

# SPORTS



After a quiet start to his first match in this season's Bangladesh Premier League, Chittagong Vikings batsman Chris Gayle exploded with four sixes and a four in the space of eight balls during their nine-wicket win over Rangpur Riders at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Shahid in doubt for NZ tour

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh pacer Mohammad Shahid, who had injured his right knee while fielding during the game between the Dhaka Dynamites and the Comilla Victorians at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium on Saturday, is in danger of missing the New Zealand series, which is set to begin in late December.

Shahid, who scalped 15 wickets in eight games at an impressive average of 12.46, had missed out on the England series due to injury as well. Just when things seemed to be going well for the 28-year-old, he hurt himself again.

"For now he has been asked to rest for two weeks. He has suffered from an ACL (Anterior Cruciate Ligament) injury. If his leg continues to hurt after two weeks then his period of rest will be increased," BCB sports physician told The Daily Star yesterday.



Despite the setback, chief selector Minhajul Abedin was confident that Shahid would be able to return to the field before the first Test against New Zealand on January 12.

"Although the series is beginning on December 26, Shahid has been taken in the squad for the Tests. As a result, he has ample time to recover. Let's see what happens," Minhajul told The Daily Star.

Apart from Shahid, three other players from the 22-member preliminary squad for the New Zealand series -- Mustafizur Rahman, Ebadat Hossain and Tanveer Haider -- are still recovering from injuries.

Mustafizur is progressing gradually, while Ebadat and Tanveer, according to Minhajul, have almost recovered and should be fit before the Tigers leave for Australia on December 9.

## Dynamites claim top spot

SPORTS REPORTER

Barisal Bulls were one of the first teams to gain momentum in this season's Bangladesh Premier League. They won three out of their first four games of the competition and with both Shahriar Nafees and Mushfiqur Rahim in good touch, their team looked impeccable.

However, then came the disappointing Chittagong leg; a phase in which they lost all their three matches. Unfortunately for Mushfiqur and Co they have not been able to shrug off the poor patch as yet.

That they are struggling is something that was obvious in Mirpur yesterday, when they lost to the Dhaka Dynamites by four wickets. The defeat ensured that Barisal remain in sixth place. On the other hand, it helped their opponents, Dhaka, overtake Khulna Titans and claim the top spot.

Batting first, Barisal's top three collapsed for just 37. The young Abu Jayed dismissed Nafees while Dilshan Munaweera and Jeevan Mendis were run out. Mushfiqur began stitching together a partnership with Nadif Chowdhury and the duo put on 47 runs in the next 6.5 overs. It seemed like a revival, but when Shakib Al Hasan bowled Mushfiqur for a 30-ball 36 in the 14th over, the game changed. Nadif was dismissed in the next over and Enamul Haque followed soon after. In 17 overs, the Bulls had collapsed to 98 for six. Thankfully for them, Rumman Raees came in towards the end and smashed a 13-ball 25 with one six and two fours to help them post 132 for six.

Raees's knock gave them a fighting chance and the Bulls began well with Tajjul Islam dismissing Mehedi Maruf in the first over. However, a 53-run stand ensued between Kumar Sangakkara and Shakib Al Hasan for the second wicket to help steady the ship. Just when it seemed as though Dhaka would amble to an easy win, they lost both Sangakkara and Shakib in consecutive overs. By over number 10 Dhaka were precariously placed at 60 for three.

Nasir Hossain and Mosaddek Hossain, two players who have battled against each other for a lower order position in the national team, joined hands and started the revival of Dhaka's chase.

They initially just knocked the ball around for three overs. However, with 58 runs required off 42 balls, the players decided to unleash themselves. They dismissed the Sri Lankan duo of Mendis and Thisara Perera for boundaries in overs 14 and 15 and got the cogwheels turning.

An over later Monir Hossain was smacked for a six by Nasir, before the slow left-armer trapped him in front with the next ball.

With 12 runs required off 12 balls, Dhaka got a minor jolt when they lost Mosaddek and Seekkuge Prasanna in consecutive deliveries of the 19th over. However, with Prasanna having hit a four earlier in that over, the damage was not irreparable with the Dynamites requiring just four runs in the last over.

Dwayne Bravo took a couple in the first ball and then dispatched Perera for a four in the second to eventually guide home the Dynamites with four balls and five wickets remaining.

POINTS TABLE				
Teams	M	W	L	Pts
Dhaka Dynamites	9	6	3	12
Kkulna Titans	9	6	3	12
Chittagong Vikings	9	5	4	10
Rangpur Riders	8	5	3	10
Rajshahi Kings	8	4	4	8
Barisal Bulls	9	3	6	6

## 5TH MEN'S AHF CUP

# Bangladesh make it three in a row

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh national hockey team emerged unbeaten champions in the Men's AHF Cup after inflicting an emphatic 3-0 defeat on Sri Lanka in the final at King's Park hockey ground in Hong Kong yesterday.

Retaining the title of the fifth AHF Cup -- which completes a hatrick of titles after their Singapore (2008) and Thailand (2012) triumphs -- meant that Bangladesh have qualified for next year's 10th Asia Cup as the last and eighth team to join auto-qualifiers South Korea, India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Japan, China and Oman. The next edition of the Asia Cup will be held in September-October 2017.

Pre-tournament favourites Bangladesh came into the final with a massive 8-0 win over Singapore in the semifinal but the boys in red and green could not repeat the feat of the semifinal. Instead, they found the going a bit hard against their South Asian rivals, who played their semifinal match early the same morning after the scheduled semifinal on Saturday was washed out due to the heavy rain.

Sri Lanka, who have given Bangladesh a run for their money in most of their previous

meetings, were aiming to repeat their 2006 SA Games feat when they cost Bangladesh the bronze, but German coach Oliver Kurtz's charges did not give them any room.

Striker Hasan Jubair Niloy, who was later adjudged man of the final, finally broke the deadlock in the 22nd minute before penalty-corner specialist Ashraf Islam doubled the margin by converting a penalty corner in the 61st minute. Veteran midfielder Kamruzzaman Rana took the match away from Sri Lanka and wrapped up the victory three minutes from time after converting another penalty corner.

"We are not thinking about the margin; rather we are happy because we have achieved our target by winning the AHF Cup," said captain Rasel Mahmud Jimmy over the phone.

"We have played better than in the match against Singapore today [Sunday] but we have also wasted a lot of scoring chances as well as penalty corners. Each and every player played really well. The margin could have been 7-0 or 8-0 had we not squandered the opportunities," said Jimmy who now wants to concentrate on the upcoming World Hockey League Round-2 to be held in Bangladesh next March.

## Smith thrilled by new and energised Aussies

AFP, Adelaide

Skipper Steve Smith said his newly energised Australia side can only get better after a spirited win over South Africa in the day-night third and final Test in Adelaide on Sunday.

The Australians ended a five-Test losing streak with a commanding seven-wicket victory over the Proteas, after being well beaten in the previous two Tests and losing the series.

The second Hobart Test debacle, where they capitulated to an innings defeat in four days, triggered five team changes including three batting debutants: Matthew Renshaw, Peter Handscomb and Nic Maddinson. Smith's recharged team chased down the 127 runs required for victory on the fourth day of the pink-ball Test to give promise of better things to come.

The Australians have a three-match one-day series against New Zealand at home next month before a three-Test series against Pakistan starting December 15, in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney.

"We can grow on what we've done in this Test match. It's been a great start for a young group that have come together," Smith told reporters.

"You don't grow overnight. I think it's a good opportunity for this side to play a little bit together and continue to improve and know each others' games, get better as a team.

"It was a great start but there's still plenty of work to do.

"Pakistan have been playing some good cricket, some quality players and we will have to be at our best to get on top of them as well."

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings 259 for 9 decl

**AUSTRALIA:** First innings 383

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Second innings 250 (Cook 104, Amla 45, Duminy 26, Bavuma 21, Philander 17; Starc 4-80, Hazlewood 2-41, Lyon 3-60)

**AUSTRALIA:** Second innings 127 for 3 (Renshaw 34 not out, Warner 47, Smith 40; Abbott 1-26, Shamsi 1-49)

**Result:** Australia won by 7 wickets.  
**Player-of-the-match:** Usman Khawaja.  
**Player-of-the-series:** Vernon Philander.



The Bangladesh men's hockey team pose for the champion's photo after retaining their Men's AHF Cup trophy with a 3-0 win over Sri Lanka at the King's Park Hockey Ground in Hong Kong yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

### SCOREBOARDS

#### BULLS V DYNAMITES

BARISAL BULLS	R/B	4s/6s
Nafees c Prasanna b Jayed	3/13	0/0
Munaweera run out	10/7	2/0
Mendis run out	7/13	0/0
Mushfiqur b Shakib	36/30	2/0
Nadif c Prasanna b Bopara	21/25	2/0
Perera not out	15/15	1/0
Enamul c Sunzamul b Bravo	3/4	0/0
Rumman not out	25/13	2/1
Extras: (b-1, lb-2, w-9)	12	
Total: (For 6 wkts in 20 overs)	132	
Did not bat: Tajjul, Monir, Kamrul.		
Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-21, 3-37, 4-84, 5-91, 6-98.		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Jayed	4	1	12	1
Shakib	4	0	31	1
Bravo	4	0	35	1
Sunzamul	2	0	11	0
Bopara	4	0	23	1
Prasanna	2	0	17	0

#### DHAKA DYNAMITES

BARISAL BULLS	R/B	4s/6s
Maruf b Tajjul	1/2	0/0
Sangakkara c Perera b Tajjul	32/33	4/0
Shakib c & b Enamul	22/21	2/1
Nasir lbw b Monir	34/29	2/0
Mosaddek c Mendis b Kamrul	23/20	2/0
Prasanna run out	10/8	1/0
Bopara not out	1/1	0/0
Bravo not out	6/2	1/0
Extras: (lb 5, w 1)	6	
Total: (For 6 wkts in 19.2 overs)	135	
Did not bat: Jayed, Sunzamul, Alauddin.		
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-53, 3-58, 4-113, 5-128, 6-129.		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Tajjul	4	0	19	2
Rumman	4	0	25	0
Enamul	4	0	24	1
Munaweera	1	0	4	0
Kamrul	2	0	14	1
Mendis	2	0	17	0
Perera	1.2	0	15	0

#### RIDERS V VIKINGS

RANGPUR RIDERS	R/B	4s/6s
Shahzad b Taskin	21/28	1/0
Soumya c Nabi b Subashis	26/21	2/1
Mithun b Taskin	12/10	1/0
Dawson c Zakir b Nabi	14/18	0/0
Naem retired hurt	3/4	0/0
Afridi c sub (Nazmul) b Nabi	13/14	0/1
Anwar not out	20/13	1/1
Mukhtar run out	4/11	0/0
Shohag not out	1/1	0/0
Extras: (lb-1, lb-5, w-4)	10	
Total: (For 6 wkts in 20 overs)	124	
Did not bat: Rubel, Arifat.		
Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-61, 3-62, 4-92, 5-98, 6-115.		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Saqain	4	0	17	0
Subashis	4	0	17	1
Imran	4	0	28	0
Nabi	4	0	31	2
Taskin	4	0	25	2

#### CHITTAGONG VIKINGS

RANGPUR RIDERS	R/B	4s/6s
Tamim not out	62/48	9/1
Gayle c Anwar b Afridi	40/26	2/4
Anamul not out	22/22	0/1
Extras: (lb-1, w-3)	4	
Total: (For 1 wkt in 16 overs)	128	
Did not bat: Malik, Nabi, Jahurul, Saqain, Subashis, Zakir, Imran, Taskin.		
Fall of wickets: 1-70.		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shohag	4	0	23	0
Anwar	2	0	17	0
Rubel	3	0	17	0
Afridi	2	0	25	1
Dawson	3	0	25	0
Arifat	1	0	15	0