

U19 WC: India beats South Africa by 45 runs, starts campaign on winning note

■ AGENCY

GEORGETOWN: Four-time champions India dished out a clinical show to start their U-19 World Cup campaign on a winning note, thrashing South Africa by 45 runs here.

Put in to bat at the Providence stadium on Saturday, India rode on skipper Yash Dhull's responsible 82 to post a fighting 232 all-out and then bundled out the opposition for 187, with left-arm spinner Vicky Ostwal (5/28) and pacer Raj Bawa (4/47) doing bulk of the damage.

Chasing 233, South Africa colts lost opener Ethan John Cunningham (0) in the first over as he was trapped in front by pacer Rajvardhan Hangargekar (1/38).

But Valentine Kitime (25) and Dewald Brevis (65), who idolizes AB de Villiers, then rallied the innings with a 58-run stand.

The duo played patiently and hit the loose balls away as South Africa cantered to 38 for 1 after 10 overs.

Kitime then took on left-arm medium pacer Ravi Kumar (0/30) in the 10th over, hitting him for a boundary and a six as South Africa amassed 10 runs off it.

Brevis and Kitime then hammered Bawa, amassing



17 runs of the 11th over. But Ostwal broke the stand after removing Kitime, who edged to stumper Dinesh Bana in the 12th over.

The start of play was delayed by around 40 minutes due to rain and amid the prevailing conditions, South Africa decided to put India in to bat.

Thereafter, India did not allow any other South African batter to settle down. Bawa sent back a well-set Brevis, who was caught by rival skipper Dhull in the 36th over and that triggered a collapse for the rainbow nation.

Skipper George Van Heerden (36) tried to take the game deep but he was devoid of partners as Bawa and Ostwal wreaked havoc in the middle and lower order.

The South African innings eventually folded in 45.4 overs.

With India in trouble, skip-

per Dhull and Shaik Rasheed (31) got together to resurrect the innings. They shared a 71-run stand before Rasheed missed a sweep shot off left-arm spinner Liam Alder to be adjudged LBW.

Rasheed, who was

SCOREBOARD

India Under-19s Innings

Angkrish Raghuanshi lbw b Mnyanda	05
Harnoor Singh lbw b Mnyanda	01
Shaik Rasheed lbw b Alder	31
Yash Dhull (c) run out (Simelane)	82
Nishant Sindhu st †Solomons b Copeland	27
Raj Bawa lbw b Brevis	13
Kaushal Tambe c Simelane b Boast	35
Dinesh Bana †b Boast	07
Vicky Ostwal c & b Brevis	09
Rajvardhan Hangargekar c †Solomons b Boast	00
Ravi Kumar not out	00
Extras	22
Total	232/10

South Africa Under-19s Innings

Ethan-John Cunningham lbw b Hangargekar	00
Valentine Kitime c †Bana b Ostwal	25
Dewald Brevis c Dhull b Bawa	65
Gerhardus Maree c †Bana b Ostwal	08
George Van Heerden (c) Dhull b Bawa	36
Andile Simelane b Bawa	06
Michael Copeland b Ostwal	01
Kaden Solomons †b Ostwal	00
Matthew Boast c Hangargekar b Ostwal	08
Liam Alder not out	17
Aphiwe Mnyanda c Dhull b Bawa	05
Extras	16
Total	187/10

PSF felicitates winners of National Table Tennis Championship



PSF Poonch members posing with medal winners during felicitation ceremony.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Pritam Singh Foundation (PSF) Poonch on Sunday felicitated six Table Tennis players for bringing laurels to J&K Union Territory especially Poonch district by winning medals in fourth National Championship held at Delhi Public School Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh on January 8 and 9, 2022.

Five table tennis player under-17 category namely

Ridhik Kapoor, Akshit Tandon, Pratham Suri, Pranav Khajuria, Mridul Kashap and Gurjot Singh took part in open category and won gold medals. Beside these players a famous Poonch table tennis (CT coach) Narinder Singh was also facilitated by the Trust.

Chairman of the Foundation, Prof Jagbir Singh presented the certificates of appreciation to players and coach in pres-

ence of Vice President Er. Rydhman Singh, Matinder Pal Singh, Sawanpreet Singh, Priyanka Singh, Rukhsar Mughal, Mohd Shahban and Mohd Shahid.

They congratulated the medal winners, their parents and coach especially who prepared and encouraged them to participate in such national level championships. Prof Jagbir Singh expressed hope that all the medal winners will give their best in future too.

Australia skipper Pat Cummins also had an impact in his second spell to finish with

Australia beats England by 146 runs, completes 4-0 Ashes win

■ AGENCY

HOBART: Australia completed a dominant 4-0 Ashes series victory over England on Sunday by winning the fifth day-night Test by 146 runs with two days to spare.

England, set a target of 271 for victory, crashed to 124 all out in the last session on the third day at Hobart, losing 10 wickets for 56 after Zak Crawley (36) and Rory Burns (26) combined in the best opening stand of the series by putting on 68 runs.

Fast bowlers Scott Boland (3-18) and Cameron Green (3-21) made an impact in their first Ashes series by sharing six wickets on a lively greenish wicket as England crumbled against pace for the second time in the match after being dismissed for 188 in the first innings in reply to Australia's score of 303.

Australia skipper Pat Cummins also had an impact in his second spell to finish with

3-42 on an eventful day that saw 17 wickets tumble for the second successive day in the game. Cummins, who grabbed the last two wickets off three balls, led from the front in his first series as Australia captain and grabbed 21 wickets.

"It's pretty crazy, even as a professional cricketer these are the series you have in your diary a couple of years out," said Cummins.

"Really feels like we are building to something big. To have someone like Cameron Green in his second year to grow as a batter and bowler as well as some of the younger players can't wait to show our wares overseas, we really judge ourselves in all conditions."

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Sunday's ISL fixture between Kerala Blasters & Mumbai City FC postponed

■ AGENCY

PANAJI: The Indian Super League (ISL) match between Kerala Blasters FC and Mumbai City FC in Vasco was postponed on Sunday, hours before their kickoff as the southern outfit did not have the requisite number of players to field.

The match was scheduled to be played at the Tilak Maidan in Vasco. The tournament organisers did not specify the reason for the postponement but sources close to the league attributed it to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior to this, two more matches had been postponed this season after the coronavirus breached the ISL's bio-bubble.

"Hero Indian Super League (ISL) has decided to postpone Match No. 62 between Kerala Blasters FC and Mumbai City FC scheduled to be played today, Sunday, January 16, 2022, at Tilak Maidan Stadium, Vasco. The League will look to reschedule the fixture to a later date," the ISL said in a statement.

"The decision has been taken in consultation with the League's medical team after it was assessed Kerala Blasters FC do not have the requisite number of players available for the match."

"The League will work closely with the medical experts to monitor and ensure the safety of all the players and support staff in the squad and others involved," it added in the statement.

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He said he told Djokovic after talking to him "that we can't wait to see him in Serbia, to return to his country, to come where he is always welcome."

He did not say whether Djokovic said he would first go to Serbia after his deportation.

Chief Justice James Allsop said the ruling came down to whether the minister's decision was "irrational or legally unreasonable."

Hawke welcomed the decision. His office did not immediately provide detail of how or when Djokovic would leave.

"Australia's strong border protection policies have kept us safe during the pandemic, resulting in one of the

lowest death rates, strongest economic recoveries, and highest vaccination rates in the world," Hawke said. "Strong border protection policies are also fundamental to safe-guarding Australia's social cohesion which continues to strengthen despite the pandemic."

Prime Minister Scott Morrison welcomed what he described as the "decision to keep our borders strong and keep Australians safe." But opposition spokesperson on the home affairs portfolio, Kristina Keneally, said Djokovic was being deported for what he said and did publicly overseas before the government gave him a visa in November.

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Sen wins men's singles crown, Satwik-Chirag pair claims maiden India Open title



■ AGENCY

NEW DELHI: India's Lakshya Sen secured his maiden Super 500 title by winning the Yonex-Sunrise India Open with a stunning straight-game victory over reigning world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore in the men's singles final here on Sunday.

It was after Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty became the first team from the country to win India's flagship tournament after toppling three-time world champions Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan.

The 20-year-old Sen, who had claimed his maiden world championships medal with a bronze in Spain last month, produced a fine performance to outshine the fifth seeded shuttler 24-22 21-17 in the summit clash that lasted 54 minutes.

Satwik and Chirag showed

nerves of steel as the duo

saved five game points to overcome the world No. 2 Indonesian pair 21-16 26-24 in 43 minutes. Going into this match, the two had a 2-2 head-to-head record with Sen losing two of the last three meetings, but the Indian was the better man on show on Sunday as he showed great athleticism, used his attacking

shots to good effect and came up with his punched winners from the back at the right moments. It is Sen's biggest title of his career. He had won two Super 100 titles -- Dutch Open and SaarLorLux Open -- besides three international challenges at Belgium, Scotland and Bangladesh in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic came in the way of his progress.

Last year, the youngster made it to the semifinals at Hylo, reached the knockout stage at World Tour Finals on a positive note and even though the Indonesians combination fought back, Satwik and Chirag ensured they were two points ahead at the first interval.

Doda beats Nowshera to lift Pir Panjal Kabaddi League trophy



A final Kabaddi match in progress at Doda.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Doda defeated Nowshera in the nail biting final and won the Pir Panjal Kabaddi League organized by Indian Army in coordination with Jammu and Kashmir Police, Health Department, District Sports Authorities and Civil Administration from January 13 to 15, 2022 at Sports Doda, Doda.

A total of seven teams including Doda, Kishtwar, Bhaderwah, Ramban and Nowshera took part in the league.

Sector Commander, Indian Army graced the closing ceremony as Chief Guest. Civil dignitaries of Doda also attended the closing ceremony.

The champion and runner-up teams were awarded with cash prize and trophies. Winners, first runners-up and second runners up were also presented with gold, silver and bronze medals. Best Raider and Best Catcher were felicitated with individual trophies and cash prizes.

Anushka pens emotional note for Virat Kohli: You always stood up for the right thing

■ AGENCY

MUMBAI: Actor-producer Anushka Sharma on Sunday penned a heartfelt note for her cricketer husband Virat Kohli and said she was extremely proud of the legacy he leaves behind as the Test captain of the Indian cricket team.

Kohli, who took over from MS Dhoni midway through the Australian tour back in 2014-15, on Saturday announced his sudden decision to quit Test captaincy a day after India lost the Test series in South Africa 1-2.

Sharma recalled how in 2014, the couple was "young and naive", who believed just good intentions, positive drive and motives can take one ahead in life.

The actor said while these qualities are instrumental, they come with their own challenges.

"A lot of these challenges that you faced were not always on the field. But then, this is life right? It tests you in places where you least expect it to but where you need it the most. And my love, I am so proud of you for not letting anything come in the way of your good intentions," she wrote.

The "Jab Harry Met Sejal" star lauded Kohli for "leading by example" and noted that the cricketer never fell prey to any pretence and always kept his life "unconventional and straightforward".

"You led by example and gave winning on field every ounce of your energy to the extent that after some losses I've sat next to you with tears in your eyes, while you wondered if there's still something more you could have done. This is who you are and this is what you expected from everyone."

"You've been unconventional and straightforward. Pretence is your foe and this is what makes you great in my eyes and the eyes of your admirers. Because underneath all this were your pure, unadulterated intentions always. And not everyone will be able to truly understand that," she added.

The 33-year-old actor said the couple's daughter, Vamika will be a witness to how instrumental Kohli's captaincy was in shaping him not only as a cricketer but also as a father.

The couple became parents to their baby girl in January 2021.

"Truly blessed are those who tried to get to know you beneath what meets the eye. You are not perfect and have your flaws but then again when did you ever try to conceal that? What you did was to always stand up for doing the right thing, the harder thing, always!"

"You held on to nothing with greed, not even this position and I know that. Because when one holds on to something so tightly they limit themselves and you, my love, are limitless. Our daughter will see the learning of these 7 years in the father that you are to her. You did good," she concluded.

Djokovic leaving Australia after losing deportation appeal