

SA want to whitewash India: Rabada

JOHANNESBURG, JAN 19 -- Five days before the final Test on a pitch that has been an excessively green tinge, pacer Kagiso Rabada said South Africa are gunning for a white wash of India, having trampled the visitors in the first two matches. The hosts have taken an unassailable 2-0 lead with convincing wins in the first two Tests, with Rabada producing a match-winning spell at the Newlands. "Obviously we know how to play fast bowling and we've got respect for their attack. Every game you go into, you want to win. So obviously we want to get a whitewash against India," Rabada said that India are too reliant on skipper Virat Kohli, who scored his 21st Test hundred at Centurion. "I think they do rely on him. But it is just like we rely on a couple of players too. I'm not saying India don't have any quality players, they do. But it's just a fact that Kohli scores most of their runs. It is really enjoyable bowling to the likes of him. He was named ICC Player of the Year (sic), so it's quite cool to go up against the best." When asked about India's lack of preparation in the series, he said, "I don't know what's going on in their preparation. That's not something we want to look at really. We've got no concern with their preparation. We're concerned with how we want to get them out and how we want to win against them. I'm not going to diagnose their problems. The young pacer though feels that the Indian attack has given a good account in the two Tests. "The fast bowlers are excited to bowl at the Wanderers. We always are as it has pace, bounce and swing. Bumrah is a very good bowler, he's already opening the bowling now. He's done very well with the one-day stuff and now he's doing really well in the Test matches too. "Mohammed Shami is very experienced and got some pace. Umesh Yadav, and Bhuvneshwar Kumar who caused a lot of trouble in Cape Town, they've got good fast bowlers." His team 2-0 up, he is not thinking about cricket now.

"I haven't seen the pitch yet. Cricket is off my mind now and the hard work starts again on Monday. Then we'll have a look at the pitch. We know how the conditions behave here. India played really well the last time they were here. Kohli got a hundred. Wanderers is a good wicket, it's normally a moving wicket. It's a pitch where if you bat well you can score some runs, and if you bowl well you'll take wickets." Rabada said playing India is a challenge though there is a difference between the two series the overseas record since 2011, and their record during their dream run in the 2015-17 period. "Playing against the Indians is extremely challenging. They are known for their great batsmen and they've got really good bowlers as well. So they are very tough to get a wicket in every where else in the world, and they wanted to come here and really beat us. So things are going to get a bit messy out there. But that's just the nature of it, with two quality sides coming against each other. Off the field, we're friends," he added. The Proteas won the second Test by 135 runs to clinch the series and Rabada said that their team effort helped them to beat India. "It's nice to see youngsters step up like Lungi Ngidi, he stepped up. Aiden Markram stepped up in the first innings. It was also nice to see Hashim Amla get some runs. AB de Villiers came in and played a very crucial knock in the second innings. "He's just got the ability to speed the game up and not get out at the same time. So he played very well. I thought that was a very key moment. And also the way Dean Elgar hung with him." He said South Africa wanted to bat as long as possible in the second innings at Centurion. "In the second innings, we just wanted to bat time, see how long we could go because we knew the pitch was only getting harder to bat on. There was a bit of variable bounce. The wicket was squating a bit and some balls were bounc-



Virat Kohli gets ready to bat during a practice session in Johannesburg

ing, a bit more misbehaving. "We knew reverse swing was going to be a tactic, and the short ball as well, because of the nature of the wicket. All in all, I thought our bowlers did a great job in containing the runs and bowling wicket-taking deliveries," he added. Rabada highlighted that de Villiers' free-scoring knocks in Cape Town and Centurion had set up the wins for South Africa. "AB is a genius at his craft. It's a fact. He stays in on difficult wickets, but he's striking at 70 or 80 - he makes it look easy." He got a real understanding of the game, which a lot of people don't get that easily. It looks very simple to him. He's a very crucial player in our team," said Rabada. He also talked about Ngidi, someone who he has played with since the Under-19 days. The latter took 6-39 in India's second innings collapse at Supersport Park. "Lungi and I, we played together in the Under-19. We

even toured India I remember, but he got injured unfortunately and his trip was cut short. But we played together at school and we have a history. So it's just nice to play with your friend, from when you were a teenager. "Hopefully long may it continue, and we can form a great partnership. I know he has enjoyed bowling with the likes of Morne Morkel and Vernon Philander as well." It is in keeping with team policy to get some experience of conditions. So Thakur's early arrival will help him get acclimatized quickly ahead of the ODI series," said a team source here. There is a school of thought that the team wants to prepare in a specific manner for the third Test to save a 3-0 whitewash. With a green pitch in the offing, with a lot of pace and bounce, the management doesn't want to rely on local net bowlers who "might not be up to the mark" to help in this endeavour.

East Bengal will start as favourites: Bagan coach



East Bengal are a team ahead of us in all facets. After losing to us, they have been unbeaten. Their coach Khalid Jamil is way more experienced than me and has been in the Indian football scene for more than a decade. He is a title-winning coach. They are playing good football and that is why they are ahead of us which reflects on the table

KOLKATA, JAN 19 -- East Bengal may have lost the first leg derby last month but they will start favourites in the return I-League fixture here on Sunday. Mohun Bagan coach Shankarlal Chakraborty said today. Mohun Bagan won by a solitary goal against their arch-rivals last month but since then they have slumped to sixth in the table and have parted with their I-League winning coach Sanjoy Sen. "East Bengal are way ahead of us," Chakraborty told reporters in the build-up to the derby. Injuries to key players, including their star striker Sony Norde, have dented Mohun Bagan's campaign as they have managed just six points from six outings. "Whether we are or not, East Bengal will start favourites," he said and pointed out that East Bengal have fared better since losing to them. "You just look at the table. They have lost only one match. Their coach (Khalid Jamil) has a lot of more experience than me, having coached at Mumbai FC before winning I-League for Aizawl FC (last season)," a modest Chakraborty added. "They have not lost away match. Their team combination from defence to forward is much better than us." Mohun Bagan have not ruled out Norde for their derby match. "He has a chance. We are in constant touch with the medical team but we have our plan B in place in case he doesn't recover." "East Bengal are a team ahead of us in all facets. After losing to us, they have been unbeaten. Their coach Khalid Jamil is way more experienced than me and has been in the Indian football scene for more than a decade. He is a title-winning coach. They are playing good football and that is why they are ahead of us which reflects on the table," said Chakraborty. His first derby as a coach, Chakraborty wants to see team doing well. "I'm not thinking about myself. It's about the team. Everybody stands for the team. The challenge is to win for Mohun Bagan and we will try our best," he signed off. (PTI)

AIFF U-16 team departs for exposure trip to Dubai

NEW DELHI, JAN 19 -- After a successful qualifying campaign for the AFC U-16 Championship, India U-16 head coach Bibiano Fernandes firmly believes the exposure trip to Dubai "will be the perfect way to kick off preparation for the AFC U-16 Championship." The AIFF has planned some exposure trips for the boys, starting with Dubai. I think this will be the perfect way to kick off preparation for the AFC U-16 Championship," said the coach. The exposure trip to Dubai is just the beginning of a series of trips that has been planned by the AIFF for the U-16 team. Elaborating on the topic Bibiano revealed: "After Dubai, we travel to Qatar to play some friendlies. There are also plans to travel to various other countries between January to August."

Outstanding tax demand of BCCI may go up to over Rs 860 crore: RTI reply

NEW DELHI, Jan 19 -- The outstanding tax demand by the income tax department on the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) may go up to over Rs 860 crore, according to an RTI reply from the department. In response to an application by RTI activist Subhash Agrawal, the I-T department has given details of the tax demands raised by it on the BCCI and the payments made by the cricket body. The tax department said the total tax payable by the BCCI till January 9, 2018 was Rs 125.01 crore for the assessment year 2014-15 of which it had paid Rs 864.78 crore leaving an outstanding tax of Rs 460.52 crore. The reply said for the year 2015-16, the assessment will be completed and the department is likely to raise a demand of Rs 400 crore on the cricket body, taking the total pending demand to Rs 860.52 crore. The response of the tax department came after the Central Information Commission directed it to furnish the factual position on the demand pending and the recoveries made for the period sought by Agrawal. "The commission would also like to draw the attention of the tax recovery authorities about the approach, procedures and extant guidelines followed by the respondent in recovery of arrears of taxes due from the public body (BCCI) and the interest accrued thereon in this particular case vis-a-vis the philosophy pursued in similarly placed matters." Information Commission Commissioner Bimal Julka said in a recent order.

Look at the positives, we took 20 wickets: MS on Test show We will definitely try to get Ashwin back in CSK: Dhoni

CHENNAI, JAN 19 -- The under-fire Indian Test team on Friday got the backing of former captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who said there are quite a few positives to look at in the first Test against South Africa -- the prominent one being the bowlers' performance. "Virat Kohli's world no. 1 India are trailing 0-2 in the three-match series after heavy losses in Cape Town and Centurion. The third and final Test is scheduled to be held in Johannesburg from January 24. "I would say look at the positives. To win a Test match you need 20 wickets and we have taken 20 wickets. What is the next thing? You look to draw a Test match. This means we have won Tests but continues to be part of India's limited-over tests, said at a press conference. "How you give a Test match is by giving less runs and by scoring runs," he told reporters here at a promotional event. Dhoni said the fact that India is in a match is a sign that the side is never too far from a win. "If you are not able to get 20 wickets, you can't win a Test match irrespective of whether you are playing in India or you are playing outside. But that is the big positive. We are taking 20 wickets in the first Test. We are always in a position to win a Test match. Once you start scoring runs, you are there," he added. The

Jharkhand stumper, who led the Chennai Super Kings in the first eight editions of the IPL before it was suspended in the wake of the 2013 spot-fixing scam, said he was happy to be back at the franchise. "I never thought of playing for any other franchise other than CSK. Chennai is my second home. Fans here have adopted me as one of their own," Dhoni said. "A lot of people approached me. I can tell you that. But I can't think of not coming back to CSK. What we have been through, how we have conducted ourselves, how the management has been. How the fans have been. This is a special place. So that thought of being in any other franchise was never a question," he added. Apart from Dhoni, CSK also retained Suresh Raina and Ravindra Jadeja. Chennai Super Kings captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni said the franchise would be aiming to get Ravichandran Ashwin back in the fold in the

upcoming IPL players' auction. Ashwin is back in auction pool after CSK, back in the IPL fold after serving suspension in the aftermath of the 2013 spot-fixing scandal, retained Dhoni, Suresh Raina and Ravindra Jadeja. The players' auction is scheduled on January 27 and 28 in Bengaluru. "As I have said it is always a tough call. With Ashwin, you know we had done the same thing in the past. We will definitely go for him (Ashwin) in the auction. Ashwin definitely being a local lad, we want a lot of local players to be part of CSK," Dhoni said at a promotional event for India Cement on Friday. "We have two right-to-match options but having all the retained three capped Indians, don't think we can use to buy him out of the auction. As of now, it is tough to say, we will get him or him or him," he added. "Ashwin will come first



“If you are not able to get 20 wickets, you can't win a Test match irrespective of whether you are playing in India or you are playing outside. But that is the big positive. We are taking 20 wickets”

Asensio strike gives Real Cup win

MADRID, JAN 19 -- A last gasp goal from Marco Asensio gave a virtually second-straight Real Madrid a 1-0 first leg Spanish Cup quarter-final victory at Leganes on Thursday. The 21-year-old midfielder converted a cross from French full-back Theo Hernandez from the centre of the box. That ended a run of three matches without victory for Zinedine Zidane's struggling players of stars, even though the likes of world player of the year Cristiano Ronaldo, Welsh winger Gareth Bale and French striker Karim Benzema were left out. Leganes were organised in defence and will try to launch counter-attacks with the European champions struggling to cause them problems. But Asensio's late intervention gave Real a much needed boost following last weekend's 1-0 defeat at home to Villarreal that left them 18 points behind arch rivals Barcelona in La Liga.

Presented by FSS 4 Organised by fcb SriSundori

who will be the next Champion?

Semi Final 1st February, 2018 Grand Finale 3rd February, 2018 Venue: Durga Kinkar Sadan (Malda College Auditorium), Malda

Sponsored by: [Logos of various sponsors including The Echo of India, Shree's, donya, ANURAG, KOLKATA]