



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 ove, 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.



WHACK-OMETER

TOTAL 6s HIT

86

TOTAL 4s HIT

279

Most 6s hit by a player: 8, Tamim Iqbal, Chittagong Vikings
Most 4s hit by a player: 24, Dilshan Munaweera, Sylhet Superstars

'No one should cross the line'

Mashrafe says after Victorians' 9-wkt win

BISHWAJIT ROY

A massive crowd turned up at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on the weekly holiday yesterday, but first match hardly produced any entertainment for them, except for some clean hitting from West Indies batsman Marlon Samuels, which gave Comilla Victorians a facile nine-wicket victory against Rangpur Riders.

The spate of low-scoring matches continued as Sri Lankan veteran Nuwan Kulasekara, along with young local pacer Abu Hider Rony, wrapped up Riders' innings for 82, which Victorians romped past in 11.5 overs, thanks to an unbeaten 24-ball 42 from Samuels. The elegant West Indian smashed eight boundaries and a six to sign off his BPL campaign in style and return to his national duties.

However, it was Kulasekara who did the major damage to Riders in the first innings, with figures of 4 for 12 while Rony claimed two for 15 to pave the way for Victorians' third win in four matches as they topped the table.

Apart from the issue related to the behaviour of the pitches, the post-match briefing was dominated by questions regarding the absence of Riders' skipper Shakib Al Hasan, who was suspended for one match for breaching BCB's Code of Conduct during his side's fixture against Sylhet Superstars on Thursday.

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, captain of the Victorians, made it clear that one could not blame the pitch for below-par scores. He further said that his side deserved the victory while admitting that the absence of Shakib

did give them an edge. Mashrafe opined that a score of around 150 was possible on the pitch, adding that these type of pitched will not help Bangladesh's preparations for next year's Asia Cup and ICC World Twenty20.

"There is no doubt that nothing could have been better if we got sporting wickets, but at the same time it's also a challenge for batsmen to adjust with such conditions," said the Bangladesh skipper in ODIs and T20s.

Regarding Shakib's recent on-field transgression and suspension, Mashrafe said that everybody should abide by the rules.

"There are rules for everything and if someone crosses the line he must get punished no matter how big a player he is. I think it was unfortunate for Shakib as well as his team. Maybe he could not check his emotions and excitement at that time. Everybody learns from mistakes and I hope he (Shakib) will not do anything like that in future," said Mashrafe.

"Personally I never like to talk regarding any decision from umpires because the umpire's decision is final. Yes, you can make an argument but you must follow the procedure," he added.

Riders' coach Shane Jurgensen, however, was frustrated as his side failed to step up in the absence of Shakib.

"He (Shakib) is a pretty good player and his all-round skills may have put us out of it in terms of the balance of the team, but at the same time, I thought it was an opportunity for the other boys to step up and have a good game. But unfortunately we didn't really execute our plan and they [Comilla Victorians] executed theirs better," said the former Bangladesh coach.

PREMIER cemeNT									
SCOREBOARDS									
RIDERS V VICTORIANS					DYNAMITES V SUPERSTARS				
RANGPURRIDERS					DHAKA DYNAMITES				
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 b Nasum	33/29	0/3		
Misbah lbw b Hider	6/17	0/0			Thirimaane b Munaweera	13/8	2/0		
Al-Amin lbw b Zaidi	0/2	0/0			Waller not out	10/6	1/0		
Perera c Imrul b Hider	9/12	1/0			Hasan run out	7/5	1/0		
Senanayake b 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			
Saqlain 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							
Extras: (lb-1, w-4)	5				Bowler	O	M	R	W
Total: (All out in 20 overs)	82				Shahid	4	0	27	2
Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-9, 3-18, 4-31, 5-32, 6-54, 7-67, 8-71, 9-76.					Edwards	4	1	35	1
					Munaweera	4	0	20	1
Bowler	O	M	R	W	Nasum	3	0	20	1
Mashrafe	3	0	15	0	Bopara	3	0	41	0
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	SYLHET SUPERSTARS				
Hider	4	0	15	2	Munaweera c Shadman b Hasan	16/18	3/0		
Mahmudul	1	0	10	0	Cobb b Mosharraf	15/15	0/1		
COMILLA VICTORIANS					Mominul b Mosharraf	12/13	2/0		
Imrul not out	24/29	2/1			Mushfigur lbw b Hasan	23/22	3/0		
Mahmudul c Misbah b Arafat	11/18	2/0			Bopara c Waller b Mosharraf	5/6	0/0		
Samuels not out	42/24	8/1			Nurul not out	35/22	1/2		
Extras: (lb-1, lb-1, w-5)	7				Milton st Sangakkara b Yasir	13/12	1/0		
Total: (For 1 wkt in 11.5 overs)	84				Nazmul c Farhad b Yasir	2/3	0/0		
Did not bat: Shuvagata, Hider, Dhiman, Kapali, Kulasekara, Mashrafe, Narine, Zaidi.					Shahid b Mustafizur	0/2	0/0		
Fall of wickets: 1-29.					Nasum b Mustafizur	0/3	0/0		
					Edwards c Hasan b Farhad	5/3	1/0		
Bowler	O	M	R	W	Extras: (lb-1, w-5)	6			
Perera	2	0	13	0	Total: (All out in 19.5 overs)	132			
Senanayake	3	0	13	0	Fall of wickets: 1-31, 2-44, 3-49, 4-65, 5-80, 6-117, 7-119, 8-124, 9-124.				
Arafat	3	0	13	1	Bowler	O	M	R	W
Saqlain	2.5	0	20	0	Farhad	2.5	0	18	1
Jayed	1	0	23	0	Mosharraf	4	0	15	3
Result: Comilla Victorians won by 9 wickets.					Mustafizur	4	0	30	2
Player-of-the-match: Marlon Samuels.					Hasan	3	0	30	2
					Nasir	2	0	14	0
					Yasir	4	0	24	2
					Result: Dhaka Dynamites won by 34 runs.				
					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.



The Adelaide Oval became part of history on Friday as day-night Test with pink ball made its debut through the third Test between Australia and New Zealand.

PHOTO: INTERNET

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 the historic day-night Test 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 1932-33 Bodyline series in Australia.

Mitchell Starc, the new leader of Australia's pace attack, and new ball

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.

New Zealand, unbeaten in their last seven Test series since 2013, will have to win the historic Test to draw the series after Australia won the Brisbane opener by 208 runs and last week's second Test in Perth finished in a high-scoring draw.

SCORES IN BRIEF
NEW ZEALAND: First innings 202 all out (Latham 50, Williamson 22, Taylor 21, Santner 31, Watling 29; Starc 3-24, Hazlewood 3-66, Siddle 2-54, Lyon 2-42)
AUSTRALIA: First innings 54 for 2 (Burns 14, Smith 24 not out, Voges 9 not out; Boult 1-15, Bracewell 1-6)