

Bhuvneshwar Kumar takes career-best 5/24

India rout SA

BRIEF SCORE

India 203 for 5 (Dhawan 72, Dala 2-47) beat South Africa 175 for 9 (Hendricks 70, Behardien 39, Bhuvneshwar 5-24) by 28 runs



Bhuvneshwar Kumar of India celebrates (Pic courtesy: BCCI)

Johannesburg

After thrashing the hosts 5-1 in the ODI series, India started the T20I series with a comprehensive 28-run win over South Africa in the first of the three-match series at the New Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg yesterday.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar took career-best 5/24, his maiden five-for in T20Is, as South Africa could managed 175/9 while chasing 204-run target. Bhuvneshwar also became first India pacer to take five-wicket haul in T20Is. Reeza Hendricks kept South Africa in the hunt with 70 off 50 balls, but his wicket in the 18th over triggered a late collapse.

Bhuvneshwar's final over, the 18th, resulted in the fall of four Proteas wickets including a run out - Hendricks, Heinrich Klaasen, Chris Morris and Dane Paterson (run out), as the hosts were reduced to 159/8 from 154/4 before the start of the over. That particular over literally ended the run chase for South Africa.

After 20 without loss in first two overs, South Africa lost three wickets at regular intervals. Bhuvneshwar struck twice inside five overs to jolt South Africa run chase, before Hardik Pandya sent back dangerous David Miller (9) in the seventh over.

Bhuvneshwar broke the opening stand in the third over by dismissing JJ Smuts for 14, and dismissed South Africa skipper JP Duminy in the fifth. The Proteas were reduced to 38/2 in five overs.

Hendricks and Farhaan Behardien (39) resurrected the innings with 81-run stand for the fourth wicket. Hendricks reached his maiden fifty off 37 balls to keep South Africa hopes alive. Spinner

Yuzvendra Chahal broke the partnership when he dismissed Behardien, who was holed out at long-on by Manish Pandey, in the 15th over.

Then Bhuvneshwar's four-wicket over happened.

Sent in to bat, Shikhar Dhawan smashed a quick-fire fifty to help India post 203/5 against South Africa. Dhawan anchored the innings with a 39-ball 72 as India kept the scoring rate high from the start. Indians scored boundaries at will and from the word go. As many as seven sixes and 20 fours are scored in the India innings. (AFP)

Shikhar Dhawan of India plays a shot (Pic courtesy: BCCI)



England beat NZ but miss final

Hamilton

An aggressive Colin Munro belted New Zealand into the Twenty20 tri-series final against Australia despite England claiming their final round-robin match by two runs in Hamilton yesterday.

Munro plundered the England attack at the top of the New Zealand innings, equalling the sixth-fastest half-century of all time in cricket's shortest form as he raced past 50 in just 18 deliveries.

England, on the back of an unbeaten 80 by returning

captain Eoin Morgan, posted 194 for seven after being sent into bat.

New Zealand, with Martin Guptill adding 62 and Hong Kong-born Mark Chapman unbeaten on 37, made 192 for four in reply.

The narrow two-run margin was not enough to save an England side who had lost all their previous games in the competition, and needed to win by 20 runs to overtake New Zealand on overall run-rate to face unbeaten Australia in Wednesday's final. (AFP)

Eoin Morgan, Curran and Jordan react against New Zealand



BRIEF SCORE

England 194 for 7 (Morgan 80*, Malan 53) beat New Zealand 192 for 4 (Guptill 62, Munro 57) by two runs

Mendis stars as SL sweep tour

Sylhet, Bangladesh

Opener Kusal Mendis smashed a career-best 42-ball 70 as Sri Lanka completed a tour sweep, sealing a 75-run win over Bangladesh in the second and final T20 international yesterday.

Sri Lanka also claimed the tri-nation one-day trophy and took the Test series 1-0 in its one-and-a-half-month long Bangladesh tour.

A second straight half-century of the series for Mendis steered Sri Lanka to a hefty 210-4, before the bowlers put on a fine display to dismiss Bangladesh for 135 in 18.4 overs.

Opener Danushka Gunathilaka made 42 while Thisara Perera scored 31. Dasun Shanaka smashed an 11-ball 30 not out towards the end to help Sri Lanka propel past 200.

Mendis and Danushka Gunathilaka combined for a 98-run partnership for the opening stand that set up the platform for a big total.

Gunathilaka survived twice on 15 and 28 before he holed



Sri Lanka's Kusal Mendis (L) and Danushka Gunathilaka

BRIEF SCORE

Sri Lanka 210 for 4 (Mendis 70, Gunathilaka 42) beat Bangladesh 135 (Mahmudullah 41, Gunathilaka 2-3, Madushanka 2-23) by 75 runs

out to Tamim Iqbal at long-off for 42.

Thisara Perera joined Mendis to accelerate the innings but Abu Jayed made him his maiden wicket to stall the progress.

However, Shanaka and Upul

Tharanga (25) added 63 runs in the last five overs to help the side post a big total.

For Bangladesh, captain Mahmudullah was the side's high scorer with 41 and opener Tamim Iqbal added 29.

Pace bowler Shehan Madushanka and off-spinner Akila Dananjaya reduced Bangladesh to 22-3 in three overs before opener Tamim Iqbal and captain Mahmudullah put on their stand. (AP)