

Cummins, Carey shine as Australia remain on top despite collapse



Australia's captain Pat Cummins (left) reacts after catching out South Africa's Marco Jansen off his own bowling on Day 2 of the ICC World Test Championship cricket final, at Lord's cricket ground, in London, on Thursday

AFP, LONDON: Australia captain Pat Cummins starred with the ball and Alex Carey made valuable runs following a dramatic collapse as the holders retained the advantage in the World Test Championship final against South Africa on Thursday.

WORLD TEST C'SHIP FINAL

Fast bowler Cummins produced a sensational spell of four wickets for one run when South Africa were dismissed for 138 on the second day in reply to Australia's first-innings total of 212 at Lord's.

Australia collapsed to 73-7 in their second innings, with Kagiso Rabada (3-44) and Lungi Ngidi (3-35) doing the bulk of the damage. But Carey (43) and Mitchell Starc (16 not out) shared an eighth-wicket partnership of 61 before the wicketkeeper was lbw to Rabada shortly before the close.

The last over of the day saw Starc dropped on 14 when Marco Jansen shelled a routine catch off Wiaan Mulder. At stumps Australia were 144-8, a potentially decisive lead of 218 runs.

A remarkable 28 wickets fell in two days on a pitch which, while offering some assistance to the quicks, was by no means unplayable. Nevertheless, a match scheduled for five days, could now finish before the end of the third.

Rabada, who had taken 5-51 in the first innings, tormented Australia again with two wickets in the 11th over. He had Usman Khawaja caught behind for six and, two balls later, removed

Cameron Green for a duck. Green's exit meant the number three had faced just five balls in the match for a total of four runs. Wickets continued to tumble after tea. Left-arm quick Jansen had Mar-nus Labuschagne, in his first Test as an opener, caught behind for 22. And Australia's 44-3 became transformed 48-4 next over when Beau Webster, who top-scored in Australia's first innings with 72, fell lbw to Ngidi.

SCOREBOARD

Australia 1st innings 212: (B Webster 72, S Smith 66; K Rabada 5-51, M Jansen 3-49)

South Africa 1st innings: (overnight: 43-4) A Markram b Starc 0, R Rickelton c Khawaja b Starc 16, W Mulder b Cummins 6, T Bavuma c Labuschagne b Cummins 36, T Stubbs b Hazlewood 2, D Bedingham c Carey b Cummins 45, K Verreynne lbw b Cummins 13, M Jansen c and Cummins 0, K Maharaj run out (Head/Carey) 7, K Rabada c Webster b Cummins 1, L Ngidi not out 0. **Extras:** 12. **Total:** 138 all out. **Fall of wickets:** 1-0, 2-19, 3-25, 4-30, 5-94, 6-126, 7-126, 8-135, 9-138, 10-138. **Bowling:** Starc 13-3-41-2, Hazlewood 15-5-27-1, Cummins 18.1-6-28-6 (1nb), Lyon 8-3-12-0, Webster 3-0-20-0 (1nb).

Australia 2nd innings: M Labuschagne c Verreynne b Jansen 22, U Khawaja c Verreynne b Rabada 6, C Green c Mulder b Rabada 0, S Smith lbw b Ngidi 13, T Head b Mulder 9, B Webster lbw b Ngidi 9, A Carey lbw b Rabada 43, P Cummins b Ngidi 6, M Starc not out 16, N Lyon not out 1. **Extras:** 19. **Total:** 144 for 8. **Fall of wickets:** 1-28, 2-28, 3-44, 4-48, 5-64, 6-66, 7-73, 8-134. **Bowling:** Rabada 11-0-44-3, Jansen 12-3-31-1, Mulder 6-0-14-1 (1nb), Ngidi 9-0-35-3, Maharaj 2-0-10-0.

Come out of comfort zone, fight every ball to have memorable England tour: Gambhir

India will search for their maiden series victory in England since 2007, when the five-match rubber starts with the first Test at Leeds on June 20

PTI, BECKENHAM (England): India head coach Gautam Gambhir has called on his team to move out of its "comfort zone" and make the upcoming Test series against England a "memorable" one, especially in the absence of retired stars Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and R Ashwin.

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ENGLAND TOUR

"There are two ways of looking at this tour. One is we are without our three most experienced players or we got this phenomenal opportunity to do something special for the country," Gambhir told BCCI TV, referring to the recent retirements of Ashwin, Rohit and Kohli.

The former India opener said he can feel the "passion and the commitment" to achieve something special flowing through the current bunch, led by Shubman Gill.

"When I look around in this group, I think I see the hunger, the passion and the commitment to do something special. If we make sacrifices, if we come out of our comfort zone, if we start fighting not every day but every session, every hour and every ball, I think we can have a memorable tour," he added.

Gambhir welcomed the whole squad to the tour of England, and extended a special tribute to some of

INDIA WILL BE WELL PREPARED BUT WE KNOW WHERE WE WANT TO GET TO AS TEST TEAM: MCCULLUM

LONDON: England head coach Brendon McCullum believes India have arrived well-prepared and full of belief for the upcoming five-match Test series but his team is also clear about where it wants to be in the eagerly-anticipated showdown beginning June 20 in Leeds.

The series will kick off India's new World Test Championship cycle. "They're an outstanding cricketing nation, who will come here with high hopes, and we are looking forward to seeing them," McCullum told 'Sky Sports Cricket'.

England on the other hand have just completed a whitewash of the West Indies in a six-match white-ball series. Their focus now shifts to the red-ball format as they gear up to take India and also prepare for the Ashes later this year.

"It's important the guys refresh. We know where we want to get to as a Test team."

England will be without tearaway pacer Mark Wood, who has been ruled out of at least the first three Tests due to injury. Fellow quick Jofra Archer

will also miss the opening Test, while Gus Atkinson is still recovering from a hamstring strain. Despite the setbacks, McCullum remains confident in England's bowling options.

"There are some quality bowlers that are unavailable, but we have a nice, varied bowling attack with Chris

England will be without tearaway pacer Mark Wood, who has been ruled out of at least the first three Tests due to injury. Fellow quick Jofra Archer is still recovering from a hamstring strain. Despite the setbacks, McCullum remains confident in England's bowling options

Woakes, Sam Cook, Brydon Carse, Jamie Overton, Josh Tongue for the high-pace element," the former New Zealand skipper said.

"We have Shoaib Bashir, who is growing in Test cricket every day. We know we are going to be tested against India, and they will arrive prepared," he added.

India begin a new era after Test retire-

ments of veterans Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, and R Ashwin. The team will be led by Shubman Gill and features a youthful lineup including Sai Sudharsan and Yas-hasvi Jaiswal. England all-rounder Jacob Bethel has been recalled and McCullum was all praise for the 21-year-old.

"Bethel has a good life in front of him. For a 21-year-old, he's got a real poise, and that allows him to go out there and be present and show off his flair and talent," McCullum said. "The world is his oyster. He's already becoming a leader in the dressing room which is what you want," he added.

McCullum also mentioned Jamie Smith and Ben Duckett as the talents to look forward to.

"Jamie Smith and Ben Duckett have reminded me of Duckett and Zak Crawley in the Test game. We know how good Duckett is, but the power that Smith possesses is amazing." "These guys are fearless, and if you add the craft, then you hope you end up with a rounded player."

Rishabh Pant as well, who is part of the leadership group now," he noted.

Gambhir was lavish in his praise for Karun Nair, who stitched a stirring comeback to Team India on the back of a wonderful run in domestic cricket.

"Comebacks are never easy, someone who has made a comeback after seven years, had a phenomenal last year."

"The amount of runs that you have got, and most importantly that never say die attitude, which is something that got you back into the team, and that is something inspiring for everyone in this group. Welcome Karun Nair," said Gambhir.

Karun said he was "grateful" to get a second chance to play for India.

"Grateful for this opportunity again. I am really looking forward to grabbing this opportunity with both hands. I am sure there will be a lot of feelings, once I go out there but right now I can't express them," said Karun.

Skipper Gill urged his colleagues to put themselves under a bit of pressure so that they will not be overwhelmed by situations when the series starts.

"Let's make each and every net session meaningful. Let's put ourselves under a little pressure. When we are going out there, it's not about going out there and just surviving, let's find out our game, how we are going to play when we are put under pressure -- be it bowlers or batters," he said.



“There are two ways of looking at this tour. One is we are without our three most experienced players or we got this phenomenal opportunity to do something special for the country. When I look around in this group, I think I see the hunger, the passion and the commitment to do something special. If we make sacrifices, if we come out of our comfort zone, if we start fighting not every day but every session, every hour and every ball, I think we can have a memorable tour – Gautam Gambhir, India head coach

ball and I am sure you will make it count with the red ball in your hand.”

The 43-year-old then pat-

Chance to track current form, bowling combinations

PTI, BECKENHAM (Kent): The artist in Kuldeep Yadav would look to keep an accurate Ravindra Jadeja on toes when both the slow left-arm bowlers take the field during the senior Indian team's four-day intra-squad warm-up game against India A starting here, on Friday.

The match will be the senior team's only simulation game before the opening Test against England at the Headingley from June 20. The intra-squad game acts like a pre-cursor to the Test match. The Indian team under head coach Gautam Gambhir opted for a "closed door" session to prevent the opposition

for the first time. There is no bigger honour than leading your country's Test team. Congratulations.

from getting any ideas on the tactical front, emulating a long-established practice among European football clubs.

They had done the same during the tour of Australia earlier this year. As bowling coach Morne Morkel said on Wednesday, building the stamina to bowl and field 90

overs a day is very different from normal net sessions. The four-day game, which doesn't have the official first-class status, gives batters a second go if someone is dismissed cheaply.

With 360 overs of match simulation available over four days, it will give

the team management a chance to allow the bowling unit get enough overs under their belt.

That would be handy in ensuring that the bowlers -- be it a spinner or a pacer -- have the requisite rhythm in actual match. Gambhir will have some work to do in terms of zeroing in on lone specialist spinner for Headingley.

There is Ravindra Jadeja, whose superior batting becomes a huge factor in SENA countries but against England's 'Bazballers', Kuldeep Yadav's versatility could complement pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah better if India harbour any hopes of picking 20 wickets.

shorttakes

ISSF World Cup: Samra wins bronze medal in women's 50m rifle 3 positions

MUNICH: Top Indian shooter Sift Kaur Samra tackled a strong field with aplomb to claim the bronze medal in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions event at the ISSF World Cup, here, on Thursday. The 23-year-old Samra, who holds the current world record in women's 50 metre rifle three positions event which she had set while winning the gold medal at the 2022 Asian Games, shot 453.1 in the eight-player final. Norway's Jeanette Hegg Duestad won the gold medal with 466.9, while Emely Jaeggi of Switzerland bagged silver with 464.8. In the men's 10m air rifle competition, Ankush Jadhav narrowly missed out on the finals and settled for the 11th place in the qualifications with a total of 631.7 across six series.

Wimbledon announces record \$73M prize fund and \$4M for singles champions

LONDON: Wimbledon's prize money has risen to a record 53.5 million pounds (about \$73 million) and the singles champions will each earn three million pounds (\$4 million), All England Club officials announced on Thursday. The total amount is 3.5 million pounds (\$6.8 million) more than last year, an increase of 7% -- and exactly twice the pot handed out to competitors at the grass-court Grand Slam 10 years ago. "We're immensely proud of the fact that if you look back 10 years, you can see the increase over that period and 7% this year," All England chair Deborah Jevans said. "And we have listened to the players, we have engaged with the players." The 2025 winners' checks represent an 11.1% jump on last year's prizes for the men's and women's singles champions and comes amid growing player demands for a bigger share of grand slam profits. Players who lose in the first round of singles will get 66,000 pounds, up 10% year on year. Wimbledon starts on June 30 and runs until July 13. For the first time in the oldest Grand Slam, line judges will be replaced with electronic line-calling.

Radha replaces injured Shuchi in India squad for England tour

MUMBAI: Left-arm spinner Radha Yadav on Thursday replaced injured Shuchi Upadhyay in the India women's squad for their upcoming tour of England for five T20Is and three ODIs starting on June 28. The women's team's tour begins with the opening T20I on June 28 at Nottingham with the second match slated on July 1 at Bristol. The third T20I will be at the Oval on July 4, fourth on July 9 at Manchester and fifth on July 12 at Birmingham. The three ODIs will be played on July 16, 19 and 22 at Southampton, Lord's and Chester-le-Street respectively. Squads: T20Is: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana (vc), Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh (wk), Yastika Bhatia (wk), Harleen Deol, Deepti Sharma, Sneha Rana, Sree Charani, Amanjot Kaur, Arundhati Reddy, Kranti Gaud, Sayali Satghare, Radha Yadav. ODIs: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana (vc), Pratikha Rawal, Harleen Deol, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh (wk), Yastika Bhatia (wk), Tejal Hasabnis, Deepti Sharma, Sneha Rana, Sree Charani, Amanjot Kaur, Arundhati Reddy, Kranti Gaud, Sayali Satghare, Radha Yadav.

Mehidy Hasan Miraz to lead Bangladesh ODIs

DHAKA: Bangladesh on Thursday named Mehidy Hasan Miraz as the new captain of the ODI team, with the 27-year-old all-rounder succeeding Najmul Hossain Shanto in white ball cricket. Off-spinner Miraz will take up his post during Bangladesh's three-match ODI series in Sri Lanka, which begins in July, the Bangladesh Cricket Board said. Miraz, who has been skipper before for four ODIs as a stand-in for Shanto, is ranked fourth in the world for ODI all-rounders, according to ICC rankings. Bangladesh will also play two Tests in Sri Lanka, with the first beginning in Galle on June 17 and the second in Colombo from June 25. Miraz will be the vice-captain for the Tests -- with Shanto leading the team -- as the next World Test Championship cycle begins.

Rain washes out West Indies' T20 opener

LONDON: The West Indies' opening T20 international against Ireland was washed out after heavy rain in Bready on Thursday. The three-match series was due to start at 1500 local time (1400GMT), but damp conditions forced the umpires to abandon the clash without a ball being bowled. West Indies are looking to bounce back after 3-0 series losses to England in both the one-day international and T20 formats. The second match of the T20 series in Ireland is scheduled for Saturday. West Indies have already played a one-day international series in Ireland this year, drawing 1-1 in the three-match tussle in May.

Pakistan selectors rule out T20 role for Babar, Rizwan and Afridi in near future

KARACHI: Pakistan selectors have ruled out any role for senior players -- Babar Azam, Muhammad Rizwan and Shaheen Shah Afridi -- in the team's upcoming T20 series against West Indies and Bangladesh. The Pakistani selectors are likely to announce the T20 squad for the series in the West Indies and Bangladesh next week. The two series will be played in July-August. The selectors and head coach Mike Hesson have already conveyed to Babar, Rizwan and Shaheen that they are not required for the upcoming T20 series and should focus more on the ICC World Test Championship and ODIs. Pakistan is due to tour the West Indies in the last week of July to play three T20 internationals and three ODIs. Pakistan, after playing in the Caribbean, fly to Bangladesh for a three match T20 series but suggestions have been made to convert into a five match series in August.

Poland coach resigns after dispute with star striker Lewandowski

WARSAW (Poland): The coach of Poland's national soccer team announced Thursday has resigned as head coach, days after a spat with star striker Robert Lewandowski. "I have come to the conclusion that, given the current situation, the best decision for the good of the national team is my resignation from the position of head coach," Michal Probiez said in a statement published by the Polish Football Association. Probiez stripped Barcelona striker Lewandowski of his position as team captain on the eve of a World Cup qualifier against Finland earlier this week, and named Inter Milan midfielder Piotr Zielinski as the new captain. Lewandowski reacted by saying he would no longer play for the national team as long as Probiez remains head coach.

Cunha completes 'dream' Man Utd move

LONDON: Matheus Cunha said he had "dreamed of wearing the red shirt" of Manchester United after the club confirmed his signing from Wolves on Thursday. United effectively sealed the deal, which was subject to the completion of a visa and medical, on June 1 after activating a £62.5 million (\$85 million) release clause in the 26-year-old's contract. "It is hard to put into words my feelings about becoming a Manchester United player," said the Brazil international, who has signed a five-year deal with the option of another year. "Ever since I was a child in Brazil watching Premier League games on TV at my grandmother's house, United was my favourite English team and I dreamed of wearing the red shirt. "I want to thank my family and everyone who has helped me make that dream a reality."