

SPORT



West Indies all-rounder Darren Sammy helped the Rajshahi Kings finish with a flourish as he blitzed the Rangpur Riders with an unbeaten 18-ball 44, walloping three fours and four sixes in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Sammy-powered Kings outrun Riders

SPORTS REPORTER



The Rajshahi Kings seem to have peaked at the right time in the Bangladesh Premier League. And this was something not many would have expected them to have done considering that they had twice given away games that they should have comfortably won in the earlier stages of the competition.

However, a win over the Dhaka Dynamites in Chittagong last week and a comprehensive 12-run victory against league leaders Rangpur Riders at Mirpur yesterday suggests that the Kings have finally gained the confidence they needed.

Although the 12-run difference on the scorecard may suggest a comfortable victory, it was in fact quite a hard-fought one.

Batting first, the Kings began well. Sabbir Rahman and Junaid Siddique put on a 47-run stand for the second wicket and catapulted the team to 51 for one in the first six overs.

However, Sabbir departed for 33 after the powerplay and that slowed down the run-rate. And once Liam Dawson removed both Junaid and Samit Patel for 23 and 17 respectively, Rajshahi were in trouble.

By the end of the 15th over, they were struggling at 94 for five with Darren Sammy and Umar Akmal at the crease. At the end of over number 17, they were poised at 107 for five with a score of around 130 on the cards.

However, that prediction was torn apart when Sammy and Umar started hammering the bowlers towards all corners of the park.

In total, the duo scored 55 runs in the last three overs. It began with Anwar Ali getting hit for two fours and a six by Umar and Sammy in the 18th. And then Rubel Hossain

was powered for a four and a six in the 19th over.

Then came the finale. The 20th over from Anwar leaked 22 runs. Umar first clobbered Anwar over mid-wicket for a six and hit him over mid-off for a four before taking a single.

Sammy had two balls to face and he got the maximum on both occasions. A length ball on the leg-stump was hoisted for a six. A nervous Anwar bowled a full toss up next and that was, as expected, smashed over long on for yet another six. Those hits took the total to 162.

Despite those late hits, it was a total that the Riders would have been confident of overcoming. However, the problem with them was that they could not utilise the Powerplay. They managed to post just 25 runs in the first six overs. Their strategy of trying not to lose wickets backfired with a very poor run-rate.

The run-rate started to improve once Mohammad Mithun came to the crease following the departure of Mohammad Shahzad, who was sent back for a 26-ball 18 in the seventh over.

In good form, Mithun hit regular boundaries to raise Rangpur to 61 for one after 10 overs. He continued timing the ball well to all corners of the park but unfortunately he just did not have enough support. Soumya Sarkar was bowled for eight off 10, while Anwar and Dawson were removed for 5 and 10 respectively.

Mithun's 64 off 36, which witnessed four sixes and three fours was a sublime knock but unfortunately went in vain. Naeem Islam joined him towards the end and tried to hit a few sixes, but unfortunately the run-rate was too high and they eventually fell 12 runs short.

দুনিয়া দেখবে
যখন
SILK
দিয়ে সাজবে জীবন

দুনিয়া দেখবে
যখন
SILK
দিয়ে সাজবে জীবন

Buttler, Woakes back India-England third Test starts today

AFP, Mohali
Batsman Jos Buttler will replace the struggling Ben Duckett in the third Test against India starting Saturday, despite having just one first-class match under his belt in the past year.

England skipper Alastair Cook also confirmed fast bowler Chris Woakes will return to the side for the game in Mohali after missing the second Test in Visakhapatnam which the visitors lost by a huge 246-run margin to go down 1-0 in the five-match series.

Woakes will replace Stuart Broad, who strained a tendon in his right foot in Visakhapatnam.

"Stuart's definitely out," Cook told reporters on Friday as his side looked to bounce back in the marathon series.

"Chris Woakes who was part of that rotation is definitely in and it's just a question of whether we go with four seamers and two spinners or three and three again," Cook said.

Left-arm spinner Zafar Ansari, who suffered from sickness and back spasms in the second Test, is still not fit to play.

Middle-order batsman Buttler, who also keeps wicket in the shorter formats, last played a Test in October 2015, against Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates.

Buttler averaged 30 in his 15 Tests but his strike-rate of 120.29 in ODIs and 140.18 in Twenty20s make him a top contender for a

slot in the longest format.

"Jos is an extremely talented cricketer and we've all seen that in the one-day and Twenty20 format," Cook said.

"He's right up there with the best short-form players in the world and he's earned an opportunity to come and play here."

Duckett managed 18 in the first two matches after falling to India's premier spinner Ravichandran Ashwin in his three innings.

But Cook defended the batsman, calling it just a small bump in the batsman's career.

"Ben (Duckett) won't be the only good player who has been dropped," Cook said.

"He has an England future, there's no doubt about it, because he's a very talented guy with a lot ahead of him."

Cook also said that Jonny Bairstow will continue to keep wicket in the longer format with Buttler playing as a specialist batsman.

"There was no temptation to give Jos the gloves back. I think Jonny's been outstanding and has settled in that role and done very well," he added.

Indian skipper Virat Kohli said he was surprised that it had taken so long for England to bring Buttler back into the mix for Test matches.

"I was actually quite surprised to see him being left out after a couple of bad runs. I think he's a very talented player and can do really well for England," said Kohli.

SCOREBOARDS

KINGS V RIDERS

RAJSHAHI KINGS	R/B	4s/6s
Mominul lbw b Shohag	4/3	1/0
Junaid c Rubel b Dawson	23/21	2/0
Sabbir st Shahzad b Arafat	31/24	4/1
Patel lbw b Dawson	17/18	0/1
Akmal not out	33/30	2/1
Mehedi b Muktar	6/7	1/0
Sammy not out	44/18	3/4
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, w-1, nb-1)	4	
Total: (For 5 wkts in 20 overs)	162	
Did not bat: Farhad, Hasan, Sami, Nazmul.		
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-51, 3-75, 4-79, 5-92.		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shohag	4	0	32	1
Anwar	4	0	49	0
Rubel	4	0	42	0
Arafat	4	0	17	1
Dawson	3	0	15	2
Muktar			1	0
			5	1

RANGPUR RIDERS

	R/B	4s/6s
Shahzad b Nazmul	18/26	2/0
Jamshed run out	27/28	3/1
Mithun not out	64/36	3/4
Soumya b Nazmul	8/10	0/0
Anwar c Sami b Patel	5/4	1/0
Dawson c Akmal b Sami	10/7	0/1
Naeem not out	14/10	0/1
Extras: (lb-1, w-2, nb-1)	4	
Total: (For 5 wkts in 20 overs)	150	
Did not bat: Shohag, Arafat, Rubel, Muktar.		
Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-68, 3-94, 4-107, 5-119.		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Sami	4	0	26	1
Farhad	4	0	46	0
Mehedi	4	0	18	0
Nazmul	4	0	19	2
Patel	3	0	28	1
Hasan	1	0	12	0

Result: Rajshahi Kings won by 12 runs.
Player-of-the-match: Darren Sammy.

BULLS V TITANS

BARISAL BULLS	R/B	4s/6s
Mendis c Junaid b Shafiul	14/13	2/0
Malan c Pooran b Junaid	7/10	1/0
Nafees lbw b Mosharrarf	23/27	3/0
Mushfiqur run out	31/26	3/0
Nadif run out	1/5	0/0
Perera not out	17/19	0/1
Enamul not out	20/20	1/1
Extras: (lb-2, w-4)	6	
Total: (For 5 wkts in 20 overs)	119	
Did not bat: Rumman, Tajjul, Monir, Kamrul.		
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-24, 3-66, 4-70, 5-79.		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mahmudullah	4	0	28	0
Junaid	4	0	12	1
Shafiul	4	0	31	1
Cooper	4	0	30	0
Mosharrarf	4	0	16	1

KHULNA TITANS	R/B	4s/6s
Taibur run out	21/25	2/0
Hasanuzzaman b Tajjul	4/4	1/0
Wessels b Rumman	5/9	1/0
Shuvagata b Rumman	40/34	5/1
Mahmudullah not out	36/35	1/2
Pooran not out	8/7	1/0
Extras: (lb-4, nb-2)	6	
Total: (For 4 wkts in 18.4 overs)	120	
Did not bat: Mosharrarf, Junaid, Ariful, Cooper, Shafiul.		
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-16, 3-49, 4-106.		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Tajjul	4	0	14	1
Rumman	4	0	13	2
Monir	4	0	29	0
Kamrul	3	0	21	0
Perera	2.4	0	31	0
Mendis	1	0	8	0

Result: Khulna Titans won by 6 wickets.
Player-of-the-match: Shuvagata Hom.

Khawaja's timely ton puts Australia on top

REUTERS, Adelaide



Adelaide despite the clearout that followed the humiliating innings and 80-run defeat in Hobart.

Usman Khawaja hit his country's first century of the series and Peter Handscomb a half century on debut as Australia reached 307 for six with a lead of 48 at end of the second day of the day-night third Test against South Africa on Friday.

Khawaja's magnificent 285-ball 138 not out was the glue in Australia's innings, the left-hander putting on 137 with Steve Smith until his captain was calamitously run out and then 99 with Handscomb.

Kyle Abbott (3-38), who took two wickets in the first hour, returned to dismiss Handscomb before Kagiso Rabada bowled another debutant, Nic Maddinson, for a duck and Vernon Philander removed Matt Wade for four.

Khawaja will resume with Mitchell Starc (16 not out) on day three as the hosts look to extend their lead and put themselves in a commanding position to get the result they need to avoid a first ever 3-0 series sweep on home soil.

Now 29, Khawaja has been recalled and discarded with regularity since his debut in 2011 but was retained for

BCB assures action against Ali

STAR SPORT DESK

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is taking action against security co-ordinator Mohammad Ali for the assault on a journalist at Fatullah on October 3.

During a warm-up match between the visiting England side and the BCB XI, Atif Azam, a sports correspondent from English daily New Age, was assaulted by Ali.

At a meeting attended by BCB directors Jalal Yunus and Islam Haider Mallick and BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday, verbal assurances were made that action would be taken against former cricketer Ali.

Before the meeting yesterday, a memorandum was given to the BCB high-ups, asking them to take appropriate action against Ali within three days. A separate memorandum was handed over, seeking the remedy for the troubles faced by sports journalists in recent times.

Both memorandums were signed by sports journalists from most of the media houses of the country. The board officials also assured that other issues will be solved through dialogue.

ICC unhappy with Faf appeal

AFP, Adelaide

The International Cricket Council voiced disappointment Friday after South Africa skipper Faf du Plessis said he will appeal his conviction for ball-tampering.

Du Plessis was fined his match fee after being caught on camera sucking a sweet, or mint, and rubbing the ball with his saliva in an alleged attempt to alter its flight during last week's second Test against Australia.

"The ICC is disappointed that Faf du Plessis has chosen not to accept the findings of match referee Andy Pycroft and will instead exercise his right to appeal," the ICC said, adding that an independent Judicial Commissioner will hear the appeal as soon as possible.



Australia opener Usman Khawaja led his side's reply brilliantly, scoring an unbeaten 138 as Australia took the lead against South Africa on the second day of the third Test in Adelaide yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Kohli gives nod to DRS

AFP, Mohali

Indian skipper Virat Kohli on Friday gave a nod of approval to the Decision Review System, after the national team used it for the first time in a home series following years of resistance to the technology.

Kohli described the DRS as "pretty fair" after the first two Tests against England in Rajkot and Visakhapatnam.

India had for years resisted using the DRS over doubts about its reliability following a frustrating trial run in 2008, despite the nine other Test teams adopting the technology years ago.

But the International Cricket Council recently said it had made upgrades to the technology, prompting India to give it another trial run.

"Yeah, am pretty happy with it... I think it is pretty fair for the game," Kohli told reporters on the eve of the third Test in Mohali.

Pakistan strike before rain

AFP, Hamilton



New Zealand reached 77-2 against Pakistan before rain forced day one of the second and final Test to be abandoned after just 21 overs in Hamilton on Friday.

The players took lunch 15 minutes early as the skies opened, with Jeet Raval on 35 and Ross Taylor on 29 after the early loss of Tom Latham and Kane Williamson.

Three hours later, the umpires tired of waiting for the rain to clear and scratched the final session. Play will resume half-an-hour early at 10:30 am on Saturday (2130 GMT Friday).

Pakistan won the toss in bowler-friendly conditions with a green wicket and heavy cloud cover, but apart from Mohammad Amir, their seamers were unable to pin New Zealand down.

Veteran batsman Ross Taylor, who is to undergo surgery at the end of the Test to remove a growth in his left eye, hit six boundaries in his unbeaten 29 off 20 deliveries.

Raval was dropped on his third delivery but otherwise looked composed as he continued the good form from his maiden Test last week when he compiled innings of 55 and 36 not out.

SCORES IN BRIEF

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 77 for 2 (Raval 35 not out, Taylor 29 not out; Amir 1-15, Sohail 1-35)