



The Dhaka Dynamites team celebrate with their coveted Bangladesh Premier League trophy after outplaying the Rajshahi Kings by 56 runs in the final at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. INSET: Dhaka skipper Shakib Al Hasan marked the joyful moment by bringing his own bundle of joy, one-year-old daughter Alaina, to the presentation ceremony.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



## 'SL will face a tough time'

SPORTS REPORTER



Sri Lankan legend Kumar Sangakkara has said that he was 'a bit alarmed' after playing the Bangladesh Premier League this season. And the reason, according to him, is the positive strides that the Bangladesh players have made.

He reckons that the Sri Lankans will face a tough time when Bangladesh tour the island nation in March next year.

"I am a bit alarmed watching how good young Bangladeshi players have become. It's going to be a tough tour for Sri Lanka. Your [Bangladesh's] spinning stock has come good; your fast bowlers have come good.

"There is a huge change in the fitness of the players here. They have all become slimmer. The way the young batsmen have come through is very exciting for Bangladesh's cricket," said Sangakkara, after the Bangladesh Premier League final yesterday in Mirpur.

"These are exciting times for shorter-version cricket for Bangladesh. But obviously everyone will try and play good Test cricket as well. Hopefully there will be plenty of positives for Bangladesh," he added.

Sangakkara, who was adjudged the player of the match in the final yesterday, credited the chemistry between the international and local players behind their victory.

On a personal note he said that he will take a decision regarding his post-international career in a couple of years' time.

"At the moment, I don't have much time to go into coaching or consulting as such, but hopefully in the next two years I will make a decision as to where I am heading in terms of cricket or beyond that," he said.

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SCOREBOARD					
DYNAMITES V KINGS					
DHAKA DYNAMITES		R/B	4s/6s		
Maruf c Williams b Miraz		8/10	1/0		
Lewis c Williams b Forhad		45/31	8/0		
Nasir c Nurul b Afif		5/7	0/0		
Mosaddek lbw b Sammy		5/4	1/0		
Sangakkara c&b Forhad		36/33	2/1		
Bravo run out		13/10	1/1		
Russell c Forhad b Patel 8/11		0/0			
Shakib b Forhad		12/7	2/0		
Alauddin c Sammy b Williams		1/2	0/0		
Sanjamul not out		12/5	2/0		
Jayed not out		0/0	0/0		
Extras: (b-1, lb-6, w-7)		14			
Total: (For 9 wks in 20 overs)		159			
Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-35, 3-42, 4-83, 5-101, 6-113, 7-130, 8-133, 9-155.					
Bowler		O	M	R	W
Williams		4	0	36	1
Forhad		4	0	28	3
Miraz		4	0	22	1
Afif		2	0	23	1
Sammy		2	0	22	1
Nazmul		2	0	13	0
Patel		2	0	8	1
RAJSHAHI KINGS		R/B	4s/6s		
Nurul c Russell b Jayed		5/8	1/0		
Mominul lbw Shakib		27/30	3/0		
Sabbir run out		26/22	2/0		
Patel c Russell b Sajamul		17/12	1/0		
Franklin c Bravo b Sanjamul		5/9	0/0		
Sammy b Shakib		6/4	0/1		
Afif not out		4/9	0/0		
Miraz c Sanjamul b Jayed		1/2	0/0		
Forhad b Bravo		2/3	0/0		
Williams ret'd hurt		4/2	0/0		
Nazmul c Sangakkara b Russell		1/5	0/0		
Extras: (b-1, lb-2, w-2)		5			
Total: (For 9 wks in 17.4 overs)		103			
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-62, 3-66, 4-76, 5-87, 6-91, 7-93, 8-98, 9-103					
Bowler		O	M	R	W
Jayed		3	0	12	2
Russell 3.4		0	21	1	
Shakib		4	0	30	2
Bravo		3	0	20	1
Sanjamul		4	0	17	2
Result: Dhaka Dynamites won by 56 runs.					

## Dynamites overcome pressure

NAIMUL KARIM



Shakib Al Hasan joined Mashrafe Bin Mortaza as one of only two captains to lift a Bangladesh Premier League trophy yesterday. And while he was a part of the strongest team of the BPL this season, it was not an easy task.

Both Dhaka Dynamites skipper Shakib and coach Khaled Mahmud, following their 56-run win over the Rajshahi Kings in Mirpur yesterday, admitted that there was plenty of pressure on the Dynamites to win the competition.

"We had a good team and everyone expected us to be champions right from the start, so there was a bit of pressure. But the good thing for me was that [Khaled Mahmud] Shujon bhai was there outside the ground and things became easier for us.

"The senior players in the team also helped us and that eased the tension. We had enough experience, so whenever we wavered, we knew how to come back to the right path," said Shakib during the post-match press conference in Mirpur yesterday.

"At the start of the tournament I said that there was only one target this time and that was to win the cup

and it feels really happy to be successful. The best part was how the entire team played so well together.

"You may have many famous and big players in the team, but it is also important to perform. At times the desire to perform isn't there. And for that to come you need to create a good environment and I think we managed to do that with the help of our coach and our senior players.

"That's the reason why different players raised their hands in different crucial matches for us," added Shakib.

Coach Mahmud reiterated Shakib's stance. When asked how he dealt with the expectations from the franchise's owners, Beximco, he said: "When I was a player, you all used to call me a fighter. From a very young age I liked to work under pressure. I enjoy working with small teams especially and leading them to wins.

"Actually, when you make a team, everyone wants to be a champion. So, in a sense, they [the owners] didn't put that kind of a pressure on us. Yes, they discussed things with us and we heard their opinion.

"But at the end of the day, we took the decision that our team management thought was better. I am mature enough to know how to handle all of this. I handled all

of these issues and I didn't let these affect my players. I kept all of this away from the players."

"Initially I was a bit afraid since there are so many big players in our team. For instance, I didn't know how to drop Mahela Jayawardene.

"But to my surprise, everyone was very supportive. I was very lucky that way. Mahela was with us in the dressing room and he supported our every move," he added.

Both Shakib and Mahmud have won their second tournament following the Dhaka Premier League this year and they both rated the BPL championship much higher than their former win.

"The atmosphere is different in the BPL. You won't get so many fans coming in during the Dhaka Premier League. I think the intensity with which we play here is almost similar to an international match.

"There are so many international players who come here and play along with the local players, and so, it feels good to be able to perform here," said Shakib.

Mahmud described the win as one of his best.

"This is a very challenging tournament. And to win this is a big deal," said Mahmud.

## 'Proud of the Rajshahi Kings'

SPORTS REPORTER

Despite losing the final at Mirpur yesterday, Rajshahi Kings skipper Darren Sammy said that he was proud of the way his team performed in the Bangladesh Premier League this season.

Rajshahi had lost four out of their first five games of the tournament and were languishing at the bottom initially. However, they turned their game around from the Chittagong leg and reached the final after finishing fourth in the table.

"I am very proud of the way we played throughout the tournament. We are a team that nobody expected to reach the final. We gelled as a team and we won games, which nobody gave us a chance [of doing].

"I will still encourage my guys to keep their heads up, because they played a very good tournament," said Sammy at the post-match press conference in Mirpur yesterday.

"I am really proud of what we have achieved with the players we had. We didn't have stars but we played like a star team. For me that's what's important as a captain," he added.

Sammy reckoned that his team had given away 15 runs too many in the first innings. He also believed that Sabbir Rahman's run-out in the 10th over was what changed the momentum of the game.



## India's strong reply

AFP, Mumbai



Murali Vijay hit an unbeaten half-century as India launched a strong reply after England posted a commanding 400 on the second day of the fourth Test on Friday.

Vijay and Cheteshwar Pujara put on a partnership of 107 to help India finish on 146-1 at stumps. Vijay was batting on 70 while Pujara was on 47 at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium, after Moeen Ali grabbed the wicket of opener Lokesh Rahul, giving England an early breakthrough after Jos Buttler's 76 had steered the visitors to a competitive opening total.

Buttler started the day on 18 and neatly played his way to 64 as England put on 385-8 at lunch in a Test that they must win to keep the five-Test series alive.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**

**ENGLAND:** First Innings 400 all out in 130.1 overs.  
**INDIA:** First innings-146-2 in 52 overs (Rahul 24, Vijay 70 not out, Pujara 47 not out; Ali 1-44)

## Siddikur steady in Hong Kong

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladeshi golfer Siddikur Rahman stayed at three-under-par after closing the second round of the UBS Hong Kong Open on even-par yesterday. The 32-year-old golfer, who had played out a three-under-par in the opening round on Thursday, exchanged a single birdie for a bogey at the Hong Kong Golf Club on Friday for an aggregate score of three-under-par (137).

That effort saw the two-time Asian Tour winner drop from overnight 13th to 18th position on the leaderboard, some eight strokes behind the leader, Rafa Carbera Bello of Spain. The Spaniard followed up with first round score of 64 with a 65 on Friday to race to a three-stroke lead over his nearest rival.

## BPL BY THE NUMBERS

**194** The highest team score in this edition of the tournament, scored by Dhaka Dynamites.

**150** The highest partnership of the league, scored between Barisal's Shahriar Nafees and Dawid Malan for the second-wicket.

**476** The number of runs scored by the tournament's top run-getter, Chittagong Vikings skipper Tamim Iqbal.

**21** The number of wickets taken by the tournament's leading wicket-taker, Dhaka Dynamites' Dwayne Bravo.

**122** The biggest individual score in this editon, scored by Rajshahi's Sabbir Rahman against Barisal.

**92** The highest average by a batsman in this edition. Enamul Haque was dismissed just once in five innings.

**6** The number of times Tamim Iqbal has reached a fifty-plus score, the most in this edition.

**3** The number of five-wicket hauls in this BPL. Afif Hossain, Abul Hasan and Taskin Ahmed have each taken one.

## BPL ROLL OF HONOUR

YEAR	CHAMPION	RUNNERS-UP
2012	Dhaka Gladiators	Barisal Burners
2013	Dhaka Gladiators	Chittagong Kings
2015	Comilla Victorians	Barisal Bulls



## Riyad named BPL's best

SPORTS REPORTER

It may come as no surprise that Mahmudullah Riyad -- who was named Bangladesh Premier League's player of the tournament yesterday -- has scored 396 runs, the second-highest of the season.

The surprise package was his bowling. He took 10 wickets from 14 games and twice single-handedly won the game defending six and seven runs in the last over against Chittagong and Rajshahi respectively.

The honour is richly deserved for a player who has been the main driving force behind his team's run to the playoffs.

## Warner leads Aus to clean sweep

AFP, Melbourne



Opener David Warner smashed his second straight hundred and Mitchell Starc bowled lethal reverse swing to spearhead Australia to a third big win over New Zealand in the Chappell-Hadlee Trophy in Melbourne on Friday.

The Australian vice-captain was run out on the last ball of the innings for 156 off 128 balls -- more than half of his team's 264 for eight total -- with 13 fours and four sixes.

It follows Warner's 119 off 115 balls against the Black Caps in Canberra on Tuesday.

**Australia opener David Warner made it two centuries in a row by thumping a 128-ball 156 in the third ODI against New Zealand in Melbourne yesterday.**

PHOTO: AFP

