



## Mahela, Moody want consistency in BPL

MAZHAR UDDIN



There has been a lot of discussion since the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) governing council disclosed plans for a new four-year cycle, but their communication seems arbitrary given how everything is set to change in the upcoming season, with the sixth edition having marked the end of the first cycle.

The governing council has communicated how things are going to change, including players' contracts and also the BPL's agreement with franchises.

Matters came to a head when the BPL organising committee informed that Shakib Al Hasan's move from Dhaka Dynamites to Rangpur Riders was not endorsed by the governing council. That created a lot of confusion and uncertainty among the franchisees.

Now, franchise owners are clamouring for consistency when it comes to setting rules and regulations, which have constantly changed across almost every edition. With the seventh edition starting from December 5, questions have been raised about whether there is enough time



MAHELA JAYAWARDENE

for franchises to settle into this new realm with just three months in hand.

Sri Lanka legend and Khulna Titans head coach Mahela Jayawardene -- who has played in and been part of the coaching staff in many franchise tournaments across the world, including the Indian Premier League -- underlined how consistency provides a fair opportunity to everyone.

"Having long-term planning is important. I feel that when you keep changing the rules every year, and even while the tournament is on, it is not healthy for franchise cricket. If you look at the other tournaments around the world, they always have a consistent set of rules which guides all franchisees and is quite fair for everyone. If you are starting a



TOM MOODY

new cycle then it is important that you set it up in a manner that is quite consistent for all franchisees," the 42-year-old said.

Since 2016, icon players have been free to change franchises. Since then, icons have made moves every season and those have always caused controversy. In fact, rule changes were made after 2016 as well. In 2016 only two local players could be retained, but in 2017 four local players could be retained.

"If you want a clean slate then have one local icon as a direct signing and if you want to have one or two foreign direct signings then it's quite fine. But after that every other player should either be in a draft or auction. And if you are having an

auction then you can always have a salary cap. That is quite a fair way of setting up the franchise and adds competitiveness into the tournament because then most of the teams will be equally balanced. That's what the public wants and that's what will be healthy for Bangladesh cricket," he opined.

Another top coach who has been part of franchise tournaments across the world and is reportedly in contention for the India head coach job alongside Jayawardene, Rangpur Riders lead coach Tom Moody, said that consistency in the rules was important to grow a fan base.

"Having been involved in many T20 leagues over the past 12 years, it has become very clear that one of the most important elements is consistency in the playing conditions and rules set out for the franchisees," the Australian said.

"It is not only important for franchisees or management, it is crucial for the fan base to have an understanding of the playing group, not only local (players) but international as well, they are following. It gives them a loyal fan base. If we see things constantly changing on whims, the integrity of the tournament can be questioned both locally and internationally."



## Domingo first of three in BCB's list

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has started the process of interviewing shortlisted applicants for the vacant head coach position of the national team, with former Proteas coach Russell Domingo the first to give an interview yesterday.

The BCB have been looking to fill the head coach role since the departure of Steve Rhodes after the World Cup.

Domingo took over the role of head coach for South Africa's T20 side in 2012 before he replaced Gary Kirsten in the Tests and ODIs in 2013. He held that position till 2017, when he took over as coach of South Africa A and Otis Gibson replaced him as national team head coach.

The BCB were happy with Domingo's presentation, which involved a short-term plan till the T20 World Cup in 2020 and a long-term version which looked behind 2023. Domingo outlined the players that would not be there after 2023 and underlined his vision to find players from the pipeline in preparation for the 50-over World Cup through the High Performance and academy teams.

BCB media committee chairman Jalal Younus informed yesterday that the board would conduct two more interviews for the role.

Domingo is reportedly also shortlisted by the Sri Lankan cricket board for their position of head coach after the incumbent, Chandika Hathurusingha, was suspended yesterday.

However, according to sources the Sri Lankan is a fourth option in contention for the Bangladesh job. Paul Farbrace, the current Sport Director of Warwickshire, is expected to interview for the job. A high-profile New Zealand coach is also understood to be in BCB shortlist, though he has applied for the India job and the board is unlikely to get his signature. That individual is most likely Mike Hesson, who was reported by the Hindustan Times to be one of the final three in India's shortlist alongside Mahela Jayawardene and Tom Moody.

## Hathurusingha suspended

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lankan cricket authorities Wednesday suspended head coach Chandika Hathurusingha and appointed a temporary replacement for the upcoming New Zealand series.

Cricket board chairman Shammi Silva said former Sri Lanka fast bowler Ramesh Ratnayake was made interim coach pending a final decision on the status of Hathurusingha.

"Hathurusingha will not be involved in this (New Zealand) series," Silva told reporters in Colombo.

"We can't tell you details because this might end up being a legal issue."

Sports Minister Harin Fernando said this month that Hathurusingha would be given until the start of Sri Lanka's home Test series against New Zealand, which begins on August 14, to quit and make way for a new coach.

"If Hathurusingha does not leave, we may have to consider legal action or offer him a different job at the board," Fernando said at the time.

## Women going straight back to work

SPORTS REPORTER



Having concluded their tour of South Africa, Bangladesh's women cricketers will now turn their focus to their next challenge -- qualifying for the Women's T20 World Cup slated for March 2020.

The A team players were accompanied by national cricketers on their recent tour to South Africa for a three-match one-day and three-match T20 series with South Africa's Emerging Team. The contingent returned to Dhaka on Tuesday.

They will now start preparing for the qualifying rounds of the Women's T20 World Cup with hopes of getting a ticket to the mega-event. According to Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) women's cricket wing development manager, Nazmul Abedin Fahim, the girls will start training from today.

"The qualification rounds for the T20 World Cup will begin from September 27. Bangladesh need to earn their spot to feature in the T20 World Cup. We will go to Scotland in September to play the qualification round but before that we will have a 10-day preparation camp in the Netherlands. We will play four practice matches in Netherlands before going to Scotland for the preparation camp," said Nazmul.

Nazmul added that the final



It is our request to you people [media] is that the more you give us coverage, the more we can go further. Bangladesh women's emerging team went to South Africa but it did not create as much buzz as it would have been in case of men's A team or under-19 team.

RUMANA AHMED  
BANGLADESH CRICKETER

14-member squad for the qualifiers had not been confirmed, so all the players would undergo training.

"Before this, both the national team and the A team players went to South Africa. There, the A team players played their scheduled matches while the other players trained. Now all the players are here and they will have a 4-5 day training session, starting from tomorrow [today]. There is a gym session and a nets session and they will also play two practice matches at BKSP against a Dhaka Metro under-16 team.

Nazmul was also hopeful that the team would be announced before the end of the week.

"We have one or two fitness concerns. After the fitness tests tomorrow [Thursday], we can confirm the team that will go to play the qualifiers. Hopefully by tomorrow we will know who will feature in the 14-member team and maybe we can announce the squad the day after tomorrow [Friday]."

The women's team had managed to win two one-day matches but they lost all three T20 matches against the South Africans. However, Nazmul said that despite the results, it was good preparation for the girls, especially for the ones who do not get international exposure for the national side. He believed that giving the chance to many new faces on the tour would help the Tigresses in their upcoming fixtures.

## Ind U-19s post 244

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh under-19 team were set a target of 245 runs by their Indian counterparts in their round-robin fixture of the Tri-nation T20 series at Beckenham, England yesterday.

Batting first after winning the toss, India under-19 posted 244 runs losing all their wickets in 49.3 overs in their rain-interrupted innings.

Captain Shubhang Hegde anchored the Indian innings with a 97-ball 69, his innings featuring four boundaries. Pacers Shoriful Islam and Avishek Das and spinner Shamim Hossain took three wickets each for Bangladesh.

The two sides have already ensured their final berth after confirming the top two spots ahead of this match in the three-nation affair. Bangladesh have 10 points from seven matches while India have seven points from six matches.

England, the other team in the tournament, have only three points from seven matches. England and India will play the last round-robin match tomorrow before the final between Bangladesh and India on August 11.

## Dhawan makes a comeback

First ODI against West Indies today

PTI, Providence

With an air of invincibility, India return to the format that gave them a heartbreak in the not-too-distant past, facing West Indies in the first of three-match ODI series here on Thursday.

Shikhar Dhawan makes a comeback in the format where he has been India's third best player after skipper Virat Kohli and his deputy Rohit Sharma.

With 17 hundreds in 130 ODIs, Dhawan will rightfully take his place at the top of the order alongside Rohit and like the initial matches of the World Cup, KL Rahul is likely to go back to being the number four batsman.

With Kedar Jadhav expected to come in at No 5 or 6 depending on how Rishabh Pant is used as a floater, it will be a toss up between Manish Pandey and Shreyas Iyer for the remaining middle-order slots.

Both are players with a certain amount of flair but Pandey couldn't exactly seal it in the T20 Internationals and it's about time that the team management would think of giving Iyer a go and see how it pans out.

## Extremely disappointed and hurt: Arthur

AFP, Karachi



Mickey Arthur said he was "disappointed and hurt" on Wednesday as he was axed as Pakistan coach following an underwhelming World Cup.

Arthur, who has been linked with a move to England, said he had done his best with Pakistan who narrowly failed to reach the World Cup semi-finals.

"I am extremely disappointed and hurt," the South African told AFP shortly after the Pakistan Cricket Board announced his departure.

"I did my wholehearted effort to lift Pakistan cricket," he added.



Arthur's contract expired after last month's World Cup, won by hosts England, and he had asked for a two-year extension.

But Pakistan Cricket Board chief Ehsan Mani said Arthur and his coaching staff, including assistants Grant Flower and Azhar Mahmood, were all out.

"PCB will be immediately undertaking a robust recruitment process after it decided not to renew the contracts of head coach Arthur, bowling coach Azhar Mahmood, batting coach Grant Flower and trainer Grant Luden," the board said in a statement.

Pakistan's new coaching staff will be appointed after a four-member committee assesses the team's performance at the

World Cup, it said.

Reports say Arthur is on the shortlist of names for the next England coach after Trevor Bayliss departs following the ongoing Ashes Test series.

Pakistan lost heavily to arch-rivals India at the World Cup but finished with a record of five wins from nine matches, including one game that was rained off.

They scored 11 points and were unlucky to be pipped to the semi-finals by New Zealand -- who also had 11 points -- on net run-rate.

The PCB committee, which includes former captains Wasim Akram and Misbah-ul-Haq and which met on Friday, was unanimous in calling for new coaches.

"The committee comprised of individuals who possess tremendous acumen, experience and knowledge," Mani said.

"The unanimous recommendation of the committee was that it was time for new leadership and a fresh approach."

The PCB said it would advertise the posts soon.

Arthur joined Pakistan in May 2016, leading them to a drawn Test series with England that lifted them to the top of the rankings.

Pakistan also won the Champions Trophy in England in June 2017, raising their stock in limited-overs cricket.

That win, Arthur said, "brought on a whole new team of young players."

"We also became world number one in Twenty20 cricket in this period, which was an achievement," he said.

However, Pakistan have wilted in Tests in the last two years, losing 2-0 to Sri Lanka in the United Arab Emirates in 2017.

In all, Pakistan won 10 out of 28 Tests under Arthur, losing 17 and drawing one.

Pakistan have also struggled in ODIs in the last two years. Under Arthur, Pakistan won 29 of 66 ODIs, losing 34 with three no-results.

## Chahar's new ball skills on par with Bhuvi, says Kohli

REUTERS, Providence



Deepak Chahar's new ball skills are comparable to that of an experienced Bhuvneshwar Kumar, India captain Virat Kohli said after the rookie seamer's match-winning opening spell against West Indies on Tuesday.

Playing only his second Twenty20 international, Chahar posted figures of 3-1-4-3 to leave West Indies reeling in the third and final match of the series in Guyana which India won by seven wickets to complete a 3-0 sweep.

Kumar, 29, is renowned for his ability to swing the new ball in both directions and has played 21 Tests, 111 one-dayers and 40 T20 matches for India.

Chahar has played a lone ODI and made the Indian squad on the back of a strong 2019 season in the Indian Premier League T20 tournament during which he finished third on the list of wicket-takers with 22 wickets.

"He was really lethal with the new ball," Kohli said at the post-match presentation. "The way he swings it and the areas he bowls in, he puts the batsman in a lot of trouble. "With the new ball, his skills are right up there (with Kumar's), swinging it both ways and getting a lot with the new ball in any conditions, and that has been his USP in the IPL as well."

Chahar's strikes reduced the hosts to 14-3 inside the first four overs and West Indies could never recover sufficiently and managed 146-6 in their 20 overs.

India then rode on an unbeaten 42-ball 65 from wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant and captain Kohli's 59 to reach their target with five balls to spare.

Pant, 21, has been long earmarked as the successor to long-serving wicketkeeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who is a veteran of 350 one-dayers and is widely considered as the best 'finisher' in contemporary cricket.

The 38-year-old Dhoni is sitting out India's tour to discharge his responsibilities as an honorary colonel in the Territorial Army, a reservist force that draws on civilians who can do short stints to assist the military.

Pant has used his chances well in the test format and hit a century in an Oval test last year while also smashing an unbeaten 159 against Australia in Sydney in January but scored nought and four in the first two T20s.

"He's got a lot of skill and talent," Kohli said. "It's about winning and finishing games like these and gaining



India captain Virat Kohli holds the series trophy after beating West Indies in the third T20I at the Guyana National Stadium in Providence on Tuesday. PHOTO: AFP

confidence, which he wants to do as well.

"It's about giving him a bit more space to ease himself into international cricket and not putting too much pressure because of the way he's played in the IPL.

"At the international level, you need to tackle pressure differently and play yourself into the whole set-up. He has come a long way since he started. If he plays like this more regularly, we will see his potential shine for India."