

HALES, ROOT HIT TONS AS ENGLAND ROUT HAPLESS WINDIES

BRIDGETOWN: Centuries by Alex Hales and Joe Root powered England to a crushing 186-run victory over the hapless West Indies in the third and final one-day international on Thursday. Replying to the tourists' total of 328 all out off 50 overs, the home side were bundled out for just 142 off 39.2 overs, suffering their worst margin of defeat ever in a one-dayer against the English and being swept 3-0 by the same opponents for the first time since 1991.

Sidelined for almost two months by a hand injury sustained in India, Hales belted 110 on his return while Root followed up his assured match-winning 90 not out in the second game in Antigua with 101.

Their second-wicket partnership was worth 192 runs, the most for any wicket in a

one-dayer at the Kensington Oval. "This innings was really special because I wanted to get back into the thick of things," said man of the match Hales.

"It was frustrating being on the sidelines and I was desperately keen to perform." Seeking to avoid a whitewash in the series and needing rankings points to earn automatic qualification for the 2019 World Cup, the West Indies hardly helped their cause by extending the epidemic of dropped catches that afflicted them in the first two matches in Antigua. Root was missed twice early in his innings, the first lapse by Evin Lewis at mid-wicket off fast bowler Alzarri Joseph being the easier of the two. They proved very costly. Joseph, the 20-year-old Antiguan pacer who replaced injured fellow fast bowler

Shannon Gabriel, claimed four expensive wickets but looked the most threatening after West Indies captain Jason Holder won the toss for the third consecutive time and chose to put England in.

He accounted for the attacking Jason Roy in just the sixth over of the innings and should have had more early success but for Lewis' costly error. He came back for an effective second spell though and together with Holder, slowed England's breakneck progress to what looked like being a total well in excess of 350. Holder claimed three for 41 off his ten overs. However if there was any encouragement from the bit of resistance towards the end of the innings, it all dissipated within the first four overs of the West Indies reply with the top three again

succumbing to the England seamers.

Jonathan Carter top-scored with 46 in the middle-order but the match was long over as a contest with man of the series Chris Woakes and fellow fast-medium bowler Liam Plunkett taking three wickets each.

Pacer Steve Finn also played his part in the demolition with two wickets while leg-spinner Adil Rashid finished off the affair in bright afternoon sunshine to the delight of thousands of celebrating England supporters. "This is extremely frustrating, we just didn't compete in this match," said a disconsolate Holder in reflecting on another embarrassing setback for his team.

"I thought we committed too many errors in the field and didn't bowl consistently well. We can only go forward from this." — AFP



GALLE: Bangladesh cricketer Soumya Sarkar (3L) watches as Sri Lankan cricketer Dinesh Chandimal (R) drops a catch during the fourth day of the opening Test match between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh at the Galle International Cricket Stadium in Galle yesterday. — AFP

BANGLADESH OPENERS, BAD LIGHT KEEP LANKA AT BAY

GALLE: Opener Soumya Sarkar scored his second half-century of the match as Bangladesh kept their faint hopes of saving the first Test against Sri Lanka alive in Galle yesterday. Set a daunting target of 457 runs, Bangladesh reached 67-0 before bad light brought early stumps on the fourth day with the visiting side still needing 393 runs for an improbable win on the final day.

Soumya, who made 71 runs in the first innings, led the batting charge with an unbeaten 53 while his opening partner Tamim Iqbal took the unusual role of an anchor, scoring 13 not out. The fourth day's play ended 14 overs early as thick clouds hovered over the ground, much to the frustration of the hosts who were desperate to hammer home their advantage by clinching a wicket in the final session. Umpires called off play after Asela Gunaratne conceded three runs off his first ball that was declared a rare back-foot no ball, leaving him with the highly unusual figure of 0-0-3-0.

Sri Lanka declared their second innings at 274-6, just five overs into the session, after local boy Upul Tharanga slammed his third Test century and second against Bangladesh.

ACCELERATE

Tharanga was out for 115 at the end of a 171-ball innings that featured 11 fours and three sixes before he was bowled by off-spinner Mehedi Hasan. Left-arm spinner Shakib Al Hasan bowled Asela Gunaratne for a duck in the next over and Mehedi dismissed Niroshan Dickwella for 15 to give Bangladesh something to celebrate in another taxing day for the visitors. Dinesh Chandimal rode his luck after being dropped by Soumya Sarkar at slip on 12 to stay unbeaten on 50 before the declaration came with the dismissal of Dilruwan Perera, who made 33. Earlier in the second session, Shakib removed Sri Lanka's first innings hero Kusal Mendis who made 19 before hoisting a catch to Taskin Ahmed at square leg boundary. Mendis scored 194 in the first innings. Sri Lanka began their second innings in the morning cautiously as they scored 87 runs for the loss of opener Dimuth Karunaratne, who gave a catch to Mahmudullah at square leg off Taskin Ahmed after making 32. —AFP

FIRE ALARM DRAMA AS S AFRICA EDGE AHEAD

DUNEDIN: South Africa shrugged off a ground evacuation because of a fire alarm to reach 38 for one in the first Test against New Zealand yesterday, a lead of five runs. With the game evenly poised after an absorbing first three days, both sides were hoping looming rain over the weekend did not dictate the outcome. "It does seem pretty even but we don't know what the weather holds. But hopefully we can make a game of it, it's always nice to get a result," said South Africa's man of the moment Keshav Maharaj. Maharaj claimed his first five wicket haul to halt the New Zealand innings at 341 with a Kane Williamson ton and the heroics of an injury-hit Ross Taylor giving them a 33-run first-innings lead.

BJ Watling, who contributed to New Zealand's total with 50, believed a result was still possible with "one crazy session" that could change the balance. "We've just got to (take) each session at a time and see what that leaves us with," he said.

"You can't play a game of cricket expecting it to rain because sometimes it doesn't and you get caught out. It's just the nature of the beast." South Africa lost opener Stephen Cook for a duck in the first over of their second innings and, despite a 20-minute delay when the University Oval was evacuated after a fire alarm in the main grandstand, they survived without further loss until bad light stopped play.

Firemen who searched the area blamed steam for setting off the alarm and when play resumed, in gathering gloom, New Zealand's spinners were unable to find success against Hashim Amla, who was unbeaten on 23, and Dean Elgar (12). Cook was caught behind off Trent Boult without scoring on the fourth ball, and walked rather than seek a review-although replays were unable to detect the ball hit the bat.

VALUABLE HALF-CENTURIES

Earlier Williamson's 130 plus valuable half-centuries from Jeet Raval and Watling-along with Taylor's late return despite a calf injury-carried New Zealand to 341.

It was the first time in seven Tests dating back to 2012 that New Zealand

have led South Africa after the first innings. Williamson brought up his 16th Test century, putting him level with

Taylor and one behind the New Zealand record of 17 held by the late Martin Crowe. — AFP



DUNEDIN: South Africa's Dean Elgar watches the ball past wicketkeeper New Zealand's BJ Watling during the first cricket test at University Oval, Dunedin, New Zealand, yesterday. —AP

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day in the first Test between New Zealand and South Africa on Friday in Dunedin, New Zealand.

South Africa 1st innings 308 (D. Elgar 140, T. Bavuma 64, F. du Plessis 52; T. oult 4-64)

New Zealand 1st innings (Overnight: 177-3)

T. Latham c de Kock b Philander	10
J. Raval c Elgar b Maharaj	52
K. Williamson c de Kock b Rabada	130
R. Taylor not out	15
H. Nicholls c Amla b Maharaj	12
J. Patel c du Plessis b Philander	16
J. Neesham c de Kock b M. Morkel	7
B. Watling b Maharaj	50
M. Santner c Maharaj b M. Morkel	4
N. Wagner c Duminy b Maharaj	32
T. Boult b Maharaj	2
Extras (lb-8 nb-2 w-1)	11
Total (all out, 114.3 overs)	341
Fall of wickets: 1-15 T. Latham, 2-117 J. Raval, 3-165 H. Nicholls, 4-184 J. atel, 5-193 J. Neesham, 6-277 K.	

Williamson, 7-297 M. Santner, 8-304 B. Watling, 9-324 T. Boult, 10-341 N. Wagner.

Bowling:

K. Rabada 30-7-92-1(w-1); V. Philander 27-11-67-2(nb-2); M. Morkel 24-6-62-2; K. Maharaj 28.3-7-94-5; J. Duminy 5-0-18-0.

South Africa 2nd innings

S. Cook c Watling b Boult	0
D. Elgar not out	12
H. Amla not out	23
Extras (lb-3)	3
Total (for 1 wickets, 18 overs)	38
Fall of wickets: 1-0 S. Cook	
To bat: F. du Plessis, J. Duminy, T. Bavuma, Q. de Kock, V. Philander, K. Maharaj, M. Morkel, K. Rabada	
Bowling: T. Boult 4-2-6-1; N. Wagner 4-1-8-0; M. Santner 5-2-6-0; J. Patel 5-2-15-0.	