



England pacer James Anderson used all his experience and guile to bag his first five-wicket haul in Australia and bring his side back into the second Ashes Test on the fourth day of the day-night encounter in Adelaide yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

PYBUS once more?

SPORTS REPORTER



Richard Pybus arrived in Dhaka last evening with an interest in filling the position of head coach of the Bangladesh cricket team for the second time after Sri Lankan Chandika Hathurusingha resigned from the post.

The 53-year old England-born coach, who had left the Bangladesh job in October 2012 after serving for only four months, saying that the interference of the then AHM Mustafa Kamal-led board and the terms of his contract made his position untenable, went to the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur soon after his arrival.

He met with BCB high-ups, including president Nazmul Hassan, at the home of Bangladesh cricket in Mirpur.

"He [Pybus] just made a courtesy call with our president tonight. He is one of the candidates on the shortlist. We are in no hurry because we want someone for the long term. He will give his presentation tomorrow and then we will discuss the terms and conditions in detail," said BCB director Jalal Yunus.

Board insiders however informed that although they have some other candidates in the list, including former West Indies coach Phil Simmons, Pybus has a good chance of getting the nod despite the earlier bitterness with the Kamal-led board.

The arrival of Pybus indicates that the board is desperately looking to appoint a permanent coach, rather than go for an interim local coach, before the next home series against Sri Lanka in January 2018 after the escalation of debate relating to the conflicts of interest surrounding probable local candidate Khaled Mahmud. The board was also eager to sign a contract with someone who will continue till the 2019 ICC World Cup in England.

During Pybus's short tenure, the Tigers played a series of unofficial matches in Zimbabwe and Trinidad, and won a three-match Twenty20 series against Ireland but they also lost to Scotland, won and lost against Netherlands, and crashed out of the 2012 World Twenty20 by losing to New




ধুলো ময়লার দ্বি শেষ!



Consolation for Vikings

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong Vikings concluded their Bangladesh Premier League campaign with a consolatory 45-run win over Rajshahi Kings in their dead rubber encounter at the Sher-e-Bangla National stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

This is the Vikings' third win from 12 matches while Rajshahi, last editions runners-up, finished with four wins.

Asked to bat, Chittagong posted a huge 194 for 2 riding on a blistering unbeaten 56 ball 80 run knock from English opener Luis Reece. Reece alongside Luke Ronchi handed the Vikings a flying start as they added 69 runs for the opening stand before the latter was dismissed on 42 runs off 30 balls.

Zimbabwean Sikandar Raza also remained not out as he ended on 42 runs with three sixes and four boundaries as he and Reece added another 67 in the last five overs. Mehedi Hasan Miraz scalped both the Chittagong wickets.

In reply, Rajshahi kept losing wickets at regular intervals and aside from Samit Patel, who top scored for the side with 62 off just 26 balls featuring five sixes and six fours, none of the other batsmen made significant contributions as the Kings ended their chase on 149 for 9 in 20 overs.

Off spinner Raza, who was on a hat-trick at one point, was the pick of the bowlers for Rajshahi as he grabbed four wickets.

SCORES IN BRIEF

KHULNA V COMILLA
KHULNA TITANS: 174 for 6 in 20 overs (Nazmul 37, Ariful 35, Klinger 29; Al Amin 3-52)
COMILLA VICTORIANS: 160 for 7 in 20 overs (Tamim 36, Shoaib 36, Samuels 25 not out; Howell 2-32)
Result: Khulna Titans won by 14 runs.
Player-of-the-match: Ariful Haque.

CHITTAGONG V RAJSHAHI

CHITTAGONG VIKINGS: 194 for 2 in 20 overs (Ronchi 42, Reece 80 not out, Raza 42 not out; Mehedi 2-18)
RAJSHAHI KINGS: 149 for 9 in 20 overs (Patel 62, Zakir 19, Franklin 17; Sunzamul 2-14, Raza 4-16)
Result: Chittagong Vikings won by 45 runs.
Player-of-the-match: Luis Reece.

Root chases history after Jimmy's 5

AFP, Adelaide

Skipper Joe Root led a spirited English fightback to frustrate Australia and raise hopes of a miracle victory in the gripping second Ashes Test in Adelaide on Tuesday. While hopes will rest on Root, it was England's leading wicket-taker James Anderson who first made thoughts of an unlikely victory possible with his first five-wicket in Australia haul to help dismiss the hosts for 138 in their second innings.

At the close of an absorbing fourth day in the first day-night Ashes Test, England were 176 for four with Root unconquered on 67 and nightwatchman Chris Woakes not out on five -- 178 runs from victory with six wickets in hand.

The 35-year-old paceman captured five for 43 and has now taken 514 wickets in his 131st Test for England, but he says he has no plans on calling time on his fabulous career.

"I feel like I am bowling as well as I ever have, feel like my body is in as good shape as it ever has been," Anderson told reporters.

"And people keep telling me that I am about to finish and retire, so I want to show them that I can keep going."

After three days of Australian dominance, Root took up the challenge of a record run chase with a fighting unbeaten half-century as the momentum began to shift towards England.

In contrast, his counterpart Steve Smith, who attracted criticism for not enforcing the follow-on despite

a 215-run first innings lead, burned two reviews in the space of three balls and put down a tough catch.

The highest winning fourth innings at the Adelaide Oval is 315 for six by Australia against England in 1902.

"A win would be huge for us, both in terms of what it would do for our confidence as a team and we would be all square in the series," Anderson said.

"It would also have a potential effect on them (Australia) for a team to be in such a commanding position to then lose that," he added.

Root had a leg before wicket decision on 32 off Nathan Lyon overturned on review, with the 'Hawk-Eye' tracker indicating the ball would have gone over the stumps.

Australia then lost their second

and last review in the 43rd over when Dawid Malan survived an lbw challenge on three off Josh Hazlewood, with the ball again tracked as going over the stumps.

Adding to Smith's anxiety, he also dropped Malan on eight in a sharp one-handed attempted catch at slip off Lyon.

"We're still reasonably confident," the Australia team bowling coach David Saker told reporters.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: First innings 442 for 8 decl.
ENGLAND: First innings 227
AUSTRALIA: Second innings 138 (Warner 14, Khawaja 20, Lyon 14, Marsh 19; Anderson 5-43, Woakes 4-36)
ENGLAND: Second innings 176 for 4 (Stoneman 36, Root 67 not out, Malan 29; Starc 2-65)

Titans climb to second spot

SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna Titans were just the third team in the fifth edition of the Bangladesh Premier League to defeat the juggernaut that is Comilla Victorians and the Mahmudullah Riyad-led franchise were rewarded for their 14-run win yesterday with an elevation to second place on the seven-team table.

The elevation may be a shortlived one as they will be supplanted by Dhaka Dynamites if the defending champions, who have a superior net run rate, beat Rangpur Riders in today's afternoon match.

The top-placed Comilla, who had lost just two matches before yesterday, failed to overtake Khulna's 174 for six despite a solid foundation laid by skipper Tamim Iqbal and Imrul Kayes's 63-run second-wicket partnership after the early departure of Solomon Mire in the first over.

The duo added the runs in 7.1 overs with Tamim enjoying the lion's share of the strike and the runs in a 33-ball 36 with the help of six boundaries.

However, Comilla were hurt by the departure of both set batsmen in quick succession. Carlos Brathwaite made up for dropping Imrul on six in the fourth over off Afif Hossain by taking a well-judged catch in the eighth

over off the bowling of Benny Howell at long off to send Imrul back for a 19-ball 20. Brathwaite then had Tamim caught in the 10th over, reducing Khulna to 68 for three. Howell and Jayed picked up two wickets each while Mahmudullah was economical in giving away just 22 runs from four overs and picked up the wicket of Mire.

Wickets fell at regular intervals thereafter and despite some late sixes from the in-form Shoaib Malik (23-ball 36 with three sixes and a four) and Marlon Samuels (25 not out off 16 balls), Khulna were too far behind the rate. By the time the last over rolled around, they needed 31 to win with Samuels and Rakibul Hasan at the crease but could manage only 16 as Abu Jayed conceded two fours, a six and took the wicket of Rakibul as Comilla ended on 160 for seven.

Earlier, the Khulna innings derived its momentum from a stellar 55-run opening stand between Nazmul Hossain and Michael Klinger in six overs, but it was the late impetus provided by Brathwaite (unbeaten 22 off 12 with three fours and a six) and Ariful Haque (21-ball 35 with four fours and a six) who along with Howell helped realise 50 runs in the last three overs, that made the difference. Al-Amin Hossain was the most successful bowler for Comilla with three wickets, but he was punished for those scalps, conceding 52 in four overs.

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WHACK-OMETER

TOTAL 6s HIT 440 | TOTAL 4s HIT 885

Most 6s hit by a player: 23, Evin Lewis, Dhaka Dynamites

Most 4s hit by a player: 36, Tamim Iqbal, Comilla Victorians

WHAT THEY SAID

Tamim has the right to speak the truth

I don't know why only Tamim received the show-cause letter but I think what he said is correct. The wicket was actually not good and I will always defend Tamim. The pitch in which the game took place was never a T20 wicket and if someone falls into trouble for saying the truth then I have nothing to say but still I would say Tamim was right. He did not lie and I think he has the right to speak the truth.

- Comilla Victorians coach **Mohammad Salahuddin** on Tamim Iqbal's show-cause letter

We have no other option but to win

It was important for us to win the game today as it changes the equation. At the moment we are in the top two and it will depend on the Dhaka Dynamites game whether we remain on in the top two or not. We don't have any problem even if we have to win two matches to reach the final and whatever the equations are we have to be prepared. Now all the matches are against the good sides and the competition will get tougher and we have no other option but to win.

- Player of the match **Ariful Haque** after his side Khulna Titans beat Comilla Victorians

India scent victory

AFP, New Delhi

Sri Lanka were reeling on 31 for three while chasing a daunting 410-run victory target Tuesday in a pollution-tainted third Test in New Delhi blighted by scenes of bowlers vomiting on the ground.

Left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja struck twice in an over to rattle the visitors, who must bat out three more sessions to save the match and draw the series with top-ranked India.

Dhananjaya de Silva was on 13 and Angelo Mathews had yet to open his account when bad light stopped play at the smoggy Feroz Shah Kotla ground.

Fast bowler Mohammad Shami dismissed opener Sadeera Samarawickrama off a roaring bouncer but stopped in mid-over to vomit, crouching down and then gulping water.

He went on to complete the over but left the field shortly afterwards. Skipper Virat Kohli, who made 50, declared India's second innings on 246-5 after Rohit Sharma reached his half-century in the final session, setting the visitors a formidable victory target.

No Test team has chased down 410 since 2003, when the West Indies defeated Australia after making 418 runs.

Opener Shikhar Dhawan top-scored in India's second innings with 67 on an easy wicket. Apart from Lakmal, Lahiru Gamage, Dilruwan Perera, Lakshan Sandakan and Dhananjaya de Silva took a wicket each.

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: First innings 536 for 7 decl
SRI LANKA: First innings 373

INDIA: Second innings 246 for 5 decl (Dhawan 67, Pujara 49, Kohli 50, Sharma 50 not out; De Silva 1-31, Sandakan 1-50)

SRI LANKA: Second innings 31 for 3 (Karunaratne 13, De Silva 13 not out; Jadeja 2-5)

Stop sport in Delhi: doctors

Medics urged cricket's governing body to revise its rulebook after the third Test match between India and Sri Lanka went ahead in New Delhi despite players visibly struggling and wheezing for air. Air pollution at Feroz Shah Kotla stadium soared to hit 15 times the World Health Organization's safe level. But the visiting side had complained of illness in the days before, with the match halted three times on Sunday as umpires consulted team doctors before allowing play to resume. The Indian Medical Association condemned that decision.

"This match should not have taken place in the first place. It is time the ICC (International Cricket Council) comes up with a policy on pollution," said IMA president K. K Aggarwal.



Zealand and Pakistan in the first round.

Pybus had returned to South Africa from Sri Lanka after the World Twenty20 and despite numerous email exchanges with the BCB, the two parties could not reach a consensus, leading to then bowling coach Shane Jurgensen taking the reins.

Pybus had then served as the director of cricket for the West Indies Cricket Board, before an abortive effort to become coach of the Indian cricket team.

Hathurusingha left the job in almost the same fashion during Bangladesh's tour of South Africa but, unlike Pybus, did not publicly explain his decision to resign. BCB was still searching for the exact reason behind the Sri Lankan's resignation even as he is set to take over as the head coach of Sri Lanka cricket team.

BD women let down by batting

SPORTS REPORTER

Once again the Bangladesh Women's A team were let down by their batting department, succumbing to a five-wicket defeat against the India A team in the second fixture of their three-match one-day series, which India have now won 2-0 with a game remaining, at the KSCA stadium in Hubli yesterday.

After electing to bat Bangladesh posted 195 for 7, India then made quick work of the chase as they reached 196 in 48.1 overs.

The visitors kept losing wickets at regular intervals and struggled on 59 for 3 inside the first 20 overs before Lata Mondol and skipper Rumana Ahmed tried to steady the ship by adding 107 runs for the fourth wicket. Other than Lata's team high 71 and Rumana's 63, none of the other batters made significant contributions.

The slow approach from Bangladesh's batting side proved costly as they were unable to cash in on the latter stages of the innings, adding just 29 runs in the last five overs.

India's opener Vanitha VR handed the hosts a solid start to the chase with a run-a-ball 42 featuring two sixes and four boundaries. NM Chaudhary top scored for the side with 56 runs off 80 balls.

The third and final match will take place on December 8 at the same venue.

