

Could it start on April 13?

 Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis have come up with a new date for the resumption of the Dhaka Premier League but the lack of direction from the authorities have kept everyone guessing.

Even yesterday, nobody was sure what the top clubs have decided though they remained in training. The CCDM have however taken a surprisingly stern position after the delay had consumed thirteen days.

"If the weather stays favourable, we are determined to start by April 13," said CCDM coordinator Aynul Islam Tiash.

"We won't see who turns up and who doesn't. It is not our problem. We will make sure the league is over," he added.

It was initially announced on Saturday that

the league would begin on April 10 but the two top clubs, Abahani and Mohammedan Sporting Club, threatened a boycott of the Super League if their demands were not met. Victoria too were not happy with the BCB decision of raising registration of foreign players from eight to ten; they wanted five foreigners to take the field rather than three.

On Monday, CCDM had announced that due to the inclement weather, the league would not resume in time. It showed the difficulty the cricket board had faced convincing the clubs to come to the field, which they termed as "unplayable" when the curators at two of the three grounds were confident even under these weather conditions.

It seemed that the BCB had broken the deadlock regarding recommencement of the league when it was announced that the league would resume on Tuesday after an emergency

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Zaka warns Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Zaka Ashraf on Tuesday warned the Bangladesh Cricket Board that sporting ties could be threatened if they refuse an invitation to tour the troubled country.

PCB chairman Zaka Ashraf was however hopeful Bangladesh would tour but he warned them of consequences if they refused.

"I think we will have to reconsider our relationship with Bangladesh if they don't tour us, but I hope such a situation will not come," Ashraf told news agency AFP.

The PCB has invited Bangladesh to play a limited-overs' series this month, but the tour is subject to a security clearance at the government-level.

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Sheikh Russel KC forward Anwar Hossain (L) celebrates one of his two goals against Farashganj SC during their Bangladesh Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Sk Russel back on song

SPORTS REPORTER



A brace from Anwar Hossain helped 10-man Sheikh Russel KC return to the winning ways in the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League by defeating Farashganj SC 3-0 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Apart from Anwar's brace, Nigerian hitman Alamu Bukola Olalekan struck the other goal to take Sheikh Russel to the third position with 11 points from nine matches. Farashganj, on the other hand, are second from last with seven points from nine outings.

Sheikh Russel, who lost four matches on the trot -- against Brothers, Abahani, Muktiyoddha Sagnad and Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club -- finally found their feet against a side who forced teams like Brothers and Team BJMC to drop points.

Sheikh Russel took only nine minutes to go ahead as Anwar found the back of the Farashganj net directly from a corner. The corner taken from the left-flag hit the post before it went in.

Anwar then turned provider for the sec-

ond goal in the 25th minute as he whipped in a cross which was snatched by Bukola and the Nigerian slotted it past goalkeeper Sultan Ahmed to double the lead.

Sheikh Russel were reduced to 10 men after 36 minutes when forward Ernest Sinkam Emako picked up his second yellow card for a foul on defender Jahir, who was later taken to the hospital for a scan on head.

Farashganj started to assert authority in the game and yielded a few chances but failed to cash in. However, it was Sheikh Russel who made good use of a counter attack to score once more and ensure their third win in nine matches.

From a counter-attack, Moro Mohammad put a through-pass to the left-wing for Anwar, who advanced to the area to place the ball past the substitute goalkeeper Mohammad Sunny in the 57th minute.

Farashganj should have pulled off a goal in the 61st minute but substitute striker Akbar Hossain Rodon saw his close-range shot blocked by Sheikh Russel goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharjee and then another of his shots was cleared from goalline by defender Yeamin Munna.

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PHOTO: INTERNET

Kolkata Knight Riders bowler Lakshmipathy Balaji (C) is ecstatic after taking the wicket of AB de Villiers of Royal Challengers Bangalore during their IPL match at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore yesterday.

Balaji blows RCB away

Shakib's first game, KKR's first win

INTERNET, Bangalore



Seam bowler Lakshmipathy Balaji produced a superb spell of 4-18 as Kolkata Knight Riders beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 42 runs in the Indian Premier League on Tuesday.

Balaji bowled an immaculate line to claim the important wickets of Virat Kohli and AB de Villiers to help restrict Bangalore to 123-9 after Kolkata had scored 165-8 in 20 overs.

South Africa all-rounder Jacques Kallis had earlier removed big-hitting opener Chris Gayle and Cheteshwar Pujara to complete an all-round performance of 22 and 2-7.

Captain Gautam Gambhir (64) and Manvinder Bisla (46) were the other performers for Kolkata, who won their first game after two losses. Bangalore have one win and one loss.

Kolkata made a superb start after being put in to bat, but faltered in the latter half of their innings when a total of close to 200 looked likely.

After Kallis's steady innings was brought to an end by Bangalore captain Daniel Vettori, Gautam Gambhir and Manvinder Bisla added 64 in less than eight overs.

Gambhir struck nine fours in 39 balls, the captain hitting pace bowler Harshal Patel for 15 in an over, including the lone six of his innings.

Bisla struck three sixes and two fours, the wicketkeeper-batsman using his feet well during his 29-ball innings. He was fooled by a ball that left him from Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralidaran to be stumped as he jumped out of his crease.

Muralidaran, Zaheer Khan and Vinay Kumar took two wickets each as Kolkata slipped from 125-1 in the 14th over. Manoj Tiwary, Yusuf Pathan, Ryan ten Doeschate and Shakib Al Hassan, who got his first game of the tournament, all failing to get into double-figures.

In reply, Bangalore failed to recover from the early wickets by Kallis and Balaji was later well supported by all-rounder Rajat Bhatia in the middle of the innings to mount pressure on the batsmen. Although Shakib failed with the bat, he did

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