



Pakistan paceman Wahab Riaz sends his side into delirium after dismissing the last South Africa batsman Imran Tahir in a thriller in Auckland yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Pakistan back on right path

AGENCIES, Auckland

A hostile trio of Pakistan left-arm fast bowlers took full advantage of a pitch freshened by rain to hand pretournament favourites South Africa their second defeat in the cricket World Cup at Eden Park on Saturday.

Pakistan pulled off a sensational 29-run win on the Duckworth-Lewis method after the match was reduced to a 47-overs-a-side contest due to rain at Eden Park in Auckland.

Pakistan, whose innings was twice interrupted by rain, were bowled out for 222 in 46.4 overs with skipper Misbahul Haq hitting 56 and recalled wicketkeeper-batsman Sarfraz Ahmed scoring a run-a-ball 49.

Pakistan's left-arm pace trio of Rahat Ali (3-40), Wahab Riaz (3-45) and Mohammad Irfan (3-52) then bowled with venom to bundle South Africa out for 202 in 33.3 overs.

AB de Villiers smashed an impressive 58-ball 77 with five sixes and seven boundaries but his dismissal ninth man down sealed a third win in a row for Pakistan.

The victory gave Pakistan six points from five matches and revived their chances of a quarterfinal place from Pool B while South Africa are also on six points from five games.

Coach Waqar Younis said the team is gaining the same spirit of 1992 after defeats in their first two matches.

"The World Cup means pressure games and in 1992 the

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SCORECARDS

PAKISTAN V SOUTH AFRICA

PAKISTAN	R/B	A/G
Sarfraz run out	49/49	5/3
Shehzad c Steyn b Abbott	18/30	4/0
Younis c Rossouw b de Villiers	37/44	4/0
Misbah c Morkel b Steyn	56/86	4/0
Maqsood c Rossouw b Abbott	8/16	1/0
Akmal c de Villiers b Morkel	13/20	1/0
Afridi c Duminy b Steyn	22/15	2/2
Riaz lbw b Tahir	0/1	0/0
Sohail c Duminy b Morkel	3/11	0/0
Rahat c Tahir b Steyn	1/6	0/0
Irfan not out	1/3	0/0
Extras: (lb-7, w-6, nb-1)	14	
Total: (All out in 46.4 overs)	222	

Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-92, 3-132, 4-156, 5-175, 6-212, 7-212, 8-218, 9-221

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Steyn	10	3	30	3
Abbott	9	0	45	2
Morkel	9.4	0	25	2
Tahir	9	1	38	1
de Villiers	6	0	43	1
Duminy	3	0	34	0

SOUTH AFRICA	R/B	A/G
De Kock c Sarfraz b Irfan	0/2	0/0
Amla c Sarfraz b Riaz	38/27	9/0
Du Plessis c Sarfraz b Rahat	27/29	3/1
Rossouw c Sohail b Riaz	6/9	1/0
de Villiers c Sarfraz b Sohail	77/58	7/5
Miller lbw b Rahat	0/13	0/0
Duminy c Riaz b Irfan	12/13	2/0
Steyn c Sarfraz b Irfan	16/17	3/0
Abbott c Younis b Rahat	12/19	2/0
Morkel not out	6/8	1/0
Tahir c Sarfraz b Riaz	0/6	0/0
Extras: (lb-1, w-7)	8	
Total: (All out in 33.3 overs)	202	

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-67, 3-67, 4-74, 5-77, 6-102, 7-138, 8-172, 9-200

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Irfan	8	0	52	3
Sohail	5	0	36	1
Rahat	8	1	40	3
Afridi	5	0	28	0
Riaz	7.3	2	45	3

Total: (All out in 33.3 overs) 202

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-67, 3-67, 4-74, 5-77, 6-102, 7-138, 8-172, 9-200

Result: Pakistan won by 29 runs (D/L method).

Player-of-the-match: Sarfraz Ahmed.

Toss: South Africa.

IRELAND V ZIMBABWE

IRELAND	R/B	A/G
Porterfield c Masakadza b Williams	29/61	1/0
Stirling c Williams b Panyangara	10/11	2/0
Joyce c Ervine b Chatara	112/103	9/3
Balbirnie run out (Chakabva/Taylor)	97/79	7/4
K O'Brien c Chakabva b Chatara	24/22	4/0
Wilson c Chakabva b Williams	25/13	3/1
Mooney b Williams	10/4	2/0
N O'Brien c Panyangara b Chatara	2/4	0/0
Dockrell not out	5/3	0/0
Cusack not out	2/3	0/0
Extras: (lb-4, w-8, nb-3)	15	
Total: (For 8 wickets in 50 overs)	331	

Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-79, 3-217, 4-276, 5-308, 6-319, 7-322, 8-326

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Panyangara	9	0	69	1
Chatara	10	0	61	3
Mupariwa	10	0	56	0
Raza	9	0	51	0
Williams	9	0	72	3
Masakadza	3	0	18	0

Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-79, 3-217, 4-276, 5-308, 6-319, 7-322, 8-326

Total: (All out in 49.3 overs) 326

Fall of wickets: 1-32, 2-32, 3-41, 4-74, 5-223, 6-259, 7-300, 8-305, 9-325

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Cusack	9.3	2	32	4
Mooney	10	0	58	2
K O'Brien	10	0	90	2
Dockrell	10	0	56	1
McBrine	8	0	56	1
Stirling	2	0	26	0

Total: (All out in 49.3 overs) 326

Fall of wickets: 1-32, 2-32, 3-41, 4-74, 5-223, 6-259, 7-300, 8-305, 9-325

Result: Ireland won by 5 runs.

Player-of-the-match: Ed Joyce.

Toss: Zimbabwe.

'We were stuck in 2nd gear'

AFP, Auckland

South Africa captain AB de Villiers took responsibility for the shock 29-run World Cup loss to Pakistan on Saturday, blasting his team for being stuck in "second or third gear".

De Villiers fought a lone hand in South Africa's 202 in 33.3 overs with a brilliant 58-ball 77 including five sixes and seven boundaries.

But chasing a revised target of 232, the Proteas were undone by Pakistan's trio of left-arm seamers who thwarted de Villiers's hopes of wrapping up a quarterfinal place before the last round of pool games next week.

"I'm not blaming anyone. I'm not saying anyone didn't have the energy. I

just didn't feel any electric vibe at the warm-up," said de Villiers.

"That is normally a bit of an alarm bell going off for me. It is my responsibility to try to get the guys going, which I couldn't, so maybe I should take

responsibility for that.

"I just could feel that nothing was really happening at a hundred per cent. It was almost like a car that's stuck in second or third gear, and that's not going to win you cricket games, espe-

cially not under pressure and in big tournaments like this.

"So we need to have a chat about what maybe went wrong tonight and try to get to fifth gear again against the UAE," said de Villiers, of their concluding pool game in Wellington on Thursday.

De Villiers described the loss as "disappointing."

"Once again we seemed to not get enough partnerships in pressure situations. We've done it in the past, but unfortunately tonight we couldn't do that, so it's a very disappointing loss," he admitted.

"I felt that Pakistan wanted it more than us. There's nothing wrong with the batting. It's just a matter of urgency and being prepared to fight it out."

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'The belief is coming back'

REUTERS, Auckland

Pakistan made a winning return on Saturday to the venue where they defeated New Zealand in their 1992 cricket World Cup semifinal before going on to win the tournament for the first and only time.

After a shaky start to the Cup, including a crushing defeat by West Indies in Christchurch, Pakistan showed enough at Eden Park on Saturday in their 29-run win over pre-tournament favourites South Africa to demonstrate what dangerous opponents they can be.

"Beating South Africa, who are playing really good cricket, after that everybody believes now, the players, the team, can take a lot of confidence from it. When runs are on the board, it is always pressure on the opposition," added Pakistan captain Misbahul Haq.

Pakistan coach Waqar Younis told a news conference he had always known how good Sarfraz was and added his team had started to play the good, aggressive cricket it had been known for in the past.

"We have started finding the right combinations, people have started believing in themselves. They have started trusting their abilities. I am very thrilled but there is a long way to go," he said.

Pakistan's batting was again fragile and their fielding often erratic although the catching was sound. But their fast bowlers rose to the occasion and the three left-armers Mohammad Irfan, Wahab Riaz and Rahat Ali each took three wickets.

"They bowled with real pace and purpose," said Waqar, a former master of the fast bowling art. "We knew we had to get them out to win this game. Teams who are playing aggressively have been more successful."

Asked if the present side could emulate Imran Khan's 1992 side, Waqar said: "Look, I hope, I hope that it turns out to be the same."

THIRD EYE Reverting to type?

SAMAMA RAHMAN

Pakistan have just overcome the South African challenge for the first time in World Cup history. In a clash of titans versus falling giants, if the pre-match narrative was to be believed, a shock result was served up. The result means Pakistan have now won three games on the trot, putting on the semblance of a united team. However, there are many questions that arose from this game regarding both sides.

Should we be hailing the Pakistani bowling attack or should we just come to the conclusion that South Africa have lived up to their 'chokers' moniker once more? Perhaps we should wonder why Sarfraz Ahmed, who smashed a run-a-ball 49 and took six catches behind the wicket, wasn't even tried before this game. Was it just a case of poor team selection or was there truth to the much-talked about disharmony in the camp? Maybe we should look at the South Africans, the vulnerability of their middle-order, and also question the discretion of skipper AB de Villiers' shot to which he finally got out.

Instead, let us start by taking a look at the infallible de Villiers, who bowled six overs in an attempt to fill the fifth-bowler's role. He was smashed all over the park and the wicket of Younis Khan was of little reprieve. He was ready to play the role of the saviour with the bat too,

proud of Misbahul Haq, the much derided Pakistan captain, nicknamed 'tuk-tuk' for his cautious play, has gone from villain to hero, as the fans finally realised that he is perhaps one of the very few batsmen in the side who values his wicket. Misbah has been omnipresent through all of Pakistan's innings this World Cup, trying to settle his restless teammates to little avail.

While the Proteas should hope that this was their last shock defeat in this World Cup, Pakistan may be hitting form just at the right time with a fan yesterday holding up a sign that read "1992 all over again".

team handled the pressure very well.

"They lost early games but then came back strongly, they had the belief and [captain] Imran had serious belief and I am hopeful that the same belief is coming into our dressing room. We are going to get better and better."

Waqar was not part of that 1992 team, withdrawn a fortnight before the tournament started with a back problem.

The match proved a triumph for Sarfraz who came into the team in the dual role of opening batsman and wicketkeeper.

Sarfraz took three sixes of a JP Duminy over before he was run out for 49 attempting the second run which would have taken him to his half-century.

He then equalled the one-day world record by holding six catches when South Africa batted, taking his final catch as rain swept across the ground.

Misbah writes unique history 5,000 ODI runs without a ton

AFP, Auckland

Pakistan captain Misbahul Haq became the first batsman to score 5,000 one-day international runs without any individual century when he reached the landmark against South Africa in a World Cup match in Auckland on Saturday.

The 40-year-old Misbah was only seven runs shy of 5,000 before the start of the Pool B clash at Eden Park.

A single steered through midwicket off Pakistan-born leg-spinner Imran Tahir saw Misbah, batting at number four, go to 5,000 ODI runs in his 147th innings in 160 matches at this level.

Misbah, often criticised for slow scoring, came into this match averaging over 43 in ODIs with a highest score of 96 not out against the West Indies at The Oval during the 2013 Champions Trophy in England.

However, he belied his reputation by equalling West Indies' great Vivian Richards's all-time record for the fastest Test century with a 56-ball ton against Australia in Abu Dhabi in November last year.

CLEAR
NOTHING TO HIDE

TODAY'S MATCHES

New Zealand v Afghanistan
Time: 4:00am Venue: Napier

Australia v Sri Lanka
Time: 9:30am Venue: Sydney

MONDAY'S MATCH

England v Bangladesh
Time: 9:30am Venue: Adelaide

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Men of Steel

SARFRAZ AHMED

Until yesterday Pakistan were struggling to find a partner for Ahmed Shehzad at the top ever since Mohammad Hafeez's injury. That was of course until Sarfraz Ahmed

plated an ice-cool 49 at the top of the innings yesterday. His entertaining 49-ball knock witnessed three sixes and provided Pakistan with the start that they had been craving for. It didn't just end with the bat for Sarfraz. On the field, he complemented some brilliant bowling from the pacers with six catches behind the stumps. He kept his nerves during the crucial moments and didn't make any mistakes; and helped Pakistan get what was perhaps their most important win of the tournament.

ED JOYCE

Ireland's game against Zimbabwe was their most crucial encounter of the World Cup. For one, their hopes of a quarterfinal berth depended on it; and secondly, they had to

prove to the world that the win against the West Indies was no fluke. In a sense, their players had to deal with double the pressure. And it was in these circumstances that Ed Joyce hit a responsible 112 to give the Irish the best possible start. While Zimbabwe almost chased down Ireland's 331, but in the end, the pressure got to them and that's all because of the massive total. With three sixes and nine fours, Joyce's innings kept Ireland in the race for a position in the next round that they truly deserve.

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