



(Clockwise from top): Fast bowler Mashrafe Bin Mortaza jumps to stop the ball; left-arm seamer Syed Rasel celebrates with Mushfiqur Rahim the prized scalp of Jacques Kallis; Shaun Pollock fails to make his ground as Tamim Iqbal (not in picture) directly hits the stumps to run him out; South Africa captain Graeme Smith walks out after being dismissed by Rasel during Bangladesh's 67-run victory at the Guyana National Stadium in Georgetown on Saturday.

## 'We've made history'

AFP, Georgetown



Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar hailed his country's stunning 67-run victory over world number one South Africa on Saturday as the team's greatest ever triumph.

"It's an historic win," said Bashar after his Tigers had bowled out the Proteas for 184 in reply to 251-8 in their World Cup Super Eights match at Providence.

"We had them under pressure at times but we released that pressure. We never got our disciplines right

"We can now think of moving forward in the tournament. We lifted ourselves in this game and once we put a good total on the board we knew we could fight."

South Africa are hanging on to the fourth and last semifinal qualifying place and captain Graeme Smith admitted that his highly-rated team, who squeezed out a one-wicket win over Sri Lanka last week, had been disappointing.

"It was a poor day for us but credit to Bangladesh who played very well," said Smith.

"We had them under pressure at times but we released that pressure. We never got our disciplines right

and we didn't get our basics right. "If you don't get those basics right you won't win games. We gave them an opportunity and they took it with both hands."

"It's hard to take positives from any facet of the game today (Sunday)."

Middle-order batsman Mohammad Ashraful played a key role for Bangladesh as he smashed a quickfire 83-ball 87 to help survive South African paceman Andrew Nel's maiden five-wicket haul in the morning session.

"This game is all about teamwork," said the 22-year-old Ashraful. "We got to 251 and then we

bowled really well, especially the three spinners.

"When I came in with three wickets down early on, I had a plan to bat and stay in. But Aftab Ahmed (35) and Mashrafe Mortaza (25) played well too."

Left-arm seamer Syed Rasel then built on Ashraful's effort, dismissing South Africa skipper Graeme Smith (12) and in-form Jacques Kallis (32) in his opening spell to put South Africa on the back foot.

Rattled by pace, South Africa

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### Insult to injury

AFP, Georgetown

The International Cricket Council (ICC) match referee Chris Broad rubbed salt in South Africa's wounds by handing them a fine for a slow over-rate fine during their 67-run defeat against Bangladesh here Saturday.

Chris Broad imposed the fines after Graeme Smith's side was ruled to be one over short of its target at the scheduled finish of the Bangladesh innings when time allowances were taken into consideration," said a ICC statement.

"In accordance with the ICC Code of Conduct regulations governing over-rate penalties, players are fined five per cent of their match fees for every over their side

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## Proteas vilified at home

AFP, Johannesburg

South Africa's crushing defeat against Bangladesh in the World Cup was greeted with derision back home Sunday, with former players slamming the team's complacency and one-dimensional pace attack.

"Proteas humiliated" read the headline in the Sunday Times which said the hopes of glory for the team ranked number one in the world in one-day cricket had "suffered a severe setback" as a result of their

"dismal performance".

"The defeat plunged South Africa from being among the favourites to reach the semifinals to possibly needing to win all three of their remaining matches against the West Indies, England and New Zealand," the paper added.

Rank outsiders Bangladesh cruised to a 67-run victory over the South Africans in Guyana on Saturday, their first ever victory over the Proteas.

Former South African captain Kepler Wessels said Graeme Smith's team had been guilty of underestimating a Bangladesh side, which has already accounted for India in the first round of the tournament in the Caribbean.

"We probably turned up and thought it was a walk in the park, something we could take for granted," he said on the Supersport cable network.

Much of the damage was caused by a trio of left-arm Bangladeshi spinners, while South Africa went into the match without any recognised slow bowler.

Commentators have long warned South Africa's over-reliance on pace could come back to haunt them in the tournament.

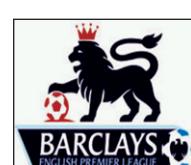
Former chairman of selectors Omar Henry said the selection of the team had not taken the pitch conditions into account.

"We left the spinner out but

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## Title race opens up

AFP, London



Manchester United's hold on the top of the Premiership crumbled Saturday as their defeat at Portsmouth blew open the title race and left Chelsea breathing down their necks.

The Red Devils lost 2-1 to Pompey after champions Chelsea cranked up the pressure with a 1-0 victory at home to Tottenham Hotspur, leaving them just three points behind United with just six games remaining.

Elsewhere, relegation-threatened West Ham stunned Arsenal with a 1-0 victory, becoming the first visiting side to win a competitive match at the new Emirates Stadium, while Liverpool left it late to beat hosts Reading 2-1.

Portsmouth's Matty Taylor capitalised on a weak block from United

goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar to score in the 30th minute at Fratton Park.

The Netherlands international was caught off his line in the 89th minute, Rio Ferdinand's toe-poke running past him for an own goal.

United's John O'Shea pulled one back in stoppage time but it was too little, too late.

United boss Alex Ferguson admitted it was a shot in the arm for Chelsea and the title race could go to the wire.

"They are going to be crucial games now," he told Sky Sports television.

"It probably will be a psychological boost for them. If it was down to winning the last game at Old Trafford I think I'd take that."

At Stamford Bridge, Ricardo Carvalho's 52nd-minute goal won it for Chelsea against Spurs as they kept the heat on United.

The Portugal centre-half fired a low drive past Paul Robinson for his third league goal of the season.

"We should have scored 10 and in the end we lost 1-0, so it is very difficult to understand how it happened," said Gunners boss Arsene Wenger.

"It is very difficult to find a logical explanation."

Liverpool strengthened their grip on third place thanks to a late strike against the Royals.

Defender Alvaro Arbeloa scored in the 15th minute with a smart finish.

Iceland midfielder Bjornar Gunnarsson stunned the Champions League quarter-finalists in the 47th minute, taking the ball on his chest and blasting it across the goalface and into the net off the far post.

But Dutch forward Dirk Kuyt won it for the Reds with a header four minutes from time.

"Hopefully we will reach the semifinal of the Champions League and I hope we can be sure we are in the top four so we can concentrate on that," Liverpool boss Rafael Benitez said.

Bolton Wanderers beat hosts Wigan 3-1 in a Lancashire derby at the

JJB Stadium to move just two points behind Arsenal.

Wigan's former England forward Emile Heskey scored his 100th career league goal in the 32nd minute.

France striker Nicolas Anelka equalised but Bolton defender Andranik Teymourian then scored twice to leave Wigan two points above the relegation zone.

Visitors Newcastle United worsened Sheffield United's relegation woes with a 2-1 win at Bramall Lane as Aston Villa eased their fears of the drop with a 2-1 win at Blackburn.

Mid-table Middlesbrough thrashed rock-bottom Watford 4-1 at The Riverside.

### TOP SIX

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Man Utd	32	25	3	4	75	23	78
Chelsea	32	23	6	3	56	19	75
Liverpool	32	18	6	8	50	22	60
Arsenal	31	16	7	8	52	29	55
Bolton	32	16	5	11	39	39	53
Everton	32	13	11	8	43	28	50



Portsmouth's Matty Taylor takes the ball around Manchester United striker Ole Gunnar Solskjaer during their Premiership match at Portsmouth on Saturday.