

## Sarfraz hails 'great' win

AFP, Leeds

Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed hailed his side's three-wicket victory over Afghanistan at the Cricket World Cup as "a great win" despite a nervy finish on a dramatic day at Headingley.

Imad Wasim's unbeaten 49 made sure Pakistan moved into the top four of the table after falling to 156-6 when chasing a modest total of 228.

Fans then spilled onto the pitch in chaotic scenes after the winning runs were struck.

"It is a great win for us on not an easy pitch," said Sarfraz. "We know it was not an easy target. Their bowlers used the conditions very well. Everyone chipped in, it was good team work."

After a terrible start with just one win from their opening five matches, Pakistan have now won three in matches in succession to leapfrog hosts England into fourth place.

A semifinal place is still in England's hands, but they face the daunting task of having to beat at least one and most likely both of India and New Zealand in their final two fixtures.

"We all know that it is not easy to win our last four games, we go match by match," added Sarfraz, whose side face Bangladesh in their final group game. We will all be watching India v England tomorrow."

Afghanistan captain Gulbadin Naib was left to regret bringing himself on to bowl at the death. With the run rate spiralling, his penultimate over went for 18 runs.

## Australia demolish New Zealand

AGENCIES, London

Australia beat New Zealand by 86 runs in the Cricket World Cup at Lord's on Saturday to stretch their lead at the top of the table.

Aaron Finch's side, who have now won seven out of their eight matches and have already qualified for the semifinals, scored 243-9 in their 50 overs and New Zealand were bowled out for 157 in reply.

New Zealand, third in the 10-team table with one match to go, have still not secured their place in the knockout phase.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: 243 for 9 in 50 overs (Khawaja 88, Carey 71; Boult 4-51)

NEW ZEALAND: 157 all out in 43.4 overs

(Williamson 40, Taylor 30; Starc 5-26)

Result: Australia won by 86 runs.

Player-of-the-match: Carey.



New Zealand fast bowler Trent Boult bowls to take the wicket of Australia's Jason Behrendorff for a duck to complete his hat-trick during the World Cup group stage match at Lord yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

### BEST QUOTE

যারে বসে পছন্দের আইসক্রিম পেতে



The last time we played India we beat them in a series. This team has had success against them. We lost away in a tight series but we won here. We believe because we have won before. Where we have let ourselves down is adapting to conditions. It has been a bigger challenge in the World Cup. We want to play on the best possible wicket. We bat deep and strong and tend to play in high-scoring games so it is an area we are more comfortable in.

Eoin Morgan  
England captain

## Fans clash in Leeds

AFP, Leeds

Police were forced to intervene as violent clashes between rival supporters marred the World Cup match between Pakistan and Afghanistan in Leeds on Saturday.

Political relations between the south Asian neighbours have been marked by years of distrust and blame.

The ugly scenes at Headingley were sparked by the flying of a banner over the ground reading: "Justice for Balochistan."

Balochistan, Pakistan's largest and poorest province, which borders Afghanistan and Iran, is rife with Islamist, separatist and sectarian insurgencies.

The Pakistani military has been waging war on militants there since 2004, and security forces are frequently targeted.

Eyewitnesses told AFP there were clashes in the stands at the start of the match, which spread outside the ground until security officers intervened.

"Thanks to the intervention from security personnel the situation did not go out of control," said Ahmed Zai, who is from the Pakistani city of Peshawar, but lives in nearby Bradford.

A Pakistani journalist was also attacked by the crowd, stopping him from shooting video.

A statement from West Yorkshire police said: "At 11:55 am today (1055 GMT) police received reports of some trouble outside the ground linked to people trying to get in. Officers attended to disperse the group without any issues and remained on patrol in the area."

The International Cricket Council said in a statement: "We are aware of some scuffles among a minority of fans and are currently working with the venue security team and the local police force, West Yorkshire Police, to ensure there are no further incidents."

It added: "We do not condone any sort of political messages at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup and will work with West Yorkshire police to deal with and understand why this has happened and to ensure it does not happen again."

The 17,000-capacity stadium was packed for the match, with Pakistan fans outnumbering Afghanistan supporters.

## Orange kit mocked

AFP, Birmingham

Fans mocked Indian cricket bosses after captain Virat Kohli unveiled the orange-and-dark-blue shirt that the team will wear in their World Cup match against England, saying the players would look like petrol pump attendants.

Blue has been Indian cricket's dominant colour since the advent of coloured clothing but Kohli, known for

his fashion sense, was impressed by the new kit for Sunday's game at Edgbaston.

"I quite like it. I think it's right up there. For me it will be an eight (out of 10). Honestly, I am not saying that for the sake of it," Kohli said at his pre-match press conference on Saturday.

"The contrast is good, the fit is great. For one game it's fine. But I don't think permanently we will be heading in that direction because blue is our colour and we are very proud to wear that."

Eight of the 10 nations at the World Cup have an alternate kit in case of a colour clash and England also wear light blue, hence the switch.

But the kit has stirred controversy and prompted satire in India.

Members of the opposition accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi's right-wing Hindu nationalist party of pushing its trademark saffron colour on the team.

But many Twitter users made fun of the kit, comparing it to the uniform worn by the employees of state-run company Indian Oil.

Users mocked the Indian cricket board's decision by flooding the social media site with spoof pictures of Indian players holding fuel dispensers at filling stations.

"It actually looks like Uniform of Petrol Pump employees. It should have been completely Orange coloured jersey @BCCI why you choose this Jersey??" a Twitter user wrote, adding a picture of Kohli with a fuel dispenser.

Sri Lanka changed to yellow shirts against England and decided to keep them for the rest of the tournament as a lucky charm after their shock win against the hosts.



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Virat Kohli  
India captain

### HAPPY MOMENT

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New Zealand pacer Trent Boult registered the second hat-trick in the 2019 World Cup, the left-arm seamer achieving the feat against Australia yesterday. The 29-year-old displayed some world class death-over bowling and showed off the full array from his arsenal of effective yorkers. It was the third ball of the 50th over of the Australian innings when he first bowled Usman Khawaja with a yorker down the leg side. He then removed Mitchell Starc with even a better directed yorker, similar to his famous yorker to dismiss English all-rounder Ben Stokes in the current World Cup. He then trapped Jason Behrendorff in front to complete his second hat-trick in fifty over cricket. Boult is the only New Zealand bowler to register two hat-tricks in ODIs. The only other Kiwi pacer to have scalped a hat-trick in fifty-over cricket is Danny Morrison.



The Fan Zone in Birmingham was popping, with two enthusiastic fans beating drums amidst a horde of people who were watching yesterday's two games on screens. It was not all quite pleasant however, as Afghanistan fans clashed with their Pakistani counterparts in Leeds.

PHOTO: ICC

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