Pakistanis rule the world

Mar 25: Pakistan won cricket's fifth World Cup with a superb allround performance as Wasim Akram and Mushtan Ahmed took three wickets apiece to sink England

in the final today, reports It was Pakistan's first appearance in a final and the third time England have failed

at that hurdle. Fast bowler Akram began the damage by dismissing opener lan Botham for a duck and then took two wickets in successive balls to rock England's middle order.

Leg-spinner Mushtaq weighed in with the wickets of captain Graham, Gooch, Graeme Hick and Dermot Reeve as England were dismissed for 227 in the final

Pakistan earlier scored 249 for six in their 50 overs after winning the toss and batting

Akram finished with three for 49 and Mushtaq three for

Imran and Miandad showed all their wealth of experience as they guided Pakistan out of early muddy waters and set the platform for a crashing last 10 overs which produced 79 runs.

It was slow going at the beginning as the England bowlers appeared to have a stranglehold on the Pakistani batsmen after they lost openers Aamir Sohail (four) and Rameez (eight) with 24 on the board.

Only 26 runs came from the first 10 overs, 49 from 20 and 96 from 30.

Derek Pringle and Lewis put the early clamp on Pakistan, like England seeking their first World Cup crown.

Pringle accounted for both openers. Sohail well taken by wicketkeeper Alec Stewart diving to his left and Rameez trapped leg before.

Only 10 runs came from Lewis' first six overs and 13 from Pringle's first eight, four of them no-balls and two wides. .

Imran was fortunate to survive when Gooch put down a difficult running eatch at midwicket when he had made nine and the score was 56 for

But as the shine began to disappear from the two white balls and the slight dampness dried from the pitch in the bright sunshine, so the scoring inexorably increased in tempo.

Imran drove left-arm spinner Illingworth resoundingly for six and he and Miandad reached their half-centuries



CUP OF JOY:Pakistan skipper Imran Khan with the crystal World Cup after beating England in the final.

within a few minutes of each other. Miandad took 91 balls to reach his and Imran 88.

England's innings began just as badly as Pakistan's although with a slightly faster run rate.

Their problem was that while Pakistan recuperated and recovered, England continued to lose wickets.

Botham, desperately wanting to cap a career of amazing feats with a World Cup triumph, fell with only six on the board. Opening the innings with

captain Graham Gooch, he was clearly angry when New Zealand umpire Brian Aldridge adjudged him to have nicked a catch to wicketkeeper Moin

Like Gooch, Imran and Miandad, it was probably his last appearance in a World Cup.

Soon after, Alec Stewart became Moin's second victim when he edged a catch off Aaqib Javed to be out for seven. It was at this stage Pakistan had battened down the

hatches and consolidated. England failed to do so, with 21-year-old Mushtag Ahmed. successor to wily spinner Abdul Qadir, bemusing all who faced him.

His wrong 'un(googly) completely fooled Graeme Hick to have him leg before for 17 and he then captured the greatest prize in dismissing Gooch.

Unable to break loose against tight bowling, Gooch swept in frustration at Mushtaq but straight into the hands of Aagib to end a 66-ball innings of 29.

That left the score on 69 for four in the 21st over, ahead on run rate of Pakistan at the same stage but with two more wickets down. Neil Fairbrother and Allan

Lamb revived England's fortunes, mainly through pushes and nudges but with the occasional boundary, and set England back on course with a partnership of 72 from 84 balls.

But then Akram plunged England back deep into trouble with two wickets in successive deliveries. Lamb played inside an

outswinger and was bowled for 31 and next ball Akram brought one back to hit Chris

Lewis' stumps to leave England on 141 for six. Fairbrother, who guided them to a win with a brilliant,

innings against South Africa

Rameez Raja. A crowd of 87,182 packed

The Pakistan team ran leaping and cheering around the edge of the field after the Cup presentation as fireworks lit up the Melbourne night sky.

Pakistan's hopes earlier looked slim when they struggled for runs for the first 30 overs but a highly responsible stand of 139 between their veterans Imran and Javed Miandad, the only two players to have appeared in all five World Cups, set them on the path to victory.

Imran made 72, Javed 58, and when they left it was the raw talent of Inzamam-ul Haq and Akram which sent the scoreboard racing.

But when he went, miscuing a pull, England's hopes went with him.

earlier in the tournament, was

62 from 70 balls. -

again in superb form, scoring

Pakistan's 39-year-old captain Imran Khan sealed victory by taking the final wicket when Richard Illingworth sent the ball soaring for a catch by

the vast stadium for the largest official one-day attendance in the world, although larger estimated crowds have been recorded in India.

The pair had just raised the scoring rate to four an over when Miandad, still troubled by his back injury and needing a runner for the later stages of his innings, threw away his wicket with a moment of overconfidence.

Facing Illingworth's 10th over, Miandad opted to try a reverse sweep, much in the style of former captain Mike Gatting whose similar moment of madness four years ago probably cost England their fi nal against Australia.

Miandad middled the ball firmly enough but straight into the hands of Botham.

His 58 came from 98 balls and contained four boundaries. His departure brought Inzamamul to the crease and opened the floodgates.

Inzamam-ul cracked four off the second ball he received and three from the third.

Imran, trying for his second six, was caught at long-on by Illingworth, his 110-ball innings of 72 also containing five fours.

Akram, later named man-ofthe-match, joined Inzamam-ul and the pair tore into the England bowling. Lewis, so

miserly in his first spell, was one to suffer, ending with no wickets for 52 from his 10

Only Pringle, playing after passing a late fitness test on a rib injury, escaped punishment and off the penultimate ball of the innings bowled Inzamamul for 42 which came from 35 deliveries.

Akram was run out for 33,

scored from 19 deliveries. Pringle had by far the best bowling figures, his 10 overs bringing three wickets and costing 22 runs, eight of them

from no-balls and wides.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the World Cup criéket final between Pakistan and England at the Melbourne Cricket Ground Wednesday:

PARISTAN

Aamtr Sohail c Stewart b Pringle Rameez Raja Ibw b Pringle Imran Khan c Illingworth b Botham Javed Miandad c Botham b Illingworth Inzamam-ul Haq b Pringle Wastm Akram run out Salim Malik not out Extras: (b 2, lb 19, w 6,

72

Total: (6 wkts, 50 overs) 249 Did not bat: Moin Khan, Ijaz Ahmed, Aaqib Javed, Mushtaq Ahmed Fall of wickets: 1-20; 2-24;

3-163: 4-197: 5-249: 6-249. Bowling: O M R 22 Pringle 50 10 Lewis 42 Botham 42 DeFreitas 50 Illingworth 0 22 Reeve ENGLAND

Gooch c Aagib b Mushtag

Botham c Moin b Akram Stewart c Moin b Aagfb Hick Ibw b Mushtaq 17 Fairbrother c Moin b Aaqib Lamb b Akram Lewis b Akram Reeve c Rameez b Mushtaq Pringle not out Defrettas run out Illingworth c Rameez b Imran Extras; (lb 5, w13, nb 6) Total: (all out, 49.2 overs) 227 Fall of wickets: 1-6; 2-21; 3-59; 4-69; 5-141; 6-141; 7-180; 8-183; 9-208, Bowling: 10 Akram

Imran Sohail Result: Pakistan won by 22 Man-of-the-Final: Wasim

1992 WORLD CUP COMPLETE RESULTS

MELBOURNE, Mar 25: Results of matches in the 1992 World Cup cricket which finished here Wednesday (Date, match, man-of-the-match, result).

Feb 22 Australia vs New Zealand M Crowe (NZ) NZ won by 37 runs.

Feb 22 England vs India I Botham (Engl England won

Feb 23 West Indies vs Pakistan B Lara (WI) WI won by 10 wkts. Feb 23 Srt Lanka vs Zimbabwe A Flower (Zim) Srt Lanka

Peb 25 New Zealand vs Srt Lanka K Rutherford (NZ) NZ won by 6 wkts.

Feb 26 Australia vs South Africa K Wessels (SA) SA won Feb 27 England vs West Indies Cl Lewis (Engl England

won by 6 wkts. Feb 27 Pakistan vs Zimbabwe A Sohail (Pak) Pakistan won by 53 runs.

Feb 28 India vs Sri Lanka (none) no result (rain). Feb 29 New Zealand vs South Africa M Greatbatch (NZ) NZ won by 7 wkts. Feb 29 West Indies vs Zimbabwe B Lara (WI) WI won by

75 runs. Mar I England vs Pakistan (none) no result (rain). Mar 1 Australia vs India D Jones (Aust) Australia won by

Mar 2 South Africa vs Sri Lanka A Ranatunga (SL) Sri Lanka won by 3 wkts.-

Mar 3 New Zealand vs Zimbabwe M Crowe (NZ) NZ won by 48 runs.

Mar 4 Pakistan vs India S Tendulkar (Ind) India won by 43 runs.

Mar 5 West Indies vs South Africa M Pringle (SA) South Africa won by 64 runs. Mar 5 Australia vs England I Botham (Eng) England won

by 8 wkts. Mar 7 India vs Zimbabwe S Tendulkar (Ind) India won by 55 runs.

Mar 7 Australia vs Sri Lanka T Moody (Aust) Australia won by 7 wkts.

Mar 8 Pakistan vs South Africa A Hudson (SA) South Africa won by 20 runs. Mar 8 New Zealand vs West Indies M Crowe (NZ) NZ

won by 5 wkts. Mar 9 England vs Sri Lanka C Lewis (Eng) England won

Mar 10 West Indies vs India A Cummins (WI) WI won by Mar 10 South Africa vs Zimbabwe P Kirsten (SA) South Africa won by 7 wkts.

Mar 11 Pakistan vs Australia A Sohail (Pak) Pakistan won by 48 runs. Mar 12 South Africa vs England A Stewart (Eng) England won by 3 wkts.

Mar 12 New Zealand vs India M Greatbatch (NZ) NZ won by 4 wkts. Mar 13 West Indies vs Srt Lanka P Simmons (WI) WI

Mar 14 Australia vs Zimbabwe S Waugh (Aust) Australia won by 128 runs. Mar 15 England vs New Zealand A Jones (NZ) NZ won

by 7 wkts. Mar 15 Sri Lanka vs Pakistan J Miandad (Pak) Pakistan won by 4 wkts.

Mar 15 South Africa vs India P Kirsten (SA) South Africa won by 6 wkts. Mar 18 New Zealand vs Pakistan M Ahmed (Pak)

Pakistan won by 7 wkts. Mar 18 Australia vs West Indies D Boon (Aust) Australia won by 57 runs.

Mar 18 England vs Zimbabwe E Brandes (Zim) Zimbabwe won by 9 runs.

Mar 21 semifinal: New Zealand vs Pakistan Inzamamul Haq (Pak) Pakistan won by 4 wkts. Mar 22 semifinal: England vs South Africa O Hick (Eng)

Mar 25 final: England vs Pakistan W Akram (Pak).

Pakistan won by 22 runs.

Not mediocrity everywhere



cheerless monar of Shake speare's chroni cle play Henry IV. was worried

right through about the sense of responsibility of his son Harry, later known as Henry V. The carefree, relaxed prince went on to show how gul vive he was about his duties in the battle of Agincourt, against who else but the French. There, this young king, enthroned as Henry V. inspired his army with a magnificent rousing speech. With the dices loaded heavily against the British army the king told his men that those who were to die the next day, would be hallowed for dying for the cause of the country on Saint Cryspin's Day and those surviving the hazards of the war would proudly display the scars and wounds to the posterity. Truly great verbal anabolic steroid, one would love

Watching Imran's army winning the 1992 Benson and Hedges World Cup at the Melbourne Cricket Ground yesterday, one, with a certain amount of strolling in the domain of Shakespearean drama, could not help attempting an analogy in that vein.

Imran's men beat poor form, injury, home advantage

of host countries and whims of the weather to win the sparkling crystal trophy in their first appearance in a final of the World Cup. Pakistan made it to the final

and like their neighbour India who won championship in 1983, arrived, saw and won with the clan and aplomb befitting the champions. Well, with angels parading all over in style, a fool like this scribe would not have mus-

tered enough guts to come up with any write-up unless my boss had really egged me on to some scribbling. Although not Prufrock, the thought like 'Do I disturb the universe' did cross my mind, but later thought' that this man who had all along been so sure about Pakistan's ultimate success deserved congratulations for his clairvoyance. Hamlet had said that earlier but Afzal H Khan drew that out once again. How prophetic I'

Imran Khan's talented but often erratic Pakistanis thoroughly outplayed England, known for their hard core professionalism. The talent was there in the team that lost the first match by ten wickets to the West Indies, but there was not the person who could tap the talent and put it to the best use. Imran tapped it well and although one does not knew how Imran inspired his

men yet with him, appearing in the World Cup perhaps for the last time and with that burning ambition to set up the cancer hospital in Pakistan, the goading and urging must have been pretty close, like that of the fictitious speech of Henry V. The way Inzamam and

Akram toyed and destroyed the vaunted English attack for its arithmetical precision one anticipated that the English openers - Gooch and Botham - would not find the going very tough against the Pakistani attack. The two semifinals showed that the side batting second is not always daunted by a 200-plus total, but how magnificently Wasim Akram and Aaqib Javed rose to the occasion ! If England had won everyone would have got away with 'it was a batting wicket' sort of stuff and indeed it was a very true wicket where the ball came on to the bat at an even bounce and pace. lan Botham was perhaps a shade unlucky to have been given out but the dismissals of Stewart, Lamb and Lewis were tinged with the true art of aerodynamics. And then that little genie, Mushtaq Ahmed, casting a spell around the English batsmen, was another delightful instance of attacking vintage cricket, outshining the mediocre cricket of metronomic regularity and predictability.

Sunil Gavaskar, the batting maestro now doing equally well in his role as the guest expert commentator for Hong Kong's Star TV, summed up the whole thing succinctly saying that Pakistan had SPECIALISTS while their opponents had only BITS-AND-PIECES blokes. Saglieri tried all his life to match the genius of Mozart but in the end the reality dawned upon himself and the old man, quite disgusted by the pedestrian stuff all around, had the candour and illumination to say 'mediocrity everywhere.' We have had our shares of mediocrity throughout the World Cup but Imran Khan's unpredictable, cornered tigers had the last laugh and we, the lovers of the game, were given the scope to heave a sigh of relief 'mediocrity not everywhere.

Gooch, Botham upset by jokes about Queen



MELBOURNE Mar 25: England Cricketers lan Botham Graham Gooch walked out of a pre-World Cup final dinner Tuesday night after objecting

to jokes made by an Australian comedian, reports AP. Gooch, England's team captain, and veteran allrounder Botham walked out of the dlrs 140 per head dinner Melbourne's Exhibition Buil-

dings in the middle of Connolly's impersonation of The Queen. Team manager Micky Stewart said the walkout echoed the sentiments of the

entire England team. "It is only out of respect that anyone is here at all," Stewart said.

He said Botham and Gooch had found the sketch "all too much" and had walked out. "We thought it entirely in

poor taste for an occasion like that," Stewart said. "It made my blood boil," Botham said.

"Perhaps it's the Aussies"

ing cheap jokes at our Queen and her family. "It was very insulting having to listen to that on the eve of

idea of a fun night out - pok-

the World Cup final. "It was in poor taste — it was quite unsuitable for the occasion and I decided I wasn't going to take it any

more. Prime Minister Paul Keating, a devout Republican, laughed off the incident, say- sort of crap." . ing it was part of public life to attend events which might be distasteful.

"You've got to take all this in your stride," Keating said. England team manager Bob Bennett said the entire England team had been offended by jokes about the

Queen and her family.

were upset, I know other people felt the same," Bennett "He (Connolly) began telling anti-royal jokes, including some about the Duchess of

York which were not very

"Ian and Graham left the

hall quietly to return to the ho-

"I can understand why they

against Pakistan.

Former England captain David Gower said he suspected the players wanted to get to bed early to rest for the final

"I've a slight suspicion the boys were looking for an excuse to make sure they were in bed early," Gower said. In England we have a lot of

comedians who take off politicians and the Royal Family. We usually pride ourselves on having a good sense of humor. Comedian Connolly has fea-

tured on national television as

an impersonator. Australian Cricket Board media manager lan McDonald said he was "amazed" at Botham and Gooch's behaviour. "She is our Queen, too,

McDonald said Meanwhile a Reuter report from London adds: A walkout by English cricketers protest ing at anti-royal jokes in Australia shunted Britain's general election campaign off the tabloids' front -pages on

Wednesday. "God save our team," said The Today newspaper's head line adapting the first-line of Britain's national anthem Don't insult our Queen echoed The Daily Mail.

newspaper splashed the story on its front page under a black and red banner headline which explained "An Aussie drag artist insulted the royal family." It quoted an angry Botham as saying: "I love my country

and I cannot put up with that

The mass-circulation Sun

The latest row comes hot on the heels of furore over the Queen's recent visit to Australia when Prime Minister Paul Keating put his arm around the monarch and said his nation's future lay in Asia.

they ran outside."

Gerry Connolly, the comedian involved in the Melbourne incident who carned himself a cast live direct from different picture on the front-page of The Times, had different explanation for the walkout. He told Sky television news in an interview: "I think that

they (the players) were very cricket World Cup in 1987. The matches drew large nervous and it was either the smoked salmon or the chicken which was served for main course which got to them and the country.

Cricket fever paralyses Colombo COLOMBO. Mar Colombo-based Indian journal- were raving over their team



Mushtag

a virtual standstill in offices, banks and

schools across Sri Lanka today as thousands of cricket enthusiasts watched the World Cup final live on national television, reports

Television monitors outside the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank in Colombo showed Pakistan skipper Imran Khan and vice-captain Javed Miandad punishing England bowlers instead of their usual foreign exchange rates.

Sidewalks were less noisier than usual as newspaper vendors and pavement hawkers forgot their standard hard sell to concentrate on listening to the ball-by-ball commentary on their pocket radios.

"I told my partner to close shop because I am watching the match," a Muslim trader said from his home. Taxi drivers and police constables in a rare show of camaraderie listened to car radios together for the latest scores.

The military headquarters issued its daily situation report from the island's northeastern battle front earlier than usual probably to avoid the deluge of telephone calls from impatient foreign correspondents. But most of them too were

busy watching the game, with BTV reaps fat profit

earned Tk 60 lakh through commercial broadcast of the World Cup Cricket-'92 matches, reports UNB. Out of the total earnings, Tk

Bangladesh Television has

sorship and Tk 10 lakh from commercial spots. BTV transmitted live 23 matches in 19 days, including the exciting semifinals and the final. The matches were tele-

50 lakh came from the spon-

venues of the tournament. This amount is much more than the revenue earned through such sponsorship and spot bookings during the last

number of viewers and were sponsored by ten commercial and industrial organisations of

ists cheered their country's main regional adversary, Pakistan, against their former colonial ruler.

England won by 19 runs.

They are not hitting hard enough. Pakistan will have to do better if they want to take the Cup home," said P Jayaram, bureau chief of the United News of India

Sri Lanka, the youngest Test playing nation, failed to make it to the tournament's knock-out stage, triggering

angry reactions from fans who

when they won two early matches against Zimbabwe and South Africa.

for the final, so we will support Pakistan," a hotel lift operator said while filling in his colleagues on the latest scores. The World Cup has height-

ened cricket fever in most leading schools here, which have just concluded their annual cricket matches against traditional rival colleges.

team and its leadership," the

president said in a message,

adding that the entire nation

rejoiced with a "deep sense of

Sharif also expressed similar

sentiments in a separate mes-

Lahore, where Pakistan cricket

skipper Imran Khan lives, a

number of cultural and sports

organisations said the team

would be accorded a historic

welcome on their return from

the city in a mammoth pro-

cession of elephants, said one

after the national team began a

grand recovery after making a

poor start in the World Cup

tournament, moving a few reli-

gious scholars to issue rulings

that watching cricket was

permissible during the fasting

period of Ramadan -- provided

one performed the ordained

with a heart problem to avoid

watching the math as tension

could be harmful to them.

Press reports said at least one

heart patient had died in

"This is a great moment for

Doctors had advised those

They would be taken round

Cricket fever soared here

Australia.

organiser.

daily prayers.

Stalkot.

sage to the cricket heroes.

Prime Minister Nawaz

In Punjab's capital of

25: People fired guns in the air, danced on the streets and offered prayers to Allah as Pakistanis across the

team's World Cricket Cup victory, reports AFP. ISLAMABAD, Mar 25: People fired guns in the air, danced on the streets and offered prayers to Allah as Pakistanis across the country

Witnesses said they had rarely seen such a spontaneous display of public joy in the country, where millions followed Pakistan's 22-run victory over England on television or by live radio commentary

Earlier in the day, roads were deserted with people preferring to stay at home to watch the match. Attendance was strikingly low in government offices, banks and com-

Shouts of 'Allah-O-Akbar (God is Great) and "Pakistan Jindabad" (long live Pakistan) filled the air, as people hugged and congratulated one another in a style usually only witnessed during major religious

Khan immediately cabled "heartiest congratulations" to the national team.

This eminently deserved victory is a befitting tribute to

"We all like to the final, but at least an Asian team qualified

A nation celebrates the indomitable spirit of the



country celebrated today their

celebrated today their team's World Cricket Cup victory, reports AFP.

from Melbourne. Exultant fans handed out sweets and food in cities and towns, while many homes, shops and buildings glittered with multicolour lighting as dusk fell.

mercial establishments.

festivals. President Ghulam Ishaq

cricket in Pakistan and I am proud of being a cricketer," said ailing former legendary batsman Hanif Mohammad from his hospital bed in Karachi. "Pakistan's performance in

the final was superb," said former captain Asif Iqbal, adding: "They played like real champions all the way."

Inzamamul Haq is bowled by Derek Pringle in the last over of the Pakistani innings at the MCG yesterday. -TV photo