

Pakistan to meet New Zealand again, in Saturday's semifinal

# Pak spanner in Kiwi march

**CHRISTCHURCH, Mar 18:** Pakistan, spurred by a superb Rameez Raja century, reached the World Cup cricket semifinals when they crushed previously unbeaten New Zealand at Lancaster Park on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The Pakistani seven-wicket victory snuffed out holders Australia's chance of getting to the semifinals, and also pipped the West Indies who lost to Australia in Melbourne later in the day.

Rameez hit the top score of the tournament — 119 not out off 155 balls — to ensure the win which was set up by Pakistan's bowlers. They justified Imran's decision to put New Zealand in on a pacey pitch, bundling the joint hosts out for 166 in 48.2 overs.

The batsmen initially made hard work of getting the runs, sensationally losing Aamir Sohail first ball to Danny Morrison, who then bowled Inzamamul Haq in his next over.

But a sensible 115-run third wicket partnership between Rameez and Javed Miandad carried Pakistan through to success at 167 for three with 5.2 overs to spare.

Rameez, batting fluently from the start, was rarely troubled, although approaching his century he used a runner briefly.

His main partner, Miandad, batted scratchily and Dipak Patel dropped a difficult caught and bowled chance on three, but he stayed long enough effectively to win the game before Morrison trapped him lbw for 30.

Earlier, when Aamir was caught at fine leg off a Morrison short ball, he waited interminably and in vain for the square leg umpire to call a no-ball.

Morrison bowled aggressively, and in his next over opened the door for New Zealand when he bowled Inzamamul.

Off-spinner Patel must have rued the dropped catch soon after he bowled superbly, again as the opening bowler, having figures of none for 25 from 10 overs.

He and Willie Watson pinned the Pakistani batsman down, so that they scored only 17 runs in nine overs, but once they were taken off, the batsmen gradually took control.



Pakistan opener Rameez Raja acknowledges the applause after reaching his second century of the World Cup yesterday at Christchurch. Rameez scored an unbeaten 119. —TV photo



M-O-M MUSHTAQ ... 2 for 18

"It will sting us back into action." Aaqib Javed, bowling the second over, was hit for two fours and a six by the flamboyant Mark Greatbatch. But in his second over, he induced a touch from Rod Latham and had him caught at first slip by Inzamamul Haq for six.

Next over, Akram, bowling quickly but erratically, had the normally reliable Andrew Jones trapped lbw for two.

However, Akram and his team mates jubilation at Jones' dismissal was nothing compared with the joy expressed in his sixth when he had Crowe caught for three.

Crowe, averaging 181 before this innings, clipped a full length delivery straight to Aamir at backward square for a simple catch.

Greatbatch changed from all-out attack to a more disciplined approach. The only real blemish in Pakistan's performance was the number of extras conceded, equal top score on 42, including 12 wides.

Mushtaq got his first wicket in extraordinary circumstances — the ball was called wide but w-12, nb-4) 42 Total: (48.2 overs) 166 Fall of wickets: 1-23; 2-26; 3-39; 4-85; 5-85; 6-93; 7-96; 8-106; 9-150.

Mushtaq then removed the last serious obstacle. Greatbatch, who had been batting freely against all the bowlers except Mushtaq, casually lapped the ball to Salim Malik at short fine leg. He hit five fours and a six in his 67-ball innings of 42.

Ian Smith and Patel quickly followed Greatbatch to have New Zealand in dire trouble at 106 for eight in the 28th over, five wickets tumbling for 21 in mid-innings.

It was left to the tailenders to give the New Zealanders token respectability. Gavin Larsen and Danny Morrison added 44 valuable runs in 56 minutes before Akram was brought back to remove Morrison.

Akram ended the innings when he bowled the brave Larsen for 37.

Rameez, whose innings contained 16 fours, then put the seal on Pakistan's outstanding performance. Corwe said he was relieved that New Zealand would play their semifinal in Auckland on Saturday rather than against Australia in Sydney.

"We would probably prefer to play South Africa." The result meant that the two teams will again face each other, in the first semifinal at Auckland next Saturday.

Scoreboard in the World Cup cricket match between New Zealand and Pakistan on Wednesday: NEW ZEALAND Greatbatch c Moin b Mushtaq 42 Latham c Inzamamul b Aaqib 6 Jones lbw b Akram 2 Crowe c Aamir b Akram 3 Rutherford run out 8 Harris st Moin b Mushtaq 1 Patel c Mushtaq b Aamir 7 Smith b Imran 37 Larsen b Akram 1 Morrison c Inzamamul b Akram 12 Watson not out 5 Extras: (b-3, lb-23,

While wickets tumbled, the charging Chris Harris missed it and was stumped by Moin for one.

### CUP STANDINGS

World Cup cricket final standings after Wednesday's matches, with the top four teams going through to the semifinals starting on Saturday (Tabulate under played, won, lost, no result, points, net run-rate):

New Zealand	8	7	1	0	14	0.99
England	8	5	2	1	11	0.47
South Africa	8	5	3	0	10	0.13
Pakistan	8	4	3	1	9	0.16
Australia	8	4	4	0	8	0.20
West Indies	8	4	4	0	8	0.07
India	8	2	5	1	5	0.14
Sri Lanka	8	2	5	1	5	0.08
Zimbabwe	8	1	7	0	2	-1.14

(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).

### Nawaz Sharif's congratulations

ISLAMABAD, Mar 18: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif sent congratulatory messages today to the Pakistan cricket team on their victory against New Zealand, officials said, reports AFP.

### Richards rallies around Richardson

MELBOURNE, Mar 18: Former champion batsman Viv Richards said Wednesday that West Indies captain Richie Richardson needs the respect of the team and selectors if his side is to continue as the dominant force in international cricket, reports AP.

Richards, who missed selection for the 14 man World Cup squad, said he held no animosity or ill-feeling towards the side, but said its plight is in Richardson's hands.

"The future looks good, as long as Richie can get the respect of the team and get everyone behind him," Richards said. "Earlier I was disappointed missing selection, but I think I am always able to spread my shoulders and take disappointment with the good."

"I felt with that, I could only wish the guys the best because you have to realise I am West Indian and I've always played my heart out for the West Indies and I wouldn't want the guys to do differently."

Richards is in Australia to promote his new autobiography "Hitting Across the Line," which details his 17 years of international cricket.

He said he still has at least two more years of cricket left in him and will continue to play out his contract with English county side Glamorgan.

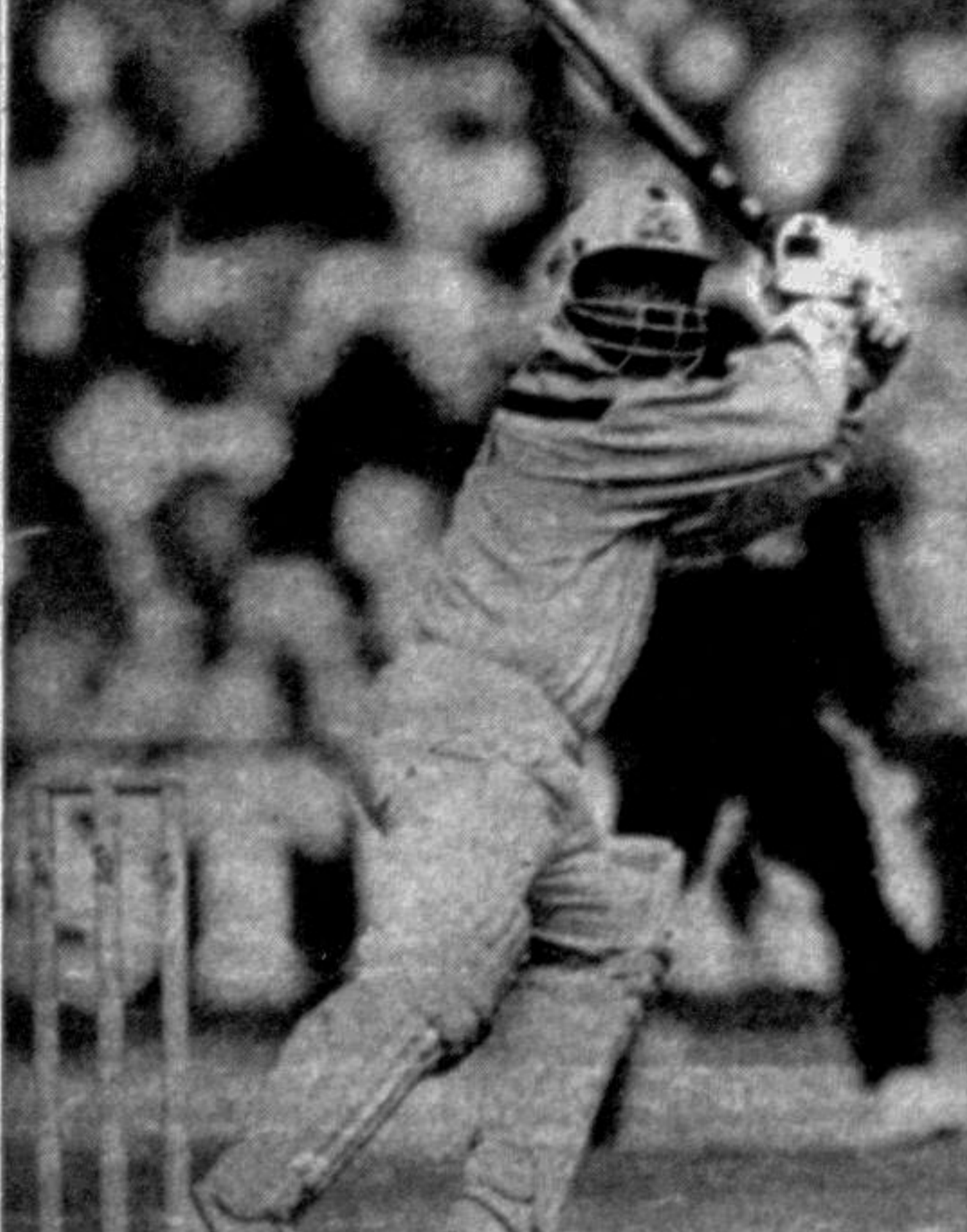
"I am looking forward to play with Glamorgan, we have a good relationship both on and off the field," he said.

# Aussies bow out in style

MELBOURNE, Mar 18: Left-arm paceman Mike Whitney destroyed West Indies World Cup cricket semifinal hopes with a four-wicket burst which gave outgoing champions Australia a 57-run win today, reports Reuter.

It was some consolation for ing to 10 from 44 deliveries became Whitney's first victim, caught behind by Ian Healy.

It was the beginning of the end for the former one-day kings who won the first two World Cups.



Australian opener David Boon playing a ball during yesterday's World Cup match against the West Indies in Melbourne. Boon top-scored with a fine 100 and was named man-of-the-match.

The paceman finished with four for 34 from 10 overs. After that, all heart and re-

Australia after they had seen their chances of a semifinal berth disappear earlier in the day with Pakistan's win over New Zealand in Christchurch.

West Indies could still have qualified if they had beaten Australia in the day-night match here but were bowled out for a paltry 159 after Australia had scored 216 for six in their 50 overs after winning the toss.

The result meant Pakistan qualified for the semifinals on Saturday and Sunday alongside New Zealand, England and South Africa.

Whitney wrecked West Indies' middle order with a spell of four for 20 in 36 balls.

Only stylish left-handed opener Brian Lara offered any real resistance and looked a class above his team-mates as he compiled 70 from only 97 balls.

While he remained, West Indies had a slim chance of overtaking the Australian total. But a stupid misunderstanding with Winston Benjamin left Lara stranded and he was easily run out to become the eighth wicket to fall with West Indies' total on 137 in the 38th over.

Paceman Craig McDermott had started West Indies' decline with two wickets in successive balls with only 27 runs on the board.

He had Desmond Haynes caught at square leg by Dean Jones for 14 and with his next delivery trapped Phil Simmons lbw for 6.

McDermott's double strike gave Australia the upper hand after their opening batsman David Boon had underlined his consistently fine form with an innings of exactly 100.

Captain Richie Richardson attempted to revive West Indies' fortunes but he never looked happy against some tight bowling and after labour-

stance went from West Indies, leaving Pakistan to face New Zealand in the first semifinal in Auckland on Saturday while England will meet South Africa in Sydney the following day.

Australia's innings reflected their performance throughout the tournament, again illustrating the reliability of Boon and the fragility of their middle order.

With opening partner Tom Moody, Boon quickly established a scoring rate of four an over.

The problem was that none of the later batsmen were able to help him boost it much above that mark for the remainder of the innings.

Boon's 50 came from 87 balls and the century partnership soon after from 155.

# Imran slams bouncer law

CHRISTCHURCH, Mar 18: Pakistan captain Imran Khan said today the current one-day cricket rule on bouncers is causing too much confusion in the game, reports AFP.

Speaking after his victory over New Zealand here, he said he was annoyed with what he interpreted to be differing decisions by Australian umpire Steve Randell on what constituted a bouncer.

On the first ball of the Pakistani innings, Danny Morrison, the New Zealand fast bowler, dug one in short which reared around shoulder height to Aamir Sohail.

Imran said he was annoyed with what he interpreted to be differing decisions by Australian umpire Steve Randell on what constituted a bouncer.

"How does an Umpire know whether it's an inch above or below the shoulder?" he said.

He suggested an alteration to the rule. "Either you allow it head height, or anything in the shoulder region, which is normally banded in short and it's obviously a bouncer."

# Samad Smriti final

Sports Reporter The final of the Jadugar Samad Smriti football will be held at the Outer Stadium on March 23 at 3 pm.

Ganaktuli Kishore Football Eleven and Kishore Eleven will clash in the final.



Pakistan wicketkeeper Moin Khan whips off the balls to run out New Zealand's Ken Rutherford during yesterday's World Cup qualifying match. Pakistan won the match by seven wickets and reached the semifinals. —AFP photo

# A relief for Wessels' men

SYDNEY, Mar 18: The South African squad here for the cricket World Cup were "relieved and happy" as they heard late Wednesday that the "Yes" vote was winning overwhelmingly in the pro-reform referendum at home, reports AFP.

Team manager Alan Jordaan told a media conference at their hotel: "As South Africans we have been proud of the 'Yes' vote and obviously the result is a relief for us."

"We live in the country, we believe it is the right way to go and from our point we are happy, but I suppose if you ask the people who voted 'No' then they're not going to be so happy."

Asked if they were surprised at the vote, he said: "No we've said all along that we believe it would win. President De Klerk will be overjoyed."

Only three members of the squad had the essential 'Book-Of-Life' document with them to enable them to vote in the referendum because they did not expect to have the need of it when they left South Africa, Jordaan said.

But captain Kepler Wessels said the vote would have been a unanimous 'Yes' if the entire

squad had been able to vote. The team arrived in Sydney Wednesday from Adelaide and, depending on the result of the Australia v/s West Indies match, appeared likely to stay here to play England in Sunday's semifinal.

Earlier in the week, team officials had suggested South Africa might be forced to withdraw from the competition if the vote had gone the other way.

Geoff Dakin, president of the recently-formed mixed race United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) said on Monday that the team might have to withdraw if the vote had gone the other way and any other team objected to South Africa's continued participation in the World Cup.

# First Division soccer resumes today

Sports Reporter The First Division football league resumes today with the venue being shifted to the Dhaka Stadium from Mirpur Stadium.

Arambagh Kirta Sangstha will take on Police Athletic Club at 6.45 pm in the only fixture of the day.

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# Jansher's attempt for third title

COLOGNE, Germany, Mar 18: Top seed Jansher Khan, chasing a third straight title on the world squash circuit, cruised through the first round of the German Open on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The Pakistani, who won the Welsh classic and Spanish Open last month, took only 36 minutes to beat England's Paul Carter 15-6, 15-8, 15-11.

Jansher said he felt confident ahead of next month's British Open where he will be top seeded in the absence of injured compatriot Jahangir Khan, who has lifted the British crown for the last 10 years.

But he tempered his optimism with a note of caution. "I'm playing extremely well at the moment and feel very strong. But I have been equally confident before the last six British Opens and not managed to win one yet," Jansher said.

Wessels said it did not matter which semifinalists they played — "They are equally tough."

He said he had revised his opinion of earlier in the week that England would be tougher than New Zealand.

"England have taken two defeats in the last two games and so there must be some doubts in their minds," Wessels said.

"Also New Zealand got

beaten convincingly today, so hopefully those teams have played their best cricket in the tournament."