

Bumrah and Shami on a roll

India bowls New Zealand out for 235; Shaw and Mayank off to a good start

INDIA IN NZ

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HAMILTON

Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami gave an exhibition of high quality fast bowling on day two of India's warm-up encounter against New Zealand XI, sending a warning signal for the home team ahead of first Test in Wellington.

Bumrah (2/18 in 11 overs) and Shami (3/17 in 10 overs) used the conditions well to bowl New Zealand out for 235 in 74.2 overs. Umesh Yadav (2/49 in 13 overs) and Navdeep Saini (2/58 in 15 overs) bowled more overs, but weren't half as good.

Prithvi Shaw (35 batting off 25 balls) and Mayank Agarwal (23 batting off 17 balls) ensured the visitors finished the day at 59 for no loss.

Basic idea

For head coach Ravi Shastri, the basic idea was to ensure his pacers got into the groove, and Bumrah and Shami did just that in overcast conditions.

While Umesh and Saini in their first spells bowled too full, Bumrah pitched deliveries on back of length generating disconcerting bounce. He bowled in three short spells while Shami bowled two spells.

The scores:
India — 1st innings: 263.
New Zealand XI — 1st innings:



Getting into the groove: Mohammed Shami used the conditions well to scalp three New Zealand wickets. • TWITTER

Will Young c Pant b Bumrah 2, Rachin Ravindra c Pant b Umesh 34, Tim Seifert c Pant b Shami 9, Finn Allen b Bumrah 20, Henry Cooper c Agarwal b Shami 40, Tom Bruce b Saini 31, Daryl Mitchell c Shaw b Umesh 32, James Neesham b Shami 1, Dane Cleaver b Saini 13, Scott Kuggeleijn (not out) 11, Ish Sodhi c Pujara b Ashwin 14, Extras (b-13 lb-9 w-3 nb-3): 28; Total (in 74.2 overs): 235.

Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-36, 3-70, 4-82, 5-133, 6-155, 7-161, 8-204, 9-213.

India bowling: Jasprit Bumrah 11-3-18-2, Umesh Yadav 13-1-49-2, Mohammed Shami 10-5-17-3, Navdeep Saini 15-2-58-2, Ravichandran Ashwin 15.2-2-46-1, Ravindra Jadeja

10-4-25-0.

India — 2nd innings: Prithvi Shaw (batting) 35, Mayank Agarwal (batting) 23; Extras (w-1): 1; Total: (for no loss in 7

overs): 59.

New Zealand XI bowling: Blair Tickner 3-0-19-0, Scott Kuggeleijn 3-0-34-0, Scott Johnston 1-0-6-0.

Ishant passes fitness test

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Senior India fast bowler Ishant Sharma on Saturday passed the fitness test at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru and will join the team in New Zealand. "Yes, he (Ishant)

has passed the fitness test and he will join the team in New Zealand," a BCCI source told PTI.

Ishant termed the injury phase as a "roller-coaster ride" and thanked NCA physio Ashish Kaushik for helping him to recover.

Bhawana makes the cut for Tokyo

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
RANCHI

Unheralded Bhawana Jat qualified for the Tokyo Olympics in the 20km race walk event after pulling off a shock win with a national record time at the National Championships here on Saturday. The 23-year-old athlete clocked 1 hour 29 minutes and 54 seconds, well inside the Olympic qualification time of 1:31:00, to win the gold.

Bhawana's effort was a massive improvement of more than eight minutes from her personal best of 1:38:30s set in October last year during the National Open Championships here.

She had, however, clocked 1:36:17s during the all India inter-railway championships in August last year in Pune, which was competed on track.

"It's a dream come true. I was doing in the range of 1:27:00s during training," Bhawana told PTI.

Where Owens, Dhyhan Chand hold sway

STAN RAYAN
BERLIN

As one walked into the Olympiastadion here on Saturday afternoon, one noticed the stadium guide narrating the story of Jesse Owens' memorable friendship with his German long jump rival Luz Long to a bunch of eager youngsters from Britain.

The Owens-Long story, that lit up the 1936 Berlin Olympics in this stadium, has probably been told a million times over the last 80 years or so but it has not lost even a bit of its charm.

This is the place where Owens won an unprecedented four Olympic golds in front of a stunned Adolf Hitler. And one could almost picture the young, bright-eyed Francina Koen running to Owens to get his autograph shortly after her very forgettable Olympic debut. But that moment with Owens in 1936 inspired the Dutch girl, who later won four golds herself as Fanny Blankers-Koen in the 1948 London Olympics, the first woman to do so.

"Without Long's advice, Owens would have bowed



History lesson: Stadium guide narrating the story of Jesse Owens and Luz Long to young visitors at the Olympiastadion in Berlin on Saturday. • STAN RAYAN

out in the long jump qualification. Long lost the Olympic gold to Owens but he gained a friend for life," repeated the guide a few times.

In another corner of the Olympia Park is the stadium where Dhyhan Chand led India to the hockey gold, thrashing host Germany 8-1 in the final to complete a hat-trick of Olympic golds.

The 'Wizard of Hockey' mesmerised Hitler and the world with his magical stick-work. He was so good that there are stories about play being stopped at some venues to check whether Chand had applied glue to

his hockey stick or whether there was a magnet inside!

Red carpet

Berlin has now rolled out the red carpet for the Laureus World Sports Awards which celebrate its 20th anniversary at the Verti Music Hall on Monday.

Some of planet's biggest stars, present and past, like Eliud Kipchoge, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, Sergey Bubka, Michael Johnson, Edwin Moses, Daley Thompson, Boris Becker, Cafu, Nadia Comaneci will light up the night.

(The writer is in Berlin at the invitation of Laureus).

Saurav and Joshna reign supreme

NATL. SQUASH

K. KEERTHIVASAN
CHENNAI

Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa the top seeds here justified their billing to bag the men's and women's titles for a record 13th and 18th time respectively.

Saurav clinically dismantled Abhishek Pradhan 11-6, 11-5, 11-6 in the men's final while Joshna encountered a minor scare to outlast Tanvi Khanna 8-11, 11-6, 11-4, 11-7 in the women's summit clash.

The 23-year-old Tanvi showcased her repertoire in the first game, rattling the champion with finely-executed drops and attacking play from the backcourt.

Taking an 8-2 lead, Tanvi looked like closing out the game in quick time when the Joshna clawed her way back to 6-8, but Tanvi raced ahead to pocket the first game.

The 33-year-old asserted her dominance from the second game. Pushing the Delhi girl to the backcourt with neat angles, Joshna won a lot of points through some delicate drops to Tanvi's forehead. The third game was a breeze for Joshna.



Undisputed champs: Saurav and Joshna clinched the men's and women's titles for a record 13th and 18th time. • M. VEDHAN

Tanvi, however, would not leave without a fight. Joshna had to produce her best to win each and every point. Trailing 3-5 in the fourth, Joshna levelled at 5-5. The moment Joshna took a 9-7 lead when Tanvi was forced to hit a forehand to the 'tin', it was clear who the winner would turn out to be.

Saurav, on the other hand, had no trouble in defeating Abhishek.

SRFI sticks to its stand
Sticking to its stand of select-

India goes down fighting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MANILA

Lakshya Sen's stunning win over Asian Games champion Jonatan Christie went in vain as the Indian men's badminton team went down fighting 3-2 to two-time defending champion Indonesia in the semifinals and settled for a bronze at the Asia Team Championships here on Saturday.

Lakshya notched up a sensational 21-18, 22-20 win over World No. 7 Jonatan in the second singles to keep India in the hunt after B. Sai Praneeth retired following a 21-6 thrashing by Anthony Ginting in the opening game of the first singles.

The result: Semifinals: Indonesia 3 beat India 2 (Anthony Ginting bt B. Sai Praneeth 21-6, retd., Jonatan Christie lost to Lakshya Sen 21-18, 22-20; Mohammad Ahsan & Hendra Setiawan bt M.R. Arjun & Dhruv Kapila 21-10, 14-21, 23-21, Shesar Hiren Rhustavitto lost to Subhankar Dey 21-17, 21-15; Marcus Fernaldi Gideon & Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo bt Chirag Shetty & Lakshya 21-6, 21-13).

No fairytale finish for Leander Paes

Ramkumar-Purav combine triumphs in style; Bonzi to meet Duckworth

BENGALURU OPEN

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

Ramkumar Ramanathan and Purav Raja, who have played second fiddle to Leander Paes and Matthew Ebden for the bulk of the \$1,62,000 Bengaluru Open ATP Tennis Challenger here, forced their way to the forefront when it counted most.

In a clinical display, the duo whipped Paes-Ebden 6-0, 6-3 in the final at the KSLTA Stadium here on Saturday and ensured that Paes — playing possibly his last ATP event in India — would not ride into the sunset as a champion.

While Purav was all class at the net, Ramkumar covered the back-court well and muscled his ground-strokes. Paes and Ebden simply had no answers to the devastating one-two punch, in a summit clash that lasted just 56 minutes.

Service proves the difference

Ebden and Paes both struggled with their serves, recording a poor 49% combined first-serve percentage. Ramkumar, on the other hand, was devastating, consistently finding the right spots at around 220-kmph.

Ramkumar and Purav, who have now won three titles in the four tournaments they have entered, collected a cheque of \$9,300 and I25 ATP ranking points.

"I've never had such good results with a new partner. The future looks bright. I don't want to take Ramkumar away from his singles commitments, so I will have to work out my schedule so that we can play together often," Purav said.



Everybody loves...Leander Paes, who may have played his last ATP tournament at home, obliges fans on Saturday. • V. SREENIVASA MURTHY

Ramkumar, whose main focus has been on singles, stated that he is enjoying his doubles run.

Bonding well

"Purav and I know exactly what to do in big moments. Purav knows where I will serve, and we know each other's weaknesses and strengths. We bond well and

the vibe is good — that is important," said Ramkumar.

In singles, unseeded Benjamin Bonzi took out second seed S. Travaglia 6-3, 6-4 in the semifinals. Bonzi, who has beaten four higher-ranked rivals here, reached his second Challenger final.

The Frenchman will face Australian James Duckworth in the final on Sunday. Duck-

worth cruised past Italy's J. Occeppo 6-3, 6-3 in the other semifinal.

The results:
Singles (semifinals): James Duckworth (Aus) bt J. Occeppo (Ita) 6-3, 6-2; Benjamin Bonzi (Fra) bt S. Travaglia (Ita) 6-3, 6-4.
Doubles (final): Purav Raja & Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Matthew Ebden (Aus) & Leander Paes 6-0, 6-3.

'That's a great way to go'

SPORTS REPORTER
BENGALURU

An emotional Leander Paes, who has possibly played his last ATP event match in India, stated that he will miss the massive home crowd support that he has enjoyed over his long career. The 46-year-old shed a few tears when asked about his fans, at the post-match press

conference here on Saturday. "The fact that I've played my last match in India — it sunk in after the match when I was signing autographs.

"A young girl — must have been five or six years old — gave me a 'One Last Roar' t-shirt which was twice her size. She gave it to me and said, 'Leander,

can you sign this?'. She must have been about 40 years younger to me, and she wanted my autograph. It meant a lot to me, because she recognised the effort I have put into my career," Paes said, "And when I signed the t-shirt and gave it to her, she turned around and said 'Bye'. She said bye. That's a great way to go."

Amendola bags a double

MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

Michelangelo Amendola notched a fine double to consolidate his top position while Jordanian teenager Manaf Hijjawi scored the maiden single-seater win of his racing career in the MRF Challenge here on Saturday.

With three more races to be run on Sunday, Amendola leads the table with 209 points, followed by Australian Dylan Young (175), Britain's Joshua Mason (160), and Hijjawi (130).

Earlier, Coimbatore's Arjun Balu (Race Concepts) chalked up a fluent win in the Indian Touring Cars class of the Indian National Car Racing Championship (Round-1).

The results (Provisional): MRF Challenge (all 15 laps unless mentioned): Race 1: Michelangelo Amendola (Bel, 22mins, 58.236); 2: Dylan

Young (Aus, 23:05.941); 3. Joshua Mason (GBR, 23:06.414).

Race-2: 1. Manaf Hijjawi (Jor, 23:13.797); 2. Mason (23:14.347); 3. Valdemar Eriksen (Den, 23:17.576).

Race-3: 1. Amendola (22:57.347); 2. Young (23:07.540); 3. Louis Foster (UK, 23:07.958).

National Championship (10 laps) — Indian Touring Cars (Race-1): 1. Arjun Balu (Race Concepts, 19:18.024); 2. D. Vidyaprakash (Prime Racing, 19:41.347); 3. Vishnu Prasad (Prime Racing, 19:55.112).

Super Stock (Race-1): 1. Rithvik Thomas (Race Concepts, 20:11.569); 2. Raghul Rangasamy (Performance Racing, 20:19.452); 3. Alisha Abdullah (Race Concepts, 20:31.940).
Support races (10 laps) MRF F1600 (Race-1): 1. Raghul Rangasamy (16:38.930); 2. Vishnu Prasad (16:40.163); 3. Sohil Shah (16:41.535).

Volkswagen Ameo Super Race (Race-1, 10 laps): 1. Saurav Bandyopadhyay (19:21.422); 2. Anindith Reddy (19:22.578); 3. Dhruv Mohite (19:25.566).

Barca edges Getafe

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WOLVERHAMPTON

A slick Antoine Griezmann strike kept Barcelona on its way against Getafe in La Liga on Saturday before it survived a late onslaught from the gritty visitors to win 2-1. The result leaves Barcelona trailing on goal-difference atop La Liga before leader Real Madrid's Sunday home game with Celta Vigo.

In a physically engaging game, Barca star Jordi Alba limped off in the first half.

Denied by VAR

In the Premier League, Nuno Espirito Santo claimed football is in danger of becoming robotic after Wolves were controversially denied by VAR and Leicester's Hamza Choudhury was sent off in a stormy 0-0 draw at Molineux on Friday.

The results: Premier League: Southampton 1 (Ings 18) lost

to Burnley 2 (Westwood 2, Vydra 60).

La Liga: Mallorca 1 (Cucho 63) bt Alaves 0; Barcelona 2 (Griezmann 33, Roberto 39) bt Getafe 1 (Rodriguez 66).

Bundesliga: RB Leipzig 3 (Klostermann 18, Schick 39, Mukiele 46) bt Werder Bremen 0; Hoffenheim 2 (Baumgartner 45, Kramaric 60-pen) lost to VfL Wolfsburg 3 (Weghorst 18-pen, 52-pen, 71); Augsburg 1 (Max 38) drew with Freiburg 1 (Haberer 51); Paderborn 1 (Jarstein 51-og) lost to Hertha Berlin 2 (Boyata 10, Cunha 67); Union Berlin 2 (Gentner 7, Buelter 87) lost to Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Havertz 22, Diaby 83, Bellarabi 90+4).

Friday: Premier League: Wolves 0 drew with Leicester 0.

La Liga: Valencia 2 (Gabriel Paulista 40, Kondogbia 59) drew with Atletico Madrid 2 (Llorente 15, Partey 43).

Bundesliga: Borussia Dortmund 4 (Piszczek 33, Sancho 50, Haaland 54, Guerreiro 74) bt Eintracht Frankfurt 0.

IPL 2020 schedule

The Indian Premier League (IPL) will begin on March 29 with champion Mumbai Indians taking on Chennai Super Kings at home. 56 league matches would be played over 50 days with double-headers only on Sundays.

Date	Venue	Teams	Time	Date	Venue	Teams	Time
Mar. 29	Mumbai	MI v CSK	8 p.m.	Apr. 23	Kolkata	KKR v KXIP	8 p.m.
Mar. 30	Delhi	DC v KXIP	8 p.m.	Apr. 24	Chennai	CSK v MI	8 p.m.
Mar. 31	Bengaluru	RCB v KKR	8 p.m.	Apr. 25	Jaipur	RR v RCB	8 p.m.
Apr. 1	Hyderabad	SRH v MI	8 p.m.	Apr. 26	Mohali	KXIP v KKR	4 p.m.
Apr. 2	Chennai	CSK v RRI	8 p.m.	Apr. 26	Hyderabad	SRH v DC	8 p.m.
Apr. 3	Kolkata	KKR v DC	8 p.m.	Apr. 27	Chennai	CSK v RCB	8 p.m.
Apr. 4	Mohali	KXIP v SRH	8 p.m.	Apr. 28	Mumbai	MI v KKR	8 p.m.
Apr. 5	Mumbai	MI v RCB	4 p.m.	Apr. 29	Jaipur	RR v KXIP	8 p.m.
Apr. 5	Jaipur/Guwahati	RR v DC	8 p.m.	Apr. 30	Hyderabad	SRH v CSK	8 p.m.
Apr. 6	Kolkata	KKR v CSK	8 p.m.	May 1	Mumbai	MI v DC	8 p.m.
Apr. 7	Bengaluru	RCB v SRH	8 p.m.	May 2	Kolkata	KKR v RR	8 p.m.
Apr. 8	Mohali	KXIP v MI	8 p.m.	May 3	Bengaluru	RCB v KXIP	4 p.m.
Apr. 9	Jaipur/Guwahati	RR v DC	8 p.m.	May 3	Delhi	DC v SRH	8 p.m.
Apr. 10	Delhi	DC v RCB	8 p.m.	May 4	Jaipur	RR v CSK	8 p.m.
Apr. 11	Chennai	CSK v KXIP	8 p.m.	May 5	Hyderabad	SRH v RCB	8 p.m.
Apr. 12	Hyderabad	SRH v RR	4 p.m.	May 6	Delhi	DC v MI	8 p.m.
Apr. 12	Kolkata	KKR v RRI	8 p.m.	May 7	Chennai	CSK v KKR	8 p.m.
Apr. 13	Delhi	DC v CSK	8 p.m.	May 8	Mohali	KXIP v RR	8 p.m.
Apr. 14	Mohali	KXIP v RCB	8 p.m.	May 9	Mumbai	MI v SRH	8 p.m.
Apr. 15	Mumbai	MI v RR	8 p.m.	May 10	Chennai	CSK v DC	4 p.m.
Apr. 16	Hyderabad	SRH v KKR	8 p.m.	May 10	Kolkata	KKR v RCB	8 p.m.
Apr. 17	Mohali	KXIP v CSK	8 p.m.	May 11	Jaipur	RR v MI	8 p.m.
Apr. 18	Bengaluru	RCB v RR	8 p.m.	May 12	Hyderabad	SRH v KXIP	8 p.m.
Apr. 19	Delhi	DC v KKR	4 p.m.	May 13	Delhi	DC v RRI	8 p.m.
Apr. 19	Chennai	CSK v SRH	8 p.m.	May 14	Bengaluru	RCB v CSK	8 p.m.
Apr. 20	Mumbai	MI v KXIP	8 p.m.	May 15	Kolkata	KKR v SRH	8 p.m.
Apr. 21	Jaipur	RR v SRH	8 p.m.	May 16	Mohali	KXIP v DC	8 p.m.
Apr. 22	Bengaluru	RCB v DC	8 p.m.	May 17	Bengaluru	RCB v MI	8 p.m.