

AGENCIES, Manchester

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson won the toss and opted to bat first under overcast conditions at Manchester and India's Bhuvneshwar Kumar almost made the full use of those conditions by removing Martin Gupthill off the very first ball.

The ball thudded onto Guptill's front pad and the close-in Indian fielders and the capacity crowd at Old Trafford went up in appeal.

Despite Dhoni looking not-so-confident about taking a review, an overenthusiastic Bhuvaneshwar managed to convince his captain, and with just seconds remaining on the review clock, Virat Kohli decided to go for the review after a fairly long discussion.

At the very first instance, the decision looked quite correct and by no chance did it look like getting

PHOTO: AFP

India right-arm quick Jasprit Bumrah proved why he is ranked top in the ICC ODI bowling rankings by setting the stage alight with precise and accurate bowling in their semifinal against New Zealand at Old Trafford yesterday. After starting with a maiden over, Bumrah removed Kiwi opener Martin Gupthill with the third ball of his second over. The ball on the off stump line nipped away slightly as Gupthill was lured to play it but got an edge which was taken brilliantly at second slip by India skipper Virat Kohli. Bumrah had been difficult to negotiate throughout the game, returning figures of 25 for one in eight overs before rain stopped play in Manchester.

What rain means in the semifinals and final

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Unlike the league matches, where rain washed out 4 games to force the teams to share the points, the ICC has policy of a reserve day for both semifinals and the final.

New Zealand batsman Ross Taylor was left unbeaten for an 85-ball 67 as rain interrupted yesterday's World Cup semifinal against India at Old Trafford in Manchester yesterday.

If a semifinal is tied, then Super Over comes into play to determine a winner. But, if weather prevents the Super Over from being completed, it would be finished on the reserve day.

Every required effort will be made to finish the game on the scheduled

If the overs are reduced due to an unforced interruption, the match would resume on the reserve day from the point where it was left on the scheduled day.



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Although Roy has performed well so far, the Australians aren't convinced about his mental toughness. Led by analyst Dene Hills, the Aussies have been meticulous in their data research and are vigilantly profiling Roy.

"He (Roy) is a really important part of their group. I think he just gives them a bit more confidence when he gets out there to bat but we have been pretty good up front with the new ball," he said.

Roy had a go at mental warfare this week, declaring Australia's loss to South Africa "might have affected their confidence a little bit". But it's Roy's confidence that faces the greatest challenge, as he is hoping to force his way into the Ashes side but a failure here could hurt those chances.

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With his 67-run knock, Williamson has amassed 548 runs to his name in the ongoing World Cup 2019, one more than Martin Guptill's 547 in World Cup 2015.

The New Zealand skipper is currently the fourth-highest run-scorer of the tournament. Williamson scored 67 runs off 95 deliveries with the help of six boundaries. He lost his wicket

Williamson has been the backbone of New Zealand batting lineup in the tournament as their openers have failed to live upto the expectations. He has scored 548 runs in 8 innings at an average of 91.33. He has also slammed two centuries and two half-centuries in the tournament.

With his 39th ODI half-century, the 28-year-old also entered the top-five all-time run-scorers for New Zealand across all 50-over World Cup. He has 881 runs in 21 innings, surpassing Crowe, who has 880 runs in 21 innings.

The list is headed by former Blackcaps skipper Fleming who has 1,075 runs from 33 innings followed by Ross Taylor (977*), Guptill (976), Scott Styris (909) and Williamson.



New Zealand captain Kane Williamson once again entered the game early after Martin Guptill departed in the fourth over. The skipper steadied the innings, staying till the 35th over and scoring a 95-ball 67 against India yesterday.