

Crushing win for Aussies

Cricket

REUTERS, Sydney

Australia, inspired by captain Michael Clarke, crushed India by an innings and 68 runs in the second Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Friday to take a dominant 2-0 lead in the four-match series.

Clarke's mammoth unbeaten 329 in Australia's 659 for four declared, combined with another display of aggressive pace bowling, ensured the hosts would win successive matches in a Test series for the first time since March 2010.

It was the sixth successive overseas Test defeat for India after their 4-0 drubbing in England last year, which saw them relinquish the number one world ranking, and put paid to their hopes of a first series triumph in Australia.

India had faced a Herculean task to rescue the match after Australia declared with a lead of 468 on Thursday but skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni said the seeds of the defeat had been sown when they were bundled out for 191 on the opening day.

Some spirited batting from the Indian tailenders extended the second contest beyond the tea break on Friday before spinner Ravi Ashwin was caught out for 62, a fifth wicket for Ben Hilfenhaus, to bring a close to India's second innings for 400.

Sachin Tendulkar's 21st attempt to secure his 100th international century had earlier ended when he was dismissed for 80 soon after lunch, triggering a mini collapse with four wickets tumbling for 15 runs.

And it was Clarke, who had shared record stands with Ricky Ponting (134) and Mike

Hussey (150 not out) as he batted through day three of the contest, making the key breakthrough with his occasional spin-bowling.

Tendulkar had resumed on 70 after lunch having raced to his 65th Test fifty in the morning and had added 10 runs to his tally when he got an edge to a Clarke delivery which deflected off the gloves of wicketkeeper Brad Haddin into Hussey's hands.

Australia then took the new ball and Hilfenhaus, who ended with figures of 5-106 wrought havoc with it, bowling VVS Laxman first up for 66 with a peach of a ball that just touched the off stump.

On his next over, the big pacemen had Dhoni caught and bowled for two after a review of the television pictures showed the Indian skipper had chipped the ball back to him.

James Pattinson got his first wicket of the innings on the next over, trapping Virat Kohli plumb leg before wicket for nine and leaving India languishing on 286 for seven.

With the match almost certainly lost, Zaheer Khan had some fun with a quickfire 35, which included a huge six, before he was caught by Shaun Marsh off the bowling of Peter Siddle.

Pattinson, Siddle and Hilfenhaus had been key to Australia's winning the first Test by 122 runs in Melbourne last week and Clarke again paid tribute to his pace attack's efforts.

"I know they made 400 today but that's a really flat wicket out there now and a lot of credit must go to our bowlers on a really tough wicket to take 10 wickets," he said.

"To come out yesterday and today and perform the way they did is a really positive sign for this team."

SCOREBOARD				
INDIA: First innings 191				
AUSTRALIA: First innings 659				
INDIA: Second innings (overnight 114-2)				
Gambhir c Warner b Siddle	83			
Sehwag c Warner b Hilfenhaus	4			
Dravid b Hilfenhaus	29			
Tendulkar c Hussey b Clarke	80			
Laxman b Hilfenhaus	66			
Kohli lbw Pattinson	9			
Dhoni c & b Hilfenhaus	2			
Ashwin c Lyon b Hilfenhaus	62			
Zaheer c Marsh b Siddle	35			
Sharma lbw Lyon	11			
Yadav not out	0			
Extras: (b-6, lb-3, w-2, nb-8)	19			
Total: (All out in 110.5 overs)	400			
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-100, 3-168, 4-271, 5-276, 6-286, 7-286, 8-342, 9-384.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pattinson	23	4	106	1
Hilfenhaus	32.5	8	106	5
Siddle	24	8	88	2
Lyon	20	2	64	1
Clarke	9	0	22	1
Hussey	2	0	5	0
Result: Australia won by an innings and 68 runs.				



Teammates congratulate Australia pacer James Pattinson (2nd from R) for dismissing Virat Kohli (L) of India during their second Test at the SCG on Friday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Pattinson out for the series

AFP, Sydney

Rising Australia pace star James Pattinson will miss the rest of the Test series against India with a foot injury, team officials said on Friday.

Pattinson, 21, who has taken 21 wickets in his first four Tests and has been man-of-the-match twice, has a stress injury in his left foot and needs a spell out of the game, officials said.

SQUAD

Michael Clarke (captain), Brad Haddin, Ed Cowan, Ryan Harris, Ben Hilfenhaus, Mike Hussey, Nathan Lyon, Shaun Marsh, Ricky Ponting, Peter Siddle, Mitchell Starc, David Warner.

Yuvraj to be fit for tri-series

AFP, New Delhi

India's one-day specialist Yuvraj Singh said on Friday he would be fit for next month's tri-series in Australia after recovering from a non-malignant lung tumour.

"I have completely recovered and have been training for last two weeks. There is absolutely no problem with my fitness," the all-rounder said.

"I am able to run hard and my lung capacity is back. The trainers and the support staff at the National Cricket Academy have been working hard on my fitness. In a week, I will be completely ready."

Nat'l b'ball

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Khulna will take on Police AC in the first match while Dhaka will meet Bangladesh Air Force later.

English Lions

Jason Roy and Joseph Root gave a solid start associating 76 runs in the opening stand to shape the easy win.

Roy scored the team highest 40 off 38 balls that saw seven fours while Root contributed 35 off 31 balls with five boundaries.

The first one-day of the five-match series between Bangladesh A and England Lions will be taken place at the same venue on January 8.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BCB XI: 186 all out in 43.2 overs (Rony 53, Riyad 46, Shuvogoto 31; Briggs 4-41, Brooks 3-28, Meaker 2-20).

ENGLAND LIONS: 187-6 in 36.2 overs (Roy 36, Root 35, Butler 28 not out; Hossain 2-30, Jayed 1-23, Imrul 1-11).

RESULT: England Lions won by four wickets.

SA take series 2-1

Cricket

REUTERS, Cape Town

A superb all-round performance by Jacques Kallis carried South Africa to a series-clinching 10-wicket win over Sri Lanka on the fourth day of the third and final Test at Newlands on Friday.

Kallis, having scored 224 in the South African first innings, claimed three for 35 to end an obdurate Sri Lankan second innings on 342, leaving the hosts with a nominal target of two runs to win.

Kallis, playing his 150th Test, also took four catches to equal the South African record for the most catches by an outfielder in an innings as well as the mark of six catches in a Test set by Albert Vogler in 1909/10 and matched by Bruce Mitchell in 1931/32.

South Africa's win brings to an end a run of four winless series at home dating back to 2008/9.

They were held up on the fourth day by the determined Thilan Samaraweera, who scored a defiant 115 not out in 325 minutes, off 215 balls.

Angelo Mathews scored 63 and the tail-enders had some fun as well as they helped the experienced Samaraweera to prolong South Africa's time in the field to nine minutes after

the scheduled tea break.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 580 for 4 decl

SRI LANKA: First innings 239

SRI LANKA: Second innings (overnight 138-4)

Thirumanne c Amla b Kallis 30

Dilshan c Boucher b Philander 5

Sangakkara c Kallis b Tahir 34

Jayawardene c Kallis b Morkel 12

Samaraweera not out 115

Mathews lbw b Philander 63

Chandimal c Kallis b Philander 1

Perera c Morkel b Tahir 30

Herath c & bowled Kallis 0

Prasad b Boucher b Tahir 16

Welegedara b Kallis 14

Extras: (b-1, lb-15, w-6) 22

Total: (All out in 107.5 overs) 342

Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-79, 3-83, 4-98, 5-240.

6-248, 7-304, 8-306, 9-327.

SCOREBOARD

Bowler O M R W

Steyn 20 3 56 0

Philander 20 4 54 3

Morkel 19 4 68 1

Tahir 32 7 106 3

Kallis 14.5 2 35 3

Smith 2 0 7 0

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings

Petersen not out 1

Smith not out 0

Extras: (nb-1) 1

Total: (For no loss in 0 overs) 2

Did not bat: Amla, Kallis, De Villiers

Rudolph, Boucher, Steyn, Morkel, Tahir, Philander.

Bowler O M R W

Prasad 0 0 2 0

Result: South Africa won by ten wickets and clinched the three-match series 2-1.



PHOTO: AFP

South Africa's Jacques Kallis clenches his fists in pride as he dismisses a Sri Lanka batsman on the fourth day of Cape Town Test on Friday. The allrounder capped his 150th Test with a man-of-the-match winning performance.

Muktis fall to BJMC

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and it was a shadow of the real performance by Muktijoddha though they got back the services of striking duo Mithun Chowdhury and Zahid Hasan Emily, who were just exempted from a BFF imposed ban on Thursday.

Team BJMC took a deserved lead in the 10th minute with former national midfielder Abul Hossain finding the far net from a 25-yard free kick while Nigerian Ajagun Abdul Rasheed being set up by veteran Alifaz Ahmed danced past goalkeeper Mamun Khan to place home.

Although they were rattled, Muktijoddha bit back soon and pulled one goal back on 22 minutes through Nigerian Chibuik Divine's glancing header off a Rezaul Karim free kick from the right.

Striker Mithun then levelled the margin after the break with an acrobatic effort that deflected in off BJMC defender Baybek Fombagni in the 63rd minute.

But with seven minutes left of the game, Cameroonian striker Jean Jules stunned Muktijoddha when his surprise effort from outside the danger zone found the back of the net giving BJMC much to cheer about.

"It was not a fluke victory rather we played better than Muktijoddha and deserved the victory," said BJMC coach Zakaria Babu adding that the margin could have been widened had his strikers not squandered sitters.

"After winning the first game by 10-0, may be the booters were over-confident to win

the game and that cost us a huge price," explained Muktijoddha coach Shafiqul Islam Manik adding that shifting their camp to Dhanmondi from Uttara was also one of reasons behind their loss.

At the BSSMKS, Mohammedan failed to justify their giants tag against the second-tier professional football league side Cox's City FC who scored the only goal of the game when Saifuddin headed in a Sirajul Karim cross in the 42nd minute.

Conceding the goal made Mohammedan supporters furious and they blocked the way of the Mohammedan players on their way to the dressing room during the interval. Mohammedan supporters even hurled abusive language towards the Mohammedan officials who were present. But there was no real untoward incident in the end as the game ended in the scheduled time.

Mohammedan played better in the second half but they could not restore parity despite yielding a few scoring chances with substitute striker Wahed Ahmed at least missing the target twice.

"It was a disappointing result for everyone and losing to Cox's City was bad luck and the forwards could not convert the opportunities they created in the second half," said MSC coach Emeka Ezuego.

"After suffering a huge defeat to Muktijoddha, we all were determined to prove ourselves that we are not a team that can suffer 10 goals and we proved that after winning against a team like Mohammedan," said Cox's City captain Masud Alam.

Amateurism

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against the second-string English attack. Asif and Mominul's presence would not have set the world alight for sure, but it fundamentally meant that the selectors have been reduced to mere typists. They can type down whatever name they want but the final call will lie with the clubs for Bangladesh A's matches against England Lions.

There is a lot of doubt about the line-up that will take on the visitors tomorrow. It is a Premier League match-day in Dhaka and either the closing of the league or a "Compromised XI" will take the field at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium.

Back in July 2011, the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM), the clubs' representative body, had agreed with the BCB's cricket operations committee that players will be released whenever the call comes. If such an agreement had been reached, the clubs are at fault of not keeping a written promise.

But they can easily point fingers at a number of interruptions to justify their case, chief of which is the amount of money they spend on players. There is also the late scheduling of the Bangladesh Premier League and Asia Cup that forced the Premier League to be held earlier than first planned, though one would have a hard time to find a Premier League season being held at the first announced date.

Still, everyone knew about the England Lions' tour well in advance and hardly any excuse will be justified.

Today the directors meet to solve this issue but the first punch has already been thrown their way so it could be a board meeting of minimising damage.

In the professional world, failures have casualties. In the pseudo-professional world of Bangladesh Cricket Board which is full of conflicts of interests, a lost battle is not a lost battle; someone is always a winner.

Top-level

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committee, comprising the interior secretary, FIA director-general and national crises management cell director-general, to finalise the arrangements.

Rangers and Frontier Constabulary will provide security cover to the Bangladesh team who are expected to play matches in Lahore and Karachi.

Bangladesh last month announced it will send a delegation to oversee security arrangements which will submit a report to the government and only after clearance on security will the tour be possible.

Segun Bagicha

FROM PAGE 16

Nagar Model High School eliminated Motijheel Govt. High School by 6-5 goals in tie-breaker in the 2nd semi.

Clarke relishes Tendulkar scalp

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Captain Michael Clarke on Friday savoured taking Sachin Tendulkar's prized wicket to send India tumbling to another heavy Test defeat and deny the tourists a first-ever series win in Australia.

Clarke's dismissal of the "Little Master", in menacing form on 80, in the 79th over saw Test cricket's greatest runscore again denied his 100th international century.

Tendulkar has been stranded on 99 Test and ODI centuries since scoring 111 against South Africa in the World Cup in March.

He was drawn forward to Clarke's part-time left-arm spin and got an outside edge to Mike Hussey at first slip, and with him went India's remote hopes of denying Australia victory.

The dismissal triggered a collapse of wickets to deliver Australia a crushing innings and 68-run victory inside four days in the 100th Sydney Test, after they won the four-match series' opening Test in Melbourne by 122 runs.

The wicket, Clarke's 14th Indian wicket in his career Test haul of 24, was the icing on the cake after the Australian skipper's unbeaten 329 in the first innings made him the undisputed man-of-the-match.

It was Clarke's first bowling stint in Tests this Australian summer season and came at a crucial point, with Tendulkar threatening to go on to post a huge score.

"It's a very nice wicket to have, that's for sure," Clarke said. "To be able to get such a great player out is a very handy wicket so I

was stoked with that."

But Clarke warned that Tendulkar would again threaten to dominate Australia's bowlers in the remaining two Tests of the series in Perth and Adelaide.

"Sachin's been such a great player for so long, everyone goes through that period," he said. "Touch wood, it's nice that he's not made his 100th hundred in this series, but there's a long way to go."

"Never write off great players. As a team we have the greatest of respect for him and we know we need to execute our skills against him or he'll make lots of runs."

Clarke said he was not "writing off" India's misfiring batsmen, who have been dismissed for totals of 282, 169, 191 and 400.

"I think India's batting line-up is as strong as I've ever played against," he said.

"They have a lot of greats of the game, they've scored a lot of runs. I would never write off great players so we need to make sure we are at our best in Perth (next week)."

But he praised his bowlers for dismissing India's batting lineup on a flat Sydney wicket to take a grip on the Border-Gavaskar series.

"I think we have wicket-taking bowlers in our attack, we have guys who can get a breakthrough, that's probably one of the most pleasing things as a captain," he said.

"You can turn to any one of our bowlers to try and take a wicket, so that makes life easier for me."

"We're able to build up pressure at the moment, we're bowling a lot of dot balls, we're bowling maidens, we're restricting the batsmen and that's what's taking wickets."

Dhoni still hopeful

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Defiant captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni said India were looking to level the series after another heavy Test loss Friday saw them relinquish all hope of a first-ever series triumph in Australia.

The tourists crashed to an innings and 68-run loss in the second Test in Sydney following their 122-run drubbing in Melbourne.

India have two Tests remaining in Perth and Adelaide to save face as Michael Clarke's Australia team chase a 4-0 series whitewash.

"We have lost the chance of winning the series but still with two more Test matches to go we can level the series so that's what we're looking to do," Dhoni said.

Dhoni said his team never recovered from their abject 191 in the first innings after winning the toss and then conceding a massive 468-run innings deficit as Australia amassed 659 for four declared.

"We didn't put enough runs on the board. To win Test matches, of course taking 20 wickets is very important," he said.

"But also we need to give that cushion, having those extra runs on the board so that the bowlers can plan the opposition out."

Dhoni said he could see some positive signs out of the wreckage of the Sydney Test mauling.

"It is a bit of a worry but the good thing is in the second innings we saw the batsmen score runs," he said.

"It was not good enough to defend the

Test match but what we have seen in the last couple of Test matches is everybody has scored at least a 50 which gives us an indication that we need to convert those 50s into big innings and put runs on the board."

"We need to keep it really simple and score big hundreds and we need to get wickets."

India scored more than 300 for the first time in an away Test since The Oval Test against England last August with 400 but it was still nowhere near enough to make Australia bat a second time in the one-sided Sydney Test.

"In patches we have done well. We have got the opposition out," he said.

"In the last innings we have seen we can score 400-odd runs. We need to get everything together."

"We need to do well as a bowling unit and we need to bat well as a batting unit and come off good fielding performances. We need to get it all together."

Dhoni denied that his decorated batsmen were now too old for Test cricket.

"Not really. With age comes plenty of experience. They're the best that we have got as of now," he said.

"Hopefully it will get better and we'll score more runs in the coming two Test matches."

Dhoni said no blame for India's below-par performances should be attached to team coach Duncan Fletcher.

"What we need to do is not just blame one individual. As a team we need to perform. It's very important to hunt in packs rather than individuals," he said of the former England team coach.