

Sports

Fiery Olivier leads S Africa to series sweep of Pakistan

Seamer Olivier finish series with 24 wickets

SCOREBOARD

Final scores on the fourth day of the third and final Test between South Africa and Pakistan at the Wanderers Stadium yesterday:

South Africa, first innings, 262
Pakistan, first innings, 185
South Africa, second innings, 303

Pakistan, second innings (overnight 153-3)

Imam-ul-Haq c De Kock b Steyn	35
Shan Masood c De Kock b Steyn	37
Azhar Ali c De Kock b Olivier	15
Asad Shafiq c Elgar b Philander	65
Babar Azam c De Kock b Olivier	21
Sarfraz Ahmed b Olivier	0
Shadab Khan not out	47
Faheem Ashraf c Markram b Rabada	15
Mohammad Amir c Markram b Rabada	4
Hasan Ali c and b Rabada	22
Mohammad Abbas run out (Markram)	9
Extras (lb2, nb1)	3
Total (65.4 overs)	273

Fall of wickets: 1-67 (Imam), 2-74 (Masood), 3-104 (Azhar), 4-162 (Azam), 5-162 (Sarfraz), 6-179 (Shafiq), 7-204 (Ashraf), 8-208 (Amir), 9-242 (Hasan)

Bowling: Steyn 20-2-80-2, Philander 14-4-41-1, Olivier 15-2-74-3 (1nb), Rabada 16-2-75-3, Elgar 0-4-0-1-0.

Result: South Africa won by 107 runs

Series: South Africa won the three-match series 3-0

JOHANNESBURG: Fiery fast bowler Duanne Olivier took key early wickets as South Africa wrapped up a clean sweep of their series against Pakistan with victory by 107 runs on the fourth day of the third and final Test yesterday. Pakistan resumed their second innings needing a further 228 for victory with seven wickets in hand, but their chances faded when Olivier removed the dangerous Babar Azam (21) and captain Sarfraz Ahmed (0) in consecutive balls.

The home side chipped away at the wickets to bowl the visitors out for 273, with Olivier (3-74) and Kagiso Rabada (3-75) the pick of a hostile South African attack that has been key to the team's success.

The teams begin a five-match one-day international series on Saturday with the first game in Port Elizabeth. They will also play three Twenty20 matches.

"I'm extremely proud, a 3-0 series win is just what we asked the guys for," stand-in South Africa captain Dean Elgar said at the post-match presentation.

"It's a good way to start the year, we have set our goals and are halfway there with one more test series against Sri Lanka to come."

"Our fast bowlers know what they want to do, which makes your life easier as a captain. They have worked out their game-plans and know how to execute," he added. Olivier was asked to open the bowling on the fourth morning and took his wicket tally in the series to 24 with two quick scalps.

The pace and bounce proved too much for Azam, who could only fend a vicious delivery to wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock.

Pakistan's in-form captain Sarfraz was bowled the very next ball, a double-strike that appeared to take the fight out of the visitors.

Faheem Ashraf (15) and Mohammad Amir (4) both steered Rabada deliveries to Aiden Markram at gully, while Hasan Ali (22) became the latter's third victim



JOHANNESBURG: South African bowler Duanne Olivier (R) celebrates the dismissal of Pakistan batsman Sarfraz Ahmed (CL) during the fourth day of the third Cricket Test match between South Africa and Pakistan at Wanderers cricket stadium yesterday in Johannesburg. —AFP

when he was caught and bowled.

Shadab Khan (47 not out) was impressive as he took the attack to the South Africans with some excellent stroke-play, but was denied a fourth test half-century when number 11 Mohammad Abbas (9) was run-out trying to pinch a quick single.

Olivier's tally over the three games, the second highest by a South African in a three-match series, is just one behind record-holder Buck Llewellyn, who took 25 wickets against Australia in 1902.

"We were in a nice position after the first day (hav-

ing bowled South Africa out for 262), but could not capitalise on that with our batting," Sarfraz said.

"Their bowlers played really well and are very difficult on these wickets. Well done to them.

"Shan Masood played really well (with the bat) and Babar showed his class. Shan and Babar were the positives (from the series)." South Africa won the first two tests by six and nine wickets respectively, their seam attack leading the charge to victory on wickets that Pakistan's vulnerable batting line-up found too spicy for their liking. — Reuters

Kipchoge to run 2019 London Marathon, faces Farah test

LONDON: Kenya's world record holder and defending champion Eliud Kipchoge will return to the London Marathon this year, setting up a mouth-watering clash with Britain's Mo Farah. Kipchoge made it three wins from as many appearances at the London Marathon last year, finishing more than two minutes clear of European record holder Farah, who came third in his first year since retiring from the track to focus on marathon in 2017. While Farah went on to win his maiden marathon title in Chicago,

Kipchoge shattered the world record by 78 seconds as he completed the Berlin Marathon in two hours, one minute and 39 seconds.

"It is always a great honour to come and race the Virgin Money London Marathon and I'm excited to be returning in 2019," Kipchoge, who will be favourite to win his fourth London title on April 28, said in a statement.

"I had a memorable 2018, winning the Virgin Money London Marathon and then setting a new world record at the Berlin Marathon. I'm hoping that 2019 is just as good to me. "I am looking forward to racing Sir Mo Farah again. He is a great champion and proved in Chicago that he can win a major marathon so I relish the battle with him and also the many other great athletes that I'm sure will once again be on the start line in London." Kipchoge, 34, and Farah, 35, are currently joint leaders of the World Marathon Majors Series XII and could



Eliud Kipchoge

seal the title with a victory in London. "We will see two absolute legends of distance running competing over 26.2 miles of roads in the greatest marathon

in the world," London Marathon's event director Hugh Brasher said. "I cannot wait until Sunday 28 April to see who comes out on top." — Reuters

Ibaka lifts Raptors over Wizards in double-OT win

WASHINGTON: Serge Ibaka's 3-pointer with 15.2 seconds remaining lifted the visiting Toronto Raptors to a 140-138 double-overtime win against the stubborn Washington Wizards on Sunday. Washington rallied from 19 points down in the third quarter to force overtime and took a 138-136 lead on Thomas Bryant's short jumper with 31.8 seconds left in the second overtime. Kawhi Leonard missed on a drive on the ensuing possession but got his own rebound and passed out to Ibaka, who hit from 28 feet. Washington's Otto Porter Jr. then missed a 3-point attempt, and Toronto's Danny Green added a free throw with 2.8 seconds left. With no timeouts, the Wizards were unable to get off a final shot. Leonard registered 41 points and 11 rebounds for the Raptors, who have won five straight to improve their NBA-best record to 33-12. Pascal Siakam had 24 points and 19 rebounds before fouling out.

WARRIORS 119, MAVERICKS 114

Stephen Curry scored a game-high 48 points — 24 in each half — and dropped the game-winning 3-pointer to allow Golden State to escape Dallas with a victory. Curry, who scored 16 points in the first quarter, made 11 3-pointers and scored the final seven points for the Warriors in a game the Mavs led 113-108 with 3:51 to go in the game. Kevin Durant scored 28 points and Klay Thompson had 16 on an abysmal shooting night in which he went just 2 of 11 from beyond the arc. Rookie of the Year favorite Luka Doncic led Dallas with 26 points, making 5 of 10 from beyond the arc and adding five assists and six rebounds. Forward Harrison Barnes scored 22, but as he was trying to get off a game-tying 3-point attempt with five seconds to go, Barnes lost control of his dribble and helplessly watched the ball roll out of bounds.

NUGGETS 116, TRAIL BLAZERS 113

Nikola Jokic had 40 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists, Jamal Murray shook off an injury to score 24, and Denver snapped visiting Portland's four-game win streak. Jokic and Murray — who left the game briefly in the first half after an inadvertent shot to the mouth — combined for eight points in the final 67 seconds to put the Nuggets ahead for good after a tie at 108. Damian Lillard scored 26, and CJ McCollum had 18 points for the Blazers. McCollum drained a corner 3-pointer with 27.7 seconds left to make it 114-113,



WASHINGTON: Otto Porter Jr. #22 of the Washington Wizards steals the ball from Patrick McCaw #3 of the Toronto Raptors in the second half at Capital One Arena on Sunday in Washington, DC. — AFP

but Lillard's 33-footer at the buzzer missed.

76ERS 108, KNICKS 105

Ben Simmons totaled 20 points, a career-high 22 rebounds and nine assists as visiting Philadelphia never trailed, survived a shaky second half and extended its winning streak over New York Knicks to seven games. Simmons finished with his 28th double-double this season and just shy of his eighth triple-double. Joel Embiid returned from missing Friday's loss to Atlanta due to a sore right ankle and led the 76ers with 26 points while adding eight rebounds and a season-high six blocked shots. Rookie Kevin Knox scored a career-high 31 points, but the Knicks lost for the 17th time in 19 games and dropped their eighth straight home game.

MAGIC 116, ROCKETS 109

With Aaron Gordon leading early before several others stepped up late, Orlando rallied past visiting Houston in the fourth quarter, capping wins on consecutive nights against title contenders. Terrence Ross, Evan Fournier, and D.J. Augustin sank 3-pointers on successive possessions to key a 16-2 run for a 114-107 lead with 1:21 left. Gordon and Nikola Vucevic scored 22 points each, as the Magic claimed a fourth consecutive home win, rallying from a 12-point deficit after doing the same in beating Boston on Saturday. Rockets guard James Harden scored 38 points to match Kobe Bryant with his 16th consecutive 30-point game, the most in the NBA since 1972-73. However, Harden struggled mightily

with his perimeter shooting, missing 16 of 17 3-point attempts. He shot 11 of 32 overall.

CAVALIERS 101, LAKERS 95

Cedi Osman scored 20 points, and Rodney Hood added 18 as visiting Cleveland ended its 12-game losing streak at the expense of struggling Los Angeles. Tristan Thompson had 15 points and 14 rebounds, while Alec Burks had 17 points and 13 rebounds in Cleveland's first win since Dec. 18 at Indiana. The Cavaliers are just 9-35 this season and remain the only NBA team that has not reached double digits in victories. Kyle Kuzma had 29 points and nine rebounds for the Lakers, as injured Los Angeles forward LeBron James watched his current team face his former team while nursing a groin injury. Brandon Ingram had 22 points for L.A.

BUCKS 133, HAWKS 114

A night off worked wonders for Giannis Antetokounmpo, who scored 33 points to lead visiting Milwaukee over Atlanta. Antetokounmpo was given Friday night off to help him deal with ongoing right quad soreness and a left hip contusion. He returned to lead the Bucks in scoring, shooting 9 for 17 from the field and surpassing the 30-point mark for the 18th time this season. The win was the 30th of the season for the Bucks, who remain the only team in the league without back-to-back losses, now 12-0 in games following a loss. The Bucks have won 12 of their last 15 and won their sixth straight meeting against Atlanta. — Reuters

14 all out: China cricket hopes stumped by record T20 loss

BANGKOK: Cricket's governing body has long dreamed of spreading the game to China, but the latest performance by its women's team is unlikely to inspire many in the world's most populous nation to take up the bat and ball.

China were skittled out for just 14 runs at a tournament in Bangkok on Sunday — the lowest ever score in a Twenty20 international match, for men or women.

In reply to the United Arab Emirates' massive 203 for 3, China were bowled out in under an hour and with 10 overs to spare at the Thailand T20 Smash. Hin Lili led their fleeting resistance to the UAE's unsparing attack, top-scoring with four.

The Thailand T20 Smash includes fellow cricketing underdogs Malaysia, Indonesia and Myanmar. It is not the first embarrassment to befall Chinese cricket against Asian nations who Beijing dominates in economic and political terms, but struggles to match on the wicket.

In October last year, China's men made a dismal 26 against Nepal at a World Twenty20 qualifier, a total bested in just 11 balls. China is a newcomer to world cricket, having fielded its first international team at the 2010 Asian Games.

Its women's team is ranked 25th of 47 countries playing women's T20, according to the International Cricket Council website. China's men and women play mainly low-ranking T20 events against regional Asian sides, most of whom are also minnows on the global cricketing stage.

The ICC has previously described China as a "strategic priority", and said it is working with the China Cricket Association on ways to "achieve sustainable growth in one of the most complex and competitive sports markets in the world". — AFP

Attayah extends Dakar lead

SAN JUAN DE MARCONA: Qatar's Nasser al-Attayah closed in on a third Dakar Rally title on Sunday despite nine-time world rally champion Sebastian Loeb taking the race's sixth stage honours on the same stretch of sand where his 2018 challenge perished.

Al-Attayah, the Dakar champion in 2011 and 2015, has an overall lead of 37min 43sec after taking his factory Toyota to second place on Sunday's run from Arequipa to San Juan de Marcona. "We did a great job all day long, but we made a blunder in the final 15 kilometres," said al-Attayah as he reflected on a navigational error when he missed a waypoint. "We went down the wrong valley, and then it took us a long time to backtrack and get back on the right track. It cost us several minutes, but I'm still happy with our position." Loeb, behind the wheel of a private entry Peugeot, claimed his third stage win of this year's Dakar and 13th of his career after reaching the finish more than two minutes ahead of the 48-year-old Qatari.

French driver Loeb also snatched second place in the overall standings from 13-time champion Stephane Peterhansel who finished almost 12 minutes behind al-Attayah and the best part of 19 minutes back from Loeb. "It went well, but we made mistakes. We saw Nasser make the same blunder, so we both lost two minutes," said Loeb, who was relieved to survive the same run from Arequipa to San Juan de Marcona where he was forced to retire last year. — AFP