



England paceman James Anderson (C) celebrates taking the wicket of India's Murali Vijay on the third day of the fifth and final Test at The Oval in London yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Another India capitulation

AFP, London



England inflicted yet another humiliating defeat upon India as they won the fifth and final Test at The Oval by an innings and 244 runs on Sunday to complete a 3-1 series win.

It was England's second victory inside three days in as many matches after they thrashed India by an innings and 54 runs to win the fourth Test at Old Trafford.

India collapsed to 94 all out, an even worse effort than their meagre first innings 148, after Joe Root's unbeaten 149 had powered England to 486 earlier on Sunday.

The only disappointment for the hosts was that spearhead seamer James Anderson was left three short of equalling Ian Botham's England record of 383 Test wickets.

In 30 minutes' batting before rain forced an early lunch on Sunday, India slumped to nine for two.

Murali Vijay was lbw to Anderson's inswinger while Gautam Gambhir, who had struggled for his three, was run out by Chris Woakes's direct hit from short midwicket going for a non-existent single.

Play re-started under sunny blue skies but both sides knew that India had lost nine wickets

in under a session to seal their Old Trafford loss. India soon saw Cheteshwar Pujara (11) edging Anderson to wicketkeeper Jos Buttler.

Ajinkya Rahane (four) then nicked Stuart Broad and third slip Gary Ballance, diving across

SCOREBOARD

INDIA: First innings 148 (Dhoni 82; Woakes 3-30, Jordan 3-32)	INDIA: Second innings 205 (Vijay lbw Anderson 2; Gambhir run out 3; Pujara & Buttler b Anderson 11; Kohli Cook b Jordan 20; Rahane & Ballance b Broad 4; Bell & Chahal b Sharma 0; Moeen b Ashwin 149; Binny not out 25; Ashwin & Bell b Jordan 7; Butter & Ashwin b Sharma 45; Kumar & Bell b Jordan 0; Aaron run out 1; Sharma & Moeen b Jordan 2; Broad & Kohli b Sharma 37; Extras: (b-8, lb-6, w-1) 15; Total: (All out in 29.2 overs) 33; Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-9, 3-30, 4-45, 5-46, 6-62, 7-70, 8-74, 9-84; Fall of wickets: 1-66, 2-191, 3-201, 4-204, 5-229, 6-309, 7-318, 8-400, 9-463; Bowler O M R W Anderson 8 3 16 2; Broad 10 2 22 1; Moeen 8 0 24 1; Jordan 4 2 18 4; Binny 0 0 0 0; Ashwin 21.3 2 72 3 Man-of-the-match: Joe Root.
ENGLAND: First innings (overnight 385-7)	
Cook c Vijay b Aaron	79
Robson b Aaron	37
Ballance c Pujara b Ashwin	64
Bell c Chahal b Sharma	7
Root not out	149
Moeen b Ashwin	14
Butter c Ashwin b Sharma	14
Woakes c Dhoni b Kumar	0
Jordan c Dhoni b Sharma	20
Broad c Kohli b Sharma	37
Anderson lbw b Ashwin	1
Extras: (b-18, lb-3, w-1, nb-11)	33
Total: (All out in 116.3 overs)	486
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-30, 3-30, 4-45, 5-46, 6-62, 7-70, 8-74, 9-84; Fall of wickets: 1-66, 2-191, 3-201, 4-204, 5-229, 6-309, 7-318, 8-400, 9-463; Bowler O M R W Anderson 8 3 16 2; Broad 10 2 22 1; Moeen 8 0 24 1; Jordan 4 2 18 4; Binny 0 0 0 0; Ashwin 21.3 2 72 3 Man-of-the-match: Joe Root.	

Ian Bell at second slip, held a brilliant one-handed catch low to his left.

It was not long before 45 for four became 46 for five.

India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni had played a lone hand in making 82 in the tourists' first innings.

But on Sunday he fell for a five-ball duck, inside-edging paceman Woakes onto his pad and giving a simple catch to Sam Robson at short leg.

England's cause, if not Anderson's, was helped when Virat Kohli, aiming legside, was caught in the slips by captain Alastair Cook off Chris Jordan for 20.

His exit meant Kohli, an undeniably talented batsman, had scored just 134 runs in the series at an average of 13.4.

Jordan then dismissed Ravichandran Ashwin and Bhuvneshwar Kumar with the aid of slip catches during a spell of four wickets for 17 runs in 19 balls that culminated with the dismissal of last man Ishant Sharma that completed England's victory.

The all-rounder's success meant Anderson would have to wait until at least England's next Test -- which is set to be his 100th match at this level -- against the West Indies in April to draw level with Botham.

Can Robiul lead the way again?

NAIMUL KARIM



As a cricketer Robiul Islam belongs to a different breed when compared to his teammates. His fan following is negligible when compared to the Shakib, the Mashfiqur and the Tamims; you would barely find him moaning about the fact that he is not a regular in Bangladesh's T20 and one-day squads; and neither does he find any space on air in the numerous television channels of the country; and yet the 27-year-old pacer from Satkhira holds the key for the Tigers in their upcoming Test series at the West Indies.

While he debuted in 2010, he stormed into limelight in 2013 after taking 19 wickets in three Tests. It was the two-Test Zimbabwe series where he brought out his best.

Like a machine he bowled a 110 overs in that series and picked 15 wickets. The burden eventually got the better of him and he suffered a quad injury in the Dhaka Premier League that year, which led him to a dip in form, as he went wicket-less in the next two Tests.

It will be a dual battle for the pacer in the Caribbean this year. The first will be to prove to the selectors that he has in fact completely recovered and the second will be to lead a depleted Bangladeshi bowling attack. Shakib Al Hasan and Shohag Gazi have been Bangladesh's highest wicket-takers in Test cricket in the last two years. However, with Shakib suspended and Shohag suffering from a lean patch, the onus is on Robiul.

And how does he respond to that pressure? Only in the calmest manner possible: "Firstly, the Test team has not even been declared, so I don't even know if I am in the team," he grins. "But yeah, I really don't think about all that. I think except for my debut game in 2011, I never took pressure. All I have to do is just go there and give it

my best," adds Robiul.

Despite going wicket-less in the last two Tests, Robiul was high on confidence. "In the game against New Zealand [in October 2013] it was a flat wicket. Mashfiqur [Rahim] and Shane [Jurgensen] asked me to contain the runs and that's what I did. Although I did not get any wicket I think I gave around 35 runs in 19 overs or something," recalls Robiul. He had in fact given 32 runs in 17 overs in that Test after which his injury got the better of him.

So does he hope that the conditions in the West Indies will be similar to that of Zimbabwe, where he achieved his career-best figures a year ago? Not exactly. "I don't know about others but I don't think the conditions in Zimbabwe were really helpful for pacers. Even Gazi had gotten wickets back then. I had to bend my back then. If I can do the same in the West Indies I am sure the result will be good," says Robiul.

Robiul was ignored by all the franchises of the Bangladesh Premier League in the last season. The pacer underwent 'spot-bowling' training, where he had to bowl in the nets at specific spots -- without any wickets in place for a month. According to Robiul his performance in Sri Lanka and in Zimbabwe was a result of all that hard work.

He has worked on a similar strategy this time; only that he has had to be more active under the new coach, Chandika Hathurusingha. "I think his [Hathurusingha's] main feature is that he wants all of us to be on our toes all the time. He wants us to be active and give our hundred per cent all the time," says Robiul.

One of Robiul's aim this year is to take the wicket of Shivnarine Chanderpaul, who he considers to be West Indies' most vital player and he is confident that he can. As he puts it, "I have worked hard the last few months. I have a good feeling about this series, let's see what happens," says a pragmatic Robiul.



ROBIUL ISLAM

Stage set for Mahela

AFP, Colombo



Sri Lanka stepped closer to giving former captain Mahela Jayawardene a winning farewell after Rangana Herath skittled Pakistan once more in the second Test in Colombo on Sunday.

Pakistan, set a series-levelling target of 271 runs, slumped to 50-5 before plodding to 127-7 by stumps on the fourth day at the Sinhalese Sports Club.

Left-arm spinner Herath, who claimed nine wickets in the first innings, grabbed four for 46 to once again destroy Pakistan's fragile batting in front of some 5,000 screaming home fans.

Herath, who came on to bowl the ninth over after seamer Dhammika Prasad had dismissed openers Khurram Manzoor and Ahmed Shehzad, struck his first blow with his eighth delivery.

Jayawardene, who ends his 17-year Test career after this match, held two smart catches in the slips off Herath to get rid of Azhar Ali and skipper Misbahul Haq.

Herath then won a leg-before decision against Younis Khan to make it 50-5 in the 19th over, before Asad Shafiq and Sarfraz Ahmed stemmed the rot by batting an hour for their 55-run stand.

Shafiq was stumped off Herath for 32 and Abdur Rehman was leg-before to Dilruwan Perera, but Sarfraz remained unbeaten on a defiant 38.

Sri Lanka will return on Monday to take the remaining three wickets that will enable them to sweep the series after winning the first Test in Galle by seven wickets.

Pakistan need 144 runs more to record an improbable win.

The hosts were bowled out for 282 in their second knock just before tea, with seamer Wahab Riaz and off-spinner Saeed Ajmal claiming three wickets each.

Tigers post 322-6

SPORTS REPORTER

Buoyed by quick half-centuries from Tamim Iqbal and Mahmudullah Riyad Bangladesh posted 322-6 in their lone 50-over practice game against Grenada at Progress Park yesterday.

Opener Tamim hit a blazing 91 off 86 deliveries to set the foundation for the middle-order batsmen to build on. Riyad came in at number 6 and finished on 78. Captain Mashfiqur Rahim missed out on a half-century but helped Bangladesh surge with a fine 44.

After electing to bat first, Bangladesh began on a good note as openers Tamim and Anamul raced to 55 in 12 overs.

However, the visitors had a brief setback as they lost both Anamul and Imrul Kayes in the next three overs. Imrul was caught and bowled for 1 while Anamul folded for 24.

Tamim reached his 50 by the 20th over. In the next eight overs Tamim and Shamsur Raman added 54 runs before Tamim was bowled by Josh Thomas.

Shamsur departed soon after for 32. Mashfiqur and Mahmudullah shared a 42-run stand for the sixth wicket. After Mashfiqur's departure, Mahmudullah and Nasir's aggressive approach -- they scored 80 runs in the last six overs -- took the Tigers well over the 300-mark.

Bangladesh will play their first ODI against the West Indies at the National Stadium in Grenada on August 20.

'Defeat against Singapore was unbelievable'

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national chess team went to the 41st World Chess Olympiad in Norway with the hope of replicating last edition's performance where they had produced their best-ever performance by finishing 33rd. But they came back finishing in 64th position out of 177 teams, despite having trained for a month under Dutch GM Sergei Tiviakov.

Bangladesh Chess Federation's general secretary Shayiful Tareq failed to find any explanation behind the dismal performance but IM Minhazuddin Ahmed, who returned yesterday along with GM Niaz Mursheed, felt the performance was below-par.

The last two rounds of the Olympiad are always very important but unfortunately we failed to do well in

the last round against Sweden, whom Bangladesh, comprising two GMs and two FMs, had held to a draw in World Cities Chess in UAE in 2012," said Minhazuddin yesterday.

"Our strategy was to win first and fourth boards of Zia bhai and Niaz bhai respectively, who had started with white pieces and draw the second and third boards of Rakib bhai and Razib bhai. But nothing went according to plan. Zia and Niaz bhai drew while Rakib and Razib bhai lost their boards despite starting well against Sweden," said Minhaz, who was appointed captain in the last round.

Sweden beat Bangladesh 3-1 to grasp the 33rd position while Bangladesh slipped to 64th from 51st.

Bangladesh, ranked 55, had started well by beating 141st-ranked Zimbabwe, 50th-ranked Chile, drawing against 44th-ranked Belgium before losing three successive matches against second-ranked Ukraine, 22nd-

ranked Peru and Singapore, who are places below Bangladesh in ranking.

"I still can't believe the defeat against Singapore as no one could play their natural game. You can say it was a step backward for us," said Minhaz.

After the defeat against Singapore, Bangladesh beat San Marino, drew against Philippines and beat El Salvador before losing against Sweden in the final round.

Minhaz said they suffered from the lack of warm-up tournaments before the Olympiad but he believes he would be able to earn a GM norm in future if he is given opportunity to play six tournaments outside home in a year.

Minhaz in fact had the opportunity to earn a GM norm from the Olympiad

had he earned two to three more points but he was used in only seven rounds to team's strategy. However, he says he is happy to be part of Bangladesh squad and with his five wins out of seven games.

YOUTH OLYMPIC Hockey team's dreadful start

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh five-a-side hockey team had a frustrating start in the 2nd Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing, China when they suffered a massive 1-9 defeat to Spain in their opening match at the Nanjing YOG Sports Park Hockey Field yesterday.

Bangladesh, who qualified for the Games directly after becoming runners-up in the qualifying last year, conceded five goals within 11 minutes of the first quarter followed by three goals in the second quarter. The ninth goal came in the third quarter before Fazle Rabbi pulled one goal back in the dying moments.

The hockey team will take on Australia today.

In the weightlifting discipline, Jahura Akter Reshma became 10th out of 11 participants after lifting a total of 127kgs -- 55kg in snatch and 72kg in clean and jerk.