



PHOTOS: STAR, TIGERCRICKET.COM AND AFP

(Clockwise from top) Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar and the rest imitate the cradle celebration after the win was sealed; Tamim Iqbal lashes out on Indian paceman Zaheer Khan while Mushfiqur Rahim is over the moon after clinching the victory with his well-timed push to the covers in the 49th over; Middle-order batsman Sakib Al Hasan sweeps Harbhajan Singh during his masterful 53 while crazy celebrations just began at the TSC in Dhaka after Bangladesh beat India by five wickets in Port of Spain yesterday.



Did U Know?

West Indies did not lose even one of the twelve Test series which were captained by Viv Richards.



Sachin Tendulkar
(Indian batting superstar)
"I don't know if this is my final World Cup. The one in 2011 is quite far from here but it all depends on how my body is holding up."

A remarkable night

BISHWAJIT ROY



Winning matches is a habit, be it against small or big teams. It's not only true for a team but also for its followers.

Bangladesh's outstanding five-wicket victory against World Cup title aspirants India undoubtedly made the country's cricket crazy fans proud regardless of age and class, but they never got too emotional as in the past great occasions. The reason is simple: People have become used to see Tigers win at the highest level.

"I simply had no words to express my emotion. What I can only say that I am not surprised by this victory," was the prompt reaction of Amjad Ahmed, a businessman.

The lack of excessive celebration has only mirrored that how confident even the common people have grown about their beloved team who -- going up the graph in recent years -- have made winning against teams like Australia to the minnows a habit.

The early morning jubiliations might have not been wild in manner but there was no short of excitement as fans, most of them young, took the streets immediately after Bangladesh wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim picked up the winning single off Indian paceman

Munaf Patel.

Waving flags and chanting "Bangladesh! Bangladesh!" slogans, the fans broke the early morning silence to celebrate a great victory and it was no exception that the Dhaka University campus was the focal point of celebrations.

"What a night it was! I'm excited by the tremendous victory but by no means I am as mad as I had been when we beat Australia because, our performances in the last few months gave me the impression that they can beat any side in the world," said Bakhtiar Hossain, student of DU.

For most of the people the morning started a little late: they were glued to television sets from evening to early Sunday morning to watch the valiant effort by Habibul Bashar's men against a formidable India in Port of Spain.

But once the city life got back its normal rhythm, one topic dominated every discussion from a street teashop to a posh restaurant: the heroic success of Bangladesh cricket team. The Tigers' victory brought a breath of fresh air in the life of the hard-to-live city dwellers.

"It was not so easy to go to bed immediately after the finish of the match. Because it was hard not only for me but also the other family members -- gripped by emotion -- to ease the adrenalin. Actually, at no point we thought that Bangladesh could lose the game. It looks clear that they have already accustomed to the winning habit," reacted Arefin, a BBA student.

"We are used to hero worship Tendulkar, Sourav or Akram. Now we have our own hero, it's a great feeling," he added.

It was, however, very hard for garment worker Jasim to pass a sleepless night as he must join duty in the morning but even he embraced the sweet hassle.

"Was it possible to miss the match? I can't explain how I feel. I never lost confidence on the team. I am looking forward to more success in the World Cup. I am confident because winning matches is nothing new for us any more. I told one of my friends after Bangladesh beat New Zealand that we will play in the semifinal. He simply laughed at me but now he even thinks beyond the second round," said the excited young man from Satkhira.

Even a vendor was as philosophical as any other cricket pundit: "Ami Ashcharja hoi nai karon era khub bhalo khele (I am not surprised because the boys are playing good cricket)," said Hashmat.

"We want to see our team go far from only one victory," was the common feeling.

And why not, the Tigers just roared off the mighty Indians! It seemed that the hunting party had left their rifles back home and just a 'licence to kill' was not enough for the former world champions.

This win for Manzarul: Bashar

AFP, Port of Spain

The party began for Bangladesh after their stunning World Cup win over India, but skipper Habibul Bashar reminded teammates they soon have to focus on the next match.

"It's very hard to keep your feet on the ground. The boys are not stopping jumping in the dressing-room," he said.

"It's very important victory for Bangladesh cricket, but tomorrow we will have to focus again on the next match."

Bangladesh pulled off one of the major upsets of the tournament when they beat former champions India by five wickets with nine balls to spare at the Queen's Park Oval here on Saturday.

They enjoyed their biggest day in the one-day event when they successfully chased India's total of 191, with teenagers Tamim Iqbal (51), Mushfiqur Rahim (56 not out) and Shakib Al Hasan (53) playing vital knocks.

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Kapali slams century

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Sylhet batsman Alok Kapali celebrates his more-celebrated teammates' World Cup victory against India with a superb 141 that gave Sylhet a solid start in the opening day of the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea

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A gallant new generation

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a 'unique one'.

Although killing giants in the World Cup is nothing new for the Tigers -- they beat eventual runners-up Pakistan in 1999 -- but the way they outplayed one of the pre-tournament favourites India in all three compartments of the game is something new.

"There had been ups and downs in the matches we had won previously against the giants. But it was not the case against India because we controlled the proceedings from the very beginning," said an excited former Bangladesh skipper Roquibul Hassan.

"I got emotional not only because Bangladesh won a match against a formidable side but the way they achieved it was incredible. It was truly a professional performance by the boys. I feel fortunate as a former captain that I could see my team playing the game in such a fashion," added the veteran.

Roquibul came hard on those who want to bracket the win as an upset because he honestly believes that this team have the ability to win matches regularly against any side in the world.

"Many are trying to term it as an upset: Why? I request them not to

use this word to denounce the performance or strength of the team. Had we not beaten teams like India, Australia, Sri Lanka or Pakistan in the past, it would have been accepted."

In defence of his explanation, the opening batsman picked up one player in the team and he was none but young all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who once again showed his ability of steadying the innings in the middle by making 53 runs. "Can you imagine we have a player like Shakib who holds an average over 50?"

Joy, however, knew no bound for ex-captain Akram Khan, who watched the game along with his family members in his Chittagong residence as it was nice to see his heir apparent Tamim Iqbal putting the Indian bowling to the sword.

"We were simply crying when Tamim was batting because my elder brother (late Iqbal Khan) would have been the happiest man to see his beloved son (Tamim) helping Bangladesh win a World Cup match against a team like India. I was involved in Bangladesh's few victories and witnessed some wins previously but it was something new to me," said Tamim's uncle Akram, who led Bangladesh to the historic ICC Trophy triumph.

"If Mashrafe (Bin Mortuza) had broken the backbone of the Indian team, Tamim hammered the final nail in the coffin with dazzling stroke-play. I can assure you that we did not have the courage in our generation to play cricket like this," he explained.

The burly batter took the oppor-

tunity to express regrets over his judgement over the inclusion young wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim, who kept cool to take the team safely to a five-wicket victory with a composed unbeaten knock of 56 after showing superb reflex in gloving Sachin Tendulkar's bad-pad catch.

"I made a mistake by criticising the selectors. What a cool customer he (Mushfiqur) is. I must say that the selectors were right. Actually, the young guys' attitude towards the game is totally different from our generation," he admitted.

To Khaled Mahmud, hero of Bangladesh's 1999 World Cup victory against Pakistan, the second round now looks just not a dream but a reality and he would love to see the team progress further.

"Why not make Sri Lanka the next target? It's true the Lankans play better under pressure and are also in good form. But nothing looks impossible for the Bangladesh team now after wins against India and New Zealand (in a warm-up match)," said the all-rounder.

"The cricket we played in the first game is simply outstanding. The confident cricket from the young breed actually makes the difference. I always love to see Tamim playing that way," he said of the explosive opener.

Bravo chief selector

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If you are a selector you definitely can't satisfy everybody. And Bangladesh chief selector Faruque Ahmed was no exception.

The former national skipper came under severe criticism when he decided to pick young wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim in the World Cup squad against popular choice Khaled Mashud.

But Faruque and his selection panel passed the acid test with flying colours early Sunday morning when little Mushfiq anchored Bangladesh to a historic five-wicket victory against India in Port of Spain.

The Bogra-lad struck an unbeaten 56 that contained two sweetly timed sixes after holding on to the catch of his life during the Indian innings that dismissed one-day cricket's leading batsman Sachin Tendulkar.

His matured innings and agility behind the stumps not only justified the faith of the selectors but also proved his critics including this newspaper wrong.

It now emerged as the Faruque-led panel's brave decision.



INDIA V BANGLADESH SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the World Cup Group B match between India and Bangladesh at Queen's Park Oval in Port of Spain on Saturday:

	R	M	B	4s	6s
INDIA					
Ganguly c Abdur Razzak b Mohammad Rafique	66	178	129	4	0
Sehwag b Mashrafe Bin Mortaza	2	12	6	0	0
Uthappa c Aftab Ahmed b Mashrafe Bin Mortaza	9	22	17	1	0
Tendulkar c Mushfiqur Rahim b Abdur Razzak	7	40	26	1	0
Dravid lbw b Mohammad Rafique	14	31	28	0	0
Yuvraj Singh c Habibul Bashar b Abdur Razzak	47	60	58	3	1
Dhoni c Aftab Ahmed b Mohammad Rafique	0	5	3	0	0
Harbhajan Singh b Abdur Razzak	0	4	3	0	0
Agarkar c Mushfiqur Rahim b Mashrafe Bin Mortaza	0	7	2	0	0
Zaheer Khan not out	15	22	17	2	0
Patel c Abdur Razzak b Mashrafe Bin Mortaza	15	17	15	2	0
Extras: (lb-5, w-3, nb-8)	16				
Total (All out in 49.3 overs)	191				
Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-21, 3-40, 4-72, 5-157, 6-158, 7-159, 8-159, 9-159, 10-191.					
Bowler	O	M	R	W	Econ
Mashrafe Bin Mortaza	9.3	2	38	4	4.00
Syed Raseel	10	2	31	0	3.10
Abdur Razzak	10	2	38	3	3.80
Shakib Al Hasan	10	0	44	0	4.40
Mohammad Rafique	10	2	35	3	3.50
BANGLADESH	R	M	B	4s	6s
Tamim Iqbal c Dhoni b Patel	51	55	53	7	2

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The breeding ground is HP

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against India in Port of Spain early Sunday where three teenagers stunned the world cricket fraternity.

Wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim, middle-order batsman Shakib Al Hasan and dashing left-handed opener Tamim Iqbal showed in the match that age could never be the sole criterion of maturity. Just imagine that the three players' average age is 18 which was good enough to embarrass the formidable Indian cricket team under the tutelage of former Australian great Greg Chappell.

They have already been branded as the 'young brigade' but now the immediate question is where the

products were actually made? The answer is they derived from the last few years' development programme undertaken by Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) under its High Performance (HP) programme.

If former BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury had initiated it then Arafat Rahman, former chairman of the Development Committee, brilliantly carried on with important programme that harvested a rich crop in the Caribbean.

"I must say it was the outcome of the BCB's development programme. What the young guys did yesterday is the result of this programme. The board focused on this work when we had thought that there would be huge a vacuum in the pipeline if we didn't take such kind of initiatives," said BCB general secretary Mahbubul Anam.

"The programme is ongoing in a more intense way and I strongly believe that its results would be

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TODAY'S MATCHES

Team	Time	Venue
India v Bermuda	7:30 pm	Trinidad v Tobago
West Indies v Zimbabwe	8:30 pm	Jamaica

Ad

What to WATCH

BTV & SET Max
ICC World Cup 2007
India v Bermuda
Live at 7:30 pm
West Indies v Zimbabwe
Live at 8:30 pm

ESPN
FA Cup
Man United v Middlebrough
Live at 1:55 am (Tuesday)

STAR Sports
FA Cup
Tottenham v Chelsea
Live at 2:00 am (Tuesday)

DAY'S EVENT

National Cricket League
Day Two (Four-day)
Barisal v Sylhet
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium