a seven-wicket final session.

At the close, Pakistan were hanging on at 97 for eight and trailing by 332 runs with Sarfraz Ahmed on 31 and Mohammad Amir not out eight. "We lost the session completely, the credit goes to the Australian bowlers," fast bowler Wahab Riaz said.

"We will definitely try to fight back, obviously it's a huge lead right now, but we can try our level best, try to restrict them, if we get to bowl again."

Rookie Peter Handscomb hit a maiden century in Australia's first innings 429, but it was the bowlers coupled with inept Pakistan batting which had the pink ball hurtling to an early resolution.

Hazlewood put the tourists on the skids with two wickets in two balls in his fifth over. Babar Azam got a thick edge which flew to Steve Smith at second slip for 19 and veteran Younis Khan feathered the next ball to wicketkeeper Matthew Wade for a duck.

Skipper Misbah-ul-Haq was never comfortable under the lights and played well away from his body, nicking to Matthew Renshaw at first slip off Bird for four.

Asad Shafiq soon followed, prodding at Starc to give Khawaja another slips catch for two. Sami Aslam, who was twice clocked on the helmet as he turned his head away from rising Hazlewood deliveries, was caught behind off Bird for 22 off 100 balls.

Wahab Riaz and Yasir Shah followed within minutes of each other but Sarfraz and Amir saw out play to stumps.

Handscomb made the most of his opportunity and followed up a half-century on debut against South Africa in Adelaide last month with a polished 105 in Australia's first innings of 429.

Handscomb was out shortly after tea when he chopped a Wahab delivery on to his stumps, one ball after Josh Hazlewood was caught at first slip in Mohammad Amir's previous over.

Tailenders Nathan Lyon (29) and Bird (19) hit out in a crowd-pleasing last-wicket stand of 49, while Wahab Riaz and Amir both finished with four wickets each.

"Ultimately, we need to take 20 wickets to win the game and if we give the bowlers time to rest up they can come out firing and hopefully rattle through them again," Handscomb said. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

BRISBANE, Australia: Scoreboard yesterday at stumps on the second day of the first cricket test between Australia and Pakistan, a day-night match at the Gabba.

Australia, 1st Innings (Overnight: 288-3)

Matt Renshaw c Ahmed b Wahab	71
David Warner lbw b Amir	32
Usman Khawaja c Misbah b Shah	4
Steve Smith c Ahmed b Wahab	130
Peter Handscomb b Wahab	105
Nic Maddinson c Ahmed b Wahab	1
Matthew Wade c Azhar Ali b Amir	7
Mitchell Starc c Shafiq b Amir	10
Josh Hazlewood c Azhar Ali b Amir	8
Nathan Lyon c Shafiq b Shah	29
Jackson Bird not out	19
Extras: (5lb, 1w, 7nb)	13
TOTAL: (all out)	429

Overs: 130.1. Batting time: 558 minutes.

Fall of wickets: 1-70, 2-75, 3-151, 4-323, 5-334, 6-342, 7-354, 8-380, 9-380, 10-429.

Bowling: Mohammad Amir 31-7-97-4 (1nb), Rahat Ali 22-5-74-0, Yasir Shah 43.1-6-129-2, Wahab Riaz 26-4-89-4 (1w, 6nb), Azhar Ali 8-0-35-0.

Pakistan, 1st Innings

Sami Aslam c Wade b Bird	22
Azhar Ali c Khawaja b Starc	5
Babar Azam c Smith b Hazlewood	19
Younis Khan c Wade b Hazlewood	0
Misbah-ul-Haq c Renshaw b Bird	4
Asad Shafiq c Khawaja b Starc	2
Sarfraz Ahmed not out	31
Wahab Riaz c and b Hazlewood	1
Yasir Shah c Khawaja b Starc	1
Mohammad Amir not out	8
Extras: (3lb, 1w)	4
TOTAL (for eight wickets)	97

Overs: 43. Batting time: 195 minutes.

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-43, 3-43, 4-48, 5-54, 6-56, 7-66, 8-67.

Still to bat: Rahat Ali.

Bowling: Mitchell Starc 15-2-45-3 (1w), Josh Hazlewood 11-1-19-3, Jackson Bird 9-6-7-2, Nathan Lyon 8-1-23-0.

ALI TON GIVES ENGLAND OPENING DAY HONOURS

CHENNAI: Joe Root urged centurion Moeen Ali and the rest of the England batsmen to put India under pressure yesterday after the visitors made a solid start in the fifth and final Test in Chennai.

The tourists were 284 for four at stumps with Ali (120) and Ben Stokes (five) at the crease after they elected to bat first at Chennai's MA Chidambaram Stadium.

Ali mounted crucial partnerships with Root (88) and Jonny Bairstow (49) to revive the England innings after the visitors lost their openers in the first hour of play.

Ali's 146-run third-wicket stand with Root remained the highlight of the innings as England, who have already lost the series 3-0, search for a consolation win.

"It would be really nice to go home with a win under our belt and we have set it up nicely today, it's (now) about tomorrow going on and taking it forward," Root told reporters on Friday.

"And hopefully Moeen can carry on how he has played today, Stokesy can get in and play one of his mouth-watering innings he is capable of doing," said Root.

Ali, who was promoted to number four following a rejig in England's batting order in the Mohali Test, absorbed the pressure after Root's dismissal to pilot the innings.

"That added responsibility of batting higher up in the batting order he has taken really well on this tour and proved it with two brilliant hundreds," said Root. Root was also responsible for the rebuilding act after the fall of Keaton Jennings (1) and skipper Alastair Cook (10) but he missed out on what would have been his second ton of the series.

ROOT'S 'CHILDISH' REACTION

The Englishman was given caught behind off Ravindra Jadeja by the on-field umpire but India successfully reviewed the decision after a disturbance in the snicko suggested the ball had grazed the bat before going into the keeper's glove.

Root did not seem happy with the call as he dejectedly walked back to the pavilion but later termed his reaction as "childish". "I was convinced I didn't hit it. Obviously the technology suggests otherwise... you probably just have to take it on the chin - I must have got a fine one on it," said Root, who was seen practising on a road inside the stadium on Thursday.

Ali, who was dropped on nought at mid-wicket, showed grit during his controlled knock as he carried on the good work with Bairstow. — AFP



CHENNAI: England's Moeen Ali plays a shot during the first day of the fifth cricket test match against India in Chennai, India, yesterday. — AP

SCOREBOARD

CHENNAI, India: Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the fifth and final cricket Test between India and England in Chennai on yesterday.

England 1st innings:

A. Cook c Kohli b Jadeja	10
K. Jennings c Patel b Sharma	1
J. Root c Patel b Jadeja	88
M. Ali not out	120
J. Bairstow c Rahul b Jadeja	49
B. Stokes not out	5
Extras (b4, lb1, w1, penalty 5)	11
Total (4 wickets, 90 overs)	284

Fall of wickets: 1-7 (Jennings), 2-21 (Cook), 3-167 (Root), 4-253 (Bairstow)

Bowling: Yadav 12-1-44-0, Sharma 12-5-25-1, Jadeja 28-3-73-3, Ashwin 24-1-76-0, Mishra 13-1-52-1, Nair 1-0-4-0.

To bat: J. Buttler, L. Dawson, A. Rashid, S. Broad, J. Ball
India: V. Kohli (capt), M. Vijay, K. Nair, C. Pujara, L. Rahul, P. Patel, R. Ashwin, R. Jadeja, A. Mishra, U. Yadav, I. Sharma.