

India embarrass West Indies by 224 runs, take 2-1 lead in series



MUMBAI, OCT 29 /- India embarrassed the West Indies by 224 runs in the fourth One-day International here Monday for one of their biggest wins and a 2-1 lead in the five-match series. Rohit Sharma (12) and Ambati Rayudu (100) struck belligerent centuries to guide India to an imposing 377 for five after the hosts opted to bat. The duo took centre stage after a rare failure by skipper Virat Kohli. Kohli's 21st century came off 137 balls with the help of 20 fours and four hits over the fence, while Rayudu decorated his 100-run knock with eight boundaries and four sixes. Chasing 378, West Indies simply caved in against India's clinical bowling attack on what was a batting-friendly wicket to be bundled out for a paltry 153 in 38.2 overs. Young pacer Khaled Ahmed (3/13) impressed upfront before chinaman Kuldeep Yadav (3/42) ran through the West Indies' tail. The Indians dished out an impressive effort on the field, inflicting two run outs besides Kohli holding out three fine catches in the slips. This is India's third biggest win in the format. Their biggest-ever win in ODI remains the 257-run demolition of Bermuda in the 2007 ICC World Cup. West Indies' chase never really got going as they lost half of their side inside the 50-run mark with Khaled doing the bulk of the damage. Except for skipper Jason Holder (54 not out), no other West Indian batsmen could withstand the Indian attack, as the visitors lost wickets at regular intervals and were never really in the hunt. West Indies lost two wickets - Chandrapul Hemraj (14) and Shai Hope (0) - in the fifth over. While Hemraj gave a lifeline to Rayudu off Bhuvaneshwar Kumar, Hope was run out courtesy a stunning direct hit by Kuldeep from mid-on. Matters became worse for the visitors after Kieran Powell (4) was run-out in the very next over by Kohli.

Suarez proud of thrashing Real Madrid without Messi



Barcelona's Luis Suarez celebrates scoring their fourth goal and completing his hat-trick —REUTERS

BARCELONA, OCT 29 /- Barcelona's hat-trick hero Luis Suarez said they deserve extra credit for humiliating Real Madrid 5-1 in Sunday's 'Clasico' as they did it without the help of talisman Lionel Messi, who missed the game with a broken arm. "It's better for Messi to play as he is the best in the world and he gives you a boost but we should be very proud as a team, as we showed that we are a great team without Messi and we have a great coach (Ernesto Valverde)," Suarez said.

The Uruguayan doubled Barca's lead from the penalty spot after Philippe Coutinho's early opener and then made it 3-1 in the second half, extinguishing any hope of a Real revival after Marcelo had pulled a goal back for the European champions. "Marid went out to win the game in the second half and they had chances, we did a great job, we all ran a lot and they left space, and we took advantage on the counter-attack and killed the game off," added Suarez, who rounded off a memorable week in which he also became a father for the third time. "Nights



Barcelona's Lionel Messi sat in stands before the match REUTERS

like these are unforgettable. After a special week for becoming a father again these three goals taste even better," he added after the Liga leaders opened a seven-point gap on their arch-rivals. Sunday's thumping win over Real followed a convincing 2-0 victory over Inter Milan in the Champions League group stage, in which Barca were also without captain Messi, who broke his arm against Sevilla last Saturday. Midfielder Ivan Rakitic said his

Real to sack Lopetegui and appoint Conte - reports

MADRID, OCT 29 /- Real Madrid are to sack coach Julen Lopetegui after their 5-1 humiliation by arch-rivals Barcelona and former Chelsea manager Antonio Conte is set to replace him, Spanish media reported on Monday. Lopetegui's record of four wins, two draws and four defeats has left Real languishing ninth in the La Liga standings, seven points behind leaders Barca. The 52-year-old Lopetegui was sacked by Spain on the eve of this year's World Cup after it emerged he had accepted the position at the Bernabeu.

But he has made the worst start by any Real coach in the last 70 years, and club President Florentino Perez is set to wield the axe after they were comprehensively outclassed by Barca on Sunday. Lopetegui's situation has drawn sympathy from the media,

with sports daily Marca's front page reading "It is not only Julen's fault". AS editor Alfredo Relano criticised the club for failing to replace "the 50 goals a season that Madrid are currently missing in the form of Cristiano Ronaldo". Following a summer of courting Mauricio Pochettino of Tottenham, media reported that Perez has shifted his attention to Conte, who was still employed by Chelsea when Lopetegui was appointed in June. The Italian, who won the Premier League in his first season with Chelsea after winning three successive Serie A titles with Juventus, was fired by the London club in July. Reserve team coach Santiago Solari is likely to take charge of the team for the midweek Copa del Rey meeting with Millau, with Conte taking charge for Saturday's home La Liga game against Valladolid, Spanish media reported.



Real Madrid coach Julen Lopetegui gestures —REUTERS

Players to blame for Real Madrid 'disaster': Casemiro

BARCELONA, OCT 29 /- Real Madrid's players should take the brunt of responsibility for the team's "disaster" of a season, not under-fire coach Julen Lopetegui, midfielder Casemiro said after the European champions hit a new low with Sunday's humiliating 5-1 loss at Barcelona. "We aren't playing well and we can't blame the coach, as the players are the ones who have to perform in the game," he said. "It's not about the coach, it's about everything. The players have to run more and fight more." Spanish radio station Onda Cero and newspaper Marca reported after the game that former Chelsea, Juventus and Italy coach Antonio Conte is being lined up to replace Lopetegui, who could be sacked as soon as Monday. Lopetegui cut a downbeat figure after the game, saying he still believed he and his players could turn their terrible season around. "I feel sad and disappointed, it's a very tough blow but I still feel strong, we're only in October," said Lopetegui, who was fired from Spain coach on the eve of the World Cup for negotiating his move to Real behind the federation's back. "Everything that has happened in the time we have left in the season and because of the confidence I have in the team. The team still has life for the rest of the season. I still feel strong enough to coach this team." Lopetegui also felt the scoreline, Real's heaviest defeat in a 'Clasico' since November 2010, was an unfair reflection of the game. Real were two goals down at halftime but rallied in the second half and could have found an equaliser after Marcelo pulled a goal back, with Luka Modric striking the inside of the post and Sergio Ramos also going close.

A headed goal from Luis Suarez restored the two-goal margin with 15 minutes to go and another strike from the Uruguayan and a later header from substitute Arturo Vidal completed the rout for Barca, whose fans sang "Lopetegui please stay" at fulltime. "They were better in the first half without creating many chances but we were much better in the second and we had the chance to get back into the game but our misfortune and Suarez's goal killed off our hopes," Lopetegui said. "The result doesn't reflect the reality of the game but we have to accept it." Real captain Sergio Ramos said the players are taken from above. We have to wait and see, no-one has told us anything now. We have to reflect and keep our heads," the defender said. "The players all feel terrible. Today was a key game for us to turn things around but the result condemns us."

Aussie cricket union urges cut to Smith, Warner bans

SYDNEY, OCT 29 /- Steve Smith, David Warner and Cameron Bancroft should have their cheating bans slashed because they were put under too much pressure by administrators, the Australian Cricketers' Association said Monday.



The wake of a scathing report about the actions of Cricket Australia in the run-up to the March 'sandpaper' incident that rocked the sport, the players' union painted the three Test stars as victims of circumstance and said they should be free to take the field again at the top level. An independent review by a leading ethicist said the governing body put too much pressure on the players to win at all costs. "The events in South Africa were in part a by-product of a culture and system which, amongst other things, placed too much pressure on players to win," said ACA President Greg Dyer, a former Test wicketkeeper. "Basic fairness demands these independently verified contributing factors must now be taken into consideration and the penalties reduced."

Football clubs pay tributes to Leicester City owner Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha

LEICESTER, OCT 29 /- Premier League club Leicester City owner Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha and four others died when his helicopter crashed and then exploded on Saturday. Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, the owner of the King Power chain of duty-free shops who bought Leicester City eight years ago, was flying out of the club's stadium when his helicopter crashed in a parking lot. Tributes flowed in for Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha after the confirmation of his tragic death. Jamie Vardy,

a hero of Leicester's remarkable Premier League title triumph two years ago, led tributes to the club's owner Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha. "Struggling to find the right words," Vardy posted on Instagram alongside a picture of him and Vichai smiling. "But to me you are legend, an incredible man who had the biggest heart, the soul of Leicester City Football Club. Thank you for everything you did for me, my family and our club. I will truly miss you.... may you rest in peace... #theboss."



Participate in Run for Unity in your town/village and pay tribute to Iron Man of India Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Run for Unity 31 October

Participate in Run for Unity in your town/village and pay tribute to Iron Man of India Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

“Sardar Patel gave us 'Ek Bharat'. It is now the solemn duty of 125 crore Indians to collectively make it a 'Shresth Bharat'. Run for Unity is a fitting tribute to Sardar Patel.”

-Narendra Modi

Floral tribute - Sardar Patel Chowk, New Delhi - 7:00 am to 8:00 am | Run for Unity - Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi - 7:00 am to 8:00 am