

Prasidh takes responsibility for poor bowling

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PTI, BIRMINGHAM: Be-leaguered India seamer Prasidh Krishna has taken "complete responsibility" for his failure to hit the right lengths during a forgettable outing in the first Test against England, but said he was at all times trying to be parsimonious with his bowling.

Prasidh has been slammed by few former players after he leaked more than 200 runs in the series-opener at Leeds, which India lost by five wickets.

"If I look at the first innings, I was a little too short than where I wanted to be, 6-8 is ideal. Second innings it got slightly better, because again, the wicket was slightly slower. I had to pitch a few slightly behind 8, and go slightly fuller, when I am trying to get a wicket.

"I definitely did not bowl the lengths that I wanted to. It took me some time

to get used to the slope on that side. No reasons, but I should be able to do it as a professional. I take complete responsibility about it, and maybe, do it better next time," Prasidh said at a press conference.

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Prasidh gave away 128 runs in 20 overs at an economy of 6.40, one of the worst figures by an Indian bowler bowling a minimum of 20 overs in an innings. However, he got the wickets of Ollie Pope, Harry Brook, and Jamie Smith.

In the second innings, Prasidh gave India hope with the wickets of Zak Crawley and Pope in quick succes-

sion but his economy rate was again above six (6.10), conceding 92 runs in 15 overs.

"Every time I come out to bowl, I was definitely looking to

bowl a maiden. I am not really trying to give away boundaries or anything. The outfield was fast. The lengths, lines that I bowled was not perfect, to be honest, at most times. And they took me on. Some of them were edges.

"Some of them, I tried bowling bouncers. But I ended up giving runs. But



definitely, every time I come out to bowl, I was looking to keep the economy rate down and build the pressure up," Prasidh said.

Wind was another big factor at Headingley, and it was often extremely blustery and cold, making life difficult for the players in the middle.

"You are trying to run in hard. The wind sometimes is on and off. So, it is very important to understand what the pace of the run-up is."

"And I did have a chat with a couple of other guys as well, asking them what they did to be at the right pace, when they are running in to bowl. So, that is about it."

The occasional rain and the drizzle also didn't help. "Every time the ball goes

on the ground, it became wet. And when the ball becomes wet, it is going to get softer. The shine is not going to be around. So, I think that did play a part.

"If there are clouds, there is going to be swing. If there is sun, there is not going to be swing. So, that is what we are looking to do. make sure we bowl the right areas. The gripping, I wouldn't say it was a problem.

"It just got softer. And the moment it got softer, the seam got softer, the amount of purchase you get from the pitch differs."

The 29-year-old seamer said the Indian dressing room remains very positive despite losing a match they could have won.

"Yeah, the dressing room is still nice and happy and very, very motivated. Like I said, we came here knowing what this opportunity meant for all of us."

shorttakes

Tanvi, Ayush progress to semi-finals of US Open badminton

IOWA (US): Promising Indian shuttlers Tanvi Sharma and Ayush Shetty marched into the semi-finals of the US Open badminton tournament with convincing wins to continue their impressive run in the Super 300 Tournament here. The 16-year-old Tanvi wrapped up her match in 33 minutes with a fine 21-13, 21-16 victory over her higher-ranked Malaysian opponent Karupathevan Letshanaa. Ayush also dished out an excellent performance as he got the better of junior world champion Chinese Taipei's Kuo Kuan Lin 22-20, 21-9 in straight games. However, the men's doubles pair of Hariharan Amsakarunan and Ruban Kumar Rethinasabapathi lost their quarter-final match 9-21, 19-21 to Chiang Chien and Wei Wu Hsuan-yi of Chinese Taipei at Mid-America Centre on Friday.

Indian women's hockey team relegated from FIH Pro League after defeat against China

BERLIN: The Indian women's hockey team was on Saturday relegated from the FIH Pro League after losing to China 0-3 in its penultimate match, a result which placed it at the bottom of the points table. India's seventh consecutive defeat in their disastrous European leg of the FIH Pro League meant that they will finish at the lowest rung of the standings even though one match is left to be played on Sunday. India are now at the bottom of the nine-team standings with 10 points from 15 games and will play again against China on Sunday in their last match of the 2024-25 FIH Pro League. In their penultimate match, China scored through Chen Yang (21st minute), Zhang Ying (26th) and Anhui Yu (45th) against India.

SA teenager Pretorius becomes youngest Test cricketer to score 150 on debut

BULAWAYO: South Africa teenager Lhuan-dre Pretorius became the youngest player to score 150 runs in Test cricket on Saturday against Zimbabwe at Queens Sports Club. Pretorius made 153 on debut in the first Test at 19 years, 93 days. He was 26 days younger than when Pakistan's Javed Miandad tallied 163 in 1976 against New Zealand in Lahore. Pretorius was the fifth youngest man in test history to score a century on debut, and the youngest South African. Corbin Bosch, playing his second test, also scored a century, getting there on the third-to-last ball of the day. South Africa was 418-9 at stumps after the first day.

India clubbed alongside Pakistan in Pool B in Junior Men's Hockey World Cup

LAUSANNE (Switzerland): Hosts India were on Saturday clubbed alongside arch-rivals Pakistan, Chile and Switzerland in Pool B of the expanded FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup to be co-hosted by Chennai and Madurai from November 28 till December 10 this year. The draw ceremony for the tournament was held at the FIH headquarters here, and this edition will feature 24 teams for the very first time. Pool A consists of Germany, South Africa, Canada and Ireland while Pool C will feature Argentina, New Zealand, Japan and China. Spain, Belgium, Egypt and Namibia are in Pool D, while Netherlands, Malaysia, England and Austria are in Pool E. Pool F will feature France, Australia, Korea and Bangladesh. Germany are the current junior Men's World Champions, having defeated France 2-1 in the final of the 2023 edition, to win a record-extending seventh title.

Sri Lanka seal series

AFP, COLOMBO: Sri Lanka completed a thumping innings and 78-run victory over Bangladesh before lunch on day four of the second Test in Colombo on Saturday, wrapping up the two-match series 1-0.

Resuming the day on a precarious 115-6, the visitors still trailed by 97 runs and needed a minor miracle to avoid an innings defeat. Any hopes of a rearguard were dashed almost immediately.

Left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya, under the pump after a wicketless outing in the first innings, struck gold with the fifth ball of the morning as Litton Das edged behind to wicketkeeper Kusal Mendis for 14. With that scalp, the last recognised batter was back in the hut and Bangladesh's house of cards came tumbling down

soon after, all out for 133. It was a clinical all-round performance by hosts Sri Lanka, who walked away with crucial World Test Championship points.

None of the visiting batters managed to cross fifty in the match -- a far cry from the first Test in Galle, which ended in a draw when captain Najmul Hossain Shanto hit twin centuries.

Brief scores: Bangladesh first innings: 247 all out in 79.3 overs (Shadman Islam 46, Mushfiqur Rahim 35, Sonal Dinusha 3-22, Asitha Fernando 3-51). Sri Lanka first innings: 458 all out in 116.5 overs (Pathum Nissanka 158, Dinesh Chandimal 93, Kusal Mendis 84, Taijul Islam 5-131). Bangladesh second innings: 133 all out in 44.2 overs (Mushfiqur Rahim 26, Prabath Jayasuriya 5-56).

T20I: India eves win by 97 runs

PTI, NOTTINGHAM: Stand-in skipper Smriti Mandhana's graceful maiden T20 International hundred adorned India's smooth 97-run win over England in the opening match, here, on Saturday.

The visitors now lead the five-match T20I series 1-0. Mandhana (112, 62 balls) and Harleen Deol (43, 23 balls) added 94 runs for the second wicket as India posted a commanding 210 for five after being invited to bat.

Skipper Nat Sciver Brunt (66, 42 balls) waged a lone battle for England, who were limited to 113 all out in 14.5 overs by the on-song Indian bowlers.

Australia win first Test

AFP, BRIDGETOWN: Australia's vaunted pace attack demolished West Indies' fragile batting, routing the hosts for just 141 off 33.4 overs to complete a comprehensive 159-run victory in the final over of the third day of the first Test at Kensington Oval on Friday.

Josh Hazlewood was the chief destroyer with figures of 5-43 as the tourists dominated the day with both ball and bat.

Half-centuries from Alex Carey, Beau Webster and Travis Head were the fulcrum of a recovery from 65-4 late on day two to a final second innings total of 310 at tea the next day.

Shamar Joseph led the West Indies bowling effort with five wickets at the cost of 87 runs for a match haul of 9-133.

Any winning target in excess of 200 was always going to be challenging on this two-paced surface.

Chase's Australian counterpart, Pat Cummins, removed first innings top-scorer Shai Hope and insult was added to considerable injury when substitute fielder Marnus Labuschagne ran out Alzarri Joseph with a direct hit to the striker's end from mid-off.

Brief scores: Australia first innings 180 (T Head 59, U Khawaja 47; J Seales 5-60, S Joseph 4-46). West Indies first innings 190 (S Hope 48, R Chase 44; M Starc 3-65). Australia second innings 310 (A Carey 65, B Webster 63, T Head 61; S Joseph 5-87). West Indies second innings 141 (S Joseph 44; J Hazlewood 5-43).

Pogba signs 2-year deal with Monaco

AP, PARIS: Former France midfielder Paul Pogba joined Monaco on a two-year contract on Saturday in a bid to relaunch a stellar career derailed by injuries and a doping ban.

Monaco confirmed the widely expected transfer on the club website, and in a video posted on X, with the 32-year-old Pogba wearing the club's red-and-white jersey. He will play in the French top flight for the first time. Monaco finished third in Ligue 1 last season and Pogba, who has been without a club since leaving Juventus last year, gets the chance to play Champions League soccer again providing Monaco gets through qualifying.

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