

Draw suffices Sri Lanka

HARARE, Dec 9: Sri Lanka were handed a 1-0 win in the three-match Test series against Zimbabwe on Wednesday when the third Test pattered out to a tame draw in Harare, reports Reuters.

When bad light ended play nine overs before the scheduled close, Sri Lanka were 36-1 in their second innings after Zimbabwe declared on 197-7 — leaving the tourists an improbable victory target of 185 in a minimum of 18 overs.

The day belonged to Zimbabwe captain Andy Flower, who scored his fourth half-century of the series in making 70 not out. Flower featured in partnerships of 42 with Murray Goodwin for the fourth wicket and 58 with Alistair Campbell for the fifth.

The rain-affected first Test in Bulawayo was also drawn, but Sri Lanka won the second Test in Harare by six wickets.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the last day of the third and final Test between Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka on Wednesday:

ZIMBABWE: First innings 218 (R Pushpakumara 5-56)
SRI LANKA: First innings 231 (R Arnold 104 not out)
ZIMBABWE: Second innings (48-2 overnight)
G Flower c Dilshan b Vaas 13
C Wishart b Vaas 9
M Goodwin c Arnold b Muralitharan 38
N Johnson c Dilshan b Wickramasinghe 9
A Flower not out 70
A Campbell c Jayawardena b Vaas 27
G Whittall c Arnold b Muralitharan 9
R Price run out (Jayasuria) 4
E Brandes not out 1
Extras: (b 4, lb 4, nb 9) 17
Total: (For seven wickets declared) 197
Fall of wickets: 1-14; 2-28; 3-51; 4-93; 5-151; 6-174; 7-184.

Bowler O M R W
Vaas 22 5 48 3
Pushpakumara 21 4 39 0
Wickramasinghe 21 6 30 1
Jayawardena 2 0 12 0
Muralitharan 35 11 52 2
Jayasuria 8 4 8 0
SRI LANKA: Second innings
Atappattu c A Flower b Brandes 6
Jayasuria not out 16
Arnold not out 14
Extras: 0
Total: (For one wicket) 36
Bowler O M R W
Olonga 4 1 11 0
Brandes 4 0 20 1
Strang 1 0 5 0
Result: Match drawn.
First test: Bulawayo — Match drawn.
Second Test: Harare — Sri Lanka won by 6 wickets.
Sri Lanka win series 1-0.

Imran yet to say yes

KARACHI, Dec 9 (Internet sport): Former Pakistan captain Imran Khan on Wednesday said he has neither accepted nor rejected the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) request to represent the country in the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Imran on Tuesday was asked to replace Javed Burki as ICC's technical committee general deliveries. Talking to *News International*, Imran said it was a consuming job "and, at the same time, I am busy up to my

ears, he said if the wants his assistance, he may be available. "I am to serve the country in my capacity if I can," he can assist them in bits and pieces," he asserted.

ield cricket

ANE, Australia, Dec 9:

Forgotten brigade of Test cricket stole the show at the Gabba here as Western Aussies defending their own faded beneath a onslaught.

had Western trouble after the their 'Sheffield' skittling the out 171 before edging home at stumps.

another dismal but skipper emerged with impressive 92, my honours living bower

Victoria's the first to a halt in Australia and Brad the local competition missed for



Manchester United star David Beckham (L) vies with Amedeo Carbone of Valencia for ball during their Champions League encounter at Old Trafford on December 8. — AFP photo

Keane celebrates new contract

United too good for Valencia



MANCHESTER, England, Dec 9: Manchester United gained their first points of the Champions League second phase by beating Spanish side Valencia 3-0 in the Group B match at Old Trafford on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Roy Keane celebrated signing a new four-year contract reportedly worth 50,000 pounds (£50,000 dollars) a week by scoring the opening goal after 38 minutes when the Valencia defence failed to clear Gary Neville's chipped pass.

Norwegian international Ole Gunnar Solskjær added a second from David Beckham's right wing cross two minutes after Raimond van der Gouw when well placed on the edge of the penalty area after some excellent work by Gaizka Mendieta.

United had to wait for 15 minutes for their first real chance when Solskjær shot tamely at visiting keeper Andres Palop.

The Spaniards began to dominate the exchanges after United's second goal and Lopez was gradually living up to his reputation as the best striker in Spain.

Andy Cole could not quite reach Giggs' knock-down after a glorious cross-field pass by David Beckham, who found him in space in the Valencia box.

Then Solskjær was again denied by Palop after Cole's shot had been blocked and Giggs fired over after ex-hanging passes with Keane.

Beckham hit the bar on 30 minutes with a spectacular free-kick from 20 yards awarded after Paul Scholes was brought down.

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Neville's chipped pass was only partially cleared by the Valencia defence.

Former French international Angloma was unlucky not to level the scores four minutes later after combining well with Mendieta down the right but his shot flew inches over the crossbar.

It took United just two minutes after the interval to go further ahead when Solskjær slotted home Beckham's excellent low right-wing cross.

Valencia almost responded minutes later but Angloma's powerful shot was splendidly saved by Van der Gouw and Lopez shot over with only the crossbar.

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