

SPORTS

sports

Pakistan fight back in final South Africa Test



Pakistan's Sarfraz Ahmed plays a shot

AFP | Johannesburg

Duanne Olivier took his third five-wicket haul of the series before Pakistan's bowlers fought back on the second day of the third and final Test against South Africa yesterday.

Olivier grabbed took five wickets for 51 as South Africa gained a first innings lead of 77 at the Wanderers Stadium.

But the hosts were unable to forge a position of dominance, struggling to 135 for five at the close, an overall lead of 212.

Hashim Amla made a patient 42 not out off 90 balls against tight, disciplined bowling, while Quinton de Kock lifted scoring rate late in the day by scoring 34 not out off 35 balls.

The wickets were shared between four bowlers with medium-pacer Faheem Ashraf taking two for 19 -- with both his wickets coming in his first over -- to reduce South Africa to 45 for four.

Fast bowler Olivier was twice involved in crucial breakthroughs as Pakistan were bowled out for 185 in their first innings.

He ended an hour of frustration for South Africa when he took two wickets in four balls immediately after the morning drinks break, ending the stubborn resistance of night-watchman Mohammad Abbas, who batted for 88 minutes and faced 51 balls in scoring 11.

Three balls later Asad Shafiq ducked a bouncer but was caught behind off his glove.

Nadal ready to let rip remodelled serve at Australian Open



Rafael Nadal of Spain reacts during a match of the 2018 US Open (file photo)

AFP | Melbourne

Rafael Nadal revealed yesterday he was back to full fitness and has a brand new serve to unleash at the Australian Open.

The world number two limped away from Melbourne Park a year ago, forced to retire in pain from his quarter-final with Marin Cilic.

The 17-time Grand Slam champion missed most of the

next three months and cut short his season to have surgery on a troublesome foot injury.

He pulled out of a Brisbane warm-up event with a slight thigh strain but declared yesterday his troubles were behind him.

"I feel good. If I am not feeling good, I will not be here," Nadal told reporters two days before the start of the first Grand Slam of the year.

Aussies shock India

Sharma fireworks thwarted as Australia beat India in 1st ODI in Sydney

- Australia fended off an explosive century from Rohit Sharma (R) to post a morale-boosting 34-run victory over India in the first one-day international in Sydney

- Australia took a 1-0 lead in three-match series.

- Rohit reached his 22nd ODI ton off 110 deliveries

AFP | Sydney

Australia fended off an explosive century from Rohit Sharma to post a morale-boosting 34-run victory over India in the first one-day international in Sydney yesterday.

The Australians made 288 for five off their 50 overs after winning the toss and restricted India to 254 for nine.

Sharma blasted 133 off 129 balls in a scintillating effort to keep India in the contest, while man-of-the-match Jhye Richardson took four for 26 for Australia.

It was a tonic for the ailing Australians, coming off their first-ever home Test series defeat to Virat Kohli's India and after winning just three of their previous 24 ODIs.

Test discard Peter Handscomb topscored with 73 off 61 balls for Australia with Usman Khawaja and Shaun Marsh also registered half-centuries.

"I am very pleased with the performance," Australia skipper Aaron Finch said.

"I think the way they rebuilt, Rohit and MS Dhoni, we knew they will take it deep and we



India's Rohit Sharma plays a shot

managed to pick up the wickets at the right time.

"We can always improve, our execution with the ball was at times off. It will be a good series."

Handscomb, passed over this week by selectors for this month's two Tests against Sri Lanka, led the way with six fours and two sixes.

Fellow Test discard Marsh knocked up 54 off 70 balls while Khawaja made 59 from 81.

India's Bhuvneshwar Kumar finished with two for 66 and wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav claimed two for 54.

"We are not very pleased with the way we played," Kohli said.

"I thought we were fine with the ball, score of 300-plus was par on that wicket. We thought

280 was chaseable on that wicket but losing three wickets in such a short span of time is never good.

"Rohit was outstanding and MS Dhoni supported him well but we could have done better with the tempo of the game."

India lurched to a disastrous start, losing three wickets in the first six overs, from which they failed to recover.

Shikhar Dhawan was out on the sixth ball of the innings when he was leg before wicket for a first-ball duck to ODI debutant Jason Behrendorff.

Prodigious Sharma

It got worse for India when Kohli was caught at square leg off Richardson for three and two balls later Ambati Rayudu was trapped leg before wicket by Richardson after a review for a two-ball duck, leaving India rocking at four for three.

Former World Cup-winning captain M.S. Dhoni put on 137 runs with Sharma for the fourth wicket to stabilise India's rocky start before he was out leg before wicket to Behrendorff for 51 and his 68th ODI half-century.

Dhoni, 37, who has captained India 332 times across the three

Australia	
A. Carey	c Sharma b Kuldeep 24
A. Finch	b Kumar 6
U. Khawaja	lbw b Jadeja 59
S. Marsh	c Shami b Kuldeep 54
P. Handscomb	c Dhawan b Kumar 73
M. Stoinis	not out 47
G. Maxwell	not out 11
Extras (b4, lb2, nb2, w6)	14
Total (5 wickets; 50 overs)	288

India	
R. Sharma	c Maxwell b Stoinis 133
S. Dhawan	lbw b Behrendorff 0
V. Kohli	c Stoinis b Richardson 3
A. Rayudu	lbw b Richardson 0
M.S. Dhoni	lbw b Behrendorff 51
D. Karthik	b Richardson 12
R. Jadeja	c Marsh b Richardson 8
B. Kumar	not out 29
K. Yadav	c Khawaja b Siddle 3
M. Shami	c Maxwell b Stoinis 1
Extras (lb7, nb1, w6)	14
Total (9 wickets; 50 overs)	254

formats, faced 96 balls and hit three fours and a six.

Sharma kept India in the contest with some prodigious hitting, blasting six sixes and 10 fours.

But his mighty knock came to an end when he skied Marcus Stoinis to Glenn Maxwell at deep mid-wicket to end India's remaining hopes.



Australia became the first team to register 1,000 ODI wins

Liaison Combine edge Young Challengers

TDT | Manama

Liaison Combine defeated Young Challengers by 62 runs in a CBA Division B League match.

Liaison won the toss and elected to bat first. Sameer (96) Omran's (57) partnership helped their team to score 194 at the end of 20 overs. Asim took two wickets for Challengers. In second innings Liaison's bowlers restricted Challengers for 132 runs and won the match by 62 runs. Junaid took three wickets for Liaison

Brief Score: Liaison Combine 194/3 in 20 overs (Sameer 96, Omran Gani 57, Asim 2/36) beat Young Challengers 132/8 (Nasir 35, Junaid 3/14) by 62 runs.

Biyas Bahrain Indians 183/1 in



Prakash - SNCS



Praveen



Sameer - Liaison



Shan Francis



Vijil - FOG Printing

18.3 overs (Praveen Raj 104, Karthick 36) beat Strikers 177/10 (Satya 41, Firoz 3/25, Talal 3/30) by 9 wickets

CBA Division C T-20 League Bassali Tigers 123/9 in 20 overs (Waleed 19, Sherji 2/12) beat NDC Bahrain 116/7 (Rahul 28, Umer 2/31) by 7 runs

Pak CC 101/5 in 18.1 overs (Noman 21, Sajjad 3/23) beat Rebel-II 100/10 (Umar 31, Imran 2/4, Kamaran 2/8) by 5 wickets

CBA Division D T-20 League SNCS Transfast 173/2 in 15.3 overs (Prakash 94, Vishnu 49) beat Young Blasters 169/3 (Rishabh 78, Amartya 43, Shakeel 2/28) by 8 wickets

Other Match Scores Fog Printing 118/3 in 16.1 overs (Vijil 62) beat Superb XI 116/8 (Pradeep 25, Bingly 2/12) by 7 wickets

Rising Star 127/6 in 20 overs (Sajeew 41, Hussain 3/32) beat Suha Travels 124/3 (Tabrez 38,

Rajesh 2/19) by 3 runs Cebarco 146/5 in 18.4 overs (Laxman 46, Raman 38, Moorthy 36) beat Bulls 143/5 (Chandrashekar 47, Laxman 3/15) by 5 wickets

Challengers 174/2 in 20 overs (Shan Francis 125, Umer 2/20) beat GT Abdulaal 110/6 (Waqas 34, Anish 2/6) by 64 runs

Via Cloud 112/10 (Akhil 43, Haroon 4/23) beat Infonas 100/10 (Waqas 52, Samson 3/12) by 12 runs

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