

'Clinical' India thrash New Zealand to top Test rankings



India's Cheteshwar Pujara takes New Zealand's Rachin Ravindra's catch

AFP | Mumbai

Indian skipper Virat Kohli hailed his "clinical" side after they hammered New Zealand by 372 runs to win the second Test yesterday and clinch the series 1-0.

Spinner Ravichandran Ashwin claimed a match tally of eight wickets -- and 300th scalp on home soil -- as India usurped the Black Caps as the world's top-ranked Test side.

New Zealand, who started day four on 140-5 in their chase of an improbable 540, were all out for 167 before lunch in Mumbai.

It was tough on New Zealand's Mumbai-born spinner Ajaz Patel, who had made history with 10 wickets in the first innings.

New Zealand, who doggedly hung on for a draw in the opening match of the two-Test series, were undone by their batting after Ajaz's heroics.

They collapsed to 62 all out in their first innings and were never in the chase against India's spin force.

Kohli, who returned to lead India after he stepped down

”
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VIRAT KOHLI

as national Twenty20 captain and took a short break, said: "To come back with a win is a great feeling, returning as the captain it was a clinical performance, something we've seen time and again."

"You want individuals to step up, and guys did that. Even the first Test match was good, this was better."

Ashwin, who struck three times in the final session on day three, sent back overnight batsman Henry Nicholls, stumped for 44, for the final wicket.

Jayant Yadav bowled Rachin Ravindra for 18 and struck twice in one over, as he returned career-best figures of 4-49.

Taekwondo makes Asian Youth Para Games debut

Nepal and Cambodia win first Youth Para Games medals

● Eight countries pick up medals in Taekwondo

TDT | Manama

It was a day of firsts at the 2021 Asian Youth Para Games in Bahrain as Taekwondo made its debut and Nepal picked up their first ever Youth Para Games medals.

The gold medal was consolation for Palesha Goverdhan who had narrowly missed out to a medal at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics in 57kg category.

Nepal's Shrijana Ghising bagged silver in 52kg category and Bishal Garbuja won bronze in 68kg group.

Iran won seven of the 22 medals on offer, including three golds, with Uzbekistan's fighters the next most successful winning two golds. Overall all eight countries who entered picked up a medal which bodes well for Asia in the thrilling sport.

Tholradeth Ya, Cambodia's only athlete at the games, won his country's first ever medal at a Youth Para Games when he took silver in the 1500m M U20 T46 event.

In Powerlifting, Saudi Arabia's Adnan NoorSaeed clinched the first gold medal of the competition after lifting 117kg in the men's junior -49kg event. Uzbekistan won three gold



Athletes in action during a Taekwondo match

medals overall on day one of competition with Indonesia and Thailand getting two each.

Korea and Iran picked up one gold apiece and UAE's birthday girl Ayesha Almutaiwei got a silver medal on her special day in the youth -79kg.

In Goalball the final pool matches and semi-finals were played. In the men's competition, Iran continued their impressive form, sweeping aside Iraq 13-3 in the semi-final. Having not lost a game throughout the tournament, they headed

Medal table

Pos	G	S	B	Total	
1	I.R. Iran	34	44	19	97
2	Thailand	24	20	11	55
3	Japan	21	7	7	35
4	Korea	9	5	18	32
5	Indonesia	9	8	10	27
6	Uzbekistan	9	1	4	14
11	Bahrain	3	3	2	8



A total of 22 out of the 30 countries at the Games have now won a medal

into the final against Thailand as favourites. Thailand beat Korea twice in one day, once in the earlier pool match 14-4, then in the semi-final 12-5. In the women's competition Iran narrowly beat Korea 8-7 to advance to the final where they will meet Thailand.

The Wheelchair Basketball competition final will see Iran, who are unbeaten throughout the tournament, face off against Iraq. Iraq will be hoping for a better result that when they met earlier in the competition though as Iran won 102-27, Iraq's only defeat of the event. Thailand and Saudi Arabia will battle it out for bronze.

With medals in the pool and at the track and field, Iran extended their lead on the medal table. A total of 22 out of the 30 countries at the Games have now won a medal.

Five Serbian stars to be highlighted at BRAVE CF 56

TDT | Manama

BRAVE CF 56 will wrap up the truly global MMA promotion's 2021 calendar with a bang. On December 18, Belgrade will host a show packed with the biggest international stars, as well as a who's who of Serbian MMA, with 5 of the most prominent names in the country being highlighted.

Starting with Slobodan Maksimovic, who will be headlining the card. Holding a professional record of 17 wins, 6 losses, and one draw, "Limp, as he's also known as, is coming off two consecutive wins and plans to extend the streak to three against Rolando Dy, adding the biggest victory of his entire career to his record in the process.

The co-main event of the evening also features a Serbia vs the world match, with Miro Jurkovic taking on the former Middleweight title challenger Chad Hanekom. With a professional record of 11 wins and 4 losses, Jurkovic is making his second BRAVE CF appearance and looking for his first promotional win.

Also looking for his first BRAVE CF victory in his second promotional appearance, submission specialist Borislav Nikolic is eager to get this important triumph in his own turf.



Boasting a professional record of 8 wins and a single loss, Nikolic faces Matiss Zaharovs in a featured bantamweight bout.

For Nemanja Kovac, BRAVE CF 56 motto is "revenge". In his promotional debut, the "Sledgehammer" was defeated by Ahmed Labban in a nail-biting contest back in March. He'll now have the chance to pay back, counting with the support of the home crowd.

Lastly, but not least, one of rising stars in Serbian MMA finally makes his international debut. Undefeated prospect Milos Cvetkovic puts his 4-0 record on the line against Nikolay Nikolov in a featured Welterweight bout.

BRAVE CF 56 will be promoted in association with Liga MMA and take place on December 18, at the Bel Expo Centar, in Belgrade Serbia.

Medvedev leads Russia to third Davis Cup title



Daniil Medvedev
Reuters | Madrid

Russia took an unassailable 2-0 lead over Croatia in the Davis Cup final in Madrid on Sunday to secure their third title and first in 15 years, as Daniil Medvedev outlasted Croatian Marin Cilic 7-6(7) 6-2.

Reigning US Open champion Medvedev had to produce his best tennis to survive a tense first set as a confident Cilic sent across nine forehand winners and won nearly three-quarters of his service points.

The awed crowd inside Madrid Arena was reduced to pin-drop silence as the 1.98-metre titans went into a tiebreak, where Medvedev relied on his backhand to prevail despite an ill-timed double fault.

Cilic showed signs of fatigue in the second set as the world number two broke his serve in the fourth game before running away with the momentum, dropping just one of his first-serve points.

Rain washes out third day of play in Bangladesh-Pakistan Test

AFP | Dhaka

The third day of the second and final cricket test between Bangladesh and Pakistan was called off yesterday due to persistent rain without a ball being bowled.

The announcement came about 90 minutes after the scheduled lunch break as there was no sign of an end to the rain that was caused by Cyclone Jawad. Rain has fallen heavily on each day of the match so far.

The third session of the first day was lost to rain and bad light and only 6.2 of 98 overs were possible on day two.



The pitch is covered with plastic sheets as rain interrupts play

With more rain or thunderstorms being predicted in many parts of Bangladesh in the next 24 hours, a draw looks like the only possible result.

Pakistan, which opted to bat first, reached 188-2 in 63.2 overs with captain Babar Azam batting on 71 and Azhar Ali on 52.

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