



Wily Bangladesh spinner Mohammad Rafique (top) runs down the wicket towards wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim (bottom) after casting England middle-order batsman Ravi Bopara during their World Cup Super Eights match at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown on Wednesday.

Milan showcase pedigree

AFP, Munich

Bayern Munich coach Ottmar Hitzfeld admitted his side were bitterly disappointed at their Champions League exit after suffering a 2-0 home defeat to AC Milan on Wednesday night.

Bayern's proud home record of 11 Champions League games without defeat, held since November 2004, came to an abrupt end as they lost the quarterfinal 4-2 on aggregate.

The Italians came alive midway through the first-half with two goals in less than five minutes by Clarence Seedorf and Filippo Inzaghi, which booked Milan a semifinal berth against Manchester United.

The disappointment was acute for the Germans, who had held the advantage from the first-leg after Belgian defender Daniel Van Buyten's equaliser in the third minute of stoppage time gave Bayern a 2-2 draw at the San Siro last week.

AC Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti said that with all the problems his side had faced during the season they had shown real character.

"With the loss of points in the championship (over the

matchfixing scandal) and injuries since the month of December we have been showing what we are capable of," said Ancelotti.

"We really handled this match well, especially once I moved Seedorf out to the left a bit more," he added.

Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld admitted the result was a bitter blow.

"The disappointment is massive," said Hitzfeld, "because we had high hopes after making a good start in Milan. But I have always said that Milan would be dangerous."

Bayern Munich president and football legend Franz Beckenbauer echoed Hitzfeld's sentiments after watching his side squandered their first-leg advantage.

"I am disappointed because we had high hopes after the first leg, but I must say AC Milan were the best side over the two legs," he said.

"We tried everything in the second-half to get back in the game, but we did not take our chances."

"We made errors and perhaps we lacked some creativity."

Bayern suffered a blow before kick-off when German international Bastian Schweinsteiger pulled out with a knee injury he suffered in last weekend's 2-1 win over Hanover, after scoring

the winning goal, and his influence was missed.

Bosnian international Hasan Salihamidzic came in at right-back for injured Argentinian Martin Demichelis, while Owen Hargreaves partnered Dutch hardman Mark van Bommel in midfield.

"We didn't play well," admitted van Bommel, with the disappointment etched all over his face.

"We started in a positive fashion, but we made life hard for ourselves when they scored two quick goals."

"We had a few chances late in the second-half, we just couldn't take them."

By contrast Milan's hardman midfieler Gennaro Gattuso said that they had never lost hope even after being held 2-2 at home.

"This is our fourth semifinal in five years. If that isn't a great team then I don't know what is."

AC Milan were missing cup-tied Brazilian Ronaldo and Italian striker Alberto Gilardino was suspended after picking up a yellow card in the first leg as the Italians.

Ancelotti played a 4-4-1-1 combination with Kaka just behind lone striker Inzaghi and it proved to be a winning formation.

Bayern had several early half-chances and Milan had to wait until the 20th minute for their first

real opportunity when Inzaghi directed a weak header straight into the arms of Bayern captain and goalkeeper Oliver Kahn.

But the guests drew first blood when Seedorf drove his shot hard and low past the diving Kahn to give the visitors a 1-0 lead after 27 minutes to silence the home fans.

And just five minutes later the German giants suffered a hammer blow when Inzaghi was put into space past Bayern defender Lucio and his powerful shot gave Kahn no chance on 31 minutes.

Lukas Podolski squandered a chance to pull a goal back when van Bommel's cross fell at his feet in the six-yard box, but he failed to connect and Dida scooped the ball out of danger as the Italians went into the break 2-0 ahead.

Bayern came out firing after the interval and Salihamidzic picked up a yellow-card for a heavy challenge just after the hour mark as his side pushed forward.

The home side camped in the Italians half in the dying stages as Podolski went close on numerous occasions and substitute striker Claudio Pizarro hit the side netting with five minutes left.

But it was too little, too late and Milan now face Manchester United in the semifinal on 24/25 April for a place in the Athens final up for grabs on May 23.

Bashar revises target

AFP, Bridgetown



Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar conceded his team's World Cup semifinal hopes are doomed after a four-wicket defeat against England in the Super Eights match here.

"Had we won today (Wednesday) we'd be in the running for a semifinal place, but our chances are slim now. It's very tough for us and we now hope to finish at least sixth," the Bangladeshi captain said.

Bangladesh had chances of making it to the last-four after a surprise win over South Africa in Guyana last week, but Wednesday's defeat virtually knocked them out of contention.

They have just two points from five matches and will play the West Indies and debutants Ireland in their remaining two games.

Defending champions Australia and New Zealand lead the table with eight points from four matches, followed by Sri Lanka (6/4), South Africa (6/5), England (4/5) and the

West Indies (2/5).

"I'm happy overall with my team's performance. We lost a couple of close games and won a couple of big games. We still have two more games to play in this competition

and we will try to push hard," said Bashar.

"I'm pleased with the progress of Bangladesh cricket in this tournament. We have to be consistent, instead of winning one big game

and then waiting for the next good performance."

Bangladesh were let down by their batting on a pitch offering movement and bounce to seamers in the early overs as they could manage just 143 after being put in to bat.

"The wicket played a bit different here, but I still think we should adapt whatever the conditions," said Bashar.

"The pitch did a bit in the opening 15 overs, because the ball was bouncing and flying. In Guyana, the wicket was different and I think that made the difference."

Middle-order batsman Shakib Al Hasan top-scored for Bangladesh with a solid half-century but received no support.

"It was a fantastic effort by Shakib Al, but one more big knock would have made it a different story. It was a bad toss to lose and if we had managed to score 220, it would have been difficult to chase," said Bashar.

The Bangladeshi captain himself is struggling for runs, having made just 61 in seven matches.

"I'm frustrated with my batting performance because it hasn't helped the team," said Bashar.

SEE PAGE 22 COL 6

SLADESH V ENGLAND SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the World Cup Super Eights match between Bangladesh and England at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown on Wednesday:

BANGLADESH	R	B	4s	6s
Tamim Iqbal c Paul Collingwood b Sajid Mahmood	8	7	2	0
Shahriar Nafees c Andrew Strauss b Sajid Mahmood	9	18	1	0
Habibul Bashar run out (Michael Vaughan/Paul Nixon)	4	18	0	0
Mushfiqur Rahim b Andrew Flintoff	7	11	1	0
Shakib Al Hasan not out	57	95	6	1
Mohammad Ashraful c Paul Nixon b James Anderson	1	6	0	0
Aftab Ahmed c Paul Nixon b James Anderson	10	5	1	0
Mashrafe Bin Mortaza b Monty Panesar	13	43	0	0
Mohammad Rafique c Andrew Strauss b Monty Panesar	0	4	0	0
Abdur Razzak c Paul Collingwood b Monty Panesar	15	17	3	0
Syed Rasel c Andrew Flintoff b Sajid Mahmood	4	2	1	0

SEE PAGE 22 COL 6

Marcus is back

AFP, London

England opening batsman Marcus Trescothick said on Wednesday he is desperate to play again for the national team which will come as welcome news for a squad currently struggling at the World Cup.

The 31-year-old left-hander, who quit the winter Ashes tour in Australia because of a stress-related illness, showed he is on the way to a return to form by making 256 off just 117 balls in a pre-season friendly for Somerset against Devon on Sunday.

"I am desperate to play for England again," Trescothick told Somerset's official website.

"But it wouldn't be fair to anyone if I attempted to do so again without being doubly certain that I could complete an overseas tour, as well as partake in games overseas."

"I am sure I will reach a stage when I am fully recovered, but I will not put pressure on myself by

SEE PAGE 22 COL 5

WOOLMER MURDER TV footage sent to UK

BBC ONLINE, undated

Police investigating the murder of Pakistan cricket coach Bob Woolmer have sent CCTV images to the UK for analysis, Jamaican officials have said.

Woolmer was found dead in his Kingston hotel on 18 March, the day after his side lost to Ireland in the World Cup. It is believed he was strangled.

Representatives of the UK and Pakistani police forces have been sent to Jamaica to help police with the investigation.

The ex-England batsman's body remains in Jamaica pending a coroner's inquiry.

A memorial service for Woolmer was held in Cape Town, South Africa,

SEE PAGE 22 COL 8

'Hard nut to crack'

AFP, Bridgetown



England captain Michael Vaughan saw his team labour to a four-wicket win over Bangladesh on Wednesday and admitted

there was plenty of work to do if they are to make the World Cup semi-finals.

Chasing just 144 to win the Super Eights match at the Kensington Oval, England looked desperately out of form and at one stage threatened to be undone by Bangladesh's spin attack who had already stunned South Africa last week.

"We bowled really well. (Sajid) Mahmood was outstanding with the new ball but Bangladesh are a good team. They beat South Africa and beat India earlier in the tournament. They are a hard team to beat," said Vaughan.

spin from Abdur Razzak (2-30) and Mohammad Rafique (2-33) before wrapping up the victory after 44.5 overs.

From a well-set 70-2, Razzak started the mini-slide by dismissing Vaughan (30) and Kevin Pietersen (10) in successive overs.

Andrew Flintoff (23) hit three boundaries during his brief stay but Rafique accounted for the all-rounder and Ravi Bopara (nought) in his sixth over to leave England reeling at 110-6 with 34 still needed for victory.

However, Paul Collingwood (23) and Paul Nixon (20) held their nerve during their unbroken 37-run seventh-wicket stand to ensure victory.

"We bowled really well. (Sajid) Mahmood was outstanding with the new ball but Bangladesh are a good team. They beat South Africa and beat India earlier in the tournament. They are a hard team to beat," said Vaughan.

Vaughan.

"We have got areas to improve on but we have had a good look at the ground now going into the South Africa game and have more knowledge of the wicket."

"Full credit to their bowlers but the important thing was we got over the line and it sets up a big game against South Africa, which looks like being a quarterfinal."

England now have four points but still need to beat South Africa here on Tuesday as well as West Indies on April 21 if they are to have any hope of making the semifinals after a lacklustre campaign.

England virtually ended Bangladesh's chances of reaching the last four but captain Habibul Bashar said he was proud of his team who were not expected to reach the second round.

"We didn't know how many to

SEE PAGE 22 COL 8

Vaughan looks to raise game

AFP, Bridgetown



Skipper Michael Vaughan hopes his own form and that of his fellow England batsmen improves in the crunch World Cup matches against South Africa and the West Indies.

"We have to improve our batting display when we play South Africa because we know they are a good side and they're going to put us under pressure," said Vaughan after England limped to a four-wicket win over Bangladesh here on Wednesday.

England have just four points having also won against Ireland in the second round but been defeated by champions Australia as well as Sri Lanka.

Australia and New Zealand lead the table with eight points from four

matches, followed by Sri Lanka (6pts/4 matches) and South Africa (6/5).

Bangladesh (2/5) and the West Indies (2/5) are behind England and virtually out of contention.

Vaughan himself is in poor form, having a sequence of 45, one, six, nought, five and 30 in the current World Cup.

"It's about 30 more than I've been getting lately," said Vaughan about his score against Bangladesh.

"I'd like to have been a bit more free, but they bowled quite nicely and it was important to get some time out in the middle. I felt my feet were moving well and I'd have liked to have got 60 or 70 but it's good to have a few."

Vaughan said Bangladesh's test would add to his team's confidence.

SEE PAGE 22 COL 5



AC Milan midfieler Clarence Seedorf (R) watches his 20-yard drive sail past the outstretched arms of the diving Bayern Munich goalkeeper Oliver Kahn (L) for a goal during their Champions League quarterfinal second-leg match at the Allianz Arena on Wednesday.

PHOTO: INTERNET