

SPORTS

Pakistan dash Proteas hopes

● Pakistan condemn woeful South Africa to World Cup exit

● South Africa captain Faf du Plessis failed to save his side from World Cup misery against Pakistan

AFP | London

Pakistan condemned South Africa to World Cup elimination and kept alive their own slender chances of advancing to the semi-finals with a 49-run win at Lord's yesterday.

Chasing 309 to remain in the hunt for a last four berth, South Africa's survival bid petered out on 259-9.

Disciplined Pakistan bowling saw Shadab Khan and Wahab Riaz take three wickets each as South Africa surrendered without a fight.

Faf du Plessis's side had already been roughed up by Haris Sohail's brilliant 59-ball innings of 89 in Pakistan's 308-7.

South Africa's fifth defeat in seven World Cup matches confirmed their embarrassingly early exit, with matches against Sri Lanka and Australia still to play.

For just the second time in their history, and the first time since 2003, South Africa have failed to reach the World Cup



Pakistan's Haris Sohail plays a shot

knockout stages.

The post-mortem into a woeful World Cup campaign will raise pointed questions about the futures of captain Du Plessis and coach Ottis Gibson.

South Africa have been beset by problems on and off the field -- starting when AB de Villiers' late offer to come out of retire-

ment for the World Cup was rejected.

Their campaign got off to the worst possible start when they were thrashed by hosts England in the tournament opener.

Alarm bells were ringing even louder after a dismal defeat to Bangladesh in their second game and by the time India brushed

them aside, it was clear South Africa were in turmoil.

An injury that ruled key pace bowler Dale Steyn out of the tournament was another setback.

Their only win to date was against minnows Afghanistan and their mountain of issues proved too much for the uninspired Proteas players to overcome as they slumped to a tame exit.

Pakistan were also playing for their World Cup survival and mustered a far more whole-hearted effort in the must-win clash.

To the delight of their army of fans, who turned Lord's into a vibrant mass of green, Sarfaraz Ahmed's side could still make the semi-finals.

Their second win of the tournament gives them life with three matches remaining in the battle to finish in the top four in the 10-team group stage.

Hour of need

Bangladesh's 322-3 against the West Indies was the only successful chase of more than 250 in this World Cup and South Africa never looked like emulating that feat.

Their task was made all the more difficult when veteran Hashim Amla was trapped lbw by Mohammad Amir for two in the second over.

The Proteas managed only 38



Cricket World Cup 2019 standings

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Tied	No result	Run rate	Points
Australia	6	5	1	0	0	0.849	10
New Zealand	5	4	0	0	1	1.591	9
India	5	4	0	0	1	0.809	9
England	6	4	2	0	0	1.457	8
Sri Lanka	6	2	2	0	2	-1.119	6
Bangladesh	6	2	3	0	1	-0.407	5
Pakistan	6	2	3	0	1	-1.265	5
West Indies	6	1	3	0	1	0.272	3
South Africa	7	1	5	0	1	-0.324	3
Afghanistan	6	0	6	0	0	-1.712	0

Pakistan

Imam-ul-Haq c & b Tahir	44
Fakhar Zaman c Amla b Tahir	44
Babar Azam c Ngidi b Phehlukwayo	69
Mohammad Hafeez lbw b Markram	20
Haris Sohail c De Kock b Ngidi	89
Imad Wasim c sub (Duminy) b Ngidi	23
Wahab Riaz b Ngidi	4
Sarfaraz Ahmed not out	2
Shadab Khan not out	1
Extras: (lb6, nb1, w5)	12
Total: (for seven wkts; 50 overs)	308

South Africa

Hashim Amla lbw b Amir	2
Q. de Kock c Imam b Shadab	47
F. du Plessis c Sarfaraz b Amir	63
A. Markram b Shadab	7
H. van der Dussen c Hafeez b Shadab	36
D. Miller b Shaheen	31
A. Phehlukwayo not out	46
C. Morris b Wahab	16
K. Rabada b Wahab	3
L. Ngidi b Wahab	1
Imran Tahir not out	1
Extras: 1 (lb1, w5)	6
Total: (nine wkts; 50 overs)	259

Today's match

Bangladesh v Afghanistan



Mushfiqur Rahim



Hampshire Bowl, Southampton
12:30pm



Mohammad Nabi

Bangladesh

Bangladesh's batting, built on the promotion of Shakib Al Hasan at No.3, has been one of the highlights of the World Cup, characterised by consistently good scores. After hunting down a target of 322 against West Indies in just 41.3 overs, Bangladesh fought admirably in a 382-run chase against Australia, finishing with an impressive 333/8.

Probable XI

Tamim Iqbal, Soumya Sarkar, Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim (wk), Liton Das, Mahmudullah, Sabbir Rahman, Mehidy Hasan, Mashrafe Mortaza (c), Rubel Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman

PITCH REPORT

Monday should be warm, with partial sunshine and a bit of humidity. The dryness will bring spin into play, much like it did during the game between India and Afghanistan.

Head to Head

Bangladesh and Afghanistan have played seven one-day internationals against each other in the past out of which four have been won by the former and three by the latter. Both the teams have won twice each in the previous four ODI meetings. The most recent encounter which came in last year's Asia Cup at Abu Dhabi was won by Bangladesh. After winning the toss and electing to bat first in that game, Bangladesh scored 249/7 in their 50 overs. Afghanistan, in reply, could manage 246/7 in their innings and fell short by three runs.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan, having lost to India by a narrow margin of 11 runs on Saturday, will be filled with a lot of self-belief and motivation when they take the field on Monday. With experience of the conditions in Southampton, Gulbadin Naib will expect his spinners to weave their magic once again against an in-form Bangladesh batting line-up. Their batsmen though, will have to focus on staying at the crease for longer periods to get the desired result.

Probable XI

Noor Ali Zadran, Gulbadin Naib (c), Rahmat Shah, Hashmatullah Shahidi, Asghar Afghan, Mohammad Nabi, Najibullah Zadran, Rashid Khan, Ikram Ali Khil (wk), Dawlat Zadran, Mujeeb Ur Rahman

Brathwaite agony as Windies fall just short against Kiwis

AFP | Manchester

Carlos Brathwaite hit a stunning century but just fell short of leading the West Indies to a remarkable victory as New Zealand won a World Cup thriller by five runs on Saturday.

The West Indies were all but defeated at 164 for seven, chasing 292 to win after New Zealand captain Kane Williamson's career-best 148 helped take the Black Caps to 291-8.

Inspired by Brathwaite's remarkable hundred, the West Indies nearly secured an incredible success at Old Trafford.

But with six needed from seven balls, Brathwaite launched Jimmy Neesham for what he hoped would be the winning hit, only for Trent Boult to take a superbly judged catch just inside the long-on boundary.

Brathwaite sank to his knees in despair after falling for 101 off just 82 balls, including five sixes and nine fours, having dominated a last-wicket stand of 41 in which he scored all the runs.

Victory saw New Zealand return to the top of the table and all but secure their place in the semi-finals as a heart-breaking defeat left the West Indies on the verge of elimination.

"A tough game at the end. I'm proud of the guys, especially Carlos Brathwaite," said West Indies captain Jason Holder.

"Getting so close I guess it does make it tougher to take."



West Indies batsman Carlos Brathwaite is consoled by New Zealand players

But he refused to blame Brathwaite for the way he got out with an over still remaining.

"We wouldn't have gone down to the penultimate (over) if it wasn't for Carlos as well. He's been playing excellently well up to that point," Holder said.

Meanwhile, Williamson was relieved by the way his side had just held their nerve.

"The West Indies are incredibly dangerous, even down their order. Credit to them, but credit to our side for getting a

competitive total," Williamson said.

"It's a great game of cricket, good to be on the winning side. It's been a great learning curve for us."

Veteran opener Chris Gayle threatened to make New Zealand pay dearly for dropping him three times during a typically blistering 87 off 84 balls that delighted a near-capacity crowd.

But he eventually holed out during a collapse that saw five wickets lost for 22 runs in 28 balls.