



INDIA'S MOHAMMED SHAMI, left, watches captain Virat Kohli celebrate scoring a century during the fifth day of their first test cricket match against Sri Lanka in Kolkata, India, yesterday.

(AP Photo/Bikas Das)

First test drawn as bad light stops India, saves Sri Lanka

KOLKATA, India (AP) — India's last-day charge for victory against Sri Lanka in the first test was thwarted by bad light yesterday at Eden Gardens.

India made certain of not losing by declaring its second innings nearly 50 overs into the day, just before tea.

Declaring at 352-8, India gave Sri Lanka a victory target of 231.

The visitors were expected to comfortably

bat out the last session and a bit.

But fast bowlers Bhuvneshwar Kumar (4-8) and Mohammed Shami (2-34) ripped apart the top order.

In the seven overs before tea, Sri Lanka lost two wickets. There were 19.3 more overs after tea, during which Sri Lanka collapsed and lost five more wickets, and was down to bowlers at the batting crease; Dasun Shanaka in his third test, and Rangana Herath. They

were saved by bad light, with more than 20 overs remaining. Sri Lanka, 22-4 at one stage, finished on 75-7.

Only three Sri Lanka batsmen made it into double figures, with Niroshan Dickwella top-scoring on 27. That India was playing for the win at the end was a huge turnaround after being bowled out for 172 in the first innings and seeing Sri Lanka take a 122-run first-innings lead.

Earlier on Monday, captain Virat Kohli posted his 18th test century to lead India's fightback.

His unbeaten 104 from 119 ball included 12 boundaries and a pair of sixes.

India resumed on day five at 171-1 aiming to score quickly to set up a result, but Suranga Lakmal (3-93) slowed the progress with three wickets in his morning spell.

Lokesh Rahul (79) added only six runs to his

overnight score before he was bowled by Lakmal in the fifth over.

At the other end, Cheteshwar Pujara (22) became the third India player after ML Jaisimha and Ravi Shastri to bat on all five days of a test.

But he added only 11 runs with Kohli for the third wicket before Lakmal struck twice quickly.

Lakmal had Pujara caught at gully as he failed to fend off a short ball, and

four balls later trapped Ajinkya Rahane lbw for a duck, a close decision that stayed in the bowler's favour despite a DRS review. Kohli added 20 runs with Ravichandran Ashwin (7), and 12 with Wriddhiman Saha (5). He reached his half-century off 80 balls.

Kumar contributed 8 in a 40-run stand with Kohli before he was dismissed.

Then, with ball in hand, Kumar almost won it for India.

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