

# Pandya's ton, Kuldeep's four headline 15-wicket day



Hardik Pandya, celebrating his first international century, is congratulated by Umesh Yadav. Shikhar Dhawan helps his teammate Wriddhiman Saha button up his jersey —REUTERS

**PALLEKELE, AUG 13 /-** Hardik Pandya smashed his maiden Test century before Chinnaman Kuldeep Yadav routed the Sri Lankan middle order, setting India up for a series whitewash on the second day of the third and final match, here. Pandya's aggressive batting powered India to 487 all out after starting the day at 329 for six. The memorable knock was also Pandya's first ever hundred in first class cricket.

Pandya's knock, which was embellished with seven powerful sixes, punctured whatever hopes Sri Lanka had to make it a contest after ending the opening day on a high. Kuldeep, who replaced the suspended Ravindra Jadeja in the side, scalped four Lankan batsmen after Mohammed Shami sent back both the openers to help India bundle out the hosts for a paltry 135. With a massive 352-run lead in hand, Virat Kohli had no hesitation in enforcing the follow-on and inflict more misery on a hapless Sri Lanka. There was enough time for India to take another wicket with

Upu Tharanga dragging one on to his stumps off paceman Umesh Yadav, leaving Sri Lanka at 19 for one at end of the day in which 15 wickets fell. Dimuth Karunaratne (12) and Malinda Pushpakumara (0) were at the crease when the stumps were drawn. The wicket was not a bad one to bat on but listless Sri Lankan batsmen failed to apply themselves.

Dinesh Chandimal (48) and Niroshan Dickwella (29) put on 83 runs for the fifth wicket in the final session of the day. They attacked the Indian bowling with clear mindset. It helped Lanka cross 100 in the 21st over but their partnership was broken when Dickwella was stumped off Kuldeep (4/40). It was the start of another collapse for the hosts as two overs later, Dilruwan Perera (0) holed out in the deep off Kuldeep again.

The big wicket came when Chandimal was caught at leg gully off R Ashwin (2/22) in the 32nd over, the ball lobbing up and KL Rahul completing the easy catch. Five balls later, Kuldeep, playing only his sec-

ond Test, bowled Malinda Pushpakumara (10) and then returned in the 37th over to dismiss Vishwa Fernando (0) in the same manner. He missed his maiden Test five-wicket haul when Ashwin dismissed Lakshan Sandakan (10) an over later, caught at leg gully. Lanka lost their last six wickets for 34 runs. Ashwin and Mohammed Shami shared the new ball for India in the second innings, and although the Lankan batsmen showed intent to fight, Umesh (1/3) managed to get the breakthrough. Earlier, Pandya was dismissed for 108 runs (96 balls, 8 fours and 7 sixes) after adding 66 runs for the last wicket with Umesh (3) before lunch. The former was caught at deep cover off Lakshan Sandakan (5/132) three deliveries after the break. It was the Lankan chinaman's maiden five-wicket haul in his sixth Test. Lanka though struggled from the very start in this short middle session. Shami (2/15) and Umesh moved the new ball very well and used the bounce available to good effect.

Tharanga (5) was the first to go, caught behind off Shami in the third over, albeit he wasted a DRS review despite getting a thick edge. Shami also sent back Karunaratne (4) cheaply, caught behind again in the 5th over. Things took a dire turn for the hosts when Kusal Mendis (18) was run-out after a mix-up with skipper Chandimal. Pandya then struck a body blow with the ball as well trapping Angelo Mathews (0) lbw in the 10th over as Lanka were reduced to 38/4. As the day began with India re-summing at 329 for six, Pandya and Wriddhiman Saha (16) looked to bat for time in a bid to resurrect India's floundering first innings. But they could only add 10 more runs to their overnight partnership with Saha caught at gully off Vishwa Fernando (2-87) in the ninth ball of the morning. Kuldeep (26) batted resolutely though and put on 82 runs with Pandya for the eighth wicket. In doing so, they took India past 400 in the 110th over, something that seemed unlikely at stumps on day one. The



Kuldeep Yadav sports a grin after completing a four-for

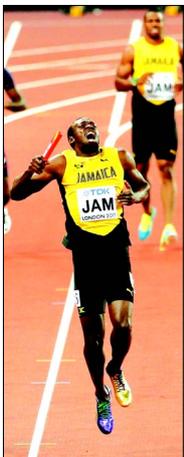
former then fell immediately afterwards caught behind off Sandakan. India became the first team to score 400-plus in three successive Tests of a series on Lankan soil. Pandya then went into overdrive and put on 20 runs with Shami (8), whilst restricting his half-century off 61 balls. He then put Malinda Pushpakumara (3/82) to the sword in the 116th over, taking 28 runs off him with 3 sixes and 2 fours. It was the most runs scored by an Indian batsman in an over in Test cricket, beating the previous joint-record of 24 runs held by Sandip Patil and Kapil Dev. This attack helped put an aggressive 10th wicket stand for India as Umesh and Pandya put on 50 runs off only 26 balls in the extended morning session. Pandya then reached his maiden Test hundred off 86 balls, his second half-century coming off only 25 balls. It was also the second fastest Test hundred overseas by an Indian batsman, second to Virender Sehwag a 78-ball effort against West Indies at Gros Islet in 2006. (PTI)

Sri Lanka 135 (Chandimal 48, Kuldeep 4-40, Shami 2-17) and 19 for 1 (0) trail India 487 (Dhawan 119, Pandya 108, Rahul 85, Sandakan 5-132, Pushpakumara 3-82) by 333 runs



Usain Bolt of Jamaica falls down injured —REUTERS

## Greatest Bolt's running career ends in agony



Usain Bolt of Jamaica appears injured during the final —REUTERS

**LONDON, AUG 13 /-** Irony was at its cruellest as Usain Leo Bolt pulled up hurt in his final competitive race to end, in a cry of pain and agony, a decade of dominance that is unrivalled in the history of track and field. Bolt failed to finish the men's 4x100m relay race of the World Athletics Championships here after he pulled a hamstring at the home straight.

The astonishing turn of events marred what was expected to be a golden farewell. Running the final race of his career, the 30-year-old Bolt, after taking the baton from his Jamaican teammate Yohan Blake, suffered cramps on his left hamstring as he tried, in vain, to chase down the British and American rivals in the last lap of the race. Needing to make a lot of ground, Bolt began his familiar initial long strides but could not produce the trademark explosive burst of speed and suddenly stumbled, hobbled a few strides before falling on the track in pain and agony. "It's cramp in his left hamstring but a lot of pain is from disappointment from losing the race. The last three weeks have been hard for him. We hope for the best for him," Jamaican team doctor Kevin Jones said later. It was a terrible sight at the Olympic stadium, the theatre of his three gold winning exploits in the 2012 Olympic Games. Bolt went down on his knees with hands on

his head in dejection and was then lying alone on the tracks for a while before Blake and the other teammates, Julius Forte and Omar McLeod, gathered around him. The towering Jamaican, who had dominated the sprint race like nobody else, was helped to his feet. As he limped over the finishing line, the crowd applauded him. The result sheet, however, showed DNF (Did Not Finish) against the Jamaicans. The scene this weekend was more heartbreaking than last Saturday when Bolt was beaten by his long-time rival Justin Gatlin in the 100m dash in his last individual race. The last time, Bolt took a lap of honour and acknowledged the support and adulation of the crowd. But this time, there was no lap of honour and with Britain the 100m dash on August 5 would be his final farewell to the crowd. But it is learnt that the IAAF and local organisers have decided to arrange a lap of honour on the final day of the championships. Britain won the gold in 37.47 seconds

while United States (38.01) and Japan took the silver and bronze respectively. Bolt would have had to back out, if he did not suffer the injury, to fight his way into the gold medal picture, as he was some three meters behind the British counterpart when he took the baton from Blake. Gatlin, who was booed by the London crowd for snatching the gold medal from Bolt in the 100m, paid a tribute to his rival. "Usain Bolt is a great athlete. I am sorry he got this injury. I think it was the elements. But he is still the best in the world," said Gatlin. "You can't let these championships define what he has done in the past. He has done amazing things. He's still the man, you know. The was his farewell race and we wish him the best and hope he recovers soon," added the American who ran the first leg. "Usain's name will always live on in the sport. He was the greatest sprinter of all time and saviour of a sport for long mixed in doping controversies. No man has ever dominated sprint like Bolt since he won a gold each in the 100m and 200m in the 2008 Beijing Olympics and for nearly 10 years, he strode like a colossus with his running prowess and

charisma. He has won eight Olympic and 11 World Championships gold medals before coming here. He has won three gold each in all three Olympics he has taken part, but returned the gold he won in 4x100m relay in Beijing after team-mate Nesta Carter tested positive for a prohibited substance. He has won three gold in all World Championships from 2009 till this edition, except the 100m event in 2011, when he false started to be disqualified. He has also won a silver each in 200m and 4x100m relay in the 2007 Osaka World Championships. Taking into account the bronze in 100m here, he has won 22 medals in Olympics and World Championships taken together, with 19 of them gold. The "Muhammad Ali of Athletics", as christened by world athletics body boss Sebastian Coe, Bolt is one of the most charismatic athletes across all sports and he would be remembered as someone who has brought more fans to athletics at a time when public cynicism of the sport was on the rise due to doping controversies. The latest - and the biggest - controversy to hit athletics was the Russian scandal in which the country was accused of systematic state-sponsored doping programme. Despite these scandals, Bolt kept the fans intact, his exploits and charisma brought more youngsters to the sport, a fact Coe has admitted.

## Hardik can be compared to Kapil Dev: MSK Prasad

**NEW DELHI, AUG 13 /-** The chairman of selectors MSK Prasad feels that Hardik Pandya has the potential to match the legendary Kapil Dev, provided the all-rounder stays grounded. Bursting onto the scene as a T20 specialist for Mumbai Indians, the young Baroda all-rounder marked his debut Test series with a smashing century in the ongoing third and final match. "If he stays grounded I am sure we will see him being compared to the legendary Kapil Dev in the times to come," Prasad told PTI after Pandya hit his maiden Test ton that had six sixes. Since Kapil's retirement in 1994, India could never find an all-rounder of his calibre. Irfan Pathan, for his swing bowling and aggressive batting, was touted as one before injury and poor form saw him lose his way. Shreeves Binnay, despite his sincerity, never had the talent that Pandya possesses. When Prasad was asked if India's search for a potent all-rounder is over, he said "yes." "I am very happy to say that our search for an all-rounder has been successful in the form of Hardik," Prasad, a former India wicketkeeper, said. The chairman is all the more satisfied that Pandya has now established himself as an all-rounder across all formats after his hundred and fifty in this current series. "He has already established himself in shorter formats (ODIs and T20) very well and this Test series has given him a good platform to establish himself in the longest format," Prasad said. "He has utilised the opportunity given to him and came out with flying colours," Prasad said. (PTI)

## Kang disappoints in javelin final, finishes 12th

**LONDON, AUG 13 /-** Davinder Singh Kang failed to make his historic final-round appearance, finishing a disappointing 12th in the men's javelin throw competition, as India continued their miserable show in the World Athletics Championships here. Kang, the first Indian to qualify for a world championship final round in javelin throw, produced a below-par performance and could only muster a best throw of 80.02m in his third attempt at the Olympic Stadium. He began with a 75.40m and then fouled his second attempt in the 13-man field. He was eliminated after three rounds while the top eight continued the competition. Kang has a season's and personal's best of 84.57m. Season leader Johannes Vetter of Germany won the gold with a best throw of 98.80m, while Czech Republic duo Jakub Vadlejch (89.73m) and Petr Frydrych (88.32m), clinched silver and bronze respectively. Reigning Olympic champion, Thomas Rohler, was fourth with a best throw of 88.20m. The 28-year-old Kang, who tested positive for marijuana but still made it to the Indian squad as the dope offence did not attract an automatic suspension, was carrying a right shoulder injury that he had sustained in May. He was seen clutching the right hand after his second throw. "I tried my best but the pain due to the injury on my right shoulder I was carrying into the tournament, was too much for me to bear and because of that I could not do well. I did not want to give excuses but I would have done better if I did not for the injury. I am disappointed I have let the country down," Kang said after the event.