

WC 2019: Pakistan end a long losing streak in ODIs, beat host England

Pakistan shocked England by 14 runs at Trent Bridge on Monday as they ended a long losing streak in one-day internationals despite two centuries for the World Cup 2019 host nation. Joe Root (107) and Jos Buttler (103) were guiding the tournament favourites towards an imposing target of 349 after Pakistan left England needing a World Cup record chase. The pair put on 130 for the fifth wicket but both were out shortly after reaching their hundreds and the tail had too much to do. It was a remarkable turnaround for Pakistan, whose opening match of this World Cup had seen them slump to 105 all out in a seven-wicket defeat by the West Indies at the same ground. That defeat was their 11th straight loss in completed one-day internationals, including the recent 4-0 series defeat by England. But they started strongly at Trent Bridge on Monday and made 348 for eight, Mohammad Hafeez top-scoring with 84.

No side had previously made more batting second to win a World Cup match than Ireland, with 329 for seven against England at Bangalore in 2011. England's chase got off to a bad start when Jason Roy was lbw on the sweep to leg-spinner Shadab Khan to leave them 12 for one. Jonny Bairstow, whose opening partnership with Roy has been a key factor in England's rise to number one in the one-day international rankings, then fell for 32 when he was caught behind off Wahab Riaz. It was the spinners who struck next, England captain Eoin Morgan (nine) bowled by Mohammad Hafeez before Pakistan captain and wicket-keeper Sarfaraz Ahmed held an edged cut by all-rounder Ben Stokes (13) off Shoaib Malik. But Buttler and Root both hit towering sixes off Hafeez as England accelerated on a pitch where they had twice set the world record for the highest ODI total. Buttler completed a typically dashing fifty

off 34 balls when he pulled Shadab for six as England, who only last month chased down a target of 341 to beat Pakistan in the fourth ODI at Trent Bridge, started to take charge. Root pulled Hasan Ali for four to go to 97 before his quick single off Riaz saw him to a 15th ODI century in 97 balls, with nine fours and a six. But he fell soon afterwards, steering Shadab to Hafeez at short third man to end a stand of 130 with Buttler. Wicketkeeper Buttler, one delivery after completing a 75-ball century, was also caught at short third man when he guided Mohammad Amir to fellow left-arm quick Riaz. Chris Woakes (21) kept England in the hunt before he was caught behind off Riaz and, at 320 for eight a target of 29 off 12 balls proved too much. Earlier, Hafeez led a vastly improved Pakistan batting effort that saw Babar Azam (63) and Pakistan captain Sarfaraz Ahmed (55) also making fifties. Pakistan were undone by a barrage of bouncers against the West Indies and England deployed similar tactics after Morgan won the toss, with their attack featuring recalled fast bowler Mark Wood. But Pakistan coped and for all the talk about England's quicks, it was off-spinner Moeen who took the first three wickets. England, who launched their World Cup campaign with a 104-run thrashing of South Africa, were surprisingly sloppy in the field, while their fast bowlers were expensive – Jofra Archer's 10 wicketless overs cost 79 runs. Pakistan attacked from the start, with openers Fakhar Zaman and Imam-ul-Haq sharing a stand of 82. Babar completed a run-a-ball fifty while Hafeez pressed on after being dropped on 14 when Roy floored a sitter at mid-off.

—

England vs SA WC Opener: Ben Stokes with the bat, Ben Stokes with the ball, Ben Stokes on the field

Ben Stokes dominated the ICC World Cup 2019 opening match between England and South Africa at Kennington Oval, London, on Thursday. The 27-year-old all-rounder top-scored for England with 89 runs off 79 balls, including nine boundaries, claimed two wickets, took two catches and effected a run out of Dwaine Pretorius (1). However, one catch that helped Adil Rashid dismiss Andile Phehlukwayo (24) in the 35th over impressed one and all in the much awaited World Cup 2019 opener. The International Cricket Council (ICC) lauded Ben Stokes in a tweet, saying: "Ben Stokes has just taken one of the greatest catches you will EVER see!"

Ben Stokes has just taken one of the greatest catches you will EVER see! Videocoming soon #WeAreEngland #CWC19
pic.twitter.com/7wZtHdyWrP

– ICC (@ICC) May 30, 2019

Stokes, back-pedalling and diving, held a brilliant one-handed catch in the deep to dismiss Phehlukwayo, a crucial dismissal that derailed South Africa's chase. The ICC later posted the video of the "one of the greatest catches", which started receiving the admiration of fans within no time.

As promised! @benstokes38 <https://t.co/poyNFDn9rA>

– ICC (@ICC) May 30, 2019

No question about who's the Player of the Match in the #CWC19 opener," Cricket World Cup hailed the man-of-the-match all-rounder in a tweet.

Ben Stokes with the bat, Ben Stokes with the ball, Ben Stokes

on the field!No question about who's the Player of the Match in the #CWC19 opener #ENGvSA #WeAreEngland pic.twitter.com/2pZwa10xEt

– Cricket World Cup (@cricketworldcup) May 30, 2019

England started their World Cup 2019 campaign with a 104-run thrashing of South Africa, with 61 balls left in the game. Jofra Archer did the early damage with the ball, the fast bowler taking three for 27 in seven overs. Stokes was one of four England batsmen who got to 50 on a tricky surface, with captain Eoin Morgan (57), Jason Roy (54) and Root (51) all out soon after reaching the landmark. The left-handed batsman saw his 79-ball knock end in the penultimate over when caught at third man following a reverse hit off paceman Lungi Ngidi (three for 66).

–

South Africa sweep Sri Lanka series after floodlight failure

The home side then reached 135 for two after 28 overs and were well on course for victory when one of the five floodlight pylons at the ground failed to fire.

South Africa completed a clean sweep of their five-match one-day international series against Sri Lanka with a 41-run victory via the Duckworth–Lewis–Stern method on Saturday as the final match at Newlands was ended prematurely by a failed floodlight.

After electing to bat, Sri Lanka were bowled out for 225,

three balls short of their 50 overs, for another below-par score in a series where they have found no answer to South Africa's rampant pace and spin attack.

The home side then reached 135 for two after 28 overs and were well on course for victory when one of the five floodlight pylons at the ground failed to fire in the growing gloom.

Despite the other four providing illumination, the umpires deemed the conditions unsafe for the players and, after a two-hour delay, called off the contest.

Kusal Mendis (56) top-scored in the Sri Lanka innings before he was run out, a wasteful end to an impressive half-century.

Priyamal Perera (33), Isuru Udana (32) and Angelo Perera (31) all got starts but could not go on as Sri Lanka lost wickets at regular intervals, with seamer Kagiso Rabada (3-50) the pick of the home bowlers.

Opener Quinton de Kock's run of five straight half-centuries came to an end when he was dismissed for six in South Africa's reply, but Aiden Markram gave his World Cup chances a boost with an unbeaten 67 from 75 balls before the players left the field.

The teams will now contest a three-match T20 international series that starts in Cape Town on Tuesday.

India vs Australia 1st T20: Bumrah's Brilliant 19th Over Nearly Won the Game for India



Australia beat India by three wickets with the final delivery in a low-scoring first Twenty20 international at Visakhapatnam on Sunday.

India's best fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah was rested for India's limited-overs trip to New Zealand. He returned afresh, took 3-16, including two wickets in his final two balls in the penultimate over, but it proved inadequate.



India skipper Virat Kohli wasn't perturbed by his team's shoddy batting display in the first T20 International – it turned out to be a nail-biting contest, last ball decider.

Virat wants to give more chances to youngsters KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant looking ahead at the World Cup in England. KL Rahul scored a fifty on his return to international cricket.



Rahul made a 50 on his return but Pant was needlessly run-out during India's three-wicket defeat against Australia in the first T20 International. Rahul did no harm to his chances with an impressive 36-ball 50 and combined in a rapid fire partnership of 55 for the 2nd wicket with Virat Kohli, who made 24.

Chasing a target of 127, Australia were cruising along before Jasprit Bumrah's (3/16 in 4 overs) brilliant 19th over nearly won the game for India.

"We want to give Rahul and Rishabh more game-time. Rahul played a really good knock and we had a good partnership. Had we gone on, we could have got 150, which would have been a match-winning score on this pitch. But Australia played better cricket overall and deserved to win," Kohli said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

However, he didn't forget to praise his bowlers for making a match of a low target like 127. "Very pleased with the bowling effort. Never thought we would be in this situation but Bumrah can do wonders when the ball is reversing. Even Mayank

(Markande) bowled brilliantly (17th over), I thought," said Kohli.

Winning captain Aaron Finch also conceded that facing Bumrah in the death overs is not an easy proposition. "When Bumrah has got overs up his sleeve, it's never easy. But the run-outs didn't help either. Maxwell played a hell of an innings on a difficult pitch," Finch lauded the senior batsman. Maxwell hit 56 off 43 balls.

Coulter-Nile shines in Australia's last-ball win over India.

Pacer Nathan Coulter-Nile, who was the pick of the Aussie bowlers with figures of three for 26, felt that the ball wasn't coming onto the bat.

"I thought the boys bowled really well and we scraped home. We worked out quickly that the ball was not coming on to the bat. We have been playing a bit of cricket in the BBL. Really good to have a win and hopefully we will have another one and win the series," said Coulter-Nile.

The second and final T20 will be played in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Fund allotted for the opening ceremony of the IPL to go to the families of the Pulwama Martyrs

No IPL inaugural ceremony in 2019.

The CoA chairman, Vinod Rai has said that the money allotted for the opening ceremony of the IPL this year will go to the families of the Pulwama attack victims.

“We will not have any inaugural function for the IPL and the money budgeted for that goes to the martyrs’ families,” The budget for the IPL opening ceremony last year was Rs 30 crore,” he said.

Also Read: [Let Pakistan be isolated in the cricketing community, says Vinod Rai](#)

The cries – ‘Snap ties with Pakistan’ are getting louder by the day.

The BCCI has officially written to the cricketing world to sever ties with Pakistan in the wake of the Pulwama terror attack that killed more than 40 CRPF personnel. In a letter to the global cricket body, the BCCI has also expressed concern over the “safety and security” of players and match officials for the World Cup in the UK, starting May 30.

India, however, needs a broad consensus in the cricketing world to isolate Pakistan. According to the ICC constitution: “A member may have its membership terminated if the Board of Directors considers that the member’s breach of its obligations as a member is sufficiently serious to warrant termination.”

Reflecting the current sentiment in India, former India captain Sourav Ganguly has called for cutting off all sporting ties with Pakistan, which former off-spinner Harbhajan Singh has echoed.

In its communication with the ICC, the BCCI has voiced concerns following the terror attack on Indian soil by a Pakistan-based terror outfit.

It also has mentioned the global diplomatic support that India has received after the attack. BCCI has urged the cricketing community to sever ties with countries from which terrorism emanates.”

“The BCCI also mentioned its concerns over the safety and security of fans of Indian cricket at the upcoming ICC Cricket World Cup 2019. The BCCI trusts that the ICC and ECB will ensure that the most robust security is provided to players, match officials and fans of Indian cricket for the upcoming World Cup,” it said.

Let Pakistan be isolated in the cricketing community, says Vinod Rai

Ref: The June 16 World Cup India-Pakistan tie.

The Supreme Court-appointed chairman of the CoA and a veteran bureaucrat, Vinod Rai states:

“Why should we shoot ourselves in the foot by not playing? We should seek their (Pakistan) ouster and remove them from the cricketing committee.”

Such an unusual extreme stand, by India standards on tolerance, is being viewed as an unprecedented step in Indian cricket.

The BCCI does not want to forfeit the World Cup tie against Pakistan. It is working to join the Indian government’s efforts to isolate Pakistan in the wake of the ghastly February 14 Pulwama terrorist attack.

The BCCI CEO Rahul Johri has already written to the International Cricket Council (ICC) urging cricketing nations to “sever ties with countries from which terrorism emanates”.

“I look at it (the letter sent to the ICC) from the point of view that we are able to isolate Pakistan. Make it a cricket apartheid for Pakistan on the terror issue. The idea is to work hand in hand with the Indian government to isolate Pakistan in the cricketing community,” he said.

Such an unusual communication on sporting relations reflect the present day sentiment of the Indian nation.

Rai said, “The present dispensation feels strongly about it because we reflect the sentiment of the nation. We are not a closed cricket community, we represent the nation.”

Sources said that by showing the willingness to respect the World Cup fixtures and preferring a parallel strategy of campaigning against Pakistan globally, the BCCI is avoiding the situation the national shooting body and the Indian Olympic Association find themselves in as India hosts a World Cup in the capital.

India has denied visas to Pakistan’s shooters. It then invited sanctions from the International Olympic Committee, and it will be able to host future international Olympic events.

The BCCI wants to avoid such a situation for itself. It would like to have a consensus of the cricket world and then act. It isn’t possible to just one fine day ask to remove Pakistan from the World Cup.

[Amazon.in Widgets](#)