

Rain forces players off the field in final ODI

Gayle drops enough hints that this could be his last game

INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PORT OF SPAIN

West Indies was 158 for two in 22 overs after electing to bat against India when rain halted play for the second time in the third and final One-Day International here on Wednesday.

Shimron Hetmeyer (18) and Shai Hope (19) were at the crease for the hosts who need to win the match to level the three-match series.

West Indies lost Chris Gayle (72 off 41 balls) and Evin Lewis (43 off 29).

After India had bowled 22 overs, the skies opened up again. There had been an interruption in the second over.

India is leading the series 1-0 after winning the second ODI. The first match was abandoned due to rain.

The weather has affected almost every game since India landed in the Caribbean.

Warm send-off
Meanwhile, Chris Gayle may have played his last interna-

tional game given the theatrics by cricket's showman and the send-off accorded by the Indian players at the end of a typically thunderous innings.

Playing the way he always does, Gayle smashed the Indian bowlers for five sixes and four boundaries. He, however, hit Khaleel Ahmed straight to India skipper Virat Kohli, under whom he played at Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL.

Gayle smiled as the Indian players shook hands with him as he was walking back to the pavilion. The Indian players even did a 'Gayle jig' with him.

Gayle threw his bat in the air, put his helmet on top of it and walked off the field. He then hurled the helmet up in the air and caught it while approaching the boundary ropes.

The West Indian camp gave him a standing ovation.

In his entertaining ODI career, Gayle played 301 matches and accumulated 10,480 runs with 25 hundreds and 54 half-centuries. In 103 Tests, he scored 7214 runs

with 15 centuries.

In Wednesday's ODI, Gayle also experimented with his jersey number, sporting '301' to indicate the number of games he has played in the format.

West Indies 217 for five

■ West Indies was 217 for five in 32 overs in a match restricted to 35 overs. Holder was batting on 13 and Brathwaite on one.

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES
Chris Gayle c Kohli b Khaleel 72 (41b, 8x4, 5x6), Evin Lewis c Dhawan b Chahal 43 (29b, 5x4, 3x6), Shai Hope (batting) 19 (40b, 1x4), Shimron Hetmyer (batting) 18 (23,1x4); Extras (lb-2, w-3, nb-1): 6; Total (for two wkts. in 22 overs): 158.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-115 (Lewis, 10.5 overs), 2-121 (Gayle, 11.4)

INDIA BOWLING
Bhuvneshwar 5-1-48-0, Shami 3-1-31-0, Khaleel 4-0-43-1, Chahal 6-0-21-1, Jadhav 4-0-13-0

Toss: West Indies.
Scoreboard incomplete



Signature celebration: Chris Gayle raises a toast after reaching his half-century. ■GETTY IMAGES

I want to improve both as a cricketer and as a person: Pant

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PORT OF SPAIN

Rishabh Pant is on a learning curve in international cricket and his only endeavour is to improve each day, not only as a player but also as a human being.

The nascent international career of M.S. Dhoni's heir apparent has been an eventful one – a few eye-catching knocks interspersed with indiscreet shot selections that invited a lot of critical comments.

With India having a packed schedule in the next six months, Pant was asked about how he sees things panning out for him.

"Every match is crucial for me and it is not about the next six months. Everyday of my life is crucial and I want to improve both as a cricketer and as a person. That's what I am looking forward to," Pant said.

He scored an attractive half-century in the third and final T20I but some of his dismissals after getting set have left a lot to be desired.

"As an individual, I would like to have a big score but every time I go in, I am not focussing on that. I have been getting out after being



Key player: Rishabh Pant is happy that the team management is supporting each and every player and giving them chances. ■AFP

set, so I want to play normal, positive cricket that can help my team win matches," Pant said.

He is happy that the team management is supporting each and every player and giving them chances.

"We are not experimenting as we are giving chance to everyone, whoever is in the team.

"Everyone is getting a proper chance and treatment. Everyone is confident of their position as the team management is supporting

them," the 21-year-old said.

Time to move on
The World Cup semifinal exit was a disappointment but the young 'keeper insisted it's time to move on.

"We felt bad after losing the World Cup semifinals but as professionals we knew that we hadn't played badly. It was just 45 minutes of bad cricket (against New Zealand). As we play more cricket, we need to learn and keep on improving," he said.

KIWIS IN SL

REUTERS
GALLE

Sri Lanka's Akila Dananjaya spun a web around New Zealand's batsmen, picking up all five wickets to fall, on a rain-shortened opening day of the first Test.

Ross Taylor held firm with an unbeaten 86 against the guile of Dananjaya to take the touring side to 203 for five when rain forced early stumps. Mitchell Santner was the other unbeaten batsman at the crease.

Both sides selected three spinners and the 25-year-old Dananjaya, who in the past has been suspended from bowling in international cricket for an illegal bowling action, made a quick impact.

After Kane Williamson chose to bat, the opening pair added 64 before Dananjaya struck twice in the space of four deliveries to send back Tom Latham (30) and Williamson (0).

Dananjaya then induced an edge from Jeet Raval to dismiss the other opener for 33 at the stroke of the lunch break to reduce New Zealand to 71 for three.

Taylor staged a fight back



Wrecker-in-chief: Akila Dananjaya, second from left, celebrates the exit of Tom Latham, one of his five New Zealand wickets on Wednesday. ■AFP

for the Black Caps with Henry Nicholls and added 100 for the fourth wicket before Dananjaya dismissed the latter.

Nicholls failed to connect a sweep shot and was out leg before for 42 and B-J. Watling soon joined him in the dressing room after being out in similar fashion to hand the off-spinner his fourth five-wicket haul in Tests.

SCOREBOARD SL VS NZ, 1ST DAY, 1ST TEST

New Zealand — 1st innings: J. Raval c de Silva b Dananjaya 33, T. Latham c Dickwella b Dananjaya 30, K. Williamson c Karunaratne b Dananjaya 0, R. Taylor (batting) 86, H. Nicholls lbw b Dananjaya 42, B.J. Watling lbw b Dananjaya 1, M. Santner (batting) 8; Extras (nb-1, lb-2): 3; Total (for five wkts. in 68 overs): 203.

Fall of wickets: 1-64, 2-64, 3-71, 4-171, 5-179.

Sri Lanka bowling: Lakmal 10-5-14-0, Kumara 10-1-37-0, Dananjaya 22-2-57-5, de Silva 6-0-20-0, Embuldeniya 20-1-73-0.

Toss: New Zealand.

Cricket ball goes vegan!

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

W.G. Grace and Don Bradman may be spinning in their graves at the news an English cricket club have switched to using a vegan ball from the traditional leather one.

Earley Cricket Club in Reading, 64 kilometres west of London, had introduced a vegan tea for their players. That was down to their founder and chairman Gary Shacklady, who found most cricket club teas consisted of ham sandwiches, not much use to him when he became a vegan.

Now the club has gone the full hog and introduced a vegan cricket ball – a synthetic animal products-free one covered in rubber instead of leather.

"It does behave like a leather cricket ball, but it bounces more and it's more difficult to grip," Shacklady told the *Daily Mail*. "But we're enthused by it and we're hopeful of finding a better version."

India reigns supreme

Phanase shines in PD World Cricket Series final



Top of the world: The victorious India Physically Disabled squad with its reward. ■BCCI/TWITTER

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Kunal Phanase's 36 (35b, 3x4) and two for 15 helped India Physically Disabled beat host England Physically Disabled by 36 runs in the final of the T20 Physical Disability World Cricket Series, organised by England & Wales Cricket Board, at the Blackfinch New Road ground in Worcester.

The visitors scored 180 for seven in 20 overs after skipper Vikrant Keni won the toss and then restricted En-

gland to 144 for eight to seal the title.

The other Indian batsmen to come good were the hard-hitting Ravindra Sante (53, 34b, 2x4, 4x6), Keni (29, 27b) and Suganesh Mahindran 33 (11b, 4x4).

While bowling, man-of-the-match Phanase got support from Sunny Goyat two for 23.

Earlier, India had earlier topped the six-team round-robin league stage to qualify directly for the final. The Indian team called itself Wade-

kar Warriors, in memory of former India captain Ajit Wadekar, who played an active role in All India Cricket Association for Physically Challenged (AICAPC), who organised the selection and preparation for the event.

The scores:
India 180 for seven in 20 overs (Kunal Phanase 36, Vikrant Keni 29, Ravindra Sante 53, Suganesh Mahendran 33, L. O'Brien two for 35) bt England 144 for eight in 20 overs (A. Brown 44, C Flynn 28, Phanase two for 15, Sunny Goyat two for 23).

I have to reprogramme my thinking'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PORT OF SPAIN

Struggling with his form, West Indies all-rounder Carlos Brathwaite said he is working on his fitness and trying to "reprogramme" his thoughts to get his batting back in order.

Brathwaite scored nine, 10 and zero across formats in the ongoing limited-overs series against India.

"I think batting-wise I have to reprogramme my thinking about hitting and swiping and batting properly," he told reporters on the eve of the final ODI against India.

"We are having a lot of honest conversations with the coaches and the staff and I think one thing that's kept me back is my fitness. I have been working very, very hard in the past 12 to 14 months on my fitness – I believe I can get a bit stronger as well."

Brathwaite's last memorable innings came in the World Cup when he blasted an 82-ball 101 to take West Indies to the brink of victory against New Zealand.

But his attempt to hit a match-winning six in the penultimate over cost him dearly as his team lost by five runs.

Kandola's left foot floors Yoddha



Falling short: Monu Goyat & Co's efforts were not enough against Steelers. ■VIJAY SONEJI

PKL

G. VISWANATH
AHMEDABAD

Vikash Kandola deployed his left foot three times in the last three minutes to steer Haryana Steelers to a thrilling 36-33 win against UP Yoddha in the ProKabaddi League at the Arena by TransStadia here on Wednesday.

The action-packed tussle turned into a scrap between Kandola and Yoddha raider Shrikant Jadhav. As the match progressed, with the scores level at 27, the Steelers' chief raider upped his game to add eight points in the second half to the four he scored in the first. And Kandola's left foot kicks got him three of those points.

Jadhav, too, came into his

own, single-handedly winning points by tagging opponents with felicity, but it was his ejection from the court that resulted in his team getting all out in the 40th minute, giving three crucial points to Steelers.

Steelers led 16-12 at half-time, but Monu Goyat and company pounced on opportunities in the early part of the second half to put the UP side up 21-18 and increased it to 27-24, before falling victim to Kandola's spectacular raids on the home stretch.

Kandola's splendid effort reduced the UP side to three men on the court, as against its full seven, when the teams took positions after a time-out. It was a complete mismatch that eventually contributed to Steelers' hard-earned win – its fourth

BCCI asks Subramaniam to stay back

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The BCCI on Wednesday went back on its decision to call back the administrative manager, Sunil Subramaniam, after he tendered "an unconditional apology" for misbehaving with senior officials from the country's High Commissions in the West Indies.

In what could have been a first in Indian cricket, the BCCI had contemplated calling back the manager midway through the tour, but the Committee of Administrators (CoA) chief Vinod Rai let him off with a severe reprimand following his apology.

"Sunil Subramaniam didn't know that it was a request from the government of India. I had initially thought of recalling him, but in the evening, after he tendered an unconditional apology, I decided to keep him for the remainder of the tour," said Rai.

"He will complete the tour as his apology has been accepted," added the CoA chief.

Rain washes out day one

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LORD'S

Jofra Archer received his England Test cap but was still to deliver a ball after the opening day of the second Ashes Test against Australia was abandoned without a ball bowled at a soaking wet Lord's.

Chris Jordan, his Sussex teammate, presented Archer with the cap in England's pre-match huddle.

With rain still lashing an increasingly gloomy 'home of cricket', umpires Aleem Dar and Chris Gaffaney finally abandoned play for the day after tea.

Jordan may only have made eight Test appearances, but has been something of a 'cricket brother' for fellow Barbados-born county colleague Archer.

Ashes holder Australia lead the five-match series 1-0 after its 251-run win at Edgbaston last week.

In 17 of the last 19 Ashes, the team that has led 1-0 has won the series. The exceptions were in 1997 when Australia lost at Edgbaston, but won the six-match series 3-2 and 2005 when England lost at Lord's but won the five-Test series 2-1.