

Eng gain Misbah advantage

Cricket

AFP, Dubai

Off-spinner Graeme Swann trapped Pakistan skipper Misbahul Haq in the penultimate over of the second day to help England fight back in the second Test here on Wednesday.

Misbah's 13th half-century -- his 11th in 13 Tests as captain -- had kept Pakistan in a good position after openers Mohammad Hafeez had made 88 and Taufeeq Umar 58 on a slow turning Dubai Stadium pitch.

But Swann trapped Misbah in front with a sharp incoming delivery and had the not out decision by New Zealand umpire Billy Bowden overturned by the Decision Review System to boost England's cause.

Misbah had put on a valuable 52 runs for the sixth wicket with wicketkeeper batsman Adnan Akmal, who was unbeaten on a gritty 24.

James Anderson ended the day on a high note for his team when he bowled Abdul Rehman (four) in the last over to leave Pakistan at 288-7 at the close, a lead of 96 over England's first innings total of 192.

Misbah's wicket has seemingly brought England back in the match. The Pakistani skipper had hit five boundaries during his 154-ball knock.

Before Misbah, Pakistan lost the crucial wicket of Younis Khan (37) on the stroke of tea when the experienced batsman offered no stroke to partner Jonathan Trott's incoming delivery and was

adjudged leg-before.

England took the second new ball and Anderson's first over with it brought the downfall of Asad Shafiq (16) to leave Pakistan at 231-5, in danger of being dismissed for a small lead.

It was paceman Stuart Broad who gave England the breakthrough in the morning session after the Pakistani openers, resuming at 42-0, played out the first 90 minutes without being separated.

Broad bowled Umar with a beautiful delivery which held its line and hit the off-stump, just one ball after Chris Tremlett dropped Hafeez off a miscued hook which resulted in a single.

Umar hit ten boundaries in his 58 and was set aside during his 113-ball stay at the crease.

Three overs later, Broad swung one away from Azhar Ali and had him caught behind by wicket-keeper Matt Prior, much to the jubilation of his teammates. Ali made just one.

England, who were poor against off-spinner Saeed Ajmal (7-55) on day one, were well short of their best in fielding.

Ian Bell failed to hit the stumps when Hafeez, batting on 44, ran for a single after pushing Tremlett to square-leg and was well short of his crease after being sent back by Umar.

Pietersen also dropped Adnan on nine off Tremlett to cap another tough day for the world's number one Test team, who have only won on two occasions after conceding the lead in a Test in the sub-continent -- both against Pakistan in 1961 and 2000.



Pakistan opener Mohammad Hafeez cuts the ball off the back foot on way to scoring 88 during the second day of the first Test against England at the Dubai Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

SCOREBOARD				
ENGLAND: First innings 192 (Prior 70, Swann 34, Ajmal 7-55)				
PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 42-0)				
Hafeez lwb b Swann	88			
Umar b Broad	58			
Azhar c Prior b Broad	1			
Younis lbw b Trott	37			
Misbah lbw b Swann	52			
Shafiq c Prior b Anderson	16			
Akmal not out	24			
Rehman b Anderson	4			
Extras: (b-2, lb-4, nb-2)	8			
Total: (For 7 wks in 104.3 overs)	288			
To bat: Gul, Ajmal, Cheema				
Fall of wickets: 1-114, 2-128, 3-176, 4-202, 5-231, 6-283, 7-288				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anderson	23.3	7	57	2
Tremlett	20	6	48	0
Broad	26	6	72	2

It was Umar who reached his fifty first, hitting Swann for two consecutive boundaries to complete his 13th Test half-century. Hafeez reached his seventh with a single off Tremlett.

Swann finally dismissed Hafeez with a full pitched delivery as the batsmen missed a sweep. Hafeez hit eleven boundaries and a six during his solid 164-ball knock.

Swann, who took 2-89, failed to trouble the batsmen like Ajmal did on Tuesday but his late wicket brought England back in the match. Broad and Anderson also had two wickets apiece.

Laxman not retiring

PTI, Adelaide

Embattled batsman VVS Laxman has quashed talks of his impending retirement following his dismal performance in the ongoing Test series against Australia, saying that such reports were untrue.

Emerging out of the one-on-one technical session with coach Duncan Fletcher in the team training session, Laxman dismissed speculations that he is on the verge of retirement.

"When Laxman was approached by an Indian television journalist after the session, the 37-year-old insisted reports of his impending retirement were untrue," a report in 'The Age' said.

Laxman is not alone among the Indian batsmen who have had little impact on the series, but the elegant stroke player has lacked freedom, failing to find other ways to score when the Australians blocked off his boundary areas.

He has scored just 102 runs from the six innings he has played so far at an average of 17. His languid fielding and ongoing back problems, combined with his poor form, have prompted reports that he would be the first of India's ageing champions to retire, perhaps even before the Adelaide Test, starting January 24.

Fletcher spent a significant amount of time in Laxman's net working on technical aspects of his batting, suggesting his tour is not finished.

Biman won't

FROM PAGE 16 informed last season they spent over 59 lakh taka excluding 161 free tickets issued to players and other officials.

The trend among the recent Biman players has been to let the team officials deal with the tickets and take the money in return. Some, who wanted to remain anonymous, said that they didn't know anything about the tickets though the authorities had confirmed that they signed a paper before the tickets were sold off.

Ajmal not worried about his action

Cricket

AFP, Dubai

Pakistani off-spinner Saeed Ajmal brushed aside suspicions over his bowling action after wrecking England with career-best figures of 7-55 on the opening day of the first Test here on Tuesday.

The 34-year-old, whose claims to unveil a mystery delivery he called teesra (the third one) surrounded the build-up of the three-Test series, helped Pakistan bundle out England for 192 on a slow turning pitch at Dubai Stadium.

Former England paceman Bob Willis raised suspicions over Ajmal's action.

"The off-spinner is fairly orthodox. The delivery that I have a problem with is the doosra [second one]," Willis, referring to Ajmal's delivery which turns the other way than the normal off-spin, while commentating on Sky Sports in England.

"The ICC have accommodated this delivery -- they changed the rules to allow these bowlers to bend their elbow 15 degrees which is what makes it so difficult for the

batsmen," said Willis.

But Ajmal said he was not worried about his action.

"I am just focusing on my bowling. I don't know about that and it's the responsibility of the umpires and referee to check my action. I have bowled my best so I am happy," said Ajmal whose action was questioned once in 2009.

"They did it to Saqlain Mushtaq," said Ajmal about the former Pakistan spinner, regarded as the founder of doosra. "They are doing it with me now. Australia questioned my action [in 2009] but I see no problem with it."

Ajmal said he did try to bowl his mystery delivery but hasn't perfected it. "I did try to bowl that delivery [teesra] but I have not perfected it, have not full confidence in it so maybe I bowl it in the next two to three innings," said Ajmal, whose previous best of 6-42 came against the West Indies last year.

Ajmal said he bowled wicket to wicket and got his reward.

"I just bowled wicket to wicket and that helped me a lot and I got four leg-before wickets, bowling wicket to wicket did not help me get spin but some bad shots gave me wickets," said Ajmal.

Bonanza awaits

FROM PAGE 16

Nannes and Herschelle Gibbs will be available for a few matches.

Mahmudullah Riyad, Abdur Razzak, Nasir Hossain, Junaed Siddiqui, Imrul Kayes and Mashrafe Bin Mortaza will have their bidding start at \$45,000 among the listed local players while the other two categories, B (\$30,000) and C (\$20,000), could be the clincher for the average Bangladeshi cricketer. BCB's efforts to bring some Indian players however went in vain.

Barisal Burners, Chittagong Kings, Dhaka Gladiators, Khulna Royal Bengals, Duronto Rajshahi and Sylhet Royals are the six franchises and from each franchise, six members will be seated around the different tables and will bid IPL-style while six icon players -- Shakib, Tamim Iqbal, Shahriar Nafees, Mohammad Ashraful, Mushfiqur Rahim and Alok Kapali -- could also feature during the auction.

The team owners have already hired experts as consultants and most have finalized the coaching staff, who will be pressed to make wise choices when it comes to picking the eight foreigners, with at least one from an Associate (maximum five foreigners can play in a game), who will be sold in two other categories, B (\$50,000) and C (\$30,000).

BCB senior vice-president Mahbul Anam has been named as the commissioner and will be called into action to resolve disputes if and when it arises.

There have been rumours over the underhand dealing but BPL secretary Sirajuddin Mohammad Alamgir warned about it by saying that: "We will be very strict with underhand deals. We have been hearing of these rumours but we won't let it happen. There will be strict punishments for franchises and players, so I hope they refrain themselves."

Sk Russel

FROM PAGE 16

The tie was over as a contest when in Arambagh were reduced to ten men after captain Din Mohammad picked up a second yellow with eleven minutes to play.

Sheikh Russel proceeded to add salt to the wounds with the final goal in the final minute through Yusuf, who slotted home after a cut-back from Anwar.

PCB COO's

FROM PAGE 16

He was in town to condole the death of Bangladesh Cricket Board's late CEO Manzur Ahmed, though on the sidelines he has queried about the security team's inspection due later this month.

"We are ready at our end and we are waiting to finalise arrangements from BCB. As soon as we are done with that, I think we will be ready to host the tour," he added.

BCB's acting CEO Nizam Uddin Chowdhury informed that they have requested the Home and Sports Ministry to propose possible candidates to form the team, which will undertake the tour later this month.

U-19s win with plenty to spare

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Under-19 team crushed their English counterparts by ten wickets in a practice match at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

Batting first, the visitors were skittled out for just 85 runs in 38.5 overs with Ben Foakes and Aneesh Patel scoring 26 and 25 respectively.

They were the only batsmen to have touched the double-figure mark as Al-Amin, with three wickets, and Mosaddek Hossain and Nasum Ahmed, with two each, took control of the proceedings.

Later, Anamul Haque's blazing 46 off 55 balls (six boundaries; two sixes) helped the home side to an early finish as he and Liton Kumar took only 14.5 overs to reach the target.

Div-II football from Jan 22

SPORTS REPORTER

The second division football league will kick off from January 22 at different venues in the Dhaka. 17 teams, split into two groups, will take part in the league.

The top four of each group will reach the Super League and the top four later will be promoted to the first division league.

A discussion meeting, presided by BFF President Kazi Salahuddin, was held with the club officials at BFF House on Wednesday.

BKSP beat Navy

SPORTS REPORTER

Rabbi Salehin struck three goals as BKSP defeated Bangladesh Navy 4-2 in their Trust Bank-ViyellaTex 28th National Hockey Championship match at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Rabbi gave BKSP the lead in the 5th minute before Deen Islam made it 2-0 in the 26th. Rabbi struck again in the 47th minute before Shihab made it 3-1 for Navy five minutes later. Rabbi got his third in the 58th minute before Shihab made it 4-2 in the 67th minute of the match.

In the other match of the day at the same venue, Dhaka drew 0-0 with Tangail.

Jamal storms

FROM PAGE 16 leader, is in tied sixth along with compatriot Abhijit Singh Chadha at four under 140.

Meanwhile, the shot of the day came from Bhanu Prapat Singh of India who made a hole-in-one on the sixth hole. Bhanu's nine-iron tee shot landed a few feet short of the hole and rolled in after a couple of bounces.

Rafa, Roger progress

AP, Melbourne



Rafael Nadal advanced to the third round of the Australian Open on Wednesday without much trouble from his opponent or his injured right knee. Rival Roger Federer got through without picking up a racket.

Nadal beat German veteran Tommy Haas 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 in a 2 1/2-hour match, declaring that the twisted tendon in the heavily taped knee was not a concern.

Just before Federer was due on Hisense Arena, the Swiss player found out that his scheduled opponent, Germany's Andreas Beck, had a back injury and had to withdraw.

Nadal, asked after his match if he would have appreciated the same kind of good fortune, was pragmatic.

Nadal and Federer could meet in the semifinals next week. Top-seeded Novak Djokovic and fourth-seeded Andy Murray, the threats from the other side of the draw, play their second-rounders Thursday.

Two of the women's title contenders, defending champion Kim Clijsters and No. 1 Caroline Wozniacki, both won their second-round matches Wednesday on their way to a potential quarterfinal meeting.

French Open champion Li Na also advanced, defeating Olivia Rogowska of Australia 6-2, 6-2. She could meet Clijsters in the fourth round in a rematch of last year's final at Melbourne Park.

Clijsters needed only 47 minutes to beat Stephanie Foretz Gacon of France 6-0, 6-1 and Wozniacki defeated Anna Tatishvili of Georgia 6-1, 7-6 (4).

Clijsters said she doesn't give a lot of thought to who she'll face down the road of any tournament.

Third-seeded Victoria Azarenka, one of five players who could have the No. 1 women's

ranking by the end of the tournament, beat Australian Casey Dellacqua 6-1, 6-0.

Elsewhere on the women's side, 10th-seeded Francesca Schiavone was eliminated 6-4, 6-3 by fellow Italian Romina Oprandi and No. 16 Peng Shuai of China lost 6-2, 6-4 to Iveta Benesova of Czech Republic.

Former No. 1-ranked Jelena Jankovic beat Chang Kai-chen of Taiwan 6-4, 6-2.

Eighth-ranked Mardy Fish became the first top 10 player on the men's side to lose, falling 7-6 (4), 6-3, 7-6 (6) to Colombia's Alejandro Falla.

No. 7 Tomas Berdych beat Olivier Rochus of Belgium 6-1, 6-0, 7-6 (4) and 2009 US Open champion Juan Martin del Potro, No. 18 Feliciano Lopez and No. 30 Kevin Anderson also advanced.

Qualifier Lukas Lacko of Slovakia beat American Donald Young 6-3, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 to earn a match against Nadal.

Another American, 16th-seeded John Isner, won a 4-hour, 41-minute marathon, including a 99-minute last set, over former Wimbledon finalist David Nalbandian. Isner had 43 aces in his 4-6, 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 (5), 10-8 win.

Nalbandian had several run-ins with the chair umpire during the often tense match. The Argentinian was enraged when a tournament official refused to overrule the chair umpire's decision to decline a review of a line call late in the fifth. He later smashed his racket to the ground in disgust when he netted a backhand on court point.

Ivo Karlovic of Croatia beat Carlos Berlocq of 7-6 (4), 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 and will play Federer in the third round, while 13th-seeded Alexandr Dolgoplov of Ukraine defeated Tobias Kamke of Germany 4-6, 6-1, 6-1, 3-6, 8-6.

Australian teenager Bernard Tomic beat another American Sam Querrey in the first night match on Rod Laver Arena, 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (3), 6-3. Tomic will play Dolgoplov in the third round.

SA seal series

Cricket

AFP, Bloemfontein

Francois 'Faf' du Plessis made the top score and pulled off a spectacular run out as South Africa clinched a series victory in the third one-day international against World Cup finalists Sri Lanka at Chevrolet Park here on Tuesday.

Mainly due to Du Plessis making 72 off 74 balls, South Africa were four ahead of the Duckworth/Lewis par score when rain stopped play.

The home side were on 179 for five after 34 overs in reply to Sri Lanka's 266 for nine and the result gave South Africa a winning 3-0 lead in the five-match series and extended the tourists poor run to six successive one day defeats.

Run outs played a crucial role in both innings. Sri Lanka made a competitive total but it might have been considerably higher if their two star batsmen, Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene, had not been run out, both by direct hits.

Upul Tharanga (58) and captain Tillakaratne Dilshan (33) put on 94 for Sri Lanka's first wicket. Sangakkara, batting at number three, looked set to take full advantage of the good start on an easy-paced pitch as he stroked his way to 38 off 37 balls.

But Sangakkara fell to a superb piece of fielding by Du Plessis, who dived far to his left at backward point to stop a cut by Dinesh Chandimal, then hit the stumps at the batsman's end with Sangakkara stranded after the batsmen hesitated.

Jayawardene was run out for 15, four balls into the batting powerplay in the 36th over, when he was sent back by Chandimal, slipped as he turned and could not recover to beat an accurate throw from Colin Ingram at mid-off.

"Mahela's and Sanga's run outs cost us 20 runs," said Dilshan, who added that some sloppy fielding by his team had cost another 20 runs when South Africa batted.

SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA

Tharanga c Ingram b Peterson	58			
Dilshan c Steyn b Duminy	33			
Sangakkara run out (Du Plessis)	38			
Chandimal c Smith b Morkel	36			
Jayawardene run out (Ingram)	15			

Kulasekara b Morkel

Mathews c Petersen b Tsotsobe	15			
Kulasekara run out (Tsotsobe)	19			
Malinga b Steyn	2			
Herath not out	1			
Extras: (lb-1, nb-1, w-7)	9			
Total: (For 9 wks in 50 overs)	266			
Did not bat: Prasad.				
Fall of wickets: 1-94, 2-102, 3-154, 4-183, 5-192, 6-220, 7-259, 8-262, 9-266				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Morkel	9	0	65	2
Tsotsobe	10	0	40	1
Steyn	10	0	55	1
Duminy	5	0	26	1
A Morkel	2	0	9	0
Peterson	10	0	45	1
Du Plessis	4	0	25	0

SOUTH AFRICA

Smith b Malinga	2			
Petersen lbw b Dilshan	17			
Ingram b Malinga	13			
Du Plessis run out (Mathews)	72			
Duminy run out (Kulasekera)	25			
De Villiers not out	39			
Morkel not out	7			
Extras: (lb-2, w-2)	4			
Total: (For 5 wks in 34 overs)	179			
Did not bat: Peterson, Steyn, Morkel, Tsotsobe				
Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-29, 3-52, 4-113, 5-147				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Malinga	5	1	20	2
N Kulasekera	6	0	31	0
Prasad	5	0	38	0
Herath	6	0	24	0
Dilshan	5	0	22	1
K Kulasekera	3	0	21	0
Mathews	4	0	21	0

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- Arp's style
- Dowel
- Medal earner
- Memo acronym
- Motorists' org.
- "Once -- a time, ..."
- Passenger's payment
- "Impossible"
- Teeny amount
- Activate, as a TV set
- Reveille's opposite
- Quake follow-up
- Characteristic
- Spot on a die
- Buck's mate
- Legacy recipient
- Sleepy companion?

- Green acres
- Always, in verse
- Pen name
- Do very well
- Cologne's cousin
- Mosque VIP
- Day spa treatment
- For this reason
- "-- not choose to run"
- Incite
- Thai money
- Round Table
- Address "Piggies"
- Memory measure
- Witness
- Conclusions
- Cleo's slayer
- Geological time
- Birtherer
- Singer Vikki
- Outdoor
- Emulate
- Rembrandt
- Chow down
- Stomach-related
- Contemporary snort
- Serialized
- Deteriorate
- Individual
- Frequently, in verse
- Cleo's slayer
- Geological time
- Heart
- Nautical stabilizer
- "Take -- Train"
- Coral structure
- Unbreakable, as an alibi
- Send packing
- Do
- Underwear with underwire
- Longoria or Mendes
- Overact
- Earlier
- Press
- On in years
- Not as much
- Recede
- Comic Romano
- Conk out

Solution time: 25 mins.



CRYPTOQUIP grid with letters: TBOV RZBKH BOA T OAPAS - JARTDOV LBOEOATT LBS YASHRDO NAEVA TNSKZT: "DYDMM RMYRFT MBPA FAYT."