



TAYLOR TON GUIDES NZ TO MORALE-BOOSTING VICTORY



WELLINGTON: Ross Taylor and stand-in captain Tom Latham combined in a 138-run stand to guide New Zealand to a morale-boosting four-wicket victory over India in the first one-day international in Hamilton on Wednesday.

Taylor chaled up his 21st century with an unbeaten 109 while Latham, deputising for the injured Kane Williamson,

weighed in with 69 as the hosts chased down India's imposing 347-4, passing the target with almost two overs to spare.

Victory was not without a scare, however. New Zealand lost three quick wickets as they approached the target, raising fears of a repeat of their capitulation in the Twenty20 series, when they threw away winning positions in the last three

games to slump to a 5-0 defeat.

But Mitchell Santner held his nerve, finishing on 12 not out as New Zealand ended an eight-game losing streak, having also succumbed 3-0 in their test series in Australia. India's massive total was built on Shreyas Iyer's maiden one-day international century. Dropped on eight, 11 and 83, he went on to score 103 and

shared in century stands with both Virat Kohli (51) and KL Rahul (88 not out).

The win released some pressure on Gary Stead and New Zealand Cricket (NZC) after the coach was granted a week's leave from the team to rest, leaving bowling coach Shane Jurgensen in charge for the three-match ODI series.

The move had been criticised by sev-

eral former players, with NZC forced to explain the decision on Wednesday.

"Player and support staff workload is a big issue in international cricket," NZC Chief Executive David White told reporters. "We lost our last coach Mike Hesson to workload issues," he added in reference to Hesson's sudden resignation in 2018. "We want to make this role sus-

tainable going forward and that's why Gary is having a week off."

White said the decision had been made more than six months ago and that Stead has always been reluctant to take a break.

"The man works very, very hard; so as managers we must manage his workload or we will have burnout," White added.



Dazzling De Kock helps SA ease to victory against England

CAPE TOWN: Captain Quinton de Kock smashed a sparkling century as South Africa eased to a seven-wicket victory against world champions England in the opening One-Day International at Newlands on Tuesday.

After being put into bat, England overcame a top-order wobble to post 258 for eight in their 50 overs, helped by a well-constructed 87 from Joe Denley in the side's first ODI outing since lifting the World Cup at Lord's last July.

But De Kock (107) and Temba Bavuma (98) put on 173 for the second wicket as South Africa reached 259 for three to secure victory with 14 balls to spare.

The second ODI will be played in Durban on Friday, with the three-match series ending in Johannesburg on Sunday. England fielded just five players who featured in last year's World Cup final having rested Ben Stokes and Jos Buttler for this series, with seamer Chris Woakes the only survivor from the

bowling attack.

South Africa lost Reeza Hendricks for six early in their chase, caught by wicketkeeper Jonny Bairstow off Woakes.

But De Kock and Bavuma played risk-free cricket, rotating the strike superbly, while hitting boundaries when presented with the opportunity to do so. De Kock reached his 15th ODI century in 106 balls before he was bowled by the part-time spin of Joe Root.

Messi fires back at Barca sporting director Abidal after jibe

BARCELONA: Lionel Messi criticised Barcelona sporting director Eric Abidal on Tuesday for saying many in the squad were not working hard under former coach Ernesto Valverde.

Abidal and president Josep Maria Bartomeu sacked Valverde in January, replacing the coach with Quique Setien.

Abidal, a former team mate of Messi, explained why Valverde was sacked despite the team being top of La Liga in an interview in Spanish newspaper Diario Sport.

"Many players weren't satisfied or working hard and there was also an internal communication problem," said Abidal.

"The relationship between the coach and the dressing room has always been good but there are things as an ex-player that I could smell. I told the club what I thought and we reached a decision (on Valverde)."

Messi, however, hit back at Abidal in an Instagram post, circling an image of the sporting director's quote.

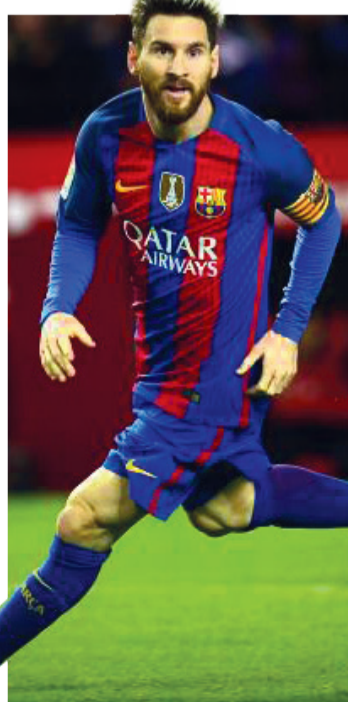
"Sincerely, I don't like to do these things but I think that people have to be responsible for their jobs and own their decisions," Messi wrote.

"The players (are responsible) for what happens on the pitch and we are the first to admit when we haven't been good. The heads of the sports department have to take their responsibilities too and above all own the decisions they make."

"Finally I think that when you talk about players, you have to give names because if not, it makes everyone dirty and gives air to things that are said which are not true."

Abidal and Messi played together at Barcelona between 2007 and 2013, with the French defender returning to the club after retirement to become sporting director in June 2018.

In his interview with Diario Sport, Abidal also said he thought Messi was happy at the club and a new contract for the Argentine talisman was currently being negotiated.



CANCER SOCIETY OF KASHMIR

4-Bagh-i-Islam Colony Lal Nagar, Chanapora Srinagar 190 015 Tele Fax 0194-2441899/2430899

Website: www.cancersocietykashmir.org E-mail: cancersocietyofkashmir@gmail.com



On the eve of World Cancer Day (4th Feb 2020) Cancer Society of Kashmir organized a free mammography screening & free oncology consultation camp under the supervision of expert doctors. Hundreds of patients who had come from different corners of the Valley were examined. Poor & deserving patients who are registered with this society were provided free anticancer drugs as a matter of routine. Mammography Screening of around 20 patients was also conducted free of cost on this occasion.

A documentary titled "Hope in despair" produced by EMMRC university of Kashmir was also screened in the conference hall of this society. Besides many discussions & awareness about this dreaded disease were held on All India Radio Srinagar & Door Darshan Kendra Srinagar. Wide publicity was also given in all the leading dailies of the valley.

The day long activities were carried out smoothly with active participation of staff members of the society who worked very hard to make this event a success.



Issued in public interest by:-

CANCER SOCIETY OF KASHMIR

4-Bagh-i-Islam Colony Lal Nagar, Chanapora Srinagar 190 015 Tele Fax 0194-2441899/2430899

Website: www.cancersocietykashmir.org E-mail: cancersocietyofkashmir@gmail.com