

## Sports

# King Kohli bows out with India undefeated in New Zealand

## Rayudu suspended from bowling for suspect action

### SCOREBOARD

Completed scoreboard in the third one-day international between New Zealand and India at Mount Maunganui yesterday.

New Zealand	
M. Guptill c Karthik b Kumar	13
C. Munro c Sharma b Shami	7
K. Williamson c Pandya b Chahal	28
R. Taylor c Karthik b Shami	93
T. Latham c Rayudu b Chahal	51
H. Nicholls c Karthik b Pandya	6
M. Santner c Karthik b Pandya	3
D. Bracewell run out (Kohli)	15
I. Sodhi c Kohli b Shami	12
T. Boult c Shami b Kumar	2
L. Ferguson not out	2
Extras: (lb 4, wd 7)	11
Total: (all out: 49 overs)	243
Fall of wickets: 1-10 (Munro), 2-26 (Guptill), 3-59 (Williamson), 4-178 (Latham), 5-191 (Nicholls), 6-198 (Santner), 7-222 (Taylor), 8-239 (Sodhi), 9-239 (Bracewell), 10-243 (Boult)	
Bowling: Kumar 10-1-46-2 (1w), Shami 9-0-41-3 (1w), Chahal 9-0-51-2, Pandya 10-0-45-2 (4w), Yadav 8-0-39-0, Jadhav 3-0-17-0 (1w).	

India	
R. Sharma std Latham b Santner	62
S. Dhawan c Taylor b Boult	28
V. Kohli c Nicholls b Boult	60
A. Rayudu not out	40
D. Karthik not out	38
Extras: (b 1, wd 16)	17
Total: (for 3 wickets: 43 overs)	245
Fall of wickets: 1-39 (Dhawan), 2-152 (Sharma), 3-168 (Kohli)	
Bowling: Boult 10-1-40-2, Bracewell 6-0-49-0 (2w), Ferguson 10-1-57-0 (4w), Santner 10-0-45-1, Sodhi 7-0-53-0 (1w)	
Results: India won by 7 wickets	
Series: India lead 3-0	

WELLINGTON: Virat Kohli bowled out of the New Zealand tour with India in an unbeatable position after a dominant seven-wicket win in the third one-day international in Mount Maunganui yesterday.

It put India 3-0 up and world player of the year Kohli said with the series wrapped up early it was time for him to step aside for the remaining two matches and the following Twenty20 series. "I couldn't have asked for a better performance after the first two clinical performances and just the relentlessness of the side is something that really pleases me," he said after India easily chased down New Zealand's 243 with seven overs to spare.

"I haven't had a break for a long time. It's been a very hectic Australian tour and now I go on a break very happy, 3-0 up, sealing the series and I can relax and enjoy my break." Kohli's 60 off 74 deliveries and a 113-run partnership with Rohit Sharma formed the backbone of India's run chase. It gave the tourists back-to-back series wins against Australia and New Zealand and ensured they will be a force to be reckoned with in the World Cup later this year. Sharma top-scored with 62 while Ambati Rayudu was unbeaten on 40 and Dinesh Karthik on 38.

### 'TEACHING US A LESSON'

While Rayudu was steering India home, the International Cricket Council announced he had been suspended from international bowling. The part-time spinner was cited for a suspect action after the first ODI against Australia two weeks ago.

He has not bowled since on tour as India's recognised bowlers proved too much for Australia and New Zealand. "They are teaching us a lesson and we're required to rise to the challenge," New Zealand captain Kane Williamson said. "The quality they brought with the ball, in particular their consistency in what they've tried to do, they haven't given you much and they've forced some mistakes."

New Zealand, batting first, posted their highest score and longest innings in the three matches so far but they still fell short of 50 overs, their last wicket falling with six balls remaining.

Ross Taylor (93) and Tom Latham (51) gave the innings credibility but proved no challenge for the visitors. Sharma's first wicket partnership of 39 ended when Shikhar Dhawan edged Trent Boult to the lone slip Taylor



MOUNT MAUNGANUI: India's Ambati Rayudu bats during the third one-day international cricket match between New Zealand and India at Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui yesterday. — AFP

to be gone for 28.

Kohli then joined Sharma and the pair swatted the attack around the ground in their century stand for the second wicket. New Zealand, taking a leaf from the India playbook, brought two spinners into the match after the tourists' spin twins Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal took the bulk of the wickets in the first two matches.

Ish Sodhi proved expensive but Mitchell Santner was tight and finished with one for 45 after he cleverly deceived Sharma in the air and the India opener was stumped. Kohli, who averages a century every 5.6 innings, was due a big knock in New Zealand after posting 45 and 43 earlier in the series, but his attempt to drive Boult to the cover boundary was well caught by a leaping Henry Nicholls.

Boult proved the most economical of the New Zealand bowlers with two for 40.

### DISASTROUS START

Mohammed Shami had earlier taken three for 41 while Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Hardik Pandya and Yuzvendra Chahal took two wickets apiece as India shared around the bowling honours in the New Zealand innings.

Only Taylor, and for a time Latham, offered any real resistance after another disastrous start by the top order. Both openers were gone and New Zealand were two for 26 when Taylor went to the middle and Latham arrived at three for 59 with the dismissal of Kane Williamson (28). King

Taylor and Latham mounted a rescue mission with a 119-run stand for the fourth wicket. But after Latham was dismissed for 51 it ignited a collapse in which the last six wickets fell for only 52 runs.

Hamilton hosts the fourth game in the series on Thursday. — AFP

## Sun innocent of blood sample tampering: CSA

BERLIN: China's world and Olympic swimming champion Sun Yang has not broken anti-doping rules, the Chinese swimming association said yesterday, rejecting allegations in a British newspaper that he tampered with a blood sample.

The Sunday Times reported an alleged dispute between doping testers and the swimmer last year which, according to the newspaper, had resulted in damage to a sample.

China's association (CSA) said an investigation by world swimming body FINA had found the swimmer committed no anti-doping rule violation.

The CSA said Sun had rejected an out-of-competition doping test at his home in China on Sept. 4 last year over what the ath-

lete said was a lack of proof of identification by the testers.

"After FINA called up an investigation of the issue, CSA ordered Sun Yang to fully cooperate with FINA and truly report every detail of the affair," the CSA said in a statement to state-run news agency Xinhua.

"According to the final decision of the FINA Doping Panel, FINA confirms the athlete did not commit an anti-doping rule violation."

FINA could not be immediately reached for comment. Sun, a triple Olympic gold medallist and world record holder, was banned in 2014 for three months after testing positive for the banned stimulant trimetazidine during the Chinese national championships.

His lawyer Zhang Qihui has threatened legal action, saying the newspaper reported with "a malign intention" which "severely damaged Sun Yang's reputation and violated his privacy." "We reserve the right to file a lawsuit against the relevant international media which reported the incident," Zhang said in a statement to Xinhua. — Reuters



Sun Yang

## N Zealand recall Neesham, Astle to face India

MOUNT MAUNGANUI: New Zealand have brought in all-rounder Jimmy Neesham and leg-spinner Todd Astle for the remaining two one-day internationals against India, after losing a third successive game in Mount Maunganui yesterday.

However, they have decided to persevere with openers Martin Guptill and Colin Munro, who have both struggled for runs. India took an unbeatable 3-0 lead in the series when they beat New Zealand by seven wickets with seven overs to spare in the third match. Guptill and Munro put on 10 for the first wicket following partnerships of 23 and five in the two matches before that. Neesham returns to the side to replace all-rounder Doug Bracewell, while Astle comes in for Ish Sodhi as the leg-spinner.

Astle, who has recovered from a knee injury which forced him out of New Zealand's series against Pakistan in November, is also a capable lower order batsman in a side struggling for runs. Neesham starred with bat and ball against Sri Lanka earlier this month but was sidelined from the start of the India series by a hamstring strain. "It's great to welcome back the all-round skills of Jimmy and Todd and we're looking forward to seeing what they can bring to the series," selector Gavin Larsen said, as New Zealand works towards finalising its World Cup squad.

"We're still looking to keep our options open with selections at this stage and ensure we continue to learn as much as we can about our players." New Zealand squad: Kane Williamson (capt), Todd Astle, Trent Boult, Colin De Grandhomme, Lockie Ferguson, Martin Guptill, Matt Henry, Tom Latham, Colin Munro, Jimmy Neesham, Henry Nicholls, Mitchell Santner, Tim Southee, Ross Taylor. — AFP



Wu Lei

## 'China's Maradona' signs for Espanyol

SHANGHAI: Prolific forward Wu Lei, dubbed "the Chinese Maradona", has signed for struggling Espanyol in La Liga, the Spanish club and Shanghai SIPG said yesterday. The 27-year-old was top scorer in the Chinese Super League (CSL) last season, hitting 27 goals to play a major part in SIPG's maiden title success.

"The new blue and white player will wear the number 24 on his shirt," Chinese-owned Espanyol, who are in the bottom third of La Liga, said in a statement. There was no immediate word on the size of the transfer fee.

"SIPG still follows one basic principle: as long as it (the transfer) is beneficial to the player's career and the development of Chinese football, the club will fully support it," SIPG said in a statement. The move for the international Wu, China's best player, has been mooted for

several days.

Wu, who can play centrally or out wide, was previously linked with Chinese-owned Wolverhampton Wanderers in the Premier League. But it is Barcelona-based Espanyol who have taken the chance on a player who has spent his entire career in China at SIPG.

He outshone the likes of SIPG teammate Hulk and the Nigerian striker Odion Ighalo in the CSL last season to finish top scorer and was also named player of the year.

However, the comparisons to Argentine legend Diego Maradona—originally made by the coach who unearthed Wu—are way wide of the mark. And it remains to be seen if he can make the considerable step up to Spanish football, particularly at a team who are struggling.

Espanyol lost 4-2 at home on the weekend to Real Madrid to leave them languishing in 15th place. Wu exited with China from the Asian Cup quarter-finals last week following a 3-0 defeat to Iran. He suffered a shoulder injury during the campaign in the United Arab Emirates, though it is not expected to keep him out of action long term. — AFP

## FA Cup success for Nigerian Isaac

PARIS: Nigerian Isaac Success was the happiest African footballer in England at the weekend as he scored the goal that ensured Watford a place in the FA Cup last 16.

The 23-year-old, who has been capped by his country at age-limit and senior levels, netted in the 90th minute to seal a 2-0 win at fellow Premier League outfit Newcastle United. On the continent, there were braces for Moroccan Youssef en-Nesyri in La Liga and France-born Ivorian international Nicolas Pepe in Ligue 1.

### England

#### ISAAC SUCCESS (Watford)

The Nigerian forward lived up to his name in appropriate fashion when he sealed the Hornets' 2-0 victory away to Newcastle with a close-range finish at St James' Park.

#### PIERRE-EMERICK AUBAMEYANG (Arsenal)

He gave the Gunners hope of a comeback when, with his side 2-0 down against Manchester United just after the half-hour mark, he turned in an Aaron Ramsey cross after Alexandre Lacazette and Lucas Torreira failed to apply a finishing touch. Unfortunately for the Gabon star, Anthony Martial's late goal saw United to a 3-1 win.

### Spain

#### YOUSSEF EN-NESYRI (Leganes)

En-Nesyri led a Leganes comeback as he scored twice in a 2-2 draw at home to Eibar. Leganes trailed 2-0 but the Moroccan weaved in from the right and drilled into the bottom corner before rising to head in a second and salvage a valuable point in his team's struggle against relegation.

### Italy

#### KHOUMA BABACAR/ALFRED DUNCAN (Sassuolo)

Senegalese forward Babacar converted a penalty for Sassuolo's second goal in a 3-0 win over Cagliari days after Ghanaian forward Kevin-Prince Boateng left for Barcelona. Ghanaian midfielder Duncan set up Alessandro Matri to tap in the third three minutes from time as 11th-place Sassuolo earned their first home win in four months.

#### KALIDOU KOULIBALY (Napoli)

Napoli defender Koulibaly returned from the two-match ban he received a month ago after being targeted by racist chanting by Inter Milan fans at the same San Siro stadium. But Carlo Ancelotti's side had to settle for a point in a goalless draw against AC Milan to fall 11 points behind leaders Juventus.

### Germany

#### ACHRAF HAKIMI (Borussia Dortmund)

The Morocco international was outstanding at left-back in a 5-1 mauling of strugglers Hanover with a goal and assist for league leaders Borussia Dortmund. The 20-year-old, who is on loan from Real Madrid, curled in Dortmund's opening goal midway through the first half, then robbed Hanover defender Miiko Albornoz in the Hanover area and squared for captain Marco Reus to score the second, which opened the floodgates as the hosts hit three goals in seven minutes. — AFP