



Disappointment: The faithful reluctantly make their way out as play is called off.
*AKHILESH KUMAR

Rain has the final say

Series reduced to a two-match affair

SA IN INDIA

**RAKESH RAO
DHARAMSHALA**
Relentless rain forced the abandonment of the first India-South Africa Twenty20 International here on Sunday.

The downpour began two hours before play was scheduled to start at 7 p.m. and the match was officially called off at 7.45 p.m. There was neither any inspection nor the toss. The series now stands reduced to a two-match affair, just as in South Africa's previous T20 series here in 2015. The caravan now travels to Mohali for the second match of the series on Wednesday.

Second T20I
Sept. 18, Mohali, 7 p.m.

Nabi, Mujeeb star for Afghanistan

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DHAKA**

Mohammad Nabi (84 not out) and off-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman (four for 15) were the architects of Afghanistan's 25-run win over Bangladesh in their tri-series match on Sunday.

After Nabi's knock, which came off 54 balls and contained three fours and seven sixes, took Afghanistan to 164 for six, Mujeeb shot out the hosts for 139. His figures read 4-0-15-4.

Both Bangladesh and Afghanistan had won their respective matches of the tournament against Zimbabwe.

The scores: Afghanistan 164 for six in 20 overs (Mohammad Nabi 84 n.o., Asghar Afghan 40, Mohammad Saifuddin four for 33) bt Bangladesh 139 in 19.5 overs (Mahmudullah 44, Mujeeb Ur Rahman four for 15).

England squares series at Oval; Australia keeps urn

Matthew Wade delays the inevitable with a gutsy century; Broad and Leach scalp four each

THE ASHES

**REUTERS
LONDON**

Matthew Wade's defiant 117 proved in vain as England bowled Australia out for 263 to win the final Test at the Oval by 135 runs on Sunday and ensure the first drawn Ashes series since 1972.

England had appeared to be on course for a comfortable win when it dismissed Steve Smith for 23, just after lunch, but Wade dug in to post his fourth Test century and Australia, which retained the Ashes, fell short in its bid for a first Test series win in England since 2001.

Chasing a stiff target of 399, Australia lost Marcus Harris, David Warner and Marnus Labuschagne in the morning after England had added 16 runs to its overnight score of 313 for eight. Australia took lunch on 68 for three and its victory

chances plummeted further with Smith's dismissal. It was the first time in 11 Test innings against England that he had failed to pass fifty. Smith left the field to a standing ovation from the crowd in recognition of his 774 runs, including a double century and two hundreds, in seven innings. Wade reached his fifty before Mitchell Marsh perished for 24.



Happy faces: Root's men are on cloud nine after sharing the series honours. *GETTY IMAGES

Though Australia captain Tim Paine was trapped lbw by Leach, Wade maintained his concentration and punched the air with delight after reaching his second century of the series. Pat Cummins departed for nine and Wade's resistance was finally broken

when he was stumped off Root. Nathan Lyon swept Leach low to Root at square leg and Josh Hazlewood chipped his

SCOREBOARD

England — 1st innings: 294.
Australia — 1st innings: 225.
England — 2nd innings: Rory Burns c Paine b Lyon 20, Joe Denly c Smith b Siddle 94, Joe Root c Smith b Lyon 21, Ben Stokes b Lyon 67, Jonny Bairstow c Smith b Marsh 14, Jos Buttler c Labuschagne b Siddle 47, Sam Curran c Paine b Cummins 17, Chris Woakes c Smith b Marsh 6, Jofra Archer c Paine b Cummins 3, Jack Leach c Hazlewood b Lyon 9, Stuart Broad (not out) 12; Extras (b-7, lb-11, nb-1): 19; Total (in 95.3 overs): 329.
Fall of wickets: 1-54, 2-87, 3-214, 4-222, 5-249, 6-279, 7-305, 8-305, 9-317.
Australia bowling: Cummins 21-5-67-2, Hazlewood 19-5-57-0, Lyon 24.3-5-69-4, Siddle 13-4-52-2, Mitchell Marsh 11-1-40-2, Labuschagne 7-1-26-0.

Australia — 2nd innings: Marcus Harris b Broad 9, David Warner c Burns b Broad 11, Marnus Labuschagne st. Bairstow b Leach 14, Steve Smith c Stokes b Broad 23, Matthew Wade st. Bairstow b Root 117, Mitchell Marsh c Buttler b Root 24, Tim Paine lbw b Leach 21, Pat Cummins c Bairstow b Broad 9, Peter Siddle (not out) 13, Nathan Lyon c Root b Leach 1, Josh Hazlewood c Root b Leach 0; Extras (b-2, lb-12, nb-2, pen-5): 21; Total (in 77 overs): 263.
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-29, 3-56, 4-85, 5-148, 6-200, 7-244, 8-260, 9-263.
England bowling: Broad 15-1-62-4, Archer 16-2-66-0, Curran 8-3-22-0, Leach 22-8-49-4, Woakes 7-1-19-0, Root 9-1-26-2.
England won by 135 runs, series tied 2-2, Australia retains Ashes

Bisht, Sanjeet advance



En garde! Kavinder Singh Bisht came through an exhausting bout against Chena Zhihao of China. *COURTESY BFI/TWITTER

BOXING WORLDS

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
EKATERINBURG**

Kavinder Singh Bisht (57kg) and Sanjeet (91kg) advanced to the pre-quarterfinals with hard-fought wins in the World men's boxing championships here on Sunday. While fifth-seeded Bisht edged past China's Chena Zhihao 3-2, Sanjeet defeated Scotland's Scott Forrest in an equally draining contest for a 4-1 verdict in his favour. Bisht will square off against Finland's Arslan Khataev in the round of 16.

Brijesh ousted
However, there was a disappointment as well with Brijesh Yadav (81kg) bowing out in a split 1-4 verdict against Turkey's Bayram Malkan. The lack of aggressive intent in the first two rounds cost Brijesh as his fine comeback in the final round proved too little too late. Earlier, Amit Panghal (52kg) and Manish Kaushik (63kg) had advanced to the pre-quarterfinals.

Spain beats Argentina for the big prize

Gasol claims NBA-World Cup double



World champions: Spain led throughout in Beijing to win the trophy a second time. *AFP

BASKETBALL WC

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIJING**

Three-time All-Star Marc Gasol became only the second man to win an NBA crown and the World Cup in the same year after Spain brushed aside Argentina 95-75 here on Sunday.

Spain, which survived double overtime against Australia to reach the final, led throughout in Beijing to win international basketball's biggest prize a second time.

The only previous occasion was in 2006 with the two Gasol brothers, Marc and older sibling Pau, on the team.

Pau did not feature in China because of injury. The latest triumph was particularly sweet for the 34-year-old centre Gasol, who three months ago also played a key part in the Toronto Raptors' run to the NBA title.

Gasol, who had 14 points, seven rebounds and seven assists, joins Lamar Odom, a double winner in 2010 with the United States and Los Angeles Lakers. Surprise finalists Argentina had not triumphed since it hosted the inaugural World Cup in 1950.

As a contest, the final was over by the fourth quarter – although the Argentines did rally belatedly to reduce Spain's previously mighty lead.

Australia wait goes on
France roared back after half-time to defeat Australia 67-59 and claim a second World Cup bronze in a row – and extend the Boomers' long wait for a major medal. **The result (final):** Spain 95 (Ricky Rubio 25, Sergio Llull 15, Marc Gasol 14) bt Argentina 75 (Gabriel Deck 24, Nico Laprovitola 17, Facundo Campazzo 11).

Teen sensation Fati leads charge

EURO LEAGUES

**REUTERS
BARCELONA**

Barcelona's 16-year-old forward Ansu Fati continued his explosive start to life in the first team by scoring and providing an assist as the La Liga champion thrashed Valencia 5-2 on Saturday.

Fati struck his first goal at the Camp Nou to give Barca the lead with less than two minutes on the clock, smashing a pass from Frenkie de Jong into the net.

The teenager then returned the favour by dashing into the area from the left wing and teeing up Dutchman De Jong to score his first goal for the club in the seventh minute.

Valencia pulled a goal back later in the half through Kevin Gameiro but Barca came flying back at it after

the interval. Gerard Pique bundled the ball into the net in the 51st minute after Antoine Griezmann had hit the post while Luis Suarez netted twice after coming off the bench. Maxi Gomez got a consolation goal for Valencia in stoppage time.

Perfect start

Inter Milan went top of Serie A on Saturday after Stefano Sensi's header sealed a 1-0 win over 10 man Udinese at San Siro to continue its perfect start. **The results:** Premier League: Bournemouth 3 (Wilson 23, 72, Fraser 67) bt Everton 1 (Calvert-Lewin 44); Watford 2 (Cleverley 53, Perea 81-pen) drew with Arsenal 2 (Aubameyang 21, 32). **Serie A:** Genoa 1 (Crisicito 90+1-pen) lost to Atalanta 2 (Muriel 64-pen, Zapata 90+5); Brescia 3 (A. Donnarumma 10, 19, Cistana 42) lost to Bologna

4 (Bani 36, Palacio 56, Denswil 60, Orsolini 80); Parma 1 (Barilla 58) lost to Cagliari 3 (Ceppitelli 23, 39, Simeone 77); SPAL 2 (Petagna 63, Kurti 90+2) bt Lazio 1 (Immobile 17-pen); Roma 4 (Christiane 12, Dzeko 19, Mkhitarjan 22, Kluivert 33) bt Sassuolo 2 (Berrardi 53, 72).

La Liga: Eibar 1 (Ramis 58) lost to Espanyol 2 (Ferreyra 76, Granero 79); Deportivo Alaves 0 lost to Sevilla 1 (Joan Jordan 37); Celta Vigo 0 lost to Granada 2 (Sanchez 45+6, Herrera 54).

Bundesliga: Hoffenheim 0 lost to Freiburg 3 (Guenther 11, Haberer 38, Petersen 59); Paderborn 1 (Cauly 8) lost to Schalke 5 (Sane 33, Serdar 50, Harit 71, 85, Kutucu 83).

Saturday: La Liga: Leganes 0 lost to Villarreal 3 (Gerard 26, 90+3, Silva 39-og); Barcelona 5 (Fati 2, De Jong 7, Pique 51, Suarez 61, 82) bt Valencia 2 (Gameiro 27, Gomez 90+2).

Serie A: Inter Milan 1 (Sensi 44) bt Udinese 0.



On fire: Ansu Fati, centre, was explosive in his first full start for Barcelona, where he netted the opener and also assisted in another goal. *AFP

Dabang survives a Fortunegiants scare



Escape to victory: Naveen, right, who proved elusive time and again for the Fortunegiants defenders, scripted Dabang's win. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

PKL

**NANDAKUMAR MARAR
PUNE**

Dabang Delhi, on top of its attacking game in the first half, led 20-9 against Gujarat Fortunegiants at one stage, before getting rattled by a fightback from its rival at the Balewadi indoor stadium on Sunday. The early poise was replaced by pressure, culminating in a close 34-30 win for Dabang and a secure position atop the table. The Delhi side's 12th win in 15 matches took it closer to the playoffs.

Fortunegiants suffered two all-outs and looked like getting blown away by the in-form Dabang team. However, it came charged up after the breather, stretching the opponent all the way. Rohit Gulia top-scored with 13 raid points, but his effort went in vain. Naveen Kumar, who finished on the winning side, had his 13th

consecutive Super 10 display and crossed 350 raid points along the way. He contributed 12 points.

On the go

The contest started with feisty raiders Naveen and Sachin on the prowl. The former sneaked in and away from the defence while the latter reacted well when the defenders tried to trap him. Both got out once before Naveen made a mark with a Super Raid, eluding three rivals. In the process, he inflicted the first all-out early on in the contest to make it 11-4 for Dabang. Sachin could not repeat the form shown against Purneri Paltan and it had a bearing on the final outcome. **The results:** Dabang Delhi 34 (Naveen Kumar 12, Vijay 5) bt Gujarat Fortunegiants 30 (Rohit Gulia 13, Sachin Tanwar 4). Patna Pirates 55 (Pardeep Narwal 18, Neeraj Kumar 11, Hadi Oshkrot 5) bt Purneri Paltan 33 (Manjeet 8, Pankaj Mohite 7, Nitin Tomar 6).

...it's 22 and counting for Advani

Cueist par excellence outplays Thway Oo to make it four-in-a-row in the 150-up format

BILLIARDS

**R. VENKATNARAYAN
CHENNAI**

Pankaj Advani, India's poster boy of cue sports, once again did what he does best – winning a World title.

On Sunday, Advani breezed past local favourite Nay Thway Oo 6-2 in the 150-up format at the IBSF World billiards championship in Mandalay, in what was a repeat of last year's final – the scoreline including.

"It's an incredible feeling," Advani told *The Hindu*. "I am as passionate and as hungry as I was as a teenager," said Advani about his fifth title in the short format of billiards in the last six years.

Advani was in full flow right from the start and, with fluent breaks of 145, 89 and 127, took a 3-0 lead. Oo pulled it back with breaks of 63 and 62, but was forced to watch Advani extend the lead as the Indian secured the next two frames, including a 150 unfinished break. After a reverse in the seventh frame, the Indian scored a 74 to close out the match. "I felt more confident and

ADVANI'S WORLD CROWNS

- Billiards-time format 2018, 2015, 2014, 2012, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2005
- Billiards-points format 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2014, 2008, 2005
- Team billiards | 2014
- Snooker | 2017, 2015, 2003
- Six-red snooker 2015, 2014
- Team snooker | 2018

You always want to keep winning. It is always special when you hear your National anthem being played, as it did today

SOURCE: PANKAJ ADVANI.COM



played more fluently against Oo. Last year too I had beaten Oo. And after I got

through a tough semifinal against Mike Russell [on Saturday], I felt more at ease.

Russell is an incredible player and though I won 5-2, it was a much closer contest,"

Advani said. Advani, who now boasts of an incredible 22 World titles, attributed the success to his fitness and the deep desire to win.

All in your hands

"More than external factors like in other contact sports, one is fighting his own battle. "Through there are safety plays and the like where your opponent pins you down, it is all about your own rhythm, your ability and your own hunger which reflects on how you perform," said Advani.

The Bengaluru-based cueist, who has won more World titles in his sport than anyone else, added "every year the competition keeps improving and you need to stay ahead.

"A few years back no one would have thought that someone could win so many titles. Tomorrow someone may well go far ahead of it."

The result:
Pankaj Advani bt Nay Thway Oo (Myn) 6-2 [150(145)-4, 151(89)-66, 150(127)-50(50), 7-150(63,62), 151(50)-69(50), 150(150)-0, 133(64)-150(105), 150(74)-75(63)].