

SPORT

Questions still surround BPL

SPORTS REPORTER

Who is going to buy the franchise ownership rights for the upcoming third edition of the trouble-hit Bangladesh Premier League (BPL)?

The BPL governing council's member secretary and director of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) IH Mallick yesterday indicated that the BCB will only be able to finalise the names of the franchises by the end of this month.

The third edition of the T20 tournament is set to kick-off from the end of November this year.

The BCB ran an advertisement asking interested corporate houses and organisations to submit their expression of interest (EOI) by August 17.

When asked about how many parties have shown interest so far, Mallick told The Daily Star, "I cannot say the exact number, but it's near five."

"Actually we are getting a huge response as many companies have verbally expressed their interest. There is a chance to see two or three old companies in the league if they pay their dues. I think we will be able to finalise the franchises by the end of this month."

The BCB had opted for a fresh tender for a period of four years from 2015 to 2018, after

the contracts with the previous owners were terminated. The BCB will invite new franchises from the regional teams of Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Sylhet.

The BCB is going forward to stage the third edition of the tournament with a new structure, but the question still remains: What will happen to the pending financial issues?

"We don't have any pending financial issues with Game On [Event management company that managed the first two editions]. Our legal department is handling the pending financial issues with the former franchise owners but we cannot stop our mission of holding the third edition of the tournament due to that."

"There is no issue regarding the foreign players' payments and one cannot claim anything without proper documents. Regarding local players' payments, one of our directors, Naimur Rahman, is working to solve that and within a very short time we will resolve this issue," explained Mallick.

It is the same governing council which ran the last edition and brought more embarrassment than glory, but Mallick said the upcoming league will be altogether different.

"This time we are not focusing on any unrealistic financial structure, so we hope the new one will be sustainable," he promised.

'DRS can be considered'

PTI, Galle

India Test captain Virat Kohli Saturday made it clear that the issue regarding the use of the Decision Review System (DRS) needs to be deliberated after the end of the ongoing three-Test series against Sri Lanka.

The debate about India not using DRS again started after player-of-the-match Dinesh Chandimal, batting on 5, was adjudged not out off a bat-pad catch off Ravi Ashwin's bowling by umpire Nigel Llong. The replays however showed a thick inside edge onto pads before being snapped by KL Rahul at forward short leg. Chandimal's 162 proved to be a game-changer.

Kohli was honest enough to admit that there was no point debating on DRS when they had not batted well.

"We are not using it in this series. It is not an issue that I would want to debate on at the moment," Kohli said after the match.

Interestingly, Kohli had said after the one-off Test against Bangladesh that he was "open to discussions on DRS with the team".



Emeka Darlington's opportunistic strike in the 77th minute proved crucial as Sheikh Jamal salvaged a 1-1 draw against FC Alga Bishkek and booked a place in the AFC Cup playoffs.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Stubborn Jamal sneak thru'

SPORTS REPORTER



Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club's success story turned over a new leaf

in Bishkek on Saturday as the new leviathans of Bangladesh football reached the play-off stage of the AFC Cup, the second-tier club competition of Asia, after holding hosts FC Alga to a 1-1 draw in the final Group A fixture of the qualifying round. The Dhanmondi giants, who have previously won two titles in South Asia to complement the numerous trophies they have won in domestic front since being re-introduced to top-tier in 2010, showed enormous resilience to bounce back from a goal down and survive a barrage of attacks from the hosts throughout the match.

The charges of Joseph Afusi had

seemingly gone out to the field with only a draw in mind -- a 4-1 win over Casa Benfica of Macau two days earlier had allowed them the luxury -- and they came out with just that -- a 1-1 draw, which they perhaps didn't deserve on the merit of the game, but probably had every right to claim for the resilience they showed.

Right from the off, the men in yellow were chasing shadows, confined deep into their own half of the Dolen Omurzakov pitch. Goals for the hosts looked a long time coming, and one finally came in the 22nd minute, courtesy of a rifling volley from Alga forward Amirov Ildar, on a rebound after Bangladesh goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohel parried a difficult cross into the middle of the box. Chances were aplenty at this end, but Sohel almost single-handedly kept his side in the game with a number of breathtaking saves.

Sheikh Jamal's only threat came from skipper Mamunul Islam's swerving corners, but there was no grateful foot or head to make those opportunities count. Sheikh Jamal fared a bit better in the second half, knowing they desperately needed a goal to salvage a result, yet it was more of the same as the first half.

But Alga probably didn't know they were dealing with a different kettle of fish altogether, a side which came from the jaws of defeat to win the King's Cup semifinal against Manang Marshyangdi in Bhutan last year before going on to lift the title, and came from 2-4 down to beat Muktiyoddha 6-4 in this year's Federation Cup. So Sheikh Jamal kept hanging by the skin of their teeth and waited for one single chance. That chance came in the 77th minute, Landing Darboe chipping one inside the box only to be headed in by

Protest at The Oval

AGENCIES, London

A three-minute silent protest will be held outside The Oval, venue of the fifth and final Ashes Test, by makers of the documentary "Death of a Gentleman." The documentary, which was released earlier this month, had raised issues about the declining popularity of Tests and also about the governance of the International Cricket Council (ICC), which is 'administered' by cricket boards of India, Australia and England.

Sam Collins and Jarrod Kimber are the makers of the documentary. According to a report in the Telegraph, the producer, Collins, has said the three-minute silence is for each of the three countries that is trying to silence the ordinary cricket fan.

"Now [that] the Ashes have been decided, we feel the time is right to protest at the powerlessness of all other countries in the cricket world. Nobody has any power except N Srinivasan of India, Giles Clarke of England and Wally Edwards of Australia," Collins stated.

Galle's bye to Sanga

AGENCIES, Galle

Sri Lankan supporters and players present at the Galle International Stadium gave a fitting farewell to Kumar Sangakkara, playing his penultimate Test match at the very venue he made his debut 15 years ago.

It could not have been a better last match in Galle for their favourite son as the home team scripted one of their finest turnarounds.

While it was a quiet Test match by Sangakkara's standards as he scored 5 and 40 in the two innings but one could find him delirious with joy as Tharindu Kaushal dismissed Amit Mishra to complete a famous Test win.

Once the match was over, Sangakkara ran towards his teammates and first hugged the two prime performers Dinesh Chandimal and Rangana Herath. Skipper Angelo Mathews also came and gave him a warm hug.

The VIP box had the Sangakkara family -- all in attendance. Wife Yehali and the two kids -- a son and a daughter -- watched as the Sri Lankan legend walked out of his favourite ground one last time.



Test cricket was at its dramatic best at Galle yesterday. And a vintage Sri Lanka off-spinner Rangana Herath was the man who turned the first Test against India on its head with a magnificent seven-for to pull off an unexpected victory.

PHOTO: AFP

TEST IN STATS

This is the **eighth** instance of a team winning a Test despite a first-innings deficit of 190 or more

This is only the second time in **21** attempts that India failed to chase down a sub-200 score

Their second innings total of **112** is India's lowest score against Sri Lanka

Three of India's four lowest scores in Sri Lanka have been at **Galle**

Rangana Herath now has the **third-most** wickets for any left-arm spinner, 270

Herath annihilates India

AFP, Galle



Veteran left-arm spinner Rangana Herath grabbed seven wickets as Sri Lanka stunned India by 63 runs in a thrilling first Test in Galle on Saturday.

The tourists, set a victory target of 176 runs, were skittled for 112 in their second innings after lunch on the fourth day to give Sri Lanka the lead in the three-match series.

Ajinkya Rahane top-scored with 36, but only three other batsmen reached double figures as India folded up in just 49.5 overs.

In a remarkable turnaround, Sri Lanka won after being reduced to 95-5 in their second innings before lunch on the third day, still 98 runs away from avoiding an innings defeat.

Dinesh Chandimal smashed a brilliant 162 off 169 balls, sharing valuable partnerships with Lahiru Thirimanne (44) and Jehan Mubarak (49) to lift the hosts to 367.

India's hopes of celebrating Independence Day in style vanished in a dramatic morning session in which six wickets fell after the tourists started the day at 23-1.

The 37-year-old Herath picked up four of those wickets to finish with seven for 48 in 21 overs, his 22nd five-wicket haul in 61 Tests.

Young off-spinner Tharindu Kaushal backed his senior partner by taking the other three wickets for 47 runs.

Sri Lankan captain Angelo Mathews said he

was "speechless" at clinching victory after his team was down in the dumps on the third morning.

"What a turnaround this has been, I am quite speechless," he said. "It was a great effort to come back from where we were."

"Chandimal was outstanding and he single-handedly got us to a fighting score. The wicket was pretty demanding and we knew it won't be an easy target to chase."

"Rangana is, of course, a quality bowler and we were really not surprised how well he bowled. He may be 37 but he keeps coming up with such match-winning spells."

"We are a team in transition, so this win is a real morale-booster. (I) hope we can continue like this in the remaining two Tests."

Indian captain Virat Kohli refused to make excuses, saying the batsmen were unable to take the pressure of chasing in the fourth innings.

"We did not counter what was being thrown at us," he said. "We should have been more smart with how we play the spinners."

"The need of the hour in the second innings was to take calculated risks, but the intent was lacking. It should be a lesson for all and we need to improve on that."

"Everyone in the squad is disappointed. We were let down by our batting. There are no excuses. It was a case of us not playing fearless cricket. We were very tentative."

It was only the second time Sri Lanka had defended a target of less than 200. Pakistan, set

168 to win at Galle in 2009, were shot out for 117 with Herath claiming four wickets.

India made a slow start, adding seven runs in six overs to their overnight score, five of them coming off the bat of nightwatchman Ishant Sharma.

Herath, who was brought on to bowl the seventh over, struck with his first delivery by trapping Ishant leg-before for 10 and then bowled Rohit Sharma for four to reduce India to 34-3.

Eleven runs later Kaushal removed Indian captain and star batsman Virat Kohli for three as Kaushal Silva took a low, sharp catch at forward short-leg off a bat-pad edge.

First-innings century-maker Shikhar Dhawan plodded for 83 deliveries to make 28 when he fell to a superb return catch by Kaushal, who dived to his left on the follow-through to pluck the ball.

India, who went to lunch at 78-7, were bowled out an hour after resumption.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA: First innings 183

INDIA: First innings 375

SRI LANKA: Second innings 367 (Chandimal 162 not out, Thirimanne 44, Mubarak 49; Ashwin 4-114, Mishra 3-61)

INDIA: Second innings 112 all out (Dhawan 28, Rahane 36, Mishra 15; Herath 7-48, Kaushal 3-47)

Result: Sri Lanka won by 63 runs.

Player-of-the-match: Dinesh Chandimal.
Second Test: August 20-24, Colombo.

BD eye end of semifinal jinx

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh take on Afghanistan in the first semifinal of the SAFF U-16 Championship in Sylhet today in a bid to clinch their final berth in this regional age-group competition. Having been eliminated from the semifinal stages of the earlier two editions -- lost 0-2 against eventual champions Pakistan in 2011 and 1-5 against Nepal in the 2013 edition, both in semifinal stage -- the boys in red and green will be looking to rewrite history when they kick off against the Afghans at 4:00pm at the Sylhet District Stadium, which will be followed by the semifinal between India and Nepal.

The Bangladesh boys have turned the tables with some eye-catching football, beating Sri Lanka 4-0 before overcoming arch-rivals India 2-1 in a difficult match. As they stand on the verge of the final, history gives Bangladesh hope as they hold a 1-0 advantage over the Afghans, thanks to their victory in the third-place deciding match in the 2013 edition.

"Afghanistan are a physical side who are good both technically and tactically. But we have built good momentum and we are playing very well. So we will be going out on the field with all the confidence of winning the semifinal," Bangladesh coach Syed Golam Jilani told The Daily Star yesterday.

The Bangladesh coach informed that the couple of injury issues they had prior to the India game, have been overcome. However, rain has been a concern for all the coaches, including Jilani, who believes in case of rain, the game might turn the game into a physical battle rather than

INA NUTSHELL

Docked for dissent

Struggling Leicestershire were deducted 16 County Championship points for dissent.

The hearing also fined them £5,000 -- suspended for 12 months -- and ordered them to pay £500 costs.

Leicestershire won their first home match since 2012 this week, but were already 16 points behind second-bottom Kent before the punishment was imposed.

According to Leicestershire chief executive, Wasim Khan, "The hearing related to five incidents over the last 12 months that were deemed to show a level of dissent to the umpires or opposition players."

No songs, only beer

Manchester United midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger has revealed that he avoided having to sing as part of his initiation when he moved to Old Trafford.

Traditionally, new players have to deliver a tune in front of their teammates. Instead, the World Cup winner offered to take the team to Germany for annual beer festival Oktoberfest.

When asked by Sky Sports News if he had to sing, Schweinsteiger said: "No, I spoke with Wayne about it and said maybe it's better for the young players to sing. I'm 31 so I'll invite you guys to Oktoberfest in Munich and he was happy about that."

The LeBron Scholarship

On Thursday LeBron James announced his foundation will pair up with the University of Akron and will fully sponsor more than 1,000 scholarships for children currently in his 'I Promise' program based in Akron, Ohio.

James says he will cover student's tuition costs if they meet the requirements. A year's tuition alone at the University of Akron is around \$9,500.

"I think it's probably one of the best things I've ever

Compiled by Star Sport Desk