

India win emphatically

Cricket

PTI, Ahmedabad

India broke through the stubborn England resistance with a morning burst of five wickets before surging to a comprehensive nine-wicket victory in the opening Test for a 1-0 lead in the four-match series on Monday.

Needing 77 runs to record their first win at this venue in seven years on a crumbling and dusty pitch, India achieved the target when they made 80 for 1 in 15.3 overs after lunch with more than half a day to spare.

Openers Virender Sehwag (25) and Cheteshwar Pujara (41 not out), who scored a double hundred in the huge first innings total of 521/8 declared, polished off the major part of the target by adding 57 runs in only 9.5 overs.

Earlier, left-arm spinner Pragyan Ojha prised open the victory door for the hosts when he broke through England's resolute batting by picking off overnight batsmen Matt Prior (91) and Alastair Cook (176) in 12 balls to virtually bring the visitors to their knees.

The two had kept England afloat on Day 4 with a determined partnership which had helped the visitors avoid an innings defeat and had raised their hopes of even saving the game. The pair remained unconquered on

Day 4 with the visitors on 340/5, an overall lead of 10 runs.

Ojha's 2/18 burst in 11 overs was complimented by Umesh Yadav, Ravichandran Ashwin and Zaheer Khan who grabbed a wicket each as England slumped from 356/5 to 406 all out in just over 16 overs and in 113 minutes of play on Day 5.

Ojha, who grabbed 4/120 in the second innings to add to his superb haul of 5/45 in the first, emerged as the most successful bowler from the game.

Pujara, who made an unbeaten 206 in the first essay and opened the innings in place of a bereaved Gautam Gambhir, was the most successful batsman for India.

In the second innings, Pujara and Virat Kohli (14 not out) steered Indian home without being separated.

Sehwag was caught just inside the long on rope by Kevin Pietersen off Graeme Swann after striking one four and a six in his 21-ball knock.

Kohli hit the winning run, a four off Swann, 51 minutes after lunch to seal victory while Pujara remained unconquered after facing 51 balls and striking eight fours.

The victory broke the seven-year winless run for India at this ground. The team had last won at Motera in December 2005,

Sri Lanka being the losing side.

This was also their fourth win here in 12 encounters and their fifth in the last six Tests played at home going back to last season's triumphant series against the West Indies.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA: First innings 521 for 8 declared (Pujara 206 not out, Sehwag 117, Yuvraj 74, Gambhir 45; Swann 5-144)

ENGLAND: First innings 191 (Cook 41, Pietersen 17, Prior 48, Bresnan 19, Broad 25; Ashwin 3-80, Ojha 5-45)

ENGLAND: Second innings (overnight 340 for 5)

Cook b Ojha 176

Compton lbw b Zaheer 37

Pietersen b Ojha 2

Bell lbw b Yadav 22

Patel lbw b Yadav 0

Prior c & b Ojha 91

Bresnan c (sub) Zaheer 20

Broad c & b Yadav 3

Swann b Ashwin 17

Anderson not out 0

Extras: (b-14, lb-6, w-1) 21

Total: (All out in 154.3 overs) 406

Fall of wickets: 1-123, 2-156, 3-160, 4-

199, 5-199, 6-356, 7-365, 8-378, 9-406

Bowler O M R W

Yadav 23 2 70 3

Ojha 55 16 120 4

Ashwin 43 9 111 1

Sehwag 1 0 1 0

Zaheer 27.3 5 59 2

Tendulkar 10 8 0

Yuvraj 4 0 17 0

INDIA: Second innings

Sehwag c Pietersen b Swann 25

Pujara not out 41

Kohli not out 14

Extras: 0

Total: (For 1 wkt in 15.3 overs) 80

Fall of wickets: 1-57.

Bowler O M R W

Bowler O M R W

Anderson 2 10 0

Swann 7.3 14 1

Patel 6 0 24 0

ITF JUNIOR TENNIS Poor start by locals

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladeshi boys made a disappointing start in the Focal Point 26th ITF Junior Tennis Championship proper which began at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday. Among the 16 direct entrants from Bangladesh, only four players made it to the second round of the competition.

Kawsar Ali beat compatriot Atul 7-5, 6-3; Asik Khan beat Taipei's Huang Yu Cheng 6-4, 6-4; Mohammad Munna beat compatriot Chesty Haider and 6-2, 6-3; Biplob Ram defeated compatriot Jony 6-3, 6-3 to advance. The other nine Bangladeshi participants lost their opening round matches. Among the other winners were participants from India, Korea, Thailand and USA. The second round matches of the boys' group and first round matches of the girls' group will take place today.

Earlier, Youth and Sports secretary Nur Mohammad inaugurated the meet as the chief guest where managing director of Focal Point Abdul Kader was present as the special guest.

Services kabaddi

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Police and Bangladesh Army won their respective matches of the Walton Motorcycle Super Seven Services Kabaddi League at the Kabaddi Stadium yesterday. Bangladesh Police defeated Bangladesh Prisons by 33-13 points with one creditable lona while Bangladesh Army beat Bangladesh Air Force by 36-15 points with two creditable lonas.

Hoping

FROM PAGE 16

national team beat their Malaysian counterparts once in 1982 in New Delhi. They have suffered defeats five times.

Malaysia have played three international friendlies in the last two weeks. They lost to Thailand 2-0 and Vietnam 1-0 and played out a 1-1 draw against Hong Kong.

Herath humbles Kiwis

Cricket

AFP, Galle

Rangana Herath exposed New Zealand's weakness against spin with a six-wicket haul as Sri Lanka raced to an emphatic 10-wicket win on the third day of the opening Test in Galle on Monday.

The left-arm spinner finished with 6-43 off 18 probing overs as New Zealand, trailing by 26 runs, crashed to 118 in their second innings after losing their last nine wickets for 83.

Sri Lanka effortlessly chased down a 93-run target, with debutant Dimuth Karunaratne remaining unbeaten on 60 and Tharanga Paranavitana not out.

Karunaratne, who failed to open his account in the first innings, made amends with a 60-ball knock which included nine fours.

Herath, who took 5-65 in the first innings, finished the Test with 11-108, his second haul of 10 or more wickets in a match.

Middle-order batsman Daniel Flynn, who made a half-century in the first innings, top-scored with 20 in a dismal New Zealand batting performance on a slow turning track.

It was New Zealand's fifth successive Test defeat this year after they lost two matches each in the West Indies and India.

The Sri Lankan spinner continually tested the batsmen with his shrewd



Sri Lanka left-arm spinner Rangana Herath (R) celebrates the dismissal of New Zealand captain Ross Taylor (not in picture) on the third day of the first Test at the Galle International Cricket Stadium yesterday. Herath finished with 6 for 43.

PHOTO: AFP

W

Bowler O M R W

Kulasekara 12 4 28 2

Eranja 4 2 10 0

Herath 18 3 43 6

Randiv 10.1 0 37 2

SRILANKA: Second innings

Paranavitana not out 31

Kulasekara not out 60

Extras: (w-2) 2

Total: (For loss in 18.3 overs) 93

Bowler O M R W

Boult 4 1 15 0

Bracewell 5.3 0 35 0

Patel 5 1 22 0

Franklin 3 0 15 0

Czechs stun Spain

Tennis

AFP, Prague

The Czech Republic won the Davis Cup after a team led by Tomas Berdych and Radek Stepanek beat holders Spain 3-2 in the 100th final here on Sunday.

In Sunday's games, Berdych lost to David Ferrer before Stepanek stunned Nicolas Almagro in the decisive rubber.

The Czech Republic lifted their first Davis Cup since gaining independence following a 1993 split with Slovakia.

The victory has handed the Czechs a rare team double after their women lifted the Fed Cup here two weeks ago -- a feat last achieved by the United States in 1990.

The former

Czechoslovakia won the trophy in 1980 with a team led by then 20-year-old Ivan Lendl, who received the Davis Cup Award of Excellence before Sunday's rubbers.

As if inspired by Lendl, Stepanek, the world number 37, beat 11th-ranked Almagro 6-4, 7-6 (7/0), 3-6, 6-3 on the super-fast hardcourt of Prague's O2 Arena in front of a frantic crowd of more than 14,000 fans.

The wild home crowd was all that Stepanek needed on Sunday to shake off the fatigue from Friday's singles and Saturday's doubles.

Combining patience

with aggression and pulling off a series of winning volleys, Stepanek took the first two sets, the second in an impressive 7-0 tiebreak.

Almagro, 27, fought back in the third set, but Stepanek, red hot and propelled by the crowd, finished the job in just under four hours.

In Sunday's first match,

Ferrer, the world number five, beat sixth-ranked Berdych in straight sets, 6-2, 6-3, 7-5.

The 27-year-old Berdych never quite caught up with his 30-year-old rival and admitted he was "way behind" throughout the rubber.

Combining patience

with aggression and pulling off a series of winning volleys, Stepanek took the first two sets, the second in an impressive 7-0 tiebreak.

Almagro, 27, fought back in the third set, but Stepanek, red hot and propelled by the crowd, finished the job in just under four hours.

In Sunday's first match,

Ferrer, the world number five, beat sixth-ranked Berdych in straight sets, 6-2, 6-3, 7-5.

The 27-year-old Berdych never quite caught up with his 30-year-old rival and admitted he was "way behind" throughout the rubber.

Combining patience

with aggression and pulling off a series of winning volleys, Stepanek took the first two sets, the second in an impressive 7-0 tiebreak.

Almagro, 27, fought back in the third set, but Stepanek, red hot and propelled by the crowd, finished the job in just under four hours.

In Sunday's first match,

Ferrer, the world number five, beat sixth-ranked Berdych in straight sets, 6-2, 6-3, 7-5.

The 27-year-old Berdych never quite caught up with his 30-year-old rival and admitted he was "way behind" throughout the rubber.

Combining patience

with aggression and pulling off a series of winning volleys, Stepanek took the first two sets, the second in an impressive 7-0 tiebreak.

Almagro, 27, fought back in the third set, but Stepanek, red hot and propelled by the crowd, finished the job in just under four hours.

In Sunday's first match,

Ferrer, the world number five, beat sixth-ranked Berdych in straight sets, 6-2, 6-3, 7-5.

The 27-year-old Berdych never quite caught up with his 30-year-old rival and admitted he was "way behind" throughout the rubber.

Combining patience

with aggression and pulling off a series of winning volleys, Stepanek took the first two sets, the second in an impressive 7-0 tiebreak.