

# SPORT

## Sylhet on a roll

MAZHAR UDDIN from Sylhet

Arguably the first competitive game in the fifth edition of the Bangladesh Premier League took place between Comilla Victorians and Sylhet Sixers yesterday as the home side seal their second win of the tournament by four wickets at the Sylhet International Stadium yesterday. Needing 10 runs in the last over, Sylhet lost the wicket of Shuvagata Hom in the first ball but Nurul Hasan struck a six and a four off Dwayne Bravo to start the celebrations.

Once again, Sylhet opens Andre Fletcher and Upul Tharanga added 73 runs for the first wicket inside nine overs and laid the foundation for the chase of 146.

Both openers utilised the Powerplay to great effect and scored 59 runs, much like the first game when they added 51 runs against Dhaka Dynamites on Saturday. Fletcher was dismissed for 36 off 29 when Rashid Khan took a sharp catch running backwards from cover off the bowling of Bravo.

Sabbir Rahman was trapped leg-before by Comilla skipper Mohammad Nabi for just three, and his departure was followed by a mix-up involving skipper Nasir Hossain which caused Tharanga to be run out for 51 off 40 balls with five fours and two sixes.

Sylhet still looked comfortable, needing another 44 runs from 36 balls with eight wickets in hand, but after Nasir (18) was stumped by leg-spinner Rashid and Ross Whiteley (10) was run out the game

went down to the wire before Nurul's hit the Sixers home.

Despite not having big names in the line-up, Nasir's Sylhet displayed a brilliant team effort and executed their game plan pretty well. However, according to Nasir there are no small teams in T20 cricket and the team spirit which helped the side to clinch the victory.

"Obviously it feels good to win two consecutive matches. I think in T20s there are no small or big teams as one or two players can change the course of the game. We may not have big names in the side but those who are playing are performing well for us," Nasir told the media after the victory on Sunday.

Earlier, Comilla definitely missed their icon player Tamim Iqbal, who is recovering from a thigh muscle injury, as West Indies batsman Marlon Samuels scored a team-high of 60 from 47 balls with two fours and three sixes. But none of the other batsmen were able to score significantly. Alok Kapali, who batted ahead of Bravo, which came as a surprise, had the second-highest score with 26.

Nasir once again led from the front with the ball, giving away just 18 from his four overs and taking the wicket of Imrul Kayes. Left-arm spinner Taijul Islam -- who was on a hat-trick having dismissed Liton Das off the last ball of the sixth and Jos Buttler off the first ball of the eighth -- bowled brilliantly conceding just 22 runs from his four overs. Left-arm seamer Krishmar Santokie also picked up two wickets.



Sylhet Sixers batsman Nurul Hasan jumps in the air after scoring the winning runs against Comilla Victorians in their BPL match at the Sylhet International Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

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### SCOREBOARD

#### COMILLA V SYLHET

COMILLA VICTORIANS	R/B	4s/6s
Liton st Nurul b Taijul	21/19	2/1
Imrul b Nasir Hossain	12/11	2/0
Samuels c Nasir b Plunkett	60/47	2/3
Buttler c Plunkett b Taijul	2/5	0/0
Kapali c Sabbir b Santokie	26/19	1/2
Nabi c Shuvagata b Santokie	5/9	0/0
Bravo not out	11/9	0/1
Saifuddin not out	1/1	0/0
Extras: (lb-3, w-4)	7	
Total: (For 6 wks in 20 overs)	145	
Did not bat: Rashid, Arafat, Al-Amin.		
Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-40, 3-44, 4-86, 5-114, 6-137.		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Nasir	4	0	18	1
Santokie	4	0	30	2
Abul	4	0	41	0
Plunkett	4	0	31	1
Taijul	4	0	22	2

SYLHET SIXERS	R/B	4s/6s
Tharanga run out	51/40	5/2
Fletcher c Rashid b Bravo	36/29	5/2
Sabbir lbw b Nabi	3/5	0/0
Nasir st Liton b Rashid	18/20	2/0
Whiteley run out	10/14	0/0
Shuvagata b Bravo	7/7	0/0
Plunkett not out	1/1	0/0
Nurul not out	11/3	1/1
Extras: (lb-7, w-4)	11	
Total: (For 6 in 19.5 overs)	148	
Did not bat: Abul, Taijul, Santokie.		
Fall of wickets: 1-73, 2-83, 3-102, 4-118, 5-136, 6-136.		

Result: Sylhet Sixers won by 4 wickets.  
Player-of-the-match: Upul Tharanga.

## Titans felled by Dynamites

SPORTS REPORTER from Sylhet



Defending champions Dhaka Dynamites bounced back strongly after their defeat to the Sylhet Sixers in the Bangladesh Premier League opener as they handed the Khulna Titans a comprehensive 65-run defeat at the Sylhet International Stadium yesterday.

After having managed to put only 136 runs on the scoreboard in the loss to Sylhet the previous day, a 116-run second-wicket stand between Evin Lewis and Cameron Delpert -- who blitzed to his 50 off just 21 balls -- guided Shakib Al Hasan's side to a mammoth total of 202 for the loss of seven wickets in their allotted overs.



Dhaka Dynamites' Evin Lewis (L) and Cameron Delpert run between the wickets during their BPL fixture against Khulna Titans yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Khulna never seemed like threatening their opponents coming into the chase and were bundled out for just 137 after 18.1 overs. Jofra Archer scored a team-high 36 while none of the others had any contribution of significance.

From a bowling point of view Dhaka managed to move on from their disappointing showing in the previous game, with left-arm seamer Abu Hider being the pick of the bowlers after bagging three wickets for just 13 runs in three overs. Shakib, Sunil Narine and Khaled Ahmed took two apiece as the Dynamites wrapped up an easy win.

After Mahmudullah Riyad had sent the Dynamites in to bat, Kumar Sangakkara nicked Shafiqul Islam to the keeper in the four over and returned with the score on 38. However, while Lewis

looked sedate by his explosive standards the stage was set for Delpert to fly.

Having reached nine off six at the start of the eighth over, he hit Archer for two boundaries, the second of which was a dropped chance at long on. From then, Lewis and Delpert went after the bowling, with the latter outscoring the former in their fruitful nine-over partnership.

The duo ensured that there was at least one boundary each over and Lewis soon reached his 50 off 31 balls in the ninth over after edging Carlos Brathwaite to third man for four.

Delpert, then on 21 off 11, took just 11 more deliveries to reach his half-century in the 12th over, with the first of two sixes and a four in that over bowled by Mosharrar Hossain.

Shafiqul finally managed to send Lewis back the next over, having him caught at cover with the score on 154. The left-hander scored a 40-ball 66 punctuated by seven fours and three sixes.

In the 15th over, Abu Jayed trapped Delpert in front after a 31-ball 64 studded with four boundaries and five sixes.

However, Dhaka were unable to launch after Delpert's departure despite having a solid platform as Shakib (1) and the big-hitting Kieron Pollard (5) departed cheaply. Only some lusty blows at the end from Narine saw them surpass the 200 mark.

Pacer Abu Jayed was the only notable performer with the ball for Khulna, but his figures of 2 for 29 from four overs failed to make a dent as the other bowlers were blasted all around the field.

### SCOREBOARD

#### DHAKA V KHULNA

DHAKA DYNAMITES	R/B	4s/6s
Sangakkara c Walton b Shafiqul	20/12	2/1
Lewis c Mahmudullah b Shafiqul	66/40	7/3
Delpert lbw b Jayed	64/31	4/5
Pollard c Mosharrar b Archer	5/8	0/0
Shakib c Shafiqul b Brathwaite	1/4	0/0
Narine c Mahmudullah b Jayed	16/11	0/2
Mosaddek not out	10/11	1/0
Jahurul run out	3/3	0/0
Hider not out	2/1	0/0
Extras: (lb-1, lb-1, nb-1, w-12)	15	
Total: (For 7 wks in 20 Overs)	202	
Did not bat: Khaled, Shahid.		
Fall of wickets: 1-38, 2-154, 3-157, 4-163, 5-165, 6-188, 7-199.		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Dananjaya	3	0	30	0
Jayed	4	0	29	2
Shafiqul	3	0	41	2
Archer	4	0	34	1
Mahmudullah	1	0	11	0
Brathwaite	1	0	21	0
Mosharrar	1	0	31	1

KHULNA TITANS	R/B	4s/6s
Walton c Sangakkara b Shakib	30/13	5/1
Nazmul c Pollard b Hider	5/7	0/0
Brathwaite lbw b Shakib	0/1	0/0
Rossouw b Shahid	23/14	2/1
Mahmudullah c & b Hider	4/6	0/0
Arif b Khaled	5/6	0/0
Archer c Sangakkara b Narine	36/24	5/0
Dananjaya c Sangakkara b Khaled	7/11	0/0
Mosharrar c Shakib b Hider	17/19	2/0
Shafiqul b Narine	2/6	0/0
Jayed not out	7	0/0
Extras: (lb-1, lb-1, w-5)	12	
Total: (All out in 18.1 overs)	137	
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-8, 3-43, 4-62, 5-68, 6-70, 7-88, 8-128, 9-135, 10-137.		

Result: Dhaka won by 65 runs.  
Player-of-the-match: Cameron Delpert.

## Dhaka phase rescheduled

SPORTS REPORTER



The Dhaka phase of the Bangladesh Premier League has been rescheduled considering the dew factor and convenience for spectators in addition to ground maintenance concerns.

The first game will now start at 1:30pm, half an hour earlier than previously stated, while the second game which was scheduled for 7:00pm will now instead be played at 6:00pm. However, the first match on Friday will begin at 2:00pm and the second will start from 6:30pm.

"We have already decided to reschedule the first game to 1:30pm, half an hour earlier than scheduled, while we have also decided to cut down the break between the first and second game to start the latter from 6:00pm, this will be implemented from the Dhaka phase. Basically we have taken the decision keeping the spectators in mind as they had to face a lot of difficulties due to a lack of transportation after the game. Secondly the dew factor is also there and the third thing is that the curators will get some more time to prepare the ground as we have back to back matches," said Ismail Haider Mallick, member secretary of the BPL governing council, on Sunday.

On November 4, after their encounter, Rangpur Riders captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Rajshahi Kings skipper Darren Sammy both informed that dew played a big part during their fixture and, keeping the dew in mind, winning the toss would prompt any skipper to field first.

The tournament's Sylhet phase will come to a close on November 8 before the Dhaka phase kicks off from November 11.

## All for a glimpse of the show

DWOHA CHOWDHURY from Sylhet



Sadia Begum, a nine-year-old girl from Badambagicha, an area near the Sylhet International Stadium, was carrying her three-year-old younger brother Sami up a hillock adjacent to the venue.

As she climbed the slippery slope, all she managed to see was the giant screen near the grass banks and a partial view of the gallery where thousands were cheering.

50-year-old Hadi Miah was similarly trying to have a look at the field from the hilltop.

"I am not very fond of cricket, but I am here only to have a look at the stadium and to see Sylhet playing," he said.

While roaming the areas near the stadium during the Sylhet Sixers-Comilla Victorians match on the second day of the fifth edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) yesterday, hundreds could be seen gathering at the stadium only to have a glimpse of their favourite players.

Many youths were also trying to pass through the fence and some even managed to enter the stadium by striking up an agreement with security personnel.

Schoolgoer Munna Ahmed tried to buy a ticket from the counters, but failed. He came to the stadium yesterday only to get a feel of the festivities.

As many had failed to get tickets, some facebook-based groups were selling tickets at three or four times the counter price.

Meanwhile, two BCB-appointed volunteers were detained at Airport Police Station after trying to sell spon-

sor tickets at a hiked-up price, additional deputy commissioner of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, Abdul Wahab, informed.

Ticketing for the BPL matches in Sylhet has been beset by mismanagement, the most visible instance of which was the scuffle that left three fans injured when the sale of tickets was delayed by more than half an hour on November 2.



Sylhet Sixers fans through the stands to watch the local franchise in action at the Sylhet International Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

WHACK-OMETER

TOTAL 6s HIT 45 | TOTAL 4s HIT 87

Most 6s hit by a player: 6, Cameron Delpert, Dhaka Dynamites  
Most 4s hit by a player: 10, Evin Lewis, Dhaka Dynamites, Upul Tharanga and Andre Fletcher, Sylhet Sixers

### MOMENTS

#### LEWIS-DELPORT'S HURRICANE PARTNERSHIP

Despite losing opener Kumar Sangakkara on twenty, Dhaka Dynamites' West Indian cricketer Evin Lewis and uncapped South African Cameron Delpert blasted the Khulna Titans bowlers after being asked to bat. Both southpaws started to attack with sixes and fours. Delpert struck two sixes and a four to take 21 runs in the 11th over off left-arm spinner Mosharrar Hossain and reached his fifty off just 21 balls while Lewis at the other end registered his in 31 balls. The pair added 116 runs off just 54 balls for the second wicket, helping Dhaka to post 202 for seven in 20 overs.

#### THE BRAVO CALYPSO

There was not much to celebrate for Comilla Victorians in their defence of a 146-run target in their first BPL game as Sylhet Sixers opens Upul Tharanga and Andre Fletcher started with all guns blazing. But despite that it was Victorians' West Indian all-rounder Dwayne Bravo who had his moment to entertain the crowd. After dismissing countryman Andre Fletcher to break the opening partnership as he was sharply caught by Rashid Khan running backwards, Bravo celebrated the wicket with his typical dance moves to give a sendoff to the batsman. The famous celebration from Bravo brought the crowd to their feet after witnessing the famous Caribbean calypso dance for the first time in Sylhet.

#### SPINNER NASIR SHINES BRIGHT

Sylhet Sixers captain Nasir Hossain was impressive in leading from the front with his off-spin and played a crucial role in both wins for his side. Opening the innings with the ball, Nasir denied the batsmen the chance to free their arms and utilised the dry pitch to great effect. In the first game, against a strong Dhaka Dynamites batting line-up he gave away just 21 runs from his four overs and bagged two wickets and he maintained that rhythm yesterday as once again he bowled a tight line and length, putting the batsmen under immense pressure. He ended up giving away just 18 runs from his four overs and picked up the wicket of Imrul Kayes to break the opening partnership.

#### THARANGA'S CONSECUTIVE 50S

After a match-winning, unbeaten 69 against the Dhaka Dynamites in the opening game, Sylhet Sixers' Sri Lankan opener Upul Tharanga continued his fine form against Comilla Victorians on Sunday. The left-hander was however unable to finish the game this time around as he was run out after scoring 51 off 40 balls, featuring five fours and two sixes. But before being dismissed he laid the foundation for the Sixers in their chase of 146 and along with opener Andre Fletcher, provided a good start once again. The pair added 73 runs for the opening wicket; Fletcher was dismissed for 36 but Tharanga went on to score his second successive half-ton and was adjudged the man of the match.

#### SYLHET'S 2 IN 2

Even before the start of this season's BPL there was not much talk about the Sylhet Sixers as they hardly have any big names in the line-up. But Nasir Hossain's side displayed brilliant team effort and managed to win the first two games of the tournament by beating two star-studded sides in Dhaka Dynamites and Comilla Victorians. Playing on their home ground in Sylhet, where BPL matches are being held for the first time, they have enjoyed loud cheers from their crowd and perhaps that has inspired the local boys to emerge as the surprise package in the tournament.