

Wickets tumble on Day 1

Cricket

AFP, Dubai

England edged to a slender five-run lead over Pakistan at the close as 16 wickets fell during an extraordinary opening day of the third and final Test at Dubai Stadium Friday.

Routed for a low score of 99 in their first innings by England pacemen Stuart Broad (4-36) and James Anderson (3-35), Pakistan spinners moved to the fore to leave England struggling at 104-6.

England, playing for pride after losing the first two Tests and the series, now hold a slight lead on a seemingly batting-friendly pitch.

At the close, Andrew Strauss was unbeaten on 41 and James Anderson was on three not out.

Paceman Umar Gul led Pakistan's fightback by dismissing opener Alastair Cook (one) and Jonathan Trott (two) before Strauss added 57 for the third wicket with Kevin Pietersen (32) during their bids to overcome batting frailties.

England's batting had flopped during their two wicket defeat in the first Test here and in the 72-run defeat in the second match in Abu Dhabi.

Pakistani spinners Abdul Rehman and Saeed Ajmal,

who grabbed 34 of the 40 wickets in the first two Tests, then grabbed four more wickets, with Rehman dismissing Pietersen and Eoin Morgan (10) and Ajmal accounting for Bell (five).

Pietersen's dismissal made it 34 leg-before dismissals for the series, beating the previous record of 33 in the Pakistan-West Indies series in the Caribbean in 1993.

Rehman, who took 3-23, then bowled Matt Prior (six) with England just one behind Pakistan.

Earlier in the morning, England's pace duo of Broad and Anderson bowled well to expose Pakistan, who won the toss and batted. Asad Shafiq topscored with 45.

Anderson struck in the first over, trapping opener Taufiq Umar for a duck.

Broad then clicked into gear, snaring Ali in his third over through a caught behind and Younis in his next, caught off a rising delivery, again by wicket-keeper Prior.

He then claimed Hafeez's wicket trapping him leg before. Australian umpire Simon Taufel initially turned down the appeal but changed the decision after England called for a review.

Hafeez mocked the decision review system and may face a hearing from match-referee Jeff Crowe of New Zealand after the day's play.

From the other end Anderson trapped Misbah-ul Haq for one in a decision challenged by the Pakistani skipper to no avail. That left Pakistan struggling at 21-5.

Shafiq and Adnan Akmal (six) added 18 for the sixth wicket before Broad changed ends to dismiss the wicket-keeper, again with a sharp incoming delivery which caught the batsmen in front of the stumps.

Graeme Swann then teased a miscued a drive from Rehman (one) gathered by a grateful Pietersen at mid-off, leaving Pakistan in danger of being bowled out for their lowest ever Test total -- 53 against Australia in 2002.

Shafiq hit his first boundary in the last over before lunch to take Pakistan to that lowest mark and then hit another off left-arm spinner Monty Panesar to avoid the ignominy.

But Panesar, who took 2-25, had the last laugh, breaking the 34-run stand -- the best of the innings -- between Ajmal (12) and Shafiq after lunch.

Gul made 13 before Anderson bowled him to wrap up the innings.

England resisted the temptation to change their line-up but Pakistan brought paceman Aizaz Cheema for Junaid Khan.

SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN: First innings				
Hafeez lbw b Broad	13			
Umar lbw b Anderson	0			
Azhar c Prior b Broad	1			
Younis c Prior b Broad	4			
Misbah lbw b Anderson	1			
Shafiq lbw b Panesar	45			
Akmal lbw b Broad	6			
Rehman c Pietersen b Swann	1			
Ajmal lbw b Panesar	12			
Gul b Anderson	13			
Cheema not out	0			
Extras: (lb-3)	3			
Total: (All out in 44.1 overs)	99			
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-8, 3-18, 4-21, 5-21, 6-39, 7-44, 8-78, 9-85.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anderson	14.1	3	35	3
Broad	16	5	36	4
Panesar	13	4	25	2
Swann	1	1	0	1
ENGLAND: First innings				
Strauss not out	41			
Cook c Adnan b Gul	1			
Trott lbw b Gul	2			
Pietersen lbw b Rehman	32			
Bell st Adnan b Ajmal	5			
Morgan lbw b Rehman	10			
Prior b Rehman	6			
Anderson not out	3			
Extras: (lb-1, lb-3)	4			
Total: (For six wkts in 43 overs)	104			
To bat: Broad, Swann, Panesar.				
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-7, 3-64, 4-75, 5-88, 6-98.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Gul	7	1	28	2
Cheema	4	0	9	0
Ajmal	17	5	40	1
Rehman	15	4	23	3

Toss: Pakistan
Umpires: Simon Taufel (AUS) and Steve Davis (AUS).



PHOTO: AFP

England paceman Stuart Broad on his delivery stride during the first day of the third and final Test against Pakistan at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium yesterday. Broad grabbed four wickets as Pakistan were bowled out for 99.

Cricket for the disabled

AFP, Karachi

Disabled cricketers from England and Pakistan play their first-ever series this month, with organisers hoping the matches can inspire a big future in world disabled cricket.

The three one-day and two Twenty20 match series in the United Arab Emirates coincides with a one-day series between the main cricket teams of the same countries, also being played in the UAE.

Amiruddin Ansari, secretary of the Pakistan Disabled Cricket Association (PDCA), hoped the series would be a landmark.

"Pakistan team will play three 40 overs matches and two Twenty20s at the ICC Global Cricket Academy in Dubai from February 11 and it is approved by the boards of both the countries," said Ansari.

"We hope it will be a landmark series and will be well received in the world, sending the message that no disability can stop human beings from shining," said Ansari, a former first class cricketer.

Pakistan is led by Salim Karim, whose right leg withered from polio while his left was damaged in an accident.

Karim assembled the team in 2006 and has since organised three national championships, sparking country-wide interest.

"England have also shown great interest in disabled cricket and we were happy about how they supported our idea," said Ansari, who hoped other countries like Australia, India and Sri Lanka would follow suit.

"We want to stage a World Cup for disabled cricketers, so for that we need the support of other countries and I hope in the next couple of years more and more countries will come to play this brand of the game," said Ansari.

Zimbabwe crash to defeat

Cricket

AFP, Dunedin

New Zealand defeated Zimbabwe by 90 runs in the first one-day international at Dunedin Friday as poor batting by the tourists undermined a creditable bowling effort.

Zimbabwe, reeling from a humiliating innings-and-301-run defeat in a one-off Test in Napier last week, were set an achievable target of 249 after winning the toss and sending New Zealand in to bat on a seaming wicket.

But the hard work by Zimbabwe paceman Shingi Masakadza, who took four for 46, was undone by a weak batting display in which captain Brendan Taylor's 58 off 68 balls was the sole bright spot.

New Zealand opener Martin Guptill produced a man-of-the-match display in scoring 70 to anchor the home side's innings, while promising all-rounder Rob Nicol took four wickets for 19 in his fourth one-day international.

"We just weren't good enough today," Taylor said. "We'll go back to the drawing board with the batting and a few areas with the ball, but we just outplayed by a better side."

New Zealand were far from convincing as Zimbabwe took two wickets in the opening two overs and were eventually bowled out in the 48th over.

Kane Williamson (35), Nathan McCullum (30) and Andrew Ellis (33) all made starts but could not dig in on a green-tinged pitch that offered plenty of movement.

Guptill was the only batsman who managed to break

the shackles and his 88-run partnership with Williamson proved crucial in steadying the New Zealand innings.

He brought up a half century off 44 balls, including seven fours, but fell when a lapse in concentration saw him clean bowled by Elton Chigumbura.

Chigumbura struck again four overs later, enticing debutant Tom Latham into an attempted cover drive which edged to wicketkeeper Tatenda Taibu.

Unlike the Napier Test, Zimbabwe maintained the pressure and were rewarded when a diving Dean Brownlie was run out for 19 after Regis Chakabva hit the stumps from side-on with a sharp piece of fielding, leaving the hosts on 166-6.

Masakadza claimed another three scalps as the hosts' final four wickets fell for 25 runs, with Andrew Ellis (33) playing onto his stumps, Nathan McCullum clean bowled and Tim Southee (3) out lbw.

Zimbabwe suffered a horror start to be 15-3 in the sixth over, with openers Stuart Matsikenyeri (1) and Hamilton Masakadza (7) both out cheaply.

Taylor, who described the Test loss as "a big smack in the face", gave Zimbabwe some hope in the middle order, forging partnerships of 52 and 30 with Tatenda Taibu and Malcolm Waller.

He eventually fell trying to lift the run rate against a miserly New Zealand attack, smashing a six off Nicol but

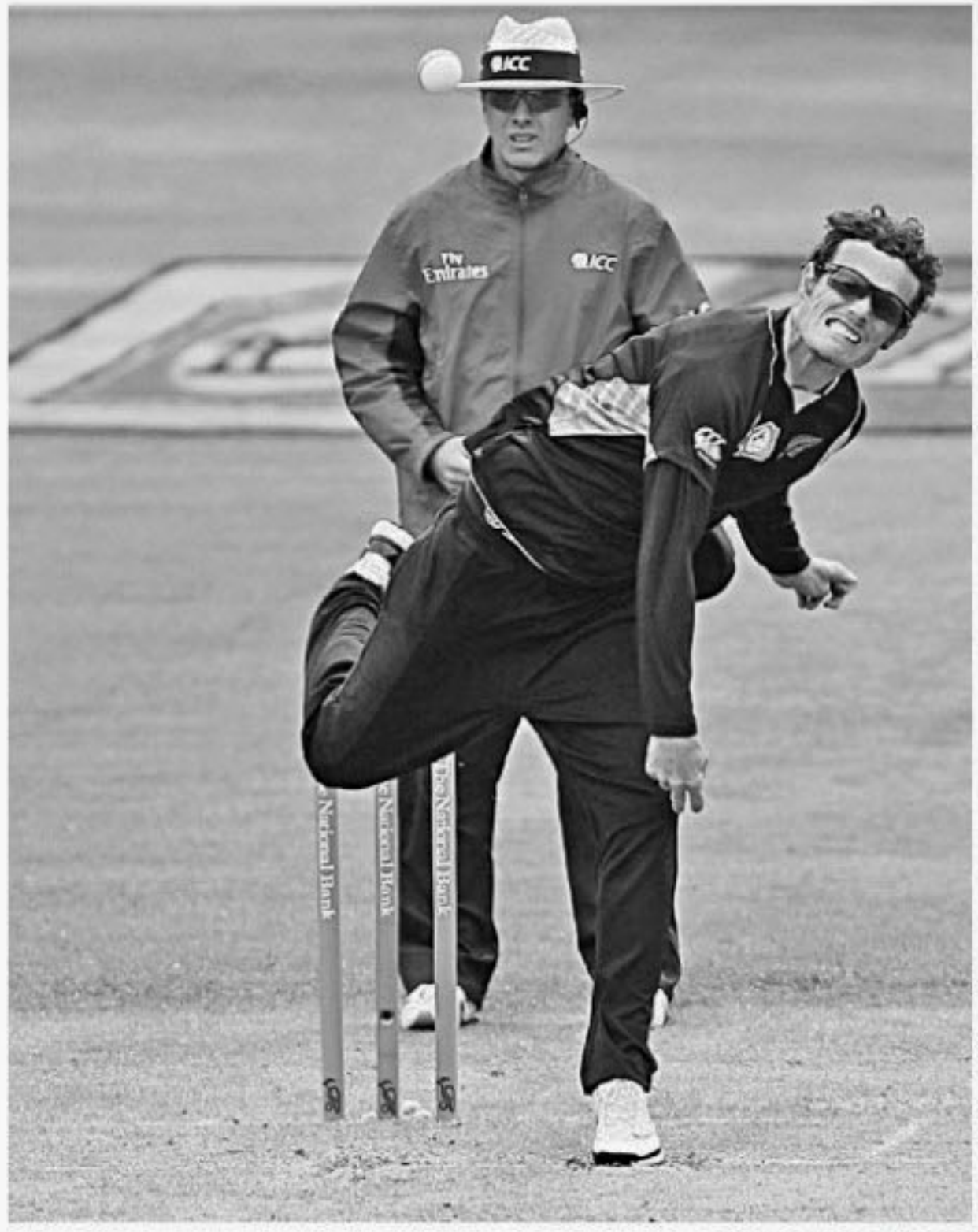


PHOTO: INTERNET

New Zealand off-spinner Rob Nicol took 4 for 19 as the Kiwis beat Zimbabwe by 90 runs in the first ODI in Dunedin on Friday.

offering Andrew Ellis an easy catch at long-off when he went for another in the next ball.

Taylor's departure effectively ended Zimbabwe's resistance, with only tail-ender Ray Price's 26, the second highest score of the innings, adding some respectability to the final result.

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND				
Nicol c Taylor b Meth	0			
Guptill b Chigumbura	70			
McCullum lbw b Jarvis	3			
Williamson c & b S Masakadza	35			
Latham c Taibu b Chigumbura	24			
Brownlie run out	19			
McCullum b S Masakadza	30			
Ellis b S. Masakadza	33			
Bracewell not out	8			
Mills b Jarvis	7			
Southee lbw S Masakadza	3			
Extras: (lb-7, w-9)	16			
Total: (All out in 48.3 overs)	248			
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-4, 3-92, 4-130, 5-147, 6-166, 7-223, 8-230, 9-241, 10-248.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Meth	7	0	48	1
Jarvis	9	1	41	2
S Masakadza	9.3	0	46	4
Chigumbura	10	0	46	2
Price	10	1	47	0
H Masakadza	3	0	13	0
ZIMBABWE				
Masakadza run out	7			
Matsikenyeri lbw b Mills	1			
Chakabva c Nicol b Mills	2			
Taylor c Ellis b Nicol	58			
Taibu c Williamson b Ellis	20			
Waller lbw b Nicol	12			
Chigumbura c & b Bracewell	15			
Meth lbw b Nicol	10			
Masakadza c Nicol b Mills	2			
Price not out	26			
Jarvis st McCullum b Nicol	2			
Extras: (w-3)	3			
Total: (All out in 41.4 overs)	158			
Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-10, 3-15, 4-67, 5-97, 6-110, 7-119, 8-122, 9-156, 10-158.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mills	8	2	26	3
Bracewell	8	1	33	1
Southee	8	0	27	0
Ellis	8	1	34	1
Nicol	4.1	0	19	4
N McCullum	5	0	19	0

Result: New Zealand won by 90 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Martin Guptill.

Mirpur, Jatrabri stroll to win

SPORTS REPORTER

Mirpur Cricket Club crushed Dhanmondi Cricket Academy by eight wickets in their Second Division Cricket League match at the BKSP-4 ground in Savar yesterday.

Batting first, DCA were bowled out for 109 runs in 49.3 overs with Tarek and Ratnak making 21 each. Shahriar picked up three wickets.

Mirpur knocked out the total in just 14.5 overs with Hasan making an unbeaten 38.

In the other match, Jatrabri Krira Chakra (239-9 in 50 overs) beat Gopibagh Friends Association (154 all out in 43.3 overs) by 85 runs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

CHAMPS TROPHY HOCKEY

Semi line-up completed

AFP, Rosario

The Netherlands, Argentina, Great Britain and Germany booked their spots in the last four of the Champions Trophy hockey in Rosario on Thursday.

The Netherlands, intent on retaining their crown from a year ago in Amsterdam, signalled their title credentials with a commanding 3-0 victory over New Zealand.

The Dutch will face hosts Argentina in the semifinals after the Argentines scored a late goal to knock off China 3-2 in a hard fought battle at the Estadio Mundialista.

Great Britain, meanwhile, cruised to a comfortable 4-1 win over South Korea after three goals in a span of five minutes gave them an almost unassailable lead.

Seonok Lee pulled a goal back for the Koreans, but Helen Richardson restored the three-goal advantage as Team GB set-up a last four meeting with Germany.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

East End Club recorded a single-goal win over Purbachal Parishad in the Destiny 2nd Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Ismail Hossain struck the all-important goal in the seventh minute through a penalty kick.

School Football

Laxmipur High School emerged Sadar Upazila champions of Chapainawabganj to move into the next round of the National School Football Islami Bank Tournament yesterday.

Laxmipur defeated Chamagram Hena High School 1-0 in the Upazila final with Masud Rana scoring the decisive goal.

In Barhatta Upazila, five matches were held. Kisholoy Shishu Niketon beat Nichintopur High School 2-1, Haziganj High School beat Premnagar Shalipura High School 1-0, Uzangao Mash Abbasia High School beat Chabbish Kahniya Hafiz Uddin High School 1-0, Boushi Aardhachandra High School beat Shawta High School 1-0 and Barhatta CKP Pilot High School outplayed Huzurbari High School 2-0.

Reprieve for India

FROM PAGE 16

Australia's win in the opening T20 game, topscored with 36 off 23 balls and first match topscorer Matthew Wade chipped in with 32 off 29 balls.

But India had the home side under pressure from the third over when they had the adventurous David Warner dismissed for eight to a great catch in the deep by a backpedalling Gambhir off Praveen Kumar.

Test flop Shaun Marsh was out for a two-ball duck and Finch was run out by an outstanding piece of athletic fielding by Jadeja after David

Hussey hit the ball straight to him at backward point and scampered for a single.

Hussey also played a role in a second run out as Jadeja found skipper George Bailey (3) well out of his ground at the bowler's end, and was himself next to go, caught and bowled by Jadeja for 24 off 29 balls.

Smart glove work by Dhoni had Mitchell Marsh stumped for 13 off spinner Rahul Sharma and Wade was run out by a direct throw from Rohit Sharma in the 19th over.

The Australians collapsed losing their final three wickets in seven balls.

Clint McKay was caught by Dhoni off Vinay Kumar for a first-ball duck, veteran Brad Hogg was leg before wicket to Rahul Sharma for four and Xavier Doherty was run out by Suresh Raina attempting a suicidal second run to end Australia's innings with two balls left.

Kumar took two for 21 off three overs and Sharma claimed two for 29 off 3.4 overs.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA

Warner c Gambhir b Kumar	8			
Finch run out (Jadeja)	36			
S Marsh c Dhoni b Kumar	0			

Hussey c & b Jadeja	24			
Bailey run out (Jadeja)	3			
Wade run out (Rohit)	32			
M Marsh st Dhoni b Rahul	13			
Lee not out	6			
McKay c Dhoni b Vinay	0			
Hogg lbw b Rahul	4			
Doherty run out (Raina)	1			
Extras: (w-4)	4			
Total: (All out in 19.4 overs)	131			
Fall of wickets: 1-19, 2-20, 3-49, 4-54, 5-93, 6-119, 7-121, 8-121, 9-130, 10-131.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kumar	3	0	21	2
Vinay	4	0	25	1
Kohli	1	0	7	0
Jadeja	3	0	16	1
Rahul	3.4	0	29	2
Raina	1	0	10	0

Ashwin	4	0	23	0
INDIA				
Gambhir not out	56			
Sehwag c Marsh b Hogg	23			
Kohli c Wade b M Marsh	31			
Dhoni not out	21			
Extras: (w-4)	4			
Total: (For 2 wkts in 19.4 overs)	135			
Did not bat: Raina, Rohit, Jadeja, Rahul, Ashwin, Vinay, Kumar.				
Fall of wickets: 1-43, 2-97.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Lee	4	0	24	0
McKay	3.4	0	25	0
Doherty	3	0	29	0
Hogg	3	0	19	1
M Marsh	4	0	30	1
Hussey	2	0	8	0

Result: India won by 8 wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Ravindra Jadeja.

Maria set to boost Russia

Tennis

AFP, Paris

Maria Sharapova will be looking to fire Russia in their Fed Cup World Group opener against Spain this weekend as she returns to freezing Moscow after her run in the sun to the Australian Open final.

Russian captain Shamil Tarpishev was spoilt for choice for the tie on the indoor hard surface of Moscow's Olympic Stadium and has opted for world number three Sharapova for singles duty alongside 19th-ranked Svetlana Kuznetsova.

Sharapova had a good run to the final of the first Grand Slam of the season in Melbourne before being thrashed in straight sets by Victoria Azarenka of Belarus.

"I just came to Moscow from Australia

and I'm still shocked by the temperature drop (from +30 degrees Celsius to -20C). But I still have time to get accustomed to the weather conditions here," the Florida-based player said.

"I believe this time I will be able to play better than I did in my previous Fed Cup appearance against France last year. I'll try to give my best against Spain on front of our home fans in a very important tournament."

Beaten 3-2 by the Czech Republic in last year's final at the same Olympic Stadium, the Russian team will be looking for a morale-boosting opener with a team that also includes Nadia Petrova, ranked 33, and 42nd-ranked Ekaterina Makarova.

Spain legend Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario takes charge for the first time as captain of the five-time winners in a team that will be without Anabel Medina Garrigues.