



## WHAT THEY SAID

First game after the break belongs to us. Some gritty performance from the lads. This team deserves the win in this game. Congratulations boys. You make us proud. --West Indies great Viv Richards

Great characters shown in this win by some key players.. congratulations to coach, capt and team. --West Indies legend Courtney Walsh

Good all-round performances by players from both teams. Jermaine Blackwood played a crucial knock in a tense situation to see @windiescricket through. An important win which has set up the series perfectly. --India great Sachin Tendulkar

A great week of Test cricket. For the West Indies to have come over to play is remarkable in these times... For them to have played so well & won is incredible. I don't even think England fans will be too disappointed... bloody love Test cricket. --Former England captain Michael Vaughan

What a Test match to Herald the return of cricket. Steely determination from @windiescricket both @benstokes38 and Jason Holder have shown themselves to be exemplary leaders. --Former Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara

Wow @windiescricket... What a win. Top display of Test cricket. --India Captain Virat Kohli

The return of cricket at the Ageas Bowl was marked by performances of two players who could have initially been left out. West Indies pacer Shannon Gabriel, the player-of-the-match for his nine for 137, was originally named only as a traveling reserve. Jermaine Blackwood, who came within five runs of becoming the first centurion in the post-pandemic era, might not have played had fellow batsmen Darren Bravo and Shimron Hetmyer not opted out due to coronavirus fears. England all-rounder Ben Stokes, who was chosen to lead the side in absence of regular skipper Joe Root, had a decent outing but was left dejected following his side's four-wicket defeat.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## 'What a game of cricket'

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

When Shannon Gabriel walked off the field after his five-for on the fifth and final day of the Southampton Test, helping bowl England out for 313 for a chase of 200 for the Windies, there was no cheering crowd to give him an apt send-off back to the dressing room.

It was one of those rare moments where the absence of a packed crowd was felt in what was a riveting and indeed 'classic' Test as cricket began its adagio in the most palpable manner amidst the coronavirus pandemic.

The remainder of the Test match had almost remained serene, the quiet adding to the atmosphere of what was happening in the middle -- an atmosphere fit for Tests. The themes of the match converged on that dialogue of what a classic really felt like, from the beginning to the end. Even during these difficult times, cricket brought relief to so many that were waiting at home to watch some live action. In the commentary box, Michael Holding, who had set the tone for one of the themes of this Test series with his powerful and uplifting statement on 'Black Lives Matters', along with Nasser Hussain, reminisced on the past during the quiet but intense hours, socially distanced as was appropriate during a pandemic.

The statistician, an ever-present figure in the commentary box, was working from home, Holding informed, and yet cricket's new normal did not fail to deliver. Remote-controlled Spidercam and Batcam, roaming the outfield, provided the best footages to the audience sitting at home.

The element of the 'shifting of balance', that tug-of-war with the game swaying from one side to the other from session to session reminded of great matches from the past. West Indies' positivity had added lustre and defined how the rest of the series



effect and will affect the rest of the world too. "Definitely the bowlers are being hampered. We could see with the way they bowled, that if there was swing, the bowlers would be so much more devastating. But I feel the batsmen did not play to their full potential either," Fahim said.

After the few initial overs, the swing was not evident. Fahim concurred that Windies had used the seam well. "They used the seam for off-the-wicket movement. There was not much swing off the air and the pacers continuously changed their angles.

- West Indies are the only visiting Test team in the 21st century to chase down 200 or more runs twice on English soil.
- The Caribbean side became only the second team to successfully chase a target of 100-plus runs when top four batsmen failed to reach double-figures. Their top four managed to score 4, 8\*, 9, and 0 respectively against England at The Ageas Bowl. Coincidentally, in 1902 the English had experienced the same when they defeated Australia while chasing 263 at The Oval.
- Jason Holder, top-ranked ICC Test all-rounder, has won four of his six Tests as captain against England.
- Since 2015, West Indies now have won five of the ten Tests against England. In the meantime, they have managed only seven wins in 34 matches combined against all other teams.



The Ageas Bowl will be recalled as the first stadium to have hosted a Test in a bio-secure environment following the coronavirus standstill.

PHOTO: TWITTER

## 'One of our best victories'

AGENCIES

West Indies skipper Jason Holder has described his side's stunning four-wicket win over England in the opening Test of the three-match series in Southampton as 'one of the best victories' of the Caribbean side as a group.

"One of our best victories. Yesterday (Day-4) was the best day I had in Test cricket. All the bowlers toiled hard yesterday, and it was a hard-fought day of Test cricket. I don't think any team knew. We had been sat at home doing nothing. We had time to prepare, but you never know. John took a blow today, but hopefully he will come through. We knew what was at stake yesterday evening," said Holder during post-match presentation ceremony.

Holder praised the "massive, massive heart" of Shannon Gabriel following the tourists' on Sunday.

Fast bowler Gabriel was named man-of-the-match after taking combined figures of nine wickets for 137 runs as international cricket returned from lockdown.

will go as well, with England now looking to turn things around after a four-wicket defeat at Ageas bowl.

"It didn't get into our minds that there were no noise from crowd because the focus was so much on the game," Nazmul Abedeen Fahim, a mentor to many of the Bangladesh national team stars, told The Daily Star when asked to talk about the game.

For many neutral fans, Windies are the team to support and their positivity shone through. "Their captain [Jason Holder]

handed things very coolly. He led the team very well," Fahim reiterated.

"The excitement of the Test match and what was happening, we couldn't tell till the last day of the match. When West Indies lost three wickets, it appeared that England will make a comeback and up to that point the match was in the balance. It remained so before Windies reached 140-odd mark but there was an intense period of cricket before that. West Indies have shown their character."

The saliva ban has also come into

But batsmen are still lacking in form," he opined.

Jermaine Blackwood, though, showed his resolve against the likes of James Anderson, Jofra Archer and Mark Wood. Edgy at the beginning, he gradually timed himself to a match-winning 95 with England pacers breathing fire, nearly crushing the hope of Windies win during that first session when the visitors were three down for 27.

After the game, English actor Hugh Laurie tweeted: "What a game of cricket. It doesn't solve anything, cure anything, make anything go away -- but what a game of cricket."



Neymar embraces Kylian Embappe as Mauro Icardi joins them in celebration during Paris Saint-Germain's 9-0 win over second division side Le Havre in a friendly match on Sunday. Played in front of 5000 people, it saw the biggest crowd for a match in one of Europe's 'Big Five' football nations since early March.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## City's ban overturned

AFP, LAUSANNE

Manchester City will be free to play Champions League football next season after the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) lifted a two-season ban from European competitions imposed by UEFA on Monday.

An initial fine of 30 million euro was also reduced to 10 million euros on appeal. City were accused of deliberately inflating the value of income from sponsors with links to the Abu Dhabi United Group, also owned by City owner Sheikh Mansour, to avoid falling foul of financial fair play (FFP) regulations between 2012 and 2016.

## Domingo holds online meeting with Tigers

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh cricket team's head coach Russell Domingo yesterday had a virtual meeting with a 35-member preliminary squad and rest of the coaching staff as part of his continuous communication with the cricketers regarding their mental and physical tasks during the coronavirus pandemic.

"This was not the first time that Russell Domingo had a virtual meeting with the cricketers. He is guiding the cricketers through these meetings. We are waiting for the situation to improve as everything depends on it. We are eager to return to the field," BCB's cricket operations committee chairman Akram Khan said. The meetings between the coach and the players are

sometimes held with all the players together while at other times held with batting groups or bowling groups in isolation.

It was learnt that there were occasions when discussions over the possible resumption of training camp were discussed in the meeting but as there is no scheduled international fixture for the national team in near future, the plan to resume training did not see light.

"We often discuss of possible resumption of the training camp but going to the field without an aim doesn't make sense. Many of our bilateral series got postponed and then the Asia Cup T20 in September got cancelled. At this point we do not know when the Dhaka League will resume or if ICC World T20 will be held," said an experienced member of the Bangladesh team requesting anonymity.

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### Local/International e-Tender

Electronic tenders (e-Tenders) are hereby invited from the competent local/international manufacturers/suppliers for supply of the following items for this Corporation as per under noted schedule. e-Tender documents showing terms and conditions with specifications will be available at web: [etender.spcbl.org.bd/114.130.43.56](http://etender.spcbl.org.bd/114.130.43.56). It is to mention here that this is online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted and no hard copy will be accepted except price of e-Tender schedule and earnest money. To submit e-Tender bidders need to register on e-Tender [spcbl.org.bd/114.130.43.56](http://spcbl.org.bd/114.130.43.56). For more details please contact cell: 880-1534002183 & 880-1534002184. Necessary information is given below:

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1.	Supply of 20,00,000 meters PE Coated Paper Band Roll (Kraft Paper)	Local/International e-Tender	14.07.2020	18.08.2020 up to 11.00am	18.08.2020 at 11.15am	Tk 500.00
2.	Supply of 02 (two) Nos. Electric Towing Tractor (Battery Powered Tractable Vehicle)	Local/International Re-e-Tender	14.07.2020	18.08.2020 up to 11.00am	18.08.2020 at 11.15am	Tk 500.00

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