



Rangpur Riders' 239 for four is the highest score in all editions of BPL.

It was the first time in BPL history that a match saw two different centuries in one innings, while it is the third such occurrence in all T20 cricket.

The 174-run second-wicket partnership between Alex Hales and Rilee Rossouw is third highest partnership by runs in the history of BPL and the second highest second-wicket partnership in BPL.



Rangpur Riders' Rilee Rossouw (L) and Alex Hales set the Zahur Ahmed Stadium in Chattogram alight, each hitting centuries of astonishing aggression against Chittagong Vikings to set up the highest total in the tournament's history last night.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Riders lay siege to Vikings

### Sylhet outclass Rajshahi

SPORTS REPORTER



Rangpur Riders laid siege to table-toppers Chittagong Vikings' Chattogram base at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium last night in a high-voltage game, thanks to masterful T20 tons from Alex Hales and Rilee Rossouw to pick up their fifth win of the tournament as the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL T20) restarted with the Chattogram leg.

Vikings' locals had performed well to get them to the top but came up against a different order of T20 prowess as Rangpur won by 72 runs with their famed top order doing the job.

Abig crowd showed up at Chattogram, unlike a large of matches in the Dhaka legs, and they were entertained to a Hales and Rossouw run fest. So dominant were the duo during their 174-run partnership -- the third-highest partnership in BPL history -- that it did not even matter that Chris Gayle fell for just two and AB de Villiers scored only one. Mashrafe Bin Mortaza said at the end that their top order 'can destroy any bowler in a massive way' and that was

## Zahir cracks 32-year record

SPORTS REPORTER



After sprinter Mohammad Ismail's record-breaking performance on the opening day of the Walton National Athletics Championships, teenager Zahir Rayhan stole the show on the second day by breaking a 32-year-long national record in the 400m run at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Zahir, who came into the limelight after reaching the semifinals of the World U-18 Championships in Nairobi in 2017 with a time of 48 seconds, clocked 46.86 seconds (electronic timer) in his first ever participation in the national athletic championships to eclipse the previous best of 47.55 seconds by Milzar Hossain during the Asian Games in Seoul, South Korea in 1986.

Abu Taleb and Masud Rana from Bangladesh Army finished second and third, clocking 48.50 and 49 seconds respectively.

The 19-year-old Zahir had to sit idle in the 2017 meet following an eye injury sustained in a motorcycle accident before returning to the track through the 2018 Summer Athletic Championships last July, when he won gold in both the 400m and 200m events.

However, the precious moment was worth Zahir's wait as this time, the athlete from BKSP made his debut remarkable by setting a national record.

"I'm really happy to break a 32-year-old record," said Zahir after completing the lap

at the Big Bowl. "Actually I set my target to create a new record in the 400m sprint since I could not produce good timings in the Summer Athletic Championships, though I won gold in the 200m and 400m."

Creating a new national record was especially momentous for Zahir as his parents were watching from the gallery. Former athlete Milzar Hossain also watched how his record was broken by a promising athlete.

"Many may think that I am not happy with his record-breaking performance but truth be told, I am really happy that my record was broken by someone after 32

years. I could have been more happy had this record been broken earlier," said Milzar.

"From the beginning, I followed his running [in the race] and thought something was going to happen when he passed the 200m mark. Eventually, he did a great job," said Milzar. "I think he has good potential with height, stamina and technique. We have to look after him in any way possible if we want something from him at the international level."

Before writing his name in the national championships, Zahir took part in three junior meets in which he bagged all the gold in the 200m and 400m events. The boy from



Zahir Rayhan is delighted after finishing the 400m sprint -- his first in the National Athletics Championships -- in 46.86 seconds, breaking a 32-year-old record held by Milzar Hossain (Top R), who congratulated the youngster at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Sherpur is now looking forward to doing something for the nation in the upcoming South Asian Games.

"Probably only five months are left for SA Games and it is not possible to reduce the time in this period. Nevertheless, I have to work hard to do something good in the SA Games. If I can maintain this timing, a medal can be expected because an Indian athlete recently clocked 45.99 seconds in the 400m sprint," added Zahir.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Navy dominated the medals table with 10 gold, 13 silver and 5 bronze at the close of the second day. Bangladesh Army were in second position with nine gold, eight silver and 13 bronze while Bangladesh Jail were in third position with two gold, one silver and one bronze.

## BPL's fuse blows in low-voltage match



The Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram experienced a power blackout for more than 40 minutes during a BPL match between Sylhet Sixers and Rajshahi Kings yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

SPORTS REPORTER from Chattogram



During the first match of the Chattogram leg between Rajshahi Kings and Sylhet Sixers yesterday, a power outage took place that sank the BPL into darkness.

The scoreboard went off while the press box lights suffered a similar fate. Initially, without any wifi, reporters were in the dark about what the scores were as the TVs inside had gone out as well. Mobile data came into use but it seemed that the mobile tower itself was having an issue as internet was found to be slow.

The scenario started playing itself out at roughly 4:23 pm with Rajshahi Kings in chase of the 181-run target set

by Sylhet Sixers. Soon, the lights returned to the press box, with the help of a backup power source but there was still no internet and the scoreboard remained motionless.

When officials were contacted, they said that there was a problem with the power but did not cite any specific cause. It was however informed that the Decision Review System (DRS) had power backup and was working fine. During the darkness, no review was taken by either the on-field umpires or the two teams, so the theory could not be tested.

After over 40 minutes, the power returned at 5:05 pm. Motion returned to the scoreboard and the floodlights, which were supposed to be turned on as dusk settled in, came alive. If they had not, the match would surely have been halted.

## Aus leave SL in the dust

AFP, Brisbane

Half-centuries from Travis Head and Marcus Labuschagne put Australia firmly in command of the day-night Test against Sri Lanka at the Gabba in Brisbane yesterday.

Head hit a Test best 84 and Labuschagne posted 81 as Australia amassed 323 to hold an imposing 179-run innings lead over the Sri Lanka after the second day.

Sri Lanka suffered further indignity losing the wicket of Dimuth Karunaratne on the last ball of the day by Pat Cummins for three as the tourists had to negotiate a tricky six overs facing the pink ball under lights.

Karunaratne was snapped up behind by Tim Paine as Sri Lanka reached stumps at 17 for one with Lahiru Thirimanne on six to trail by 162 runs overall and battling to avoid defeat with three days left.

Head was trapped leg before wicket by Suranga Lakmal and Labuschagne was out shortly before dinner with a maiden Test century beckoning.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**SRI LANKA:** First innings 144 all out & second innings 17 for 1 (Thirimanne 6 not out, Karunaratne 3; Cummins 1-0)

**AUSTRALIA:** First innings 323 all out (Head 84, Labuschagne 81, Harris 44; Lakmal 5-75, Perera 2-84, de Silva 1-22)

## Holder, Dowrich hound England

AFP, Bridgetown



Jason Holder reached his highest Test score and Shane Dowrich was on the verge of his own third Test hundred as the West Indies seventh-wicket pair continued to pile on the misery for England in the first Test on Friday.

The pair batted through the afternoon session, extending their second innings to 349 for six at tea on the third day at Kensington Oval.



Windies skipper Jason Holder and batsman Shane Dowrich had England on the ropes by the tea break on the third day of the first Test against England in Bridgetown yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Having resumed from the overnight position of 127 for six, and with a first innings lead of 212 runs after demolishing the tourists on the second afternoon for just 77, the pair, who came together just before the end of play on day two, are yet to be separated in a stand now worth 229 runs and which has extended the home side's overall advantage to a mammoth 561 runs.

Holder, the West Indies captain, continued to dominate the scoring in reaching 151 -- his second hundred in Tests against England -- at the break with wicketkeeper-batsman Dowrich content to trail in the all-rounder's wake in getting to 97.

After putting on 110 in the morning period, they added another 112 in the two hours after lunch, capitalising on weary, dispirited opponents who could not summon the energy to make a difference with the second new ball even though Holder gave them two difficult chances after bringing up his hundred with a straight hit for six off leg-spinner Adil Rashid.

Rory Burns could not hold on to a running, diving effort at deep cover when the tall right-hander miscued a heave at part-time bowler Keaton Jennings.

Then just before the interval wicketkeeper Ben Foakes could only get a glove to a leg-side deflection off Ben Stokes before it raced to the fine-leg boundary.

With their confidence severely dented after being routed the previous day for the lowest innings total in 89 years of Test cricket at the Kensington Oval, and their fourth-lowest against the West Indies, England relied at the start of play and again when the second new ball was taken in the afternoon on James Anderson and Stokes to provide a breakthrough.

Holder was particularly impressive in unfurling a succession of fluent off-drives -- along the ground and over the top -- with the introduction of spinners Moeen Ali and Rashid.

## Naogaon posts astonishing win

SPORTS REPORTER

The Prime Bank Young Tigers National School Cricket Tournament witnessed an astonishing result yesterday as Zilla School Naogaon recorded a 335-run win against Al Faruque Islamia Academy in Naogaon. In the 391-run total posted by Zilla School, extras were the top-scorer for the side with their opposition conceding 77 extras.

In the two other matches of the day, Mymensingh Zilla School defeated Mymensingh Laboratory High School by 20 runs in Mymensingh while Manikganj Model High School won by 166 runs against Gorpara Bohumukhi High School in Manikganj.

## Pandya off to New Zealand

AFP, New Delhi

All-rounder Hardik Pandya is set to join India's touring squad in New Zealand after his suspension over sexist comments on a TV show was lifted by the country's cricket board.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Thursday allowed Pandya to participate in the ongoing one-day international series in New Zealand and Rahul to join the India A squad in Thiruvananthapuram.