

SQUAD LIST

DHAKA CAPITALS

Direct signing: Mustafizur Rahman, Tanzid Tamim
Foreign direct signing: Thisara Perera, Johnson Charles, Amir Hamza, Shah Nawaz Dahani, Stephen Eskinazi
From draft: Liton Das, Habibur Rahman, Mukidul Islam, Abu Jayed, Sabbir Rahman, Munim Shahriar, Asif Hasan, Shahadat Hossain, Musfik Hasan, Saim Ayub, Amir Hamza

CHITTAGONG KINGS

Direct signing: Shakib Al Hasan, Shoriful Islam
Foreign direct signing: Moeen Ali, Usman Khan, Haider Ali, Angelo Mathews, Mohammad Wasim Jr, Binura Fernando
From draft: Shamim Hossain, Parvez Emon, Khaled Ahmed, Aliss Islam, Mohammad Mithun, Naeem Islam, Maruf Mridha, Rahatul Ferdous, Sheikh Parvez, Marshall Ayub Graham Clarke, Thomas O'Connell

DURBAR RAJSHAHI

Direct signing: Anamul Haque
From draft: Taskin Ahmed, Jishan Alam, Yasir Ali, Sabbir Hossen, Sanjamul Islam, SM Meherob, Akbar Ali, Hasan Murad, Shaful Islam, Mohor Sheikh, Saad Nasim, Lahiru Samarakoon

FORTUNE BARISHAL

Direct signing: Towhid Hridoy
Retained: Tamim Iqbal, Mushfiqur Rahim
Foreign direct signing: Kyle Mayers, Dawid Malan, Mohammad Nabi, Faheem Ashraf, Ali Mohammad, Jahandad Khan
From draft: Mahmudullah, Tanvir Islam, Nazmul Shanto, Ripon Mondol, Ebadot Hossain, Nayeem Hasan, Rishad Hossain, Taijul Islam, Shohidul Islam, Ariful Islam, James Fuller, Pathum Nissanka, Nandre Burger

SYLHET STRIKERS

Direct signing: Jaker Ali
Retained: Tanzim Sakib, Zakir Hasan
Foreign direct signing: Paul Stirling, George Munsey
From draft: Rony Talukder, Mashrafe Mortaza, Al-Amin, Arafat Sunny, Ruyel Miah, Ariful Haque, Nihaduzzaman, Nahidul Islam, Rahkeem Cornwall, Samiullah Shinwari, Reece Topley

KHULNA TIGERS

Direct signing: Mehedi Miraz
Retained: Afif Hossain, Nasum Ahmed
Foreign direct signing: Oshane Thomas
From draft: Hasan Mahmud, Mohammad Naim, Imrul Kayes, Mahidul Islam, Abu Hider, Ziaur Rahman, Mahfuzur Rahman, Mahmudul Hasan, Mohammad Hasnain, Lewis Gregory, Mohammad Nawaz

RANGPUR RIDERS

Direct signing: Mohammad Saifuddin
Retained: Nurul Hasan, Sheikh Mahedi
Foreign direct signing: Alex Hales, Khushdil Shah, Allah Ghazanfar, Steven Taylor, Saurabh Netravalkar
From draft: Nahid Rana, Saif Hassan, Soumya Sarkar, Rakibul Hasan, Rejaur Rahman, Irfan Sukkur, Kamrul Islam, Tawfique Khan, Akif Javed, Curtis Campher

BARISHAL STEAL THE SHOW in BPL draft

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Fortune Barishal stole the limelight in the players' draft event of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) 2025 by securing the services of six of the 12 Category A cricketers from the domestic players list by drafting in Najmul Hossain Shanto, Mahmudullah Riyad and Rishad Hossain yesterday.

Barishal had already retained Tamim Iqbal and Mushfiqur Rahim and directly signed Towhid Hridoy from Category A, each of whom will earn Tk 60 lakh for their services this season.

Barishal also picked local players such as Tanvir Islam, Ebadot Hossain and Taijul Islam added overseas recruits like James Fuller, Pathum Nissanka and Nandre Burger to their impressive collection of players which already included direct signings

Kyle Mayers, Dawid Malan and Mohammad Nabi before the draft.

Barishal seemed like a team with purpose in the draft with Tamim and Mushfiqur present in the franchise table along with head coach Mizanur Rahman Babul.

Soon after Mahmudullah, who was part of Barishal's title winning campaign last season, got picked by the franchise in their first call, he also joined Tamim and Mushfiqur at the Barishal table.

"We tried to build a strong team. We selected almost every player who was part of our team in the last campaign. We will try to gift everyone good cricket," Barishal owner Mohammad Mizanur Rahman told the reporters after the draft event in a city hotel.

"We all planned together to build the team, me, Tamim, Mushfiqur. So, it was a teamwork," he added.

The most surprising incident



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

of the draft was when Durbar Rajshahi, one of the three new franchises this season, picked uncapped Jishan Alam from the draft after earlier announcing him as one of their two direct local signings along with Anamul

Haque Bijoy.

An official of the franchise later confirmed to The Daily Star that they had to release Jishan right before the draft due to an issue with the agreement but they went on to pick the same player in their

second call after they roped in pacer Taskin Ahmed in the first call.

Another notable incident was Dhallywood film star Shakib Khan joining the event as Dhaka Capitals' co-owner, adding a touch of glamour, something that is quite prevalent in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president and BPL Governing Council chairman Faruque Ahmed said after the event that rather than fixating on just the tournament, they are trying to address issues at the grassroots level which are hindering success in the BPL.

"Rather than thinking only about how we can do better in BPL, if we can fix the problems at the grassroots levels, things will improve automatically. You need to give us the time do that, the process has already begun."

Tait happy to return as coach of Kings

Former Australia speedster Shaun Tait is the head coach of Chittagong Kings for the upcoming 11th edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), scheduled to start on December 27. The 41-year-old, who was one of the quickest bowlers in the world in his prime time, previously played for the Kings in 2013 and also worked as Chattogram Challengers' bowling coach in 2022. Tait was present during the players' draft on Monday and spoke to *The Daily Star's Samsul Arefin Khan* after the event. Here are the excerpts:

The Daily Star (DS): You have signed on as the head coach of the Chittagong Kings. What part of the job piqued your interest?

Shaun Tait (ST): They made a phone call and asked me if I would be interested to come. I have played here before in Chittagong Kings as a player. I always liked that connection. If you are a player and you end up coaching the same team you played for anywhere in the world, it's a really satisfying thing. I have been coaching for a while now, mainly as a bowling coaching. I've been to a few international teams and some leagues as well. I've spent enough time in Bangladesh too to understand how it works and have a good relationship with staff members as well. I was really happy to be asked to come back.

DS: You have Bangladesh team pacers Shoriful Islam and Khaled Ahmed in



your squad, how do you rate them?

ST: I have previously worked with Shoriful in Chattogram Challengers two years ago in the BPL. So, I know him well. I was very keen to have him in my team. It will be my first time with Khaled. I've always watched him and thought him a really good bowler and I'm really looking to work with him.

DS: Your side has also roped in Shakib Al Hasan, how important will he be for the Kings?

ST: Hopefully, he will be fully available for the BPL. It's not only about his bowling and batting, it's his leadership as well. It's really great for a coach as well to have that kind of a player in your team. I'm looking forward for him to be part of the team.

DS: How happy are you with your squad? Do you think your team can go the distance?

ST: I think all the teams will say their sides have got a chance. I think it's good to have young players in the field. I think someone like Shakib as a senior player and overseas players like Angelo Mathews, who is a very senior player, will be around the young players. I think it will be a great learning experience in those six weeks for them.

DS: Bangladesh recently won a Test series over Pakistan, a side you have worked with before... **ST:** It was a great series win. Bangladesh made history there. It's a good sign for Bangladesh cricket for sure and hope they will continue performing like this as well.

Argentina seek to stay top as Brazil fight for form

SPORTS DESK

Eager to strengthen their standing in the fiercely competitive South American World Cup qualifiers, Argentina will welcome a resurgent Bolivia in Buenos Aires tomorrow (6:00 am, Bangladesh time), while an invigorated Brazil host bottom-placed Peru in Brasilia (6:45 am).

Reigning world champions Argentina remain top with 19 points, holding a three-point lead over Colombia, despite being held to a 1-1 draw by Venezuela in their previous match, where Lionel Messi returned from injury.

On the other hand, Bolivia enter this fixture on a high, following a gritty 1-0 victory over Colombia. It marked their third consecutive win in the qualifiers, moving them up to sixth place. With a top-six finish guaranteeing a place at the 2026 World Cup, Bolivia are inching closer to their first finals appearance in nearly 30 years.

However, facing Argentina in Buenos Aires is a formidable challenge. Bolivia have historically struggled in Argentina, managing only one point in 11 previous visits, but their strong recent form suggests they will not go down easily against Lionel Scaloni's team who have conceded just eight goals in their last 20 qualifiers fixtures.

Brazil, meanwhile, will be aiming to build on their thrilling 2-1 comeback against Chile. Substitute Luiz Henrique was the hero, netting a dramatic 89th-minute winner to secure three vital points. After a run of disappointing performances, this win has breathed new life into Brazil's campaign, lifting the five-time champions to fourth in the standings with 13 points, two behind Uruguay.

Sabina and Co set for SAFF defence showdown

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Bangladesh are all set to fly out to Nepal this morning with a mission to defend the title of the SAFF Women's Championship, knowing that it is going to be a tough challenge for them to return home with the prestigious regional trophy.

Bangladesh will start their campaign by taking on Pakistan in a Group A encounter on October 20 before facing five-time champions India in the group's second and final match on October 23, after the seven-team tournament gets underway on October 17 in Kathmandu.

Head coach Peter Butler yesterday announced a 23-member squad with a mixture of young and experienced players, as key players of the SAFF-winning squad in 2022 – such as Akhi Khatun, Sirat Jahan Swapna, Marzia, Anai Mogini, Anuching Mogini, Sajeda Khatun, Eity Rani, and Sathi Biswas – have either left the team or been dropped from the squad.

"To be honest, the SAFF Women's Championship is going to be more competitive than the last edition. I think India will be stronger than last time, and Nepal are also expected to be ready to win the title, which they have never won. We are also defending champions, so our target will be to defend the title," said captain Sabina Khatun at a press conference yesterday.

"If we can become champions, then the countrymen will be happier than us, and we want to give our 120 percent effort to make



them happy," said Sabina, adding that they lacked practice matches.

Asked whether they can topple either India or Nepal on the way to confirming a spot in the final, Sabina remarked, "If you see Bangladesh, India, and Nepal, we are similar teams. In this perspective, those who do well tactically and technically on the ground will come out victorious. We beat both India and Nepal in the last edition, but it will be a bit difficult this time around because both teams will come with more preparation."

Coach Butler, however, did not promise to win the tournament but confirmed that they will play attacking and possession-based football, giving their best in the tournament.

"I can't promise you we're going to win the tournament, but what we can do is give our best with sincerity, honesty, and integrity. The most important thing is that it's all about

dealing with tournament football, which is very unpredictable," said Butler.

"I think we will stick to our game plan – plan A and plan B. The girls have trained to adapt to different systems. I'm very confident; I've got a lot of confidence in the girls because they have worked really hard, and we're going to give our best," added the 58-year-old coach who, however, is unbothered about the lack of practice matches ahead of the main event.

"We had no practice matches, which I'm not going to complain about, because it's probably the same for most teams these days. It's not easy to get practice matches; it's

Squad: Rupna Chakma, Masura Parvin, Sheuli Azim, Afeida Khandaker, Shamsunnar (Sr), Nilufar Nila, Airin Khatun, Kohati Kisku, Monika Chakma, Maria Manda, Sapna Rani, Matsushima Sumaya, Sanjida Khatun, Munki Akter, Ritu Porna Chakma, Shaheda Akter Ripa, Sabina Khatun, Tohura Khatun, Shamsunnar (Jr), Krishna Rani, Mosammat Yearzan, Mile Akter, Mosammat Sagarika.

very difficult, but we've made the most of it, worked extremely hard, and been intelligent in our approach. Another thing in my eyes is that as long as we give our best and act with integrity, respect, and honesty, I am pretty sure we will give a good account of ourselves."

England ready for spin assault

AFP, Multan

Returning England captain Ben Stokes said on Monday he hopes a reused pitch for the second Test against Pakistan in Multan will play into the tourists' hands rather than the spin-heavy hosts.

Desperate to level the three-match series after an innings and 47-run defeat on Friday, Pakistan named three spinners in four changes from the first Test.

In a rare move, Pakistan decided to use the same flat surface on which England piled up 823-7 declared in reply to their 556 all out.

England left out seamers Gus Atkinson and Chris Woakes to bring in Matthew Potts and Stokes, but kept spinners in Jack Leach and Shoib Bashir.

Pakistan's assistant coach Azhar Mahmood believes the pitch will help his team. Zahid Mahmood, Sajid Khan and Noman Ali make up Pakistan's spin trio, with Aamer Jamal the only frontline pace bowler.

সাক্ষ্যের ২১ বছর

স্থায়ী সনদপ্রাপ্ত

Eastern University

এইচএসসি ও সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ শিক্ষার্থীদের

প্রাণঢালা অভিনন্দন

ADMISSION GOING ON

Spring 2025

Undergraduate Program

BBA | BBA in Islamic Finance, Banking & Insurance
B.Sc. in Civil Engineering | B.Sc. in CSE
B.Sc. in EEE | B.A. (Hons.) in English
Bachelor of Pharmacy | LL.B. (Hons.)

Graduate Program

M.A. in English Literature | M.A. in ELT
M.A. in English Language Teaching
MBA | EMBA | MBA in Islamic Finance,
Banking & Insurance | LL.M. (01 Year)

Road 6, Block B, Ashulia Model Town, Burulia, Dhaka
For Admission : +8801844169651, +8801844169659,
+8801844169660, +8801741300002
www.easternuni.edu.bd