

Daraz Mart

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SCORES IN BRIEF

India vs England

India: 168 for six in 20 overs (Hardik 63, Kohli 50; Jordan 3-43, Rashid 1-20)

England: 170 for no loss in 16 overs (Hales 86 not out, Buttler 80 not out)

Result: England won by 10 wickets

Player-of-the-match: Alex Hales



[Inset] England skipper Jos Buttler roars after hitting the winning runs in style, with a massive six down the ground, to cap off one of the most one-sided affairs in T20 World Cup history in Adelaide on Wednesday. Rohit Sharma and Co were totally outplayed in a 10-wicket thumping that denied India a blockbuster final clash with arch-rivals Pakistan in Melbourne on Sunday. PHOTO: TWITTER/AFP

Records galore in Adelaide

AGENCIES

England demolished India on their way to the T20 World Cup final on Wednesday's semifinal in Adelaide and their thumping 10-wicket win saw records tumble.

Jos Buttler (80* off 49) and Alex Hales (86* off 47) made a chase of 169 look like a walk in the park as the duo combined for a record unbeaten partnership of 170.

Their partnership passed the previous highest opening stand at a T20 World Cup, 152 between Mohammad Rizwan and Babar Azam, also made against India, in 2021. The 170-run stand is also the highest partnership for any wicket at any T20 World Cup.

Even though it was a day to forget for India, their premier batter, Virat Kohli, became the first in history to score 4000 runs in T20Is.

Kohli, remarkably, raced to the magnificent milestone while batting at an average of 53.34. He is the only batter in the shortest format to average over 50 and reached the milestone in 115 matches.

Kohli is also the leading scorer in the T20 World Cup 2022, having scored over 296 runs in six matches at a staggering 98.66 average.



India 'outclassed, outplayed'

AGENCIES

India coach Rahul Dravid admitted his side were comprehensively outplayed by a Jos Buttler-inspired England in Adelaide after they crashed out of the Twenty20 World Cup in humiliating fashion on Thursday.

Buttler, with 80, and Alex Hales, who scored 86, were still there unbeaten at the end as England romped past their 169 target with 10 wickets and four overs to spare to race into a final against Pakistan in Melbourne on Sunday.

"Obviously disappointed to finish in the semifinals. Probably would have certainly liked to go a couple of steps further. But yeah, just outplayed, outclassed today," Dravid told reporters.

"They were the better team in all departments really. The scoreline showed that."

India topped Group 2 with four wins out of five matches.

"Even in this tournament, I think we've had our moments," said Dravid.

"There's been some real individual quality from a lot of our players, shown some real good skills. But on the day we were just not good enough here."

Buttler set the tone with three fours off the first over from Bhuvneshwar Kumar and added five

more plus three sixes in his 49 ball innings, the third taking England to the winning line.

"It certainly feels (a perfect match) against a top quality opposition," said Buttler.

"We came in very excited and there was a good feel around the group ... I thought everyone, from one to 11, stood up today."

England's performance on Wednesday was a far cry from earlier in the tournament when England were shocked by Ireland.

"That feels a long time ago now," said Buttler.

"The character we've shown to get through the tournament since then, and put in our best performance today, has been amazing."

Dravid also admitted that it was the Buttler-Hales stand that put India under pressure.

"He's [Buttler] a very dangerous player, and we knew that," said Dravid.

"We knew the key to the game obviously was to try and break that opening partnership as early as we could."

"Class players like that, both Buttler and Hales, I thought their partnership was fantastic today. They just put the pressure on us, never let that go."

"Buttler (is) one of the most dangerous T20 players going

around."

As the England pair took the game away, India shoulders drooped, heads dropped and there were some comical fielding errors.

But Dravid said it was the batting that had let them down.

"We had been batting well, were one of the teams who had been even in these conditions scoring 180 plus two-three times in the tournament," he said.

"We were playing well. They bowled really well, were good up front, didn't let us get away. We felt at that 15 over mark, we were probably 15-20 short. We should have been able to get 180-185 on that wicket."

Even though Dravid felt that India fell about 20 runs short, skipper Rohit Sharma could not find an excuse for such a humiliating defeat.

"It's pretty disappointing how we turned up today," said Rohit.

"It was definitely not a wicket where a team can come and chase it down in 16 overs."

"The way we started with the ball was not ideal. We were a little nervy, but you have to give credit to the openers as well. They played really well."

"If we keep it tight and the batters still score runs, we'll take it. But we didn't do that today."

Match-fixers punished in 2nd division

SPORTS REPORTER

BG Press Sports and Recreation Club and Khilgaon Football Academy were fined Tk 5 lakh each and docked points after the teams were proven to have played a fixed matches against each other in the ongoing Second Division Football League.

The Fixed Match Identification Committee (FMIC) of the BFF reached the verdict after analysing all relevant documents and call records and footage of the matches alongside conducting interviews of club officials and players.

Five club officials, three coaches and six footballers were also banned for three-six months, said a BFF press release today.

Bikrampur Kings lodged a complaint after a match between BG Press and Khilgaon FA at the BUET ground on October 12. BG Press lost that match 2-4, thereby saving Khilgaon FA from relegation.

The FMIC also docked BG Press three points, which cost them an opportunity to play in the second division's 10-team Super League phase.

Meanwhile, as a consequence of that win being chalked off, Khilgaon were relegated.

India preparations to start with BCL

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board is planning to use the upcoming one-day and red-ball formats of the Bangladesh Cricket League to prepare the team ahead of India's tour of Bangladesh.

The Men in Blue, due to arrive on December 1 for three ODIs and a two-match Test series that are part of the ICC Test Championship cycle, named a strong outfit for the series.

The Tigers returned after their World Cup campaign in Australia and, following a brief period of rest, will start preparing for the series. Meanwhile, the Bangladesh A team is set to return following a 19-run win in their last one-dayer against Tamil Nadu yesterday.

The BCL one-day format matches will be played on November 26, 28, 30 and December 2 before the longer-version tournament is played between December 5 and December 30, the BCB informed.

The one-dayers are likely to be played at BKSP but the venue for the four-dayers is yet to be decided.

The BCB expects players to play the one-day version to prepare for the ODI series against India while red-ball players will get at least one round of the BCL before the first Test on December 14.

Rangpur go top with big win

SPORTS REPORTER

Rangpur went top of the table with a thumping 10-wicket win on day four of their Tier 1 National Cricket League game against Chattogram at the BKSP yesterday.

Trailing by 41 runs, Chattogram began the day on 222 for four but Rangpur pacer Musfik Hasan quickly proved too hot to handle, ending with a four for as Chattogram were skittled out for 263.

Needing one run to secure victory, Rangpur won with all 10 wickets in hand.

Away at Cox's Bazar, Abu Hider turned hero for Dhaka Metro with the bat during a 14-ball 20 that got them a two-wicket win in a pulsating match against Rajshahi Division.

The final round will see Rangpur play Sylhet with the title at stake.

Short turnaround breeds uncertainty for giants

STAR SPORT DESK

European giants Germany, France and Belgium were contending with the short turnaround between the midway break in domestic leagues and the start of the 2022 World Cup, sweating on the fitness of key players that they chose to name to their World Cup squads ahead of the tournament.

With players set to be engaged in club duties even a week before the start of the tournament and the schedule over recent months being tightly-packed, a spate of niggling injuries means teams are unsure if their players will be at their best or, in some cases, even able to take the pitch.

Reigning world champions France named Ballon d'Or winner Karim Benzema, PSG centre-back Presnel Kimpembe and Manchester United defender Raphael Varane, all of whom have been struggling with injuries.

Deschamps hoped Benzema at least would be fully fit in time. "He knows that the World Cup is a very important moment for him. He will do everything to be ready. There was a period where Benzema played too much and is now paying the price with small injuries, but he knows the World Cup is important."

Belgium were in a similar quandary, with their premier striker, Romelu Lukaku, battling injury. He has only played twice just twice since

August and is currently sidelined for his club Inter Milan.

But coach Roberto Martinez insisted the players would get "every second" to regain fitness, even if it means he will play just one group-stage game. "He (Lukaku) is not completely fit medically, that is clear, but the last three days has been very positive. We will give Romelu every second to be fit."

In Lukaku's stead, Brighton attacker Leandro Trossard, who is in career-best form having scored seven goals and racking up three assists for Brighton in 13 games, will hope to get the leading role.

Hansi Flick's Germany are also battling injuries, albeit to less important players like Timo Werner and Lukas Nmecha. They were left out completely, replaced by in-form Bundesliga forwards Niclas Fullkrug and Youssoufa

Moukoko.

But the biggest news for Die Mannschaft was the return of Mario Gotze, who scored the winner against Argentina in the 2014 World Cup final before his career was derailed by injuries and illness. But Gotze's stellar showings with Eintracht Frankfurt marked a sensational return to the national team set up after five years.

Even the USA was caught out by injury to Juventus midfielder Weston McKennie, but he made the cut despite lingering concerns over a thigh injury.



A fan donning the traditional thobe tries out his football skill at a park in Doha as World Cup fever grips Qatar with just over a week left until the showpiece event. PHOTO: REUTERS