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SPORT



West Indies' Shimron Hetmyer blazed to 139 to condemn India to a loss in the first ODI yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Hetmyer, Hope silence India

AFP, Chennai

Centuries from Shimron Hetmyer and Shai Hope powered West Indies to an eight-wicket win over India after chasing down a target of 288 in the first one-day international on Sunday.

Hetmyer, who hit a career-best 139, and Hope, unbeaten on 102, put on a key 218-run second-wicket partnership as West Indies eased to victory with 13 balls to spare and lead the three-match series 1-0.

The left-hander completed his fifth ODI ton in 85 balls to take control with Hope, a right-handed wicketkeeper-batsman, after the early fall of Sunil Ambris for nine.

Hetmyer, who hit his second hundred against India, smashed 11 fours and seven sixes in his 106-ball knock.

"We know the talent that he (Hetmyer) has," said skipper Kieron Pollard. "He has been struggling a bit in the last nine months and he has been under a lot of pressure. As a management group, we have faith in him."

Earlier, Shreyas Iyer and Rishabh Pant made half-centuries to guide India to 287 for eight after they lost early wickets following West Indies' decision to bowl first.

Iyer, who made 70, and Pant, who hit 71, put on 114 for the fourth wicket after India were left struggling at 80 for three.

Keemo Paul broke through with the wicket of Jadhav, and there was drama on the very next ball with Jadeja run out after a delayed umpire call.

Roston Chase hit the stumps at the bowler's end where Jadeja was running and South African umpire Shaun George did not call for the third umpire.

But replays suggested Jadeja was short of his crease, prompting the on-field official to refer it to the TV umpire who then gave it out, as an angry Kohli shook his head in disapproval in the dressing room.

"The thought is simple, the fielder asked 'how is that' and the umpire said 'not out'. The dismissal ends there," Kohli said.

"The people sitting on the TV outside cannot tell the fielders to then tell the umpire to review it again. I've never seen that happen in cricket.

"I don't know where the rules are, where the line is drawn. I think the referee and the umpires have to take that up, see that incident again. And figure out what needs to be done in cricket."

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: 287 for 8 (Iyer 70, Pant 71, Jadhav 40, Sharma 36; Cottrell 2-46, Paul 2-40)

WEST INDIES: 291 for 2 (Hetmyer 139, Hope 102 not out; Chahar 1-48)

Result: West Indies won by eight wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Shimron Hetmyer

YONEX-SUNRISE BADMINTON

Malaysia get 3 titles

SPORTS REPORTER



India's Lakshya Sen and Vietnam's Thuy Linh Nguyen became champions in men's and women's singles of Yonex-Sunrise Bangladesh International

Challenge Badminton tournament at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday.

Tournament's top-ranked Sen handed a 22-20, 21-18 points defeat to Malaysia's Leong Jun Hao in men's singles final while Nguyen beat Crystal Pan of USA by 21-8, 21-16 points in women's singles final.

However, three others crowns went to Malaysia as they won men's and women's doubles and mixed doubles. Yee Jan Chang

and Kai Wun Tee pair beat Indian pair of MR Arjun and Dhurv Kapila in men's doubles by 21-19, 21-16 points while Tan Pearly Koonle and Thinaah Muralitharan beat India's K Maneesha and Rituparna Panda 22-20, 21-19 in women's doubles final.

In mixed doubles, Malaysia's Hoo Pang Ron and Cheah Yee See beat compatriots Choong Hon Jian and Lim Peiy Yee by 21-8, 21-19 points.

Meanwhile, Yonex-Sunrise Bangladesh Junior International Badminton tournament will get underway on Tuesday at the same venue, with 52 shuttlers including 20 girls from five countries -- Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Nepal and Thailand -- taking part.



Winners of different categories pose for a photograph with organisers at the end of the Yonex-Sunrise Bangladesh International Challenge Badminton tournament at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Packaging there, cricket not quite

MAZHAR UDDIN



The first Dhaka leg of the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League (BBPL) ended on Saturday after four days of double-headers at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur and the show moves to Chattogram from tomorrow. The cricket in the Dhaka phase was distinctly underwhelming and of a standard lower than that seen in previous editions, but there was a positive in that the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) did manage to raise broadcasting standards.

None of the eight matches so far have been edge-of-the-seat thrillers, which is the biggest selling point of the T20 format. Most matches, except the ones on Friday, were played in front of sparse crowds in Mirpur and that perhaps has a lot to do with the lack of star power in this edition, which the BCB chose to hold on their own steam without the involvement of the franchises seen in previous editions due to a dispute with the latter. While previous editions boasted players like Steve Smith, David Warner, AB de

Villiers and Evin Lewis, the biggest foreign names in this edition so far are Andre Russell and Mohammad Amir. Added to that have been low scores on good batting pitches and the common epidemic of dropped catches.

There has been a silver lining -- in the absence of foreign star power local players have stepped up. Chattogram Challengers' Imrul Kayes has ended the first leg as the joint highest scorer along with teammate Chadwick Walton. There have been fine batting performances from youngster Mohammad Naim for Rangpur Rangers, while Mosaddek Hossain and Mohammad Mithun have enhanced their reputations for Sylhet Thunder. And there has been a welcome return to form for Dhaka Platoon's star opener Tamim Iqbal after a prolonged lean patch for Bangladesh, while Dhaka's Anamul Haque has also shown some promising form.

Taking a bit of the gloss off that silver lining has been the generally poor quality of bowling and fielding, with dropped catches continuing to be a feature of Bangladesh's flagship T20 league. In that light, apart from the aforementioned performers, it is even



The Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League has seen a marked improvement in broadcast quality, with many new features included in the ongoing edition. However, the cricket on the field has not so far matched the quality of the pictures being beamed across the world.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

more alarming that there have been low-scoring matches on a good batting strip in Mirpur.

It is all the more unfortunate because the pictures being beamed across the

world have definitely increased in standard since previous editions. There had been much dissatisfaction about poor broadcasting in previous seasons -- whether in picture quality, graphics

and stats errors, a lack of state-of-the-art equipment through which other major T20 leagues attract audiences.

Real Impact, who are running the show, is using 32 cameras for the special edition to mark the 100th anniversary of father of the nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. There are around 80 people working in the team from Australia, UK, Canada, Sri Lanka, India and also from Bangladesh.

In the last edition, surprisingly, there were no hotspot, snickometer -- creating a lot of confusion regarding decision referrals -- and ultra-edge was introduced well into the tournament after much hue and cry. But thankfully, Real Impact this time is equipped with all the support systems for DRS and things have been smoother.

"Last time there were some shortcomings but this time we are well prepared. It has been appreciated by anyone who is watching the match," Real Impact managing director Rajiv Sabharwal told The Daily Star.

A lot of effort seems to have gone into producing a cricket spectacle, but it now remains to be seen whether the cricket can match the package.

'Open to AB comeback'

STAR SPORT DESK

With South African cricket in a transition phase and the T20 World Cup in Australia next October, newly appointed coach Mark Boucher said he was to talking to retired great AB de Villiers to persuade him to make a comeback.

"When you go to a World Cup, you want your best players playing for you," Boucher was quoted by ESPNcricinfo. "If I feel he is one of your best players, why wouldn't I want to have a conversation with him? I've only just got into the job, I might have conversations with quite a few players and see where they are."

De Villiers retired from international cricket in March 2018 but has been playing T20 franchise cricket, including for Tshwane Spartans, a side coached by Boucher in South Africa's Mzansi Premier League.

Pakistan opener Abid Ali became the only batsman to score hundreds on both Test and ODI debuts as the country's first home Test since the 2009 attack on the visiting Sri Lanka team ended in a tame draw against the same opponents Sunday. The 32-year-old raised his hands in jubilation before kneeling on the ground to offer a prayer of gratitude. "I don't have words to thank the Almighty," said Abid of his feat.



PHOTO: AFP

Kiwis succumb to Starc fire

AFP, Perth



Australian captain Tim Paine praised his undermanned attack after the home side recorded one of their biggest wins over New Zealand on the fourth day of the first Test at Perth Stadium on Sunday.

Having trailed by 250 runs on the first innings, the Kiwis were set a mammoth 468 to win -- which would have been a record chase in Test cricket -- on a deteriorating pitch after Australia declared at 217 for nine in their second innings.

The visitors were never in contention after losing their first wicket with just six runs on the board and were unable to push the match into a fifth day after Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins cleaned up the Kiwi tail under lights in Perth's first-ever day-night Test.

New Zealand were dismissed for 171 and were beaten by 296 runs, the last five wickets falling in a hurry for just 17 runs. It was just one run shy of their biggest losing margin to Australia -- in runs -- in a match where both teams batted twice.

Australia's biggest win, other than innings victories, was by 297 runs in Auckland in 1974. Starc (4-45), who claimed nine wickets for the match, and Cummins (2-31) used the pink ball to good effect to bring the match to a quick conclusion after none of the recognised Kiwi batsmen offered significant resistance.

In match that Paine said had a Bodyline feel at times as the Kiwis used short balls regularly, he applauded a massive effort by the bowlers given the loss of opening bowler Josh Hazlewood early in the match.

"It was a particularly solid performance given we were a bowler down for two innings," he said.

"That was an awesome effort. I am

really happy with the way we played."

Kiwi captain Kane Williamson dismissed suggestions a lack of pink ball preparation had played a part in the loss and played down suggestions the scene had been set for a bumper barrage in the series by his team's tactics with the ball.

"On this pitch when the bounce became a little bit variable it proved to be effective, but it's not for everywhere," he said of the short-pitched bowling. "It is also something that Neil Wagner has been very successful doing for us for a long time."

"I don't know if it says any more than what we had in this match."

Williamson said pace bowler Trent Boult was likely to return for the second Test in Melbourne, starting on December 26.

Earlier, Australia's second innings fell away dramatically after being 131 for one at one stage on the third day.

The home team lost seven wickets for 58 runs, as they struggled against a sustained barrage of short-pitched bowling on another hot Perth day.

Tim Southee again impressed with 5-69, after also picking up four wickets in the first innings.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: First innings 416 and second innings 217 for 9 (Burns 53, Labuschagne 50; Southee 5-69, Wagner 3-59)

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 166 all out and second innings 171 all out (Watling 40, de Grandhomme 33, Taylor 22; Starc 4-45, Lyon 4-63)

Result: Australia won by 296 runs

Player-of-the-match: Mitchell Starc



Mitchell Starc (L) was the main man in a strong Australian bowling display, finishing with a match-haul of nine scalps, as the hosts thumped New Zealand by 296 runs in the first Test in Perth yesterday. He now has 39 wickets in seven Tests this year.

PHOTO: AFP

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