



Australia fast bowler Ryan Harris (L) celebrates after dismissing Sri Lanka's Prasanna Jayawardene on the third day of the first Test at the Galle International Stadium yesterday.

Aus on verge of victory

Cricket

AFP, Galle

Australia closed in on a convincing victory in the first Test in Galle on Friday after Sri Lanka's top order was ripped apart for a second time.

Sri Lanka, set an improbable target of 379 to win on a crumbling wicket, were tottering at 120-5 at the close of the third day's play at the Galle International Stadium.

Former captain Mahela Jayawardene provided a batting lesson for his teammates, making an unbeaten 57 with the help of eight boundaries.

Angelo Mathews was the other not out batsman, on 32, having put on 52 runs for the sixth wicket with his senior partner.

Australia start the fourth day's play on Saturday needing five more wickets to win and take the lead in the three-Test series, their first in Sri Lanka since 2004.

Sri Lanka need to defy history to stop the tourists -- the highest fourth innings score at the ground is 210 by New Zealand two years ago.

The hosts, who were shot out for 105 in the first innings, succumbed to a hostile three-wicket burst by Ryan Harris and probing seam bowling from Mitchell Johnson and Shane Watson.

Harris trapped Tharanga Paranavithana leg-before with the first ball of the innings and then bowled Sri Lankan captain Tillakaratne Dilshan in his fourth over to leave the hosts 15-2.

Kumar Sangakkara would have been another Harris victim, but survived a review for leg-before off the first ball he faced.

Harris, a 31-year-old from Sydney playing only his sixth Test, followed his defiant 23 in Australia's second innings with 2-15 in his first five overs.

Sangakkara and Jayawardene, Sri Lanka's two most experienced batsmen, attempted to rebuild with a 37-run stand on either side

of the tea break.

Watson, who took three wickets in 10 balls in the first innings, broke the partnership when Sangakkara (17) fenced a vicious rising delivery to Mike Hussey at gully.

Thilan Samaraweera edged a ball from Johnson to wicket-keeper Brad Haddin for a 14-ball duck, leaving Sri Lanka on 63-4.

Harris bowled Prasanna Jayawardene to complete a pair for the Sri Lankan wicketkeeper, but Mathews dug in to ensure the game went into the fourth day.

Australia resumed at 115-6 after the entire morning session was wiped out by heavy rain and were dismissed for 210 in their second innings midway through the post-lunch session.

Left-arm spinner Rangana Herath finished with 5-79 after claiming three wickets in the first innings.

Australia added 15 runs to their overnight score when they lost the wicket of Johnson, who top-edged a high catch off Herath which was taken comfortably by the wicket-keeper.

Usman Khawaja put on 40 for the eighth wicket with Harris before falling leg-before to Chanaka Welegedara for 26 to leave Australia 170-8.

Australia's total was boosted by a last-wicket stand of 32 between debutants Trent Copeland and Nathan Lyon.

Lyon made 13 before he was caught in the deep off Dilshan, leaving Copeland unbeaten on 23.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: First innings 273 (Ponting 44, M Hussey 95; Lakmal 3-55, Herath 3-54)

SRI LANKA: First innings 105 (Paranavithana 29; Lyon 5-34, Watson 3-11)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings 210 (Hughes 28, Clarke 60, M Hussey 15, Khawaja 26, Harris 23, Copeland 23 not out; Welegedara 2-13, Herath 5-79, Dilshan 2-26)

SRI LANKA: Second innings 120 for 5 at stumps (Dilshan 12, Sangakkara 17, Jayawardene 57 not out, Mathews 32 not out; Harris 3-24)

India lose again

AFP, Manchester

England inflicted yet another defeat upon India as they won the lone Twenty20 international by six wickets at Old Trafford here on Wednesday.

The hosts, chasing 166 to win, finished on 169 for four with three balls to spare as Samit Patel struck three fours in as many Vinay Kumar deliveries.

World Twenty20 champions England, who thrashed India 4-0 in the preceding Test series, saw Eoin Morgan take them to the brink of victory with 49.

Ravi Bopara (31 not out) and Patel (25 not out) then got England home in front of a packed crowd featuring plenty of vocal India supporters.

But England seamer Jade Dernbach was named man-of-the-match for a brilliant return of four for 22 that restricted India to 165 when the tourists were on course for a much bigger total.

Defeat left World Cup holders India still searching for the first win against England this tour heading into a five-match one-day international series starting at Chester-le-Street on Saturday.

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: 165 (Rahane 61, Dravid 31, Raina 33, Dernbach 4-22, Broad 2-37)

ENGLAND: 169 for 4 (Kiewswetter 18, Pietersen 33, Morgan 49, Bopara 31 not out, Patel 25 not out; Patel 2-25)

Result: England won by six wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Jade Dernbach.

Hussain's comment irks India

AFP, New Delhi

India reacted sharply Friday to comments by former England cricket skipper Nasser Hussain comparing Indian fielders to "donkeys" during the recent one-off Twenty20 international at Old Trafford.

Indian cricket board vice-president Rajiv Shukla told reporters that Hussain's remarks, made while commenting on Wednesday's match, were "totally uncalculated".

"One should adopt restraint while making observations about players," Shukla said.

"Commentators should not make such comments. We will definitely look into it. Every player has to be respected irrespective of his performance. I don't think this comment was appropriate."

Hussain's criticism of the Indian fielding came when Parthiv Patel misjudged a catch off English batsman Kevin Pietersen.

"I would say the difference between the two side is the fielding," Hussain had said.

Top seeds sail smoothly

AFP, New York



Novak Djokovic raced into the US Open last 32 with a ruthless demolition of Argentine

Carlos Berlocq on Thursday, as fellow heavyweights Roger Federer, Serena Williams and Caroline Wozniacki also cruised.

World number one, and top seed, Djokovic, the Australian Open and Wimbledon champion, destroyed Berlocq 6-0, 6-0, 6-2 to take his 2011 record to 59 wins against just two losses.

Djokovic, who dropped only one game in his first round match, was on his way to clinching a whitewash at 6-0, 6-0, 2-0 before world number 78 Berlocq broke for the first time in the third game of the third set.

Federer and Serena Williams, with 29 Grand Slam titles between them, as well as top seed Wozniacki, who is still searching for her first major, were just as untroubled as the Serb.

Five-time US Open champion Federer eased past Israel's world number 93 Dudi Sela 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 for his 225th win at a major -- just eight behind Jimmy Connors's all-time mark of 233.

The third seed next faces Croatian 27th seed Marin Cilic who put out 18-year-old Australian Bernard Tomic, the youngest player in the draw, for the loss of just three games.

Federer unleashed 31 winners to

Sela's 10 in his 77-minute victory, allowing his opponent just eight points on serve.

Triple women's champion Serena Williams disposed of Dutch qualifier Michaella Krajicek 6-0, 6-1.

Williams has lost just three games in her two matches and now tackles Belarusian fourth seed Victoria Azarenka who defeated Argentina's Gisela Dulko 6-4, 6-3.

Williams boasts a 5-1 career record over Azarenka, including all four of their Grand Slam meetings.

The American, who is seeded 28 after spending most of the last year fighting injury as well as life-threatening blood clots on her lungs, saw off Krajicek with a 10th ace, having unleashed 25 winners.

Williams insisted that she had not been distracted by seeing sister Venus withdraw from the tournament 24 hours earlier after being diagnosed with an auto-immune disorder.

"It really wasn't that difficult, to be honest. She wants me to do the best; she wouldn't want me to suffer. So now, if anything, it should motivate me more," said Williams.

Wozniacki brushed aside Dutchwoman Arantxa Rus 6-2, 6-0 and next tackles Vania King of the United States.

Meanwhile, the number of walk-overs and injury-enforced retirements at the tournament climbed to 13.

Czech 23rd seed Radek Stepanek called it quits in the third set against

Juan Monaco of Argentina with a shoulder injury.

Former French Open champion Ana Ivanovic reached the third round without hitting a ball when Czech player Petra Cetkovska, who beat the Serb at Wimbledon and was runner-up at New Haven at the weekend, withdrew through injury.

Ex-world number one Juan Carlos Ferrero, the 2003 runner-up, was also keeping the tournament medical staff busy as he twice needed treatment on a blistered hand and foot before causing the biggest shock of the day.

The 31-year-old defeated French seventh seed Gael Monfils 7-6 (7/5), 5-7, 6-7 (5/7), 6-4, 6-4 in just under five hours to reach the third round where he will take on compatriot Marcel Granollers.

Also going through were Italian seventh seed Francesca Schiavone, who beat Croatia's Mirjana Lucic, and German 10th seed Andrea Petkovic who came from a set and 3-0 down to beat China's Zheng Jie 3-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Russia's 2004 champion Svetlana Kuznetsova was untroubled against Britain's Elena Baltacha, winning 6-4, 6-3.

In the men's event, there were wins for US eighth seed Mardy Fish, Czech ninth seed Tomas Berdych and French number 11 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

But France's 13th seed Richard Gasquet was beaten in four sets by Croatia's Ivo Karlovic.

Mawoyo guides Zim

Cricket

AFP, Bulawayo

Tino Mawoyo became the third Zimbabwean player to carry his bat as the opener made 163 not out in his side's first innings total of 412 on the second day of the Test against Pakistan at Queens Sports Club here Friday.

The 25-year-old picked up where he left off on Thursday as he stone-walled the Pakistani attack. Resuming on 82 he went on to reach his maiden Test century and then, as wickets fell around him, pushed on past the 150-mark.

When last man Chris Mpofo was bowled by Aizeez Cheema to signal the tea interval, Mawoyo had become the 47th batsman in the history of Test cricket -- this is the 2006th Test match -- to carry his bat.

The only two Zimbabweans to do it before him also achieved the feat against Pakistan. Mark Dekker made 68 not out in Rawalpindi in 1993 while Grant Flower hit 156 not out on this ground in 1998.

Resuming on 245 for four, Zimbabwe lost Craig Ervine early when he gave Juanid Jhan his first Test wicket, caught and bowled by for 49, ending a fifth wicket partnership of 94 with Mawoyo.

Debutant Greg Lamb, however, dug in to add another 95 with the opener for the sixth wicket.

Mawoyo had a major stroke of luck when

he was on 98 as Adnan Akmal missed a straightforward stumping off Saeed Ajmal. It was his second chance as Sohail Khan dropped him on the boundary when he had made 25.

There was a little bit of uncertainty as he reached his century. Mawoyo thought he was running a leg-bye only to realise it was his all-important 100th run when the umpire failed to signal the extra.

Mawoyo spent a total of 645 minutes at the crease hitting 20 boundaries during the course of his innings.

Only David Houghton, who made 266 in 675 minutes against Sri Lanka in Bulawayo in 1994 and Flower, whose 201 not out against Pakistan in Harare in 1995 spanned 654 minutes, have produced longer innings for Zimbabwe.

When Lamb fell for 38, the Zimbabwe tail fell apart but they still got the side across the psychological 400-odd mark.

Saeed Ajmal bowled with guile and variation that often confused the Zimbabwe batsmen but he was out of luck by finishing with four for 143. It fell to Aizeez Cheema to clean up with tail and he helped himself to four for 79.

Tea was delayed for almost 30 minutes at the request of ul Haq with Zimbabwe eight wickets down at the scheduled time.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ZIMBABWE: First innings 412 (Mawoyo 163 not out, Sibanda 45, Taibu 44, Ervine 49, Lamb 39; Cheema 4-79, Ajmal 3-100)



Zimbabwe opener Tino Mawoyo raises bat and helmet in celebration after scoring his maiden century on the second day of the first Test against Pakistan at Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo yesterday.

India seek

FROM PAGE 16
the likes of Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Suresh Raina, Dhoni and new entrant Ajinkya Rahane up their ranks.

While Tendulkar would be eagerly waiting to reach his much-anticipated 100th international century, Dravid would like to leave his mark in the final ODI series of his career as he has already announced his retirement from limited-overs cricket after the England tour.

But the series would be a test of character for Kohli, Sharma, Raina and Rahane against a potent English attack, which is expected to use the short deliveries now and then to trouble the young guns.

But going into the match, the main concern for Dhoni would be his toothless bowling attack, which has so far failed to extract assistance from the favourable English conditions.

Except for Praveen Kumar, who can pose challenge upfront, and Munaf Patel, who is skillful at the death, the rest of the Indian attack looks ordinary.

Besides, the absence of a proper fifth bowler is a huge worry for India with the likes of Kohli, Raina and Sharma expected to do the job.

But they can be cannon fodder to the likes of Alastair Cook and Ian Bell who had a double century each in the preceding Tests, and would be back to torment India.

TEAMS

ENGLAND (From): Alastair Cook (captain), James Anderson, Ian Bell, Ravi Bopara, Tim Bresnan, Stuart Broad, Jade Dernbach, Steven Finn, Craig Kieswetter, Eoin Morgan, Samit Patel, Ben Stokes, Graeme Swann, Jonathan Trott.

INDIA (From): Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Ajinkya Rahane, Rahul Dravid, Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Suresh Raina, Praveen Kumar, Munaf Patel, RP Singh, Vinay Kumar, R Ashwin, Amit Mishra, Parthiv Patel, Varun Aaron.

Argentina

FROM PAGE 16 recently.

A total of 2,350 tickets will be distributed among the students who will have to show their identity cards while former footballers and coaches will enter the gallery through Gate No 15, informed chairman of organising committee Anwarul Haq Helal.

The BNS has a capacity of nearly 24,000 but for security reason, nearly 15,000 tickets would be released, Helal added.

Bolt into 200m final

AFP, Daegu



Usain Bolt powered into the world 200m final on Friday, staying firmly on course for redemption after his shocking 100m false-start as Kenya's Vivian Cheruiyot sealed a distance double.

A full house in Daegu gave the Jamaican reigning world and Olympic champion, and world record holder (19.19sec), a rapturous reception when he arrived on the track and the relaxed sprinter played to the gallery as he prepared to race.

Bolt made an impeccable start in the semi-final and came off the bend well in front of the field, easing to victory in 20.31sec, finding the time to cast several glances over his shoulder at his rivals.

The 25-year-old, who admits he is not in world record shape this season, had insisted he would not dwell on the disappointment of his 100m disqualification as he focuses on Saturday's 200m final.

As introductions were made on the stadium big screen, Bolt danced, gave a six-gun salute and even performed some karate moves, also motioning to the crowd with a finger to his lips to be quiet in tandem with the automated tannoy system -- a world away from the desolate figure disqualified from the 100m.

As he made his way off the track after qualifying, Bolt once more played up to the screaming fans, hurling his spikes into a gaggle of young fans on the tier above.

Bolt, world leader over the 200m this season with a run of 19.86sec in Oslo, was second in qualifying behind European champion Christophe Lemaitre (20.17sec).

the 5000m, with compatriot Sylvia Kibet taking silver and Meseret Defar of Ethiopia claiming bronze.

Defending champion Cheruiyot becomes only the second woman to achieve this particular distance double after Ethiopia's Tirunesh Dibaba at the Helsinki worlds in 2005.

"My race was OK," an understated Cheruiyot said. "I am incredibly happy to be a double medallist at this point. Both events were very hard."

Asked what the secret was to Kenya's distance running prowess, Cheruiyot, unbeaten at any distance on the track this year, said: "The secret to our success is that we normally do teamwork."

Jamaica's two-time Olympic champion Veronica Campbell-Brown stormed to victory in the women's 200m, denying American Allyson Felix a historic fourth consecutive world title when she crossed the line in a season's best of 22.22sec.

Daegu 100m champion Carmelita Jeter took silver and Felix claimed bronze.

"It's been a long season and finally after many years of trying I get the victory at the world championships and the only thing missing now is the (Olympic) 100m gold medal so we'll see if it's my destiny next year," said Campbell-Brown.

The United States won their fourth consecutive 4x400m title, with LaShawn Merritt opening up the tittle on the anchor leg to beat South Africa, for whom double amputee Oscar Pistorius will win a silver medal by virtue of his participation in the heats. Jamaica were third.

Also Friday, Russian Maria Abakumova won the world women's javelin title with a championship record throw of 71.99m, American Dwight Phillips retained his long jump title and Germany's David Storl won the men's shot put.