

Eng done in three days

Cricket

AFP, Dubai

Paceman Umar Gul took 4-63 to help Pakistan beat the world's best Test team, England, by 10 wickets in the first Test inside three days here on Thursday, gaining a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

The 27-year-old fast bowler dismissed Andrew Strauss (six) before lunch and then accounted for Alastair Cook (five) and Kevin Pietersen (nought) in his hostile nine-over first spell on a spin-friendly Dubai Stadium pitch.

Spinners Abdul Rehman (3-37) and Saeed Ajmal (3-42) -- his second 10-wicket haul in Tests -- supplemented Gul to help Pakistan bundle out England for 160.

Pakistan notched the required 15 runs in 3.4 overs to hand England their first defeat in 10 Tests, since losing to Australia at Perth in the 2010 Ashes.

England's batsmen, wrecked by Ajmal's career-best 7-55 in their first innings of 192, were again clueless against the spin and played some rash shots as they sought to score runs on the pace of Gul.

Jonathan Trott top-scored with 49, but fell to an irresponsible shot, trying to force a short delivery from Gul and being caught by wicket-keeper Adnan Akmal, who finished the match with seven catches.

Trott, who passed the boundary of 2,000 runs when he reached 18 in his 24th Test, hit six boundaries during his 111-ball knock but became Gul's 150th wicket in his 41st Test.

England had another disastrous start as Strauss was adjudged caught behind, pushing Gul to the leg side and seeing the ensuing edge well taken by the wicket-keeper.

Strauss instantly challenged the verdict but was left to tudge off the field after television umpire Steve Davis of Australia upheld the original decision.



Pakistan pacer Umar Gul is ecstatic after dismissing England batsman Kevin Pietersen for a duck during the third day of the first Test at the Dubai Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

nal decision.

Soon after the lunch break, Gul produced a sharp rising delivery that caught Cook in two minds as the left-hander gloved it to Adnan, who had no trouble in gathering it.

Kevin Pietersen, who has yet to score big on tour, made it 25-3 when he hooked a Gul bouncer straight into the hands of deep square-leg fielder Abdul Rehman, leaving England in more trouble at 25-3.

Ajmal then got in on the act when he trapped Ian Bell plumb in front of the wicket for four.

Bell wasted England's second referral as television replays showed he was hit on the back leg, in line with the stumps.

Rehman ended a fifth-wicket partnership of 39 by dismissing Eoin Morgan (14) caught behind, while Ajmal trapped Matt Prior to leave England at 87-7.

Stuart Broad (17) and Graeme Swann (39) delayed the inevitable by putting on 48 for the eighth wicket before Rehman dismissed Broad and Chris Tremlett off successive deliveries.

Ajmal took the last wicket by getting Swann caught, much to the delight of his team-mates and the few hundred people in the stands.

In the morning, Adnan had boosted Pakistan's lead with a gutsy second Test half-century. Adnan scored a career-best 61, adding another 50 runs after Pakistan resumed at 288-7.

Adnan, who hit eight boundaries during his 129-ball knock, put on a 30-run stand for the ninth wicket with Ajmal, who made 12. His previous best of 53 came against Bangladesh in Dhaka last month.

Swann had Adnan stumped to finish with figures of 4-107.

The second Test starts in Abu Dhabi from January 25, while the third will again be played here over February 3-7.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND: First innings 192 (Prior 70, Swann 34; Ajmal 7-55)

PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 288-7)

Hafeez lbw 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 st Prior b Swann	61
Rehman b Anderson	4

Gul c Morgan b Broad	0
Ajmal c Cook b Swann	12
Cheema not out	0
Extras: (b-2, lb-5, nb-2)	9
Total: (All out in 119.5 overs)	338
Fall of wickets: 1-114, 2-128, 3-176, 4-202, 5-231, 6-283, 7-288, 8-289, 9-319	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anderson	30	7	71	2
Tremlett	21	6	53	0
Broad	31	8	84	3
Swann	29.5	3	107	4
Trott	8	2	16	1

ENGLAND: Second innings

Strauss c Adnan b Gul	6
Cook c Adnan b Gul	5
Trott c Adnan b Gul	49
Pietersen c Rehman b Gul	0
Bell lbw b Ajmal	4
Morgan c Adnan b Rehman	14
Prior lbw b Ajmal	4
Broad c Shafiq b Rehman	17
Swann c Shafiq b Ajmal	39
Tremlett c Hafeez b Rehman	0
Anderson not out	15
Extras: (b-4, lb-1, nb-2)	7
Total: (All out in 57.5 overs)	160
Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-25, 3-25, 4-35, 5-74, 6-87, 7-87, 8-135, 9-135	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Gul	19	5	63	4
Cheema	7.2	1	9	0
Hafeez	2	0	4	0
Ajmal	17.3	4	42	3
Rehman	12	2	37	3

PAKISTAN: Second innings	O	M	R	W
Hafeez not out	15			
Umar not out	0			
Total: (For no loss in 3.4 overs)	15			

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anderson	2	1	7	0

SL shake-up

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka shook up the domestic cricket scene Thursday by appointing a new panel to choose future players, following the national team's abysmal performance during their current tour of South Africa.

Sports minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage named a four-member panel of selectors headed by Asantha de Mel, a former national player, and gave them one year to put the team in order, his spokesman said.

Skipper Tillakaratne Dilshan is tipped to be replaced by former captain Mahela Jayawardena while coach Geoff Marsh is also likely to be asked to go, the local Daily Mirror said.

Nasir richest among locals

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"We are yet to settle this issue but definitely icon players will get their due honour," said Sirajuddin Mohammad Alamgir, secretary of the BPL governing body.

Among the auctioned local cricketers, all-rounder Nasir was snapped up for 200,000 dollars while the Chittagong Kings took Mahmudullah Riyad and Jahurul Islam for 110,000 dollars each.

Naeem Islam (90,000 dollars), Abdur Razzak and Nazimuddin (85,000), Mithun Ali and Shuvogoto Hom Chowdhury (80,000) and Elias Sunny (75,000) were the other significant buys while Junaed Siddiqui, Rubel Hossain, Shafiqul Islam, Forhad Reza, Mosharraf Rubel, Alauddin Babu, Enamul Haque Jr, Imrul Kayes and Nazmul Islam Apu were bought for between

70,000 and 50,000 dollars.

Mithun, who has been in tremendous form in domestic cricket this season, was willing on the auctioneer when the franchises began the bidding.

"I was just returning from Sylhet where I had played for Bangladesh A. I stood at the airport and was asking them to raise the money a bit more!" said Mithun.

"I am really very happy, but I think it has to do with my form this season. [Sarwar] Imran sir called me up from the auction and congratulated me," he added.

Twenty-three other local cricketers were bought for 20,000 dollars, the base price in Category C, with the likes of Nabil Samad, Talha Jubair and Mizanur Rahman winning the prized contracts after being last-minute additions to the locals' list.

Finally, twenty-eight local players remained unsold among whom Tigers pair Rokibul Hasan and Shahadat Hossain were the notable names.

Premier Div

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face Cricket Coaching School (CCS) at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

Old DOHS, Gazi Tank, Mohammedan and Victoria secured eight points each after the fifth round while Abahani and Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club followed them with six points.

Prime Doleshwar, Biman and CCS have four points each from five matches, Brothers and Kalabagan have two points each while Surjo Tarun remain winless.

Worcs eye Ajmal

AFP, London

Worcestershire have agreed a short-term contract with Pakistan spinner Saeed Ajmal for this year's Twenty20 season but are awaiting final confirmation of the deal, county officials said Thursday.

Ajmal has been in superb form for Pakistan in the first Test against England in Dubai, capturing seven for 55 on Tuesday to leave Andrew Strauss's men struggling to save the Test.

Worcestershire chief David Leatherdale said Thursday the county was confident of re-signing the talented spinner.

"We have spoken to Saeed. We have put an offer on the table with him and his representative," he said.

"The signs are that Saeed is very keen to come back and has verbally agreed terms with us for the Twenty20 in June and July.

"But we will take nothing for granted until the i's have been dotted and the t's have been crossed.

Ajmal's bowling action has been the subject of much debate this week, with former England bowler Bob Willis questioning its legality.

But Leatherdale said Worcestershire had seen nothing in Ajmal's action that gave cause for concern.

"We have no complaints with the way he bowled for us last season," he said. "We were very happy and comfortable with the way he bowled."

MU legends

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and take part a variety of other promotional events before departing the capital on January 25.

Most young football lovers will be aware of the exploits of the Trinidad & Tobago striker Dwight Yorke who played an integral role as the Red Devils won a historic treble (League, FA Cup and Champions League) in the 1998-1999 season. Yorke's telepathic understanding with Andy Cole made the two one of the most feared strike partnerships in the world and transcended both into Manchester United folklore. He was also captain of his native Trinidad & Tobago side when they made their maiden appearance in the World Cup in Germany in 2006.

But if Yorke is popular with the United fans, then Robson is revered. A combative all-action midfielder in his day, Robson has been the longest serving captain of Manchester United and also captained England in his pomp. The club legend was also only recently voted the 'Greatest ever Manchester United player.'

Jamal clings

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golfer has yet to show his best, though he bettered his performance from Wednesday's round.

The 2010 Bangladesh Open champion carded a 70 in round three that included an eagle, four birdies and four bogeys. He sunk a chip-in from the bunker for the eagle on the 14th.

Injury ends Andy's bid

AP, Melbourne



australian open

The Grand Slam of Asia-Pacific

Andy Roddick's attempt to win another Grand Slam title nearly a decade after his first ended Thursday at the Australian Open when he had to retire from his second-round match due to a right hamstring injury.

Former No. 1-ranked Roddick, whose only major singles win came at the 2003 US Open, was trailing Lleyton Hewitt 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 when he called the trainer to his court-side chair. He then walked over to Hewitt and shook the Australian player's hand, unable to continue.

Top-seeded Novak Djokovic advanced earlier Thursday, overcoming an early service break against Santiago Giraldo in a 6-3, 6-2, 6-1 victory at Melbourne Park.

A title this month would put him in select company. Only four players -- Laver, Pete Sampras, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal -- have won three straight Grand Slam singles tournaments, and Djokovic could join them following his wins at last year's Wimbledon and US Open.

Second-seeded Nadal and third-seeded Federer, who are in the other half of the draw here, play back-to-back matches at Rod Laver Arena on Friday.

Fourth-seeded Andy Murray, who lost to Djokovic in the final here last year, also advanced Thursday, beating Edouard Roger-Vasselin of France 6-1, 6-4, 6-4. Murray is playing his first Grand Slam tournament since hiring eight-time major champion Ivan Lendl as his coach.

Earlier, five-time Australian Open champion Serena Williams notched her 500th career singles victory when she beat Barbora Zahlavova Strycova 6-0, 6-4 to advance to the

third round. The left ankle she badly sprained two weeks ago wasn't an issue.

Williams won the Australian Open in 2009 and 2010, but didn't defend her title in 2011 because she was injured.

Her older sister, Venus, has a win-loss record of 589-147, but is missing the Australian Open to recover from illness.

Not quite. Martina Navratilova had a career record 1,442-219, and Chris Evert retired with a 1,309-146 win-loss mark.

With top-seeded Caroline Wozniacki having a day off, No. 2 Petra Kvitova moved into the third round with a 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 win over Carla Suarez Navarro. Kvitova, who lost in the first round at the US Open in the first major after winning Wimbledon, was down a service break in the third before recovering to beat the Spaniard.

Maria Sharapova, one of the three former champions in the women's draw, reached the third round after just two hours on court in two matches. The 2008 champion had a 6-0, 6-1 second-round win over US qualifier Jamie Hampton in 64 minutes.

Sharapova did not play in any warmup events and spent nearly two weeks in Melbourne ahead of the season's first major while she rested an injured left ankle.

She'll meet No. 30 Angelique Kerber, who beat Canada's Stephanie Dubois 7-5, 6-1.

Seventh-seeded Vera Zvonareva, a two-time semifinalist at Melbourne Park, had a 6-1, 7-6 (3) over Lucie Hradecka. No. 21 Ana Ivanovic also advanced, beating Dutch player Michaella Krajicek 6-2, 6-3.

Ninth-seeded Marion Bartoli beat local hope and former quarterfinalist Jelena Dokic 6-3, 6-3 and No. 27 Maria Kirilenko of Russia topped Aleksandra Wozniak of Canada 6-4, 1-6, 6-2. Former US Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova beat American Sloane Stephens 7-6 (6), 7-5.

BJMC aim

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against superior teams is the key to his success. He will however miss the services one of his vital midfielders Cameroonain Jean Jules Ikanga in the crunch game.

On the other hand, star-studded Muktijoddha Sangsad are cautious about their prospect of making it to the final after three seasons.

"Abahani have been the top favourites of the tournament so far but they were eliminated and those who qualified for the semifinals are capable of lifting the trophy and we are not taking our opponents lightly," said Mukti coach Shafiqul Islam Manik.

"BJMC are capable of pulling off a victory against any side and we must keep this in mind tomorrow (Friday)," Manik said.

"But this time, Muktijoddha are more organised and I am getting much options to deck up the playing eleven as there are no injury or suspension problem and central defender Ariful Islam is also back in the fold."

Muktijoddha Sangsad will bank on their on-fire striker Mithun Chowdhury and Nigerian Sunday Chizoba, who was however not up to mark against Farashganj after squandering at least three easy chances before Muktijoddha won the game 4-3 in a tiebreaker.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Moment

4 Second-hand

8 Touse

12 401(k) alternative

13 Nevada city

14 Exam format

15 Utensil made from a gourd

17 Data, for short

18 Open slightly

19 Surround

20 Jordan's capital

22 Categrize

24 Wheedle

25 Aerosol vessel

29 Pitch

30 Corn

31 Consumed

32 Thick-bladed dagger

34 Turn the soil

35 Don

Juan's mother

36 Soil samples rich in clay

37 Big glitch

40 Throat clearer

41 Grown-up nits

42 Poison ivy

46 Culture medium

47 Burden

48 Sawbuck

49 Anything but that

50 Crimson Tide

51 Nevertheless

DOWN

1 [Uncorrected]

Solution time: 25 mins.

DECO PEG HERO

ASAP AAA UPON

FARE ITS MITE

TURNON TAPS

AFTERSHOCK

TRAIT PIP DOE

HEIR DOC EIRE

EER BIC EXCEL

AFTERSHAVE

IMAM FACIAL

ERGO IDO URGE

BAHT SIR TOES

BYTE SEE ENDS

2 Mound stat

3 Trattoria dish

4 City-related

5 Burn somewhat

6 Type measures

7 Homer's interjection

8 Half

9 Coffee shop vessels

10 Well-protected

11 Coin aperture

16 Trojan War

19 Highland hillside

20 New Testament book

21 Castle protection

22 Olympic swimming legend

23 Rice-shaped pasta

25 Fill fully

26 Dire situation

27 Fermi's bit

28 11 o'clock broadcast

30 Carte

33 Longtime convicts

34 Verse

36 Tibet's capital

37 Venetian blind part

38 In the offing

39 Exotic berry

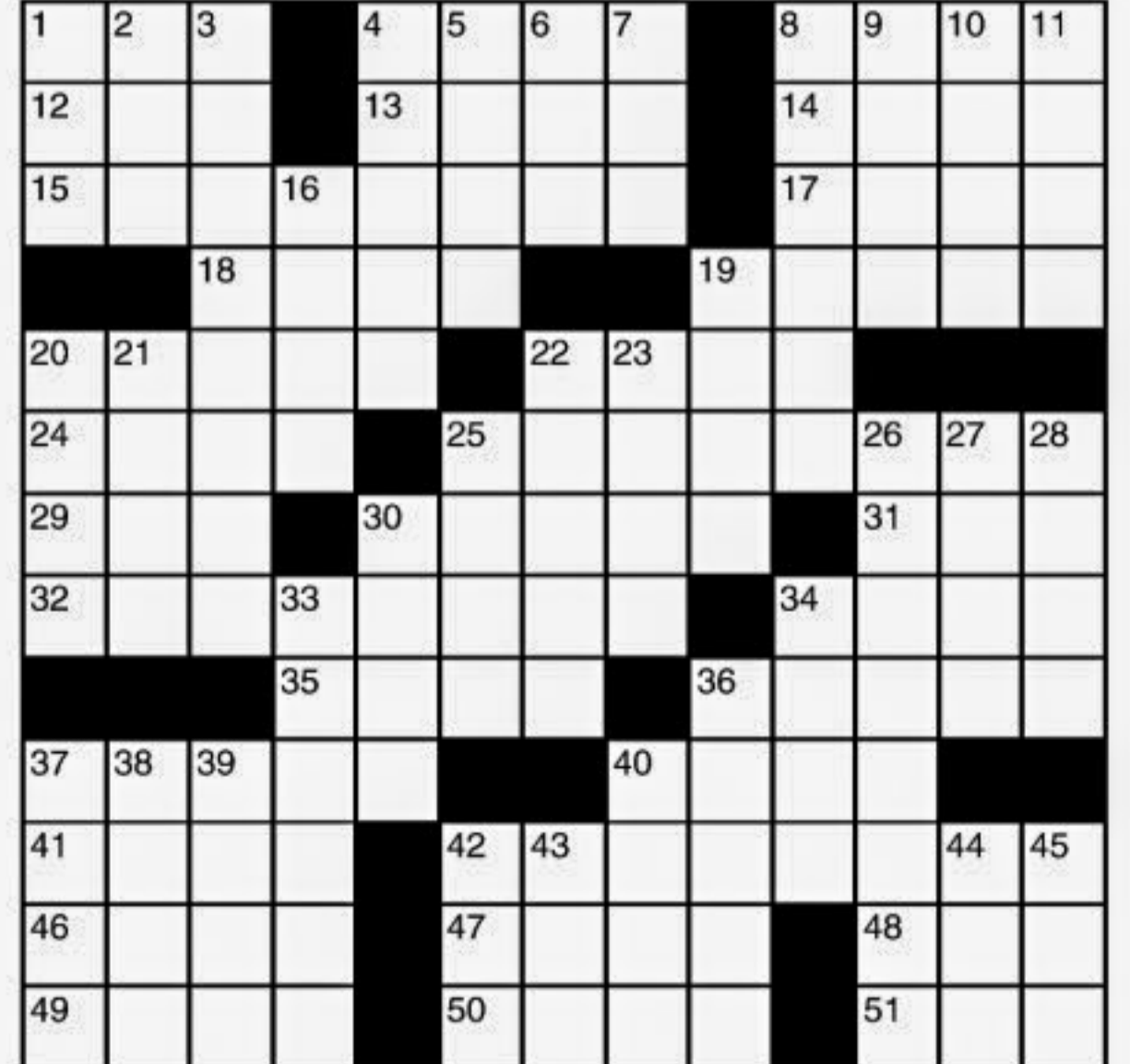
40 Grad

42 Stocky horse

43 Santa — winds

44 Born

45 Tolkien character



CRYPTOQUIP

G J B S C R J F Y J G Q X T C J J W

G J J E N C W V J V O J S F N F S I N Z

Z N C K F Q O J R, Q E N C I V B S I I

F Y S F S R F Q W X T C S K F J F.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SONG ABOUT ONE'S

NEVER-CEASING FONDNESS FOR CERTAIN

HEDGE SHRUBS: "I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YEWS."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals E