

Sports

India sweep series, Rohit reinvents himself in Tests

India cement lead in Test Championship

NEW DELHI: India completed a 3-0 series sweep against South Africa yesterday to consolidate their lead in the World Test Championship race, with Rohit Sharma providing the icing on the cake by successfully reinventing himself as a Test opener.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on day four of the third and final Test between India and South Africa in Ranchi yesterday:

India 1st innings 497-9 dec (R. Sharma 212, A. Rahane 115; G. Linde 4-133)

South Africa 1st innings 162 (Z. Hamza 62; U. Yadav 3-40, M. Shami 2-22)

South Africa 2nd innings (follow-on - overnight 132-8)

Q. de Kock b Yadav 5

D. Elgar retired hurt 16

Z. Hamza b Shami 4

F. du Plessis lbw b Shami 0

T. Bavuma c Saha b Shami 0

H. Klaasen lbw b Yadav 5

G. Linde run out (Nadeem) 27

D. Piedt b Jadeja 23

T. de Bruyn c Saha b Nadeem 30

K. Rabada c Jadeja b Ashwin 12

A. Nortje not out 5

L. Ngidi c and b Nadeem 0

Extras: (b5, lb1) 6

Total: (all out, 48 overs) 133

Fall of wickets: 1-5 (de Kock), 2-10 (Hamza), 3-18 (du Plessis),

4-22 (Bavuma), 4-26 (Elgar, retired not out), 5-36 (Klaasen), 6-

67 (Linde), 7-98 (Piedt), 8-121 (Rabada), 9-133 (de Bruyn), 10-

133 (Nadeem)

Bowling: Shami 10-6-10-3, Yadav 9-1-35-2, Jadeja 13-5-36-1,

Nadeem 6-1-18-2, Ashwin 10-3-28-1.

Result: India won by an innings and 202 runs

Series: India won the three-match series 3-0

South Africa, made to follow on for the second straight test in the series, had managed to escape a defeat inside three days on Monday, but their final two batsmen lasted only two overs on Tuesday before they were shot out for 133 in Ranchi.

Bowling the second over on day four, debutant spinner Shahbaz Nadeem dismissed Theunis de Bruyn and Lungi Ngidi in successive deliveries to seal India's emphatic victory by an innings and 202 runs.

De Bruyn, playing as a substitute to opener Dean Elgar, who had suffered a concussion on Monday, made 30 before being caught behind off Nadeem before South Africa's innings folded in bizarre fashion.

Ngidi swung hard at the next delivery, hitting Anrich Nortje on the wrist at the non-striker's end and Nadeem did not even need to move as the ball looped up for him to take a simple catch.

India, who beat West Indies 2-0 in their first series under the new World Test Championship, top the table with 240 points after five wins in a row. "Amazing, you guys have seen from the outside the way we've been playing and the way we have just come of age as a side," India captain Virat Kohli said after the victory.

"Making things happen on pitches that don't seem to offer much is something ...I'm really proud of." Once South Africa had conceded a first innings lead of 335 runs, and were made to follow on for the second straight test in the series, their defeat was always on the cards against an Indian team who had secured their 11th home series win in Pune.

"It's a remarkable team and it's tough to beat them at home," South Africa captain Faf du Plessis conceded after the defeat. "I thought they were ruthless in every aspect of the game. They were better than us in the spin department, fast bowling department, batting department, even the fielding. We were dominated



RANCHI: India's cricket team members pose with their winning trophy at the end of the third and final Test match between India and South Africa at the Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) stadium in Ranchi yesterday. — AFP

pretty much all through the test series."

India will be particularly pleased about Rohit's effortless transition into a Test opener after struggling lower in the batting order in his stop-start Test career. The limited-overs stalwart, the only batsman with three 200-plus scores in one-dayers, was adjudged man-of-the-match for his 212, his maiden test double hundred, in India's first innings total of 497-9 declared.

Rohit also bagged the man-of-the-series award for his 529 runs from four innings, which included three 100-plus scores. "I'm thankful to the management for the opportunity at the opening slot," Rohit said after collecting his awards. "I can take a lot of positives about how to counter the new ball. The new ball is always a threat, and to be able to counter that will be a huge positive. I can take my game forward from that." — Reuters

Patriots stay unbeaten with rout of Jets

LOS ANGELES: Tom Brady and the New England Patriots kept their record blemish free on Monday night, carving up the New York Jets 33-0 to win their seventh straight to start the NFL season.

The Patriots are rolling along with an explosive offense and a stingy defence and are now 7-0 for just the third time in franchise history.

"We had good execution. That's what you need to sustain long drives," Brady said. "Our defence is playing great football. They cover the rush, stop the run and make critical plays. It is awesome to watch."

New England kept pace with the San Francisco 49ers (6-0) as the NFL's only undefeated teams.

The stumbling Jets didn't do themselves any favours gaining just 154 total yards in losing their eighth straight game to New England. Quarterback Sam Darnold had five turnovers and threw four interceptions at MetLife Stadium.

"Obviously, that was brutal," said head coach Adam Gase. "We didn't do anything right. Just a bad performance. We can't play that way against these guys. It is just not good enough. We got a lot of work to do."

New England also swept their AFC East rivals in the regular season series for the fourth consecutive year and Brady is now 29-6 against New York in the regular season.

Brady threw a touchdown pass to Phillip



EAST RUTHERFORD: Trumaine Johnson #22 of the New York Jets tackles Benjamin Watson #84 of the New England Patriots as he carries the ball during the first half of their game at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey. — AFP

Dorsett to improve to 17-7 in Monday night games, including 3-0 against New York. Sony Michel finished with a career high three rushing touchdowns.

The Patriots forced six turnovers as Devin McCourty, Duron Harmon, Stephon Gilmore and Terrence Brooks all grabbed interceptions to increase New England's NFL-leading count to 18.

The Patriots have now outscored the Jets 78-3 in their last two Monday night clashes. In 2010,

New England clobbered the Jets 45-3. Darnold missed three games with mononucleosis then returned to lead the Jets to a 24-22 win over Dallas last Sunday. Darnold's performance against the Cowboys earned him the AFC offensive player of the week honours.

But he was stumbled mightily coming off that game against New England, completing 11 of 32 passes for 86 yards. He also matched a career-worst four interceptions. — AFP

Japanese swim coach quits Bangladesh over punishment of juniors

DHAKA: The Japanese head coach of Bangladesh's national swimming federation has quit after alleging that junior swimmers were forced to do punishment exercises in the blazing sun for using their phones too much.

Announcing his resignation on Facebook, Takeo Inoke, who was hired in August ahead of the South Asian Games in December, said he had "zero tolerance" for physical punishment. Inoki said that a group of juniors were given "meaningless physical exercise" in temperatures of 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) on Sunday for breaching rules limiting their mobile phone usage.

Forced to wear long sleeves and tracksuit bottoms in the hot sun, the children had to run, do somersaults and frog jumps on a hard tiled floor. One of them then collapsed to the ground.

The girl was left lying for about 10 minutes and when Inoki raised his concerns, the other coaches "were laughing and saying that she was acting and we should leave her there."

Eventually she was brought to a shaded area but Inoki said he was told there was no ice and no phone to call an ambulance. Finally she was taken away "to somewhere" by van, he said.

Inoki said he would notify FINA, the world swimming federation, and that he hoped this "sad incident would become (a) critical tuning point into building a new competitive swimming organization and structure in Bangladesh." Bangladesh Swimming Federation chief M.B. Saif said they were "surprised" at the resignation. "The swimmers are allowed to keep a phone with them only one day a week. They broke the rule and were punished. Usually these punishments are not very harsh," he said, adding a probe has been ordered.

Physical punishment of children and teenagers is widespread in Bangladesh although corporal punishment has technically been banned since 1995. A study by UNICEF in 2009 year found that nine out of 10 children in Bangladesh are physically beaten in school, with seven out of 10 reporting they receive similar treatment at home. — AFP

Epic pitching lineups lead Astros, Nats into World Series

HOUSTON: Two of the greatest pitching rotations in baseball playoff history will duel when the 115th World Series starts today with Houston's Gerrit Cole and Washington's Max Scherzer on the mound.

Major League Baseball's best-of-seven championship showdown is the first since 1945 to feature six of the 20 pitchers with the lowest earned-run averages from the regular season.

Cole, Justin Verlander and Zack Greinke ignite the Astros, who seek a second title in three seasons, while Scherzer, Steven Strasburg and Patrick Corbin power Washington, which will try to bring the US capital its first crown since 1924.

"Both sides have got unbelievable starting pitching so it's going to be a lot of fun," Nationals manager Dave Martinez said. "I just want our club to go out there and play the game like we're capable of playing, and focus on the little things."

It's the first MLB playoff series to feature five of the 10 major league strikeouts leaders, paced by Cole and Verlander and joined by the Nats' trio. It's only the second time since 1930 that the two teams with the most strikeouts from starters meet in the World Series.

"There are a lot of really good starting pitchers on the other side of the field, guys that kind of emulate the role in terms of longevity, durability, creativeness, tenacity, grit," Cole said. "Just a pleasure to share the field with them on the greatest stage."

The Astros have won 16 consecutive games when Cole has started. The 29-year-old right-hander hasn't lost a game in five months and has struck out 39.7 percent of all batters he has faced in the season and playoffs, a major league record. — Reuters

Teenage Pakistan fast bowlers aim to rattle Australia

LAHORE: Pakistan's rookie pace duo of Musa Khan and Naseem Shah have promised to rattle Australia with their speed when they travel Down Under next month for a two-test series and three Twenty20 Internationals. Seen as two of the fastest bowlers in Pakistan's domestic circuit, 19-year-old Musa was included in both squads on Monday, while 16-year-old Naseem has been named in the test attack featuring a third teenager in Shaheen Afridi. "I am not thinking about bowling to the likes of David Warner or Steve Smith, rather I want to make an impression with my pace and penetration," Musa said in a news release issued by the Pakistan Cricket Board yesterday.

"My strength is bowling fast. Waqar Younis and Shoaib Akhtar are my fast bowling idols and I want to replicate their performances and instil fear in batsmen like they did." The inclusion of Naseem and Musa is seen as a bold move by head coach and chief selector Misbah-ul-Haq, who wants the team to play aggressive cricket under new test skipper Azhar Ali.

Naseem, who has already built a domestic reputation for his sharp bouncers, said that on his maiden call-up he also hopes to have an immediate impact. "I aim to make an impression with my speed and swing if given a chance in the tests against Australia," he said.

"The conditions in Australia help fast bowlers, my aim is to make maximum use of the conditions and give a tough time to the home side. Playing on hard and bouncy pitches will be a great experience and a learning curve for me."

Beginning on Nov. 3, Pakistan will play three Twenty20 Internationals in Australia before the tests in Brisbane and Adelaide, the last being a day-night affair. — Reuters

Corruption claim deepens Bangladesh cricket crisis

DHAKA: A former Bangladesh cricket chief said yesterday that match fixing was widespread in the country, deepening a crisis sparked by a strike by top players over wages.

Former Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Saber Hossain Chowdhury, a British-educated lawyer, businessman and now member of parliament, said corruption was deep-rooted at the governing body.

"@BCBTigers is only national sporting body in the world that promotes institutionalised #matchfixing, #corruption," he said on his Twitter account, adding: "Unbelievable!!"

"Flagged this issue many times myself," he said. National captain Shakib Al Hasan raised concerns about corruption in domestic cricket on Monday when announcing that most of the country's professional players had started a strike to press for better pay and benefits.

The stoppage threatens a Bangladesh tour of India next month. "We all know the sorry state of our first, second and third division cricket," Shakib said. "A lot of the times we know which team will win and which team will lose before the match starts. The strike comes amid growing criticism of the BCB from cricketers who say the governing body is not sharing enough of its growing wealth."

Local cricketers want Bangladesh players and coaches to be paid more in line with foreign hires. They have demanded a 50 percent pay hike for first-class players, the expansion of national pay contracts, increased match fees in domestic games and better benefits for support staff. Allegations of match fixing and corruption in Bangladesh cricket are not new, and in 2014 the entire Bangladesh Premier League T20 contest was suspended under a graft cloud.

In another notorious case in 2017, authorities banned a bowler for 10 years after he delivered a succession of wides and no-balls to concede 92 runs to deliberately lose a match in what his team called a protest against biased umpiring. That Dhaka League Second Division game raised suspicions after a Lalmatia bowler sent down 13 wides and three no-balls in the first over — all of which raced to the boundary — costing his side 80 runs.

Lalmatia had earlier been dismissed for just 88 off 14 overs before opponents Axiom reached 92-0 off just four legal deliveries. — AFP