

SPORTS

Aussies clinch historic series

● **Khawaja, bowlers humble India as Australia complete turnaround to seal series win**

● **From 0-2 down, Khawaja, Zampa, Cummins and Handscomb stun India**

● **Australia won the five-match series 3-2**

AFP | New Delhi

A fluent century by Usman Khawaja and incisive bowling helped Australia ease to a 35-run series clinching win in the fifth one-day international yesterday.

Adam Zampa took three wickets to help dismiss India for 237 on the last ball of their innings after Khawaja's 100 guided the tourists to 272 for nine at Delhi's Feroz Shah Kotla ground.

Pat Cummins, Jhye Richardson and Marcus Stoinis claimed two wickets each to set up Australia's first win in a five-match ODI series after being 0-2 down.

But the left-handed Khawaja stood out for the tourists with his 100 off 106 deliveries that guided Australia to what turned out to be a match-winning score.

His scores of 50, 38, 104 and 91 in the previous matches made him stand tall in the batting chart between the two teams.

The left-right batting pair of Khawaja and Handscomb stayed firm during a 99-run stand to lay the foundation of their team's total after skipper Aaron Finch was out on 27.

Khawaja got the second hundred of his ODI career with a single off Kuldeep Yadav as he waved the bat to an applauding Australian dressing room.

He lost his wicket in the next over to paceman Bhuvneshwar Kumar with a drive to cover that was safely caught by skipper Virat Kohli.

Ravindra Jadeja returned to get the dangerous Glenn Maxwell for one and Handscomb was caught behind off Shami as Australia slipped to 182-4.

The Aussies kept losing wickets but Richardson played a useful cameo of 29 off 21 deliveries before being run out on the final ball of the 50th over.

India were reduced to 132 for six in their reply but Kedar Jadhav, who made 44, and Ku-



Australia's Usman Khawaja plays a shot

mar threatened to pull off the chase during their 91-run stand for the seventh wicket.

Cummins got Kumar caught and bowled for 46 and Richard-

son sent back Jadhav to silence the home crowd.

Earlier Cummins drew first blood after getting Shikhar Dhawan caught behind for 12 on a



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pacey away-going delivery.

But it was Stoinis who got Kohli's prized scalp after the star batsman edged a cross-seam delivery to wicketkeeper Alex Carey. He was on 20.

Spinner Nathan Lyon and Zampa then combined to get a wicket each and the hosts slipped to 120 for four midway into the innings.

Rohit Sharma, who survived a dropped chance on 53, could not capitalise on the spill by Glenn Maxwell off Zampa as he got out to the same bowler three runs later.

It was India's final ODI before the World Cup in England and Wales starting May 30.

Ebrahim K Kanoo continue as gold sponsor of Bahrain ITF tournament

TDT | Manama

The Board of Directors of Bahrain Tennis Club (BTC) welcomed today the joint cooperation between BTC and Ebrahim K Kanoo.

This comes following Ebrahim K Kanoo's agreement to continue as gold sponsors of the International Tennis Federation (ITF) tournaments hosted by BTC.

This year, Bahrain ITF World Tennis Tour takes place from March 18 to 23 at BTC hardcourts in Juffair. It is being held under patronage of HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee.

Batelco sponsors horseracing festival

TDT | Manama

Batelco as part of its CSR programme has announced its sponsorship of the King Hamad Horseracing Festival 2019.

The sponsorship is in line with the Company's continuous efforts to promote and support major sporting events within the Kingdom. The prestigious and highly anticipated event will take place on Friday at the Rashid Equestrian & Horse Racing Club in Sakhr.

In a statement Batelco said that they are always keen to support the efforts of different entities in the Kingdom to promote the growth of a diverse range of sporting activities, strengthening the Kingdom's position within the sporting sector as a result.

Vettel says Ferrari feeling good as new season launches

AFP | Melbourne

Sebastian Vettel said that Ferrari have "tried to turn the page" after being dominated by Mercedes in 2018 and their new car "feels good" ahead of season-opening Australian Grand Prix.

The German four-time world champion was speaking as new Formula One season officially launched with all 20 drivers taking part in a first-of-its-kind public meet-and-greet with fans in the heart of Melbourne.

"For the whole team we have tried to turn the page," Vettel told the thousands of fans who turned up for a glimpse of their heroes in the city's Federation Square.

Ronaldo lifts Juventus into last-eight



Juventus' Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo (R) collides with Atletico Madrid's Colombian defender Santiago Arias (L)

AFP | Turin, Italy

Cristiano Ronaldo scored a spectacular hat-trick to fire Juventus into the Champions League quarter-finals with a 3-0 win over Atletico Madrid on Tuesday that saw his side claim a thrilling tie 3-2 on aggregate.

The Portuguese superstar scored two headers either side of half-time and a late penalty to clinch a place in Friday's last-eight draw with a dominant display by the Italian champions in Turin.

"It was always going to be a special night and it was, not only for the goals, but for the team," said Ronaldo.

"This is the mentality of champions. This is why Juve brought me in, to help on magical nights like this."

Diego Simeone's Atletico were a shadow of the team

who had run riot in the first leg in Madrid, and crashed out of the tournament they had been hoping to win in their own Wanda Metropolitan Stadium on June 1.

"The lads have shown great maturity," said Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri.

"They interpreted the game at their best, I have to congratulate them. This is what we wanted in the first leg.

"Tonight we were lucid, there was the risk of having a hysterical match, as if everything had to be done in 10 minutes."

It is the eighth time that Ronaldo has scored a hat-trick in the competition and mirrors his improbable treble which lifted former club Real Madrid past Wolfsburg in April 2016 with the Spaniards 2-0 down after the first leg.

Porsche GT3 Cup set for thrilling season finale supporting F1 Bahrain GP 2019

TDT | Manama

The sixth and final round of the 2018/2019 Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge Middle East is set to add to the "Limitless" thrills this coming Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2019, taking place March 28 to 31 at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in Sakhr.

The Porsche GT3 Cup is one of two supporting championships to the Formula 1 spectacle that will soon be taking the region by storm. The other is the FIA Formula 2 Championship.

The Porsche GT3 Cup is the biggest and most popular one-make motor racing championship in the entire region. It has been the number one choice of the Arab world's most promising circuit racing drivers to broaden their racing experience in a professionally run series. Drivers race in identical Porsche GT3 Cup Car 911s, supplied by the founders from



Cars in action during a Porsche GT3 Cup race at BIC

Lechner Racing.

Clear rules ensure an equal footing – single-seated, near-standard race vehicles of the same make adhering to strict safety guidelines. The regulations consistently ensure fair competition and the highest standard of safety for participants.

The series has just come off its season's fifth and penultimate meeting held at BIC, setting the stage for an electrifying championship finale with the title battle going down to the wire.

Frenchman Jean-Baptiste Simmenauer clinched a fantastic double in the previous round, with Turkish ace Berkay Besler winning the other race.

Both drivers will be back at the Bahrain Grand Prix, as will top title contenders Al Faisal Al Zubair and Khalid Al Wahabi of Oman. They are all competing in the Pro class, along with Cypriot Tio Ellinas, Luxembourger Dylan Pereira, and Frenchman Julien Andlauer. Al Zubair is the defending champion and is a favourite to repeat.

Rampant City crush Schalke with magnificent seven

AFP | Manchester

Pep Guardiola says Manchester City don't fear any team in the Champions League after they powered into the quarter-finals with a 7-0 rout of hapless Schalke on Tuesday.

City had snatched two late goals to win the first leg 3-2 and they made the most of that fightback with a ruthless demon-

stration job at the Etihad Stadium to clinch a 10-2 last-16 aggregate victory.

Sergio Aguero's penalty opened the scoring in the 35th minute and the Argentine forward netted again soon afterwards before Leroy Sane, who also contributed three assists, struck against his former club.

Raheem Sterling, Bernardo Silva, Phil Foden and Gabriel

Jesus all scored after the interval to complete City's biggest home win in the Champions League.

Guardiola's side, who lifted the League Cup in February, remain on course for an unprecedented quadruple, sitting one point ahead of Liverpool at the top of the Premier League before this weekend's FA Cup quarter-final at Swansea.