

Robinson strikes again as England wrap up Pakistan series win



England's Ollie Robinson appeals successfully for lbw against Pakistan's Azan Awaiz

AFP | London

Ollie Robinson led the way once more as England clinched a series win over Pakistan with a thumping 194-run win in the second Test at Lord's yesterday despite Saud Shakeel's fine 97. Pakistan were dismissed for 194, having been set an improbable victory target of 389, to give England an unbeatable 2-0 lead in a three-match series. This was England's first multi-match Test series win since a 2-1 success in New Zealand more than a year ago. Robinson finished with figures of 4-24 in 14 overs following his sensational 4-11 in 13 during Pakistan's meagre first-innings 110 all out. The Sussex seamer produced a pair of double strikes yesterday either side of Shakeel and Shan Masood checking England's progress with a fourth-wicket partnership of 97.

Robinson took two wickets in four balls to leave the tourists 7-2, before express quick Jofra Archer dismissed Pakistan captain Babar Azam. But from the dire position of 14-3 before lunch, Shakeel and fellow left-hander Masood kept England at bay. Robinson, however, had Masood lbw from around the wicket for a gritty 26 off 72 balls, although it needed a review to reverse umpire Allahuddin Paleker's original not out decision. And 111-4 became 115-5 when Mohammad Rizwan was lbw to Robinson carelessly slogging across the line. Shakeel, 78 not out at tea, went to 86 by hooking Tongue for six and, two balls later, another superb hook off another the fast bowler saw him into the 90s. Shakeel pulled the fifth ball of the over to go to 96 only to hole out soon afterwards when he swung Tongue straight to Harry Brook at deep square leg.

Naser edged in photo finish

Hussain Almaskati

Bahrain's former world champion and Paris 2024 Olympics silver-medallist Salwa Eid Naser continued her impressive return to form yesterday, missing out on victory by the narrowest of margins in the women's 400 metres at the Grand Prix Brescia in Italy. The 28-year-old produced her fastest run of the season at the World Athletics Continental Tour Silver meeting, clocking 49.27 seconds at the Gabre Gabric Stadium to finish second behind Jamaica's Nickisha Pryce. There was virtually nothing separating the pair as they crossed the line, with both credited with 49.27s before a photo finish handed Pryce the victory. Jamaica's Stacey Ann Williams completed the podium in 49.92s, while Poland's Natalia Bukowiecka was fourth in 50.13s. Chile's Martina Weil followed in fifth with 50.39s, ahead of American Alexis

Holmes in 50.95s. Paris Peoples of the US was seventh in 51.77s, while Italy's Sophia Favalli completed the eight-runner field in 54.71s. Naser's performance marked another significant step forward just a week after she finished third at the Kamila Skolimowska Memorial in Silesia, Poland, where her 49.57s had stood as her season's best. Pryce had also finished ahead of the Bahraini on that occasion, taking second in 49.49s behind reigning Olympic champion Marileidy Paulino of the Dominican Republic, who won in 48.87s. Naser began her season at the Diamond League meeting in Shaoxing/Keqiao, China, in May, finishing seventh in 51.56s before a three-month absence from international competition. Her personal best remains the 48.14s she clocked when winning the world title in Doha in 2019, which also stands as the Asian and Bahraini record.

Century show as Bahrain sweep Nepal aside

Onoduenyi stars as nationals maintain perfect record ahead of Kuwait finale

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain powered to their third successive victory in the first round of pre-qualifying for the FIBA Asia Cup 2029 after brushing aside Nepal 105-71 yesterday at Sheikh Saeed bin Maktoum Sports Hall in Dubai. The kingdom's senior men's basketball team were in control virtually from start to finish, building a 29-point advantage by half-time before comfortably seeing out the contest. The result followed Bahrain's 106-62 opening victory over Oman and their thrilling 83-80 comeback win against hosts UAE. Slobodan Subotic's men now turn their attention to their final Group A encounter against Kuwait tonight at 7pm, where they will look to complete the first round with a perfect record. Somto Patrick Onoduenyi produced a dominant all-round display against Nepal, leading Bahrain with 22 points and 16 rebounds, including 11 on the offensive glass. He also added two blocks and two steals to finish with a game-high efficiency rating of 37. The 16-year-old is making his first appearance with the senior team in this tournament following a string of impressive performances for the kingdom's youth sides. Ahmed Bindayneh contributed 20 points, including five three-pointers, while Ali Rashed posted a double-double of 15 points and 10 rebounds along with six assists.



Somto Patrick Onoduenyi, 16, throws down a two-handed dunk

Bahrain asserted themselves from the opening tip, racing into a 6-0 lead before stretching the gap to 13-2. JaKarr Sampson was heavily involved in the early scoring as the nationals continued to pull clear, moving 25-9 ahead before Nepal closed the opening period with five unanswered points to make it 25-14. Any hopes of a Nepal fight-back were quickly extinguished in the second quarter. After the deficit was briefly cut to nine at 25-16, Bahrain responded emphatically, with Mahmood Khalifa and Bindayneh connecting from beyond the arc. Bindayneh caught fire during the period, pouring in 14 points and knocking down four three-pointers as Bahrain tightened their grip on proceedings. The nationals also stepped up defensively, restricting their opponents to just eight points in the quarter as they surged into the interval with a 51-22 advantage. Nepal opened the second half

with a Sadhish Pradhan triple, but Bahrain soon resumed control. Onoduenyi took centre stage in the third, scoring 10 points while making his presence felt around the basket as the lead climbed beyond 30. Bahrain were 64-30 ahead midway through the period and carried a 74-40 advantage into the final quarter after outscoring Nepal 23-18. Onoduenyi then scored the first four points of the fourth, including a dunk following his own steal, to push the gap to a game-high 38 at 78-40. Nepal enjoyed their best offensive spell from there, led by Nischal Maharjan, who repeatedly connected from long range as both teams scored freely over the closing minutes. Ali Rashed answered with four three-pointers of his own during the period, while Onoduenyi continued to cause problems inside as Bahrain broke through the 100-point barrier. The fourth quarter eventually finished level at 31-31, but the damage had long been done as Bahrain wrapped up a convincing 34-point triumph. Maharjan led all scorers with 29 points for Nepal, including seven three-pointers, while Saurav Shrestha added 12 and Ajay Kushwaha finished with 10. The defeat left Sushil Gurung's side winless after three games, having also lost to the UAE and Kuwait. The top three teams in Group A advance to the second round of pre-qualifying, which will be played in November and December.

Fernandes treble inspires Man Utd rout, Chelsea beat Brighton in thriller

AFP | London

Bruno Fernandes starred with a hat-trick in Manchester United's 5-2 rout of Ipswich, while Chelsea extended Xabi Alonso's perfect start with a thrilling 4-3 win against Brighton yesterday. Fernandes's dynamic display ensured United bounced back from their humiliating 2-0 defeat at Hull on the opening weekend of the Premier League season. Michael Carrick's side were in danger of another embarrassing loss to a promoted club when Leif Davis put Ipswich ahead at Old Trafford with a 29th minute strike that cannoned in off the crossbar. But the Fernandes show started in the 40th minute after Marcelino Nunez's slip allowed Matheus Cunha to pick out the United captain for a sumptuous finish. United went in front in the



Manchester United captain Bruno Fernandes takes home the match ball after completing his hat-trick

56th minute through Jacob Greaves' own goal. Greaves deflected Harry Maguire's shot into his own net, with Ipswich's appeals for handball against the United defender snubbed by VAR. Completing a miserable

from close-range after Kobbie Mainoo and Bryan Mbeumo had shots blocked. It was Fernandes's second league hat-trick for United following his treble against Leeds five years ago. Fernandes was not finished and Bryan Mbeumo scored from his pass with a lob that clipped the bar and dropped over the line in the 82nd minute. Chuba Akpom's stoppage-time tap-in was little consolation for out-classed Ipswich, who were beaten for the first time since returning to the top-flight. Joao Pedro, Morgan Rogers and Cole Palmer all scored when Alonso's reign as Chelsea boss kicked off with a 3-2 win at Fulham on Monday. And Pedro and Palmer were back on target, while Rogers teed up Chelsea's second goal, scored by Pedro Neto, as the Blues held off a rally from Brighton at Stamford Bridge.