

Hosts trounce Windies by 82 runs

Babar leads Pakistan to West Indies T20 series win

KARACHI, April 2, (AFP): Opener Babar Azam missed a maiden hundred by three runs as Pakistan trounced the West Indies by 82 runs in the second Twenty20 international in Karachi on Monday, taking an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Babar cracked 13 fours and a six in his 58-ball innings, reaching 97 not out to guide Pakistan to their highest-ever T20 total of 205-3 in 20 overs after Saifraz Ahmed won the toss and decided to bat first at the National Stadium.

Paceman Mohammad Amir took 3-22 as the West Indies were dismissed for 123 in 19.2 overs, faring much better than their 60 all out in the first match which they lost by 143 runs — the second-biggest margin of defeat in T20 internationals.

The third match is on Tuesday, also in Karachi. The West Indies

Pakistan lost opener Fakhar Zaman for six but Babar and Talat batted solidly as the West Indies bowlers struggled again.

Asif Ali fell for 14 but Pakistan plundered 61 runs in the last five overs, with Shoaib Malik smashing two boundaries and a six in his seven-ball 17 not out.

Babar failed to reach his century, ending the innings three short of becoming only the second Pakistani batsman after Ahmed Shehzad to score a T20 hundred.

Shehzad achieved the feat against Bangladesh in Dhaka in 2014.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN
Fakhar Zaman c Ramdin b Emrit 6
Babar Azam not out 97
Hussain Talat c Mohammed b Smith 63
Asif Ali c Walton b Williams 14
Shoaib Malik not out 17
Extras: (lb2, w6) 8
Total: (for three wickets; 20 overs) 205

Did not bat: Saifraz Ahmed, Faheem Ashraf, Shadab Khan, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Amir, Hasan Ali

Fall of wickets: 1-11 (Zaman), 2-130 (Talat), 3-167 (Asif)
Bowling: Paul 4-0-34-0 (w1), Emrit 4-0-47-1 (w5), Badree 3-0-26-0, Williams 4-0-43-1, Smith 4-0-40-1, Powell 1-0-13-0

WEST INDIES
C. Walton b Shadab 40
A. Fletcher b Nawaz 1
M. Samuels c Asif b Shadab 12
J. Mohammed b Amir 15
D. Ramdin c Hasan b Talat 21
R. Powell c Azam b Amir 3
K. Paul c Ashraf b Amir 17
R. Emrit run out 1
K. Williams b Hasan 1
O. Smith c Nawaz b Talat 6
S. Badree not out 2
Extras: (lb3, w1) 4
Total: (all out; 19.2 overs) 123
Fall of wickets: 1-11 (Fletcher), 2-50 (Walton), 3-57 (Samuels), 4-92 (Ramdin), 5-94 (Mohammed), 6-107 (Powell), 7-113 (Paul), 8-114 (Emrit), 9-115 (Williams), 10-123 (Smith)

Bowling: Nawaz 4-0-19-1, Amir 4-0-22-3, Hasan 4-0-33-1, Shadab 4-0-23-2, Ashraf 2-0-11-0, Talat 1.2-0-12-2 (w1)

Result: Pakistan won by 82 runs
Toss: Pakistan
Umpires: Ahmed Shahab (PAK), Shozab Raza (PAK)
TV Umpire: Ahsan Raza (PAK)
ICC match referee: David Boon (AUS)



Walton

CRICKET

showed more resistance on Monday as Chadwick Walton hit two sixes and four boundaries during his 29-ball 40 and added 39 for the second wicket with the experienced Marlon Samuels who made 12.

But Shadab (2-23) dismissed both in the space of seven runs to check the West Indian chase before Talat mopped up the tail with 2-12.

Earlier, Babar set Pakistan on course for a fourth successive 180-plus total — the first team to achieve the feat in T20s.

The opener put on 119 for the second wicket with Hussain Talat, who notched a 41-ball 63 with eight boundaries and a six.



Pakistani batsmen Hussain Talat (left), and Babar Azam run between the wickets during the second Twenty20 (T20) International cricket match between Pakistan and West Indies at the National Cricket Stadium in Karachi on April 2. (AFP)

'Not for the faint-hearted'

Storied Safari Rally seeks a 'revival' in East Africa

NAIROBI, April 2, (AFP): In its heyday, half a century ago, East Africa's Safari Rally was renowned as being among the toughest in the world, a formidable challenge for car and driver, across escarpment and savannah.

Winners have included Colin McRae, Carlos Sainz, Juha Kankkunen and Ari Vatanen, and the difference between victory and defeat sometimes depended on which car avoided herds of cattle wandering on the road.

The rally's fall from grace was slow but steady and, after the 2002 edition, it was dropped from the World Rally Championship (WRC) altogether. It limped on in African competition for a few years but in 2015 and 2016 was reduced to a local Kenyan race.

But now hopes are rising of a revival and a return to its past glory, with the motor sport governing body, the FIA, signalling the rally's possible return to

the late 1970s when it became a Kenyan-only affair, a victim of regional political rivalries, and in 2003 it was crossed off the world circuit due to concerns over safety, organisation and finances.

The loss of the rally was an embarrassment to Kenya and it has been sorely missed by spectators, who enjoyed the roar of the engines through their neighbourhoods and villages, and would often get their hands dirty helping to shove cars out of mud.

"If ever this country had an annual event that made the world stop and look in this direction, it was the Safari Rally," said veteran Kenyan sports journalist Roy Gachuhi. "We failed to build on a great heritage and we are the poorer for it." The clamour for the rally's return to the championship has grown louder lately.

Hopes have been bolstered by the stated desire of FIA president Jean Todt — himself an eight-time Safari Rally participant — to see an African event back in the WRC. "You deserve to have your rally back in the calendar," he said during a visit to Kenya last month.

But he made it clear that safety is the top priority. "The new standards of rallying must be respected. What was possible back when events ran on open roads is not possible these days," he said.

Glen Edmunds, a former Kenyan national rally champion and Safari Rally winner, said both Kenya and the WRC would benefit from the race's return.

"The WRC needs our (African) colour... only then will you really have a true World Rally Championship," he said.

Like many who have participated in, or watched, the Safari Rally, Edmunds waxed nostalgic: "When we were children our mothers or grandparents used to take us to watch these fantastic cars going past our towns and villages, with all the heroes driving through the dust, the rain and the mud. That's the Safari!"



McRae

CRICKET

Morkel came on to bowl as second change and with his tenth ball trapped Matt Renshaw leg before wicket with a full-length delivery angled in to the left-hander.

Left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj also won a leg before decision, when Usman Khawaja played no shot to a ball which spun sharply out of the rough, before Morkel struck again when Joe Burns played across a ball of almost yorker length.

Burns, one of three replacements for the Australian trio banned for their role in a ball-tampering scandal, made 42 off 84 balls with five fours and a six.

South Africa's other fast bowlers, Kagiso Rabada and Vernon Philander, were struggling with a stiff lower back and a groin strain respectively. They both bowled short spells with the new ball without success.

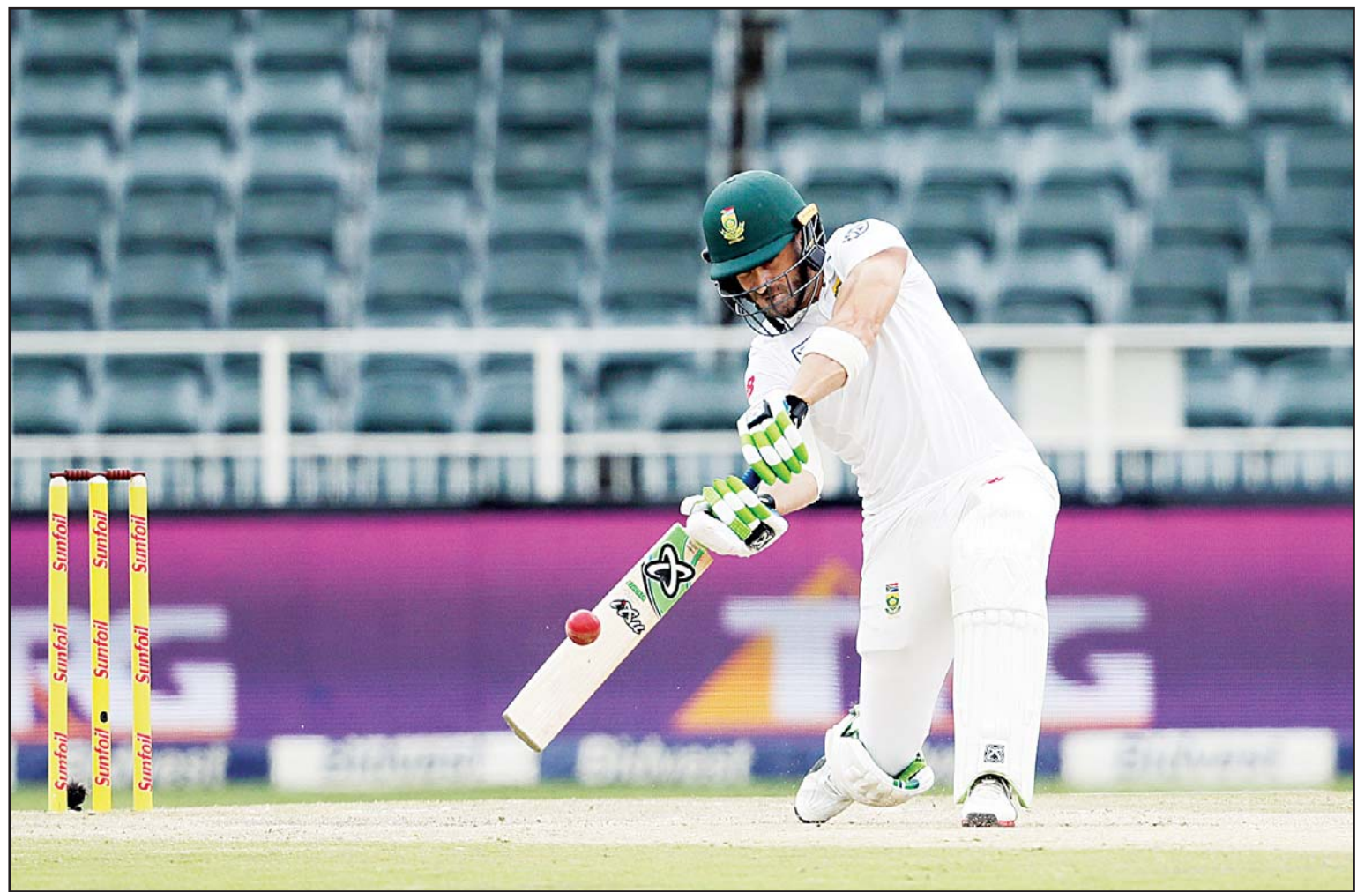
"If we've got them running in at 60 percent it's going to be awesome for us for tomorrow," said Elgar.

Captain Faf du Plessis hit 120 and Elgar made 81 before South Africa declared at 344 for six. They shared a fourth-wicket partnership of 170, the best for any wicket by either side during the series.

Elgar admitted to some sympathy for the Australians after a week marred by the ball-tampering scandal which resulted in former captain Steve Smith, David Warner and Cameron Bancroft being sent home and banned.

"It's a combination of us playing good cricket and maybe a bit of a weary Australian side," said Elgar. "They've been through quite a lot in the last two weeks. They should be a bit tired."

With South Africa leading the series 2-1, their batting effort made sure they would secure their first home series



South Africa's captain Faf du Plessis plays a shot on day four of the fourth cricket Test match between South Africa and Australia at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg, South Africa on April 2. (AP)

Morkel stars in final Test as South Africa close on victory

Australia 88 for three chasing a massive 612 for win

South Africa vs Australia Scoreboard

JOHANNESBURG, April 2, (AFP): Scores at the close of play on the fourth day of the fourth Test between South Africa and Australia at the Wanderers Stadium on Monday:
SOUTH AFRICA, first innings, 488
AUSTRALIA, first innings, 221
SOUTH AFRICA, second innings (overnight 134-3)
A. Markram c Handscomb b Cummins 37
D. Elgar c S. Marsh b Lyon 81
H. Amla c M. Marsh b Lyon 16
A. de Villiers c Paine b Cummins 6
F. du Plessis c Handscomb b Cummins 120
T. Bavuma not out 35
Q. de Kock lbw b Cummins 4
V. Philander not out 33
Extras (b4, lb8) 12
Total (6 wks dec, 105 overs) 344
Fall of wickets: 1-54 (Markram), 2-79 (Amla), 3-94 (De Villiers), 4-264 (Du Plessis), 5-266 (Elgar), 6-273 (De Kock)
Bowling: Hazlewood 21-6-41-0, Sayers 14-2-68-0, Lyon 41-13-116-2, Cummins 18-5-58-4, M. Marsh 8-0-40-0, Renshaw

3-0-9-0
AUSTRALIA, second innings
M. Renshaw lbw b Morkel 5
J. Burns lbw b Morkel 42
U. Khawaja lbw b Maharaj 7
P. Handscomb not out 23
S. Marsh not out 7
Extras (lb1, nb3) 4
Total (3 wks, 30 overs) 88
Fall of wickets: 1-21 (Renshaw), 2-34 (Khawaja), 3-68 (Burns)
Bowling: Rabada 5-2-9-0 (1nb), Philander 5-2-9-0 (1nb), Maharaj 10-1-45-1 (1nb), Morkel 8-4-18-2, Markram 2-0-6-0
Match situation: Australia need 524 runs to win with seven wickets remaining
Toss: South Africa
Umpires: Ian Gould, Nigel Llong (both ENG)
TV umpire: Richard Illingworth (ENG)
Match referee: Andy Pycroft (ZIM)

Alaphilippe wins first stage of Basque tour

ZARAUTZ, Spain, April 2, (AFP): Frenchman Julian Alaphilippe claimed Monday's opening stage of the Tour of the Basque Country after edging out Slovenia's Primoz Roglic in a sprint finish.

A crash in last year's race in Spain forced Alaphilippe to undergo knee surgery that ruled him out of the Tour de France, but the Quick-Step Floors rider banished those lingering memories on the 162km route around Zarautz.

Alaphilippe was the only cyclist able to stick with Roglic during the steep climbs on the day's final challenge, with sections of the slope rising above a 20% gradient.

Following a hair-raising descent, he edged Roglic to the line as the pair came home 23 seconds clear of a group featuring overall contenders Nairo Quintana,

Rigoberto Uran, Mikel Landa and Roman Bardet.

With bonuses factored in, Alaphilippe holds a four-second lead over former ski jumper Roglic, with Pello Bilbao of Spain half a minute behind in third going into Tuesday's 153km run from Zarautz to Bermeo.

"I'm really happy. After a good week of training, I wanted to test my condition here," said Alaphilippe, who is already looking ahead to this month's Ardennes Classics.

"To win here is good for my motivation before the classics in Belgium."

For Vincenzo Nibali, 24th in Sunday's Tour of Flanders, the transition from cobbled roads to steep climbs proved a tough one as the Italian dropped back on the final ascent to finish a minute back of Alaphilippe.

Ex-QB Marinovich jailed

Free agent Smith reaches agreement with Chargers

LOS ANGELES, April 2, (RTRS): Free agent Geno Smith, a former New York Giant and New York Jet, agreed to a contract with the Chargers, ESPN's Adam Schefter reported Sunday.

Smith visited with the Chargers on Wednesday and Thursday, according

Smith has 6,174 passing yards, 29 touchdowns, 36 interceptions and a 72.9 passer rating. His record as a starter is 12-19.

Former NFL quarterback **Todd Marinovich** was arrested twice last month and remains jailed in Santa Ana, Calif., the (Palm Springs, Calif) Desert Sun reported Sunday.

Marinovich, 48, was arrested March 19, posted bond, then was arrested again March 23, according to the newspaper, citing jail records. No other details of the arrests were available, but Marinovich's scheduled release date is May 3, the Desert Sun reported.

He was on probation following a 2016 arrest in Irvine, Calif., when he was apprehended naked in a stranger's yard while holding a paper bag that had drugs, syringes and his wallet.

The former University of Southern California star spent much of the past year and a half in the Palm Springs area seeking treatment for drug addiction and briefly playing for a developmental football team, the **SoCal Coyotes**.

In the Coyotes' season opener last September, Marinovich threw seven touchdown passes, but he didn't get into another contest, reportedly due to a shoulder injury.

FOOTBALL

to multiple reports, before heading north to visit the Seattle Seahawks.

The 27-year-old figures to back up 36-year-old veteran Philip Rivers with the Chargers.

Rivers' most recent backup, 34-year-old Kellen Clemens, is an unsigned free agent. Clemens, 34, spent 2017 on a one-year, \$1 million deal with the Chargers. Los Angeles also has 2016 fourth-round pick Cardale Jones, who was acquired from the Buffalo Bills for a conditional draft pick last July.

Smith was selected by the Jets in the second round of the 2013 draft and he spent his first four seasons with the team. He joined the Giants on a one-year contract last spring and made one start in 2017, completing 21 of 36 passes for 212 yards and a touchdown in a Week 13 loss to the Oakland Raiders.

In 35 career games (31 starts),



Australia's bowler Pat Cummins (front), in his bowling spell as empire Nigel Llong of England, watches on during day four of the fourth cricket Test match between South Africa and Australia at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg, South Africa on April 2. (AP)