

India on brink of Test sweep

Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav put India on the brink of 3-0 sweep over South Africa

● South Africa were bowled out for 162 in their first innings before India enforced the follow-on

AFP | Ranchi, India

Pace duo Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav claimed five wickets between them yesterday to put India on the brink of a series whitewash after South Africa crumbled while following-on in the third Test.

At the end of the third day in Ranchi, the tourists were on 132-8, trailing India by 203 runs, with replacement batsman Theunis de Bruyn on 30 and Anrich Nortje, on five.

De Bruyn came in under the new concussion sub rule after Dean Elgar took a nasty hit on the helmet from a short delivery by Yadav and had to retire hurt on 16.

The impact left the opener



South Africa's Faf du Plessis is clean bowled off India's Umesh Yadav

shaken as he lay on the ground getting physio assistance, and officials called for early tea with the Proteas reeling on 26-4.

Events did not improve for South Africa as Shami claimed three wickets, including South Africa skipper Faf du Plessis for

four, while Yadav struck twice. South Africa's first innings ended on 162 earlier as they chased India's 497-9 declared.



Virat Kohli went past Mohammad Azharuddin as the Indian captain who has enforced the follow-on most times in Test cricket

The hosts made them bat again, and Yadav drew first blood, getting left-hander Quinton de Kock -- who was promoted to open the innings -- bowled for five.

Shami took over to get first innings half-centurion Zubayr Hamza for nought with a delivery that rattled his off stump.

The pace spearhead then got du Plessis' prized scalp and Temba Bavuma caught behind

for nought.

Spinners Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin also took a wicket each to force an extension of the final session but de Bruyn and Nortje survived the final few overs.

India's wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha suffered a finger injury in the final session and Rishabh Pant took over.

According to new rules, a team is also allowed to replace a wicket keeper.

The South African batting fell flat after starting the day on nine for two in their first innings with Yadav and Shami sharing five wickets between them.

Hamza, playing just his second Test, scored a battling 62 to offer some resistance during his 91-run fourth-wicket stand with Temba Bavuma, who made 32.

Opening batsman Rohit Sharma put India in command of the final Test with his maiden double century in the five-day format on Sunday. He made 212.

India won the first two Tests by big margins in Visakhapatnam and Pune.

Manchester City still not clinical enough to win Champions League - Guardiola

AFP | Manchester

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola believes the English champions are still not strong enough at either end of the field to count themselves as realistic contenders to win the Champions League for the first time.

City are the bookmakers' favourites to finally win the biggest prize in European football after more than a decade of huge investment from the club's Abu Dhabi owners and in Guardiola's fourth season in charge.

However, the Catalan, who has won the Champions League twice as a manager and once as a player at Barcelona, thinks City will be punished in the latter stages of the competition if they continue the inconsistent form they have shown so far in the Premier League this season.

"We miss a lot of chances in the final third and we have to do that, to be clinical. When the people say about the Champions League being the target, we are still not ready," said Guardi-



Pep Guardiola instructs players during the game against Crystal Palace

la, whose side have won their opening two Champions League games and host Atalanta at the Etihad on Tuesday.

"In this competition you have to be strong in the boxes and this season we are not incredibly strong in the boxes. Of course we have time."

City have been beset by injuries in defence and suffered shock defeats to Norwich and Wolves in their opening nine

Premier League games.

Guardiola, though, believes the onus is on his side to attack well as a unit to mask any defensive failings.

"When you play good, you defend less. When our build-up is bad, when you don't play good, you concede a lot," he added.

"What happens when we make our incredible, fluid game from the build-up? We concede few (chances). When our build-

“In this competition you have to be strong in the boxes and this season we are not incredibly strong in the boxes. Of course we have time

PEP GUARDIOLA

up is wrong, we make mistakes in the first pass, we are nervous like what happened against Wolves...we concede a lot.

"That's why it's related. It's not that you play well in one department and it's enough. When our pressing is high, is intense, we concede really few (chances)."

Guardiola will at least have more defenders to choose from for the visit of the Italians in midweek with Nicolas Otamendi and Kyle Walker returning to training after missing Saturday's 2-0 win at Crystal Palace, while John Stones could make his first start in five weeks.

Ronaldo happy with 'more attacking' Juventus

AFP | London

Juventus forward Cristiano Ronaldo gave coach Maurizio Sarri a vote of confidence yesterday when he said he was happy with the "more attacking" approach the club had adopted since Sarri came on board in the summer.

"I think the team is getting better," said Ronaldo on the eve of Juve's Champions League Group D meeting with Lokomotiv Moscow.

"We are getting more and more confident. We are playing a different brand of football,

more attacking.

"I like the way he (Sarri) wants the team to play. We are creating more opportunities, we have more confidence in ourselves, I'm happy with these changes.

"Maybe we could score a little more but I'm proud of what we are doing."

So far this season, Ronaldo has scored five goals in nine games and was on target at the weekend when Juventus beat Bologna 2-1 to consolidate top spot in Serie A.

"My role hasn't changed, perhaps I have a bit more freedom,"

he said.

"I am happy because, bit by bit, we are getting to where Juventus ought to be. We have a difference coach, a different system, new players. We changed in order to improve."

Last week, the five-time Ballon d'Or winner scored his 700th career goal while playing for Portugal.

"That's already in the past. I want to move on, reach new heights to help the team. I want to play and help the team win trophies.

"Of course I am proud of the individual records but the prior-

ity is to win games for Juventus and Portugal."



Cristiano Ronaldo

Murray rise continues after Belgian triumph

AFP | London

Former world number one Andy Murray was rewarded for his victory in Antwerp at the weekend, with another dramatic rise in the ATP rankings which were released yesterday.

The Scotsman, who is on the comeback trail after career-saving hip surgery, climbed 116 places to 127 following his 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 win over Stan Wawrinka -- his first title in two years.

Murray, who has won three Grand Slam titles and spent 41 weeks at number one from November 2016 to August 2017, saw his ranking slip as low as 839 in July 2018 as his injured hip threatened to end his career.



Andy Murray with the trophy

At the end of September he was ranked down at 503, meaning he has climbed 376 places in three weeks.

He is now expected to take a break as his wife waits for the birth of their third child.

Novak Djokovic remains at number one, the 273rd week in his career that he holds the top spot, with Rafael Nadal just 320 points behind.

Nadal named in Spain squad for Davis Cup

AFP | Madrid

World number two Rafael Nadal has been named in the Spain squad for the Davis Cup finals in Madrid next month.

Nadal was included in a list of five Spanish players, with Roberto Bautista, Pablo Carreno, Feliciano Lopez and Marcel Granollers also picked by coach Sergi Bruguera.

A wrist injury forced Nadal to withdraw from the Shanghai Masters three weeks

ago and it remains to be seen whether the 19-time grand slam champion is fit enough to play.

The Davis Cup starts on November 18 at the Caja Magica and Spain have been drawn alongside Russia and Croatia in Group B.

Controversial changes to the format of the 119-year-old tournament mean 18 teams will contest the finals over the course of a week.

Each tie will consist of two singles and one doubles match, with the winners of the six groups and two best-ranked runners-up progressing to the quarter-finals.



Rafael Nadal