



Kumar Sangakkara's 56-ball 75 powered Dhaka Dynamites to a 34-run win over Sylhet Superstars in their BPL fixture at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur last night.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Super Sanga drives Dynamites

NAIMUL KARIM



Bad pitch? Low Bounce? These factors tend to go down the drains when you have a set Kumar Sangakkara at the crease; and that's exactly what happened yesterday.

A cleverly stitched 75 off 56 deliveries from the Sri Lankan helped the Dhaka Dynamites post a powerful 166 against the Sylhet Superstars and eventually led them to a 34-run win in Mirpur yesterday.

It was the first 150-plus total in the last four matches and in a way provided the run-stricken tournament with a sense of relief.

While Dynamites did end up posting a high total, their innings began on an all-too-familiar note, with Saikat Ali getting caught in the first over.

Sangakkara, however, immediately got into action and drove Fidel Edwards for four boundaries in the second over, standing firm on the ground and deliciously timing the ball through the covers.

Sadman Islam, who was Dhaka's hero in the previous match, seemed to be inspired at the other end and went for a few hits before being removed in the fifth over. That's when Nasir Hossain joined the Lankan at the crease and the duo put on a 66-run stand to calm the early nerves.

Nasir was the aggressor, scoring three sixes in his 29-ball 33. That the all-rounder was in good touch was evident from the inside-out six that he hit against Nasum Ahmed in the 14th over. He was, however, bowled in the same over, and that's when Sangakkara took full control.

In the 18th over, he hit Ravi Bopara for two fours and a six down the ground to further escalate

the run-rate. By the time he was out in the 19th over, he had already posted the highest score of the third edition of BPL, surpassing Tamim's 69.

After the exchange, Sylhet's batsmen failed to make the most of their starts. While their top four did manage to get into the double figures, they got out whenever they tried to accelerate, which eventually cost them dearly.

Oddly enough it wasn't either Mustafizur Rahman or Yasir Shah -- the two premier bowlers -- who ran through Sylhet's top order; rather that role was taken on by Mosharraf Hossain and Abul Hasan.

The former duo though did stifle the batters with their accurate line and length and induced a few skiers, which were dropped in the outfield. However, both Shah and Mustafizur returned to mop up the tail with two wickets each as Sylhet were bundled out for 132.



SCOREBOARDS

RIDERS V VICTORIANS		DYNAMITES V SUPERSTAR	
R/B	4/6	R/B	4/6
Simmons c Imrul b Kulasekara	3/7 0/0	Shykat c Nasum b Shahid	0/2 0/0
Soumya c Samuels b Kulasekara	5/5 1/0	Shadman b Edwards	15/15 3/0
Mithun c Hider b Kulasekara	28/42 2/0	Sangakkara c Mominul b Shahid	75/56 9/1
Jahurul c Mahmudul b Narine	4/7 0/0	Nasir c Nasum	33/29 0/3
Misbah lbw b Hider	6/17 0/0	Thirumane b Munawiera	13/8 2/0
Al-Amin lbw b Zaidi	0/2 0/0	Waller not out	10/6 0/0
Perera c Imrul b Hider	9/12 1/0	Hasan run out	7/5 0/0
Senanayake c Kulasekara	9/15 0/0	Extras: (lb-6, w-6, nb-1)	13
Arafat run out	2/3 0/0	Total: (For 6 wkts in 20 overs)	166
Saqilain run out	11/8 2/0	Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-33, 3-99, 4-126, 5-152, 6-166.	
Jayed not out	0/2 0/0	Bowler	0 M R W
Extras: (lb-1, w-4)	5	Shahid	4 0 27 2
Total: (All out in 20 overs)	82	Edwards	4 1 35 1
Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-9, 3-18, 4-31, 5-32, 6-54, 7-67, 8-71, 9-76.		Munawiera	4 0 20 1
Bowler	0 M R W	Nasum	3 0 20 1
Mashrafe	3 0 15 0	Bopara	3 0 41 2
Kulasekara	4 1 12 4	Nazmul	1 0 9 0
Narine	4 0 16 1	Cobb	1 0 8 0
Zaidi	4 0 13 1	Munawiera	4 0 20 1
Hider	4 0 15 2	Mosharraf	12/13 3/0
Mahmudul	1 0 10 0	Shahid c Mosharraf	23/22 3/0
COMILLA VICTORIANS	R/B 4/6	Bopara c Waller b Mosharraf	5/6 0/0
Imrul not out	24/29 2/1	Nurul not out	35/22 1/0
Mahmudul c Misbah b Arafat	11/18 2/0	Milon st Sangakkara b Yasir	13/12 1/0
Samuels not out	42/42 8/1	Nazmul c Farhad b Yasir	2/3 0/0
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, w-5)	7	Shahid b Mustafizur	0/2 0/0
Total: (For 1 wkt in 11.5 overs)	84	Nasum b Mustafizur	0/3 0/0
Did not bat: Shuvagata, Hider, Dhaman, Kapali, Kulasekara, Mashrafe, Narine, Zaidi.		Edwards c Hasan b Farhad	5/3 1/0
Fall of wickets: 1-29.		Extras: (lb-1, w-5)	6
Bowler	0 M R W	Total: (All out in 19.5 overs)	132
Perera	2 0 13 0	Fall of wickets: 1-31, 2-44, 3-49, 4-65, 5-80, 6-117, 7-119, 8-124, 9-124.	
Senanayake	3 0 13 0	Bowler	0 M R W
Arafat	3 0 13 1	Farhad	2.5 0 18 1
Saqilain	2.5 0 20 0	Mosharraf	4 0 15 1
Jayed	1 0 23 0	Mustafizur	4 0 30 2
Result: Comilla Victorians won by 9 wickets.		Hasan	3 0 30 2
Player-of-the-match: Marlon Samuels.		Nasir	2 0 14 1
Result: Dhaka Dynamites won by 34 runs.		Yasir	4 0 24 2
Player-of-the-match: Kumar Sangakkara.			

Eng cricket to make helmets compulsory

AFP, London

Helmets will be compulsory from next season for all batsmen, wicketkeepers and close fielders in English county cricket, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said Friday.

The new rules apply to male and female professionals and were recommended in safety reviews after the death of Australia's Phil Hughes, who was struck just below the helmet by a ball while batting for New South Wales.

ECB chief medical officer Nick Peirce said cricket was a relatively safe sport, and would be even more so under the new guidelines.

"We can see from our injury surveillance that cricket is not a dangerous sport in comparison to many other leisure activities," he said.

"However, as we have seen in recent times, the cricket ball can cause significant injury and it is extremely important that players take the appropriate precautions when batting, keeping wicket or fielding close to the stumps."

The use of protective headgear is already mandatory for under-18s in recreational cricket and the ECB is urging all adult cricketers to wear helmets.

Ashwin spin makes it 2-0

Condemns SA to first away series defeat in nine years

AFP, Nagpur

Ravichandran Ashwin claimed 12 wickets in the match as India swamped South Africa by 124 runs with two days to spare in the third Test on Friday to clinch the series.

The Proteas, who resumed at 32-2 chasing a target of 310, folded up for 185 in their second innings after tea on the third day on a dusty, deteriorating pitch at the VCA stadium in Nagpur.

Off-spinner Ashwin followed his 5-32 in the first innings with 7-66 in the second to take his tally in the series to 24 wickets in five innings so far.

India had won the first Test in Mohali by 108 runs, while the second in Bangalore was washed out by rain after the opening day's play.

The fourth and final Test will be played at the Ferozeshah Kotla ground in New Delhi from December 3, with the hosts firm favourites to complete a 3-0 scoreline.

Proteas captain Hashim Amla and Faf du Plessis put on the highest partnership in the Test of 72 runs, scoring 39 apiece, but no other batsman touched 20.

Leg-spinner Amit Mishra removed both batsmen in the space of six deliveries just before tea, ending the resistance by the flat-footed tourists against the turning ball.

India have now won eight of their last nine Tests on home soil -- all inside three days -- having routed Australia 4-0 and the West Indies 2-0 in 2013 before taking the first and third Tests in the current series.

The defeat marked top-ranked South Africa's first series loss abroad in nine years after the 2-0 setback in Sri Lanka in 2006.

Indian captain Virat Kohli hailed Ashwin as the best spinner in the world and said he was pleased to win the series against the number one side in the world.

"Ashwin is a world-class spinner, probably the best in the world at the moment," said Kohli. "He is a very improved bowler and stepped up for us in a big way in this series."

"It is very pleasing to defeat South Africa, especially since they won both the Twenty20 and one-day series earlier. We played some very good cricket in all the three Tests."

Amla admitted it was a "difficult" wicket to bat on, but said his team had tried its best to adjust to the conditions.



Ravichandran Ashwin took 12 wickets, including seven in the second innings, to drive India to a series-winning 124-run victory against South Africa in the third Test in Nagpur yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

"The pitch was a difficult factor, it was turning and bouncing whether it was the new ball or the old one," said Amla. "It was a hard game, but we are obviously very disappointed."

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: First innings 215

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 79

INDIA: Second innings 173

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings 185 all out (Elgar 18, Amla 39, Du Plessis 39, Duminy 19; Ashwin 7-66, Mishra 3-51)

Result: India won by 124 runs; lead four-match series 2-0.

Player-of-the-match: Ravichandran Ashwin.

England win first T20I

AFP, Dubai

England beat Pakistan by 14 runs in the first Twenty20 international to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series in Dubai on Thursday.

England made 160-5 in their 20 overs with Sam Billings 51, skipper Eoin Morgan 45 not out and debutant James Vince 41 the main run-getters.

Pakistan were bowled out for 146 in 20 overs with Sohail Tanvir making 25 not out and Sohaib Maqsood 24.

Liam Plunkett finished with 3-21.

Starc may miss rest of the Tests

AFP, Adelaide

Leader of Australia's pace attack Mitchell Starc has suffered a stress foot fracture and may miss the remainder of the home Test season, team officials said Friday.

The left-arm paceman will not bowl again in the historic day-night Test against New Zealand in Adelaide after suffering stress fractures to the third metatarsal bone in his right foot, a team spokesperson said.

Kiwis fold for 202 on historic day

AFP, Adelaide

New Zealand were skittled for 202 but hit back with the key wicket of David Warner on an eventful opening day in Adelaide on Friday.

In a ringing endorsement for the pink ball concept, 47,441 fans thronged into the Adelaide Oval for the first day-night Test in its 138-year history.

It was the biggest international crowd at the Adelaide Oval since England's headline-grabbing 1932 Bodyline series in Australia.

Mitchell Starc, the new leader of

partner Josh Hazlewood claimed three wickets each before Starc was forced from the field with an ankle injury.

But the Kiwis fought back with two wickets, including the prolific-scoring Warner for just one, to have the home side batten down against the swinging pink ball under lights.

At the close, Australia were 54 for two with skipper Steve Smith not out 24 and Adam Voges on nine.

Starc put the skids under the Kiwis removing in-form Kane Williamson (22), skipper Brendon McCullum (4) and debutant Mitchell Santner (31) as the Black Caps succumbed in 65.2 overs.

The Kiwis never recovered from losing three wickets in 11 balls and were all out in the final night session with

Hazlewood claimed two late wickets to finish with a three-wicket haul.

Tom Latham was out attempting to cut spinner Nathan Lyon and was caught behind by Peter Nevill for 50.

Ross Taylor, who amassed the highest score of 290 by a touring batsman in Australia in last week's drawn Perth Test, followed seven balls later.

Hazlewood wrapped it up with Tim Southee caught in the deep off Hazlewood for 16.

But the Australians had a torrid time against the hooping pink ball in their turn at bat under lights and Trent Boult had Warner caught at third slip before Doug Bracewell bowled Joe Burns for 14.

The Black Caps, needing a win to draw the three-Test series after los-

ing the Brisbane opener, opted to bat after winning the toss in the much-anticipated Test match featuring a pink ball for the first time.