

## SHAMAR'S BLAST from the past

SPORTS REPORTER

It took Shamar Joseph 71 deliveries and seven wickets to move Brian Lara to tears.

Yesterday afternoon in Brisbane, on the fourth day of the second Test between Australia and the West Indies, Shamar turned back the clock a few decades, to the days when Caribbean pacers used to rule Test cricket and evoke fear in the hearts of batters.

The right-arm pacer bowled an 11.5-over-long spell where he was quick, unrelenting, not bothered about getting hit for boundaries and undeterred in his pursuit of wickets.

He beat the Aussie batters with his sheer pace, made the ball zip from a good length, snuck it below the bat at times with pitch-perfect yorkers and did all that with an injured toe.

Shamar, who was playing his second ever Test, claimed seven out of the eight wickets to fall as Australia fell nine short of a 216-run target and the West Indies tasted their first Test win on Australian soil in 27 years.

Lara, who had hit a tremendous 132 in West Indies' previous away Test win in Australia in Perth way back in 1997, was in the commentary box when Shamar uprooted Josh Hazlewood's stumps to complete the victory and couldn't hold back the tears.

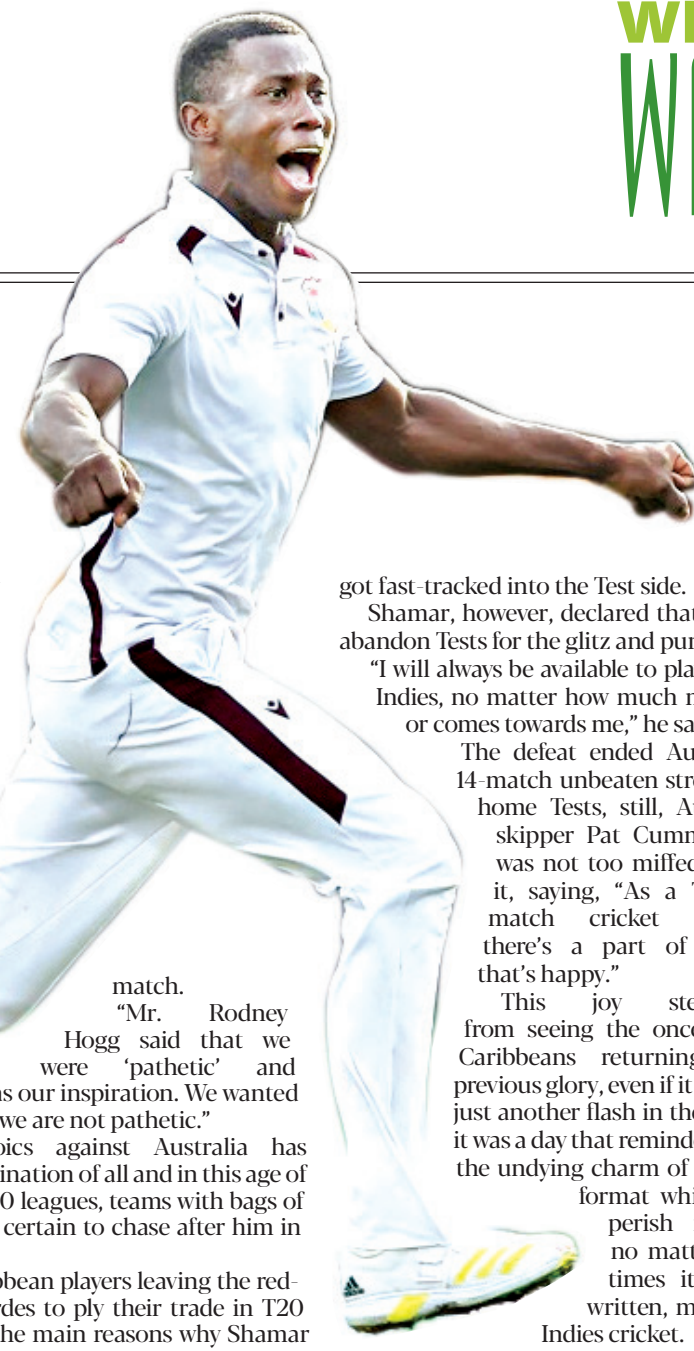
"It's unbelievable! 27 years to beat Australia in Australia! Young, inexperienced, written off this West Indies team can stand tall today, West Indies cricket can stand tall today!" an overjoyed Lara said while commentating for Fox Sports.

This incredible victory, one that's sure to be remembered for many years, was not supposed to happen. Shamar, who was born three years after West Indies last won a Test in Australia, was hurt on the right foot by a searing delivery from Mitchell Starc while batting on the third day and had to take a pain injection to bowl yesterday.

In a broader sense, Shamar, a logger turned security guard turned cricketer from Guyana, had no business Test cricket for after playing his maiden first-class match in February last year.

He was one of seven uncapped players in the West Indies squad selected for the two-Test series in Australia, a side that was compared to 'lambs for slaughter' by Caribbean cricketer Jeffrey Dujon and called 'pathetic' and 'hopeless' by former Australian pacer Rodney Hogg.

These sly comments lit a fire in the West Indies team, which was apparent from captain kraigg Brathwaite's comments after the



got fast-tracked into the Test side.

Shamar, however, declared that he will never abandon Tests for the glitz and purse of T20s.

"I will always be available to play for the West Indies, no matter how much money it takes or comes towards me," he said.

The defeat ended Australia's 14-match unbeaten streak in home Tests, still, Aussie skipper Pat Cummins was not too miffed by it, saying, "As a Test match cricket fan, there's a part of me that's happy."

This joy stemmed from seeing the once mighty Caribbeans returning to their previous glory, even if it ends up being just another flash in the pan. Overall, it was a day that reminded everyone of the undying charm of Test cricket, a format which refuses to perish into oblivion no matter how many times its obituary is written, much like West Indies cricket.

## 'Shamar in the mould of Marshall'

Shamar Joseph bowled West Indies to their first Test win against Australia in Australia in 27 years in Brisbane yesterday.

West Indies fast bowling legend

Curtly Ambrose, who is currently in Bangladesh working as a commentator in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), spoke with The Daily Star's Mazhar Uddin about the

incredible victory, saying that he saw shades of Caribbean great Malcolm Marshall in Shamar.

"Shamar Joseph has raw pace and bowls at a pace of 140 plus consistently. He is a skiddy customer, more in the mould of Malcolm Marshall"

\*\*Read the full interview on The Daily Star website.



## 'Greatest victory' for Stokes caps off memorable day of Test cricket

AGENCIES

Debutant spinner Tom Hartley took seven wickets as England pulled off a dramatic 28-run upset win over India in a memorable day of Test cricket yesterday.

Earlier on the day, a continent away, West Indies clinched a gripping eight-run win over reigning World Test champions Australia at Gabba to end a 26-year wait for a win in Australia.

While Test cricket witnessed one of its greatest upsets in Brisbane, England's triumph in Hyderabad was momentous for visitors.

"Since I've taken the captaincy on... it's 100 percent our greatest victory," England skipper Ben Stokes said.

Chasing 231 for victory, India were bowled out for 202 in the final over of an extended third session of play on the fourth day in Hyderabad, as Hartley got Mohammed Siraj stumped with his left-



twice in one over to send back Yashviji Jaiswal (15) and Shubman Gill (0) in the space of three deliveries.

Rohit looked good in his knock of 39, but got rapped on the pads by Hartley's darting ball into the right-hander and walked back after his failed review on the lbw.

The left-handed Axar Patel (17) was promoted up the order and began attacking the bowling but was dismissed after the tea break and India soon slipped to 119-7.

Premier spinner Jack Leach took the field with an injured knee, after he batted it on day one and two, and bowled 10 overs for the wicket of Shreyas Iyer, for 13.

Bharat and Ravichandran Ashwin attempted to pull things back in their partnership of 57 but Hartley got them out to end India's hopes.

Rohit's team posted 436 in their first innings in response to 246 by England and had the tourists in trouble at 163-5 on day three, when Pope played an innings for the ages and struck his fifth Test ton.

Pope, who blunted the spinners with sweeps and reverse sweeps, resumed the day on 148.

He was dropped twice on 110 and 184 but his key partnerships with overnight partner Rehan Ahmed (28) and Hartley (34) after a 112-run stand with Ben Foakes (34) on Saturday proved decisive.

He finally went for an audacious reverse scoop in his attempt to get his double ton when England were nine down, but Jasprit Bumrah's ball rattled the stumps and lunch was called.

arm spin to trigger celebrations from the England camp.

Pope stood out with his 196 to bring England bouncing back from being 190 behind at the start of their second innings to lead the five-match series 1-0.

Hartley, who got his five-wicket haul after he bowled wicketkeeper-batsman K.S. Bharat, kept coming back to return figures of 7-62 and a match tally of nine wickets.

"It's unbelievable," Hartley said after the match, adding that the win was "not going to sink in" for some time.

"I'm over the moon", he added.

India came into the high profile encounter as favourites on home soil, with an unbeaten Test series record since 2012 when Alastair Cook's England beat them 2-1.

Indian skipper Rohit Sharma said it was "hard to pinpoint where it went wrong", and congratulated England for "exceptional" batting.

"You've got to take your hat off, and say 'well played' to Pope," he said.

India started well in their chase, before Hartley struck

**To come here to India, toughest place as a batter, and put in a winning performance, it's head and shoulders above the rest.**

England batter and player-of-the-match  
**OLLIE POPE**

**You've got to take your hat off, and say 'well played' to Pope.**

Indian skipper  
**ROHIT SHARMA**



### SINNER THE WINNER

Jannik Sinner became the first Italian man to win a Grand Slam since Adriano Panatta in 1976 and the youngest man to win the Australian Open since Novak Djokovic in 2008.

Growing up in the German-speaking north of Italy, Sinner was a champion skier as a youngster and also a keen footballer.

In November 2023, Sinner helped Italy win the Davis Cup title after 47 years.

Medvedev had come into the contest as the first man since Pete Sampras almost three decades ago to reach the final after multiple comebacks from two sets down.

**Everyone who is watching from home, especially my family. I wish that everyone could have my parents because they always let me choose whatever I wanted to and even when I was younger, they never put pressure on myself. I wish this freedom is possible for as many young kids as possible, so thanks so much to my parents.**

JANNIK SINNER

**Hopefully this is not your last Grand Slam and hopefully I can get the next one if we play again in the final because this is three in a row now. I'll hopefully try to do better next time but congrats because you deserve it. It hurts to lose in the final but being in the final is better than losing before. I'm proud of myself and I'm going to try even harder next time.**

DANIIL MEDVEDEV

### SHORT CORNER

#### How Xavi's 'dream' turned sour

Perhaps stung by criticism of his team's dutiful but drab performances, Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez on Saturday dramatically announced he would walk away from the club at the end of the season after the current LaLiga champions suffered a 5-3 loss to traveling Villareal, increasing their gap with second-placed Real Madrid to ten points after 21 rounds.

#### Young Tigresses beat Sri Lanka in nail-biter

Rabeya Khan quick-fired a fifty off 40 balls to help Bangladesh women's under-19 team set up a thrilling one-run win against their Sri Lanka counterparts in the U-19 Tri-Nation T20 series fixture in Sylhet yesterday as the young Tigresses sealed a spot in the finals with a game in hand.

#### ICC lift ban on SL

The decision came yesterday after Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) promised to manage its affairs without political interference. The ICC ban had prevented Sri Lanka from taking part in international events and it lost an opportunity to host the Under-19 World Cup.

#### Knockout phase arrives early for U-19s

Having advanced into the Super Sixes phase of the ICC Under-19 World Cup in South Africa following a loss against defending champions India and a victory over Ireland, Bangladesh must prepare to win their next two matches – against Nepal and a formidable Pakistan – to make it to the semifinals of the competition they bagged in 2020.

\*\*Read The Daily Star website for the full stories.

## 'Skill development key between now and WC to be competitive'



Mohsin Sheikh Pervaiz was appointed as Bangladesh's analyst for the New Zealand tour where the Tigers won their first ODI and T20I matches on New Zealand soil. Even though his contract has not been made a permanent one, the Pakistani coach-turned-analyst feels his experience of coaching and analysing data is helping Bangladesh team in implementing their strategies against different oppositions. In an interview with The Daily Star's Abdullah Al Mehdi, Mohsin talked about the nuances of cricket's data analysis and his plans for the upcoming T20 World Cup in the West Indies and the USA.

\*\*Read The Daily Star website for the full interview.