

Ganguly rubbishes franchise vs country debate

AGENCIES

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) struck a bumper deal as it sold the broadcast rights for the Indian Premier League for the next five seasons to global media giants for an eye-popping USD 6.2 billion.

With the extravagant funds coming in, there are those who question whether such money will become a factor for the players to focus on the IPL more over national duty.

“First thing first, money can’t be related to performances. From the times of Sunil Gavaskar to Anil Kumble and Rahul Dravid, the money was nowhere close to what the players get now. But all of them had the hunger to perform. I don’t think players will only play for the money,” BCCI



President Sourav Ganguly gave his opinion yesterday during an interview with an Indian newspaper.

According to the BCCI president, the current players also have the hunger to do well for their country at the international level. “Players play for the stature they get and the pride of representing India. Every player wants to win big international tournaments,” the former India captain added.

The franchise vs country debate has been going on for the last few years as there have been a number of instances where players have preferred playing in the IPL over representing their country.

Describing the mega deal as a big opportunity to further strengthen Indian cricket, he elaborated: “This will help the BCCI create even stronger infrastructure. The money needs to go to the grassroots. This also allows the board to raise the player fees across age groups and genders. The priority is to increase the salaries of women cricketers.”



Mahmudul Hasan Joy began the procession of Bangladeshi batsmen back to the pavilion, becoming the first of six visiting batters to be dismissed for a duck on the first day of the first Test against the West Indies in Antigua yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Tigers fold for 103

SPORTS REPORTER

It took the West Indies opening pair of skipper Kraigg Brathwaite and John Campbell 32 deliveries to open the hosts’ account after five consecutive maidens from Mustafizur Rahman and Khaled Ahmed. The Windies opening duo had already shown the application needed to survive on an Antigua pitch where Bangladesh were bowled out for just 103.

Although Brathwaite would count himself lucky to have been dropped at short fine-leg by Mominul Haque in the third over bowled by Mustafizur, the Windies openers were in no hurry after Bangladesh’s disastrous effort with the bat.

It quickly became apparent that the idea was to play out the new ball, which has moved viciously over the short lifetime of this Test.

Bangladesh’s batting innings lasted just 32.5 overs and even in those overs, it was largely the counter-attacking effort from skipper Shakib Al Hasan that took the score go past 100.

Kemar Roach, who had to pass a fitness test and was included very late in the first Test squad, was the man of the first hour for Windies as he picked up both Mahmudul Hasan Joy and Najmul Hossain Shanto early. A large part of the pitch looked barren but there were big patches of grass present on the sides of the pitch for both left and right-handed batters and Roach and Co. asserted early dominance.

Mominul Haque’s poor run of form continued as he nicked a Jayden Seales delivery angled away from his body

Left-handed opener Tamim Iqbal, who was dismissed for 29, became the second Bangladeshi batter to reach the 5000-run landmark in Tests on the opening day of their first Test against West Indies at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua yesterday. Tamim, playing his 68th Test, was 19 runs shy off the feat before the start of the series and the 33-year-old reached it when he flicked a Kemar Roach delivery through the midwicket to take three runs. Mushfiqur Rahim became the first Bangladeshi batter to have reached the 5000-run landmark in Tests during first Test against Sri Lanka in Chattogram last month.

through to second slip to become the third top-order batter to fall for naught in the innings.

In total, six visiting batsmen fell for naught, which continued the trend set against Sri Lanka at home and weaves a sorry tale of lacking in Test resilience.

Opener Tamim Iqbal showed better application than his batting partners but Windies looked like they had done their homework on him.

Tamim’s front foot often comes at an angle towards the cover region and had caused the opener problems recently. Even as he left deliveries well, Windies placed fielders at short square-leg, waiting for Tamim to play one in the air early.

There were couple of instances as he struck 29 after the initial top-order collapse but having scaled the 500-run mark in Tests during his stay, he then flicked one through to the wicket-keeper off Joseph Alzarri as Windies capitalised on tendency of falling over just slightly.

Kyle Mayers was producing good amount of swing when he came into the attack and accounted for Liton Das, who managed 12 and Nurul Hasan for naught.

It took some slogging and T20-like high risk shots from Shakib to get Windies thinking a bit as he and Mehedi Hasan Miraz strung together a 32-run stand to take Bangladesh to 76 for 6 at lunch.

Miraz produced a similar dismissal to Tamim after lunch and Shakib kept his counter-attacking approach up to notch 51 off 67 deliveries with six fours and a six.

He finally holed out at deep long off Alzarri after making Windies think differently during that brief stay and Bangladesh were cleaned up for 103.

Windies openers found it difficult to score but they showed application of playing the new ball very late. While Tigers kept pushing at deliveries, many of the edges produced by Windies openers fell short of slip cordon. There was some turn on offer for spinners but whether that would play a role remains to be seen.

BFF proposal seeks Tk 450 crore for development

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) surprisingly received an allocation from the revenue budget in the 2019-20 fiscal year for the first time, getting Tk 20 crore. In the next 2020-21 revenue budget, however, the game’s local governing body was denied any allocation. But in search of funds, the BFF has now proposed a mega five-year plan worth Tk 450 crore for football development.

The BFF has placed a Development Project Proposal (DPP) titled “Organising football competitions and training round the year in a bid to revive Bangladesh’s football, strengthen the national football team as well as Bangladesh Football Federation” to the Youth and Sports Ministry, seeking a whopping Tk 90 crore per year.

After a feasibility study, the Youth and Sports Ministry will send the DPP to the finance ministry for final approval. As part of the feasibility study, the Youth and Sports Ministry yesterday sat with stakeholders to discuss different parts of the proposal in the presence of State Minister for Youth and Sports Zahid Ahsan Russel, BFF president Kazi Salahuddin and other higher-ups.

There were five main categories for the expenses in the DPP, breaking up the yearly allocation of Tk 90 crore.



The first is to organise the professional football leagues at the national level with the participation of local clubs as well as to organise training activities, which will cost Tk 27 crore per year.

The second was organising five national football camps, playing/organising 15 international friendlies or warm-up matches for the national team, appointing the coaching staff and also to pay national players. To do this, the BFF needs Tk 19 crore per year.

Third, the BFF needs Tk 20 crore per year for the operation of three football academies, for which they will avail existing stadiums. Each academy will have 50 players, who will get facilities for training as well as remuneration, education, clothing.

The fourth category relates to the national women’s football teams and includes the cost of training camps, international friendlies and women’s football competitions and talent hunt programmes. The BFF requires Tk 7 crore per year to do this.

The BFF will need Tk 10 crore per year for the fifth and final category, which relates to expenditures behind organising district football leagues and tournaments in all 64 districts as well as training programmes for different age groups.

“We participated in today’s seminar in a quest to revive the country’s football. We received some recommendations. It is just the start. We are also hoping to get more recommendations from the next two meetings. Then we will decide on a course of action,” Russel said.



While most players are enjoying their days off reflecting and recharging ahead of new season with luxurious vacations, Senegal captain Sadio Mane was joined by legends Papiss Cisse and El Hadji Diouf in the muddy fields of his hometown of Bambali, where he began playing the beautiful game, for a community match. The state of the pitch reflects the harsh realities that a player like Mane has had to overcome in chase of his dreams and the sheer determination that it takes to become one of the best in the world, regardless of circumstances.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

‘I’m always thinking out of the box’

AGENCIES

Fast bowler Chamika Karunaratne led an inspired Sri Lankan attack to pull off a thrilling 26-run win over Australia in the rain-hit second one-day international on Thursday.

Chasing a rain-revised target of 216 in 43 overs, Australia suffered from regular wicket falls to get bowled out for 189 in 37.1 overs as Sri Lanka bounced back from their opening loss in the five-match series inallekele.

Player-of-the-match Karunaratne returned figures of 3-47 including Steve Smith, for 28, and Glenn Maxwell, for 30, and was ably supported by fellow quick Dushmantha Chameera who got the final batsman to bring the raucous home crowd to its feet.

Spinners Dhananjaya de Silva, Dunith Wellalage and Chameera took two wickets each.

“I was waiting for this moment. I know I can do well and it’s come today and I’m so happy about it. Everything is planning...I’m always thinking out of the box. I’m always challenging batsmen. I always like to take a risk,” said Chamika Karunaratne.

De Silva scored 34 with the bat and put on 61 runs for the third wicket with Kusal Mendis, who made 36, to guide Sri Lanka to 220 for nine when rain forced play to stop and late end the innings.

Pat Cummins returned figures of 4-35 but his effort went in vain.

“The Australians bowled really well, so we were short a few runs...but had a good feeling my bowlers would defend the target.



Chamika is a born warrior and whenever I throw the ball he delivers. I had a lot of trust in [Dunith Wellalage] as well. When I threw the ball he’s ready to take the chance,” said Sri Lanka skipper Dasun Shanaka.

Australia lost their openers Aaron Finch, on 14, and David Warner, on 37, to De Silva as the tourists faltered in their tricky chase on a seemingly tough pitch to bat.

Smith and Travis Head attempted to rebuild the innings and put together 31 runs

before Karunaratne broke through.

Karunaratne got Smith for 28 and Wellalage’s two wickets of Head (23) and Marnus Labuchagne (18) in his two overs put the Aussies in trouble at 132-5.

Maxwell hit back to unsettle the bowlers in his brief stay at the wicket but finally mistimed a shot to get caught at cover off Karunaratne. He made 30 off 25 balls. Carey was run out for 15 as wheels came off the Australian chase.