

SPORT

'Want to be remembered as a team man'

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Team man not greatness is what Younis Khan wants to be remembered for in Pakistan's cricket history after his epic double hundred in the second Test against Australia in Abu Dhabi on Friday.

Younis is now Pakistan's highest Test centurion with 27. Younis said he still wasn't among the greats of Pakistan cricket.

"I am not great .. like Javed, Inzamam, Yousof or Hanif Mohammad. I can't compare myself with them," Younis said after the day's play.

"The era I am playing in is easy for me compared to theirs. I want to be remembered as a team man who loves to serve and his performance makes his country proud and win."

Younis admitted it was tough to overcome the disappointment of being axed from the preceding one-day series, which Pakistan lost 3-0.

"I can't explain how I spent that particular week as my family and friends were all tense and they were all wondering what I am going to do," said Younis.



Pakistan batsman Younis Khan acknowledges the crowd after scoring a double-century on the second day of the second Test against Australia at the Sheikh Zayed International Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday. PHOTO: INTERNET

Younis in 8K-run club

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Australia were left with a daunting task to save the second Test and series after Younis Khan hit an epic double hundred to put Pakistan in command on Friday.

Younis notched a memorable 213 for his fifth double hundred to steer Pakistan to 570-6 declared in their first innings on a flat Sheikh Zayed Stadium pitch in Abu Dhabi.

At the close on day two Australia were 22-1 with David Warner on 16 and nightwatchman Nathan Lyon on one, still trailing by 548 runs with nine wickets intact on a day when Pakistan skipper Misbahul Haq (101) and Azhar Ali (109) also enjoyed the run feast.

Younis Khan completed **8,000** runs in his 93rd Test, becoming the third Pakistani batsmen to reach the milestone behind Javed Miandad (8832) and Inzamamul Haq (8829).

Opener Chris Rogers fell caught behind to paceman Imran Khan for five, putting Pakistan in a strong position to press for their first series win over Australia since 1994.

It was Younis, who hit twin hundreds in the first Test, who once again dominated Australia's hapless bowling during his eight-and-a-half-hour stay, hitting 15 boundaries and two sixes.

Younis hit Glenn Maxwell for a towering six and, in the spinner's next over, took a single to complete 200.

He was finally bowled while playing Peter Siddle across the line and was given a standing ovation by a 12,000 holiday crowd and his teammates.

When on 181, Younis completed 8,000

runs in his 93rd Test, becoming the third Pakistani batsmen to reach the milestone behind Javed Miandad (8832) and Inzamamul Haq (8829).

In all, 28 batsmen in the world have scored 8,000 or more Test runs.

Misbah also completed his hundred with a reverse sweep off Maxwell, taking 166 balls for the mark before he gave a return catch to Steve Smith.

Misbah hit 10 boundaries and a six and added 181 runs with Younis to further hit Australia badly.

At 63 Misbah also became the highest scorer as Pakistan captain, beating Imran Khan's 2408 runs in 48 Tests. This is Misbah's 31st match.

The Younis-Misbah stand flourished in the afternoon after the Australian bowlers toiled hard in the morning session to get only one wicket, that of Ali.

Pakistan added 101 in an extended two-and-a-half-hour session due to Friday prayers after resuming at 304-2.

Younis added 236 with Ali to erase the previous highest third-wicket stand against Australia of 223 held by Javed Miandad and Taslim Arif from a 1980 match in Faisalabad, Pakistan.

Australia had another unusually sloppy day in the field as David Warner failed to hold a sharp chance at point from Younis's push off paceman Mitchell Johnson in the third over of the day. Younis was then batting on 112.

Nine runs later Younis edged a Siddle delivery which fell short of Brad Haddin, who hurt his right shoulder in an attempt to hold the catch.

Haddin had to walk off the field and Warner, who replaced him behind the stumps, spurned a stumping chance off spinner Lyon as Younis was well out of his crease on 125.

But Warner made amends as he took a good catch off Ali's glance off paceman Mitchell Starc for a consolation wicket. Ali's 250-ball knock had six boundaries, while Starc was the best bowler with 2-86.

SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 304-2)

Shehzad lbw b Lyon	35			
Hafeez c Haddin b Johnson	45			
Azhar c Warner b Starc	109			
Younis b Siddle	213			
Misbah c & b Smith	101			
Shafiq b Starc	21			
Sarfraz not out	19			
Yasir not out	1			
Extras: (b-10, lb-11, nb-4, w-1)26				
Total: (For six wks in 164 overs dec)	570			
Fall of wicket: 1-57, 2-96, 3-332, 4-513, 5-537, 6-561.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Johnson	25	7	59	1
Starc	27	3	86	2
Siddle	31	8	75	1
Lyon	37	1	154	1
Marsh	12	2	32	0
Maxwell	16	2	78	0
Clarke	6	0	24	0
Smith	10	0	41	1

AUSTRALIA: First innings

Warner not out	16			
Rogers c Ahmed b Khan	5			
Lyon not out	1			
Total: (For one wkt in 5.2 overs)	22			
Fall of wicket: 1-21.				
To bat: Smith, Clarke, Maxwell, Marsh, Haddin, Starc, Johnson, Siddle.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Imran	3	0	18	1
Hafeez	2	0	4	0
Babar	0.2	0	0	0

WC lifeline for Ryder

AFP, Wellington

Troubled New Zealand batting star Jesse Ryder was handed a World Cup lifeline Friday when selectors included him in the New Zealand A squad to tour the United Arab Emirates next month.

Ryder has had numerous off-field issues involving alcohol and has not played for the Black Caps since February, when he went on a late-night drinking session in Auckland before the start of a Test series against India.

His chances of representing New Zealand at the World Cup looked bleak but he has hit a rich vein of form just as New Zealand are struggling to find an opening batsman in the 50-over format.

Murray qualifies for World Tour Finals

AFP, Paris



Andy Murray guaranteed his place at the World Tour Finals on Thursday while Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer stayed neck and neck in their battle for world number one at the Paris Masters.

Djokovic overcame Frenchman Gael Monfils in the final match of the day with a 6-3, 7-6 (7/2) victory to become the eighth quarterfinalist.

The world number one now faces Murray in a repeat of their 2012 US Open final when the Scot won his first Grand Slam title.

Murray, 27, breezed to a 6-3, 6-3 third-round victory over Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov to stay on course for a fourth tournament victory in just six weeks.

Murray joins Djokovic, Federer, Stan Wawrinka and Marin Cilic in reaching the

season-ending showpiece in London with David Ferrer, Tomas Berdych and Kei Nishikori in possession of the other three spots but not yet assured places.

Canada's Milos Raonic is the only player who can gatecrash the top eight but needs to win the Paris tournament to guarantee his place.

Federer kept the pressure on Djokovic in the race for the year-ending number one spot with a gritty 6-4, 6-4 victory over French world number 176 Lucas Pouille.

A crucial break for the 17-time Grand Slam winner in the seventh game of the second set, the longest of the match, paved the way for victory over Pouille, who came through as a qualifier and had only recorded one Tour-level win before Paris this week.

It was Federer's 14th straight victory and sets up a quarterfinal matchup against Raonic.

Teams look for fresh start

SPORTS REPORTER from Khulna



A glance at Bangladesh's cricket statistics in the last three years would rate Khulna as one of the happier hunting grounds for the Tigers at home.

The Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium, which stands tall along the Khulna-Jessore highway, witnessed a number ten batsman score a century on his Test debut back in the winter of 2012. The player in question, Abul Hasan, is currently on a comeback trail following a series of injuries.

Opener Anamul Haque scored his first century here in the same year. His 120, in only his second ODI, helped the Tigers to a thumping win over the West Indies back then.

In addition, the Tigers enjoy a hundred percent record at the SANS in ODIs. They have won all four ODIs played here. It was a mini-carnival of sorts the last time the Tigers played here in 2012, with immense support pouring during the ODI series against the West Indies.

As a result, the BCB's initial decision to not include Khulna in this tour raised a few eyebrows. A day after the official schedule was announced, a section of the media criticised the move. Soon after the board decided to send an inspection team to Khulna and eventually altered the schedule to make room for a Test here.

It's something that the city, which has produced some of Bangladesh's finest sporting athletes, deserves.

The players had their first training session at the SANS yesterday. Batting was the key

weakness for both sides during the first Test. While the Zimbabweans faltered against spin, the hosts looked out of place against the extra bounce that the pacers generated.

Opener Shamsur Rahman, who struggled in both the innings in the last match, expects the win to boost the batsmen's confidence.

"We want to hold on to the confidence generated from the win. Although we won the last Test, there were a number of mistakes that we committed from which we need to learn. Our batsmen didn't score. We want to get past this and rise from here," said Shamsur, following Bangladesh's practice session yesterday.

Openers Shamsur and Tamim Iqbal scored the least amount of runs for the hosts in the last Test. This particular problem at the top has been haunting Bangladesh's cricket for a while now.

The last five years have seen just ten 50-plus opening stands for the Tigers. The last century-stand came back in 2010 in England. It compelled the selectors to roll the changes at the top. The last three years have seen the Tigers use seven pairs of openers that have produced just three half-century stands in total.

Shamsur however, hopes that the dreaded patch comes to an end this Monday, when the second Test begins.

Zimbabwe coach Stephen Mangongo has similar thoughts and hopes to make a fresh start.

"We want a new start to the series in Khulna. We have been working quite hard for the last few days and we will give our best to complete a turnaround," said Mangongo.

Mehedi fires Magnum

SPORTS REPORTER

A half-century from Mehedi Hasan (63) helped First Division league leaders Magnum Cricketers beat Dhanmondi Progoti Sangho by two wickets in an evenly contested match at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) yesterday. The Magnum Cricketers chased down Dhanmondi's total of 205 with two balls remaining.

At 147 for 6 it seemed as though Magnum were going to go down. However, a measured 37 from captain Arifur Rahman at number seven got them through at the end.

Before Arifur took his side home, Mehedi had hit seven fours and two sixes in his 93-ball knock and gave Magnum the start they needed.

Earlier half-centuries from Ruknuz Zaman (59) and Hassanuzaman Rumi (61) helped Dhanmondi get past 200.

In the day's other games Indira Road Krira Chakra beat Uttara Sporting Club by 37 runs at the Jahangirnagar University, Young Pegasus beat Eskaton Sabuj Sangha by four wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Rapid Foundation beat Surjo Torun by 55 runs at Fatullah and Agrani Bank Cricket Club beat Khelaghar SKS by two wickets at the BKSP.



Tigers partake in a training session at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday, ahead of the second Test against visiting Zimbabwe, starting on November 3. PHOTO: COURTESY

Cricket meet named after Malala

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan's cricket authorities have named their under-21 women's tournament after Nobel peace laureate Malala Yousafzai in an effort to encourage girls to take up the game.

Malala, who campaigns for the right of all children to go to school, survived a Taliban assassination attempt in 2012 and earlier this month became the youngest ever winner of the Nobel peace prize.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said the Under-21 women's event to be held in December this year would be dedicated to Malala.

"PCB has decided to honour Malala, Pakistan's young Nobel laureate for peace 2014, by naming its inaugural Under-21 national women cricket championship 2014-2015 after her," said a PCB release.

PCB chairman Shaharyar Khan said he hoped the move would give female cricketers "inspiration and stimulus to excel".

Khan said PCB has been focusing on women's cricket. "Our women cricketers have gradually picked up and only last month the women's team has retained the Asian Games gold at Incheon," he said.

The tournament is scheduled to be held in December with 12 regional teams taking part from all over Pakistan.

Rana raring for action

SPORTS REPORTER



National hockey team's midfielder Kamruzzaman Rana is all set to return to action this month through the National Hockey League for Bangladesh Navy following the withdrawal of his domestic and international suspension.

Rana, along with Rasel Mahmud Jimmy, Imran Hasan Pintoo and Zahid Hossain, was handed punishment of various terms by the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) for alleged 'under-performance and breach of discipline' during the 2013 Asia Cup. The two-year domestic suspension on Rana was lifted on October 27, just a week before the completion of one year.

The promising midfielder will certainly want to give his best in the upcoming national meet in a bid to regain his place in the national team ahead of January's World Hockey League (Round-2) in Singapore.

Even though Rana could not be reached for a comment despite repeated attempts, another hockey player close to Rana mentioned that the midfielder is hoping to regain his place in the nation side.

If Rana gets picked, it will be a big boost for the national team which struggled in absence of a competent midfielder during the recently concluded Asian Games. Rana's qualities have never been questioned since his exploits during the 2012 World Hockey League (Round-2) in Delhi where Bangladesh managed third position beating China, Oman and Fiji while losing to India and Ireland.

Despite the suspension, the former BKSP student trained regularly in a bid to keep himself fit and training with the Bangladesh Navy will certainly give him an opportunity to regain top fitness.

Not only Rana, Jimmy is also awaiting a return to action through the National Hockey League for Bangladesh Navy, but it all depends on whether his two-year domestic and three-year international suspension is withdrawn in the next BHF executive committee meeting on November 5. It has been learnt that the BHF Working Committee may take a positive decision on Jimmy and refer it to the executive committee meeting.

If the suspension is withdrawn, Bangladesh Navy will be most benefited in terms of forming a strong squad as they are assembling national players -- Rana, Sheikh Mohammad Nannu, Sarwar Hossain, Moynul Islam Koushik apart from their existing national players Mamunur Rahman Chayan, Krishna Kumar and Tapash Barman.

Proteas looking for momentum

AFP, Sydney

South Africa hope a win against Australia in a Twenty20 series getting under way this week will set them on the path for a successful summer, coach Russell Domingo said Friday.

The Proteas are in Australia for three T20 matches before a five-match one-day series in mid-November ahead of the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand in February and March.

Domingo said the Proteas were determined to create a winning habit early on tour.

"It's all about momentum," Domingo told reporters.

"If we can get some good results under our belts in the T20 campaign, we can take a lot of confidence into the one-day series."

Domingo said winning the T20 series was particularly important because the Proteas considered Australia tough opponents to stop once they got on a roll.

"Australia are always a great team, a great team when they're ahead, difficult to catch," he said.

"So whatever momentum we can get from the T20 series to carry into the one-day series I think is going to be very important."

"But also a couple of fringe players in the one-day side haven't had a lot of game time, guys like Kyle Abbott, Wayne Parnell, Ryan McLaren.