

Harbhajan after Younis

AFP, Bangalore

TVS
TVS CUP
INDIA v PAKISTAN 2005

Younis Khan feasted on a listless Indian attack with a maiden double-century as Pakistan posted a massive 570 in the third and final Test here on Friday.

He batted almost two days to smash a sparkling 267, the sixth-highest score in Pakistani Test cricket after Hanif Mohammad (337), Inzamamul Haq (329), Javed Miandad (280 not out and 271) and Zaheer Abbas (274).

India were 55 for no loss in reply at stumps, with Virender Sehwag (39 not out) hitting one six into the stands off leg-spinner Danish Kaneria. Gautam Gambhir was batting on 13.

Off-spinner Harbhajan Singh, reported for his suspect bowling action in the second Test at Calcutta, dismissed Asim Kamal and Abdul Razzaq in the space of 18 runs in his best spell of the day.

Kamal (four) top-edged a sweep to be caught by skipper Sourav Ganguly at backward square-leg, while Razzaq (five) offered an easy return catch.

Harbhajan finished with 6-152, his 16th haul of five or more wickets in an innings in 45 Tests.

But Pakistan were already on course for a huge total before Harbhajan's twin-strike, thanks to Younis's brilliant knock.

Younis, 127 overnight, offered a chance on 179 when he edged paceman Laxmipathy Balaji in the slips but the ball went between Venkatsai Laxman and Rahul Dravid for a four.

He held the innings together after the dismissal of skipper Inzamam, who fell at his overnight score of 184. He was trapped leg-before by Balaji off the first ball he faced this morning.

The Pakistani captain struck 25 fours in his 264-ball knock.

India's breakthrough came after almost a day as Inzamam and Younis put on 324 after two wickets had fallen in the opening three overs on Thursday.

There was no respite for the hosts as Younis again propped up the innings with an 84-run stand for the fourth wicket with Younus Youhana (37), who was caught behind trying to cut Harbhajan.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the third and final Test between India and Pakistan at the Chinnaswamy Stadium on Friday:

PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 323-2)

Hameed c Karthik b Pathan	6
Afridi c David b Balaji	0
Younis c Pathan b Harbhajan	267
Inzamam lbw b Balaji	184
Youhana c Karthik b Harbhajan	37
Kamal c Ganguly b Harbhajan	4

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THE TURBINATOR TURNS IT ON: Indian off-spinner Harbhajan Singh acknowledges the crowd's applause after claiming six Pakistani wickets on the second day of the Bangalore Test yesterday.

'I was under no pressure'

AFP, Bangalore

Under-scanner Harbhajan Singh of India said Friday the row over his bowling action did not affect him on the way to his six-wicket haul in the third and final Test against Pakistan here.

"I was not thinking of the bowling action," said off-spinner Harbhajan, who finished with 6-152 for his 16th haul of five or more wickets in an innings in 45 Tests.

"I played without any pressure and am happy that I performed well," said Harbhajan, who was reported for his suspect bowling action by English match referee Chris Broad after the second Test at Calcutta.

In contention was his 'doosra', a delivery which turns away from the right-handed batsmen instead of coming into them like a normal off-break.

"The Indian board is there to take care of the matter," said Harbhajan.

"I was not worried and also bowled 'doosra' during this innings because I am not banned from

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No room for Shoaib

AFP, New Delhi

Fiery fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar, left out of Pakistan's ongoing Test series in India due to a hamstring injury, was also ignored for the six one-day internationals to be played next month, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced on Friday.

Off-spinner Mohammad Hafeez and seamers Rao Iftikhar and Shahid Nazir will join the tourists in India for the one-dayers. They will replace Taufeeq Umar, Yasir Hameed and Mohammad Khalil who will return home after the Test series.

"Shoaib Akhtar is undergoing training. His fitness has improved substantially but he will require

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PHOTO: STAR
Muktijoddha's Ghanaian recruit Charles Ghansha (3rd from L) being congratulated by teammates after he had opened the scoring against Abahani in the first semifinal of the Independence Day Gold Cup football tournament yesterday.

Mukti leave it late

Charles Ghansha put the Reds ahead in the 75th minute. And in the 82nd minute Saifur Rahman Moni ensured the Sky Blues' elimination.

Muktijoddha now meet the winners of tomorrow's second semifinal between Premier League champions Brothers Union and Mohammedan Sporting Club in the March 30 final.

The giants' clash hardly provided any attractive football in the first 45 minutes as both teams committed sloppy passes.

Muktijoddha went into the match without three key players who were all suspended and also that applied to their inspirational coach Shafiqul Islam Manik, who is serving a two-match ban on disciplinary ground.

But the absence of playmaker Arman Mia meant there was little or no supply to their forwards Kanchan and Moni.

On the other hand, Abahani took control of the midfield and although they appeared to be more impressive than in earlier matches, it was not enough to break though Muktijoddha's solid defence marshalled by Rajani Kanta Barman.

Abahani also blocked the threat posed by long throw specialist Belal Ahmed, whose missile-like throws had terrorised many sides in the tournament.

The popular Dhamondi outfit's

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Annual Indo-Pak series on cards

BBC SPORT, undated

Pakistan and India are planning to play a series every year from now on.

Speaking exclusively to BBC Hindi, Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Shaharyar Khan also confirmed India will tour Pakistan early next year.

He said: "The BCCI and PCB have agreed to make this an annual feature. We might have a break for the World Cup in 2007, but it will resume the next year."

"With the ICC calendar being extended to six years, it will be easier to fit in the series every year."

India played in Pakistan last year -- their first tour of the country for almost 15 years.

Khan said no dates had been finalised for next year's series but said discussions were ongoing with the Board of Control for Cricket in India.

Khan also offered his backing to captain Inzamamul Haq, whose leadership has been called into question.

Pakistan have yet to win a Test series under the 35-year-old, and are trailing 1-0 in their Test series in India.

But the PCB chairman insisted: "Inzamam is the only world-class player we have at the moment. He is our best batsman and no one understands the game better than him."

"I would want him to lead the team at least till the 2007 World Cup."

"He will be 37 by then. I don't think a batsman should retire at that age but I think captaincy will be difficult then."

What to WATCH

DD Sports & TEN Sports

India vs Pakistan
Third Test, Day Three
Live at 10:30 am

ESPN

WC Soccer Qualifier
England vs Northern Ireland
Live at 8:55 pm

New Zealand vs Australia
Third Test, Day Two
Live at 4:30 am (Sunday)

STAR Sports

Brazilian Football
Sao Paulo vs Santo Andre
Live at 1:00 am (Sunday)

India vs Pakistan
Third Test, Day Three

Highlights at 8:30 pm

TEN Sports

WC Soccer Qualifier
Argentina vs Bolivia
Live at 3:00 am (Sunday)