



Australia wicketkeeper-batsman Matthew Wade is over the moon after reaching his hundred on the third day of the third Test against Sri Lanka at the Sydney Cricket Ground yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Aus smell clean sweep

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Australia were closing in on victory in the final Test and a series clean sweep after a Sri Lankan batting collapse on the third day in Sydney on Saturday.

For a time it looked as if Sri Lanka, well beaten in Hobart and Melbourne, could make a contest of it as Dimuth Karunaratne and skipper Mahela Jayawardene almost wiped out the 138-run innings deficit with a century stand before wickets tumbled.

At the close, Sri Lanka were a shaky 225 for seven and leading by 87 runs with two days left with Dinesh Chandimal on 22 and Rangana Herath not out nine.

After lunch, opener Tillakaratne Dilshan failed for the fifth time since his 147 in the first Hobart Test when he was caught centimetres from the ground by Phil Hughes at third slip off Johnson in the seventh over.

Jayawardene then watched four batting partners depart as he tried to keep his team's innings together, but upon his

dismissal just inside the final hour it was all downhill for Sri Lanka.

Karunaratne edged Jackson Bird to Wade for 85 to end a 108-run stand with Jayawardene in the 34th over when Sri Lanka were still trailing by six runs.

First innings topscorer Lahiru Thirimanne survived a leg before wicket review before he fell hooking Mitchell Johnson to Bird at fine leg in the 41st over.

Thilan Samaraweera completed a wretched series when he went after the spinner Nathan Lyon and skied to long-on where Mike Hussey took the catch to a huge roar from the home crowd celebrating the Australian veteran's farewell Test.

Samaraweera's reckless third-ball duck followed scores of 7, 49, 10, 1 and 12 in the three-Test series.

A dreadful mix-up led to Angelo Mathews being run out for 16 after he failed to beat the throw from David Warner.

Jayawardene was out four balls later ending his 200-minute resistance when he edged Peter Siddile to Michael Clarke at first slip and the tourists

had tumbled to 178 for six and only a lead of 40.

Dhammika Prasad became Mitchell Starc's first wicket when caught behind for 15 heading into the final half-hour.

In the morning session Wade scored a thrilling unbeaten century batting with the tail as Australia added 90 more runs before declaring to lead Sri Lanka by 138 runs.

Wade opened up in a last-wicket stand of 39 with Bird to grab his second Test century and gave skipper Michael Clarke the opportunity to declare his team's innings at 432 for nine in the half hour before lunch.

Wade rushed towards his teammates in the Sydney Cricket Ground Members Stand and kissed his helmet after crashing Suranga Lakmal for a century off 158 balls, after setting out on the third day on 47.

Australia lost the wickets of Siddile (38), Starc (2) and Lyon (4) on the third morning.

SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA: First innings 294 (Thirimanne 91, Jayawardene 72; Bird

4-41)					
AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 342-6)					
Warner c Prasad b Dilshan	85				
Cowan run out (Pradeep)	4				
Hughes c Chandimal b Herath	87				
Clarke c Karunaratne b Herath	50				
Hussey run out (Karunaratne)	25				
Wade not out	102				
Johnson c Chandimal b Pradeep	13				
Siddile c Chandimal b Pradeep	38				
Starc lbw b Herath	2				
Lyon b Herath	4				
Bird not out	6				
Extras: (lb-6, w-7, nb-3)	16				
Total: (For 9 wickets declared in 107 overs)	432				
Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-166, 3-195, 4-251, 5-271, 6-307, 7-384, 8-387, 9-393					
Bowler	O	M	R	W	
Lakmal	24	4	95	0	
Pradeep	20	1	114	2	
Prasad	11	0	53	0	
Mathews	2	0	11	0	
Dilshan	19	2	58	1	
Herath	31	3	95	4	

SRI LANKA: Second innings					
Karunaratne c Wade b Bird	85				
Dilshan c Hughes b Johnson	5				
Jayawardene c Clarke b Siddile	60				
Thirimanne c Bird b Johnson	7				
Samaraweera c Hussey b Lyon	0				
Mathews run out (Warner)	16				
Chandimal not out	22				
Prasad c Wade b Starc	15				
Herath not out	9				
Extras: (lb-1, lb-2, nb-3)	6				
Total: (For 7 wickets in 62 overs)	225				
Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-132, 3-155, 4-158, 5-178, 6-178, 7-202					
Bowler	O	M	R	W	
Starc	10	0	48	1	
Bird	15	2	51	1	

More investment demanded into Premier League

SPORTS REPORTER

The first meeting after the expansion of the Professional Football League Committee emphasised on the importance of more investment by clubs in the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League.

The current season has seen an average expenditure of five crore taka for each of the nine clubs and the figure is expected to rise given favourable environment, hoped the members. "The involvement of club representatives in the committee will reduce the distance between the clubs. We will ensure that the environment is such that the clubs are encouraged to invest more in the Premier League," said Abdus Salam Murshedy, chairman of the 14-member committee after the meeting.

The meeting also emphasised the need for ending the league without interruptions. Besides, it focussed on the by-laws, increasing venues and holding Independence Day Tournament among other issues.

Professional league club association's president Manjur Kader demanded more transparency from the committee on every aspect. "We demanded more transparency on every issue including refereeing. We want an impartial league committee."

Red-hot

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innings 248. **EAST ZONE:** First innings 232 and Second innings 227 all out in 72.1 overs (Shahriar Nafees 23, Nafis Iqbal 63, Rajin Saleh 38, Mominul 14, Dhiman 28; Robiul 2-69, Gazi 5-73, Razzak 2-42) **Result:** Prime Bank South Zone won by 37 runs.

Man-o-f-the-match: Shohag Gazi

NORTH ZONE: First innings 361 and Second innings 397-6 in 84 overs (Myshukur 73, Naeem 25, Mushfiqur 24, Nasir 131, Farhad Hossain 25, Forhad Reza 77 not out, Shuvo 22 not out; Ashraful 3-65).

CENTRAL ZONE: First innings 436-9 in 157.1 overs (Shamsur 15, Rokibul 26, Marshal 40, Ashraful 133, Mehrob 131, Mosharraf 38; Sajedul 3-103, Saqlain 3-98)

Result: Match Drawn.

Man-o-f-the-match: Mohammad Ashraful.

Special day for Wade

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Australia wicketkeeper Matthew Wade said he will never forget his thrilling unbeaten century against Sri Lanka in the third Test on Saturday.

The third day of the Sydney Test is promoted as pink day when players and fans are urged to sport pink in tribute to Jane McGrath, the wife of Australian fast bowling great Glenn McGrath who died from breast cancer in 2008.

The McGrath Foundation has raised millions of dollars for breast cancer care and the Australian government on Saturday provided a further 18.5 million Australian dollars to the foundation for specialist breast cancer care nurses.

Wade, who survived testicular cancer at the age of 16, said it was a special day to raise his second Test century.

"It was a great day to be part of," Wade said.

"To do it on a day like today, with the McGrath Foundation day, was something special. I'll remember it.

"It was a special day to be a part of. It was a very special day for me and one I'll never forget."

His cancer was only detected after he received a blow to the groin while playing football and the resultant swelling forced him to visit a doctor who discovered the greater problem.

"Had it not been for that hit in the testicles, I wouldn't have had any idea," he said previously.

Seniors under pressure

Cricket

PTI, New Delhi

The repeated failures of senior openers Gautam Gambhir and Virender Sehwag have raised a huge question mark about their selection for the ODI series against England amid increasing pressure on selectors to drop under-performing players in the wake of recent debacles.

Talented Cheteshwar Pujara is all set to get a call-up when the selectors meet here on Sunday to choose the team for the upcoming five-match one-day international series against England starting in Rajkot from January 11.

According to sources in the selection committee, there is a high possibility that one among Gambhir and Sehwag will be getting the boot while Mahendra Singh Dhoni's good show with the bat against Pakistan will put captaincy speculation to rest for the time being.

Pujara's entry is almost certain after his splendid double century against MP at Rajkot where he reached 200 from 150 in only 17 deliveries. Also the first match will be played on the Rajkot featherbed where Pujara has scored 90 per cent of his runs.

In case of openers, Gambhir has two centuries and two half-centuries having scored 388 runs at an average of 38.80 his last 10 ODIs while Sehwag has managed a meagre 238 runs at a dismal average of 23.80 in his last ten ODI appearances.

But it is their prolonged failure to provide a good start that has hurt the team the most.

Wade rushed towards his teammates in the Sydney Cricket Ground Members Stand on Saturday and kissed his helmet after crashing Suranga Lakmal for a boundary to raise his century off 158 balls, after setting out on the third day on 47.

Wade opened up in a last-wicket stand of 39 with Bird and finished 102 not out offering skipper Michael Clarke the opportunity to declare his team's innings at 432 for nine in the half hour before lunch.

"Driving to the ground today I didn't think that would happen but it was an amazing feeling," he said.

"I was really keen to make a good score in this last Test match. I was feeling I was building toward something.

"I feel I've been tweaking my form a little bit with the bat so I was pretty confident of getting a score I was happy with."

It was only Wade's ninth Test match and he was promoted to number six in the Australian batting order for this Test to accommodate the selection of four specialist fast bowlers in a lengthy tailend.

"Batting towards the end of the innings the situation dictates the way that you've got to play at times, so I've been lucky enough to bat up towards the top of the innings and bat down the bottom," he said.

"I feel like I've got enough experience in both positions and how to bat with the tail."

Wade scored 106 against the West Indies in his third Test match in Dominica last April. He has now scored 501 runs at 45.54 in Tests.

Channel 24

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and later restricted Maasranga to 68 for four. Saadman Shakib of Channel 24 was adjudged player-of-the-match and player-of-the-tournament for his excellent performances.

Earlier, Channel 24 (132/2) defeated Channel i (91/2) by 40 runs in one semifinal while Maasranga (87/3) defeated ATN News (86/1) by two wickets in the other semifinal.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Faruk Khan watched the final as chief guest and distributed prizes among the champions and runners-up teams.

Dutchmen

FROM PAGE 16
Salahuddin has elaborate plans around Koster as he might be given charge of the Under-16 national team apart from his original job of being the head coach of the academy.

"The academy coach will also be given charge of the U-16 side. He will be assisted by a pool of development coaches from whom he will choose," added the BFF boss.

The BFF boss also said that the expenditure for the two coaches might go upwards of 7-8 crore taka in two years, for which will be sponsors who will be sourced pretty soon.

Dhoni scare for India

FROM PAGE 16
following prolonged poor run of form, saying the utmost responsibility for performance lies with the players.

Dhoni was asked about the role played by Fletcher as India have lost one series after another.

"It's time that players take the responsibility. Coaches are there to guide us. If the player has problem in technique, coach can suggest. Coach cannot go to ground. It will be wrong to blame the coach. The utmost responsibility lies with the players at the end of the day," Dhoni said at the pre-match press conference ahead of Sunday's third and final one-dayer against Pakistan.

Asked if India needs a foreign coach, Dhoni jokingly said, "I don't know. Desi aur videshi. Desi aur videshi to bas murge hote hain [Indian or foreign is meant for chicken only]."

Dhoni evaded a direct answer when asked if some new players, such as Ajinya Rahane, will be given a chance to play tomorrow since India have already lost the three-match ODI series.

"We have given chance to Bhuvaneshwar Kumar. We all know he is a good swing bowler. But we have not decided on the playing XI. Jinks [Ajinkya] has been doing well. We will feature the best side," he said.

Dhoni not only backed the coach, he threw his weight behind his under-fire colleagues, saying that the team was not lacking in talent.

"When you lose, you feel bad. When we bat well, we don't bowl well, if we bowl well, we don't bat well. We have talent but we have to perform together," he said.

Muktis maul

FROM PAGE 16
winger Mohammad Yousuf's first goal of the league. Nigerian striker Darlington Chizoba scored the third for his side and his third overall of the season ten minutes later, before Mohammad Rony completed the rout with a fourth in the 90th minute.

Muktijoddha coach Shafiqul Islam Manik said the forwards made the difference in the game. "We availed the chances that we got today, which is what gave us the win," said a delighted Manik. "We are not giant killers, rather we are playing like giants ourselves. This win will give us encouragement to play well in the next matches," said Manik while thanking the local crowd for their support during the match.

This was Mohammedan's second consecutive defeat which left them five points adrift of league leaders Sheikh Russel KC, having played a game more than the leaders.

Rangana is alive!

AFP, Sydney

Rangana Herath proved news of his death was greatly exaggerated Saturday by bowling and batting for Sri Lanka in the third Sydney Test against Australia.

Social media was abuzz overnight with news that the left-arm spinner had been declared dead following a car crash in Sydney with champion Sri Lankan fast bowler Chaminda Vaas escaping with an injury.

Rumours of Herath's death spread quickly on Twitter, with users expressing their astonishment at the news and passing on their thoughts and prayers for Herath's family.

But there was Herath on the field during the third day's play, taking four wickets in the Australian first innings and then coming out to bat late in the day and remaining nine not out in his team's second innings.

Zakia holds

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seventh round to collect six points. WIM Shamima Akter Liza and Sharmin Sultana Shirin are in joint second position with 5.5 points each. WFM Nazrana Khan Eva is in third position with 5 points.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	35 Church VIP	DOWN	21 Greek consonant
1 Smooth-talking	38 Titanic foe	1 Glitz theater box	24 Sleep phenomenon, for short
5 Water barrier	39 Ostrich's cousin	3 PC picture tent	25 "The Greatest"
8 Urban pall	40 "Flying Down to —"	4 Circus tent	26 Ores
12 Places did —	42 High-ranking angel	5 Embassy bigwig	28 Prez after Harry
13 "Where wrong?"	45 Historic write-up	6 Turkish title	29 Story-teller
14 Ocean motion	49 Rocky peak	7 Peat source	30 Melody bird?
15 Enthusiastic, plus	50 Suitable protection	8 Washington's portraitist	31 Early bird?
16 — de deux	52 Castle look	9 Play down	36 Pictorializations
17 One	53 Leering look	10 Vaihalla VIP	37 Dine
18 Cognitive	54 Zodiac cat	11 Under-stands	38 Witticism
20 Dry cleaner's challenges	55 Former	19 It's between	41 Fashionable
22 Acapulco gold	56 Pitch	19 It's between	42 High-lander
23 Branch	57 Listener	19 It's between	43 Therefore
24 Freeway access	58 Abound	19 It's between	44 — and hearty
27 Small details		19 It's between	46 Top-rated
32 Peyton's brother		19 It's between	47 Chantilly, e.g.
33 Alias (Abbr.)		19 It's between	48 Goblet feature
34 Sharp turn		19 It's between	51 Shooter ammo

Solution time: 25 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: YEARLY AUTUMN HOLIDAY DURING WHICH PEOPLE DRESS UP IN ANGEL AND SAINT COSTUMES: HALO-WEEN.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals Y