

Draw looms

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rain stopped play, came on in the 14th. But an increasingly assured Ganga off-drove his third ball for four in front of a sparse crowd before bad light halted proceedings.

England, were a bowler light with Matthew Hoggard off the field since Saturday because of a thigh problem and were also missing all-rounder Andrew Flintoff, out of this match due to a recurrence of a left ankle injury.

That England, in their first match under new coach Peter Moores, set a stiff chase owed much to Kevin Pietersen's dashing 109 in a second innings total of 284 for eight declared.

West Indies, who'd seen England pile up an imposing 553 for five declared in their first innings, fought hard to avoid the follow-on but were bowled out for 437.

Their performance was all the more creditable given that two days of their three-day game against Somerset, their lone warm-up fixture in England, were washed out.

Panesar's haul included five lbws - the first time this had been achieved in a Test innings by a spinner and only the fifth in an innings in all.

England's first innings saw Matt Prior become the first England wicket-keeper to score a century on Test debut with a rapid 126 not out.

Paul Collingwood (111), Ian Bell (109 not out) and Alastair Cook (105) also reached three figures, four England batsmen scoring hundreds in the same Test innings for the first time in 69 years.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the fifth day of the first Test between England and West Indies at Lord's on Monday:

ENGLAND: First innings 553-5 declared (Prior 126 not out, Collingwood 111, I Bell 109 not out, A Cook 105)

WEST INDIES: First innings 437 (Chanderpaul 74, Ramdin 60, Bravo 56; Panesar 6-129)

ENGLAND: Second innings

Strauss c Morton b Collymore	24
Cook c Ramdin b Collymore	65
Shah c Ramdin b Collymore	4
Pietersen lbw b Gayle	109
Collingwood c Morton b Bravo	34
Bell c Ganga b Bravo	3
Prior c Bravo b Gayle	21
Plunkett st Ramdin b Gayle	0
Harmison not out	11
Panesar not out	3
Extras: (b-1, lb-3, w-1, nb-5)	10
Total: (For 8 wickets declared in 66.5 overs)	284
Fall of wickets: 1-35, 2-51, 3-139, 4-241, 5-248, 6-264, 7-264, 8-271	

Did not bat: Hoggard

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Powell	9	0	44	0
Collymore	15	1	58	3
Gayle	20.5	4	66	3
Bravo	18	2	91	2
Taylor	4	0	21	0

WEST INDIES: Second innings (overnight 7-0)

Gaylen not out	47
Gangan not out	31
Extras: (b-4, lb-3, w-3, nb-1)	11
Total: (For no loss in 22 overs)	89

To bat: Smith, Sarwan, Chanderpaul, Morton, Bravo, Ramdin, Powell, Taylor, Collymore

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Harmison	8	1	21	0
Plunkett	11	1	48	0
Panesar	3	0	13	0

Eye to eye

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"I think Mashrafe is best batsman in the team. I was not surprised that the way Mashrafe batted today because he can do anything. He is great," was the compliments of Shahadat for his new ball partner.

But he said that the pitch was fantastic for batting. "The pitch was fantastic for batting. It's tough to take a wicket if a batsman makes no mistake," he said.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

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the third round. Liza was closely followed by IWM Rani Hamid, Nazrana Khan Eva, Zakia Sultana and Mahmuda Haque, all with 2.5 points.

DIVITT

Sports World blanked Combined SC 3-0 in the AB Bank division table tennis super league at the Woodenfloor Gymnasium but fellow title contenders Palolic Group dropped one set on way to a 3-1 win over Dhaka South East TTC. In the other match, TT Academy defeated Barna TTC in straight sets.

Berlusconi picks

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"The President's role is to motivate the team and give the mission statement to the Coach and players," said Berlusconi.

"I don't think our results in my 21 years here have been all that bad... Ancelotti, Tassotti and Costacurra are great friends and this atmosphere will certainly help the work done at Milanello."

If one old face is moving on, then another could return, as the patron and former Italian Prime Minister has again invited Andriy Shevchenko to end his Chelsea spell.

"The doors are not just open for Sheva, they are spread out wide for him. I would not change Milani with any other squad, especially after the arrival of Ronaldo and the focus on youngsters in the future to lower the average age of the team."



PHOTO: AFP

Pakistani cricketers Kamram Akmal (L), Imran Nazir (2nd L) and captain Shoaib Malik congratulate Shahid Afridi (R) for taking the wicket of Sri Lankan batsman Upul Tharanga (not in picture) in the second one-day international at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Sunday.

Now Afridi with the ball

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Try as Sri Lanka might, keeping Shahid Afridi from tinkering with matches is proving beyond them currently. Having laughed, and walloped, in the face of a taut game two nights ago, Afridi conjured up another opportune intervention to lead Pakistan to a 98-run win and a series triumph at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Sunday night.

Afridi's bowling has kept his place in the team in recent months. The leg-spin is more pick 'n' mix than mystical, but its effectiveness is in little doubt. Shoaib Malik knew it when he shunned the third powerplay and brought him on as early as the 17th over.

He had little choice, for Sri Lanka were picking their way delightfully into a daunting 314-run target. Their openers had set the tone, in a wonderfully free-spirited, attacking opening. Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Sami attacked in contrasting manner, Chamara Kapugedera and Upul Tharanga responded in kind. By the fifth over, Tharanga was putting away Asif for three fours, of which the last -- a punch down the ground -- was the pick.

Two wickets fell, whereupon began the real game. Outside Australia, there cannot currently be a more assured presence at the crease than Mahela Jayawardene. If Pakistan needed proof, he soon gave it to them. Having already clipped Sami square, he pulled Umar Gul so elegantly that the resulting gargantuan six seemed too uncouth a result for it. Tharanga kept up, driving Asif relentlessly, in the 15th over, a fifty union came up, as well as, staggeringly, the 100.

It was then that Afridi's itchy fingers clicked. Tharanga fell in his second over and almost every delivery asked a question different from the last. Some bounced, some spun

more, some went the other way, some had more hustle. Malik, who had come on himself, ensured that runs dried up.

Both went through their ten overs unchanged, Afridi adding Chamara Silva and Prasanna Jayawardene to his tally. The latter, dismissed one over after Malik trapped Tillakaratne Dilshan, effectively ended the match. Jayawardene, the skipper, refused to forego his grace under fire but when he fell at the start of the third powerplay, with him went the series.

As with the chase, so with the fielding: Sri Lanka were well in at various stages only to give it away. Having started by resting Lasith Malinga and Sanath Jayasuriya, the World Cup finalists didn't help their cause.

An attack more notable for who wasn't there rather than who was thus presented Pakistan's batting with plentiful gifts. Salman Butt and Yasir Hameed took advantage, with a blazing sun and a no-frills track to help, to post a pair of pretty fifties.

Ruchira Perera in particular seemed to have gotten up on the wrong side of the bed: left-arm and of indeterminate pace he may be, Chaminda Vaas he isn't. The no-ball to begin the innings was careless, the two leg-side half-volleys that Butt clipped through square leg were worse.

It was a recurring leitmotif in those first overs, Perera honing in on Butt's shins and toes, the batsman honing in on the square leg hoarding. Dilhara Fernando was quicker, but no better. Though he sent back Imran Nazir early, the start had been given away.

Butt and Hameed slipped into a delicious groove, their timing not betraying lengthy absences. Not a slog was seen during the duo's 98-run partnership, as befits batsmen of such poise, yet they still went at nearly a run a ball. Drives, angled bats, flicks, punches all slipped past fielders on the surface rather than the air, Butt bringing up an important fifty -- his first in 15 months --

inevitably putting Perera away.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second one-day international between Pakistan and Sri Lanka at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Sunday:

PAKISTAN

Butt c and b Bandara	74
Nazir b Fernando	17
Hameed c and b Bandara	50
Yousuf run out	37
Malik b Bandara	27
Akmal c Dilshan b Maharoor	38
Afridi c Bandara b Maharoor	1
Razaq b Fernando	16
Sami b Maharoor	22
Gul not out	0
Asif not out	5
Extras: (lb-5, w-17, nb-4)	26
Total: (For 9 wickets in 50 overs)	313
Fall of wickets: 1-45, 2-143, 3-167, 4-207, 5-233, 6-237, 7-277, 8-308, 9-308	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Perera	10	2	67	0
Fernando	10	0	71	2
Maharoor	10	0	65	3
Bandara	10	0	56	3
Dilshan	10	0	49	0

SRI LANKA

Tharanga c Nazir b Afridi	48
Kapugedera b Sami	20
Wanapura lbw b Asif	5
M Jayawardene b Asif	61
Silva c Razaq b Afridi	21
Dilshan lbw b Malik	10
P Jayawardene lbw b Afridi	1
Maharoor c Butt b Sami	17
Bandara c Hameed b Gul	11
Fernando not out	2
Perera b Gul	0
Extras: (b-1, lb-7, w-5, nb-6)	19
Total: (All out in 39.5 overs)	215
Fall of wickets: 1-37, 2-49, 3-113, 4-153, 5-172, 6-176, 7-188, 8-205, 9-215	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Asif	10	0	59	2
Sami	6	1	27	2
Gul	3.5	0	38	2
Malik	10	0	46	1
Afridi	10	0	37	3

Result: Pakistan won by 98 runs take a 2-0 winning lead in the 3-ODI series.

Man-of-the-match: Salman Butt.
Toss: Pakistan.
Umpires: Suresh Shastri and Russell Tiffin.

Dav favourite

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new coach could be announced on that day or that announcement could be postponed for a few days if they want more time."

Professor Shetty said no further prospective candidates will be spoken to in the interim.

He confirmed that there was no official interview process in place. Once the committee has announced who the desired coach is, that person will then be offered the job.

Professor Shetty added: "Whatmore has expressed a desire to coach India.

"The committee may feel he is the one they want, but the players' views will be taken into consideration also."

On Sunday, Sachin Tendulkar said he had hoped the players would have some input.

Whatmore will quit his post as Bangladesh coach on 29 May. His team are currently playing against India in a Test match in Chittagong.

He recently told Press Trust of India: "All I can say is I am ready for the challenge if the opportunity comes.

"I am as much ready to sink my teeth into the problems and find out a solution as the BCCI would want me to.

"I had a short discussion with [interim India coach] Ravi [Shastri] about taking up the job of coaching India.

"The discussion centred around how interested I am. I am satisfied with the initial discussion. We are both satisfied."

Pawar could be next ICC boss

PTI, Ahmedabad

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Monday claimed that it had enough support to get its president Sharad Pawar elected as the head of International Cricket Council (ICC).

"Our (BCCI) president becoming ICC president is very important. Cricket is highest popular game in India so why not a president from India," said BCCI secretary Nirajan Shah.

"Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and South Africa are supporting Pawar so why should the next ICC president not be from India," he added.

Vaughan set to return for 2nd Test

BBC ONLINE, undated

Michael Vaughan is set to return as captain for the second Test against the West Indies as the squad for Headingley was to be revealed later Monday.

Vaughan missed the first Test against West Indies at Lord's with a broken finger but has since recovered.

Matthew Hoggard has strained a thigh muscle and is expected to be ruled out of the match starting on Friday.

That means James Anderson is set to replace him in the squad, with Owais Shah the man to make way for Vaughan.

PROBABLE SQUAD

Michael Vaughan (captain), Alistair Cook, Andrew Strauss, Kevin Pietersen, Paul Collingwood, Ian Bell, Matt Prior, Liam Plunkett, Steve Harmison, Monty Panesar, James Anderson.

Hargreaves's MU

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Intercontinental Cup, both in 2001.

But Beckenbauer refused to confirm the arrival of Chelsea's 23-year-old Dutch forward Arjen Robben, which was reported in British Sunday paper The Observer.

After their worst Bundesliga season since 1995, Bayern, who finished fourth, are set to recruit hard this summer and are keen to sign Italian striker Luca Toni and German veteran Miroslav Klose, the top-scorer at last year's World Cup.

Carlos keeps

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Getafe on 55 minutes and Daniel Guiza grabbed a fourth for Bernd Schuster's side on 65 minutes.

Del Moral netted his second of the game and completed the rout on 71 minutes to seal a miserable week for Espanyol.

Real Sociedad boosted their survival hopes with a 3-1 victory over fellow strugglers Celta Vigo.

Gustavo Lopez gave Celta the lead on 20 minutes, but three second half goals from Darko Kovacevic (46), Savio (51) and Aitor Lopez Rekarte (77) gave Sociedad all three points.

Villarreal kept alive their European hopes alive with a 2-1 win over Racing Santander.

Alessio Tacchinardi set Villarreal on their way with the opener on 19 minutes and Cani doubled the lead just before the hour mark.

Felipe Melo pulled a goal back for Racing on 65 minutes, but Villarreal held on to take all three points.

Roberto Soldado inspired Osasuna to a 4-1 success over ten-man Levante.

Levante always faced an uphill battle from the moment Jose Molina was sent off after just five minutes.

Osasuna made their numerical advantage count when Soldado scored his first goal of the game on 18 minutes and he doubled the lead with his second on 32 minutes.

Inaki Descarga gave Levante hope by pulling a goal back a minute before the break, but Raul Garcia restored Osasuna's two-goal cushion right on the stroke of half-time.

Soldado completed his treble on 64 minutes to leave Levante anxiously looking over their shoulders at the wrong end of the table.

Loew ready

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Low praised his former club Stuttgart, who he coached for nearly two years in the late 1990s, and their coach Armin Veh for their unexpected success with a team containing an average age of less than 25.

"Stuttgart surprised a few people," said Low. "They are a strong attacking side and have a good balance between youth and more experienced players."

But Low, who has criticised Bundesliga standards this season, said Germany's top sides still have some way to go to match Europe's top domestic teams.

"There is still a way to go when you look at the standard achieved by teams in the Champions League semifinals," he said.

"We still have some work to do if we are going to reach those levels."

Kevin stands by Steve

Cricket

AFP, London

England century-maker Kevin Pietersen insisted the hosts had no qualms about misfiring fast bowler Stephen Harmison leading their victory charge on the final day of the first Test against the West Indies here at Lord's.

West Indies head into Monday's fifth day needing a further 394 runs to reach their victory target of 401 with all 10 wickets standing.

Their task has been made easier as England's four-man attack is set to be a man light with swing specialist Matthew Hoggard "unlikely to bowl", according to a team spokesman, after leaving the field on Saturday with a thigh injury and not taking any part at all on the fourth day.

That has left Harmison, England's fastest bowler, with greater responsibility. But a first innings haul of one for 117 in the Durham quick's first international since the Ashes didn't inspire confidence.

And nor did the sight of Harmison and county colleague Liam Plunkett both bowling huge wides in the two overs of West Indies' second innings possible before stumps on Sunday.

But Pietersen, whose dashing 109 was the centrepiece of England's second innings 284 for eight declared that set up their push

for a win, said Harmison would come good.

"We're not concerned with Steve at all," South Africa-born shotmaker Pietersen told reporters after scoring his seventh hundred in his 24 Tests.

"We just know he's going to click. He's bowled so well for Durham at the start of the season, he's been brilliant. I don't know whether it was the slope or what it is here at Lord's, but when he gets it right he's a handful. The sky is the limit for that bloke -- he could be the best bowler in the world."

That England had a first innings lead of 116 was down to left-arm spinner Monty Panesar's haul of six for 129 in 36.1 overs.

"Monty just comes in and does his job," said an admiring Pietersen. "He gets everyone going and excited."

"He could be the key on the fifth day, but we've got a lot of firepower in Plunkett and Harmison which we haven't seen properly yet this Test."

Looking at the match situation, Pietersen added: "I know that if I was in the West Indies camp right now I'd be a bit nervous."

"If we dig a trench on a good length and build some pressure there is no reason why we can't take 10 wickets tomorrow (Monday)."

Pietersen, having missed out in England's first innings 553 for five declared when four other batsmen including debutant wicketkeeper Matt Prior all scored centuries, said patience had been the key to his

hundred.

"I knew I needed to build an innings. I was in one-day mode in the first innings and I went away after that and worked very hard in the nets with (England coach) Peter Moores."

"I tried to get as much patience back in my game as I possibly could."

Pietersen was involved in some verbal exchanges with West Indies opening batsman Chris Gayle. But the friendly pat on the back he received from Gayle after the part-time off-spinner had him lbw suggested nothing malicious.

"Chris and I are really good friends. We played in the World Series together and we talk to each other every week. It was just friendly banter."

Shortly before stumps Gayle was struck a painful blow in the groin when he missed a Harmison delivery and Pietersen said: "It was particularly pleasing to see him get one this evening ... it did make me giggle."

"I'll be on the phone tonight to advise him on how he should have played it."

"It just gets me concentrating, gets me going," explained Pietersen of his verbal jousts with opposition bowlers. "It might look silly on occasions, but that is just a way of me keeping myself tuned in."

"I'm no Einstein, so it helps me relax as well -- so that I can be tuned in again when the bowler gets back to his mark."



PHOTO: AFP

England batsman Kevin Pietersen sends a Corey Collymore delivery towards the boundary during the first Test against West Indies at Lord's on Sunday.

Abahani stay on top

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Paceman Talha Jubair picked up

Mehrab Hossain Opee and Alok Kapali, Sonargaon's last match hero who fell for a six-ball duck, at the top while Sri Lankan leg-spinner Upul Chandana and left-arm spinner Kamrul Hasan also chipped in with a couple each.

MOHAMMEDAN-VICTORIA

Combative top-order batting including Aftab Ahmed's 74 off 63 balls led Mohammedan to a huge 283-7, a total that proved too good for Victoria who responded with 218 at the Sher-e-bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Rashedul Haque made a run-a-ball 69 and Junaid Siddique 54 from 68 for the 120-run opening wicket which saw 17 boundaries inclusive of three sixes in the first 20 overs.

Indian recruit Sandeep Sharma missed out the run feast but man-of-the-match Aftab, who has lost his place from the Test team, kept the tempo hitting three fours and as many sixes in an entertaining knock. Faisal Hossain gave the finishing touch, the southpaw contributing a quickfire 46 off 42 deliveries.

Victoria all but ran out of contention at four down for 56 and slow fifties by opener Nasiruddin Faruque (63 off 84 balls) and

Hasanuzzaman Rosel (55 off 77 balls) hardly helped their cause.

DOHS-BIMAN

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Bangladesh's explosive one-day opener Tamim overshadowed his elder brother Nafis Iqbal's efforts as bottom-table Old DOHS stormed to 245-5 in the 40th over after restricting Biman to 240.

The Chittagong left-hander smashed 14 fours and eight sixes to plunder the rival attack in his 139 off 97 deliveries, that earned him the man-of-the-match award without any competition.

The Biman innings, which slumped to nought for two wickets in the first over, was built around a 150-run third wicket stand between Nafis (72 off 94 balls) and Sanwar Hossain (74 off 91 balls).

SCORES IN BRIEF

SONARGAON: 185 all out in 45.4 overs (Opee 22, Ezaz 6, Ilias 4, Shahriar 52, Kapali 0, Marshall 60 n.o., Dhiman 16, Sharif 9, Muntasir 0, Mahbub 8, Masudur 0, extras 8, Zia 1-17, Shahjada 1-27, Talha 2-25, Sadat 1-39, Chandana 2-31, Kamrul 2-15, Istiaque 1-10).

ABAHANI: 187-5 in 40.4 overs (Sadat 42, Zia 0, Nazim 0, Naem 63, Kuntal 35, Chandana 16 n.o., Shahjada 4 n.o., extras 27, Mahbub

2-13, Sharif 1-37, Kapali 2-20).

Result: Abahani won by five wickets.

MOHAMMEDAN: 283-7 in 50 overs (Rashedul 69, Junaid 54, Sharma 5, Aftab 74, Sahagir 11, Faisal 46, Hasibul 10, Arafat 1-51, Arafat 1-33, Monirul 1-56, Rezaul 3-38, Aftab 1-10).