

A sight that has plagued the World Cup and in fact the group stage game between India and New Zealand as well reared its ugly head again as the skies opened up over Manchester and led to a significant delay in the World Cup's first semifinal yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Reserve days, DLS and Healy, Jones call Super Over

What rain means in the semifinals and final

AGENCIES, Manchester

MR EFFICIENT

India right-arm quick

ranked top in the ICC

ODI bowling rankings

by setting the stage

alight with precise

and accurate

bowling in their

semifinal against

Trafford yesterday.

After starting with

Bumrah removed

Kiwi opener Martin

ball of his second

the off stump line

lured to play it but

got an edge which

at second slip by

India skipper Virat

Kohli. Bumrah had

negotiate throughout

the game, returning

figures of 25 for one

in eight overs before

rain stopped play in

Manchester.

been difficult to

was taken brilliantly

nipped away slightly

over. The ball on

as Guprtill was

Guptill with the third

a maiden over,

New Zealand at Old

Jasprit Bumrah

proved why he is

In the first semifinal of the World Cup, New Zealand were 211 for five in the 46th over before rain stopped play at Old Trafford yesterday. New Zealand were on their way to a fighting total when it started drizzling and covers were brought on to cover the pitch and most part of the grounds. So what happens if the rain doesn't stop?

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.

If the match is affected by rain on the scheduled day then it would

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.

be played on following day, which is the reserve day. However, if rain abandons the match on the reserve day as well, then the team with higher number of points in the league stage will qualify to the finals. Super Over

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. Both semifinals have reserve days.

If rain does not allow play after several overs on July 9, play will resume on July 10 for India and New Zealand. However, if the game is washed out, India will reach the final because they have more points than New Zealand.

Every required effort will be made to finish the game on the scheduled day. The Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method could also come to feature if it seems possible to decide a winner with revised overs and targets. However, even after doing so, the minimum number of overs necessary to constitute a match could not be bowled on the scheduled day, then the match would be continued on the reserve day.

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



PHOTO: AFP

India waste review on first ball

AGENCIES, Manchester

India lost their only review as early as the first ball against New Zealand in a World Cup semifinal Old Trafford on Tuesday.

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 Gutpill off the very first ball.

Kumar, who was preferred over Mohammed Shami largely because of the overhead conditions and chances of rain, got the ball to come back in ever so slightly to evade the forward defensive push of Martin Guptill. 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. Umpire Richard Kettleborough, however, shook his head.

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.

The replays, however, did not bring good news to India. The hawk-eye showed the ball would have missed the leg stump and India lost their only DRS on the very first ball.

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



AGENCIES, Birmingham

Cricket greats Ian Healy and Dean Jones have called for Matthew Wade to be a top-order wildcard and Alex Carey promoted as Australia consider a power-packed batting line-up in a World Cup blockbuster against England.

This could yet lead to replacement batsmen Peter Handscomb and Wade being included for the knock-out clash on Thursday, and Australia not field an all-rounder. That would give the defending champions a deep specialist batting order to match an opponent that boast the best run rate (6.04) of any nation in the past four years.

It would mean skipper Aaron Finch would have only four front-line bowlers -- Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins, Jason Behrendorff and Nathan Lyon -- and then have to rely on the spin of Glenn Maxwell and part-timers Steve Smith and himself to make up the overs.

This would be a major gamble but on what shapes as an Englandfriendly, flat batting deck, and potentially needing to chase more than 300 regardless of what attack they field, the Australians are weighing up whether a deep batting order is the best way to go.

Teams sources maintain any combination is possible until a final call on the make-up of the squad is confirmed.



Virat Kohli was left with a sheepish look on his face, which he did his best to cover up, after using India's only review with the game's first ball. PHOTO: AFP overturned.

The replays suggested the ball would have missed the leg stump by a mile and India's tactical blunder cost them a precious review.

With two spinners in the side, the DRS would have come in handy as the innings progressed but, in a rush of blood, perhaps, India lost it on the very first ball of the semifinal.

There was a lot of mockery on social media around the decision to review, especially in light of the fact that the decision did not seem likely to be overturned.

However, when the game was halted due to rain in the 46th over, it did not seem that India had lost much.

On the othand, Ross Taylor showed how vital a review can be in such a tense game. He was adjuged leg before wicket in the 44th over when he was batting on 56 and the Kiwi reviewed to overturn that decision.

Australia targeting brute force of Roy

AGENCIES, Birmingham

Australia have dug forensically into the technique and mindset of Jason Roy in a bid to topple England's batting brute in Thursday's World Cup semifinal.

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.

Bowling coach Adam Griffith said knocking over Roy and Bairstow would be crucial, particularly after the South Africans had set up their victory with bully-boy batting in the opening power play at Manchester.

"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.

Kane becomes Kiwis' top run-getter in a World Cup

AGENCIES, Manchester

Kane Williamson went past Martin Guptill's tally of highest runs in a World Cup edition on Tuesday during New Zealand vs India semi-final clash at Manchester, Old Trafford.

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. After Williamson and Guptill, the top five run-scorers for New Zealand in a World Cup include Scott Styris (499 runs in 2007), Martin Crowe (452 in 1992) and

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

Stephen Fleming (353 in 2007).

to Yuzvendra Chahal as Ravindra Jadejacompleted an easy catch at point.

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 alltime 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. PHOTO: REUTERS