

## Sport

## S Africa poised to pocket series

COLOMBO, Sept 18: Vice-captain Hanse Cronje hit an unbeaten 73 to help South Africa keep the upper hand on the fourth day of the third Test against Sri Lanka here Saturday, reports AFP.

South Africa reached 159 for four in their second innings when bad light stopped play two overs from the scheduled close.

With just a day remaining, the third Test looks set to end in a draw unless South Africa suffer a dramatic batting collapse on the fifth morning. The tourists have an overall lead of 179 after Sri Lanka declared their first innings 20 runs short of South Africa's first innings total.

Cronje put on 94 runs with Jonty Rhodes for the fourth wicket to help South Africa recover from a jittery 65-3.

Rhodes was bowled round his legs by off-spinner Muttiah Muralidharan after an uncharacteristic 19 off 86 balls. He proved to be an ideal foil at one end preferring to play a sedate role during the crucial partnership.

The right-handed Cronje, who made a century in the second Test, scored a six off right arm off-cutter Kumara Dharmasena and six boundaries in his 214-minute innings.

Shri Lanka had earlier declared their first innings at 296-9.

The declaration came when pace bowler Brett Schultz took his fifth wicket by dismissing Sanath Jayasuriya for 65 in his first over after lunch.

It was Jayasuriya's fourth half-century in 12 Test matches.

Shri Lanka's chances of dominating the match evaporated with their snail-paced approach in the first innings. In fact, they took more than 10 hours to reach the total of 296.

Left-arm Schultz ended with best figures of 5-63 to increase his wicket-tally to 20 in the three-Test series. This is the second time the young pace ace has claimed five-wicket haul. He took 5-48 in the second Test.

Medium pacer Chandika Hathurusinghe sent Shri Lanka off to a great start by clinching the important wicket of skipper Kepler Wessels in the sixth over.

Cronje and opener Andrew Hudson were denied further success for Shri Lanka until the tea break with a 47-run second-wicket stand.

But South Africa came under pressure immediately after tea when they lost two more wickets in the space of seven runs.

Hudson played on to a ball from seamer Champaka Ramanayake and was bowled for 28 in the third ball after the short interval.

Shri Lanka then came back into the game when South Africa lost the third wicket in the 30th over.

Substitute fielder Duleep Samaraweera beat wicket-keeper Pubudu Dassanayake when he ran behind the wicket.

India too against Beijing bid

NEW DELHI, Sept 18: Tibetans boycotted work in India's Kashmir Saturday in a bid to stop the International Olympic Committee (IOC) from awarding the 2000 Olympic Games to Beijing, protesters and reports said, reports AFP.

More than 250 Tibetans working in the garment industry of the northern states summer capital of Srinagar walked off work to protest China's bid for the Games, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

They shouted anti-Chinese slogans and urged compatriots living in other parts of India to call on the IOC to exclude China from the Games race, PTI said.

"Let the Games be elsewhere, but not in China," the protesters chanted. Besides Beijing, Berlin, Istanbul, Manchester and Sydney are contenders for the 2000 Olympics.

The venue of the Games is to be decided on September 23 at an IOC session in Monaco where four young Tibetans Saturday were detained by police for protesting against Beijing's bid. They were later released.

The Tibetan Youth Congress (TYC), which is in the forefront of an anti-Chinese campaign in India, said some 500 TYC activists will stage a protest Sunday in central New Delhi.

"We will organise a run for no Olympics in China," a TYC spokesman said, adding that many Indians will also participate in the five kilometre (three miles) race to a landmark World War II memorial.

"China does not deserve to host the Games because it has never regarded the Olympics spirit as an international movement," he said.

Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama and thousands of others fled their homeland after Beijing ruthlessly crushed an anti-Chinese uprising in Tibet in 1959.

Chinese troops occupied

Tibet in 1950.

from forward short leg to hold on to a catch from first innings centurion Darryl Cullinan off Dharmasena.

But the talented Cronje and first Test hero Rhodes pulled their side out of the rut with



Shri Lankan batsman Duleep Liyanage looks back as an express delivery from South African fast bowler Allan Donald clips his off bail on the fourth day of the third and final Test in Colombo yesterday.

— AFP photo

SCOREBOARD	
Scoreboard at close of the fourth day of the third and final Test between Shri Lanka and South Africa at the Saravananthu Stadium Saturday:	
SOUTH AFRICA:	First innings 316 (D J Cullinan 102, D J Richardson 62, Muralidharan 4-64).
SHRI LANKA:	First innings 245 (5-overnight)
	Mahanama c McMillan b Schultz 25
	Hathurusinghe c Richardson b

Bowling:		O	M	R	W
Muralidharan.		0	0	0	0
Donald	30	12	62	2	2
Schultz	36.5	9	63	5	0
McMillan	30	8	64	0	0
Snell	25	8	44	0	0
Symcox	18	5	47	1	0

Did not bat: M

Muralidharan.

Umpires: B Aldridge (New Zealand) and B C Cooray (Shri Lanka).

Extras: (b-7, lb-9, nb-7) 23

Total: (9 wkt dec) 296

Fall of wicket: 1-1; 2-27; 3-

55-4-156; 5-202; 6-263; 7-273; 8-294; 9-296.

Did not bat: M

Muralidharan.

Bowling: O M R W

Ramanayake 10 1 26

Hathurusinghe 8 4 7 1

Liyanage 4 1 17 0

Muralidharan 15 3 39 1

Dharmasena 18 8 29 1

Jayasuriya 3 1 17 0

De Silva 3 1 3 0

Fall of wicket: 1-11; 2-58; 3-

65-4-159.

Bowling: O M R W

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Extras: (b-4, lb-17, nb-7) 28

Total: (4 wkts) 159

Fall of wicket: 1-11; 2-58; 3-

65-4-159.

Bowling: O M R W

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