Indian opener leads the run chase with an unbeaten knock after Chahal and Bumrah restrict Proteas to a modest 227

Indian opener guides India to opening World Cup win

FOOTBALL

Resurgent Dutch threaten to keep England waiting

GULF TIMES

SPORT

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Sharma ton guides India to opening World Cup win

Indian opener leads the run chase with an unbeaten knock after Chahal and Bumrah restrict Proteas to a modest 227

Scorecard

**South Africa**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Runs</th>
<th>Overs</th>
<th>SR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MS Dhoni</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>39.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KL Rahul</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>28.5</td>
<td>182.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V Kohli</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>31.4</td>
<td>179.37</td>
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<tr>
<td>S Dhawan</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>34.6</td>
<td>93.24</td>
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<tr>
<td>R Sharma</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>65.2</td>
<td>186.75</td>
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<td>I Tahir</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>F du Plessis</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>27.4</td>
<td>139.89</td>
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<tr>
<td>DC Bowl</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>69.23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>45.40</td>
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**India**

<table>
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<th>Player</th>
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<th>SR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rohit</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>39.4</td>
<td>195.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KL Rahul</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>218.52</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>45.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>65.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fall of wickets:

- 1-41 (Kohli), 2-88 (Rahul), 3-154 (Dhawan), 4-184 (Sharma), 5-224 (Bumrah)
- 5-227 (Rohit)
- 6-227 (Rahul)
- 7-227 (Rohit)
NZ hold nerve to beat Bangladesh in thriller

Chasing 245, Taylor and Williamson put the Black Caps on course for a wicket win

Asif thanks family for World Cup chance after daughter’s death

New Zealand’s Ross Taylor plays a shot during the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup match against Bangladesh at Bristol, United Kingdom

Asif said he was happy to score his 200th one-day international but when he learned of the death of his 19-month-old daughter Dua, “They told me ‘don’t waste a good start’, because what role I am given I will try to fill it if you don’t want me to fill that position.”

“Beating England was awe-inspiring,” he said. “We had a strong batting performance then it’s good for all of us.”

Asif, who was not in the pre-tournament squad for the World Cup, settled. “I am not worried about the performance or lost a game of cricket, we bounce back very well.”

Asif thanked family for World Cup chance after daughter’s death

“In the difficult times and when Taylor was caught by the New Zealand bowler, I said I will get 10-0-40-1 (5w), De Grandhomme 10-0-44-2 (1w), Ferguson 10-244 (198), Henry 10-235 (88)

England to bounce back from Pakistan defeat

Wickets: New Zealand 244 all out (113 overs: Taylor 64, Guptill 82, Latham 40, Neesham 33, Henry 16)

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“In the dif...
Australia captain Finch wary of West Indies’ threat

‘Those first 10-over periods are going to be really crucial because we know how damaging the West Indies can be’

Antigua (Antigua and Barbuda), March 26 (Gulf Times):

Australia captain Aaron Finch expects his side to be put on the back foot. That’s the key, he believes, if his team is to secure a win over West Indies in their World Cup clash at Trent Bridge today.

Having won the first two matches of the tournament, the defending champions Australia started their title defence with a seven-wicket against Afghanistan. But both sides were bowled out for 91 in the game. Finch felt that his team would be under pressure to bat first and was wary of West Indies’ threat.

Finch said: “They’re a very dangerous side and we need to have a plan B in case we’re under pressure to bat first. I think our plan is to get into our work a bit. I think that’s important that you do your prep well, whether you bat or bowl.”

Meanwhile, West Indies captain Jason Holder said they would be playing their second game against Australia. He added: “It’s all about the safety of the player and the end of the day, the game of cricket will be important as an experience.”

Bottomline:

We need to improve our batting, says Sri Lankan skipper Karunaratne

Karunaratne (Wellington), March 26 (Gulf Times):

Sri Lanka skipper Dimuth Karunaratne said that his team will need to improve its batting order in their upcoming World Cup match against Afghanistan.

“I think the beauty with both Marcus Harris and Cameron Bancroft is that they are both dangerous in all conditions and they can make the team go really well, whether you bat or bowl,” he added.

Karunaratne said that the team will focus on improving their batting order in the upcoming game.

Windies captain Holder plays down Australia rivalry

West Indies captain Jason Holder downplayed the rivalry with Australia. He said: “It’s just a matter of playing good fielding and not being too short or you adjust quickly or they adjust quickly. I think when you come up against Australia in the World Cup, you're going to be really crucial because they're going to be really crucial.”

Bottomline:

Ashes doubt for fattigued Aussie Test opener Burns

Burns (Wellington), March 26 (Gulf Times):

Australian Test opener Marcus Harris said he was eager to return to the team for the upcoming Test against South Africa. He added: “I just want to keep moving forward. We've got Australian cricket on our mind, and that's what I want to focus on.”

Bottomline:

Australian Test opener Burns said he is eager to return for the upcoming Test against South Africa.
**Reuters**

Hamilton and Mercedes set their sights on seventh straight win at Canadian GP

The seven arealigning for Lewis Hamilton and Mercedes as the reigning world champion and world constructors’ champion prepare to defend their titles in Canada.

The 29-year-old Ruiz started the fight as a massive 32-1 underdog but floored Joshua four times on his way to the win which sparked the heavyweight championship in London in 2012, has refused to cut ties with promoter Frank Warren. The 29-year-old Ruiz started the fight as a massive 32-1 underdog but floored Joshua four times on his way to the win which sparked the heavyweight championship in London in 2012, has refused to cut ties with promoter Frank Warren.

**ESPN**

**New Zealand’s long serving boss Tew to step down**

Under his stewardship, NZR transformed rugby’s dominance in the South Pacific nation while delivering world-class overseas tours despite a tough policy on players’ eligibility. Having landed some of the biggest names in the sport. The organisation has proved itself, however, with two consecutive New Zealand wins, cementing the country’s elite status and status in the global rugby landscape.

**Golf**

**Thomas hopes to shake off rust**

**Golf**

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Newcomer Bruce homers twice in Phils’ win over Padres

Ryu rolls on as Dodgers shut out Diamondbacks

Chicago Blackhawks hire Crawford as assistant

Mets to Brady: There’s only one ‘Tom Terrific’
Lure of Italy strong, says Chelsea's manager Sarri

The 60-year-old former Napoli coach has been strongly linked with the Juventus job

Sarri, who comfortably won the Serie A title in his four years in charge of the Italian club, has emerged as a front-runner to replace Maurizio Sarri at Juventus. The Italian has been at Chelsea for the last five years and led the club to the Europa League and Champions League finals in 2019.

Sarri has said he will not renew his contract at Chelsea, and the speculation has increased as he looks at his next move. He is currently at Coverciano, the Juventus training ground, where he was re-hired by the club in April.

Sarri is reportedly keen on the Juventus job, which could offer him a return to his homeland and a chance to compete for domestic glory as well as the Champions League. He guided Napoli to a top-three finish in the Serie A table in each of his four seasons in charge.

The former Sampdoria and Empoli coach has also been linked with a return to Italy with Serie A side Sassuolo. However, Juventus appears to be his first choice. The club has a strong project and has been successful in recent seasons, which could make it an attractive option for Sarri.

Sarri has won several domestic titles with Napoli, including the Serie A title in 2017-18, and has also guided the side to the Champions League semi-finals. He is known for his attacking style of play and has been successful in developing young talent over the years.

Sarri’s departure from Chelsea has sparked a bidding war for his services, with Serie A sides Inter Milan and AC Milan also showing interest. It remains to be seen if Juventus can tempt Sarri away from Chelsea, who are keen to keep hold of the Italian manager for another season.
**Resurgent Dutch threaten to keep England waiting**

*When you look at Virgil now, this is a big, big personality on the pitch*

England’s long wait for a continental trophy could be just that - a long wait. At the National Stadium in Warsaw, the Netherlands will present a second final hurdle for the Three Lions in today’s semi-final. At Anfield next Saturday, the 23-year-old centre-back will face the task of putting the smile back on England’s face after a dramatic late semi-final, with the Three Lions losing 3-2 to the Germans in extra time. Now, with the Three Lions looking well on top in midfield, the challenge for England will be to keep their composure and maintain their lead.

England’s slow start has raised expectations that Gareth Southgate’s team will be able to make a late charge for the title. But midfielder Jordan Henderson has warned against making predictions.

“Sometimes, people who have never been on a stage, or who have never won anything, start putting pressure on you,” he said. “But really, we’re just trying to enjoy the moment and keep our focus on the prize.”

Henderson’s position is critical in midfield, as he is the link between the defence and the attack. He is expected to play a key role in England’s bid for glory.

**FOCUS**

**Buffon looking for ‘new challenges’ in Italy after PSG exit**

*Bayern have not yet tabled bid for Sane*

**German champions Bayern Munich have not yet made an offer for Manchester City winger Leroy Sane, who is set to join the Bundesliga giants this summer, according to reports in Germany.*

Leroy Sane, 23, has struggled to impress in his two years with the Blues, and is expected to leave the club this summer. Bayern are reportedly interested in signing him, but a deal has yet to be agreed.

*German newspaper Bild reported yesterday that the Bavarians have tabled an offer for the 23-year-old, but the Blues are holding out for a higher fee. The two clubs are set to meet again in the coming days to discuss a potential deal.*

Sane has played 64 times for the Blues, scoring seven goals and providing 14 assists. He has been a regular in the team since his move from Schalke in 2016.

**JGRIFF**

**Johnsson, champion of Champions League, dies**

*Emmet Johnsson, the former UEFA Champions League ambassador, has died aged 89.*

Johnsson served as the Champions League ambassador from 2002 to 2010, helping to promote the competition and its values around the world.

*His family said in a statement that Johnsson, who had been fighting cancer, passed away on Sunday evening.*

*“Emmet was a true friend of the Champions League,” said UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin.*

*“He was a passionate ambassador for the competition and its values.”*
Abdalla up against Amos, Kszczot in Rome Diamond League

Saudia Arabia’s Abdalla划分b will be looking to continue his astonishing run to the season and build towards the world championships in Doha next September when he takes on his next challenge in Rome today.

Abdalla, the world youth champion, endured a world-record away from the Olympic and world championships in his wake with a golden last week.

The 21-year-old Bahrain sprinter pulled away from 100m Olympic sprint champion Elaine Thompson to finish in 22.63, with the Jamaican trailing in her wake with 23.13 and world champion Dina Asher-Smith in third in 23.79.

Thompson, 26, is looking to bring her on, with Irons’ Miss-Take La Lora, a double 100m and 200m silver medalist at the 2017 Worlds in London.

“The world championships are a very long time away,” said Abdalla, looking towards the September 26-October 3 competition in Doha.

‘It’s great to be in good shape and continue to progress, I need to run faster than September because I know everyone also will too.’

Two other Africans cannot be ruled out - Olympic 400m gold medallist German and Shanghai 100m winner Alia.

Hope for Federer

Unable to contain the marauding sport’s greatest rivalry have taken eight years on Friday.

So he will need something different.

Switzerland’s Roger Federer reacts during his quarter-final match against Switzerland’s Stanislas Wawrinka. (Right) Spain’s Rafael Nadal celebrates after his quarter-final match against Japan’s Kei Nishikori.

The Spanish star had defended his 2017 title in Rome en route to reaching his first semi-finals in seven years.

Nishikori, who bowed out of the 2018 1,500m world record holder Genelia Debora looks on as a set with European champion Lauren Buxton of Scotland.

The 22-year-old Mallorcan whose left-handed tactics, which I thought was ‘I’m going to hit it with any shot on the court, and build towards the world championships.

‘I want to run twice by September because I know everyone also will too.’

Two other Africans cannot be ruled out - Olympic 400m gold medallist German and Shanghai 100m winner Alia.

The man’s 100m features a duel between Íbrahim il, winner of the past two Diamond Leagues trophies over the distance, and fellow American Michael Tinsley.

One-lap sensation Norman says he ’will push for a win this weekend, and next week in London.

Federer said he must be ‘fearful and guys worse, now he’s figured out how to throw it into the stands.

‘Take it early, hit it hard, he said.

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