

South Africa crush England at Lord's

REUTERS, LONDON

South Africa skittled England out for 149 on Friday to win the first Test by an innings and 12 runs inside three days at Lord's and go 1-0 up in the three-match series.

It proved an emphatic triumph for South Africa's bowling attack, who nullified the threat of England's new attacking batting 'Bazball' approach, forging a 161-run first innings lead before dismissing their hosts in only 37.4 second innings overs.

Anrich Nortje took three wickets in the space of 10 balls to rip through the heart of the home batting, removing Jonny Bairstow (18 runs), opener Alex Lees (35) and Ben Foulkes (0) in quick succession with a spell of fast bowling for figures of 3-47.

He was ably backed up by fellow quicks Marco Jansen, Lungi Ngidi and Kagiso Rabada while spinner Keshav Maharaj proved a surprisingly successfully early inclusion into the attack, taking the first two wickets before lunch with Zak Crawley (13) and Ollie Pope (5) both trapped leg before wicket.

It was another failure for under-pressure Crawley, who was the first to fall for 13 runs and faces being dropped for the next Test at Old Trafford.

Joe Root was the first to go after lunch as he edged Ngidi to slip for six runs followed by Nortje's quick trio of scalps as South Africa took a firm grip on the game.

But England captain Ben Stokes and Stuart Broad took on the bowlers in a 'Bazball' cameo to score 55 runs off 45 runs for the seventh wicket to offer hopes of a home fightback before Broad was snagged by Rabada for a quickfire 35.

Jansen then castled Matthew Potts for a single run before Stokes (20) hit Rabada down the throat of Maharaj on the boundary to end any slim hopes for the hosts.

South Africa had begun the day on 289-7 in response to England's first innings tally of 165 and batted for the first hour on Friday before being bowled out for 326 in their first innings, giving them a handy 161-run lead.

Nortje scored an unbeaten 28 not out off 42 balls as he dominated a 29-run partnership for the ninth wicket with Marco Jansen, who was dismissed for 48.

Rabada was out third ball of the day as he pulled the ball leg side, only for Broad to pluck it one-handed out of the air for a brilliant catch.

England had previously won all four of their Tests under a new leadership duo of Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum, but each of those wins have come courtesy of batting aggressively in the fourth innings rather than having to set a total for their opponents to chase.

The second Test of the series starts in Manchester on August 25.



South Africa pacer Anrich Nortje (2nd from L) celebrates with captain Dean Elgar following the dismissal of England's Jonny Bairstow (not in picture) during the third day of the first Test at Lord's in London on Friday. England were bowled out for 149 runs in their second innings for a defeat by an innings and 12 runs.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Sriram clouds Domingo's future further

SPORTS REPORTER

Despite ample time before the FTP calendar was finalised, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) are now looking to make drastic changes to their T20I setup and its coaching panel with an eye on the numerous T20Is in the new FTP schedule and the upcoming Asia Cup.

Head coach Russell Domingo arrived in the country yesterday with his future uncertain after BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon's remarks to the media about the board wanting to 'split' coaching responsibilities for the different formats.

A BCB director, on conditions of anonymity, revealed to The Daily Star yesterday morning that Sridharan Sriram was to be appointed head coach till the T20 World Cup. But later in the day, BCB president Nazmul Hassan confirmed to the media that Sriram was coming in as technical consultant.

"We had Sriram shortlisted. He will come on 21st [August]. He is definitely not coming as head coach. He is coming as a technical consultant. He is coming here to work upto the T20 World Cup," Nazmul told the media yesterday.

The matter became trivial, with BCB higher-ups confused about the development. However, Sriram's reputation working with Australia and also IPL franchise Royal Challengers Bangalore made him a front-runner to take up the position.

"Certain things were in consideration

before taking him onboard. One is his IPL involvement. We wanted someone involved in high-grade T20 cricket and someone with experience. The World Cup is also in Australia and he has worked in Australia for a long time. For these two reasons, he was appointed as technical consultant," the BCB president said.

On Thursday, media reports stated that Jamie Siddons was set to lead the side in the Asia Cup as head coach. However, the BCB president informed that Siddons



wanted to work on development at the age level.

That Sriram was still in contention for a head coach role could not altogether be dismissed when The Daily Star talked to the BCB president yesterday. "We will decide on the 22nd [August]," he replied when asked whether Sriram could end up being head coach for the Asia Cup.

Sriram, who was assistant coach when Australia won the World Cup in UAE last year, said he was looking forward to working with the Tigers.

"I bring with me twenty-five years of

cricketing experience and nine years of coaching at an elite level. I am really looking forward to working with the Bangladesh players. I believe Bangladesh has huge potential in white-ball cricket," Sriram was quoted as saying in a press release.

All this points to Domingo's role becoming uncertain, but splitting the coaching responsibility was a way of taking a load off the coaches for the BCB.

"Till now our thinking is that Domingo should concentrate on ODIs and Tests. We have been talking recently about splitting everything a bit. The number of matches we have... Domingo can't travel so much. We are trying to detach the whole thing, preferably if he takes a break since we have a lot of T20s in the FTP calendar.

"We haven't discussed that [about Domingo not going to Asia Cup]. What we have discussed is that we are trying to change the mindset altogether in this Asia Cup," Nazmul told the media.

"Whether we will keep Domingo and make changes or whether we will be making changes without him is something we can only confirm after a meeting with everyone concerned on August 22," Nazmul said.

"It is preferred that we will make the coaching staff separate too [for the different formats]," he added. Whether Domingo accepts the BCB's proposal of splitting the head coach duties remains to be seen but until that meeting on August 22nd, his future with BCB remains unclear.

Chahar not taking T20 spot for granted

REUTERS

A fit-again Deepak Chahar marked his return to India's Twenty20 side with a match-winning spell in the first one-day international against Zimbabwe on Thursday but the 30-year-old is not taking his place in the World Cup squad for granted.

Chahar has been a familiar face in the 20-overs squad, shouldering new ball duties and providing late cameos with the bat. But he was sidelined for six months after suffering a quadriceps tear in February and then hurting his back.

There was no rustiness on his return as he claimed 3-27, dismissing Zimbabwe's top three batsmen to set up India's 10-wicket win in Harare. Read full story

Chahar said he was not preoccupied with his selection for the World Cup in Australia in October-November.

"That is not in my hand," he said after collecting the man-of-the-match award.

"Skill-wise, though, I have worked really hard. There I can say I have probably started where I had left off. "After the first over, rest whatever I bowled, I was happy. It was a seven-over spell, so the fitness is good."

The remaining two ODIs are scheduled on Saturday and Monday also in Harare.



Mike Dean admits error on Cucurella call

REUTERS



Mike Dean, the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) in the Premier League match between Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur, said on Thursday he made the wrong call when Spurs' Cristian Romero pulled Marc Cucurella's hair.

The foul was not given by on-field referee Anthony

Taylor and Spurs profited as they scored a last-gasp equaliser to earn a point from a 2-2 draw at Stamford Bridge on Sunday.

"I could not award a free kick as VAR, but I could recommend to Taylor that he visit the referee review area to consider a possible red card," Dean wrote in a column for The Mail+.

"In the few seconds I had to study Romero pulling Cucurella's hair, I didn't deem it a violent act.

"I've since studied the footage, spoken to other referees and, upon reflection, I should have asked Taylor to visit his pitch-side monitor to take a look for himself. The referee on field always has the final say."

Raducanu hungry for US Open encore

AFP, Cincinnati

A local breakfast staple will be on the menu when Emma Raducanu returns to New York next week to begin preparations for defending her US Open title.

The London teenager who won the Grand Slam from a qualifying start without dropping a set has her mind set on scratching a particular non-tennis itch.

"I've really been craving a bagel for the last year," the 19-year-old said after Thursday's 7-5, 6-4 third-round loss to US seventh seed Jessica Pegula at the ATP and WTA Cincinnati Masters.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing the city. But of course the tournament -- I've got special memories there from the juniors... and then last year, obviously that happened.

"I'm looking forward to it."

Raduanu and her team are taking a look back at her run to glory which ended with the title last September.

"I'm rewatching my matches from the

US Open," she said. "There are certain moments where I was given a lot of gifts (opponent errors) or maybe they got a bit tight.

"I think I've improved as a player. I'm finding freedom in my swinging.

"I think I achieved something great... but I was playing completely free (at last year's Open). I'm starting to do that again."

Raducanu, who was seeded 10th, is relatively untroubled over her exit in Cincinnati after knocking out Serena Williams and Victoria Azarenka in back-to-back matches.

"I did really enjoy this week. If I made an error, it was almost like a positive thing -- good, you are going

for it," Raducanu said.

"It paid off a lot more than it didn't. But I also think, honestly, that my opponents have been playing a lot better this year.

"This week was a great step for me. It's one of the few tournaments that I have actually started going for my shots."



Paris Saint-Germain forwards Kylian Mbappe (C) and Neymar trained alongside other players at 'Camp des Loges' on Friday, two days prior to the Ligue 1 match against Lille. The club's coach Christophe Galtier earlier in the day said that there is no bad blood between the two star forwards, calling the apparent differences as an 'epiphenomenon'.

PHOTO: AFP