



REACHING HIGH: Abdur Razzak exchanges high-fives with wicket-keeper Jahurul Islam after removing Eoin Morgan in Bangladesh's second one-day against England in Bristol on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

Time to realise: Siddons

Cricket

AFP, Bristol

Bangladesh coach Jamie Siddons said he hoped his players realised "they can beat anyone" after their sensational five-run one-day international victory over England here on Saturday.

The Tigers first win of 2010, and first ever against England, saw them end a run of 24 straight defeats in all formats dating back to a one-wicket ODI victory over Zimbabwe in Chittagong on November 5.

It also broke a sequence of 20 losses on the trot to England (eight Tests and 12 ODIs) and came just two days after Bangladesh had suffered a convincing six-wicket defeat by Andrew Strauss's men in the first of this three-match series at Trent Bridge.

Siddons, in charge of the Asian minnows since 2007, has spent much of his time as Bangladesh coach trying to instill self-belief into the side despite heavy defeat following heavy defeat, be it in Tests, one-dayers or Twenty20s.

The Australian, an outstanding batsman at first-class level but never a Test player, has also had to plead repeatedly Bangladesh's case for a place among cricket's elite nations.

But against an England side who came into this series on the back of a 3-2 one-day campaign win at home to world champions Australia, the Tigers were able to defend a modest score of 236 for seven and bowl the hosts out for 231 with three balls to spare.

"It's hard to keep getting beaten and keep getting them up," Siddons told reporters after a win that saw Bangladesh level this three-match series at 1-1 ahead of Monday's climax at Edgbaston.

"Now I think they realise they can beat anyone."
He added: "It's unbelievable. I would have thought England

were on top of the world and capable of beating everyone."

This rare victory for Bangladesh, who've failed to win some 75 percent of all the 226 ODIs they've ever played, was made all the more creditable for several reasons.

For a start their total did not feature a major score from star batsman Tamim Iqbal, who was out for a breezy 18.

Instead it was his fellow left-handed opener Imrul Kayes who anchored the innings with a solid 76.

Kayes may lack Tamim's flamboyance - although most batsmen in world cricket would like stodgy in comparison - but his 111-ball knock, with only four boundaries, turned out to be vital in ensuring Bangladesh's bowlers had enough runs to defend.

And this win was achieved without two first-choice players in Rokibul Hasan, who top-scored for Bangladesh with 76 at Trent Bridge but had his toe broken by a James Anderson yorker in the process and wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim, sidelined after being hit in the face during the same match.

"We lost two players who were in very good form, Rokibul and Mushfiqur, but Jahurul Islam and Mohammad Ashraful came into the side and gave 100 percent so I'm very happy," said jubilant Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Mortaza, the man-of-the-match.

Mortaza, who struck 22 and took two wickets for 42 runs, added: "In the last 250 days we haven't won any games but we have worked very hard in the nets with the coach."

"Today (Saturday) we worked hard in the field and that's why this win has come."

Jonathan Trott, with an ODI best 94, almost snatched victory from Bangladesh's grasp before he was last man out, caught behind by stand-in keeper Jahurul off seamer Shafiqur Islam, who took an impressive two for 38.

"Shafiqur did beautifully well with his slower delivery because Trott was trying to play through mid-on and mid-off but he changed his pace," said an admiring Mortaza.

Mash hails teammates

Cricket

AFP, Bristol

Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Mortaza hailed his players' perseverance after they won for the first time in 2010 with a maiden victory over England here on Saturday.

The Tigers beat England by five runs in thrilling fashion to win the second one-day international and so end a sequence of 24 straight defeats in all formats dating back to a one-day win over Zimbabwe in Chittagong in November.

Victory levelled this three-match series at 1-1 and gave Bangladesh a first success against England after they had lost all 20 of the previous matches (eight Tests and 12 ODIs) between the two countries.

Bangladesh were held to a seemingly below par 236 for seven, featuring opener Imrul Kayes's 76.

But they bowled England

out for 231 with three balls to spare when top-scorer Jonathan Trott was caught behind for 94.

"We are feeling very good," said seamer Mortaza, man-of-the-match for his 22 and two wickets for 42 runs.

"It's been 250 days since we won so people will be very happy about this win and the dressing room is very happy."

"In the last 250 days we haven't won any games but we have worked very hard in the nets with the coach (Jamie Siddons). Today (Saturday) we worked hard in the field and that's why this win has come."

Asked how he'd inspired his side during the innings break, a proud Mortaza added: "I told every bowler to give 100 percent and it was important we took wickets in the Powerplay and also in the middle overs."

England's Ian Bell, who top-scored with 84 not in the six-wicket series opening win at Trent Bridge on Thursday, broke his left foot fielding

while diving for a catch during Bangladesh's innings on Saturday.

Bell didn't come out to bat until England were nine wickets down, needing 10 runs off the final over.

"I wasn't expecting Bell to come out but he did fantastically well for his team," Mortaza said.

Bell though didn't face a ball with seamer Shafiqur Islam ending the match when he had Trott caught behind.

"Shafiqur did beautifully well with his slower delivery because Trott was trying to play through mid-on and mid-off but he changed his pace," an admiring Mortaza added.

England captain Andrew Strauss praised Bangladesh but said his side had been the authors of their own downfall.

"We weren't at the races today, it's as simple as that," Strauss said.

"Our bowling was okay but our fielding was poor and our batting, chasing 237, was a particularly poor effort if I'm honest."

"We've only got ourselves to blame but we also have to give credit to Bangladesh for the way they defended that total. They were able to take wickets throughout the innings and keep the pressure on."

The series concludes at Edgbaston on Monday and opening batsman Strauss added: "They thoroughly deserved their victory but for us it's about licking our wounds and making sure we don't repeat the same mistakes again on Monday."

'No shame in defeat'

AFP, Bristol

Andrew Strauss insisted he felt no shame at being the first England captain to lose to Bangladesh after the Tigers at last won a match in 2010.

Bangladesh's dramatic five-run success in the second one-day international at Nevil Road here on Saturday, saw them level the three-match series at 1-1 and end a run of 24 consecutive defeats across all formats stretching back to November last year.

It also meant they had defeated England for the first time, having lost all of the previous eight Tests and 20 ODIs between the two countries.

"They were going to beat us at some stage and we were just hoping it would be some stage in the future," Strauss, who had the meagre consolation of knowing England were the last major nation to succumb to Bangladesh, told a post-match news conference.

"That has been and done now."

And he was adamant losing to Bangladesh was not as bad as being captain of the England side skittled out for just 51 in an innings and 23-run Test defeat by the West Indies in Jamaica last year.

Strauss, asked if Saturday's loss represented his worst day in cricket, replied: "No is the answer to that."

"Getting bowled out for 51 in Jamaica was worse than this but it's not fun to stand up here after losing in this fashion."

Resilient Shafiqur shines

Cricket

MOHAMMAD ISAM

By this country's standard, Shafiqur Islam is an outsider. He has never been part of the cream of the crop Under-19 setup and neither has he been termed as the 'next big thing' in Bangladesh cricket. The lad from Bogra made his way into Dhaka cricket through a countrywide talent hunt and immediately played Premier League for Brothers Union.

But the following season he suffered a career threatening back injury. He broke down after a couple of Twenty20 matches for Old DOHS and hardly played any part in that Premier League season.

He could have quietly slipped out of cricket like many others and settled for a life outside the game. But the slender lad from the small town decided to recuperate and slowly built one good season after another in domestic cricket.

Before Saturday's brilliant performance against England in Bristol, Shafiqur bowled more than a few match-winning spells in the domestic scene that made sure of his place in the Bangladesh team, resulting in a debut in January this year.

He was picked right after an impressive Premier League campaign for Bangladesh Biman but his international form had been patchy but again, he showed glimpses of his varied skills in all formats.

In the second one-dayer, Bangladesh's different route with the bowling attack was a bold move as they decided to play three pacemen.

You could forgive the English for taking it easy against three men who could have been considered medium-pacers but both

Shafiqur and Rubel Hossain clocked in the upper 80 mph bracket to force the English back a bit.

While Rubel's pace removed the openers, Mashrafe bowling a surprisingly good spell in the slog overs and the spinners took key wickets at key moments, it was of course Shafiqur who stood out.

Mashrafe removed him after just one over in the opening salvo after Strauss cracked him for two boundaries. But he returned with three maidens in his next two spells before picking up Luke Wright through a good piece of field placement and a brilliant pitched-up delivery.

Shafiqur greatly troubled England's top-scorer Jonathan Trott throughout the 130-ball stay of the Cape Town-born. Trott, who carried England's hopes in Bristol almost single-handedly, was kept quiet for long periods with a tight line that also forced him to stay inside the crease. To Trott's discredit, he did little to unsettle the paceman until late in the innings.

His nine overs kept Bangladesh in the game before he was given the ultimate task of bowling the last over with a wicket in hand. Trott picked up a couple of twos and the moment Shafiqur stalled his whippy line-up from bowling the third delivery, Trott moved away, settled himself again and made his customary drag on the batting crease.

Shafiqur replied with a mighty slower ball that had Trott softly edge one to Jahurul Islam behind the stumps. Later he told the world, through a relieved Tamim Iqbal, that he knew Trott would swing his bat even harder so he decided to slow it up right at that moment.

It took Shafiqur 21 international matches to taste victory for the first time in a Bangladesh shirt. It's nothing new for a Bangladeshi cricketer to wait for so long but to have a significant part in the first win is quite special.

First, always the sweetest

SPORTS REPORTER

After Saturday's five-run win over England in their 13th attempt, Bangladesh have completed a cycle of defeating all Test-playing nations in one-day cricket. Here's a quick look at the Tigers' maiden victories over every team, starting from May 31, 1999.

vs Pakistan, Northampton, 1999

In their first World Cup, Bangladesh impressed with a win over Scotland, but had struggled otherwise. When they turned up for their last match against Pakistan, the form team of the tournament, it was supposed to be a stroll -- for Pakistan.

But some gutsy batting from opener Shahriar Hossain and Akram Khan set up a modest total, which was mightily defended by a bowling attack spearheaded by Khaled Mahmud. The skiddy medium-pace rocked Pakistan and when Khaled Mashud whipped off the balls to run out Saqlain Mushtaq, it sparked off wild celebrations that propelled Bangladesh into the elite of world cricket.

vs Zimbabwe, Harare, 2004

Five years later, Bangladesh won again. That it took so long wasn't surprising at that stage when a one-day match involving the Tigers was decided in the first ten overs and a Test match lasted little more than three days.

The win was a sort of resuscitation for the Tigers as they won in their 13th attempt against Zimbabwe.

vs India, Dhaka, 2004

This was the win that came on the occasion of Bangladesh's 100th ODI. The day before Asia's deadly Tsunami was also the day Mashrafe Bin Mortaza arrived finally after

three years of career-threatening injuries.

The Tigers' batting remained modest but the Indians slipped a gear in the second one-dayer of the series. Mashrafe blasted a quickfire 31 before taking out Virender Sehwag in the first over. His opening spell and some telling late yorkers from Khaled Mahmud made sure the Tigers beat India in the two sides' 13th ODI.

vs Australia, Cardiff, 2005

Half a year later, Bangladesh won their most famous match, courtesy Mohammad Ashraful. The little dynamite was as unpredictable then as he was now and had been struggling to put bat to ball in England.

But after Mashrafe and Rafique bowled their hearts out to keep the Aussies to 249, Ashraful tore into the best bowling attack at the time. In his 101-ball innings, Ashraful reached his first one-day century. But his fall in the 48th over could have derailed the Tigers but a mighty hoick from Aftab Ahmed in the first ball of the last over and then a scam-

pered single made sure the worst team in the world beat the best in the world and derailed their Ashes campaign.

vs Sri Lanka, Bogra, 2006

The Lankans have been a deep thorn for the Tigers' and it was expected that every one-day and Test against the island nation was a given defeat.

The win also continued the trend of Rafique bowling well enough to fashion a win.

Ashraful starred with a fifty, but so did Javed Omar with a steady 40 at the top of the order.

vs South Africa, Trinidad, 2007

This was in the middle of a good World Cup for Bangladesh as had already defeated India and Bermuda to move into the Super Eights stage.

A masterful 87 from Ashraful made sure they posted a fighting 251. Bear in mind, this was a great effort against a disciplined bowling attack.

It inspired their bowling and fielding. The three-man

left-arm spin attack ensured South Africa were suffocated.

vs New Zealand, Dhaka, 2008

The backdrop was bizarre. Fifteen players had defected to the rebel Indian Cricket League (ICL) and within weeks, the Tigers were up against the Black Caps.

And then they won!

Junaed Siddiqui, one of the new boys, struck an invaluable 87. Mashrafe again starred with the ball, picking up four wickets as Bangladesh defeated New Zealand in their 12th try.

vs West Indies, Dominica, 2009

It took Bangladesh 14 one-dayers to beat West Indies and when they did, they won the series 3-0 against a completely understrength side.

Abdur Razzak, opening the bowling, picked up four wickets after the Tigers weathered a green Kemar Roach to score 246.

Ashraful and Shakib struck half-centuries while Mahmudullah Riyad made a rapid 42 in the end.



PHOTO: INTERNET

The Tigers are over the moon after their first-ever win over India in Dhaka in late 2004.

Poms on their knees

Cricket

AFP, London

Britain's newspapers were scathing Sunday about England's shock defeat to Bangladesh, saying they had been dealt a "full custard pie in the face".

Bangladesh won the second one-day international by five runs in Bristol on Saturday to record a first victory over England in any format, with the press branding it "humiliation".

"England's meetings with Bangladesh have rarely been known for their drama but there was bucketloads of it as England tried in vain to maintain their 100 percent record over the most junior of cricket's frontline nations after getting into horrible difficulties chasing what should have been a routine target of 237," said The Sunday Times.

"England will examine their fielding, careless batting and decision to rest key players but Bangladesh deserve full credit for plugging away."

"England on their knees," said The Mail on Sunday. "Complacent England are embarrassed."

"England were made to take a full custard pie in the face - also known as defeat to Bangladesh."

"And the squirming discomfort caused by the sensational success of their oft-derided opponents was made yet worse by a nightmare vision of how their hopes of winning the 2011 World Cup may prove unsustainable."

The Sunday Telegraph said it was "humiliation", and England needed to raise their game in Monday's third and deciding match at Edgbaston to avert "ignominy".

"Bangladesh owed their victory to their superiority in fielding and spin bowling, and to their greater appetite for success."

England were "tired, flat and fumbling", "Sloppy, lazy and just a little bit arrogant", was the News of the World verdict.

The defeat "should set alarm bells ringing" for England's management.

"Catches were dropped, run-outs missed and batsmen threw their wickets away as Andrew Strauss' team produced their worst one-day display in a year."

"England simply did not deserve to win." The Observer said it was "a wretched day for England, a joyous one for beleaguered Bangladesh".

"No one in Bristol could begrudge them this triumph. They thoroughly deserved it."

"At first there was an element of complacency in England's batting, which gave way to constipation as the Bangladesh bowlers... kept their nerve superbly."

The Independent on Sunday said Bangladesh "consisted only of heroes, with five bowlers taking two wickets each", saying they "thoroughly deserved" their victory.

The Sunday Mirror called the defeat "Bang rout of order".

"England went from one-day wonders to one-day wallies as they slumped to a humiliating defeat."

"Mashrafe Mortaza's 'Bangers' mashed England's hapless batting into an embarrassing mulch".

Bopara boost for England

AFP, Bristol

England have added Ravi Bopara to their squad as a replacement for injured batsman Ian Bell ahead of the third and final one-day international against Bangladesh at Edgbaston on Monday.

Bell broke his foot while fielding during Bangladesh's dramatic five-run win in the second match of the series here on Saturday and had to hobble out as last man, with a runner, in order to prolong England's hopes of victory in the final over.

As it was he didn't face a ball, with Warwickshire colleague Jonathan Trott caught behind for 94 as Bangladesh wrapped up a sensational victory -- their first against England in any format -- with three balls to spare.

Bell, who has fractured the fifth metatarsal bone in his left foot, is expected to be out of action for several weeks and now, with the Bangladesh series level at 1-1, England have recalled Bopara.

The 25-year-old Essex all-rounder, also a handy medium-pace, played the last of his 50 ODIs against New Zealand at the Champions Trophy in Johannesburg in November.

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