



The Bangladesh women's cricket team, led by Salma Khatun (C), departed for the Netherlands to participate in a 10-day preparation camp ahead of the World T20 qualifiers in Scotland, which begins on August 31, yesterday.



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Kiwis on level terms after Patel's 5

REUTERS, Galle

New Zealand spinner Ajaz Patel carved through Sri Lanka's top order and took five wickets to even the odds for the visitors after the second day of the opening Test in Galle on Thursday.

New Zealand were bowled out for 249 in the first session but Sri Lanka struggled to get going during Patel's spells and finished on 227-7, trailing by 22 runs.

Openers Dimuth Karunaratne and Lahiru Thirimanne patiently saw off the new ball attack of Trent Boult and Tim Southee before Patel was introduced as early as the 11th

over in spin-friendly conditions.

The Indian-born left-arm, who finished with 5-76, struck in his first over to have Thirimanne stumped. Karunaratne was next to go with a similar delivery that trapped him leg before with the score on 66-2.

Kusal Mendis and Angelo Mathews built a 77-run partnership for the third wicket before Mendis (53) was dismissed the very next ball after bringing up his 10th half-century just before tea.

After a middle-order collapse, where three batsmen added only six runs, wicketkeeper Niroshan Dickwella (39 not out) and Suranga Lakmal (28 not out) wrested back control with an unbeaten 66-run



AJAZ PATEL... 5 for 76

partnership to keep the test evenly poised.

Earlier Ross Taylor, unbeaten on 86 at stumps on Wednesday, fell to the very first delivery he faced, missing out on his 19th century

after edging fast bowler Lakmal to the wicketkeeper.

After Akila Dananjaya picked up five wickets on the first day, Lakmal (4-29) quickly cleaned up the tail.

The two-Test series, with the second match set for Colombo, is the first for both teams in the newly launched World Test Championship.

SCORES IN BRIEF

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 249 (Raval 33, Latham 30, Taylor 86, Nicholls 42; Lakmal 4-29, Dananjaya 5-80)

SRI LANKA: First innings 227 for 7 (Karunaratne 39, Mendis 53, Mathews 50, Dickwella 39 not out, Lakmal 28 not out; Patel 5-76)

Australia bowl England out for 258

AFP, London

England were dismissed for 258 by Australia in the second Ashes Test at Lord's yesterday.

Only opener Rory Burns (53) and wicketkeeper Jonny Bairstow, last man out for 52, passed fifty after England were sent into bat by Australia captain Tim Paine following a total washout of Wednesday's first day.

Australia finished the day at 30-1 as David Warner departed cheaply.

Earlier, fast bowler Josh Hazlewood, the only change to the Australia side that won the first Test by 251 runs at Edgbaston last week, led the attack with three wickets for 58 runs from 22 overs.

New-ball partner Pat Cummins took 3-61 from 21 while off-spinner Nathan Lyon equalled Australia pace great Dennis Lillee's tally of 355 Test wickets with a return of 3-68.

Australia's Josh Hazlewood marked his entry into this season's Ashes with three wickets after the second Ashes Test at Lord's finally started yesterday.

Fast bowler Hazlewood, the only change to the Australia side that beat England by 251 runs in the first Test at Edgbaston last week, backed up that decision in just the second over of the match by removing opener Jason Roy for a duck.

He then dismissed England captain Joe Root (14) to leave the hosts reeling at 26-2.

Rory Burns, following up his maiden Test hundred at Edgbaston, made 53 after twice being dropped off Peter Siddie, and the left-handed opener shared a third-wicket

Thursday saw Lord's turn red in support of the Ruth Strauss Foundation -- a lung cancer charity set up to honour the late wife of Andrew Strauss, the former England captain, who died from the disease.

partnership of 66 with Joe Denly (30).

But Denly's exit after lunch sparked a collapse that saw England lose four wickets for 46 runs.

Hazlewood, in for fellow paceman James Pattinson, struck with his third ball when Roy was caught behind by wicketkeeper Paine after fending loosely outside off stump at a rising delivery.

It was a brilliant start for Ashes-holders Australia, looking to win their first Test series away to England in 18 years, with the hosts a wicket down without a run on the board.

At lunch, England were 76-2 with Burns 34 not out and Denly 27 not out.

But although the sunny conditions appeared good for batting, wickets tumbled early in the second session. England were reduced to 201-6 at tea.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND: First innings--258 all out in 77.1 overs (Burns 53, Denly 30, Bairstow 52, Woakes 32; Cummins 3-61, Hazlewood 3-58, Lyon 3-68)

AUSTRALIA: First innings--30-1 in 13 overs (Bancroft 5 not out, Khawaja 18 not out; Broad 1-13)

Aleem equals Bucknor's record

AGENCIES, London

Aleem Dar on Thursday equalled Steve Bucknor's record of officiating in the highest number Test matches after taking the field for the 128th time during the second Ashes Test between England and Australia at Lord's.

"It's a great honour to equal the number of Test matches of my role model, umpire Steve Bucknor," Dar, 51, was quoted as saying by the International Cricket Council in a tweet.

Dar made his Test debut in a match between Bangladesh and England in Dhaka in October 2003. He has since then taken charge of 376 matches across all formats.

Besides Dar and Bucknor, South Africa's Rudi Koertzen is the only other umpire to have reached the three-figure mark in Tests, having stood in 108 Tests before calling it a day in 2010.

Experience counts: Kohli

ICC



India captain Virat Kohli took pride in his 43th one-day international hundred, which sealed a 2-0 series win for his side against West Indies.

Kohli's 114* off 99 balls helped India chase down a DLS-adjusted target of 255 off 35 overs after West Indies posted 240/7 in their 35 overs. It was his second hundred in a row, and an incredible 26th while chasing.

"I've been around for a while," the captain explained. "Experience counts in pressure situations, understanding where the team is heading and what I need to do for the tempo of the game."

"You want to take pride in stepping up for the team as much as you can, and I definitely take a lot of pride in that. So yes, two good games with the bat from me, but, more importantly, we got the result because of my contribution. That feels much better."

Kohli admitted to some nerves in the camp when the match was interrupted by rain. Chris Gayle and Evin Lewis had given the West Indies a blazing start, reminding the Indians why they were rated as "two of the most dangerous players in the world in white-ball cricket". "We tried literally everything, we bowled every ball possible," said Kohli. "That was tremendous batting by them."



Being 92/3 in their reply did little to steady the team's nerves. However, Shreyas Iyer then came together with Kohli to add 120 for the fourth wicket. It was Iyer's second half-century in the series, doing his case to be a regular in the side no harm – and Kohli said as much.

"Shreyas has come along really well," he said, all praise for the 24-year-old. "He's stepped in and played with confidence. That augurs well for the team. He's presented a strong case for himself ... to be a regular feature in the middle order."

"He wasn't intimidated at all, he was confident, very sure of his game."

That's great to see, and hopefully he builds on to this and keeps performing for the team."

In what will come as high praise indeed, Kohli said the youngster's attitude reminded him of himself when he was starting out. "You need to stack up performances and play well under pressure," Kohli said. "I was exactly the same when I came in – any opportunity I got I wanted to win games for my team. You have taken risks. He was brave under pressure. You need to reveal your game, you need to realise who you are, what your game is, what kind of player you are, so he's heading in the right direction."



Australia pacer Josh Hazlewood celebrates after taking the wicket of England captain Joe Root during the second day of the second Ashes Test at Lord's in London yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS



The third one-day international between West Indies and India felt like a farewell for Chris Gayle, but the star opener suggested after the game that he wasn't quite done yet.

Gayle played the match at Port of Spain on Tuesday, with a special '301' jersey – the shirt number indicating the number of ODIs he has featured in throughout his career, a record for any cricketer from the West Indies.

In the previous match, he had gone past Brian Lara's record ODI runs for West Indies, but had tallied just a scratchy 15 in the first two matches of the series. On Tuesday too, he began with a maiden over, before going on to entertain the crowd with vintage Gayle striking. He launched into Mohammed Shami



with a six in the second over off a free hit and went on to post 114 in 10 overs with Evin Lewis.

Gayle's contribution was 72 in 41 balls, with 62 of those coming in boundaries. Caught by Virat Kohli off the bowling of Khaleel Ahmed, the Jamaican was applauded by the opposition players as he walked off.

He raised his bat, helmet perched on top of it in his now typical style, and the crowd continued to cheer, wondering if it was the last time they'd see him in an ODI.

But, Gayle dismissed suggestions that this was a farewell game. "I didn't announce any retirement," he said in a short video posted by Cricket West Indies, insisting that he would be around "until further notice".

"To my knowledge, he hasn't retired," added Jason Holder, the captain, after the game. "But today was an example of his career. The knock he played was outstanding. He got us off to a really good start. He was entertaining, he showed presence, and that's just what people have come to expect of Chris Gayle over the years."

Kohli, unaware of Gayle's plans, paid tribute to his long-time

teammate at the Indian Premier League. "I would like to congratulate him for a great, great career playing for West Indies," the Indian captain said. "He has done so much for West Indies cricket, and he is an icon all over the world."

"[He is] one of the nicest human beings around. That to me is his nicest quality. Everyone knows about his cricket, but I think the kind of person he is, so helpful with youngsters and so fun-loving and always smiling – even in the most [high] pressure situations he is always smiling."

"For me, Chris Gayle the person is the best part of him. The cricket everyone knows, [but] I have been fortunate enough to spend a lot of time with him as a friend and get to know him as a person. He is a gem of a human being. I think he can be really proud of that, firstly."