

Aussies ride on Hussey



AFP, Sharjah

Michael Hussey and Glenn Maxwell hit fighting half-centuries to help Australia beat Pakistan by three wickets in the third and final one-day international Monday, taking the series 2-1.

Hussey scored 65 for his 39th fifty and Maxwell hit a 38-ball 56 not out as Australia successfully chased down a challenging target of 245 in 47 overs, with three wickets in hand, spoiling Pakistan's chances of beating them for the first time since 2002.

Opener Mohammad Hafeez top-scored with 78 in Pakistan's fighting total of 244-7 after they were put into bat in Sharjah.

Hussey added an invaluable 51 for the fifth wicket with Matthew Wade (22) after Pakistani spinner Saeed Ajmal (3-37) had threatened to wreck their innings, reducing Australia at one stage to 108-4.

Australia had won the first match by four wickets here last week before Pakistan levelled the series with a seven wicket win in the second match in Abu Dhabi on Friday.

But on Monday the 37-year-old Hussey, regarded as one of the best finishers in limited overs cricket, kept his cool during a 72-ball knock. He hit seven fours and a six.

Even when Wade was bowled by Abdur Rehman, Hussey fought hard, adding 67 with Maxwell. When Hussey was bowled by Khan, Australia still needed 19 but Maxwell ensured the chase was successful, hitting four fours and three sixes.

Australian captain Michael Clarke praised the team effort. "It's fantastic to win the series," said Clarke. "I can't be more proud of the boys because it was tough chase but Michael and Maxwell did very well."

Pakistan captain Misbahul Haq said the loss was disappointing.

"It was a hard fought series but in the end we are disappointed with the defeat. We were 20-30 short but full credit to Australia," said Misbah, who has now lost the last three one-day series.

Australia got off to a rapid start with David Hussey putting on 44 by the ninth over with David Warner (21), both taking the attack to the Pakistanis from the outset. David Hussey hit



Australia's Glenn Maxwell pumps his fist after scoring the winning runs against Pakistan in the third and deciding one-dayer at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Monday night.

PHOTO: AFP

33rd over Pakistan were hard pressed for runs. Hafeez hit four boundaries and two sixes.

Starc, who took a career best 5-42 in the first match, then came into his own. The lanky left-arm paceman had Asad Shafiq (27) and Umar Akmal (nought) in the same over before ending Misbah's short 25 runs innings in the 47th over.

Azhar Ali made 27 not out to give fillip to Pakistan's total.

Surprisingly, Australia -- considered weak against spin on the Asian pitches -- have lost only one bilateral limited overs series in the sub-continent and Middle East in 20 years. They lost to India in a three-match series in 2010.

Pakistan and Australia now play three Twenty20 internationals -- all in Dubai -- on September 5, 7 and 10.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: 244 for 7 (Hafeez 78, Jamshed 48, Shafiq 27, Misbah 25, Azhar 27 not out; Starc 4-51, Johnson 2-33)

AUSTRALIA: 250 for 7 (Warner 21, D Hussey 43, Clarke 32, M Hussey 65, Maxwell 56 not out; Rehman 2-41, Ajmal 3-37)

Result: Australia won by three wickets and clinched three-match series 2-1.

Man-of-the-match: Mike Hussey.

Man-of-the-series: Mitchell Starc.

Pistorius

FROM PAGE 16 emphasise how long his rivals' strides are I rewatched the race and did the obvious thing: I counted the strides.

It turns out that Pistorius took 92 steps during the race (2.2m per stride), and Oliveira took 98 steps to win gold (2m per stride). To break it down further: in the first 100m, Pistorius took 49 steps (2.0m per stride), with 43 steps in the straight (2.3m per stride).

Oliveira, on the other hand, took shorter strides: 52 in the first 100m (1.92m each) and 46 in the second 100m (2.2m each).

So, a simple count shows that Pistorius has longer strides than Alan, and they are consistently longer -- on the bend, and in the straight, for those who are wondering. It's Oliveira who "can't compete with Oscar's stride length". His faster speed, then, is the result of faster leg movement, because speed, as you will appreciate, is the result of stride length and stride rate.

And here again, let me repeat, there is much more to the debate than simply the stride length, as I'll get to shortly. But the point here is that once again, you have this misinformation from Pistorius, and the media are too lazy to interrogate it further, they just report and allow the uninformed debate to go on. Already on Twitter I have got numerous responses saying "Look how long Oliveira's stride is!" But it's not -- it's shorter than Pistorius's, by some margin.

Selangor

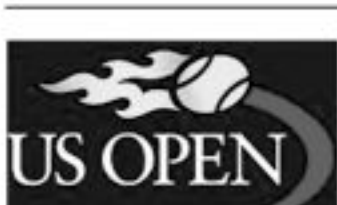
FROM PAGE 16 A second Asian Tour victory continues to elude Siddikur but he is tipped to contend at this event where he finished fifth last season.

Siddikur will be facing opposition from title holder Joonas Granberg of Finland as well as Asia's rising star Panuphol Pittayarat of Thailand, who finished second last year. The field also includes Singaporean veteran Mardan Mamat, and local stalwart Shaaban Hussin among others.

The 395,000 dollar Asian Tour event will be staged at the Kota Permai Golf and Country Club in Shah Alam, Malaysia. Siddikur will be teeing off at 12:55pm local time.

Serena abases Andrea

AFP, New York



Three-time champion Serena Williams stormed to a double bagel 6-0, 6-0 rout of Czech Andrea Hlavackova to reach her 10th US Open quarterfinal on Monday in a ruthless display of her title credentials.

The 30-year-old American allowed the world number 82 just eight points on her serve and finished the last-16 clash with 31 winners against just seven unforced errors, backing up her 57-minute win with eight aces.

Williams, a 14-time Grand Slam title winner, and the reigning Wimbledon and Olympic champion, has dropped just 12 games in four matches at the Open this year.

She hasn't lost a game in her last three sets played while Monday's mauling was the fifth time in her career she had handed out a double bagel.

Williams will on Wednesday face Ana Ivanovic for a place in the semifinals after the Serb 12th seed defeated Bulgaria's Tsvetana Pironkova 6-0, 6-4.

The other quarterfinal will feature Italian compatriots, best friends and doubles partners Sara Errani and Roberta Vinci battling for a semifinal spot.

Errani, the 10th seed, defeated last year's semifinalist, German sixth seed Angelique Kerber 7-6 (7/5), 6-3, while Vinci saw off Polish second seed Agnieszka Radwanska 6-1, 6-4.

It will be the first time two Italian women have made the last eight at the same Grand Slam.

Tuesday's first quarterfinals see top seed Victoria Azarenka facing defending champion Samantha Stosur while 2006 winner Maria Sharapova takes on France's Marion Bartoli.

Ivanovic booked her first Grand Slam spot in four years -- and first ever at the US Open -- by defeating Bulgaria's Tsvetana Pironkova 6-0, 6-4.

Ivanovic has never taken a set off Williams in her three defeats; two of those losses came at the US Open in 2006 and 2011.

The 24-year-old Ivanovic's last major quarterfinal came on the way to her one and only Grand Slam triumph at the 2008 French Open.

Pressure up

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"Performing for the national team is always challenging and I have been performing under the challenge situation. To ensure my place, there is no alternative but to perform well and I think I am preparing myself in that direction," said Emily who scored in the second practice match after skipping the first match on Sunday due to his wedding reception.

Fit-again striker Enamul Haque had been out with injury for a long time and may need some time to return to form. His last appearance for the national team was in the AFC Challenge Cup finals in 2010, while he was not considered either by Croat coach Robert Rubcic or Macedonian coach Nikola Ilievski.

"I know I will have to work hard to ensure my place in the national squad as I just recovered from injury and I am fully focused on my performance which is the first criteria for selection," said Enamul before the start the game between Red and Yellow at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Apart from these three strikers, youngster Wahed Ahmed is also being considered as one of the contenders in the side due to his pace and aggressive approach though he is prone to missing the target too often.

CHESS OLYMPIAD

Women lose, men trail

SPORTS REPORTER

After a 4-0 victory over Uganda in the sixth round, Bangladesh women's chess team went down to a 0.5-2.5 defeat against Argentina in the seventh round of the World Chess Olympiad in Istanbul on Tuesday. Nazrana Khan Eva and Mahmuda Haque Chwodhury lost their respective boards while WIM Rani Hamid managed to draw her board. The other match between Sharmin Shirin Sultana and her opponent was in progress when this report was filed.

The men's team were trailing 0-1 as GM Ziaur Rahman lost his board against GM Jorge Moises Cori of Peru. The men's team had went down by 0.5-3.5 points against in the previous round against Turkmenistan who are ranked below Bangladesh.

New kids on the block

SPORTS REPORTER

While arbitrator Harun-or-Rashed was informing participants about the different rules of the Azimuddin Bhuiyan Trust 32nd National Sub-Junior Championship, Apan Pal, a nursery student of a city school, hardly heard the announcement as he was more concerned with trying to see his board on a table which was equal to him in terms of height.

The six-year old boy -- who came with his father Ashish Pal and brother Shovon Pal, also a participant of the championship -- had the last laugh in his debut match as he got off to a winning start after beating his senior counterpart Waliul Hossain Shanto at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall-room yesterday. It was not recorded how many moves he took to beat Shanto as he didn't know how to record the moves on the papers provided by the Bangladesh Chess Federation.

"My elder brother (Shovon Pal) has taught me how to play and let me know the moves of different pieces. I play against my brother and beat him once," said Apan before the start of his game.

Not only Apan Pal, who is likely the youngest player, many other kids are taking part in the championship which allows participants up to 16 years of age.

A total of 76 players from 11 districts and Dhaka City are taking part in the nine-round Swiss-League system championship. Fahad Rahman, holder of the sub-junior meet, Abdullah Al Saif, junior champion, Ikramul Haque and Protiva Talukder won their respective boards as expected.

Time's up for Sachin?



Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

Sachin Tendulkar is facing unprecedented calls to retire after a string of failures fuelled speculation that time had finally caught up with India's cricket icon.

Tendulkar, who is now 39, has shouldered the hopes of a nation for 23 years, in the process becoming the world's leading run-getter in both Test and one-day cricket with 100 international centuries.

But a string of recent poor scores -- combined with the manner of his dismissals -- has turned sections of the media and a once adoring public against him.

Sunil Gavaskar, the first man to reach the 10,000-run milestone in Tests, suggested during this week's second Test against New Zealand in Bangalore that Tendulkar's reflexes were on the slide.

"The dismissal that was most disturbing was that of the 'master' when he was bowled through the gate," Gavaskar wrote in his syndicated column.

Pressed further, on air during the second Test, Gavaskar said: "With age, the feet don't come to the pitch of the ball, the eyes don't pick up the ball early."

Former India captain Mohammad Azharuddin also said Tendulkar's feet were not moving well in the crease and he was constantly playing across the line.

"It is clear his reflexes have slowed down," Azharuddin said.

Tendulkar has scored a record 51 Test centuries but he has now gone 25 innings without a hundred in the five-day game since making 146 against South Africa in Cape Town in January, 2011.

His top score in the recent series against the lowly Kiwis was 27, prompting The Times of India to post pictures of three of his dismissals -- all bowled -- on its front page under the headline: 'What's wrong with India's batting genius?'

An online poll in the Hindustan Times said 56 per cent of respondents agreed that it

Franchised 1st-class

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He also hoped that they can make the deal by September 16.

"The fresh deadline for submission is September 12 and on the same day the board meeting will take place to work out all the details. We are hopeful that we can make the deal by September 15 or 16," he added.

The board was forced to extend the date as only two companies including Ten Sports bought the schedule before the last date on August 30, and two more companies bought the schedule after that date. The board are expecting more before the end of the new deadline to purchase the schedule on September 6.

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE INTO THE SHAHRIAR NAFEEES CASE

The disciplinary matter related to left-handed batsman Shahriar Nafees's conduct during the Bangladesh A team's recent tour of India has been referred to the board's disciplinary committee. The committee has been asked to submit a report in 14 days.

The left-hander was sent home before the third group game due to his misconduct in the second game of the Shafi Darashah tournament in Bangalore. He was then not considered for selection for the 18-member preliminary Bangladesh A squad for the training camp ahead of their home series against the West Indies High Performance team.

CASH REWARD FOR U19 TEAM

The two top performers of the Bangladesh Under-19 team -- captain Anamul Haque and bowler Taskin Ahmed -- in the recently concluded ICC Under-19 World Cup in Australia will be awarded Tk 2 lakh each and the other members of the squad will each get Tk 1 lakh for their impressive performance in the showpiece event.

The Bangladesh Under-19s finished seventh in the recently concluded ICC U19 World Cup in Australia beating Pakistan in the play-off match.

SA women

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be held in Sri Lanka in September-October.

The one-day matches will be held on September 6, 7 and 9 and the T20 matches scheduled for September 11, 12 and 14.

Bangladesh women's team captain Salma Khatun already expressed her optimism about a good showing against South Africa as she said that her team is confident after the Ireland trip.

Murray

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to seize command.

Raonic, trying to become the first Canadian man in a Grand Slam last eight in the Open era, surrendered breaks in the third and fifth games of the final set.

Murray, who never faced a break point, held serve to end matters after two hours with a service winner.

Fish, 30, missed two months earlier this year with a heart problem after his heart rate increased to three times its normal resting pace. He underwent a cardiac catheter ablation in Los Angeles on May 23 to treat his condition.

But his statement about the withdrawal did not specify a reason.

Shariful banned

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the committee the board decided to refrain from engaging former national cricketer Shariful Haque in any cricket-related activities under the BCB's jurisdiction in future. His activities around cricket will also be carefully monitored by the board," said BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal after the meeting.

The BCB had formed a four-member committee headed by its senior vice-president Mahbub Anam to inquire into the alleged match-fixing approach made to pace spearhead and former Bangladesh skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza days before the BPL began.

Mashrafe, captain of the Dhaka Gladiators, had told his franchise that he had been asked to inform which matches he would play in and pass on other news in exchange for a cut of the spot-fixing earnings.

"The committee investigated allegations about the cricketer who tried to influence the BPL. The indefinite ban will be applicable from today. This message will go to everybody. Nobody can make use of him. We will inform the ICC as well. We took the decision based on whatever we could substantiate," added Kamal.

Former spinner Shariful worked with Biman, the national airline, which Mashrafe represents in the Dhaka Premier League.

He claimed that he is innocent and he will definitely appeal against the board's decision.

Fantastic 5 for Freney

FROM PAGE 16

20-year-old added the women's 4x100m freestyle 34 points relay, making it a clean sweep for the Aussies after the men's team triumphed on Sunday.

In that race, Matthew Cowdrey bagged his 10th Paralympic title in a career spanning three Games, needing just one more gold to become his country's most successful Paralympian.

Earlier Britain's swim queen Ellie Simmonds won the women's S6 200m individual medley in 3min 5.39sec, breaking the world record she set in qualifying and adding to her S6 400m freestyle title.

The teenager, who has a form of dwarfism, won the 400m and the 100m freestyle in Beijing four years ago at the age of just 13 and has become one of the faces of the London Games.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

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4 Carpet style
8 Old portico
12 Chaney of film lore
13 Caffeine-rich nut
14 Hack
15 Make up your mind
16 Molecular matter
17 Demolish
18 Informer
21 Crucial
22 Highland boy
23 Bottom
26 Wield an axe
27 Rx watchdog org.
30 Throat clearer
31 Scratch
32 Affirmative actions
33 Prohibit

DOWN

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20 Legislation
23 Apprehend
24 "Eureka!"
25 Hideaway
26 Chapeau
27 Adversary
28 Banned bug spray
29 Fire residue
31 Cat chat?
32 Mr. Gingrich
34 Pleasure
35 Threw
36 Grind, in a way
37 Language of India
38 One of the Three Bears
39 Ms. Brockovich
40 Bottle feature
41 Session with a shrink
42 Tibetan monk
43 Flair
44 Alluring

Solution time: 27 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BE CAREFUL! IF THAT BIG AUSTRALIAN BIRD'S FEELINGS GET HURT, IT TENDS TO BECOME EMU-TIONAL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals H