

Paced out by Welegedera

Cricket

AFP, Durban

Left-arm opening bowler Chanaka Welegedera produced a career-best performance to put Sri Lanka in the ascendancy on the second day of the second Test match against South Africa at Kingsmead on Tuesday.

Welegedera took five for 52 as South Africa were bowled out for 168 on a good batting pitch, giving Sri Lanka a first-innings lead of 170.

It also gave Sri Lanka hope of gaining their first Test win of the year, in a complete turnaround from the first Test at Centurion, which South Africa won by an innings and 81 runs.

Sri Lanka were seven for one in their second innings at the close, with captain Tillakaratne Dilshan falling to Dale Steyn before bad light stopped play.

Welegedera, whose previous best Test figures were five for 87 against Pakistan in Sharjah last month, bowled an impeccable line, slanting the ball across the right-handed batsmen, with all of his victims caught behind or in the slips.

Left-arm spinner Rangana Herath took four for 49 as South Africa crashed to their lowest total against Sri Lanka.

The tourists were earlier bowled out for 338. Thilan Samaraweera made a century and Marchant de Lange took

seven wickets on his debut.

De Lange's figures of seven for 81 were the best recorded by any bowler in Test matches in 2011 and put him at the top of an extraordinary crop of eight bowlers who have taken five or more wickets in an innings in their first Test match this year.

Samaraweera made 102 before he was last man out. He became only the second Sri Lankan to hit a Test century in South Africa, joining Hashan Tillakaratne, who made 104 at Centurion in 2002-03.

Samaraweera and Herath frustrated the South African bowlers at the start of the day, adding 46 to the overnight total of 289 for seven, with Samaraweera batting watchfully to reach his 13th Test century off 265 balls.

After Samaraweera reached his hundred, Herath top-edged a slog against De Lange and was caught by wicket-keeper Mark Boucher for 30.

The tall, strongly built De Lange quickly wrapped up the innings, having Welegedera caught at short leg fending off a vicious bouncer before Samaraweera was caught at deep cover.

South Africa reached 22 for no wicket without Graeme Smith and Jacques Rudolph looking in any trouble before Rudolph played a loose hook against Thisara Perera, who also made an exceptional start to his Test career, with four five-wicket hauls in his first three matches, including five for 15 on his debut against Australia.

The best figures by a South African debutant are eight for 64 by Lance Klusener against India in Kolkata in 1996-97.

SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA: First innings (overnight 289-7)
Paranavitana c Boucher b De Lange 12
Dilshan c Morkel b Tahir 47
Sangakkara c Boucher b De Lange 0
Jayawardene b Morkel 31
Samaraweera c Prince b De Lange 102
Mathews c b De Lange 30
Chandimal c Boucher b Morkel 58
Perera c Amila b De Lange 12

twice, having South African captain Smith caught behind for 15 and Jacques Kallis caught at second slip without scoring.

Hashim Amla and AB de Villiers added 76 for the fourth wicket before Welegedera made another double strike soon after tea to plunge their innings into terminal decline, dismissing De Villiers for 25 and Amla for a fluent 54.

Amla hit ten fours in an 83-ball innings.

Herath kept the pressure on the batsmen and it needed some bold hitting from tail-enders Dale Steyn and Imran Tahir to enable South Africa to avoid the follow-on.

Only two South Africans have achieved better figures on debut than De Lange -- a late replacement for the injured Vernon Philander, who also made an exceptional start to his Test career, with four five-wicket hauls in his first three matches, including five for 15 on his debut against Australia.

The best figures by a South African debutant are eight for 64 by Lance Klusener against India in Kolkata in 1996-97.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 277-6)
Cowan c Dhoni b Ashwin 68
Warner c Dhoni b Yadav 37
Marsh c Kohli b Yadav 0
Ponting c Laxman b Yadav 62
Clarke b Zaheer 31
Hussey c Dhoni b Zaheer 0
Haddin c Sehwag b Zaheer 27
Siddle c Dhoni b Zaheer 41
Pattinson not out 18
Hilfenhaus c Kohli b Ashwin 19
Lyon b Ashwin 6
Extras: (lb-21 w-2nb-1) 24
Total: (All out in 110 overs) 333

Gymnastics meet from today

SPORTS REPORTER

Sultana Kamal 4th Central South Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championships begins at the Shahid Sohrawardi Indoor Stadium today with 56 gymnasts from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Uzbekistan and hosts Bangladesh taking part in the meet.

The three day meet will feature eight events -- Floor, Pommel Horse, Uneven Bars, Rings, Vault, Balance Beam, Parallel Bar and Horizontal Bar, informed speakers at a press conference arranged at the championship venue yesterday.

President of Bangladesh Gymnastics Federation (BGF) Sk Bashir Ahmed Mamun and Event Technical Director Dr Gurdial Singh Bawa apprised the media about the preparation of the event.

Bashir Ahmed said, "We (Bangladesh) don't expect to finish as the superiors in the Championships. Our expectation is to boost up the sport in the country."

The Bangladesh contingent comprises 13 members: a manager, two coaches and ten gymnasts, six of them male. The biggest contingent is Sri Lanka's with 18 members.

Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith will inaugurate the championship as the chief guest in the opening ceremony.

Bridge C'ship starts today

SPORTS REPORTER

MM Ispahani 28th National Team Bridge Championship gets underway at the Engineers' Recreation Centre on Thursday.

Some 22 teams including eight from outside Dhaka will be taking part in the meet, speakers said at a press conference at the Bangabandhu National Stadium's conference room yesterday.

"Although there is a negative image regarding the game in our country, it is a mind sport which is played in Commonwealth, Olympics and the Asian Games," said Bangladesh Bridge Federation's president Khandakar Mazharul Haque.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker will inaugurate the tournament. BBF general secretary Mesabur Rahman Khan and representative of the sponsors MM Ispahani Limited Kajol Devnath were present among others.

Riaz feels relieved

Cricket

CRICINFO, Lahore

Wahab Riaz, the Pakistan left-arm fast bowler, has said he is relieved to be back with the Test side after a difficult time away, where he had to deal with off-field issues. He said he is focusing on building his speed and adding some variations to this bowling during the home series against England in the UAE starting next month.

"I am happy and relaxed to be selected again," Riaz told ESPNCricinfo. "I am esteemed that the PCB and the selectors have kept their faith in me and supported me all the way. It was a nagging situation for me when I was out and it's obviously difficult when you are not part of the national team despite having all the ability to represent them."

Riaz's selection ends his unexplained six-month break from cricket -- his last Test was against West Indies in May this year. His name came up during the spot-fixing trial of Salman Butt, Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Aamir in a London court in October, as part of a written statement from Pakistan's security manager, Major Khwaja Najam Javed, which was read out by the prosecution.

He was last included in the squad to face Sri Lanka in October but was sent home after an undercover reporter told the jury at Southwark Crown Court in London that agent

Mazhar Majeed had told him he had several cricketers working for him and mentioned Wahab's name.

During his isolation from the national squad, Riaz focused on domestic cricket. He had a good season with National Bank of Pakistan in the first-class Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, taking 30 wickets in six games at 24.86 and a batting average of 35.50.

"It was tough not being the part of the squad for some time. But I had a firm belief that things will be cleared, I don't want to get into the details," Riaz said. "What I know is that I am ready for yet another stint. I have kept myself fit and in form while playing domestic cricket so I don't think I will face any difficulty."

Riaz, 26, said he is working on troubling the England batsmen with pace. He is among two left-arm seamers in the Test squad, the other being the relative newcomer Junaid Khan.

"I am fully fit and in good rhythm to carry on. I'm focusing on speed and some variation in my deliveries. I am bowling at a speed of 150 kph and useful with the bat down the order," Riaz said.

SQUAD

Mohammad Hafeez, Taufiq Umar, Imran Farhat, Younis Khan, Azhar Ali, Misbahul Haq (captain), Asad Shafiq, Umar Akmal, Adnan Akmal, Mohammad Talha, Umar Gul, Wahab Riaz, Junaid Khan, Aitzaz Cheema, Saeed Ajmal and Abdul Rehman.

Plan hands

FROM PAGE 16

"Still, the ICC boasts it has improved the accuracy of umpires' decisions and it has statistics to support the argument."

Former Australia Test captain and one-time India coach Greg Chappell said cricket must embrace technology after the Boxing Day howlers.

"If you are going to use it then you have got to use it everywhere," Chappell told Fox Sports.

"I can understand why some of the India batsmen don't want to use the DRS. I think as a batsman you are more likely to get the close decisions to go your way [without DRS].

"If you have the review system, chances are you will be given out more likely than not."

"We saw today why we probably need the review system."

Chappell agreed that India's powerful position in world cricket played a part in the ICC not demanding they not play with the DRS.

"You have got to think there's politics there in some way, shape or form," Chappell said.

"The fact that they are so powerful they [ICC] pretty much can make the decisions that suit them best."

The Daily Telegraph said "India's unfathomable opposition to the DRS, embraced by every other Test nation, continues to make a mockery of international cricket."

10 schools from each of 480 upazilas are taking part part in the tournament which will have four phases -- upazila, district, divisional and national phase.

"Each of the participating school will get one football in the primary stage and two balls will be given in the second stage. The qualifiers at the divisional level will get another three balls each," said BFF vice president Badal Roy.

Aussie press slam India

FROM PAGE 16

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Chief of Army Staff General Abdul Mubeen (4th from R) is seen with the participants of Gemcon Victory Day Cup Golf Tournament at the Kurmitola Golf Club recently.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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10 Name & address of the office(s)

12 Tender submission date and time

12.01.2012

12:00 noon

19 Tender opening date and time (if different from 18)

12.01.2012

12:30pm

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