

The World Cup with Philips



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Prasad, Sohail off the hook

BANGALORE, India, Mar 10: Acting Pakistan captain Aamir Sohail and Indian pace bowler Venkatesh Prasad will face no further action over their mid-pitch altercation during Saturday's day-night quarterfinal, reports Reuter.

Match referee Raman Subba Row said today he was satisfied the matter had been handled 'very competently' by umpires David Shepherd, of England and West Indian Steve Bucknor.

It was all decided on the field. I asked the umpires for their opinion but they said it had all been sorted out at the time, said Subba Row.

Sohail targeted the bowler after hitting him to the boundary in the 15th over, but was promptly bowled next ball by an irate Prasad, who angrily gestured him back to the pavilion.

Sohail, leading Pakistan in the absence of the injured Wasim Akram, briefly appeared ready to stop and confront the bowler, but eventually departed. Prasad was immediately spoken to by umpire Shepherd, despite protests from the Indian side.

I thought the general atmosphere between the teams was very good, said Subba Row, who played 13 Tests for England.

That was really the only flashpoint, although there were a few objects thrown from the crowd. I always think it's better if the police sit in front of the supporters to stop them throwing things, but it's not always possible.

FIDE might flex muscles

DOHA, Mar 10: Faced with US opposition, the world chess federation has said it could consider shifting a match between American Gata Kamsky and Russian Anatoly Karpov from Iraq to another venue, reports AP.

The offer late Saturday appeared to back away from previous federation statements that sought a United Nations ruling on whether chess is covered by international sanctions against Baghdad.

The international chess federation's secretary-general, Georgios Makropolis, announced the softer approach to resolving the dispute after an executive meeting of the board in Doha.

Makropolis ruled out any possibility of Kamsky being allowed to lose by default to Russian champion Karpov if the US government kept Kamsky from competing in Iraq.

We would have to consider again, he said. We cannot lose the match. This is not good, we must have a solution - we are not here to create problems, we are here to solve problems.

Makropolis also announced that Kamsky, the US world chess title contender, would seek permission from American authorities to play the championship match in Baghdad in June.

The US State Department on Friday issued a strongly worded plea asking the federation, known by its French acronym FIDE, to reconsider the venue.

But the federation countered that sports were not covered by the nearly 6-year-old sanctions and then sought a UN ruling.

And in a move apparently designed to defuse criticism of the choice of the venue, he said that a quarter of the \$10 million prize fund would be donated to the United Nations Children's Fund to help Iraqi children, who have been suffering under the UN sanctions, imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

FIFA rejects wider goalposts

RIO DE JANEIRO, Mar 10: World soccer's governing body, FIFA on Saturday ruled out any possibility of making goals bigger, saying reaction had been so negative they had nipped the idea in the bud, reports Reuter.

The idea of carrying out an experiment with bigger goals was briefly discussed at a meeting of FIFA's international football association board, the sports rule-making body where it was quickly ditched, delegates said.

The board approved a proposed change to the advantage rule, which will allow referees who play it to stop play and award the free-kick if the advantage does not materialise.

FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter said the board had also decided the referee's assistant partly because of an increasingly important role and partly because there is an increasing number of women referees.

Blatter said the fourth match official would also be given more responsibility and would be allowed to report disciplinary incidents to the referee, but only after the match had finished.

MATCH ANALYSIS A fantastic match

By Tawfiq Aziz Khan



It was a fantastic cricket match at Bangalore Saturday.

Two neighbours, two rivals at the same time, fought it out in a terrific atmosphere under the glare of the floodlights.

The fifty thousand highly partisan crowd were on the edge of their seats, so were millions around the globe throughout the 8-hour thriller.

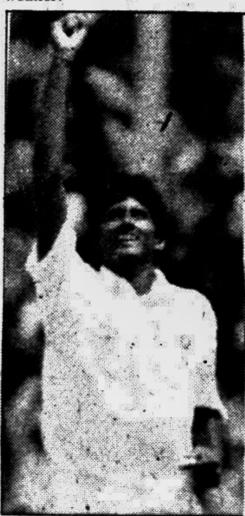
A cricket match between these two giants is always watched with frenzied interest. For all of them, this was the final of World Cup but for the winners the final was still a match away.

Tensions run high whenever these two teams meet, particularly on the soil of the sub-continent and this particular match was no exception.

Since Pakistan played and won Nehru Cup in Calcutta in 1989, these two rivals met for the first time, once again on Indian soil. The pressure on both teams were there, but it was more on the Indians than the Pakistanis. This was quite evident from the Indians fielding as such fielders like Azhar, Sachin and Javeda often fumbled with their collection and throwing.

Whatever might be the talks about Pakistan having better talents than they had during the last World Cup, to many this proved to be nothing but tall talk. True Pakistan was greatly weakened without their captain Wasim Akram. But he was also not doing well with the ball. In the four group matches that he bowled he

could manage only 3 wickets - unlike him, isn't it. Poor Ata-ur-Rehman could definitely be not his substitute and for that matter nobody was in Pakistan side. His poor performance notwithstanding, Wasim Akram was definitely a dreaded figure. His absence relieved the Indians of a lot of pressure and made the Pakistani outfit weaker.



VENKATESH PRASAD

On the day's performance the Indians appeared to be a better side which was proved by their performance. Any team playing well on the day was supposed to win - and so

did India. Aamir Sohail in his first assignment as captain showed neither leadership quality nor imagination. Right from the toss which he lost, he went into defensive play and his field placings did betray the aggressive character that he possessed. Cricket was not all from but brains too. Sohail seemed to have lost sight of this vital point. For once in this tournament the Indians used the slog overs with tremendous success. The charge was led by Javeda on the foundation built by Sachin and Sidhu and he was absolutely unstoppable. He was particularly severe on Waqar to whom he ultimately succumbed. The Pakistanis as usual bowled three extra overs in wides and no balls and then had a target set for them to score 288 in 49 overs to win, which was a tall order.

Sohail and Anwar set about on right earnest. The run-rate was absolutely fantastic. But one could strike the ball for a certain period of time and then had to go. Sohail had no business talking to Prasad and losing his wicket the next ball. That showed how insolent he was.

Prasad was bowling his heart out. And his three vital wickets proved to be the match-winning spell for India.

Javed Miandad, played his last innings, a fighting 38 in the face of heavy odds, took two very good catches, and with Rashid Latif launched a futile rearguard action. In the end he ran himself out. It was his 33rd World Cup appearance in all the six tournaments with a total score of 1083 runs, a feat which will be hard to surpass.

A pall of gloom falls on haughty holders



ISLAMABAD, Mar 10: Pakistani cricket fans smashed television sets and one committed suicide amid national gloom over Pakistan's defeat by arch-rivals India in the World Cup quarterfinals, newspapers reported today, says agencies.

Distraught at the defending champions crashing out of the tournament on Saturday, college student Jaffer Khan fired a burst of Kalashnikov bullets into his television screen and then turned the gun on himself in the town of Mardan in North West Frontier Province, said the Urdu-language Jhang.

A front-page cartoon in the English-language Frontier Post showed a row of freshly-dug graves with a sign reading 'A plot for each player' - a reference to incentives of land and cash offered by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari to Pakistani cricketers if they retained the Cup.

Several papers said teenage girls had called their offices in tears after Pakistan lost to India by 39 runs in the southern Indian city Bangalore.

Angry fans, blaming Saturday's elimination on anything

from players accepting bribes to television jingles and cultural pollution, promised to pelt the returning Pakistan team with rotten eggs and tomatoes.

The newspaper reported streams of telephone calls to its offices, accusing the state-run Pakistan Television (PTV) of cultural pollution and whipping up too much optimism through its tournament jingle of 'hum jitay gay', which means 'we will win, we will win'.

Several people said copying Hindu customs from India was to blame, with the adopted festivals of basant (kite flying) singled out as a factor.

One woman, Hina Tabassum from Wah Cantt, reportedly called for capital punishment for those who had spent money on polluting the national culture during the tournament.

Others suggested Wasim Akram, who missed the game through injury, had been paid not to play. One caller promised: 'When the team returns, we will pelt them with rotten eggs and tomatoes.'

The Al-Akhab daily newspaper, based in Islamabad, produced a front-page banner headline that screamed: 'A wave of grief has swept the country - we have lost our global honour.'

The roads in the capital

were deserted after Saturday's defeat. One group of angry youths, however, did venture out, according to the newspaper reports, to smash a huge display of a cricket bat at a road crossing in the city.

The state-run news agency APP quoted former captain Imran Khan, who led Pakistan to World Cup victory in 1992, as blaming 'suicidal' shots by batsmen Aamir Sohail, Ijaz Ahmed and Inzamam-ul-Haq for the team's downfall.

Several commentators bemoaned the absence of captain Wasim Akram.

Planning at a crucial juncture of the quarterfinal was lacking, which resulted in the defending champions' defeat, former Pakistani Test cricketer Shafiq Ahmed said on television.

Other experts, including former national selector Haseeb Ahsan, demanded the head of team manager Intikhab Alam.

'The Pakistan team manager should be sacked,' Haseeb said. 'There was no problem with the players.'

While Aamir Sohail and coach Intikhab Alam said his absence had severely affected their game plan.

'We missed him, particularly at the end of his innings,' said Sohail. 'The 50 runs we conceded right at the end made the difference.'

Last rite of an Odyssey



ISLAMABAD, Mar 10: Javed Miandad squinted up at the third umpire's light, hoping for a miracle. His eyesight this time, however, was not to fail him, reports AFP.

The light showed red, and a 20-year career ended on the saddest of notes. One of Pakistan's greatest, he deserved a better obituary.

Nobody quite dared say it during the World Cup quarter-final against India on Saturday night. That he should never have come back from a two-year retirement. That he should never have been selected for the World Cup. That he had been a liability.

It took a man with as big a reputation as Miandad's former Pakistan skipper Imran Khan, to read the last rites.

Former Australian great Ian Chappell, commenting for satellite television channel Star Sports, was skirting warily, like a shark with a conscience. The old swagger is just

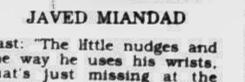
the game still wide open? When he left - with 38 runs to his name, one for every year of his life - the door had closed on both him and his team.

The Karachi-born player clearly recognised the truth himself. Woefully lacking in timing just as he was in the games against England and New Zealand he wisely tried to farm the strike away first to Salim Malik, then to Rashid Latif.

But with Pakistan needing six, then seven, then eight an over, there was nowhere for Miandad to hide, not even behind a sacred cow's reputation.

Imran, who led Pakistan to the 1992 World Cup with Miandad in his team, began by concentrating on Latif, who had just hit a six, then a four. 'He's a very fine striker of the ball,' he opined. 'I felt Pakistan should have only played five batsmen and he should have been at number six.'

Number six - Miandad's position in the order, it went without saying. He had even risen to five against New Zealand but looked so scrawny that he had been immediately demoted.



JAVED MIANDAD

WC DIARY

ISLAMABAD, Mar 10 (AFP): World Cup diary here today.

WORLD CUP FAN DIES OF HEART ATTACK

A 55-year-old Pakistan fan died of a heart attack in Karachi while watching his side play India during their World Cup quarterfinal.

A newspaper report revealed how the tension of the Bangalore match overcame Mohammed Habib while he was watching television. He became agitated, according to his family, as Pakistan headed for defeat and he collapsed at the end of the game. He was taken to a doctor where he was pronounced dead.

SOHAIL'S THE SCAPEGOAT

Stand-in skipper Aamir Sohail just edged fast bowler Waqar Younis to the title of Pakistan scapegoat following the World Cup quarterfinal defeat to India. Waqar's two final overs went for 40 runs and were seen as a crucial factor by Pakistan's press but the Islamabad daily newspaper the Muslim roundly blamed Sohail. A caption under a front-page picture of the batsman's dismissed run: 'Aamir Sohail, who looked well set to lead Pakistan to victory, was bowled when in a fit of rashness he tried to hit a straight delivery from Prasad out of the ground. Pakistan never recovered from this disaster.'

SOUTH AFRICA JOIN CALLS FOR CUP SHAKE-UP

South Africa have joined Zimbabwe's call, for a World Cup formal shake-up. They believe there was not enough incentive for the top sides to perform at their best during this tournament while taking on minor teams in the pool stage.

South African supreme Ali Bacher said: 'The qualifying rounds did not have the necessary sizzle. The top teams knew they could afford to lose three games and still get to the quarter-finals.' He suggested group winners next time should be offered the carrot of immediate qualification for the semifinals.

Zimbabwe earlier made the same point. Qualifiers Holland and Kenya were praised for their performances in the first round but the outclassed United Arab Emirates, despite beating Holland, never managed to test their Test playing credentials. South Africa have called on Zimbabwe and several other African countries to a conference in Johannesburg later this month to discuss the development of cricket on the continent.

Ivanisevic, Kafelnikov in final

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands, Mar 10: Goran Ivanisevic continued his dominating form with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Frenchman Guillaume Raoux on Saturday, moving into the final of the ABN AMRO World Tennis Tournament, reports AP.

The second-seeded Croat advanced to a meeting with third seeded Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov, reaching his sixth ATP Tour final of the year in only the 10th week of the season.

Kafelnikov reached Sunday's final with a 7-6 (7-4), 6-3 victory over Britain's Tim Henman.

Despite being broke in the first game of the match, Henman broke back on a series of errors by Kafelnikov, who finally prevailed in the tiebreak. Henman gained a break to open the second set, but then was overwhelmed by the Russian's groundstrokes.

Henman received his semi-final berth via a walkover after top seed Pete Sampras withdrew Friday with an injury to his right foot.

The Dutch crowd enjoyed a match dominated by baseline play, in marked contrast to Ivanisevic-Raoux earlier in the day, which lasted just 57 minutes and was almost devoid of rallies.

Ivanisevic broke Raoux in the fifth game of the first set and the again in seventh of the second, serving 23 aces, including his 500th of 1996, and lost just six points during his 10 service games.

Ivanisevic has already won tournaments in Zagreb, Dubai and Milan this year and was losing finalist in Sidney and Antwerp.

Charity soccer

RIO DE JANEIRO, Mar 10: A charity match between Brazil and the rest of the world is to take place in Giants Stadium, New York. FIFA president Joao Havelange confirmed here on Saturday, reports AFP.

The aim of the match, which will take place on a date yet to be fixed in the middle of July, is to raise two million dollars for a children's charity, Havelange added.

ROQUIBUL ON THE ROCKER

Acumen the difference

On the good batting strip, Pakistan got off to a flying start with Aamir Sohail and Saeed Anwar appearing absolutely unstoppable. They put on 84 runs in ten overs before Saeed unnecessarily threw away his wicket. The departure of Aamir and Ijaz in quick succession paved the way for India to 'swung the match at their disposal'.

It was a pity to find Pakistani batsmen not applying themselves to a professional spirit after such a terrific as the middle-order nibbled playing some rash shots. Azhar, the Indian captain, immediately availed the opportunity and with judicious use of his bowlers put the irate Pakistanis in the back seat. Prasad, in particular, who rose to the crucial stage removing danger men Aamir Sohail, Ijaz and Inzamam.

Kumble and Raju, the two specialist spinners then tighten the nose on the Pakistani neck leaving no doubt of a victory that India will treasure for a long time. At Faisalabad the Sri Lankans, bubbling with confidence, crushed their English counterparts with nearly ten overs to spare. It seems the Islanders have made it a habit of capitalizing the 15-over field restrictions as they posted 121 runs during that time. Jayasuriya (82 off 43 balls) hit all ground in the ground in their run chase to send the English bowlers and their skipper into living nightmare. Earlier, Atherton's decision to bat first after winning the toss, didn't serve their cause as their batsmen failed to muster a fighting total against a comparatively weaker Sri Lankan bowling. Except DeFreitas (67), there is nothing to write about the English batting. England, the three times finalists, were, however, become victim of two apparently wrong decisions - DeFreitas being adjudged lbw to a ball going down the leg and Robin Smith not getting the sympathy of the third umpire when he seemed clearly in. It was quite surprising for me why England didn't play off-spinner Neil Smith - when Sri Lanka had five left handers. They would have tried Ramprakash in place of Russell with Stewart donning the gloves.

Essex after Law

LONDON, Mar 10: Australian all-rounder Stuart Law will be Essex's overseas player next season so long as he is not chosen for the tour to Sri Lanka in early August, the English county side revealed today, reports AFP. 'If he is picked then we will seek to engage someone else. We certainly have someone in mind,' said Essex secretary and general manager Peter Edwards.

The Daily Star PHILIPS Cricket World Cup Quiz '96

Transcom Electronics Ltd. Competition Information and Rules

Quiz 2: Bumper Round Ends March 15, 1996