

## India beat Pakistan, India won by 5 wickets (with 2 balls remaining),



Asia Cup final, Dubai

Pakistan 146 (19.1 overs): S Farhan 57 (38); K Yadav 4-30

India 150-5 (19.4 overs): Tilak 69\* (53); Faheem 3-29

India beat Pakistan by five wickets in a tense final to retain the Asia Cup at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

It was the third meeting between the rivals at the tournament and success for India earned them a ninth title.

Both sides again refused to shake hands - as they had in the two earlier fractious encounters.

The India players sat on the outfield when the winners' trophy was due to be presented, with Indian cricket board (BCCI) secretary Devajit Saikia later saying they had refused to accept it from Asian Cricket Council president Mohsin Naqvi.

Naqvi is also the chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board.

India captain Suryakumar Yadav said: "It's one thing that I have never seen in my career, that a champion team is denied its trophy."

"We took the call on the ground about not taking the trophy."

In the absence of the trophy presentation, India's players instead celebrated retaining their crown by mimicking holding a trophy.

"I think what has happened in this tournament is very disappointing," Pakistan captain Salman Agha said.

"If they think they disrespected us by not shaking hands, then I say they disrespected cricket."

India and Pakistan engaged in a four-day military conflict in April following a deadly militant attack on tourists in India-administered Kashmir.

Even before that conflict, the cricket teams would only face each other at neutral venues and in worldwide competitions.

Made to bat first, Pakistan started superbly, with Sahibzada Farhan (57) and Fakhar Zaman (46) putting together an impressive opening stand of 84.

They rallied to 113-1 with 44 balls left in the innings, but the collapse that followed would be dramatic and prove pivotal to the outcome.

With the help of left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav (4-30) and some poor shots, India took the remaining nine wickets for just 33 runs as a shellshocked Pakistan were bundled out for 146 with five deliveries still left in their innings.

India themselves started badly in their reply and lost three wickets in the opening three overs to give Pakistan hope.

But Tilak Varma calmed things down with a fine unbeaten 69, while Shivam Dube (33) and Sanju Samson (24) provided much-needed support as they triumphed with two balls left.

"It is one of the best innings of my life," said Tilak. "It was a bit pressured, but I wanted to stay in and finish the game."