



A collage of images show (clockwise from left) Bangladesh middle-order batsman Mohammad Ashraful lofting one over the mid-on region while seam bowler Syed Rasel celebrating the fall of a Bermuda wicket at the Queen's Park Oval on Sunday; rapturous early morning celebrations at the TSC following the Tigers' qualification to the Super 8s on Sunday night; and a tiny tot and his mother rooting for the red and green at the Queen's Park Oval where Bangladesh got the better of Bermuda to create history.



## This is our moment

TIGERCRICKET.COM, Port of Spain



It didn't quite sink in until the winning runs had been scored. Bangladesh's progress to the World Cup Super Eight is probably the most heartening moment for the true cricket neutrals and it didn't come easy. Bermuda's opening bowlers particularly the balding 36-year-old Saleem Mukudem made sure that some fingers and nails would be chewed and classy teenagers and experienced heads would fight as much with the extravagant seam movement as with their inner self before finally completing victory.

Mohammad Ashraful. One without a this called nerve in his system the other in one of those diamond streaks of his when no one but he himself decides when to get out. They changed their arms, missed, got beaten and had chances dropped or go through unmaned. But in the end it was their determination to write history that saw the Tigers home a fact acknowledged by the men who knew how tough it was.

"This game was the most difficult you could be in to qualify. To wait all day and then play 21 overs against a team that you are supposed to beat and beat well, chasing that total wasn't easy as the ball was doing all sorts of things," said coach Dav Whatmore. "It was very difficult for the boys in the first ten overs. It was the most difficult situation possible. I take my hat off (to the players). Yes it was close and the heart was pumping a little bit but the boys have not been in this situation before and they have done very, very well."

"The triumph was also another statement from the team's youth brigade. "We've got a couple of guys who have good experience but still that is not the experience like some of the others. Apart from Habibul (Bashar) and Rafique the others are all below the age of 23. So it was young, it contains a lot of enthusiasm and energy and it's good to be a part of it and to see some of the results coming through. We still have a long way to go but when you see results like this it's really heart-warming and reassuring that what you're doing is correct," said Whatmore.

Captain Habibul Bashar couldn't have agreed more. "It was very tense and I would be lying if I said that I wasn't feeling a touch nervous. In a 50 overs game you have a chance to come back. Here with just 21 overs on offer if you lose wickets early and then find the asking run rate going up it just makes the task more difficult, doesn't matter who you are playing against."

Whatmore has seen it all. A miracle-maker with Sri Lanka he knows what his current charges are capable of and the preparation had been laid down accordingly.

Enter Shakib Al Hasan and

Greg Chappell (India cricket coach)

"I think there is a need for a serious introspection, but I don't think it should start today."

After his team, which was eventually knocked out of the World Cup by Bangladesh on Sunday, lost to Sri Lanka on Friday.

What to WATCH

BTV & SET Max

ICC World Cup 2007 (Super Eights)

West Indies v Australia

Live at 7:30 pm

ICC Cricket World Cup West Indies 2007

ICC Cricket World Cup West Indies 2007