

25 Kyrgios sets the tone for Wimbledon blockbuster



26 An inspired Rohit Sharma is India's World Cup heartbeat



27 Jesus, Firmino send Brazil into Copa final as Messi fails again



CHESTER-LE-STREET: England's Ben Stokes (L) celebrates after New Zealand's Ross Taylor (R) is run out for 28 during the 2019 Cricket World Cup group stage match between England and New Zealand at the Riverside Ground. — AFP

Bairstow stars as England book semis

The first time England have reached this stage since 1992

CHESTER-LE-STREET: Jonny Bairstow's second successive hundred laid the foundation for England's 119-run thrashing of New Zealand that saw the tournament hosts secure their place in the semi-finals of the World Cup on Wednesday. It is the first time England have reached this stage since 1992, when they made the last of their three losing appearances in the final.

England, yet to win the World Cup, were set for a huge score at 194-1 off 30 overs before managing just 111 in the last 20 against a New Zealand attack missing injured fast bowler Lockie Ferguson. But, with Bairstow making 106, a total of 305-8 proved more than enough at Chester-le-Street. New Zealand could only manage 186 in reply as they suffered a third successive defeat of the tournament following losses to Pakistan and champions Australia — the team that beat them in the 2015 final.

One consolation for the Black Caps is that they should still join Australia, India and England in the last four as it will take a colossal change in net run-rate for Pakistan to overtake them even if Sarfaraz Ahmed's side beat Bangladesh at Lord's on Friday. "I am really pleased," said man-of-the-match Bairstow. "We knew these two games were must-win to give ourselves the best opportunity of reaching the semi-final. "We knew the performances in the last couple of games weren't up to scratch. To play the way we have and hopefully keep it going into the semis is pleasing." England are now guaranteed to finish third in the standings and so will play in the second semi-final at Edgbaston on July 11.

As things stand, they are in line to face India, currently second, but it is still possible for Virat Kohli's men to leapfrog Australia at the top of the standings. If

England do play India it will be a repeat of Sunday's match at the Birmingham ground when, following back-to-back defeats by Sri Lanka and Australia, they inflicted a first reverse upon Kohli's side. The opening semi-final between the first and fourth-placed sides is scheduled for Old Trafford next Tuesday.

New Zealand stumble

New Zealand, who would have reached the semi-finals had they won this match, saw their chase start badly when Henry Nicholls was lbw for a golden duck to Chris Woakes and decided against a review that would have reprieved him. Martin Guptill, the leading run-scorer at the 2015 World Cup, then fell cheaply but worse followed for New Zealand when senior batsmen Kane Williamson and Ross Taylor were dismissed by contrasting run-outs.

Black Caps skipper Williamson, who came into this match with a tournament average of 113.50, fell for 27 in unlucky fashion when fast bowler Mark Wood got his fingertips to a Taylor drive and deflected the ball onto the non-striker's stumps with Williamson out of his ground. Taylor was far more responsible for his own exit when, deciding to go for a risky second run on 28, he failed to beat Adil Rashid's throw from fine leg to Buttler.

After a brief stoppage when a stalker ran onto the field, the Black Caps lost Tom Latham, caught behind for 57, to leave them all but beaten at 164-7. Earlier, Bairstow and Jason Roy (60) got England off to a flyer with an opening partnership of 123 — their third century stand in a row. Bairstow reached his ninth one-day international hundred off 95 balls, including 14 fours and a six. — AFP

Wawrinka falls for tall tale as Djokovic waits

LONDON: Three-time major winner Stan Wawrinka was knocked out of Wimbledon yesterday, falling in five sets to 6ft 11in (2.1m) Reilly Opelka as defending champion Novak Djokovic waited to push his bid for a fifth title. Two-time quarter-finalist Wawrinka, 34, was beaten 7-5, 3-6, 4-6, 6-4, 8-6 by his American opponent, the tallest man in the sport and 13 years his junior.

Opelka fired 23 aces and 59 winners and goes on to face either 2016 runner-up Milos Raonic of Canada or Robin Haase of the Netherlands. Opelka will be appearing in the third round at a Slam for the first time having never won a grass court match in his career prior to coming to

Wimbledon. Wawrinka won warm applause for giving a line judge a warm embrace after accidentally colliding with her as he sprinted to hit a backhand.

"I was a bit too far to return a serve. I think I went against her, so I was sure she had some pain and was not happy, so I gave her a little hug," said the genial Swiss. Also feeling the pain was Russia's Margarita Gasparyan who was forced to retire when just two points from victory against Ukraine eighth seed Elina Svitolina. World number 62 Gasparyan was 7-5, 5-4 ahead when she collapsed to the ground on Court Three, suffering with cramping. Although she bravely tried to continue, the Russian, who has undergone three knee surgeries in her career, was forced to quit.

'Unfortunate for her'

"I was a little bit shocked, it's never nice to get this when someone is injured like that," said Svitolina who goes on to face Greece's Maria Sakkari for a place in the last 16. "It's really unfor-

tunate for her." Czech third seed Karolina Pliskova reached the last 32 with a 6-0, 6-4 win over Puerto Rico's Olympic champion Monica Puig. Pliskova, one of four players who could end Wimbledon as world number one, will face Hsieh Su-wei of Taiwan for a spot in the fourth round. In a match which opened proceedings on Centre Court, 52nd-ranked Puig was clearly over-awed, winning just nine points in a 20-minute first set. Former world number one and double Australian Open winner Victoria Azarenka swept past Australia's Ajla Tomljanovic 6-2, 6-0.

Azarenka, now at 40 in the world, was a semi-finalist at the All England Club in 2011 and 2012. Next up is a last-32 clash with either fellow ex-world number one Simona Halep or Mihaela Buzarnescu. It's the first time that 2018 French Open champion Halep has ever met a fellow Romanian at a Slam. Djokovic's path to a fifth title was eased on Monday when potential title rivals Stefanos Tsitsipas and Alexander Zverev were knocked out of his section of the draw. — AFP



LONDON: US player Reilly Opelka celebrates beating Switzerland's Stan Wawrinka during their men's singles second round match on the third day of the 2019 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Lawn Tennis Club. — AFP