

Ronaldo wins Club World Cup for Real Madrid



Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates with La Liga Mordic—REUTERS

ABU DHABI, DEC 17/- A third Club World Cup in four years brings Madrid level with rivals Barcelona as the most successful side in the competition's history and adds to their La Liga, Champions League, UEFA Super Cup and Spanish Super Cup titles this year. Cristiano Ronaldo's second-half free-kick ensured Real Madrid picked up a fifth trophy of 2017 by beating Gremio 1-0 in Abu Dhabi on Saturday to retain the Club World Cup. A third Club World Cup in four years brings Madrid level with rivals Barcelona as the most successful side in the competition's history and adds to the La Liga, Champions League, UEFA Super Cup and Spanish Super Cup titles already won by Zinedine Zidane's men this year. Ronaldo was once again Real's man for the big occasion as his strike went through the Gremio wall eight minutes after the break to ensure the European club champions were also crowned world champions for a fifth straight year. Gareth Bale was left on the bench despite scoring with his first touch as a substitute against Al Jazira on Wednesday to book Madrid's place in the final, as Zinedine Zidane put faith with the same side that started Real's Champions League final triumph over Juventus back in June. Gremio booked their ticket to Abu Dhabi by winning the Copa Libertadores for the third time last month and Madrid knew they weren't in for a comfortable evening just two minutes in when Gremio captain Pedro Geromel raked his studs down the back of Ronaldo's calf without any punishment from Mexican referee Cesar Ramos. Madrid dominated possession but, unlike in their profligate semi-final performance, found their chances hard to come by against the well-organised Gremio defence. Luka Modric came closest to breaking the deadlock in the first half with a left-footed shot from the edge of the box that flew inches wide of the target. Ronaldo also hammered a long-range free-kick that dipped onto the roof of the net, whilst Edison gave Keylor Navas a moment of scare at the other end with a free-kick from range.

Gremio pleaded for the referee to consult with the video assistant referee (VAR) when Sergio Ramos clipped Ramiro inside the area early in the second period. However, those claims fell on deaf ears and Madrid instantly broke up the other end to open the scoring. Ronaldo was tripped 25 yards from goal and the world player of the year's resulting free-kick sneaked through a gap in the Gremio wall to skip into the bottom corner. Gremio were handed a lifeline when Ronaldo had the ball in the net again just before the hour mark, but Karim Benzema was flagged for being marginally offside in the build-up. Marcelo Grohe then turned another Gremio drive into the post and made great steps from Ronaldo and Bale to get a 10-minute to keep Gremio in the game. However, the Brazilians failed to register a single shot on target as Madrid comfortably held out to seal their most successful ever year with a fifth trophy. Earlier, Mexican side Pachuca beat hosts Al Jazira 4-1 in the third-place play-off.

Destructive Dhawan leads India to another series win



Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal share a light moment on the field

VISAKHAPATNAM, DEC 17/- Shikhar Dhawan struck a sublime hundred in the nick of time as India delivered yet again in a series decider to beat Sri Lanka by seven wickets in the third ODI and record their eighth successive win in a bilateral contest. India raced to the 216-run target in 32.1 overs with Dhawan (100 n.o. off 85) completing his 12th ODI ton in what turned out to be the penultimate over of the match. Shreyas Iyer made a significant 65 off 63 balls, his second successive half century, but missed on the opportunity of scoring a hundred in a winning cause. Dinesh Karthik remained unbeaten on 26 alongside Dhawan and hit the winning runs. The quick run chase came after a Sri Lankan collapse that saw them getting all out for 215 from a promising 160 for two. The visitors failed to apply themselves on a pitch that offered decent turn as Indian spinners Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav picked up three wickets apiece. With the professional performance tonight, India won their sixth ODI series of the year and eighth in a row since July 2016. Sri Lanka, on the other hand, were consigned to yet another defeat in a rather miserable year in which they have won only five matches. The hundred was there for the taking and Dhawan grabbed the opportunity with both hands.

During the course of his match-winning knock, Dhawan crossed the 4,000-run barrier in his 96th ODI. He hit 13 boundaries and two sixes overall as he toyed with the Sri Lankan attack. Iyer reached his second ODI fifty in 44 balls before throwing his wicket away by attempting a big shot off Thisara Perera only to sky a catch to

Suranga Lakmal at mid-on. The Mumbai batsman survived two dropped chances, when on 25 and 38. In the first instance, Angelo Mathews grassed a catch at slip off Sachith Pathirana's first delivery and the second life came when Akila Dhananjaya couldn't hold on to a tough chance at the deep third-man when on 38. India skipper Rohit Sharma was not able to reproduce his Mohali magic here as he fell in the fourth over after hitting a big six off Akila Dhananjaya. The leggie got his googly to come in sharply and deceive Sharma much to the disappointment of the crowd. The captain made just seven after having decimated the Lanka attack in Mohali with a brilliant double ton. Dhawan and Iyer made his list of the early departure of their skipper and put on 135 runs in 19 overs to put India on the road to victory. Iyer scored his maiden ODI fifty at Mohali, hit a flurry of boundaries after a cautious start and hoisted Pathirana for six over long-on. Earlier, Sri Lanka suffered a dramatic collapse undoing the good work done by opener Upul Tharanga.

Spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal shared three wickets each for India as Sri Lanka squandered a blistering start provided by Tharanga (95 off 82). The wicket offered decent turn for the spinners but the visitors failed to apply themselves, losing the last five wickets in the space of 18 runs and the last eight for 55 runs. Put to bat by India captain Rohit Sharma, Sri Lanka were cruising with Tharanga and Sadeera Samarawickrama (42) sharing a 121-run stand for the second wicket after Anushka Kumathilaka (13) fell in the fourth over.

In the Pro boxing ring, Vijender is training hard and warned his rival to not take him lightly. "My trainers Lee Beard and John Joyce are in India and we have watched videos of Ernest, my previous opponent was a southpaw and now Ernest is Orthodox so I have worked a lot on changing my technique according to his opponent." Vijender, who had won a bronze at Beijing Olympics, said, "My coaches have worked out strategies against him in the ring. I am almost prepared for this fight. I know Ernest is experienced than me in professional boxing with 25 fights and 23 wins but my amateur experience always helps me when I face opponents in the pro boxing ring. "I think he should not take me lightly in the ring. I will knock him out in the early rounds. This will be my last fight of 2017 and I would like to end my year on a winning note that too with a knockout win," he added.

Ernest Amuzu will be knocked out in the early rounds : Vijender
NEW DELHI: India's boxing sensation Vijender Singh is eyeing another knockout win during his double title defence against African Champion Ghana's Ernest Amuzu in Jaipur on December 23. The 32-year-old Indian currently holds a 9-0

record with seven knock-out wins out of which six wins were recorded abroad and three in India. This will be his fourth bout in



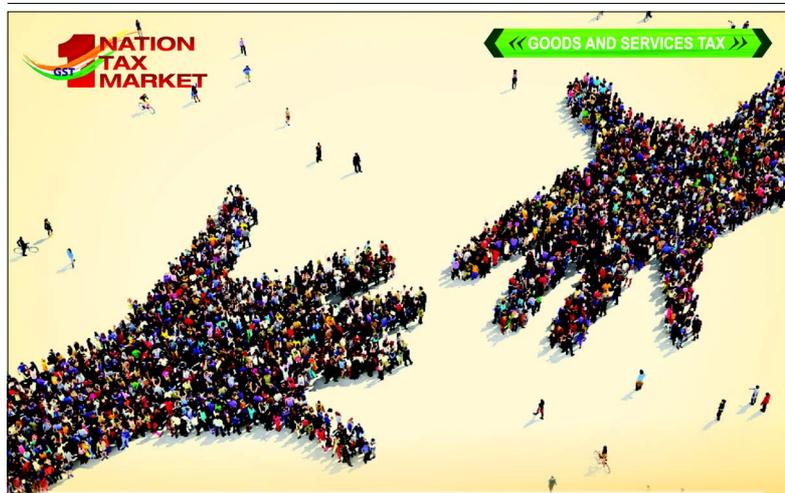
Ernest Amuzu in Jaipur on December 23

Tharanga played some superb shots and was not afraid to hit aerial. The southpaw hit all his three sixes off Chahal, who otherwise was the best bowler on show with his drift and turn troubling the batsmen. Hardik Pandya came in as the first change bowler in the seventh over, replacing Bhuvneshwar Kumar. He was taken for 20 runs in his second over by Tharanga, who looked increasingly confident but got lucky on a few occasions. The seasoned Angelo Mathews, who walked in following his exit, put on 24 overs with Tharanga, before the left-hander was stumped by MS Dhoni off Kuldeep's bowling for 95. The opener, who missed out on a well-deserved ton, completed 1,000 runs for the calendar year during the course of the knock. Thereafter, it all went downhill for Sri Lanka. Both sides made one change each to their playing eleven with India bringing in Kuldeep in place of an ill Washington Sundar and Lanka replacing the misfiring Lahiru Thirimanne with Samarawickrama. (PTI)

IN MEMORIAM
6th DEATH ANNIVERSARY
ON 18-12-2017

GOPALA KRISHNA PILLAI (N GOPAL)
R/o Bhatu Basti, Garacharma
*Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day,
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear.*

FONDLY REMEMBERED BY:
**Gopala Binnu Kumar, G. Birju Anand,
G. Beena Devi and all family members.**



Participating in the movement against profiteering

The Government is committed to ensure that the consumers enjoy the benefit of lower prices of goods and services under GST.

Under GST, suppliers of goods and services must pass on any reduction in the rate of tax or the benefit of Input Tax Credit to consumers by way of commensurate reduction in prices. If this is not done, the consumer's interest is protected by the National Anti-profiteering Authority, which may order:

- (A) Reduction in prices
- (B) Return of the amount not passed on with interest @ 18% to the recipient
- (C) Imposition of penalty
- (D) Cancellation of registration of the supplier

Affected consumers may file an application, in the prescribed format*, before the Central Standing Committee on Anti-profiteering if the profiteering has All-India character OR before the State Screening Committees if the profiteering is of local nature.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Central Standing Committee on Anti-profiteering
Second Floor, Bhai Vir Singh Sahitya Sadan, Bhai Vir Singh Marg, Gole Market, New Delhi-110021. Tel: No: 011-23741537 Fax No: 011-23741542 Email: anti-profiteering@gov.in

State Screening Committee on Anti-profiteering
Contact details of State Screening Committee on Anti-profiteering are available at the URL: goo.gl/eYJXMK

The list of items, on which GST have been reduced w.e.f. 15.11.2017, is available at the URL: goo.gl/9NSzq5. Accordingly, there should be a corresponding reduction in price/MRP on these goods. Consumers may take note of these reductions while making purchases. Consumers are advised to approach State Screening Committees or the Central Standing Committee on Anti-profiteering in case of any grievance(s).

***Anti-Profiteering Application Form (APAF-1) is available at the URL: goo.gl/e6tnsG**

A nation is made, when taxes are paid

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