GRENADA: England's Joe Root struck his sixth test century, and his first on foreign soil, to put the tourists in control on 373 for six on the third day of the second test against West Indies in Grenada on Thursday. The 24-year-old Yorkshireman was unbeaten on 118 at the close of play while Jos Buttler ended on four not out on a good wicket for batting.

Earlier, England captain Alastair Cook produced a welcome return to form with 76 while Gary Ballance hit 77 and Jonathan Trott chipped in with 59.

Trott was dismissed when he edged a full ball from leg-spinner Devendra Bishoo to Jermaine Blackwood at second slip. It was England's first century opening stand since March 2013.

Root and Ballance then combined for 165 for the fourth wicket before the latter played a floated delivery from off-spinner Marlon Samuels on to his stumps.

Moeen Ali narrowly escaped a run-out attempt but did not last much long as he was caught by a throw from Blackwood.

Ben Stokes then fell for eight as he spooned a catch to Blackwood at deep mid-wicket to give Bishoo his second wicket of the innings.

There has been no love lost between Stokes and Samuels throughout the series and the West Indian stood to attention and gave an army salute to the England all-rounder as he walked off the field. The first Test of the three-match series was drawn. — AFP

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada: Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the second Test between the West Indies and England at the National Cricket Stadium in Grenada on Thursday.

West Indies 1st Innings: 299 all out (Marlon Samuels 103)

England 1st Innings (overnight 74 for 0)

To bat: Stuart Broad, Chris Jordan, James Anderson.


BANGALadesh RECORD FIRST T20 WIN OVER PAKISTAN

DHAKA: Bangladesh cricket captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (right) receives the tournament trophy from Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during the presentation ceremony after the T20 match between Bangladesh and Pakistan at the Sher-e-Banga National Cricket Stadium. — AFP

Bangladesh: Soumya Sarkar (65) and Mushfiqur Rahim (46) were the main contributors in Bangladesh's 142-run win over Pakistan in the final of the three-match T20 series.

Pakistan: Mohammad Hafeez (26) and Mohammad Shahzad (21) were the top scorers for Pakistan, who were bowled out for 137.

Pakistan hope Zimbabwe is first step out of wilderness

KARACHI: Deserted grounds, deprived fans and falling standards-Pakistan has suffered badly from its ban from international cricket, but Zimbabwe's planned tour next month could restore hope. On March 3, 2009, a bus carrying the Sri Lankan Test team was attacked by suicide bombers in the city's Peshawar suburb, leaving eight people dead and seven visitors injured.

That tragic incident, at the height of the growing tourist Muslim armies' bloody fight against the state, forced the suspension of all international cricket in Pakistan.

No team was willing to risk their safety to visit Pakistan, an unwanted odyssey for the 1992 world champions, who have played most of their “home” matches since 2009 in the United Arab Emirates. The security situation in Pakistan has improved markedly since the military launched a major anti-insurgent offensive in the northwest last June.

And Monday's announcement that Zimbabwe have agreed to come for a short next month has brought hope that big-time cricket could be about to return.

It also is a welcome ray of light for Pakistani fans after the side crumbled to an embarrassing 142-run defeat in eight matches against Bangladesh in the shortest format of the game.

“Look at the generation which took up the game in the 1990s,” said Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Shaharyar Khan was understandably upbeat as his efforts behind the scenes look to be bearing fruit. As well as Zimbabwe, an Australian army team are due in Pakistan next week to play their local counterparts, and Khan hailed the developments as “opening another door” towards full rehabilitation. “We believe that shortly Pakistan would be hosting age-group teams, ‘A’ teams and women's teams, and also, once confidence in our security arrangements improves, in due course senior teams as well,” he told AFP. Khan, in his second tenure as PCB chief, drew on his experience as a former foreign secretary and built slowly, unlike his predecessors who tried to tempt bigger teams to Pakistan too quickly. “The idea was to go for what was doable,” he said. But Zimbabwe have not arrived yet-their security team is due to visit soon to assess the situation and even small steps to revive home matches have been stymied at the last minute in recent years.

In 2012, Bangladesh twice backed out after the PCB chairman announced their team is due to visit soon to assess the situation and even small steps to revive home matches have been stymied at the last minute in recent years. In 2012, Bangladesh twice backed out after the PCB chairman announced their team is due to visit soon to assess the situation and even small steps to revive home matches have been stymied at the last minute in recent years.

The duo ensured the hosts maintained their winning streak with their first win in the shortest format of the game in eight matches against Pakistan. — Reuters

Pakistan hope Zimbabwe is first step out of wilderness