

Quick win gives time for a beer

AFP, Auckland

New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum hailed the perfect finish to his side's thrilling one-wicket World Cup win over Australia in Auckland on Saturday, saying the game had finished so early a capacity crowd would have plenty of time for a drink.

"It was one hell of a game," said McCullum after his side's fourth win. "It didn't go the distance but I'm sure everyone will go home happy. It's good to see both teams getting 300-plus but sometimes 150 games can be pretty exciting and everyone can go and have a beer now."

Charles in for Bravo

AFP, Sydney

West Indies have been allowed to call-up Johnson Charles to replace batsman Darren Bravo who was ruled out of the World Cup with a hamstring injury.

Charles, a 26-year-old top order batsman, has played 30 ODIs in which he has scored 869 runs with two centuries and as many half-centuries.

His last ODI was against New Zealand in Hamilton in January 2014.

Bravo suffered a left hamstring injury in the 150-run win over Pakistan in Christchurch last weekend and missed Friday's 257-run defeat by South Africa at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

The 26-year-old Trinidadian made 49 against Pakistan before he was forced to retire hurt.



The Indian bowling was too hot to handle for the amateurs of UAE during a lop-sided World Cup match at the WACA in Perth yesterday. India won by 9 wickets.

PHOTO: ICC



Bowlers impress Dhoni more

AFP, Perth

India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni admitted Saturday that his bowling attack, so often overshadowed by the team's legion of batting superstars, will be key if they are to successfully defend their World Cup title.

India hardly broke sweat at Perth's WACA ground as they cruised past the part-timers of the United Arab Emirates by nine wickets, easily reaching the 103-run winning target they had been set.

But unlike their two

opening wins at the tournament which yielded totals of 300 and over against Pakistan and South Africa, Saturday gave India's bowlers the chance to make decisive contributions against a UAE side who won the toss and chose to bat.

"The bowlers have really stepped up and this has led to improvements in other parts of the side," said Dhoni.

"When we were losing games outside the sub-continent it was a concern and we couldn't get wickets in the middle overs," he added.

"Now we are getting wickets with the new ball and the spinners are able to put more pressure on in the

middle overs. As a unit they are doing well. They have shown they can do it game after game."

Ravichandran Ashwin took a career best of four for 25 with fellow spinner Ravindra Jadeja claiming two wickets.

In a reminder of the team's batting strength, Saturday saw opener Rohit Sharma make an undefeated fifty.

"I usually bowl at phases of the game when you are trying to buy wickets or cut the runs down but today went well," said Ashwin.

"I am an attacking bowler but when it comes to this format I am unselfish. It doesn't matter about the

numbers as long as I contribute."

UAE skipper Mohammad Tauqir had seen his team lose two close games to Zimbabwe and Ireland but on Saturday they were simply outclassed by the champions with only Shaiman Anwar, who hit a century against the Irish, showing any resistance with a tidy 35 before being last man out.

"It was not a par score, we were outplayed by the Indian bowling," said Tauqir.

"We should have scored 200-plus but Ashwin bowled brilliantly and we couldn't cope. Our top order needs to be more responsible."



A cool and collected Kane Williamson hits the winning runs, a straight six, to give New Zealand a thrilling one-wicket win against Australia at Eden Park in Auckland yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

POINTS TABLE						
Pool A						
	M	W	D	L	Pts	NRR
New Zealand	4	4	0	0	8	+3.589
Sri Lanka	3	2	0	1	4	-0.063
Bangladesh	3	1	1	1	3	+0.287
Australia	3	1	1	1	3	-0.305
Pool B						
India	3	3	0	0	6	+2.630
South Africa	3	2	0	1	4	+1.260
Ireland	2	2	0	0	4	+0.338
West Indies	4	2	0	2	4	-0.313
Zimbabwe	3	1	0	2	2	-0.827
UAE	3	0	0	3	0	-1.326
Pakistan	2	0	0	2	0	-2.260

Note: Top four in each group qualify for quarter-finals.

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INFO ZONE



KEY PLAYERS



TILLAKARATNE DILSHAN
 39.44 BAT AVG
 85.97 STRIKE RATE
 4.83 ECO RATE
 42 50s
 21 100s
 161* HS
 9586/99 RUNS/WICKETS
 161* & 2/35 LAST MATCH



MOEEN ALI
 34.90 BAT AVG
 105.27 STRIKE RATE
 4.81 ECO RATE
 3 50s
 2 100s
 128 HS
 698/19 RUNS/WICKETS
 128 & 2/47 LAST MATCH



HARIS SOHAIL
 31.36 BAT AVG
 77.52 STRIKE RATE
 12 INNS
 2 50s
 0 100s
 85* HS
 345 RUNS
 0 & 2/62 LAST MATCH



CRAIG ERVINE
 23.83 BAT AVG
 81.06 STRIKE RATE
 26 INNS
 6 50s
 0 100s
 85 HS
 809 RUNS
 52 LAST MATCH

WORLD CUPS' 1-WICKET WINS

Winners	Balls left	Target	Opposition	Venue	Date	Winners	Balls left	Target	Opposition	Venue	Date
West Indies	2	267	Pakistan	Birmingham	Jun 11, 1975	England	1	301	West Indies	Bridgetown	Apr 21, 2007
Pakistan	0	217	West Indies	Lahore	Oct 16, 1987	Afghanistan	3	211	Scotland	Dunedin	Feb 26, 2015
South Africa	10	210	Sri Lanka	Providence	Mar 28, 2007	New Zealand	161	152	Australia	Auckland	Feb 28, 2015

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Two VIP guests were at the Eden Park, Australia PM Tony Abbot and his Kiwi counterpart John Key saw the game between their countries. Brett Lee poses with a kangaroo before the game as an Indian fan celebrates his team's win over UAE.



Omad Anwar: There was only one way that match could've finished. 6 or out. What a game. Definite Kiwi: I thought New Zealand were about to New Zealand that, but we managed to hold it together! Starc and Boult best fast bowling I've seen in a match for a long time, edge of the seat stuff.