

Bangladesh-Sri Lanka washout sets record

Heavy rain meant no play was possible in Bristol, resulting in a third World Cup washout in five days

AFP | Bristol

Sri Lanka's World Cup match against Bangladesh was abandoned without a ball being bowled due to rain in Bristol yesterday.

The umpires' decision left tournament organisers with the unwanted record for the most number of abandoned games at a World Cup, surpassing the two each at the 1992 tournament in Australia and New Zealand and the 2003 edition in southern Africa.

It was the second successive World Cup match at Bristol that had fallen victim to bad weather, with Sri Lanka's group game against Pakistan at southwest county Gloucestershire's headquarters on Friday another no-result washout that did not witness a single delivery.

Rain has also been forecast for today's match between Australia and Pakistan in Taunton.

No reserve days have been scheduled for the 10-team round-robin stage, despite the well-known risks of rain during a British summer.

Asked whether there should



Groundkeepers brush water from the covers as rain delayed the start of play

be reserve days in the group phase, Bangladesh coach Steve Rhodes, a former England wicket-keeper, said: "Yes, I would (have them).

"I know logistically it would have caused problems. But we can put a man on the moon, so if we have to travel a day later, so be it."

Only one of three World Cup

matches scheduled to take place in Bristol produced any play, champions Australia launching their title defence with a seven-wicket victory over outsiders Afghanistan.

Heavy overnight and early morning rain delayed the scheduled 10:30 am local time (0930 GMT) start of yesterday's match. And with rain continuing to

fall, the umpires -- after several inspections -- bowed to the inevitable by calling the game off at 1:57 pm (1257 GMT). Both sides received a point for the washout.

It was the second World Cup no-result in as many days after rain meant only 7.3 overs were possible in the match between South Africa and the West Indies in Southampton on Monday.



Cricket World Cup 2019 standings

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Tied	No result	Run rate	Points
New Zealand	3	3	0	0	0	2.163	6
England	3	2	1	0	0	1.307	4
India	2	2	0	0	0	0.539	4
Australia	3	2	1	0	0	0.483	4
Sri Lanka	4	1	1	0	2	-1.517	4
West Indies	3	1	1	0	1	2.054	3
Bangladesh	4	1	2	0	1	-0.714	3
Pakistan	3	1	1	0	1	-2.412	3
S Africa	4	0	3	0	1	-0.952	1
Afghanistan	3	0	3	0	0	-1.264	0



Rain has also been forecast for today's match between Australia and Pakistan in Taunton

Today's match



ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP
ENGLAND & WALES
2019

Australia vs Pakistan
(12:30pm)

at County Ground Taunton, Taunton

ICC won't change bails after World Cup wicket problems

AFP | London

The International Cricket Council have ignored pleas from World Cup stars to resolve the bail controversy that threatens to spoil the tournament.

India captain Virat Kohli and Australia skipper Aaron Finch joined forces to condemn the "unfair" problem on Sunday.

Australia's David Warner avoided being bowled early in his side's unsuccessful run chase against India when he deflected Jasprit Bumrah's delivery onto the wicket via his boot.

Not for the first time in this tournament, the ball struck the stumps but failed to dislodge the bails, meaning Warner earned an unexpected reprieve.

It was the fifth incident in the tournament of the 'zing' bails, which contain lights that flash



David Warner looks on as the ball hits the stumps but fails to dislodge the bails

when the ball hits the wicket, failing to come off when hit.

But despite calls for a change to the bails from Kohli, Finch and former England captains Michael Vaughan and Nasser Hussain, tournament organisers have no plans to make a switch back to the traditional

wooden style.

"We wouldn't change anything mid-event as it would compromise the integrity of the event - the equipment is the same for all 10 teams across all 48 games," the International Cricket Council, the sport's global governing body, said.

Finch hopes washouts don't hurt Australia

AFP | Taunton

Australia captain Aaron Finch hopes the holders don't become the latest World Cup team to be derailed by bad weather.



Australia's captain Aaron Finch

Heavy rain has forced two no-results in the World Cup so far and Finch has been anxiously eyeing the forecast to see if Australia could be the next victims when they face Pakistan at Taunton today.

Pakistan's match against Sri Lanka was washed out on Friday before the clash between South Africa and the West Indies was abandoned after less than eight overs play on Monday.

There is rain predicted in the Taunton area today and Finch conceded luck with the weather could play a role in who makes the semi-finals from the 10-team group stage.

"I think it (weather) might play a huge part in the next few days," Finch told reporters yesterday.

"Next week it starts fine and

looks good across the country for the remainder of the tournament.

"So it's important that you get early wins on the board because you don't want to be on the wrong end of a couple of washouts that might leave you just outside that top four."

Australia failed to qualify for the semi-finals of the 2017 Champions Trophy in England following their rained-off matches against New Zealand and Bangladesh before they lost to England on D/L method.

If the match does get underway, Finch expects unpredictable Pakistan to provide a stern test.

They lost to the West Indies by seven wickets in their opening match, but shocked tournament favourites England with a fine performance.

Today's match

Australia vs Pakistan

Glenn Maxwell



Australia

- Australia arrived in England in resurgent ODI form and kicked off the World Cup 2019 with two wins. They bowled Afghanistan out for 207 to start with a seven-wicket win and then defended 288 against West Indies next up - a win which owed much to Mitchell Starc, who claimed 5-46.
- Their winning start was ended by India last time out, however, as some excellent late hitting left Australia chasing 353 to win. Steve Smith, David Warner and Alex Carey all passed 50 but, ultimately, the scoreboard pressure proved too much and they were eventually bowled out off the final ball for 316.

Probable XI

Aaron Finch (c), David Warner, Usman Khawaja, Steve Smith, Glenn Maxwell, Marcus Stoinis, Alex Carey (wk), Nathan Coulter-Nile, Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Adam Zampa

Babar Azam



Pakistan

- Pakistan's ODI form looked to have deserted them as they came into this tournament on the back of their thrashings against Australia and England. That was even more the case when they folded for just 105 on their way to an opening seven-wicket defeat against West Indies in this tournament.
- They bounced back against England, however, after powering to 348/8 thanks to half-centuries from Babar Azam (63 from 66 balls), Mohammad Hafeez (84 from 62) and Sarfaraz Ahmed (55 from 44). In reply, England were rarely too far behind the asking rate but Pakistan came back well late on to restrict them to 334/9.

Probable XI

Imam-ul-Haq, Fakhar Zaman, Babar Azam, Sarfaraz Ahmed (c, wk), Mohammad Hafeez, Asif Ali, Shoaib Malik, Shadab Khan, Hasan Ali, Wahab Riaz, Mohammad Amir



PITCH REPORT

A dry and cloudy start to the day is expected, but chances of rain thereafter might result in a shortened game. With the pitch expected to offer some assistance for fast bowlers early in the day, captains would be tempted to field first

Head to Head

- Australia were in dominant form when these two teams last met, as Aaron Finch's excellent batting led them to a 5-0 series win in the UAE as both teams geared up for this tournament. Finch was named man of the series, after hitting two 50s and two centuries on his way to more than 450 runs in the five games.
- It means Australia have won 67 of their previous 103 ODI matches against Pakistan, with 32 defeats, one tie and three no results. Their last World Cup match in England, of course, was the 1999 final when Australia won their first title.

Australia call-up Marsh after Stoinis's side strain

AFP | Taunton

Australia are flying Mitchell Marsh to England as cover for Marcus Stoinis after his fellow all-rounder suffered a side strain that ruled him out of today's World Cup match against Pakistan in Taunton.

Stoinis sustained the injury during champions Australia's 36-run defeat by India at the Oval on Sunday.

Australia, however, will wait to decide whether to bring in Marsh as a permanent tournament replacement for Stoinis -- a decision that will require

the approval of the World Cup's event technical committee.

International Cricket Council regulations allow injured players to be replaced during the World Cup but they cannot then rejoin their squad if they regain full fitness later on in the tournament.