

# Hope levels series for Windies

Shai Hope stars as West Indies level series against Bangladesh

● West Indies won by 4 wickets (with 2 balls remaining)

AFP | Dhaka

Shai Hope smashed a brilliant century as West Indies edged Bangladesh by four wickets in the second one-day international to level the three-match series 1-1 in Dhaka yesterday.

Opener Hope hit an unbeaten 146 off 144 balls, guiding West Indies to 256-6 in 49.4 overs after the visitors relied on three wickets from paceman Oshane Thomas to restrict Bangladesh to 255-7 in 50 overs.

Hope shared 71-run in an unbroken seventh wicket stand



West Indies cricketer Shai Hope (R) plays a shot as Bangladesh cricketer Mushfiqur Rahim (L) looks on

Bangladesh innings	
Tamim Iqbal c Roach b Bishoo	50
Liton Das c Hetmyer b Paul	8
Imrul Kayes c Hope b Thomas	0
Mushfiqur Rahim c Hope b Thomas	62
Shakib Al Hasan b Roach	65
Mahmudullah Riyad c Hetmyer	
c Powell	30
Soumya Sarkar c Bishoo b Thomas	6
Mashrafe Mortaza not out	6
Mehidy Hasan not out	10
Extras (b1, lb3, w9, nb5)	18
<b>Total (seven wickets; 50 overs)</b>	<b>255</b>
West Indies innings	
C. Hemraj lbw b Mehidy	3
S. Hope not out	146
D. Bravo b Rubel	27
M. Samuels c Mushfiqur b Mustafizur	26
S. Hetmyer c sub b Rubel	14
R. Powell c Soumya b Mashrafe	1
R. Chase c Tamim b Mustafizur	9
Keemo Paul not out	18
Extras (lb 5, w6, nb1)	12
<b>Total (six wickets; 49.4 overs)</b>	<b>256</b>
<b>Result: West Indies won by four wickets</b>	

# 146

runs were scored by Shai Hope

with Keemo Paul to help West Indies get their first victory on the tour and stay alive in the series after they suffered a five-wicket loss in the opening match on Sunday.

Paul, who remained unbeaten on 18, pushed spinner Mahmudullah towards midwicket to complete the victory.

The fate of the game was

hanging in the balance until Hope struck three fours off pace bowler Mustafizur Rahman in the penultimate over.

Hope, who has now three centuries in ODIs, hit 12 fours and three sixes in his innings.

"I just kept backing myself and knew that as long as I bat till the end, we will win. I asked Keemo to bat deep. It wasn't an easy

wicket in the beginning," man of the match Hope said.

Rubel Hossain and Mustafizur claimed two wickets each for Bangladesh giving away 57 and 63 runs respectively.

Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim and Tamim Iqbal earlier each scored a half-century to steer Bangladesh to a decent total at the Sher-e-Bangla National

Stadium.

Shakib top-scored with 65 off 62 deliveries while Mushfiqur and Tamim made 62 and 50 respectively after West Indies invited the hosts to bat first.

Mushfiqur and Tamim laid the foundation of the innings with a 111-run second wicket stand after Oshane Thomas worked up lively pace early in the innings.

Thomas, who returned with bowling figures of 3-54, forced opener Liton Das to leave the field with a toe injury before handing Imrul Kayes a duck for West Indies' first breakthrough.

Leg-spinner Devendra Bishoo dismissed Tamim, who faced 63 balls, to break his partnership with Mushfiqur, who soon became second victim of Thomas.

## La Liga remains hopeful of overseas games despite Barca setback



Barcelona players during the warm up before a match

Reuters | Barcelona

La Liga has pledged to persevere with a long-term strategy of taking games outside of Spain after immediate plans to play Barcelona's January match against Girona in Miami were derailed by the champions' decision to back out of the fixture.

Following a board meeting on Monday, Barcelona withdrew from the game "after seeing the lack of consensus surrounding the proposal", ending a protracted saga since La Liga applied to move the game from Catalonia to Florida in September.

The league's organising body accepted that the game, set to take place on Jan. 26, could not be played abroad but pledged to continue its legal battle with

the Spanish football federation (RFEF), the most vocal opponent of the plan.

"We regret to disappoint our fans in the U.S. and will work to, in the shortest possible time, stage an official La Liga game in the U.S., just like the major American leagues stage games outside their borders," a La Liga statement said.

"La Liga will continue the planned action, so an official league game can be played outside of Spain. La Liga is convinced that the RFEF is not acting in accordance with the law."

The league also said Barca's withdrawal did not affect its 15-year agreement with entertainment firm Relevent to promote Spanish football in North



**Barca's withdrawal came a day after Copa Libertadores final between River Plate and Boca Juniors was moved from Buenos Aires to Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu stadium**

America.

Last month, La Liga filed a lawsuit in a Spanish court against the federation, which

turned down its application to have the game moved and whose president Luis Rubiales has loudly protested the league's plans.

La Liga president Javier Tebas told reporters yesterday that he understood Barca's decision, while adding the league would not relent on its future plans.

Girona, meanwhile, said it accepted Barca's withdrawal but continued to support the idea of playing games overseas.

Barca's withdrawal came a day after the second leg of the Copa Libertadores final between River Plate and Boca Juniors was moved from Buenos Aires to Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu stadium after fan violence in Argentina saw the initial game postponed.

## Van Dijk backs Liverpool to compete on multiple fronts

AFP | Liverpool

Virgil van Dijk insists Liverpool have a strong enough squad to maintain a challenge for both the Premier League and the Champions League.

Jürgen Klopp's side went top of the English top flight with a 4-0 victory at Bournemouth on Saturday.

Netherlands defender Van Dijk has acknowledged Liverpool will have no one to blame but themselves if they fail to qualify from Champions League Group C, having lost all three of their away games.

Former Manchester United star Gary Neville, now a television pundit, suggested in September that Klopp did not have a squad capable of being competitive both domestically and in Europe, adding Liverpool should consider prioritising the Premier League.

Klopp disagreed with that at the time, and Van Dijk is adamant he and his team-mates will be able to cope with the demands of the knockout stages from February, should they get through.

"We are definitely capable of competing in both competitions. And hopefully that's still going to be the case tomorrow," Van Dijk told reporters on Monday.

Asked what he thought about people

suggesting elimination from the Champions League would benefit Liverpool in the Premier League, the centre-back responded: "I don't think they're Liverpool fans."

"We want to compete at the highest level. We are top of the league now, but obviously that could change next week. You never know."

"But the main thing for us is that we want to stay at the highest level and we're going to do everything that's possible to go through."



Virgil Van Dijk