



Big-hitting West Indies batsman Kieron Pollard became only the second batsman after Chris Gayle to have hit 500 T20 sixes when he smashed three of those for Dhaka Dynamites against Rajshahi Kings during a BPL game at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



Dhaka dancing to calypso tune

SPORTS REPORTER



If the Sylhet Sixers were the team to watch in the Sylhet leg of the Bangladesh Premier League, then Shakib Al Hasan's Dhaka Dynamites took the baton in the Dhaka leg as they maintained their unbeaten run by handing a 68-run defeat to the Rajshahi Kings at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

In the first session Evin Lewis tuned into the prelude of the calypso with the bat before Kieron Pollard provided the finishing touches. Both batsmen's quick-fire half-centuries fired Dynamites to 201; the second time they have crossed the 200-mark.

Shahid Afridi then joined the party in the second session, trapping the Kings in a spin web with a four-wicket haul as Dhaka raced to their third win from four games in the second leg after the last match was abandoned due to rain.

Local boy Abu Hider also deserved some kudos for making the initial inroads while captain Shakib scalped the two important wickets of Darren Sammy and James Franklin as Kings were bundled out for 133.

However Kings skipper Darren Sammy blamed dropped catches.

"Two of our key bowlers were unfit but at the end of the day if you drop four catches against a good side, most of the time you have to pay for that. And we did pay for that," he opined.

Among the missed chances, Pollard's two lives (when he was on 18 and 28) were the

most costly. Coming in to bat at number seven, Pollard simply carried on from his 24-ball 55 in the previous match against the Khulna Titans to hit an unbeaten 52 off 25 with five fours and three sixes. That tornado knock helped Dhaka rack up 71 runs from the last five overs.

Earlier it was left-hander Lewis who put the Rajshahi bowlers to the sword during his 38-ball 65 that contained ten fours and one six, his knock guiding Dhaka to 99 runs from the first ten overs before Kings bounced back by giving away only 31 runs in the five overs.

Lewis started with two fine boundaries against off spinner Habibur Rahman in the first over and then punished Mehedi Hasan in the second over with two fours and a six to set the tone, before Afridi demoralized the Kings' attack in the third over. The Pakistani firebrand hit Farhad Reza for three boundaries during his 8-ball cameo which yielded 15 runs.

In reply, Kings made a disastrous start as Hider removed Rony Talukder with the fifth ball of the innings and one-down Samit Patel was the next victim, departing in the third over and leaving the scoreboard at 11 for two.

Sammy's side failed to recover from the early hiccup and young Zakir Hossain -- who hit a fifty in the previous -- was the only one who could provide the crowd with some entertainment in the second innings with his 23-ball 36.

Rajshahi have played six matches and managed only two wins while Dhaka have four wins and one loss from their six.

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Explosive duo disappoint

SPORTS REPORTER

The huge crowd which had gathered yesterday to witness some big hitting from West Indies giant Chris Gayle and hard-hitting Kiwi Brendon McCullum were left disappointed after the Rangpur Riders duo opened an innings for the first time in the history of Bangladesh Premier League against Comilla Victorians.

Both Gayle and McCullum were unable to make an impact as Comilla registered their fourth consecutive win, beating Rangpur by 14 runs at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

With four wins from five games, Comilla

figures of 15 for 2 from his four overs while the brilliant Rashid Khan lived up to his reputation once again, conceding just 19 runs from his four overs and scalping two wickets.

"I wanted the wickets of both Gayle and McCullum, but I am happy with one [McCullum's]," Mahedi said at the post-match briefing.

However, he may well have had the other as Gayle was extremely lucky after he survived the first delivery from Mahedi.

The West Indian missed the arm ball, which shaped in to hit the pad but Sri Lankan umpire Ranmore Martinesz turned down the huge appeal and incited the Vikings fielders, including skipper Tamim Iqbal, with the decision.

The big man survived for the second time on two when he attempted to pull Hasan Ali and only managed a leading edge. Wicketkeeper Liton Das, despite getting his gloves on the ball, missed a rather simple catch running backwards.

Gayle did smash three fours after that but was eventually trapped leg before by Rashid after scoring 17 off 13 balls. This time it looked like the ball was heading down the leg side but umpire Martinesz did not hesitate in raising his finger.

At the other end, McCullum came down the track and smashed a straight six over pacer Al Amin and reached a milestone 400 sixes in T20s. But he too perished on 13 after being stumped by Liton off Mahedi's bowling.

Earlier Comilla made a shaky start after being sent in to bat and posted 153 for 6. Inform Imrul Kayes top scored with 47 off 32 while Marlon Samuels added 41. Saifuddin remained unbeaten on 16 as Comilla added 32 runs from the final three overs.

now lead the table. Rangpur, on the back of a third loss in four games, are rock bottom.

Chasing 154, Rangpur were at one stage reeling at 32 for four inside seven overs before eventually scoring 139 for 7 in 20 overs. The only notable Rangpur performances came from English batsman Ravi Bopara, who top-scored with a run-a-ball 48, and Mohammad Mithun, who scored 39. The pair added 67 runs for the fifth wicket.

It was evident that Comilla had done their homework when they introduced young off-spinner Mahedi Hasan to open the innings, a move that paid dividends. He ended with the



133 Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-11, 3-60, 4-71, 5-72, 6-104, 7-124, 8-126, 9-132

Bowler O M R W

Abu Hider 2.2 0 11 3

Shakib 4 0 22 2

Narine 4 0 32 0

Mosaddek 1 0 18 0

Afridi 4 0 26 4

Sadam 3 0 19 1

Result: Dhaka Dynamites won by 68 runs

Player of the match: Evin Lewis

Scoreboard

COMILLA V RANGPUR

COMILLA VICTORIANS R/B 45/6s

Tamim c McCullum b Rubel 21/19 4/0

Liton b Mashrafe 11/11 1/0

Imrul b Perera 47/32 4/2

Buttler lbw b Mashrafe 1/4 0/0

Samuels c Mithun b Perera 41/34 4/1

Malik run out 9/8 0/0

Saifuddin not out 16/11 1/1

Hasan Ali not out 2/1 0/0

Extras: (b-4, w-1) 5

Total: (For 6 wickets in 20 overs) 133

Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-47, 3-55, 4-100, 5-119, 6-133

Bowler O M R W

Sohag Gazi 4 0 24 0

Mashrafe 4 0 22 2

Rubel 4 0 45 1

Nazmul 3 0 24 0

Bopara 1 0 8 0

Perera 4 0 26 2

Gazi not out 1/3 0/0

Extras: (lb-3, nb-1, w-8) 12

Total: (For 7 wickets in 20 overs) 139

Fall of wickets: 1-31, 2-31, 3-31, 4-32, 5-99

Bowler O M R W

Mahedi 4 0 15 2

Al-Amin 4 0 33 1

Hasan Ali 4 0 39 1

Rashid Khan 4 0 19 2

Saifuddin 4 0 30 0

Result: Comilla Victorians won by 14 runs

Player of the match: Mahedi Hasan

Scoreboard

RANGPUR RIDERS R/B 45/6s

McCullum c Liton b Mahedi 13/14 1/1

Gayle lbw b Rashid 17/13 3/0

Perera c Mahedi b Rashid 2/0 0/0

S Nafees b Mahedi 0/3 0/0

Mithun b Tamim b Al-Amin 31/26 1/1

Bopara not out 16/48 5/0

Mashrafe run out 17/11 1/1

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Scoreboard

MOMENTS

AIRBORNE NADIF

Dropped catches have been a constant feature in the fifth edition of the Bangladesh Premier League so far but Dhaka Dynamites player Nadif Chowdhury broke the mould when he took a gem of a catch in their encounter with Rajshahi Kings.

Known as a fantastic fielder, Nadif lived up to expectations by taking a magnificent catch at backward point to dismiss Mashrafe Rahim. The wicketkeeper-batsman tried to smash a powerful reverse sweep off Shahid Afridi off the last ball of the 10th over but Nadif launched into the air with an outstretched left hand to palm the ball and complete the stunner of a catch,

which was by far the best of this BPL season.

POLLARD COMPLETES 500 T20 SIXES

Dhaka Dynamites big hitter Kieron Pollard became the second batsman to hit 500 sixes in T20 cricket during their match against Rajshahi Kings yesterday. The West Indian, who started the game just three sixes away from the milestone, struck the first off-left-arm spinner Samit Patel way over long on. He then lashed a foolish delivery by medium pacer Farhad Reza towards the same region and was then just one six away from his 500th.

The 30-year-old eventually reached the landmark off the

second ball of the last over as he hit a short delivery outside off stump from Hossain Ali to over deep mid-wicket and complete his 500 sixes in a total of 351 innings. However, teammate and fellow big hitter Chris Gayle leads the chart with 772 sixes from 303 T20 innings while New Zealand's Brendon McCullum has 400 from 293 and Australia's David Warner has tallied 314 from 237.

RUBEL'S CLASH WITH IMRUL

A lot of controversy followed the on-field verbal clash involving Rangpur Riders skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Chittagong Vikings pacer Subhashish Roy. And once again two Bangladesh national team members became embroiled in a similar incident. The event occurred during yesterday's second BPL fixture between Comilla Victorians and Rangpur Riders. Comilla's Imrul Kayes and Rangpur's Rubel Hossain became engaged in the argument after the last ball of the fourth over. Imrul inside-edged a Rubel delivery for four and started walking over to partner Liton Das, to possibly discuss strategy, but Rubel suddenly charged forward and uttered something which led to a heated moment among the two. Although the exact reason behind the conflict remains unknown, at the time of the event, the umpire had to step in and separate the two cricketers to avoid an even more unpleasant situation.

Chandika leaves BCB confused

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is yet to clear the cloud that has been hanging over the resignation of Tigers head coach Chandika Hathurusingha.

There have been reports that Hathurusingha will now become Sri Lanka's head coach. However according to BCB director Akram Khan, the board is still waiting for Hathurusingha to return to the country in the next few days before taking a suitable course of action.

"Actually we are still in confusion and don't know anything about this issue yet. Probably he [Hathurusingha] will come in the next 2-3 days and after talking to him we can finalise the matter. Some people are saying he will go to Sri Lanka while a few say he will stay in Australia. But what Hathurusingha will tell us, will only be taken into account when making the final decision," said Akram.

He also ruled out the rumoured potential replacements for the position in the likes of Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Andy Flower and Sourav Ganguly.