

S Africans make semis in style

ADELAIDE, Mar 15: Peter Kirsten fired South Africa into the semi-finals of the World Cup with a brilliant display of batsmanship that earned a stunning six-wicket victory over India today, reports Reuter.

Set a daunting 181 to win in the rain-reduced 30 overs game, South Africa reached the target with five balls to spare, captain Kepler Wessels, fittingly hitting the winning runs with a pulsed four over mid-wicket.

But it was Kirsten who was the architect of victory with a masterly 84 in 86 balls. The 36-year-old who has spent most of his career in the international wilderness has now made 397 runs at 79.40 in the World Cup.

"It has been worth the wait," he said. From a dreary, rain-soaked morning, the day exploded into life with a thrilling contest which reaped 361 runs in just 375 balls.

Those spectators who had waited for more than three hours for action were rewarded with an afternoon of scintillating strokeplay in a match reduced from 50 overs.

The other leading player in the drama was Mohammad Azharuddin, whose 77-ball 79 was the backbone of India's 180 for six.

But strong supporting roles were played by Kapil Dev, with 42 off 29 balls, and Andrew Hudson, who made 53 in an opening partnership of 128 with Kirsten that ignited South Africa's bold run chase.

With six overs left they needed 50, and three left they wanted 24, and had two fresh batsmen at the crease, man-of-the-match Kirsten having been bowled by Kapil.

Johny Rhodes next had a mini-innings that encapsulated the drama. After a first-ball single he hit a huge six that was oddly signalled as four the only change after entreaties from Wessels and the crowd at deep square leg. On his third ball he was caught out.

Wessels and Hansie Cronje then kept their nerve and took South Africa into the last four.

Rain, which fell steadily for 11 hours until shortly after noon, delayed the start by more than three hours but Adelaide's quick-drying properties ensured a prompt start soon after the rain ended.

India made a dreadful opening, losing Krish Srikanth for a duck. But Azharuddin, showing the form that had already brought him three Cup half-centuries, cracked Allan Donald through the covers for four in the third over and went on to display great touch.

His half-century came in 54 balls and he added 78 off 98 deliveries with Sanjay Manjrekar (28) for the second wicket and 71 in 48 balls for the fourth with Kapil.

Kapil perished in the penultimate over when, having taken 12 off three balls from Donald, including a six, he was bowled.

Adrian Kuiper was the pick of the bowlers, taking two for 26 off his six overs with medium pacers which have previously been harshly treated

players — and they played their roles admirably, none more so than Wessels.

Wessels said he had dropped himself down the order to number five because of his experience of a few 30 over games in South Africa. "I am not that suited to 30-over games in South Africa in good

"I always felt if we could won four games we would have done well after being out of it for so long. To win five, including beating some of the good teams of the competition, was a tremendous performance by the guys."

"It takes a while for people to find their feet at this level and gain then necessary confidence but we now have some stability in our batting."

Wessels said he had hoped to restrict India to 160 as I thought 180 would be difficult.

In the semifinals South Africa will either travel to Auckland to face New Zealand or play England in Auckland or Sydney, depending on other results.

Wessels said he had no preference: "England are a strong side while New Zealand under their conditions are a difficult proposition. We don't mind. We have nothing to lose and can go flat out and give it our best shot."

Azharuddin spoke highly of South Africa but said he was not too sure they could beat New Zealand in New Zealand or England at either venue.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the rain-reduced 30 overs World Cup cricket match between India and South Africa today:

| INDIA | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Srikanth c Kirsten | 0 |
| b Donald | 28 |
| Manjrekar b Kuiper | 28 |
| Azharuddin c Kuiper | 79 |
| b Pringle | 79 |
| Tendulkar c Wessels | 14 |
| b Kuiper | 42 |
| Kapil Dev b Donald | 42 |
| Kambli run out | 1 |
| Amre not out | 1 |
| Srinath not out | 0 |
| Extras: (lb-7, w-6, nb-2) | 15 |
| Total: (six wickets-30 overs) | 180 |

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-79, 3-103, 4-174, 5-177, 6-179.

Did not bat: M Prabhakar, K More, V Raju.

| Bowling | |
|----------|----------|
| Donald | 6 0 34 2 |
| Pringle | 6 0 37 1 |
| Snell | 6 1 46 0 |
| McMillan | 6 0 28 0 |
| Kuiper | 6 0 28 2 |

SOUTH AFRICA

Hudson b Srinath 53
Kirsten b Kapil Dev 84
Kuiper run out 7
Rhodes c Raju b Prabhakar 9
Wessels not out 7
Cronje not out 8
Extras: (lb-10, nb-3) 13

Total: (Four wickets-29.1 overs) 181
Fall of wickets: 1-128, 2-149, 3-157, 4-163.

Did not bat: B McMillan, D Richardson, R Snell, M Pringle, A Donald.

| Bowling | |
|-----------|------------|
| Kapil Dev | 6 0 36 1 |
| Prabhakar | 5.1 1 33 1 |
| Tendulkar | 6 0 20 0 |
| Srinath | 6 0 39 1 |
| Raju | 6 0 43 0 |

Result: South Africa won by six wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Peter Kirsten.



South African Peter Kirsten helps himself to another boundary in yesterday's World Cup game against India in Adelaide.

in tournament.

South Africa made just one run off their first two overs but refused to panic and were soon matching India's progress.

Kirsten was slightly fortunate, on 28, when Javagal Srinath failed to make enough ground to attempt a catch off Venkatesh Raju.

But he batted marvelously, whether collecting singles from deft deflections or attacking over the top.

Hudson gave his more experienced partner excellent support, his 55-ball half-century being 11 balls slower as they raised a century stand in 18.4 overs.

Hudson, who will be 26 on Tuesday, was lucky twice. On 33, Sachin Tendulkar, then bowling, three down the stumps when he appeared out of his ground. On 52, Kiron More missed a clear stumping chance off Raju, but that miss mattered little as he was bowled in the next over.

Kuiper sacrificed himself — for the second time in the Cup — when Kirsten misjudged a single. Then Kirsten himself departed. Enter the bit-part

form: and Andrew Hudson could hit over the top," he explained.

"I thought at the end my experience would come in handy. When it came to it the final overs it was my responsibility to go in. I have done it before."

Speaking more generally Wessels said: "We are very happy. Getting to the semifinal was something we really wanted and we are delighted."



AZHARUDDIN...79

CUP STANDINGS

World Cup cricket standings after Sunday's matches (Tabulates under played, won, lost, no result, points, net run-rate):

| | | | | | |
|--------------|---|---|---|----|--------|
| New Zealand | 7 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 0.78 |
| England | 7 | 5 | 1 | 11 | 0.59 |
| South Africa | 8 | 5 | 3 | 10 | 0.13 |
| West Indies | 7 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0.25 |
| Pakistan | 7 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0.10 |
| Australia | 7 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0.05 |
| India | 8 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 0.14 |
| Sri Lanka | 8 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 0.08 |
| Zimbabwe | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | -0.136 |

Note: Net run-rate is difference between batting and bowling rates. Under competition rules, runs scored in no-result matches are not included in run-rate.

Waqar advised year's rest

ISLAMABAD, Mar 15: Fast bowler Waqar Younis, nursing a stress fracture in his back, is likely to miss Pakistan's tour of England next month, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) said Saturday, reports AFP.

The injury prevented him from playing in the current World Cup tournament, reducing Pakistan's bowling strength.

The 21-year-old has been advised by a doctor to take a year's complete rest, APP said, adding he would most certainly miss the England tour unless he ignores the advice and declares himself fit.

Waqar first suffered the injury in 1989 following his Test debut against India. His heavy schedule with English County Club Surrey last summer and later duty with the national team aggravated the injury.

APP said the doctor had told him that he could risk damaging his cricket career for ever if he did not rest for a year.

Nirman cricket final March 19

Sports Reporter

The Dhaka zonal final of the Nirman schools cricket tournament between Dhan-mondi Club Boys High School and BCSIR High School will be played at Dhaka Stadium on Thursday, March 19, says a BCCB press release.

The final was earlier scheduled for last week between Khilgaon Govt Boys High School and Dhan-mondi Govt. Boys High School but was cancelled following the suspension of Khilgaon School for fielding four players who were not bonafide students of the school in the semifinal against BCSIR High School. Thus BCSIR School earned the right to play in the final.

Salov surprises Timman

ALINARES, Spain, Mar 15: Valery Salov scored a surprise win over Jan Timman in the final adjourned game of the Linares chess tournament on Saturday, reports Reuter.

A pawn up when play was adjourned on Friday night, Salov, a Russian playing under the Spanish flag, thwarted Dutchman.

Timman's efforts to level the position and clinched the win after 84 moves and a total of seven hours play.

World champion Garry Kasparov of Russia, who scored an emphatic victory over Ljubomir Ljubojevic of Yugoslavia on Friday, was overall winner of the prestigious tournament.

Final standings: Kasparov 10 points
Vasily Ivanchuk (Ukraine), Timman 8
Anatoly Karpov (Russia) 7 1/2

Boris Gelfand (Belarus), Viswanathan Anand (India), Salvo 7 Evgeny Barcev (Russia) 6 1/2

Artur Yusupov (Russia, playing under German flag), Alexander Belyavsky (Russia) 6
Miguel Illescas (Spain) 5 1/2

Ljubojevic 4 1/2
Nigel Short (Britain), Jonathan Speelman (Britain) 4.

Kiwis brook no opposition

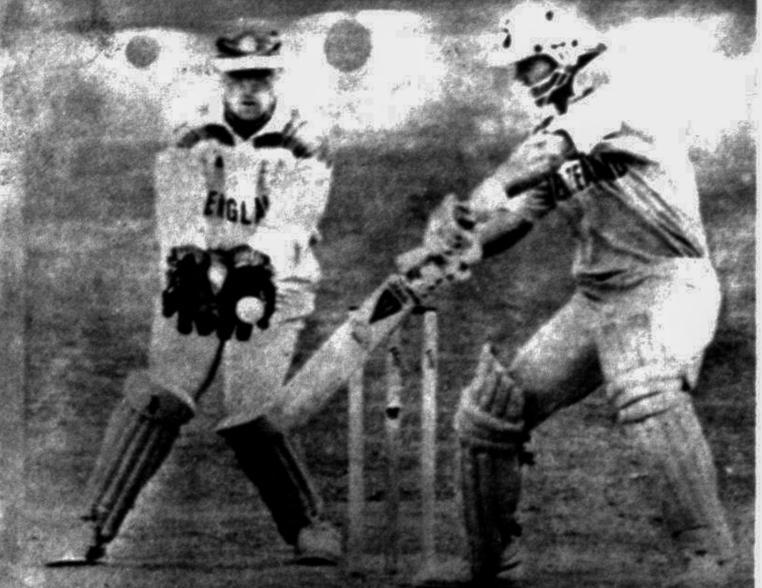
WELLINGTON, Mar 15: New Zealand cruised to a comfortable seven-wicket World Cup cricket victory over a below-par England side today after fluent half-centuries from Andrew Jones and captain Martin

in his brief knock of 12. Chris Lewis departed first ball to a juggled caught and bowled by Willie Watson. England managed only 58 runs off the last 15 overs as New Zealand's bowlers plugged away at an off-stump line that forced batsmen into errors. Medium pacer Chris Harris

England during a six-week tour of New Zealand in January and February.

The New Zealanders lost all three one-day games and two out of three Test matches during that period.

"It was sweet because England were the form team and probably favourites to win



New Zealand captain Martin Crowe tries to cut during his innings of 78 not out but England captain Alec Stewart gloves the ball in yesterday's World Cup match in Wellington.

Crowe, reports Reuter.

England's total of 200 for eight from their 50 overs never looked threatening, and tournament leaders New Zealand hurried home with nine overs to spare for a Cup record seventh consecutive win.

Jones and Crowe starred in a third wicket partnership of 108 which started when flamboyant opener Mark Greatbatch was dismissed for 35 and ended when New Zealand were poised for victory at 172.

Jones scored 78 in a 115-ball innings that included 12 fours, and Crowe finished with 73 not out from 83 balls.

England, with six out of 14 players injured or unwell, looked a shadow of the side who were unbeaten before Sunday, but have already qualified for the semifinals.

New Zealand will now finish top of the World Cup table, and have one game remaining, against Pakistan. They will play their semifinal against the team finishing fourth in the round-robin series.

England still have to play Zimbabwe, and should finish second, playing the third-placed team in the semifinal.

England's injury worries were deepened further towards the end of the match when pace bowler Derek Pringle left the field, apparently suffering a back problem.

After England were put in to bat, Ian Botham (8) was an early victim of off-spinner Dipak Patel, who again bowled tightly to end with two for-26 in 10 overs.

But Alec Stewart, acting captain in place of the injured Graham Gooch — one of a long line of limping English players — played an assured innings of 41 in a 70-run partnership with Graeme Hick.

Zimbabwe-born Hick struck a six and six fours in his 73-ball innings of 56 before he was caught behind the wicket by Mark Greatbatch, wearing the gloves for Ian Smith, who left the field suffering from a migraine.

At this stage England were cruising at 135 for three halfways through their 50 overs. But the pinpoint accuracy of New Zealand's bowlers gradually strangled the English batting, and no other player was able to score freely.

Robin Smith scratched around for 38, but Allan Lamb, playing his first World Cup match after being injured a month ago, looked out of touch

took two for 39 from his eight overs and now has 15 World Cup wickets. Watson claimed two for 40 and Gavin Larsen bowled an economical spell of none for 24 from 10 overs.

Man-of-the-match Jones even joined in the bowling line-up, spinning the ball considerably to claim the scalps of Smith and Pringle for a two for 42 spell.

Phillip DeFreitas gave England's attack just the start they needed when opener John Wright stepped inside the line and lost his leg stump after scoring one.

But Greatbatch, New Zealand's batting revelation in the Cup, then took control by hitting a quick-fire 35 before

the World Cup and they had given us a bid hiding before, so all those ingredients made it satisfying for us today," he said.

Finishing top of the table could mean New Zealand have to travel to Sydney if Australia squeeze through into the semifinals in fourth position.

Crowe said he would not mind travelling to Australia, although he would rather play the semifinal in Auckland, where New Zealand have won three of their Cup matches.

New Zealand will only play their semifinal in Sydney if they have to meet the co-hosts.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the World Cup one-day cricket match between England and New Zealand today:

| ENGLAND | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Stewart c Harris b Patel | 41 |
| Botham b Patel | 8 |
| Hick c Greatbatch b Harris | 56 |
| Smith c Patel b Jones | 38 |
| Lamb c Cairns b Watson | 12 |
| Lewis c and b Watson | 0 |
| Reeve not out | 21 |
| Pringle c sub (Latham) b Jones | 10 |
| DeFreitas c Cairns b Harris | 0 |
| Illingworth not out | 2 |
| Extras: (lb, 7lb, 4w) | 12 |
| Total: (for eight wickets, 50 overs) | 200 |

Fall: 1-25, 2-95, 3-135, 4-162, 5-162, 6-169, 7-189, 8-195.

| Bowling | |
|---------|-----------|
| Patel | 10 1 26 2 |
| Harris | 8 0 39 2 |
| Watson | 10 0 40 2 |
| Cairns | 3 0 21 0 |
| Larsen | 10 3 24 0 |
| Jones | 9 0 42 2 |

NEW ZEALAND

Greatbatch c DeFreitas b Botham 35
Wright b DeFreitas 78
Jones run out 7
Crowe not out 73
Rutherford not out 3

Extras: (b-1, lb-8, nb-1, w-1) 11
Total: (three wickets-41 overs) 201
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-64, 3-172.

Did not bat: C Harris, D Patel, C Cairns, I Smith, G Larsen, W Watson.

| Bowling | |
|-------------|------------|
| Pringle | 6.3 1 34 0 |
| DeFreitas | 8.3 1 45 1 |
| Botham | 4 0 19 1 |
| Illingworth | 9 1 46 0 |
| Hick | 6 0 26 0 |
| Reeve | 3 0 9 0 |
| Small | 4 0 13 0 |

Result: New Zealand won by seven wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Andrew Jones.

Bubka beaten

GRENOBLE, France, Mar 15: Sergei Bubka, the Ukraine's world champion and record holder, suffered a rare defeat in the pole vault indoor Masters competition here on Saturday night, reports AFP.

Victory was shared by 20-year-old Frenchman Jean Galfione and European indoor champion Piotr Bochkarev of Russia, who both cleared 5.84m on their first attempts.

But Bubka disappointed the 6,000 spectators hoping to witness another world record from the undisputed master.

He could only clear 5.70m for fourth place and failed in three attempts at 5.90, apparently suffering problems with his run-up. It was a long way short of the latest record of 6.13m he set in Paris last month.

Last year Bubka delighted the crowd here with an indoor record of 6.12m.

Sampras recovers but Agassi exits

KEY BISCAIYNE, Florida, Mar 15: Fourth-seeded Pete Sampras came back from the brink of defeat and top-seed Jim Courier recovered from a first-set loss on Saturday but 11th-seeded Andre Agassi couldn't make it a hat-trick at the 2.8 million dollar Lipton International Player's Championships, reports Reuter.

Japan's Shuzo Matsuoka was serving for the match against the fourth-ranked Sampras in the second set before the American pulled out a 4-6, 7-6, (7-3), 6-1 victory to reach the third round.

Courier, the world's number one ranked player, prevailed against unseeded Thierry Champion 5-7, 6-1, 6-2 after being frustrated by the tricky Frenchman's off-pace groundstrokes in the first set.

In a crowd-thrilling match, Bryan Shelton outplayed Agassi 6-4, 6-4 in a second round contest of two Americans.

Playing a fellow German didn't stop second-seeded Steffi Graf from capturing a quick 6-3, 6-1 second-round victory.

The 14th-ranked Agassi admits his tennis is in a slump. In five tournaments this year the best he has done are two match victories apiece at Brussels and Indian Wells. His best showing of 1992 was winning both his singles matches in a first round Davis Cup tie against Argentina.

"I'm trying to get back to where I know I can be," said Agassi, who has spent the last four weeks working with former touring pro Brian Teacher. "I don't feel I'm rising to the occasion like I should. I'm still trying to figure out why."

Agassi could not deal with the 59th-ranked Shelton's powerful first and second serve, and return of serve is normally Agassi's strength.

"His second serve is like a first serve out there," said Agassi. "I have to be able to take better advantage of his second serve. It's definitely huge."

Like Sampras, Agassi had a chance to get back in the match with his only break point of the day, which came in the final game. But Shelton claimed his nerve and blasted an overhead smash at 30-40.

He secured his victory two points later.

"I've been a set up on the best players before, but have never been able to sustain it," Shelton said after his biggest victory. "I'm pleased I was able to sustain it for two solid sets."

Sampras was lethargic through most of his first two sets, letting the 77th ranked Matsuoka dominate. The

American finally motivated himself in the tenth game of the second set and broke Matsuoka's serve at 30-40 with a winning forehand. A clenched fist after the break and Sampras was a new man.

By the tiebreaker, Matsuoka lost his edge. Two minibrakes on his shave and Sampras was in control.

"That was definitely a match I should've lost," admitted Sampras. "I was down 6-4, 5-4, 30-15. In the third set, he was very down, which gave me back the match. I was cutting it a little too close for comfort."

The second-ranked Graf, who won her first tournament of the year one week ago at the Virginia Slims of Florida, is playing solid tennis. This even is only her third tournament of 1992 following about with German measles which kept her out of action until mid-February.

A two-time Lipton champion, Graf's last title here came in 1988.

Graf gave up only two points on serve in the first set, breaking the 148th-ranked Probst in the first and ninth games. After dropping her serve in the first game of the second set, Graf proceeded to win the final six games.

"I'm feeling really good," said Graf, who is looking for her 63rd career title. "I won some tough matches last week. I'm really happy to be able to play again."

Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, the third seed and third-ranked woman in the world, scored an easy 6-2, 6-3 second-round win over unseeded American Katrina Adams.

Ninth-seeded American Zina Garrison also advanced to the third round with a 6-3, 6-4 win over unseeded Pascale Paradis-Mangon of France.

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Title retained

ANTIBES, France, Mar 15: Manuel Medina of Mexico battled back from a first-round cut to defend his International Boxing Federation Feather weight title with a 12-round split decision over Frenchman Fabrice Benichou, reports AP.</