



Bangladesh wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim is being stretchered off by team's support staff after being struck on the face by a Faisal Hossain delivery in the first one-day against England at Trent Bridge in Nottingham on Thursday.

Bell tolls for England

Cricket

AFP, Nottingham

Ian Bell marked his return to England's one-day side with an unbeaten 84 as they defeated Bangladesh by six wickets in the first of a three-match series at Trent Bridge here on Thursday.

Bell, recalled in the absence of injured No 3 Kevin Pietersen, faced 101 balls with six fours as England, chasing 251 to win, finished on 251 for four with 29 balls to spare in this day/night fixture.

Defeat left Bangladesh still searching for their first win against England, who have never beaten the Tigers in 20 matches all told, a sequence comprising eight Test victories and 12 one-day international successes.

This was Bell's first ODI since facing India in Bangalore in November 2008.

However, he'd restated his one-day case with a limited overs best 158 for the second string England Lions in their tied triangular series match against India A on Tuesday.

This was a much less spectacular innings but one England needed after they lost two wickets in quick succession to be 93 for two.

"Andy Flower (the England coach) spoke to me about a few things when he left me out of the side last year, mainly about playing spinners in the middle overs and it's started to pay off," Bell told Sky Sports.

England captain Andrew Strauss, who made a brisk fifty, added: "We were pretty happy

with the way we dealt with the ball except maybe the start.

"It was a pretty clinical and professional chase and we are happy to have won the game."

Bangladesh, without a win in 2010, saw this defeat made worse as wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim, hit in the face by a delivery from spinner Faisal Hossain and top-scorer Raqibul Hasan, who broke a toe when struck on the foot by England seamer James Anderson, both suffered injuries that ruled them out of the remainder of the series.

Raqibul had marked his return to international duty with 76 in a total of 250 for nine fter quitting in protest at being left out of Bangladesh's preliminary squad for the World Twenty20 in the Caribbean.

He was out after runner Shakib Al Hasan was stranded mid-pitch and run out in a dismissal that summed up Bangladesh's match.

England made a rapid start to their reply thanks to a first wicket-stand of 75 between captain Andrew Strauss, whose 37-ball fifty featured seven boundaries, and Craig Kieswetter.

Strauss has opted out of Twenty20, and so missed England's World Twenty20 final win against Australia in Barbados in May, because he believes his game is not suited to the format.

But there was no lack of aggression from the left-hander as he lofted Shafiqul Islam over extra-cover.

However, in the 12th over and having just reached his fifty, Strauss was needlessly run out.

Kieswetter pushed spinner Abdur Razzak into the covers and Strauss called him through for a single. But Strauss, who didn't dive, failed to beat Mahmudullah's direct hit from cover.

Then Kieswetter, who'd launched Razzak for six, fell for 32 when he top-edged a slog-sweep off Shakib Al Hasan, another of Bangladesh's spinners, and Faisal took a well-judged catch on the boundary.

Paul Collingwood and Bell steadied the innings with a partnership of 80.

Collingwood was out for 33 when a top-edged sweep off Shakib was caught by stand-in keeper Junaed Siddiqui.

But Bell, using his feet well against the spinners, saw England to victory with his 16th fifty in 80 ODIs.

Tamim Iqbal, who made hundreds in both of England's two recent Test wins over the Tigers, got Bangladesh off to a blistering start as he took fours off the first two balls of the innings from James Anderson.

But their run-rate was checked when Tamim, trying to guide a straight ball from first change Stuart Broad to third man, was lbw for 28 to leave Bangladesh 40 for one.

Siddiqui and Raqibul frustrated England and it needed the introduction of left-arm spinner Michael Yardy, the seventh bowler used, to break the third-wicket stand when he had Siddiqui lbw for 51.

The series continues at Bristol on Saturday.

Bangladesh at Trent Bridge on Thursday:

BANGLADESH
Tamim lbw b Broad 28
Imrul c Morgan b Anderson 14
Zunaed bw b Yardy 51
Rokibul run out 76
Shakib c Anderson b Broad 20
Mushfiqur c Wright b Bresnan 22
Mahmudullah lbw b Anderson 4
Faisal not out 8
Mashrafe c Bell b Anderson 5
Razzak b Bresnan 3
Extras: (b-1, b-7, w-11) 19
Total: (For 9 wkts in 50 overs) 250
Did not bat: Shafiqul
Fall of wickets: 1-40, 2-70, 3-136, 4-186, 5-222, 6-234, 7-236, 8-243, 9-250.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anderson	10	0	74	3
Bresnan	10	0	40	2
Broad	10	1	43	2
Tredwell	3	0	18	0
Wright	3	0	20	0
Collingwood	9	1	32	0
Yardy	5	0	15	1

ENGLAND
Strauss run out (Mahmudullah) 50
Kieswetter c Faisal b Shakib 32
Bell not out 84
Collingwood c Zunaed b Shakib 33
Morgan c Shafiqul b Razzak 23
Yardy not out 10
Extras: (b-5, lb-4, w-10) 19
Total: (For 4 wkts in 45.1 overs) 251
Did not bat: Wright, Bresnan, Tredwell, Broad, Anderson.
Fall of wickets: 1-75, 2-93, 3-173, 4-213.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mashrafe	6	0	30	0
Shafiqul	5	0	46	0
Razzak	10	0	64	1
Shakib	10	0	35	2
Mahmudullah	8	0	41	0
Faisal	6.1	0	26	0

Result: England won by six wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Ian Bell.
Toss: Bangladesh

Fight for

thought it was fantastic to play for third place," said Lahm, referring to their defeat of Portugal in the third place match in Germany in 2006.

"Before, like a lot of people, I didn't even want to watch this match on television.

"But now, I believe that winning this match is important, that it can provide us with some consolation."

For one German player too there remains the possibility of leaving his permanent mark on the World Cup.

Miroslav Klose, who is unlikely to be part of the next squad in 2014 when he will be 36, needs two goals against Uruguay to pass Brazil's Ronaldo as the all-time World Cup leading goalscorer. He has already bagged 14 in three World Cups.

However, the Bayern Munich star was classed as a doubt after picking up a knock in the semifinal defeat.

"Klose has problems with his back," said German assistant coach Hansi Flick.

"He was hurt in an aerial duel, and we are hoping that he will be okay for the match."

Forlan eyes big scalp

Cricket

AFP, Port Elizabeth

Striker Diego Forlan says he is confident that Uruguay will have the measure of Germany in Saturday's World Cup third place play-off in Port Elizabeth.

"I think it will be an attractive game - Germany play very good football. But we also have our style of play. I hope it will be a good game - but our goal is to go out there and win this third place for Uruguay," said the Atletico Madrid forward, who has scored four goals at the tournament.

Forlan had to go off in the final minutes of Tuesday's 3-2 semifinal loss to Holland, who now meet Spain in Sunday's trophy match.

But he insists he will be back and raring to go on Saturday.

"I am a little tired - we have had a lot of games and now we're into the final training sessions but after an intense year it's normal (to feel fatigued)," he said.

"I want to show my thanks

to the people who have supported us. The important thing is to out there and get this third place," says the man who has enjoyed a renaissance in Spain since his difficult two-years in England with Manchester United.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

GEARING UP FOR THE BIG DAY: A man in Jatrabari takes his television to a repairing shop after it stopped working yesterday. Like billions across the world, this man is also getting ready ahead of Sunday's World Cup final.

What to WATCH
ESPN
FIFA 2010 World Cup
THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF
Uruguay v Germany
Live from 12:30am (Sunday)
STAR Cricket
England v Bangladesh
Second ODI
Live from 3:45pm

Thumping win for Mariners

SPORTS REPORTER

Rabbi slammed a hat-trick to power Mariner Youngs Club to a thumping 9-0 win over winless Wari Club in the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Mariners took only two minutes to open the floodgate as Rimon Kumar put the Arambagh-based outfit ahead, before Sarwar doubled the advantage three minutes later.

Maidul made it 3-0 before Rabbi completed his treble striking in the 21st, 24th and 26th minutes.

After resumption of play in the second half, Maidul struck his second, Rabbi his fourth while Dhiman completed the rout to ensure Mariners' fifth victory that took them to the third position along with Sonali Bank.

In the day's other match, Azad Sporting Club handed a 6-3 defeat to Bangladesh Sporting Club after leading the first half 4-1.

Sagar scored three goals while Rahman, Imon and Joy netted one goal each for Azad. Gautam struck a brace and Nayan netted one for Bangladesh SC.

Sagar takes solo lead

SPORTS REPORTER

FM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar maintained his solo lead in the Mercantile Bank 36th National Chess Championship at the close of the seventh round at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room yesterday.

Sagar beat Sharif Hossain to keep his unbeaten run and has seven points from as many games.

GM Reefat Bin Sattar and FM Abu Sultan Shakil shared the second position with six points each while FM Mehdi Hasan Parag and Debaraj Chatterjee were in the third position with five points each.

Reefat beat Abdullah Al Saif, Shakil beat Parag, Debaraj beat Arman Monir, Mizanur Rahman Labu beat Mahtabuddin Ahmed Robin, FM Kh. Aminul Islam.

Drew against FM Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon, FM Mohammad Javed drew against Golam Mostafa Bhuiyan.

Loew to sign new deal, says Bild

AFP, Berlin

German coach Joachim Loew will be handed a new contract as a reward for guiding Germany to the World Cup semifinals it was reported by the normally reliable Bild on Friday.

The 50-year-old - who since replacing Jurgen Klinsmann as coach after the 2006 World Cup has taken Germany to the Euro 2008 final where like Wednesday's semifinal they were beaten by Spain - has been out of contract since June 30.

However, according to Bild despite initial talks having broken down earlier this year over financial disagreements and also over Loew's desire to have more control over the Under-21 side, German Football Federation (DFB) president Theo Zwanziger will rubberstamp the new agreement on July 30 at an executive committee meeting.

Ashraful

FROM PAGE 17
prospect of having to use Jahurul Islam, who missed the Trent Bridge match with illness, at Bristol if Sahagir doesn't arrive in time for Saturday's game.

Bangladesh have not won a single international match in 2010, and morale in the squad is low, a fact that Mashrafe Mortaza did not try to disguise on his return to the captaincy for the first time in 12 months. "I think we need some belief, definitely," he said. "Hopefully we will find it next game."

Bangladesh have lost all 24 of their internationals matches this year, a dismal run comprising defeats in seven Tests, 14 ODIs and three Twenty20s.

"It's very difficult to beat a team like England in England," he added.

"They beat Australia and they are in really good form. Also, we have lost two key players in the side so it's not easy."

"Hopefully the boys that are experienced will show some good batting. But the team is definitely under pressure now. We have lost 20 games in a row, and as a captain I have to lift the other fourteen guys."

Sergio targets Wesley

AFP, Potchefstroom

Spain holding midfielder Sergio Busquets vowed to make Holland playmaker Wesley Sneijder's life impossible when the pair meet in the World Cup final.

Both European teams will be bidding for their first ever world title when they meet in Johannesburg on Sunday.

And while European champions Spain are the clear favourites, they are well aware of the threat posed by the Dutch playmaker, a reported 35 million-euro target for Manchester United.

And it will be Barcelona midfielder Busquets's job to try to stop the 26-year-old, just as he was asked to do in the Champions League when his team were knocked out in the semifinals by Sneijder's Inter Milan.

"He's a great player and he's playing great. We'll try to stop him like any other player," said the 21-year-old Busquets.

"We'll try to deny him even the time to think because otherwise he can create some good chances for their forwards."

And while Busquets singled out the particular threat posed by Sneijder, back-up centre-back Carlos Marchena believes the Dutch have no

weaknesses at all.

"They've got lots of strong points, they defend well, they have a great goalkeeper, their midfielders cover the whole pitch and up front they score lots of goals and are very quick," he said.

"Their counter-attacks are lethal, they're a complete team."

With the way Spain hold onto the ball and move it around with consummate ease and authority, opposing teams are often wary of pushing up against them.

One feature of the tournament is that Spain's opponents have mostly sat back quite deep to try to stop them being opened up by the clever and quick passing of players such as Andres Iniesta and Xavi.

But whatever tactics the Dutch bring to the table, Busquets believes they will have the answer.

"We've come up against everything, opponents like Switzerland who sat back, others like Chile and Paraguay who close you down," he said.

"(Holland) will play their game, both teams will play the way they know how."

Spain play very much in the Barcelona mould, a system that was largely developed by Dutchmen such as Johan Cruyff, Louis van Gaal and Frank Rijkaard.

And Busquets admits that if Spain, who have seven Barcelona players in their starting line-up, win, part of their success will be down to the Dutch.

"I can talk about Van Gaal and Cruyff, they did a great job and developed the game and philosophy at Cantera (the Barcelona training centre)," he said.

"Rijkaard launched a 4-3-3, he started that system (at Barca) and in the national team. That helped."

Busquets is one of the new names in the team compared to the one that triumphed in Austria and Switzerland two years ago, but he wasn't prepared to speculate on whether Spain were better or worse with him in the team.

Set up a free Ovi Mail account from your device and enjoy 1GB email storage space.



[Visit www.ovi.com](http://www.ovi.com)

Bolt back with a win

AFP, Lausanne

World record-holder sprinter Usain Bolt returned from an achilles tendon injury with a clear win over seven rivals at the Diamond League meet here Thursday.

The Jamaican outran his 100 metres opponents comfortably, racing across the finish line in a time of 9.82 seconds.

Asked if he felt any pain during the run, Bolt replied: "Slightly."

But he quickly added that he "would not say it was painful, but that it takes time to heal."

Overall, the world champion who matched the best time this season assessed: "I was feeling extremely nice and good."

"It's getting better and the weather was warm so it was good," added the Olympic star, who won the loudest cheers at the stadium.

"I'm very happy because the weather helped me to run fast and Billie Jean brought me in the best conditions for the race, because I felt a bit asleep by the training," he said, referring to

Michael Jackson's hit song.

Fellow Jamaican Yohan Blake came second with 9.96s while Churandy Martina took third with 10.16s.

Bolt, the world record holder for 100 metres and 200 metres, had decided to run the shorter sprint instead of the 200 in order to avoid any new injury, the organisers of the Athletissima meeting in Lausanne had said ahead of the event.

To accommodate Bolt, organiser Jacky Delapierre had obtained special approval from the IAAF to add the 100 metres event to the programme.

With Bolt out of the 200 metres, American Walter Dix prevailed with a time of 19.86 seconds, though it remained far from the time of 19.56 seconds set by Bolt this year before he picked up his injury.

While short of all-time records, several athletes managed this year's bests here.

American Jeremy Wariner managed to shave a few seconds off the season's top 400 metres time, with 44.57 seconds.

"This time was planned because I wanted to take the leadership again in this discipline," he said.



PHOTO: AFP
SPRINTING BOLT: Jamaica's Usain Bolt (L) is on his way to winning the 100m sprint of the IAAF Diamond League athletics meeting at the Olympic stadium in Lausanne on Wednesday.

Malinga makes a return

Cricket

CRICINFO, Colombo

Fast bowler Lasith Malinga has been named in the 16-member Sri Lanka squad for the three-Test series against India beginning on July 18, setting him up for a return to Tests after two-and-a-half years. However, there was no place for spinner Ajantha Mendis, who tormented India during their previous Test visit two years ago.

Malinga played his last Test against England at Galle in 2007 before a knee injury laid him low and forced him out of cricket for nine months. Malinga was cured by Sri Lanka President Mahinda Rajapakse's personal physician Dr Eliyantha White and since then his appearances for his country has been only in limited-over internationals and in Twenty20 Internationals.

Malinga's return to Test cricket was slow because the team physio did not want to push him too early to play in the longer version of the game. However selection committee sources stated that they had let the greenlight from physio Tommy Simsek who has been monitoring Malinga's progress carefully that he was now fully fit to play in a five-day Test match.

"Malinga has nine more days before the first Test against India and we are confident he will be fit to play. He has been bowling long spells at

the nets and has shown no side effects," a selection committee source said. Since making his Test debut against Australia at Darwin in 2004, Malinga has played in 28 Tests and captured 91 wickets. The other members of the fast-bowling department are Dilhara Fernando, Chanaka Welegedara and Dammika Prasad.

Off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan who is due to retire at the end of Galle Test has also been named in the squad along with left-arm spinner Rangana Herath and young off-spinner Suraj Randiv who is likely to take Muralitharan's place for the rest of the series. Mendis, who became a star with 26 wickets in three Tests against India when they visited in 2008, was left out.

The Sri Lanka Board President's team to take on India in a three-day practice match ahead of the Tests was also named. Thilan Samarawera will lead the side which includes first-choice Test keeper Prasanna Jayawardene and promising batsmen Lahiru Thirimanne, Ashan Priyanjan and Dinesh Chandimal.

SQUAD
Kumar Sangakkara (capt), Muttiah Muralitharan (vc), Tillakaratne Dilshan, Tharanga Paranavitana, Mahela Jayawardene, Thilan Samarawera, Angelo Mathews, Prasanna Jayawardene, Lasith Malinga, Rangana Herath, Dilhara Fernando, Dammika Prasad, Suraj Randiv, Thilina Kandamby, Chanaka Welegedara, Lahiru Thirimanne.