

Sports

Rohit Sharma's ton helps India set South Africa 395 to win

Ashwin completes haul of seven wickets

SCOREBOARD

VISAKHAPATNAM: Scoreboard at stumps on day four of the first Test between India and South Africa in Visakhapatnam yesterday: India 1st innings 502-7 dec (M. Agarwal 215, R. Sharma 176; K. Maharaj 3-189)

South Africa 1st innings (overnight 385-8)

D. Elgar c Pujara b Jadeja	160
A. Markram b Ashwin	5
T. de Bruyn c Saha b Ashwin	4
D. Piedt b Jadeja	0
T. Bavuma lbw I. Sharma	18
F. du Plessis c Pujara b Ashwin	55
Q. de Kock b Ashwin	111
S. Muthusamy not out	33
V. Philander b Ashwin	0
K. Maharaj c Agarwal b Ashwin	9
K. Rabada lbw Ashwin	15
Extras (b12, lb4, nb5)	21
Total (all out, 131.2 overs)	431

Fall of wickets: 1-14 (Markram), 2-31 (de Bruyn), 3-34 (Piedt), 4-63 (Bavuma), 5-178 (du Plessis), 6-342 (Elgar), 7-370 (de Kock), 8-376 (Philander), 9-396 (Maharaj), 10-431 (Rabada)

Bowling: I. Sharma 16-2-54-1 (nb1), Shami 18-4-47-0 (nb1), Ashwin 46.2-11-145-7, Jadeja 40-5-124-2 (nb1), Vihari 9-1-38-0 (nb2), R. Sharma 2-1-7-0.

India 2nd innings

M. Agarwal c du Plessis b Maharaj	7
R. Sharma st de Kock b Maharaj	127
C. Pujara lbw Philander	81
R. Jadeja b Rabada	40
V. Kohli not out	31
A. Rahane not out	27
Extras (b8, lb2)	10
Total (4 wickets dec, 67 overs)	323

Fall of wickets: 1-21 (Agarwal), 2-190 (Pujara), 3-239 (R. Sharma), 4-286 (Jadeja)

Did not bat: G. Vihari, W. Saha, R. Ashwin, I. Sharma, M. Shami

Bowling: Philander 12-5-21-1, Maharaj 22-0-129-2, Rabada 13-3-41-1, Piedt 17-3-102-0, Muthusamy 3-0-20-0.

South Africa 2nd innings (target 395)

A. Markram not out	3
D. Elgar lbw b Jadeja	2
T. de Bruyn not out	5
Extras (b1)	1
Total (1 wicket, nine overs)	11

To bat: T. Bavuma, F. du Plessis, Q. de Kock, V. Philander, S. Muthusamy, K. Maharaj, D. Piedt, K. Rabada

Fall of wicket: 1-4 (Elgar)

Bowling: Ashwin 5-2-7-0, Jadeja 4-2-3-1.

VISAKHAPATNAM: Rohit Sharma yesterday struck a second hundred in his debut as Test opener to help India set South Africa a daunting 395 to win the opening match of their series. The hosts declared their second innings on 323 for four in the final session of day four in Visakhapatnam.

South Africa were 11 for one at stumps with Aiden Markram, on three, and Theunis de Bruyn, on five, at the crease. The visitors need another 384 runs and India nine wickets on the final day to get ahead in the three-match series.

"We picked up a crucial wicket, so as a team we are happy with the way things went today and hope to start off well (tomorrow)," Indian batsman Cheteshwar Pujara, who made 81 in India's second innings, told reporters.

"It will not be easy to bat on this pitch on day five, with a little more assistance for the spinners. And with variable bounce, even the fast bowlers will come into play," Ravindra Jadeja struck early after trapping first-innings centurion Dean Elgar for two in the fourth over of the innings.

The left-handed Elgar, who made 160 in the first innings, was given not out by the on-field umpire only for India to get the decision overturned with a TV review. Markram and de Bruyn then played out the remaining overs from spinners Ravichandran Ashwin and Jadeja until bad light forced the extended play — to make up for lost time due to thunderstorm on day one — to be called off.

Sharma, who made 176 in India's first innings of 502 for seven declared, is the first batsman to hit two tons in his first match as a Test opener. He also hit 13 sixes, the most in a Test match, breaking Wasim Akram's record of 12.

Sharma put on 169 with Pujara to frustrate South Africa after the loss of opener Mayank Agarwal for seven. "The way Rohit was playing allowed me to settle down. Only he can play such shots on this track," said Pujara.

"Our partnership between lunch and tea was crucial. Our communication was good as we have batted together a lot in Under-19 cricket. It was enjoyable to watch his batting from the non-striker's end."



VISAKHAPATNAM: Indian cricketer Cheteshwar Pujara (R) plays a shot during the fourth day's play of the first Test match between India and South Africa at the Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium in Visakhapatnam yesterday. —AFP

PROTEAS IN GOOD SPIRIT

Pujara was trapped lbw by Vernon Philander after he completed his 21st Test half-century. Sharma survived a reprieve on 50 when he was caught at the boundary off Dane Piedt. Replays indicated that fielder Senuran Muthusamy's foot had touched the rope. He was finally stumped off Keshav Maharaj as he attempted a big hit. Jadeja hit a 32-ball 40 before being bowled by pacerman Kagiso Rabada. Maharaj struck before lunch, grabbing the key wicket of Agarwal, who hit 215 in the first innings, but the bowlers then struggled.

Earlier, Ashwin completed a haul of seven wickets as South Africa were bowled out for 431 in the morning session. Ashwin got overnight batsman Maharaj out for

nine and then trapped Rabada, leaving the Proteas 71 runs behind. Philander said South Africa are confident of a good show come today. "We have had a really good first innings with the bat. The guys are in good spirits. It is going to be a challenge but one we look forward to," said the fast bowler.

"There is no game that is a safe game. The batters are looking in good form and hopefully we can get a good start tomorrow." Elgar was the hero of the South African innings with his 12th century that revived the tourists' batting after they had slipped to 63 for four.

His century partnerships with skipper Faf du Plessis, who made 55, and Quinton de Kock, who hit 111, were key to the Proteas fightback. —AFP

HH the Crown Prince tournament to begin on Thursday

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait shooting sport local season will start on Thursday with the annual tournament of HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah with the participation of shooting club shooters as well as shooters from the National Guard, army and police sports associations in the Olympic skeet, trap, 10m pistol and rifle, 50m pistol and rifle and Olympic archery.

President of Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations Eng. Duaij Al-Otaibi expressed appreciation to HH the Crown Prince, on behalf of the shooting sport community for his continued support and encouragement for athletes of Kuwait including shooting.

He said HH the Crown Prince care of the shooting sport is a strong motivation for the development of the sport at all levels local and abroad.

Al-Otaibi said this tournament has a special status for the shooting community and all shooters with love to participate in it, adding that the board of directors welcomes shooters from GCC countries to participate in it.

He said that the organizing committee is carrying out preparations to hold the tournament and bring it out the best way possible, through readying ranges of



Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex and all other facilities.

Eng Duaij Al-Otaibi said the board of directors already approved local tournaments scheduled (2019-

2020), as the tournaments carry the names of personalities who served Kuwait and support shooting.

Eng Al-Otaibi thanked HH the Crown Prince and wished all participating shooters success.

Biles eyes gymnastics history

STUTTGART: USA gymnastics queen Simone Biles is set to be the undisputed star of the world championships, enhancing her status as the sport's greatest athlete — even if she does not feel it.

"I never really feel like I'm a big name," she told reporters in Stuttgart. "Everyone puts that on me, I don't really put it on myself." The

10-day event, which started Friday with qualifiers, will be the 22-year-old's fifth worlds.

She seems destined to add to her record tally of 14 gold medals, but is quick to avoid putting pressure on herself. "I never go into a competition trying to win — I just go into a competition trying to compete like I train," she replied when asked how many golds she expects. Yet she is the name to watch in Tuesday's team final, the women's all-around final on Thursday and the apparatus finals on the final weekend. Her overall tally of 20 worlds medals ties Biles with Russia's Svetlana Khorkina for the most won by a woman.

Another four in Stuttgart would put her past the all-time record of 23 held by Vitaly Scherbo, a men's gymnastics star in the 1990s. Biles is the clear favorite to win all-around world gold for the fifth time, extending her own record, yet she has endured testing times away from the sport in the last two years.

In January 2018, she admitted to being among the victims of Larry Nassar, the disgraced former doctor of the US women's Olympic team, who was jailed for sexually abusing hundreds of girls and women.

In August, her brother was arrested and charged with a shooting which left three people dead last December.

Biles must put all that aside in Stuttgart to seemingly defy gravity as one of the best gymnasts the world has even seen. She could also leave southwest Germany with four skills named after her. She is to gymnastics what Usain Bolt was to athletics and Michael Phelps was to swimming, yet while she admires the pair, she rejects the notion of being classed GOAT — greatest of all time — for her own protection.

"I feel like if I were to label myself as a superstar, it would bring more expectations on me," she says. "I would feel pressure. Every year I just try to be better than I was the year before. "I go into a competition trying to compete like I train." —AFP

Caps' Samsonov beats Isles in debut

UNIONDALE: Goaltender Ilya Samsonov made 25 saves to win his NHL debut as the Washington Capitals spoiled the New York Islanders' season opener with a 2-1 victory Friday night in Uniondale, N.Y. T.J. Oshie and Jakub Vrana scored for the Capitals, who won their second straight road game. Devon Toews tallied the lone goal for the Islanders. Veteran goaltender Semyon Varlamov, making his New York debut, stopped 26 of 28 shots. The only goal allowed by Samsonov, a 22-year-old Russian who was Washington's first-round pick in the 2015 NHL draft, was a fluke. With New York trailing 1-0 in the first period, Toews' shot ricocheted off the skates of three Capitals players before deflecting over Samsonov's left shoulder.

JETS 5, DEVILS 4 (SO)

Blake Wheeler scored the winner in the fourth round of a shootout as Winnipeg rallied from a four-goal deficit to stun New Jersey in the Devils' season opener in Newark, N.J. Neal Pionk and Mathieu Perreault each added a goal and an assist, and Laurent Brossoit made 35 saves as Winnipeg recorded a stunning victory. The Jets, coming off a 6-4 season-opening loss to the New York Rangers on Thursday, scored three times in the third period to force overtime and ultimately the shootout. Devils forward Jack Hughes, the 18-year-old No. 1 overall draft pick of 2019, played 15:12 and missed a shootout attempt in his NHL debut. New Jersey's Nikita Gusev and Winnipeg's Kyle Connor scored in the first round of the shootout, and neither team converted again until Wheeler's winner.

FLYERS 4, BLACKHAWKS 3

Travis Konecny scored twice and Carter Hart made 28 saves as Philadelphia skated past Chicago in Prague,

Czech Republic. Oskar Lindblom had a power-play goal and Michael Raffl also tallied for the Flyers, who presented new coach Alain Vigneault with a victory in their season opener. Patrick Kane had a goal and two assists, Alexander Nylander and Alex DeBrincat also tallied, and Corey Crawford turned aside 34 shots for the Blackhawks.

MAPLE LEAFS 4, BLUE JACKETS 1

Mitch Marner had two goals and an assist, Morgan Rielly added three assists, and visiting Toronto defeated Columbus. Cody Ceci and Auston Matthews also scored for the Maple Leafs, who have won their first two games of the season. John Tavares added two assists. Cam Atkinson scored for the Blue Jackets in their season opener, tying the NHL record by scoring in a sixth straight opening-day game. He now shares the mark with Mud Bruneteau of the Detroit Red Wings (1940-45) and Yvan Cournoyer of the Montreal Canadiens (1973-78). —Reuters

Strasburg, Scherzer lead Nationals past Dodgers

LOS ANGELES: Stephen Strasburg and Max Scherzer led the charge on just two days of rest as the Washington Nationals got even in the National League Division Series with a 4-2 victory over the host Los Angeles Dodgers on Friday night. Strasburg (1-0) gave up one run over six strong innings, and Scherzer struck out all three batters he faced in the eighth as the Nationals leveled the best-of-five series 1-1. Strasburg retired the first 14 batters he faced after pitching three scoreless innings of relief Tuesday in Washington's NL wild-card victory over Milwaukee. Scherzer threw 14 pitches in his perfect inning after he went five innings against the Brewers. The Nationals jumped on Clayton Kershaw (0-1) for three runs in the first two innings, getting an RBI single from Howie Kendrick in the first, and a run-scoring single from Adam Eaton followed by an RBI double by Anthony Rendon in the second. Kershaw is now 9-11 with a 4.33 ERA for his career in the playoffs.

BRAVES 3, CARDINALS 0

Mike Foltynewicz, banished to the minor leagues earlier this year, fired seven shutout innings as Atlanta beat visiting St. Louis and even their NLDS at one game apiece, as well. Foltynewicz (1-0) allowed three hits and no walks while striking out seven in earning his first career postseason win. He outdueled Jack Flaherty (0-1), who gave up three runs on eight hits and a walk with eight strikeouts in seven innings. Josh Donaldson hit an RBI single in the first inning, and pinch hitter Adam Duvall added a two-out, two-run homer in the seventh. Max Fried pitched the eighth inning for Atlanta, and Mark Melancon worked around two hits in the ninth for the save. A day earlier, Melancon blew a late lead and took the loss.

YANKEES 10, TWINS 4

Gleyber Torres and DJ LeMahieu hit bases-loaded doubles, and New York beat visiting Minnesota in Game 1 of the American League Division Series. The Yankees beat the Twins for the 11th straight time in the postseason, dating back to Game 1 of the 2004 ALDS, by overcoming three Minnesota homers and an early two-run deficit. Torres snapped a 3-3 tie with one out in the fifth inning off Tyler Duffey, and LeMahieu hit a three-run double in the seventh. LeMahieu and Brett Gardner hit solo homers for the Yankees while Jorge Polanco, Nelson Cruz and Miguel Sano belted solo drives for the Twins.

ASTROS 6, RAYS 2

Jose Altuve slugged his ninth career postseason home run, and Justin Verlander allowed one hit over seven scoreless innings as host Houston recorded a 6-2 win over Tampa Bay in the opener of their ALDS. Altuve snapped a scoreless tie and keyed a four-run fifth inning with his two-run shot to left field off Tyler Glasnow (0-1). Yuli Gurriel and Michael Brantley had two hits apiece for the Astros, and Alex Bregman reached base three times and scored twice. Verlander (1-0) struck out eight and walked three. Glasnow allowed two runs on four hits in 4 2/3 innings. —Reuters