

SPORTS
sports

India outplay Australia

● **Rohit Sharma made 119 to help India to victory against Australia in the third ODI and a series win**

AFP | Bangalore, India

A sparkling century by Rohit Sharma and some inspired bowling helped India to a series-clinching seven-wicket win over Australia in the third one-day international yesterday.

Sharma made 119 and put on a key 137-run second-wicket stand with skipper Virat Kohli, who made 89, as India chased down their target of 287 in 47.3 overs in Bangalore.

The hosts fought back in the series after a 10-wicket drubbing in the opening game to go past the Aaron Finch-led tourists 2-1.

"We lost the last three in the last series (in 2019), and coming back and winning the last two games after losing the first one, is very satisfying," said Kohli, whose side lost to Australia 2-3 at home last year.

"2020 has been wonderful, and we just want to go onwards and upwards. Great for the team."

Paceman Mohammed Shami



India's Rohit Sharma (L) and Virat Kohli run between wickets

claimed four wickets to lead the bowling charge with the hosts restricting Australia to 286 for nine on a good batting pitch despite Steve Smith's 131.

Sharma took the attack to the opposition with a steady flow of boundaries -- eight fours and six sixes in his 128-ball knock -- and completed his eighth century against the Aussies.

He finally fell to Adam Zampa's leg spin as the senior batsman attempted a big hit but the ball top-edged off his bat to be caught by Mitchell Starc at long-

Scorecard

India 289 for 3 (Sharma 119, Kohli 89) beat **Australia** 286 for 9 (Smith 131, Labuschagne 54, Shami 4-63, Jadeja 2-44, Bumrah 0-38) by 7 wickets

on.

Kohli kept the chase on track with an attacking Shreyas Iyer, unbeaten on 44, as the pair put on 68 runs before the captain was bowled by Josh Hazlewood. Indian opener Shikhar Dha-

wan did not bat after injuring his shoulder while fielding in the fifth over Australian innings. He went for an X-ray later and TV pictures showed the batsman's arm in a sling.

India though did not feel his absence as Sharma and wicket-keeper-batsman KL Rahul put on 69 runs to set up the chase.

Rahul was given not out by the on-field umpire after being trapped lbw off Ashton Agar for 19 but Australia successfully reviewed the decision in their favour.



Paceman Mohammed Shami claimed four wickets to lead the bowling charge

Smith century and 'great learning'

Earlier Smith followed up his 98 in the second match with his ninth ODI hundred and his first since January 2017 -- a period during which he served a one-year ban between March 2018 and 2019.

Smith put on 127 runs for the third wicket with Marnus Labuschagne to lay the foundation for Australia's total after they elected to bat.

Shami struck first to send David Warner trudging back to the pavilion for three after the left-handed opener edged to wicketkeeper KL Rahul.

Finch and Smith started to build, but their partnership was cut short by a big mix up between the two batsmen with the captain being run out for 19.

BCC top ETS league



Imran Butt

TDT | Manama

BCC defeated National Guards by 40 runs in the ETS Div A 40 over league organized by Cricket Bahrain Association. Batting first BCC posted 249 runs. Sohail Ahmed top scored with 108 runs. Asif Javed claimed 2 wickets for National Guards. In reply National Guards could only manage 209 runs.

AbuSaad Climax defeated BOC by 6 wickets in another match. Batting first BOC posted 235 runs. Mohd Shabbir top scored with 111 runs. Bilal Mansoor claimed 3 wickets for Climax CC. In reply AbuSaad Climax chased target for the loss of 4 wickets. Imran Butt top scored with 71 runs.

BCC A defeated Indian Lions by 103 runs. Batting first BCC A posted 283 runs. Shabbaz Badr top scored with 63 runs. Ranjith claimed 3 wickets for Indian Lions. In reply Indian Lions could only manage 180 runs. Mohsin claimed 3 wickets for BCC A

South Africa face humiliating England defeat

AFP | Port Elizabeth

South Africa coach Mark Boucher said yesterday he needed to take responsibility for what is heading to be a humiliating defeat in the third Test against England at St George's Park.

Alpha Fire won the toss and England captain Joe Root produced a Test-best bowling performance, taking four for 31 as South Africa ended the fourth day still 188 runs short of avoiding an innings defeat with only four wickets left.

They finished a day marked by a largely woeful batting performance on 102 for six after being forced to follow on.

England now seem assured of taking an unbeatable 2-1 series lead into the final Test starting in Johannesburg on Friday.

"It's very disappointing," said Boucher. "Ultimately I've got to take responsibility for the performance of the team -- how do I mentally and physically upskill these guys in a short period of time to make them better players?"

Responding to comments that South African cricket was at its lowest ebb since unity in 1991, Boucher responded: "That's a big call. Everyone's entitled to their opinions."

"I've been in teams where we've been pretty low as well. Yes, we're in a bad situation in this particular game but we're not out of the series yet. I have to find a way to get the guys



England fielder Ollie Pope dives to catch South Africa batsman Rassie van der Dussen off the bowling of Joe Root

Ultimately I've got to take responsibility for the performance of the team -- how do I mentally and physically upskill these guys in a short period of time to make them better players

MARK BOUCHER

ready for tomorrow and for the last Test match as well."

With speculation mounting about the future of captain Faf du Plessis, who has been out of form in recent months, Boucher tacitly admitted that the player was struggling.

"His state of mind is going to be a lot better when he scores

runs."

Du Plessis top-scored with 36 in the second innings.

"We all know he's under pressure from the media and from a confidence point of view so the positive for me today is that he actually got out there today and gave himself a chance," said Boucher.

"He looked like he had some rhythm in a really tough situation. I'm sure he'll take a lot of confidence from the fact that he faced quite a few balls and got to spend some time in the middle."

When Du Plessis was sixth out with the total on 73 South Africa were in danger of suffering their worst defeat against England but Vernon Philander and Keshav Maharaj survived until the close to reduce the margin below the record of an innings and 202 runs suffered in South Africa's first season of Test cricket in 1888/89.

World Cup Junior Men's Epee concludes in Bahrain

TDT | Manama

Under the patronage of HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and President of Bahrain Olympic Committee, the World Cup Junior Men's Epee concluded in Bahrain, featuring 69 participants representing 20 countries.

On this occasion, HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa said, "We are very happy to host this event which confirms Bahrain's capabilities to host big events and this will contribute to bolstering the Kingdom's position as an ideal venue for major sport competitions."

He further added, "Hosting this competition for the third consecutive year reflects Bahrain's development and advancement in the area of hosting big sport contests thanks to the support and sponsorship of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of the Kingdom of Bahrain. It also an indication of the successes we have achieved in the previous two editions."

Moreover, HH Shaikh Khalid praised the enormous efforts exerted by Bahrain Fencing Association under the chairmanship of Shaikh Ibrahim bin Salman Al Khalifa towards preparing for hosting this champi-



HH Shaikh Khalid's son awards a winner



Participants in action during the competition

onship. It's worth noting that Russia finished first and third in the event, while Italy came second.

The winners were crowned by HH Shaikh Khalid's children HH Shaikh Faisal and HH Shai-

kh Abdullah. "We take this opportunity to thank HH Shaikh Khalid for sponsoring the event. HH's support and backing is a source of pride and motivation for us to give more," Shaikh Ibrahim bin Salman said