

India defeat Bangladesh by 7 wickets, make clean sweep of two-Test series

KANPUR: Yashasvi Jaiswal scored another half-century as India defeated Bangladesh by seven wickets in the weather-hit second Test to make a clean sweep of the two-Test series here on Tuesday.

India, after dismissing Bangladesh for 146 runs in the second innings, thanks to three-wicket hauls by Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja and Jasprit Bumrah, achieved the victory target of 95 runs in 17.2 overs, with Jaiswal and Kohli scoring 51 and unbeaten 29 runs respectively.

Earlier, Ashwin (3/50), Jadeja (3/34) and Bumrah (3/17) broke the back of the Bangladesh batting, allowing them the addition of just 120 runs to their overnight total of 26/2.

Overnight batter Shadman Islam was the highest scorer for Bangladesh in the second innings, scoring 50 runs.

The lunch session was extended by nearly an hour to complete Bangladesh's innings.

Bangladesh were bundled out for 233 in their first innings before India scored a quick-fire 285/9 and declared their innings on Monday in a match in which two days were completely lost due to a wet outfield.

Brief scores: Bangladesh 233 all out and 146 all out in 47 overs (Shadman Islam 50; Ravichandran Ashwin 3/50, Ravindra Jadeja 3/34, Jasprit Bumrah 3/17) vs India 285/9 declared in 34.4 overs and 98 for 3 in 17.2 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 51, Virat Kohli 29 not out).



Spain and Barcelona great Andres Iniesta announces retirement date, to draw curtains on decorated career

BARCELONA: Andres Iniesta, one of the greatest, if not the greatest, midfielders of all time, has announced his retirement date, per football transfer news king Fabrizio Romano. The former Spain and Barcelona great, 40, vows to draw curtains on his decorated career on October 8, his jersey number throughout his career.

A Las Masia product, Iniesta made his FC Barcelona debut on December 21, 2002, against Mallorca in La Liga, a game Barca won 4-0. The midfielder didn't take long before emerging as the future superstar in the team flooded with legends. Alongside his former teammate, friend and FCB manager, Xavi Hernandez, Iniesta won plenty of accolades at Barcelona.

Iniesta represented the La Liga giants in 674 matches across all competitions, scoring 57 times and assisting 135 times.

While the football world remembers Iniesta for countless reasons, not to forget his injury-time winner against the Netherlands in the 2010 FIFA World Cup Final in South Africa that helped Spain lift the title, Iniesta's jersey number 8 holds a special place in Blaugrana history.

However, after he decided to part ways with the FCB, where he won four Champions League titles, nine LaLiga titles, six Copa del Rey trophies, three FIFA Club World Cups, three UEFA Super Cups, and seven Spanish Super Cups, Iniesta moved to Japan to play for Vissel Kobe.



Kanpur Test win 'special' for pace ace Bumrah as he admits enjoying new challenge; hails newbie Akash Deep

KANPUR: Jasprit Bumrah hasn't put a foot wrong since his return from the injury last year, guiding India to a famous win in Kanpur against Bangladesh in the recently concluded second Test. The India pace ace was on the top of his game in this two-match Test series, picking up joint-most wickets (11) alongside Player of the Series Ravichandran Ashwin, three of which came in the second innings in Kanpur.

Bumrah, who has played enough cricket in India to judge the pitch by the look of it, admits finding it challenging to deliver with his usual Test cricket's line and length here in Kanpur. However, he weathered the storm with utter grace, picking crucial wickets across both innings, more importantly at the right time, to put India's nose in the front.

Being called a 'magician' with the ball in hand, Bumrah said he doesn't like to use adjectives much but is happy to deliver for the team despite rain interruptions for over two days.

"It feels really good. I don't think about all those adjectives (being called a magician). It is really good to get this win.

"You use your experience, but it is easier said than done because you have played a lot of cricket and played on different surfaces, you find solutions; this wicket was completely different to what we got in Chennai, so quickly communicated with the others and tried to find the best option.

"I like that challenge when you go against your nature, conditions are not favourable, the wicket is not favourable, how do you get answers, all of these battles I really like," Bumrah said to the broadcaster after the end of the second Test.

Bumrah hails newbie Akash Deep

Following Akash Deep's impressive Test debut against England early this year, he continued his superb run against Bangladesh, picking up five wickets in two contested matches.

In Mohammed Shami's absence, Akash Deep stepped up and delivered for the team, showing keenness to learn from the great Bumrah.

"He (Akash Deep) comes up to me quite a lot before a spell and asks me what is happening and what should I do; we have had a lot of interesting conversations, the energy he brings on the ball, he gives his best on the field, and when he's bowling, he has got a lot of heart, and that is a good sign for us going forward. Hopefully, he goes from strength to strength," Bumrah said of Akash Deep.

Meanwhile, with the New Zealand Test and the Border-Gavaskar series approaching, the selectors will bank on Akash Deep to remain consistent with his form and win matches for the team.

Alcaraz sweeps into Beijing final with win over Medvedev, history-maker Zhang Shuai reaches last eight

BEIJING: Carlos Alcaraz sent Daniil Medvedev packing to reach his first China Open final on Tuesday while 595th-ranked Zhang Shuai added another chapter to her fairytale renaissance. Second seed Alcaraz was in fine form to win 7-5, 6-3 and now faces world number one Jannik Sinner or Chinese wildcard Bu Yunchaokete for the men's crown in Beijing. Medvedev, the Russian third seed, was looking to emulate his run to last year's title-decider, where he was beaten by the Italian Sinner. But he showed signs of frustration at times against 21-year-old Alcaraz and twice required treatment on his left leg in the second set.

"I think I played really well. Obviously, if I want to beat Daniil, I have to play really good tennis, high-quality

tennis," said four-time major champion Alcaraz, who is yet to drop a set. "I felt great on the court once again, so I'm really happy about it. I think I couldn't ask for a better semi-final."

After some high-quality tennis, the two players exchanged warm words over the net at the end. Medvedev said he joked he should dress up as Botic van de Zandschulp, the unheralded Dutchman who stunned Alcaraz in the second round of the recent US Open.

"Maybe this can help," Medvedev told reporters. "Today I played pretty well. I don't see how I could beat him today."

Alcaraz is looking to seal his 16th ATP Tour crown when the final takes place on Wednesday.

In the women's draw, home

hope Zhang -- one of the storylines of the tournament -- rolled into the quarter-finals to make more history. Her 6-4, 6-2 victory over Magdalena Frech was her fourth win in Beijing and all in straight sets -- having come into the event after losing 24 singles matches in a row.

The barren run lasting more than 600 days was the second-longest on the WTA Tour in the Open Era, which began in 1968. The 35-year-old Zhang, a former two-time Grand Slam quarter-finalist who has been plagued by injury, said she had come close to quitting singles tennis before coming to Beijing.

"I had no idea how to win and I didn't want to lose another, especially with all the Chinese fans," she said. "Walking back to the locker

room, I didn't know if I should continue or not before this tournament."

The former top-25 player will face Spain's 19th-ranked Paula Badosa in the last eight. Zhang is the lowest-ranked player to ever reach this stage of the China Open and struck a defiant pose -- a tribute to Kylian Mbappe -- after beating 31st-ranked Frech in front of a packed house on China's national day.

Former world number two Badosa dumped out US Open finalist Jessica Pegula 6-4, 6-0 to make the second-seeded American the biggest casualty so far. Pegula came into the WTA 1000 event as one of the form players on tour and having reached the final in New York last month, where she was beaten by Aryna Sabalenka.



NASA wants to 'grow' fungus and algae houses on Moon for astronauts

CALIFORNIA: Humans might live in mushroom colonies, built using fungus, algae and water on the Moon in the coming years. This is if NASA's new plan is executed perfectly.

The space agency plans to conquer the Moon and build colonies where humans can live and conduct more experiments. It is supposed to act as a springboard to reach further into space, especially Mars.

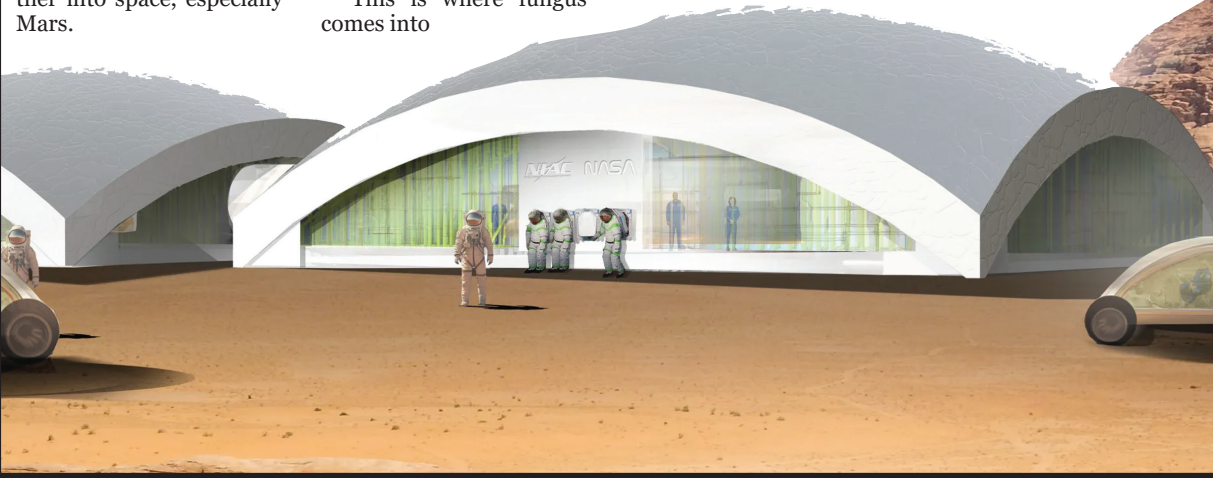
However, NASA is faced with the dilemma of building these structures since it might not be possible to send bricks and steel to the Moon, and even if it can, whether or not they can sustain the lunar environment is an altogether different question. Besides, sending just one pound of material to the moon costs a whopping million dollars.

This is where fungus comes into the picture, as per fresh plans to settle humans there, which is expected to prove cost-effective as well as resilient.

Al Jazeera reported that NASA is planning to use mycotecture, a method that uses fungal spores and algae, to not build, but grow structures in space.

NASA is collaborating with others to make it a reality. Chris Maurer, founder of the architecture firm Redhouse, a company partnering with the space agency, told Al Jazeera, "You can't take boards or bricks. So what are you going to build with?"

The answer lies in the lunar soil, water and mould, which will be sent to the Moon in sealed and inflatable form.



October sky: After A3, super bright 'sungrazer' comet will be visible at noon



NEW DELHI: It's the season of comets it seems. As Comet A3 makes its way towards the Sun, another one is already on its way. The ATLAS survey in Hawaii discovered the new comet on September 27 and it hasn't been named yet.

It has been provisionally designated A11bP71 and is expected to be as bright as Venus. According to spaceweather.com, it will be so bright that you might be able to catch it hovering in the sky even during daytime. And yes, this also means that you won't need any special equipment to see the comet.

The newly discovered comet belongs to the "Kreutz sungrazer" category and will make an appearance towards the end of October and early November.

Mark your calendars for October 28, and this is when it will be at perihelion, which is at its closest point to the sun. It will have a brightness magnitude of -5 to -7 on this day. This is when you can scan the skies even during daytime to catch a glimpse of it.

Before perihelion, it would be best viewed in the Southern Hemisphere. If it survives its trip to the sun, people in the Northern Hemisphere might be able to witness a spectacular show.

What are Kreutz sungrazer comets?

Kreutz sungrazers are comets that come from the Kreutz family of comets that come extremely close to the sun.

The name "sungrazers" originates from the fact that these comets have orbits that bring them within a few thousand kilometres of the sun's surface.

Because of their proximity to the sun, most of them are killed.

Mount Everest is growing a bit faster than usual. And a 'river capture' may have to do with it

LONDON: Mount Everest has been growing taller slowly over the years and that's not news, as the mountain was created when two tectonic plates crashed into each other over millennia. But a new study has suggested that there's a relatively sudden growth spurt in the world's tallest peak, and this time it's being attributed to "river piracy".

The study published in Nature Journal examined GPS measurements over the years to reach a conclusion. It found that Everest, also known as Chomolungma or Sagarmatha, was growing at 0.08 inches or 2 millimetres per year, as opposed to the regular 0.04 inches or 1mm per year.

The study by University College London researchers said it "uncovers a previously unrecognised, additional mechanism of rock uplift active since river capture."

While Everest is 8,849 metres tall, the nearby peak K2 is 8,611m. The other three highest mountains in the Himalayas stand at 8,586m, 8,516m and 8,485 m, an elevation difference of not more than 100 m.

The researchers suggest that it could be because rocks below the mountain base are being eroded over the years by the rivers flowing in the area.

In science-speak, it is a phenomenon of 'river drainage piracy' and 'river capture'.

The erosion of the rocks appears to affect the nearby peaks more than Mount Everest.

It is being caused by the merging of two rivers down below that happened tens of thousands of years ago.

The 'river capture event' happened in the Kosi River drainage basin some 89,000 years ago. Kosi merged with its tributary Arun River and changed course.

The researchers chasing the

question, 'Is there an underlying mechanism raising Everest ever higher?' looked for answers in surrounding rivers.

The Arun River drains a large area to the north of the Everest region before turning south.

The drainage capture and river incision erode the rocks in the surrounding areas, while relatively keeping Everest intact though

tectonic processes remain the basic reason for Everest's gradual growth, the researchers posited.

To reach their conclusion, the scientists reconstructed the capture process using computer models.

"Our best-fit model suggests the capture event occurred approximately 89,000 years ago and caused acceleration of down-

stream incision rates," wrote the researchers in the study.

"We suggest that part of Chomolungma [Everest]'s anomalous elevation (~15-50m) can be explained as the isostatic response to capture-triggered river incision, highlighting the complex interplay between geological dynamics and the formation of topographic features," said the study.



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