

## Windies lead three-match series 1-0

## Hetmyer's ton leads West Indies beat India by 8 wickets

CHENNAI, India, Dec 15, (AP): Shimron Hetmyer smashed 139 runs off 106 balls as West Indies beat India by eight wickets in the first one-day international on Sunday with 13 balls to spare.

Hetmyer hit seven sixes and 11 fours, and put on a 218-run partnership with Shai Hope, who was 102 not out. It was a record ODI stand by West Indies for any wicket against India.

West Indies reached 291-2 in 47.5 overs after Shreyas Iyer and Rishabh Pant scored half-centuries to help India score 287-8.

Hetmyer showed patience at the start of his innings that paid dividends later with a fifth ODI hundred. Hope scored his eighth ODI century.

India's bowlers had no response on a pitch that eased off with their fielding letting them down with dropped catches.

West Indies leads the three-match series 1-0.

Earlier, Pant scored his first ODI half-century, finishing on 71 off 69 balls, after India lost the toss. Pant put on 114 runs with Shreyas Iyer for the fourth wicket.

Iyer scored 70 off 88 in his fifth ODI half-



West Indies' Shai Hope raises his bat to celebrate scoring a century during the first one day international cricket match between India and West Indies in Chennai, India, on Dec 15. (AP)

century and revived India's innings after they were initially reduced to 25-2, losing Lokesh Rahul (6) and Virat Kohli (4) in the space of

five deliveries. Sheldon Cottrell (2-46) removed both batsmen.

Iyer added 55 runs with Rohit Sharma (36) to steady the ship. Sharma was out in the 19th over, caught pulling off Alzarri Joseph (2-45).

India had it all to do again but Iyer and Pant calmly took the innings forward. They put on 50 runs off 66 balls. Later, Pant assumed control of the innings as he hit seven fours and a six.

The hosts were able to accelerate in the middle overs and crossed 200 in the 29th over.

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Pant and Iyer scored a combined 100 off 99 balls.

Both batsmen fell in the seventies, well short of their respective first ODI tons.

Kedar Jadhav then scored 40 off 35 to push India's score past 250.

West Indies conceded 24 extras but managed to hold India below 300. The visitors exceeded the stipulated time to bowl 50 overs by nearly 40 minutes.

## Australia thrash New Zealand by 296 runs to take 1-0 series lead

Black Caps stumble to 171 all out

PERTH, Australia, Dec 15, (AP): Australia hammered New Zealand by 296 runs inside four days in the series-opening cricket Test at the Perth Stadium to maintain a perfect record under lights on Sunday.

New Zealand stumbled to 171 all out after being set 467 runs for an unlikely victory on a pitch that was deteriorating rapidly as the temperature soared to 40 Celsius (107 F) for the fourth consecutive day.



New Zealand's BJ Watling, (right), watches the ball as Australian wicketkeeper Tim Paine looks on during play in their cricket Test in Perth, Australia, on Dec 15. (AP)

## Humphries wins another bobsled race for US

LAKE PLACID, NEW YORK, Dec 15 (AP): Kaillie Humphries' first two races for the US could not have turned out better.

Humphries improved to 2-for-2 on the young season, winning another women's bobsled World Cup race at Mount Van Hoevenberg on Saturday.

The former top Canadian driver who joined the US pro-

gram earlier this year teamed with Lauren Gibbs to finish two runs in 1 minute, 54.03 seconds.

It was Humphries' first time winning back-to-back golds since January 2016, and the first time any women's driver has opened a season with two straight wins since Elana Meyers Taylor of the US prevailed in the first three events of the 2014-15 season.

Left arm fast bowler Mitchell Starc (4-45) and Nathan Lyon (4-63) wrecked the New Zealand batting before fast bowler Pat Cummins (2-31) cleaned up the tail.

It was Australia's seventh win in as many day-night matches on home soil, and also its third straight test win following the 2-0 drubbing of Pakistan in the opening series of the summer.

Australia lead the three-Test series 1-0 going into the second Test in Melbourne on Boxing Day.

New Zealand crashed to 98-5 at tea, then recovered to 154-5, and lost the last five wickets for 17 runs as Australia hurried to victory with the lights taking effect and the pink ball darting around.

Starc, who took 5-52 in New Zealand's first innings of 167 all out, finished with a match-haul of 9-97. That haul earned the quick bowler man of the match honors.

Starc is the most successful bowler in day-night tests with 36 wickets in seven games.

Skipper Tim Paine praised his side for dismissing the No.2 ranked New Zealand cheaply twice.

Fast bowler Josh Hazlewood bowled just eight deliveries at the

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start of the New Zealand 1st innings before leaving the field with a hamstring strain. He has been ruled out of the second test and it's unlikely he will play again in this series.

Paine said No. 5-ranked Australia is a long way from being ruthless – a hallmark of the side when it dominated world cricket.

New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson conceded his side was outplayed. Australia won the toss and put up a match-controlling 416.

The home side then refused to enforce the follow on after skittling out New Zealand for 167 and batted again to score 217-9 declared.

Marnus Labuschagne, Australia's newest batting find, top scored with 143 in the first innings – his third consecutive hundred – and notched up 50 in the second innings.

## Kuwaiti female weightlifters pocket 22 medals in Arab tourney in Jordan

AMMAN, Dec 15, (KUNA): Kuwait's newly-formed women weightlifting team have raised its tally of medals to 22 in the second day of the Arab Weightlifting Championship currently being held in Jordan.

On Saturday, the Kuwaiti nascent weightlifters won 16 diverse medals: three gold, three silver and 10 bronze.

Fatimah Mobher won three gold medals in the 87kg competitions and her compatriot Bashayer Al-Mayyas grabbed three silver medals in 55kg category.

The trio Tofool Al-Hasan (49kg), Abrar Al-Fahad (81kg), and Somaya Jassem (87 kg) clinched three bronze medals each. Sondos Al-Fiyali secured one bronze medal in 71kg category.

On Friday, Bashayer Al-Mayyas and Tofool Al-Hasan both won Kuwait's first-ever medals in women's weightlifting amid a newly-formed national team at an Arab event in Jordan on Friday.

The duo won a total six medals, including three silver in the 55kg weight categories going to Al-Mayyas, and three bronze medals across various 49kg events for Al-Hasan.

The federation has hailed the milestones as an "honor" for the country, describing the results as "crucial" on the road to Tokyo 2020 Olympics qualification. Some 35 competitors, representing 18 countries, are participating in the regional event, which concludes on Tuesday.



Kuwait's newly-formed women weightlifting team show off their medals at the Arab Weightlifting Championship in Jordan.

## Azam makes unbeaten 102 off 128 balls

## Pak's Abid makes history with ton in drawn Test vs Sri Lanka

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Dec 15, (AP): Pakistan opening batsman Abid Ali made history on his debut by scoring a century in the rain-affected drawn first Test against Sri Lanka on Sunday.

Abid scored an unbeaten 109 off 201 balls to become the first batsman in international cricket to score a hundred in both his ODI and Test match debuts.

Pakistan's premier player Babar Azam also continued his rich batting form and made an unbeaten 102 off

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128 balls as Pakistan scored 252-2 before the match ended.

Sri Lanka had earlier declared their first innings at 308-6 in bright sunshine after bad weather badly affected the first four days of Pakistan's first Test at home in more than 10 years.

The second Test will be played at Karachi from Dec 19-23.

Abid missed out on Pakistan's World Cup squad despite scoring a hundred in his ODI debut against Australia in the United Arab Emirates in March this year.

Abid enthralled 12,000 cricket-starved home team fans at the Pindi Cricket Stadium with some exquisite shots on both sides of the wicket.

He reached his hundred after tea by smashing seamer Vishwa Fernando to the midwicket boundary for his 11th four and then ran two runs with a

cover drive to complete his dream Test debut after batting for 4-1/2 hours.

Babar soon followed Abid to the three-figure mark when he drove off-spinner Dilruwan Perera for his 14th boundary as the batsmen shared a 162-run stand.

Abid was unfortunate last month when he went to Australia but didn't get a chance as Pakistan lost both Test matches by an innings margin.

Abid added 87 runs for the second-wicket stand with captain Azhar Ali, who scored 36 before chipping a straightforward catch off seamer Lahiru Kumara to mid-wicket.

But Abid and Azam received loud appreciation from a big crowd before the match was called off.

Pakistan ran into early trouble when Shan Masood got out for zero as he threw away his wicket by giving a tame catch to seamer Rajitha Fernando's full toss.

Earlier, with sun shining brightly for the first time in five days, Sri Lanka declared its first innings soon after Dhananjaya de Silva hit his sixth Test hundred.

Wet weather has badly disrupted the Test match, allowing only 91.5 overs during the first three days before the entire fourth day's play was washed out due to rain on Saturday.



Abid

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