

Sajid Shines as Pakistan edge closer to Series-leveling Win against England

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Multan, October 17 – Pakistan closed in on a potential series-levelling victory over England, thanks to a stellar performance by spinner Sajid Khan on Day 3 of the second Test. Chasing a stiff target of 297, England ended the day at **36-2**, with Pakistan's bowlers striking early on a challenging surface.

Sajid gave Pakistan the perfect start by dismissing opener Ben Duckett for a duck, while Noman Ali sent Zak Crawley back for just three runs. England's Ollie Pope (21 not out) and Joe Root (12 not out) remained unbeaten at the close, with **261 runs still needed for victory** and two days left to play.

Earlier, Pakistan's middle-order batsman Salman Agha led a crucial recovery. His **63-run knock**, combined with Sajid's handy 22, pulled Pakistan out of trouble after they stumbled to **134-5**. The pair added a vital **65-run ninth-wicket stand**, helping Pakistan reach **221 in their second innings**.

England's spinners had looked in control, with Shoaib Bashir taking

4-66 and Jack Leach claiming **3-67**, but costly fielding errors proved pivotal. Agha was dropped twice, on four and six, allowing him to rebuild Pakistan's innings. Brydon Carse (2-29) eventually dismissed Agha, while Matthew Potts removed Sajid to end Pakistan's innings.

In the first innings, Pakistan posted **366**, but Sajid Khan's earlier brilliance with the ball put the hosts in a commanding position. Sajid's **7-111** bundled England out for **291** on a turning pitch, marking his second five-wicket haul. The pitch, reused from the first Test, posed a tougher challenge this time.

After **an innings defeat in the first Test**, also held in Multan, Pakistan now stand on the verge of levelling the three-match series with a strong bowling performance heading into day 4.

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