

# Pak tail wags again

## Cricket

AFP, Dubai

Pakistan tail-end batsman Zulqarnain Haider and Wahab Riaz pulled off a sensational one-wicket win for their team over South Africa in the fourth one-day match after Younis Khan's fifty here on Friday.

Younis's sedate 73 built Pakistan's run-chase but they owed it to their tail-enders Haider (19 not out) and Riaz (18) as they put on 28 runs for the ninth wicket to help their team chase down a challenging 275-run target.

Fit-again Graeme Smith played a captain's knock of 92 to steer South Africa to a challenging 274-6 but once again his team choked in the final moments despite having grabbed all top wickets.

Pakistan still needed 31 when they lost Abdul Razzaq (33) -- whose robust 72-ball 109 not out shocked South Africa by one wicket in the second match in Abu Dhabi -- but Haider and Riaz held their nerves.

Even when Riaz was run out with three needed off as many deliveries, Haider kept his cool, scoring two off pace-man Wayne Parnell and then pulled the penultimate delivery for a single, much to the delight of a 25,000 capacity crowd.

The win helped Pakistan level the series at 2-2 and set up an intriguing fifth and final match here on Monday.

It was Younis whose 115-ball half-century with only one boundary put Pakistan on course for a tight run-chase, adding 58 for the second wicket with Mohammad Hafeez (42) and 56 with Asad Shafiq (36).

So cautious was Younis that

his first boundary came in the 37th over, but he kept Pakistan on course with another 49 for the sixth wicket with Razzaq before paceman Morne Morkel dismissed both to finish with 3-48.



PHOTO: AFP

Pakistan batsman Younis Khan works the ball through mid-wicket during the fourth one-dayer against South Africa at the Dubai Cricket Stadium on Friday. The returning Younis smashed 73 in Pakistan's one-wicket win.

Captain Shahid Afridi also bolstered the run-chase with a swift 25-ball 29 studded with four boundaries.

Pakistan coach Waqar Younis praised his team's fighting ability.

"One should praise the game, it was a hell of a match and all praise to the boys who showed great fighting ability, especially Younis who batted

well and the tail-enders who kept us in the hunt," said Waqar.

Earlier Smith missed his ninth one-day century by just eight runs on his return after injuring his hand during

spinner Hafeez in the 31st over. De Villiers then took charge along with Jean-Paul Duminy (36) as South Africa added 84 in the last ten overs. De Villiers's 70-ball knock was without a boundary but he batted sensibly after Smith's departure.

Smith said his team put up a good total but didn't bowl well. "A total of 274 was good," said Smith. "We needed to bowl decently but we didn't and gave the momentum to Pakistan and in the end we had a chance to win, but it didn't come about."

Paceman Riaz briefly put brakes on the South African innings by dismissing Duminy and David Miller (nought) off successive deliveries but Colin Ingram (27 not out) and Johan Botha (28 not out) lifted the total in the last five overs.

The two added an invaluable 54 runs in the batting power-play. It was Smith who gave South African innings the required pace, putting on 35 for the first wicket with Hashim Amla (10) before Shoaib Akhtar removed Amla in the seventh over.

Smith paced the innings with three boundaries off Riaz in the 15 over before raising his 42nd half-century off 57 balls. **SCORES IN BRIEF** SOUTH AFRICA: 274 for 6 in 50 overs (Smith 92, De Villiers 49, Duminy 36, Ingram 27 not out, Botha 28 not out; Akhtar 2-51, Riaz 2-61, Hafeez 2-37) PAKISTAN: 275 for 9 in 49.5 overs (Younis 73, Hafeez 42, Shafiq 36, Razzaq 33, Afridi 29; Morkel 3-48) **Result:** Pakistan won by one wicket **Man-of-the-match:** Younis Khan.

South Africa's eight wicket win in the first match in Abu Dhabi. South Africa took a 2-1 lead with a narrow two-run win in the third match here on Tuesday.

Smith put on a 94-run stand with AB de Villiers (49) to put South African on course for a big total before he was trapped leg-before by off-

one of the pre-tournament favourites in Fernando Verdasco in the last round and quickly broke Davydenko who was struggling against numerous unforced errors.

Davydenko fought back after losing his serve in the second set and took Simon to a tie-break, which he won 7-5. However, in the final set the mistakes which riddled his game earlier returned and he lost 6-3.

Simon has emerged as Davydenko's nemesis, beating the Russian the last four times they have met but he will need to recover quickly before facing Granollers on Saturday.

"This is one of the best matches I have played this season. I had to fight right to the end," said Simon, now ranked 52nd but a former top-ten player. Simon, who won in Metz at the end of September, eliminated

Granollers in the semifinals. Simon won in place of Aminul. If vice-captain Wali does not recover in time too, either Mamun Miah or Mamunul Islam will switch position to play as the left-back.

Bangladeshi booters practiced yesterday after sitting out the first day at Guangzhou due to a heavy downpour. The Uzbeks are physically stronger than the Bangladeshis, an evaluation of assistant coach Saiful Bari Titu. "Asian Games is a very big event and we have to show our best. The Uzbeks have an advantage that they have a better physic but we will only concentrate on our game and not on the opponents," he said.

Taylor provided good support to his partner, reaching his 10th Test fifty with a boundary off Harbhajan, but he fell soon after to the off-spinner, offering a simple catch at short mid-wicket to Venkatsai Laxman.

McCullum missed the chance to make a big score after being stumped by an alert Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who whipped off the bails with the batsman's back foot on the line. His 122-ball innings contained 11 boundaries. **SCORES IN BRIEF** INDIA: First innings 487 (Gambhir 21, Sehwag 173, Dravid 104, Tendulkar 40, Laxman 40, Harbhajan 69; Vettori 4-118, Patel 3-135) NEW ZEALAND: 331 for 5 in 117.3 overs (McCullum 65, Taylor 56, Ryder 103, Williamson 87 not out; Ojha 2-80)

The Kiwi batsman tackled the spinners with ease as well, whipping Ojha for a power-packed four wide off the mid-on and smashing two boundaries in Harbhajan's first over of the day.

# Robin storms into semis

## Tennis

AFP, Valencia

Sweden's Robin Soderling put his title credentials on display with a 6-3, 6-2 domination of Frenchman Gael Monfils in the quarterfinals of the Valencia Open 500 on Friday.

With Andy Murray already out, Soderling is now the title favourite amid an impressive season where he finished runner-up at Roland Garros and reached the quarterfinals at Wimbledon and the US Open.

Eighth seed Monfils won in commanding fashion at Montpellier last week, but the lively Frenchman was soon trailing a 4-1 in the first set and could find no way back against his hard-hitting opponent.

## Navy, BDR

FROM PAGE 17

Rifles beat BKSP 83-62 after leading the first half by 31-24 points. Morshed netter highest 35 points for Rifles.

## Kushtia ease

FROM PAGE 17

In the matches held at the Mirpur Shaheed Sohrwardi National Indoor Stadium, Mymensingh beat Sathkira 26-7, Chapainawabganj defeated Dhaka 29-24, Bandarban edged Jessore 25-24 and Madaripur outplayed Bagerhat 25-12.

## Fountain

FROM PAGE 17

working member of Jamie Siddons's coaching staff since his arrival, and Fountain has not been restricted to fielding.

In the ongoing camp, he has busied himself working with the tail-enders' batting, another perennial headache. For a man assigned to make sure the Tigers save 50 runs in every game, Fountain is certainly looking to make sure his contribution to the team is much bigger.

## GM chess

FROM PAGE 17

In yesterday's eighth round games, Zia beat Parag in 14 moves. Sagar drew with GM Vakhidov Tair of Uzbekistan. Sagar now needs only a draw from his ninth round game to win a second IM norm.

Shakil, who needs a win in his last round game against Zia for a first IM norm, drew with Bitan Banerjee of India yesterday.

Niaz drew with IM Sahaj Grover of India. FM Sayatan Das of India drew with FM Yee Soon Wei of Brunei.

# Depleted Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 17

available for the first game. Spearheading the attack is the long-haired Enamul Haque, who is enjoying a purple patch with his scoring off late. The other two are the fever-struck Aminul Haque and the injured left-back Wali Faisal.

Bangladesh coach Robert Rubic is emphasising on ball possession while trying to keep the defence as compact as possible. The Croat is expected to field either Towhidul Alam Sabuj or Mithun Chowdhury as the front man in a 4-2-3-1 formation.

The second keeper in the side, Mazharul Islam Himel, is expected to wear the gloves in

# Jesse, Kane halt India

FROM PAGE 17

Ryder, playing his first Test in 15 months, had struck 201 against India in Napier last year to help New Zealand draw the match.

India's spin duo Pragnan Ojha and Harbhajan Singh earlier removed Brendon McCullum (65) and Ross Taylor (56) shortly before lunch after they had put on 104 runs for the third wicket.

McCullum, opening for the first time in Tests, completed his 17th Test half-century with a single in the covers after driving Sreesanth twice for fours.

The Kiwi batsman tackled the spinners with ease as well, whipping Ojha for a power-packed four wide off the mid-on and smashing two boundaries in Harbhajan's first over of the day.

# Muted opening to transfers

FROM PAGE 17

Razzak, who along with national all-rounder Sohrwardi Shuvo appeared on the first day to sign for Surjo Torun Club from Gazi Tank.

"I think it's a good platform for the cricketers to prove their worth. One can draw the attention of the selectors by playing good cricket in the Premier League and I believe everybody is eagerly waiting for this competition," opined Shuvo.

It was former national skipper Mohammad Ashrafu who hogged the spotlight on the day when he came to sign for Cricket Coaching School (CCS). The experienced cricketer, who played for defending champions Mohammedan last season, believed that this year's league will be an important competition for the top players ahead of next year's World Cup.

"I think my poor form with the bat in the international cricket has hit me hard this season but I am not ready to say that it's a demotion for me. I'm looking forward to playing with the young players," said Ashrafu, who has struggled to get a team this season after Mohammedan decided not to retain him following his dismal showing last season.

# Injury to keep Nadal out of Paris Masters

AP, Paris

Top-ranked Rafael Nadal withdrew from the Paris Masters on Friday because of a shoulder injury that will keep him sidelined for at least a week.

Nadal said in an e-mail sent out by his management team that he was suffering from "a small case of tendinitis in my left shoulder which came about through forcing my serve too much during training this week."

"I am very sorry not to be able to play the Paris-Bercy tournament this year," Nadal said.

The Spaniard said the injury wasn't serious, but he had been advised by doctors that he needed six or seven days rest with intensive rehabilitation treatment. Nadal is scheduled to play in the season-ending ATP World Tour Finals in London from November 21-28.

The tournament starts Sunday.

# Australia hope to end worst losing streak

CRICINFO, Brisbane

Australia, on Sunday will be fighting to avoid setting their worst losing streak in history when they take on Sri Lanka in the third ODI at Brisbane. Sri Lanka's breakthrough tour began with a Twenty20 victory and was followed by a great escape in Melbourne.

They then ensured Sunday's final ODI would be a dead rubber with a controlled victory in Sydney on Friday. Sri Lanka are a highly professional outfit with men for any conditions, so not much will bother them at the Gabba.

Australia are currently on a seven-match losing streak in all forms of the game and they have never been defeated in eight straight international encounters. Michael Clarke is in charge of making sure that doesn't happen following Ricky Ponting's decision to miss the match to prepare for Tasmania's Sheffield Shield game on Wednesday.

# Batting woes for England

AFP, Perth

England received a stark reality check ahead of the Ashes in their three-day match against struggling Western Australia at the WACA Ground.

After their bowlers had made a positive impression on the first day to keep WA to 242-8 (declared) in their tour opener, England's top-order batsmen failed to impress on the second day on Saturday.

The tourists slumped to 117-7 before an unbeaten half-century from Chris Broad, who also took three wickets on the first day, enabled them to declare at 223-8 at tea on the second day.

Then the home side, which has been struggling in the domestic first-class competition, cruised to 109-1 at stumps, an overall lead of 128. Opener Wes Robinson was on 46 and Michael Swart was on 16.

# Press pound Aussies

## Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Australian newspapers Saturday accused Ricky Ponting's men of embarrassing, hapless and woeful play against Sri Lanka after the visitors scored their first-ever series success down under.

Just weeks out from the start of the keenly-awaited Ashes series against England and without a win in any format since July, the Australians lost the second of three one day matches against Sri Lanka on Friday night.

"Just embarrassing," read the headline in Sydney's Daily Telegraph in an article which described the Australians as "woeful".

"Everything that could go wrong did go wrong in a comprehensive 29-run defeat," it said in its coverage of the shortened, rain-marred game at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

"Australia's bowlers were dismantled by Sri Lanka with frightening ease and now injured pace bowler Doug Bollinger is in doubt for a key Ashes warm-up as his absence stretches into a fifth week."

It said the team's woes were summed up in one "cringe-worthy" episode -- vice-captain Michael Clarke rocketing the ball towards the stumps to cause a run out but hitting teammate Shane Watson in the leg instead.

"No run out. No kidding. No excuse," the tabloid said.

As The Australian noted in its headline over a photograph of a grimacing Watson: "Now the hapless Aussies can't even get out

of their own way".

The Australian defeat earned Sri Lanka -- who scored 213 for three off 41.4 overs and then bowled the home side out for 210 off 37.4 overs -- their first series success in Australia.

It follows a stunning one-wicket victory in the opening match on Wednesday.

Commentators said not even Ricky Ponting's returning to captain the team, after missing the opening match in Melbourne to attend his grandmother's funeral, appeared to help the Australians in the field.

"Australia played desultory cricket," Sydney Morning Herald commentator Pete Roebuck wrote.

"The hosts looked lacklustre as the visiting openers stroked the ball around, and toothless as the middle order cut loose."

Australia and Sri Lanka will play the third one day match in Brisbane on Sunday without Ponting who will join his home state team of Tasmania for Sheffield Shield matches against Queensland and New South Wales.

National Selection Panel member Greg Chappell said given that the Sri Lanka series had now been decided, the Sheffield Shield was "an ideal opportunity to provide Ricky with two solid weeks of red-ball cricket."

"This allows him what we believe to be the best preparation to lead the Australian Test match team in Brisbane for the first Vodafone Ashes Test match," Chappell said.

Australia, who have lost seven straight international games -- the longest stretch since the 1996-97 season -- begin their Ashes campaign against England in Brisbane on November 25.

# Close tie excites 'em

## Cricket

AFP, Dubai

South African skipper Graeme Smith and Pakistan team coach Waqar Younis both described the fourth one-day match between their two teams as having been exciting and good for 50-over form of cricket.

Pakistan pulled off a sensational one-wicket win on the penultimate delivery of the match after being set a challenging 275-run target on Friday, to level the five-match series at 2-2 and set an intriguing fifth match for Monday.

Smith, whose 98 was the cornerstone for the South African total, termed the series as having been ultra competitive.

"The four teams that are playing one day cricket at the moment are doing a good job keeping people on the edge of their seats," said Smith of the Pakistan-South Africa and Australia-Sri Lanka series.

South Africa won the first match by eight wickets in Abu Dhabi before the next three games went to the last over.

Riding on a belligerent 72-ball, 109 not out by Abdul Razzaq, Pakistan clinched the second

match -- also in Abu Dhabi -- by one wicket. South Africa survived a last over scare to win the third match in Dubai by two runs.

Smith said close matches are good for one-day cricket.

"Games like these are good things. Cricket is competitive no matter what the format is but it is exciting and good for the game," said Smith, who missed the second and third match after suffering a hand injury.

Smith said his team had a good chance of winning after taking the wickets of Shahid Afridi and Abdul Razzaq, but failed.

"The wickets of Afridi and Razzaq led us back in the game and we managed to create a bit of pressure from then on. We had a chance to win but we did not take it and that was disappointing," said Smith.

Afridi's robust 25-ball 29 and Razzaq's 33 brought Pakistan within 31 runs of the win before tail-enders Zulqarnain Haider (19 not out) and Wahab Riaz (18) put on a match-winning 28-run stand for the ninth wicket.

Waqar described it as "a hell of a game" and "good for the health of one-day cricket."

"A win is always a boost to the team and now we will try our best to win the series in the last game," added Waqar.

# DRU-Pepsi Media cricket tourney on

SPORTS REPORTER

DRU-Pepsi Inter-House Media cricket tournament started at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

New Age, Radio Today, Jugantor, Baishaki TV, Naya Diganta and Daily Sun won their respective matches on the opening day.

New Age (99/0) thrashed Jai Jai Din (59/2) by 40 runs, Radio Today (55/2) beat Ajkaler Khabar (53/1) by three wickets, Jugantor (73/2) handed a 16-run defeat to Independent (57/1), Baishaki TV (79/3) outplayed Janapath (30/4) by 49 runs, Naya Diganta (40/2) won against UNB (39/5) by 3 wickets, while Daily Sun (76/1) defeated Inqilab (54/3) by 22 runs.



PHOTO: COURTESY

BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal (C) inaugurates the DRU-Pepsi Media cricket tournament at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

# CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**  
1 Power boost  
6 Combines resources  
11 Arm of the Mediterranean  
12 Talia's "Rocky" role  
14 On the -- (at risk of exclusion)  
15 Talk turkey?  
16 Mound stat  
17 "Forever --"  
19 Cornetist Beiderbecke  
20 Farm fraction  
22 Verily  
23 Carte  
24 Unkempt  
26 Added numbers?  
28 Assn.  
30 252 gallons of wine  
31 Citrusy pop choice
- DOWN**  
1 Origin  
2 Releases a deadbolt  
3 Cage component  
4 Big affair  
5 Adversary  
6 Beauty contest  
7 Stench  
8 Sphere  
9 Equal rights advocate, slangily  
10 Like ocean water  
11 Construction piece  
13 Link  
18 Spell-down  
21 Quartet from Mississippi  
23 Cash  
25 Thither  
27 Scoundrel  
29 Hair-care items  
31 Big name in retail  
32 Those who leave their homeland  
33 SAT section  
34 Chart type  
36 Reel  
37 Shoelace hole  
38 Theater boxes  
41 Carvey and Delany  
44 Huffed and puffed  
45 Richard who played "Jaws"  
48 Street address?  
50 A couple of cups?

Solution time: 27 mins.

BOOTH ARF SAM  
RAMIE COO AVE  
ARENA CARAMEL  
LETTER SORE  
ALE HOD PHASE  
PATH NEVER  
ROSARY APACHE  
NASAL MAIN  
BEAST RUB MME  
ERGO PIERCE  
ANGELS ALLAY  
FIT FEE NIOBE  
SEE TAN DOTES

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	53					54			

## CRYPTOQUIP

CKRSU QYDSO NPKN USNKLOW  
K R K W W L D S N V S Q N Z - C Y E X -  
P Y E X J O S K X K Q J S W K O S :  
"NPS UKZ YC NPS OYV-JYWN."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHICH SHARP KITCHEN TOOLS COULD GET USED TO CUT THINGS INTO TWO HALVES? PAIRING KNIVES.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals T