

'More than shambolic'

STAR SPORT DESK

Pakistan legend Javed Miandad was lost of words to describe the country's 150-run capitulation to West Indies in a World Cup match in Christchurch on Saturday.

"Shambolic is a mild word to describe Pakistan's 150-run defeat against the West Indies. It really hurts to see the planning of Pakistan's think-tank in the ICC Cricket World Cup," said the batting maestro in a write-up on the ICC Media Zone yesterday.

"The men in 'shocking green' look like a fractured outfit and the wounds are only getting deeper and deeper. The scars of defeat against India were still fresh and West Indies has simply rubbed more salt onto it.

"It seems Misbahul Haq is fast losing confidence in his bowlers and the batsmen are not coming out of lean form either. You play one-day cricket according to your strength and if Misbah had chosen eight batsmen what's the logic of bowling first after winning the toss?

"Pakistan's bowling unit doesn't have the class of a Wasim Akram or Waqar Younis. And if a mediocre bowling attack doesn't get enough support from the fielders, over 300 runs is inevitable. All four dropped catches should have been taken, but a fielder of Shahid Afridi's class dropped two while Nasir Jamshed and Mohammad Irfan also grassed regulation chances.

"By far West Indies looked better prepared for this crucial Pool B match after Ireland knocked them over in the first match. They grafted their innings with a set plan. They didn't look for big shots until the 40th over before launching a brutal assault on Pakistan's inexperienced bowling attack off the last 60 deliveries.

"Only experienced bowlers could master the art of bowling slow deliveries. Unfortunately, inexperienced Sohail Khan and Wahab Riaz obliged Andre Russell with so many

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It was a spectacular turnaround for the West Indies in Christchurch yesterday. And isn't Andre Russell enjoying every bit of it? His virtuoso all-round show ensured the Caribbeans a thumping 150-run win against Pakistan.

PHOTO: AFP



Pakistan routed by Russell

AFP, Christchurch

West Indies celebrated their first win of the 2015 World Cup, with all-rounder Andre Russell saying their rout of Pakistan on Saturday proved there was more to the team than Chris Gayle.

The West Indies thrashed Pakistan by 150 runs in Christchurch, with an unbeaten 42 in just 17 balls by player-of-the-match Russell taking them to 310 for six at Hagley Oval.

They then rolled Pakistan for 160 in exactly 39 overs, with paceman Russell taking three for 33.

Pakistan's run chase went off the rails right from the start when they lost four wickets in four balls, with Jerome Taylor at one stage having figures of three wickets for one run in two overs.

Their collapse to one for four meant Pakistan recorded the worst start to an innings in the 3,608-match history of one-day internationals.

Not that Russell cared, saying victory had changed the mood in the West Indies camp after they became the latest Test nation to be turned over by Ireland first time out.

"Everyone is laughing, happy," Russell said. "From the last game, things didn't go well for us and we just turned up today and wanted to

show the world that we are not just a pushover," he added.

"It's a very good feeling winning a game after losing to Ireland, in that manner.

"It just goes to show that the West Indies can dominate and we are here to compete."

Russell was one of several batsmen to make a positive contribution with Denesh Ramdin



posting 51, Lendl Simmons 50 and Darren Bravo 49 before he retired hurt with a hamstring injury.

But Gayle, renowned as one of the most destructive openers in the game, failed once again.

The Caribbean batting icon was out for four as his average dropped to 14.42 over 19 innings in the 20 months since his last century.

But Russell made light of Gayle's run of low scores by saying: "Chris has been struggling, and we're still scoring 300."

Russell added that Gayle hadn't let his form dampen the team's morale.

"Even if he's not scoring he's not miserable, he's not grumpy. He's happy, he's laughing, and he's cheering everyone on the field, and that's what we want from a big guy like him, so it's very good."

On the other hand, Pakistan's World Cup campaign needed improvement across the board, captain Misbahul Haq declared after the humiliation.

Pakistan now languish at the bottom of Pool B with two losses from two outings, their performance against the West Indies a step backwards from the 76-run loss to arch-rivals and defending champions India in their tournament opener.

"It's a do or die situation for us and there are no ifs and buts," Misbah said as he tried to look ahead to Pakistan's next game against Zimbabwe.

West Indies next play Zimbabwe in Canberra on Tuesday before facing pool heavyweights South Africa three days later and defending champions India on March 6.

THIRD EYE

Best possible start for Tigers

ATIQUE ANAM

Bangladesh couldn't have asked for a better start to the World Cup, could they? The proverbial monkey out of their back in the very first game and the ominous prospect of facing Australia at the Gabba washed out by Cyclone Marcia, the Tigers now sit in third position in Pool A, ahead of Sri Lanka, England, Afghanistan and Scotland. And they will stay there till the morning of February 26, regardless of what happens in the other games in between, when they face the Lankans at the MCG.

It will be naive to predict, at this stage, whether the Tigers will qualify for the quarterfinals, because a lot of that will also depend on how the other teams fare against each other. But the good thing about having come unscathed from the Australia fixture is that that the Tigers won't be facing the

two greatest threats on these conditions -- New Zealand and England (despite England's awful performance so far, they are likely to be a handful for the Tigers at the Adelaide Oval) -- before they face Sri Lanka and Scotland.

The Lanka match, in all likelihood, may hold the key to the Tigers' chances



of qualifying for the quarterfinals, not just because of their own positive frame of mind, but also because of the opposition they will be facing. While Bangladesh have never played at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, the Lankans have a pretty poor record (6 wins to 11 losses), with a highest score of 267, on that venue. However, the

very first match of the pool between Australia and England, played on the drop-in pitch installed for this tournament, produced a run-fest of sorts, with the hosts posting 342 on the board, batting first.

All the 19 wickets fell to seamers or medium-pacers, despite the fact that there wasn't any sign of exaggerated seam movement or swing or turn from any of the bowlers. Hence Bangladesh should be looking to their batsmen to deliver most of the goods on that day.

After Sri Lanka, Bangladesh will be heading to New Zealand for a March 5 clash against Scotland, who they beat on three previous occasions. The Tigers will take the field as the favourites. So it looks as though things are just falling into place for the Tigers at this early stage. The rest of what remains will need to be done on the field.



It was yet another forgettable day for Pakistan and their captain Mishbahul Haq.

PHOTO: AFP



TODAY'S MATCHES

Afghanistan v Sri Lanka
Time: 4:00am
Venue: Dunedin

India v South Africa
Time: 9:30am
Venue: Melbourne

Monday's Match
England v Scotland
Time: 4:00am
Venue: Christchurch

Man of Steel

ANDRE RUSSELL

By the 47th over, the West Indians had just crossed the 250-mark and lost Darren Sammy. Even the most optimistic of fans wouldn't have expected the men from the Caribbean to cross the 300-mark from there on. Andre Russell, though, with his 13-ball 42 changed the scenario with some power-hitting. With four sixes and three fours, he clobbered Pakistan's bowlers in the death overs and beat them in their own forte. Later he scalped three Pakistan wickets, including those of Misbahul Haq and half-century Sohaib Maqsood. West Indies may have won the game, but it was a Russell-show that dominated the day.

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Match facts

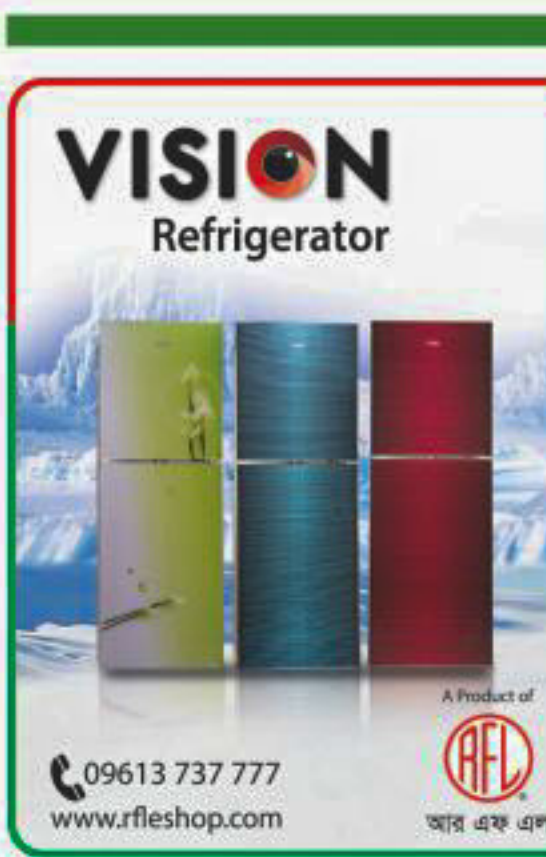
150 The margin of victory for West Indies today, which is their largest in an ODI against Pakistan. The previous best was 133, in Sydney in 1992.

1 Pakistan's score when they lost their fourth wicket. It's the lowest score by any team for the loss of four batsmen. The previous record was 4, by Canada against Zimbabwe in Port of Spain in 2006. This is also the least runs scored by the top four batsmen ever in an ODI innings.

89 Runs West Indies scored in the last six overs. The sequence was: 10, 14, 13, 13, 22, 17.

201.3 Andre Russell's strike rate in his last four ODI innings. He has scored 157 runs in 78 balls with 11 sixes, and been dismissed only once.

20.36 Younis Khan's average in his last 32 ODIs, going back to December 2011. In 31 innings during this period, he has only four scores of 50 or more.



SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES V PAKISTAN				
WEST INDIES		R/B	4/6	
Smith c Harris b Sohail		23/27	4/0	
Gayle c Riaz b Irfan		4/14	0/0	
Bravo retired hurt		49/78	3/0	
Samuels c sub (Yasir) b Harris		38/52	4/0	
Ramdin c sub (Yasir) b Harris		51/43	7/0	
Simmons run out (Sohail/Akmal)		50/46	4/2	
Sammy c Afridi b Riaz		30/28	3/1	
Russell not out		42/13	3/4	
Extras: (b-2, lb-6, w-14, nb-1)		23		
Total: (For 6 wkts in 50 overs)		310		
Did not bat: Holder, Taylor, Benn				
Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-28, 3-103, 3-152, 4-194, 5-259, 6-310				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Irfan	10	0	44	1
Sohail	10	1	73	1
Afridi	10	0	48	0
Harris	9	0	62	2
Riaz	10	0	67	1
Maqsood	1	0	8	0
PAKISTAN		R/B	4/6	
Jamshed c Russell b Taylor		0/2	0/0	
Shehzad c Simmons b Holder		1/10	0/0	
Younis c Ramdin b Taylor		0/1	0/0	
Harris c sub (Carter) b Taylor		0/6	0/0	
Misbah c Gayle b Russell		7/21	1/0	
Maqsood c Benn b Sammy		50/66	4/1	
Akmal c Smith b Russell		59/71	5/1	
Afridi c Holder b Benn		28/26	4/0	
Riaz c Ramdin b Russell		3/13	0/0	
Sohail c Ramdin b Benn		1/8	0/0	
Irfan not out		2/11	0/0	
Extras: (lb-3, w-5, nb-1)		9		
Total: (All out in 39 overs)		160		
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-1, 3-1, 4-1, 5-25, 6-105, 7-139, 8-155, 9-157				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Taylor	7	1	15	3
Holder	7	2	23	1
Russell	8	2	33	1
Sammy	8	0	47	1
Benn	9	0	39	2
Result: West Indies won by 150 runs.				
Player-of-the-match: Andre Russell.				
Toss: Pakistan.				

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