**SPORT**

**CRICKET WORLD CUP**

**Kohli all praise for ‘best’ man Sharma as India enter semis**

Gallant Bangladesh go down fighting as they fall short by 28 runs despite fifties from Shakib and Saifuddin

India captain Virat Kohli admitted that fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah was the ‘best’ in the world after the right-hand pacer steered India into their first World Cup semi-finals with a three-wicket win over Bangladesh in Birmingham on Thursday.

Kohli, who was also India’s man of the match in the tournament’s most anticipated match by far so far, was full of praise for Bumrah, saying he had ‘such a huge advantage’ in having the ‘best’ bowler in the tournament.

“Not many teams have that advantage in having the best bowler. We had a couple of big wickets early on, which changed the game,” Kohli said in his post-match press conference.

Bumrah’s series of deliveries to Bangladesh’s top three, which included an lbw decision for Tamim Iqbal, helped India complete a clinical win and book their place in the semi-finals of the World Cup for the first time since 2011.


Kohli said: “When you’re a kid, you dream of playing in the final of the World Cup. Seeing yourself on the big screen with lights flashing is something that you can’t put a price on. It’s something that you have to work hard for and that’s what we did.

“Jasprit is the best bowler in the world. He has been consistent throughout the tournament and has taken many wickets. Today, he was at his best and it was a privilege to watch him bowl.

India, who had already qualified to face New Zealand in the semi-finals on July 10, will now have to wait until the semi-final between Pakistan and England on July 9 to find out who they will face in the final.

“Let’s not take anything for granted. We have to be ready for any team that we face in the semi-final. We have to be ready for any team that we face in the final. We have to be ready for any team that we face in the final. We have to be ready for any team that we face in the final. We have to be ready for any team that we face in the final. We have to be ready for any team that we face in the final.

**SCORECARD**

**INDIA INNINGS**

- KL Rahul c Rahim b Mortaza 26
- Rishabh Pant c Liton b Soumya 48
- R. B. Pant (c) c Shakib b Mustafizur 104
- Dinesh Karthik lbw b Shakib 13
- Rohit Sharma c Liton b Soumya 48
- MS Dhoni c Liton b Soumya 26
- KL Rahul (c) c Shakib b Mortaza 180
- R. B. Pant c Shakib b Mortaza 48
- Dinesh Karthik c Shakib b Mortaza 13

**BANGLADESH INNINGS**

- Tamim Iqbal c Loss b Shami 22
- Mehidy Hasan c Rahat b Shami 1
- Liton Das c Rahat b Shami 22
- Liton Das (c) c Rahat b Shami 51
- Mushfiqur Rahim c Rahat b Shami 1
- Saifuddin (c) c Rahat b Shami 51
- Mustafizur Rahim c Rahat b Shami 2
- Mosaddek Hossain c Rahat b Shami 9
- Shakib Al Hasan c Rahat b Shami 104
- Soumya Sarkar c Rahat b Shami 8
- Tamim Iqbal c Rahat b Shami 22
- Liton Das c Rahat b Shami 51
- Mushfiqur Rahim c Rahat b Shami 1
- Saifuddin (c) c Rahat b Shami 51
- Mustafizur Rahim c Rahat b Shami 2
- Mosaddek Hossain c Rahat b Shami 9
- Shakib Al Hasan c Rahat b Shami 104
- Soumya Sarkar c Rahat b Shami 8
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- Mushfiqur Rahim c Rahat b Shami 1
- Saifuddin (c) c Rahat b Sham...
Today's match in Chester-le-Street is effectively a quarter-final, with the winners guaranteed a place in the last four.

New Zealand's Kane Williamson plays a shot during nets at Riverside Durham in Chester-le-Street, United Kingdom, yesterday (Reuters)

England's Eoin Morgan (centre) inspects the wicket as teammate Joe Root looks on during nets at Riverside Durham in Chester-le-Street, United Kingdom, yesterday (Reuters)

New Zealand's Ross Taylor believes the Black Caps must bounce back against England after losing momentum with straight defeats to beat England at Chester-le-Street, which would put them on the brink of elimination from the World Cup. (Reuters)
Australia's Cummins issues warning to World Cup rivals

"I think just everything's clicked, the batting, the bowling, our game plan is really good. We're clicking as a unit, we're bowling well together, we're putting together some good death bowling," said Cummins.

"We've had a really good campaign so far and we're keen to keep going. We've got another game against New Zealand, which will be a really good test for us. We're really looking forward to that game and we're hoping to get through to the semi-finals with a commanding win over England and carry on our winning run.

"We've hit a really good rhythm as a team and we're really enjoying our cricket. We're looking forward to the semi-finals and we're really hoping to do well in them."

UPDATE

England's James Anderson in Ashes injury scare

James Anderson, who was ruled out of the first Test due to a side strain, was hit by the ball on Tuesday and is now in doubt for the second Test against Australia.

"He took a big hit on the hand this morning and we're waiting to see how he is,"said his team-mate Ben Stokes.

"He came off the ground with a bit of pain, but hopefully it's not too serious."

BOTTOMLINE

Disappointed Pooran sees World Cup failure as learning experience

"We had some good moments in the tournament, but we also had some disappointing performances. We need to learn from our mistakes and be more clinical in our batting and bowling.

"I'm disappointed with the way we performed in the final, but we can't dwell on that. We need to move on and focus on the future."

COMMENT

Australia, India are 'standout' teams: Lloyd

"Both Australia and India have been the standout teams in the tournament. They have played some great cricket and deserve their place in the final."

"I have no doubt that Australia will be the favourites, but India have been very good as well. It's going to be a tough match but I have no doubts that we can win if we play our best cricket."

Guptill and Steyn sign up for Euro T20 Slam

"We are excited to sign up for the Euro T20 Slam and we are looking forward to playing in front of our own fans."

"It's going to be a great experience and we are really looking forward to it."

The Euro T20 Slam is a new T20 competition that will be held in Europe this summer. It promises to be a great spectacle and we are looking forward to getting involved."
**REPORT**

**FOCUS**

**SPOTLIGHT**

**TENNIS**

**SPORT**

**SERENA ADVANCES WITH LABORIOUS WIN, SHARAPOVA RETIRES WITH ARM INJURY**

**GAUFF READY TO PROVE AGAIN VENUS WAS NO FLUKE**

**FEDELLR SURVIVES SCARE, NADAL SETS UP GRUDGE MATCH**

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**WIMBLEDON 2019**

Roger Federer overcame a first set match point in the second round to continue his winning run at the All England Club.

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**REPORT**

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**FEDELLR SURVIVES SCARE, NADAL SETS UP GRUDGE MATCH**

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As Leonard ponders, free agency moves shake NBA landscape

Kawhi Leonard is expected to meet with the Los Angeles Lakers and Los Angeles Clippers plus his current team Toronto Raptors this week before making a decision on where he will sign when he can enter free agency next weekend. Leonard, who led the Toronto Raptors to the NBA title last month, was expected to meet with the rockets this week before making a decision on where he will sign when he can enter free agency next weekend.

The Lakers are reportedly looking at a number of other free agents, but they have already signed guard Avery Bradley and centerJR Smith to short-term contracts. The Lakers have made their first move of the free agency period by signing Bradley to a one-year contract worth $2.4 million. The Lakers have also reportedly signed centerJR Smith to a one-year contract worth $2 million.

The Clippers are hoping to keep together their young core of stars, including guard Patrick Beverley, who had a career year last season. The Clippers have already re-signed Beverley to a three-year deal worth $40 million.

Other free agents looking into the Lakers include guard Jordan Clarkson, who is coming off a career year with the San Antonio Spurs. Clarkson has been a key player for the Lakers in recent years and is expected to return on a long-term deal.

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Al-Attiyah aims to win Silk Way Rally for the first time

This is a long and demanding rally and the stages will be a challenge for everyone.

RALLY

Hansen names four uncapped players in All Blacks squad

France's Rugby Championship shortened to just 10 rounds

Al-Attiyah aims to win Silk Way Rally for the first time

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PARIS visit on Thursday to check out venues

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Arsenal sign 18-year-old Brazilian forward Martinelli

Arsenal have signed 18-year-old Brazilian forward Martinelli, the club’s first signing of the summer.

The London club confirmed during the international break that the Brazilian forward had agreed a deal with the club, with his transfer fee reported to be £20m.

Martinelli, who has played under coach Mikel Arteta in the club’s pre-season games, has signed a long-term contract with the Gunners.

The young Brazilian has been with Arsenal’s academy since the age of 16 and has been described as one of the best young talents in the world.

On Monday night, the teenager made his first-team debut in the pre-season friendly against Bury, before scoring in the second half.

"Martinelli is a highly talented player with a huge future ahead of him," said Arsenal’s football director Ed Lee.

"We are delighted to welcome him to Arsenal and look forward to seeing him develop further over the coming seasons.

"He has already shown a positive attitude and we are confident he will make a big impact in our first-team setup.

"We wish him all the best in his Arsenal journey and we’re excited to see how far he can go with us."
Pakistan win second straight team final against India

Bilal and Iqbal beat the Advani-Rawat combine 31-1 for the winners’ cheque of $10,000 at the IBSF World Team Cup

Police commissioner Shafqat Mehmood and Interior minister Sheikh Rasheed have given the in-principle approval for the construction of a police training center in Lyari.

Chile eager to make Copa history against Peru

Rayad Sial's late winner against Peru on Thursday kept Chile on course to beat all teams in the Copa America.

By Haris Bhatti

Chile, which faces Peru today, is looking to make history by winning the Copa America for the first time. The South American country has already lifted the trophy six times, with the last occurrence being in 1962.

In contrast, Peru have appeared in the final only four times - in 1939, 1975, 1982 and 2001. The latter victory over Brazil was Peru’s only triumph in the Copa America.

Chile, who are in the semi-final against Brazil today, have been in good form in the tournament. The team has won its previous two matches against Argentina and Colombia, scoring a total of 11 goals in the process.

On the other hand, Peru have managed only one win against Venezuela. Their performance has been patchy, with draws against Bolivia and Ecuador and a defeat against Brazil.

Hence, the Chile-Peru clash will be a crucial match for both teams. A win for Chile will see them reach the final for the first time in 57 years, while Peru will have to beat Brazil to secure a place in the final.

Chile's striker Alexis Sanchez and midfielder Arturo Vidal have been in excellent form, scoring crucial goals in the tournament. Peru, on the other hand, will rely on the likes of Andre Carrillo and Christian Cueva to provide the necessary spark.

The match is set to be an entertaining one, with both teams vying for a victory to reach the final. It will be interesting to see which team comes out on top and makes history.

Pakistan win second straight team final against India

Bilal and Iqbal beat the Advani-Rawat combine 31-1 for the winners’ cheque of $10,000 at the IBSF World Team Cup

By Haris Bhatti

Pakistan’s victory against India in the World Team Cup snooker final was a testament to the country’s improving standards in the sport.

Pakistan’s team, which included Bilal and Iqbal, played an outstanding game against their Indian counterparts to win the match 31-1. It was the second time Pakistan had won the title, having beaten India in the previous edition of the tournament.

Both Bilal and Iqbal showed exceptional skill and maturity throughout the match, with Iqbal winning the first two frames and Bilal taking the next three. The fourth frame was won by Iqbal, and Bilal won the last two to secure the victory.

The victory was a significant one for Pakistan, who have been making steady progress in the sport in recent years. The team’s performance in the World Team Cup final was a reflection of their hard work and dedication.

India, on the other hand, will be looking to bounce back in future editions of the tournament. The match was a tough one, and the team must learn from their mistakes to improve in the upcoming events.

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