

wednesday — (all times are Kuwait local)

15:00 tennis.....bein sports 9hd
 18:00 cricket.....bein sports 13hd
 19:15 basketball.....bein sports 8hd
 20:00 dijon vs psg/ soccer.....bein sports 6hd
 20:58 handball.....bein sports 10hd
 22:45 milwall vs fulham/ soccer.....bein sports 11hd
 22:45 kilmarnock vs rangers/soccer.....bein sports 12hd
 23:05 lyon vs marseille/soccer.....bein sports 6hd

Sports

Latest sports scores at — <http://sports.arabtimesonline.com>

NZ hand India rare ODI whitewash

Rahul ton in vain



India's Navdeep Saini in action during the One Day cricket international between India and New Zealand at Bay Oval, Tauranga, New Zealand, Feb 11. (AP)



India's Virat Kohli (center), celebrates the wicket of New Zealand's Jimmy Neesham during the One Day International cricket match between India and New Zealand at Bay Oval, Tauranga, New Zealand on Feb 11. (AP)

MOUNT MAUNGANUI, New Zealand, Feb 11, (AP): India slumped to their first whitewash in a one-day series in 23 years as half-centuries by Martin Guptill, Henry Nicholls and Colin de Grandhomme set up New Zealand's five-wicket win in the third international on Tuesday.

Guptill's 66 from 46 balls, which included a 50 from 29 deliveries, gave New Zealand a speedy start in pursuit of India's 296-7.

Nicholls made 80 from 103 balls to add solidity, putting on 106 in an opening stand with Guptill and 53 for the third wicket with captain Kane Williamson (22), who missed the first two matches with a shoulder injury.

De Grandhomme then finished the chase, hitting his half-century from 21 balls and finishing 58 not out in an unbroken 80-run partnership with Tom Latham (32), which carried New Zealand to 300-5.

Not since 1997, in a 3-0 defeat against Sri Lanka, had India been swept in an ODI series containing three or more matches. New Zealand bounced back from their own 5-0 loss to India in the Twenty20 series.

New Zealand began to lose their way in the middle of their innings, quickly losing Williamson, Ross Taylor (12) and Jimmy Neesham (19), slumping to 220-5 in the 40th over.

CRICKET

Wrist spinner Yuzvendra Chahal took 3-47 from his 10 overs as India managed to squeeze New Zealand between the 30th and 40th overs.

But Latham and De Grandhomme patiently batted New Zealand within sight of victory, then burly all-rounder De Grandhomme was able to hit out with three sixes and six fours to lift New Zealand to victory with 17 balls to spare.

"An outstanding performance, very clinical," Williamson said.

"India put us under pressure in every game in the series. They managed to do that again in the first half but the way the guys fought back with the ball and perhaps kept India to a par total on that surface, and the cricket smarts in the second half, was outstanding."

Earlier, K.L. Rahul posted his fourth ODI century and shared two century partnerships to anchor India's innings after it was sent in on losing the toss.

Mayank Agarwal (1) and captain Virat Kohli (9) were out cheaply but Rahul built the innings in partnerships of exactly 100 for the fourth wicket with Shreyas Iyer (62) and 107 for the fifth with Manish Pandey (42).

India looked set for a total well in excess of 300 when it was 161-3 after 30 overs. But it didn't finish as strongly as it should have, adding only 49 for the loss of three wickets in the last 10 overs.

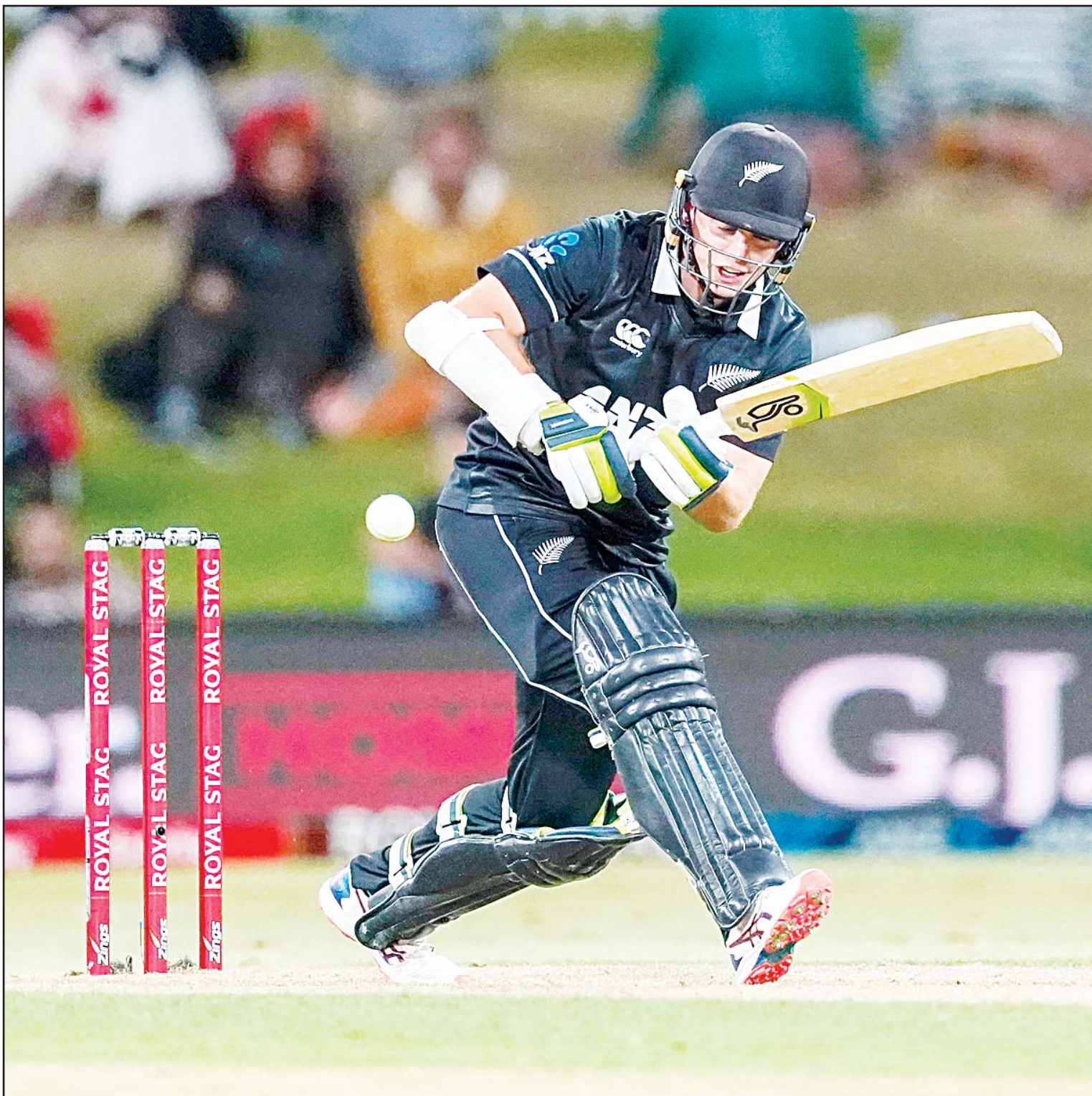
Rahul reached his century from 104 balls and was out with the total 269-5 in the 47th over.

With the ball, only Chahal was able to impose concerted pressure on the New Zealand batsmen. He began by bowling Guptill with a classic leg break which pitched on leg, beat the bat and hit off stump.

India's key bowler, Jasprit Bumrah, went without a wicket in the series, finishing with 0-167 from 30 overs.

"The games were not as clear-cut as the scorelines suggests," Kohli said. "It boils down to those chances we didn't grab."

"All three games, I thought the way we fielded and our composure with the ball I don't think was enough to win games of cricket at international level."



New Zealand's Tom Latham plays a shot during the One Day International cricket match between India and New Zealand at Bay Oval, Tauranga, New Zealand on Feb 11. (AP)

'This is an extremely exciting time for USA Basketball'

US to use WNBA players in 3-on-3 Oly qualifier

NEW YORK, Feb 11, (AP) — USA Basketball will have a team of WNBA players available to qualify for 3-on-3 at the Olympics.

Kelsey Plum, Allisha Gray, Katie Lou Samuelson and Stefanie Dolson headline the 11 players invited to a training camp this week in Chicago. From the pool, the selection committee will choose four women to represent the US at the qualifying tournament in India from March 18-22.

"I'm very excited to have the opportunity," said Plum, who helped the Americans win gold in the 5-on-5 World Championship in 2018. "Anytime you put on a USA jersey it's a great thing."

The US spent the last few months getting the professional players into tournaments to move them up in the FIBA 3-on-3 rankings. While the players have a lot of experience playing 5-on-5, they are still relatively new to 3-on-3.

"It's definitely a quicker and more fast-paced game," Samuelson said. "You need to quickly transition from offense to defense."

OLYMPICS

The 3-on-3 rules are made for up-tempo competition. There's one 10-minute period, making 3-on-3 a lot quicker than its 5-on-5 counterpart. A game can end even sooner if a team scores 21 points in less than 10 minutes. If the game is tied after 10 minutes, it goes into overtime, where the first team scoring two points wins. There's also a 12-second shot clock.

Plum and Samuelson, who just finished a stint with the 5-on-5 US national team, weren't worried about the lack of 3-on-3 experience.

"We have time to play together and grow," said Samuelson, who won a gold medal for the US at the Under-18 World Cup in 2013.

Two of the four members of the

FIFA creates fund to help players not paid by clubs

ZURICH, Feb 11, (AP) — FIFA is setting aside \$16 million to help players who have not been paid by their clubs.

The funding covers the period up to 2022, and FIFA also wants to set up a monitoring committee with global players' union FIFPro, which assesses the needs of players.

The fund will offer a "safety net" rather than paying players in full, FIFA said in a statement on Tuesday.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino said the governing body wanted to show its "commitment to helping players in a difficult situation."

FIFA has budgeted for \$3 million for the second half of this year and \$4 million in both 2021 and 2022. There is also \$5 million available to deal with cases of salaries going unpaid from July 2015 to June 2020.

"More than 50 clubs in 20 countries have shut in the last five years, plunging hundreds of footballers into uncertainty and hardship," FIFPro President Philippe Piat said. "This fund will provide valuable support to those players and families most in need. Many of these clubs have shut to avoid paying outstanding wages, immediately re-forming as so-called new clubs."

qualifying team must be in America's top 10 for total points. Plum is currently second followed by Gray, Samuelson, Kelly Faris and Layshia Clarendon. Dolson is 10th on the list.

The selection committee can choose anyone else from the pool for the other two spots on the qualifying team. Oregon's Sabrina Ionescu is No. 1 on the points list for

the US, but she won't be available as her college team will be in the middle of the NCAA Tournament.

The top three teams from the qualifying tournament in each gender will advance to the Tokyo Games. If the Americans qualify, their rosters could be a little different for the Olympics. As of now, two players must be a country's

top 10 as of May 22. The other two players on the team must have a minimum of 3,600 points. FIBA has changed who is eligible a few times over the past year.

The American women have dominated 5-on-5 at the Olympics, winning six consecutive gold medals. They've struggled lately in 3-on-3. They finished fifth in 2018 after not qualifying in 2017. They didn't qualify for last year's World Cup, either.

While the women's qualifying team will be made up of pros, the men's team will have seasoned 3-on-3 players in the mix. Robbie Hummel, Kareem Maddox and Damon Huffman lead the way. That trio helped the US men win their first 3-on-3 world title last year as the Americans finished 7-0 in the tournament.

"This is an extremely exciting time for USA Basketball as we prepare for the first-ever 3x3 Olympic Qualification Tournament. This training camp is the next step towards earning a berth into the Olympic Games, so it is incredibly important," said USA Basketball CEO Jim Tooley. "Many of our country's top available 3x3 players will be participating, and USA Basketball will be looking to select the best USA 3x3 teams possible for the Olympic Qualifying Tournaments."



Indiana Pacers guard T.J. McConnell (9) draws the offensive foul from Brooklyn Nets guard Garrett Temple (17) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Indianapolis on Feb 10. The Nets defeated the Pacers 106-105. (AP) — See Page 27