

England knocks Pakistan out

Stokes and Willey shine as England concludes World Cup title defence, leaving Pakistan eliminated

● **England defeated Pakistan by 93 runs in their final World Cup match**

AFP | Kolkata

England sent Pakistan crashing out of the World Cup with a convincing 93-run win as Ben Stokes and David Willey helped their team end their miserable title defence on a high in Kolkata yesterday.

Stokes, who came out of ODI retirement for the World Cup, scored 84 while Joe Root hit 60 to lift England to an impressive 337-9 in their 50 overs before Pakistan folded on 244 in 43.3 overs.

Willey, who already announced he will retire from international cricket after the World Cup, removed Pakistan openers Abdullah Shafique (nought) and Fakhar Zaman (one) before dismissing Agha Salman for 51 to finish with 3-56.



England's Ben Stokes plays a shot

With Salman's wicket, Willey also completed 100 wickets in his 73rd ODI.

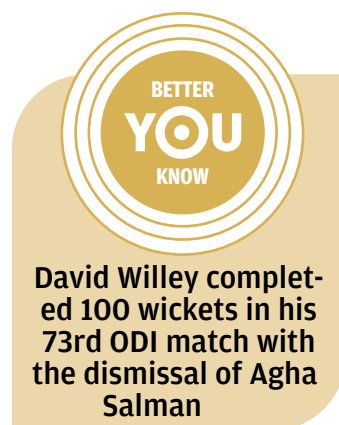
Fellow fast bowler Gus Atkinson (2-45) had Babar Azam for 38, caught at short mid-wicket off a miscued pull to end the Pakistan skipper's below-par tournament on 320 runs with four fifties but without a century.

Spinners Moeen Ali (2-60) and Adil Rashid (2-55) took care

of the middle-order as only Salman defied the bowling with a fighting 45-ball knock studded with six boundaries and a six.

Tail-enders Shaheen Shah Afridi scored 27 and Haris Rauf made 35 to at least take Pakistan past the 200-mark.

Ali removed Mohammad Rizwan for a 51-ball 36 and Iftikhar Ahmed for three while Rashid had Saud Shakeel bowled round



BETTER YOU KNOW
David Willey completed 100 wickets in his 73rd ODI match with the dismissal of Agha Salman

his legs for 29 before bowling Shadab Khan for four with a googly.

Pakistan started the day needing to beat England by 287 runs in order to squeeze into the semi-finals on net run-rate but that escape route was immediately closed when Jos Buttler won the toss and chose to bat first.

As a result, New Zealand became the fourth team into the semi-finals and will face undefeated India in Mumbai on November 15.

Scorecard

England 337 for 9 (Stokes 84, Root 60, Bairstow 59, Rauf 3-64) beat Pakistan 244 (Salman 51, Willey 3-56) by 93 runs

A day later, Australia and South Africa will meet in the other semi-final in Kolkata.

Stokes -- dropped on 10 by Shaheen off his own bowling -- rode his luck during a 76-ball innings.

Wayward bowling

Root added a 72-ball 60 after England won the toss and batted.

Stokes and Root built on a solid opening stand of 82 between Jonny Bairstow (59) and Dawid Malan (31), taking full advantage of a slow Eden Gardens pitch and some wayward bowling.

Bairstow hit seven boundaries and a six in his 61-ball knock -- his second fifty in an otherwise lacklustre performance in the tournament.

Malan was the first to go, mis-

cuing a reverse sweep off spinner Iftikhar Ahmed while Bairstow was caught in the covers off Rauf, Pakistan's best bowler with 3-64.

Once Stokes, who came out of ODI retirement for the World Cup, got a life he continued to bat like he did during his century against the Netherlands in Pune three days ago, cracking 11 boundaries and two sixes.

He was finally yorked by Shaheen in the 41st over after adding 132 for the third wicket with Root.

Root hit four boundaries in his third half century of the World Cup before he was caught off a leading edge against Shaheen who finished with 2-72.

Harry Brook made 30, with two sixes and as many fours, and Buttler hit 27 with a six and three boundaries as the pair added a quick 45 with England scoring 97 runs in the last ten overs.

Pakistan finished in fifth place in the 10-nation table while England are a further two places down, but still able to qualify for the 2025 Champions Trophy.

Marsh's hundred ensures Australia cruise past Bangladesh

AFP | Pune

Mitchell Marsh's career-best 177 not out sent Australia into next week's World Cup semi-finals with a convincing eight-wicket win over Bangladesh in Pune yesterday.

Marsh's second hundred of the World Cup ensured Australia, already guaranteed a last-four clash with South Africa, made light of their target of 307 to win with 32 balls remaining.

This was just Marsh's third hundred in 87 one-day internationals and surpassed his 121 against Pakistan earlier in the tournament as the 32-year-old's highest score.

The all-rounder, strong on the drive and square of the wicket, faced 132 balls including 17 fours and nine sixes.

Marsh also shared a stand of 120 with David Warner (53) and put on an unbroken 175 with Steve Smith, the star batsman hitting the winning boundary in a morale-boosting 63 not out after returning from vertigo.

Victory meant Australia ended the group stage with a seventh successive win after their campaign for a record-extending sixth men's World Cup title started with two defeats.



Australia's Mitchell Marsh plays a shot

Bangladesh's 306-8, their highest total of the tournament, left Australia needing to surpass their record World Cup-winning chase of 292 against Afghanistan in Mumbai on Tuesday -- a match where Glenn Maxwell's stunning unbeaten 201 sealed an astounding three-wicket win after they had collapsed to 91-7.

Maxwell was rested yesterday, but Australia had no need of his heroics as they overpowered a Bangladesh attack missing captain Shakib Al Hasan after

the all-rounder was ruled out with a broken finger.

Nasum Ahmed's 10 wicketless overs cost 85 runs, with this loss leaving Bangladesh dependent on other results for a top-eight finish that would qualify them for the 2025 Champions Trophy in Pakistan.

Australia lost Travis Head (10) early in their chase when he played on trying to slog Taskin Ahmed.

Warner plundered runs on an excellent batting pitch before the left-handed opener, follow-

Scorecard

Australia 307 for 2 (Marsh 177*, Smith 63*, Warner 51) beat Bangladesh 306 for 8 (Hridoy 74, Shanto 45, Zampa 2-32, Abbott 2-61) by eight wickets

ing a 52-ball fifty, surprisingly chipped Mustafizur Rahman to stand-in skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto at mid-off.

The powerful Marsh however, pressed on, pounding spinner Mehdi Hasan Miraz for a six and a four before suffering cramp, although nothing as severe as the attack that afflicted Maxwell against Afghanistan.

Earlier, Towhid Hridoy's 74, his maiden World Cup fifty, was the cornerstone of a Bangladesh innings where several batsmen gave away their wickets.

Adam Zampa was the pick of Australia's attack with 2-32 as the leg-spinner became the leading bowler in the tournament with 22 wickets, while Marnus Labuschagne derailed the innings by expertly running out the well-set Najmul (45) and Mahmudullah (32).

Hridoy's 79-ball innings ended when he holed out off Marcus Stoinis, his exit sparking a flurry of wickets.

Kane scores brace as Bayern go top

AFP | Munich

Harry Kane scored two first-half goals as Bayern Munich beat promoted Heidenheim 4-2 yesterday, sending the Bavarians to the top of the table.

Heidenheim replied with two goals in three second-half minutes to equalize and Bayern needed late goals from Raphael Guerreiro and Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting to secure victory.

Bayern finish yesterday atop the table but Bayer Leverkusen -- who have won 15 and drawn one of their 16 matches in all competitions this season -- can return to the top

Harry Kane

with a win on Sunday over Union Berlin.

"It was a changing match," said Thomas Mueller. "At one point we had it in our grip, then we didn't, then we did again."

"What was nice is that we were able to react, that we managed to switch to a higher gear."

"It brought us to the top of the table and I hope that Leverkusen drop points sometime."

Kane now has 17 goals in 11 league games since joining the German champions from boyhood club Tottenham in the summer.

Mbappe bags hat-trick as PSG go top of Ligue 1

AFP | Paris

A clinical Kylian Mbappe scored a hat-trick as Paris Saint-Germain won 3-0 away to high-flying Reims yesterday and moved to the top of the Ligue 1 table.

Mbappe opened the scoring in the third minute in Champagne country and then netted twice more in the second half to give PSG a win which moved the reigning champions to the summit a point above Nice, who drew at Montpellier on Friday.

PSG were also grateful

to goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma who denied Reims a route back into the game with a string of superb saves, as Luis Enrique's team recovered from their midweek Champions League loss away to AC Milan.

Mbappe is Ligue 1's leading scorer with 13 goals in 11 appearances this season, with the France captain also having netted twice in European competition.

Kylian Mbappe



Bora Bakici of Turkey and Alina Sogomonyan were both crowned champions of their respective singles categories yesterday in the Bahrain ITF Juniors 2023 tournament, which came to a close at the Bahrain Tennis Federation (BTF) hard courts in Isa Town. Sixth-seeded Bora claimed the boys' singles crown after defeating Andres Pereiro Lopez of Spain 2-6, 6-3, 6-2. His win earned him a sensational title double in the tournament. Seventh-seeded Alina, meanwhile, clinched the girls' singles championship after beating top seed Ariana Gogulina of Kazakhstan 6-3, 6-4. Following both finals, the winners were awarded their respective medals and trophies by BTF secretary general Fouad Al Rowaie and BTF board member Mohammed Salman. Above, the winners with officials at the awarding