

BPL auction on Dec 20

 Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The second edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), which is scheduled to begin on January 17 and hold the players' auction on December 20, will go ahead despite the fact of non-payment to players in the league's first edition.

In a press conference at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium yesterday, Afzalur Rahman Sinha, chairman of the BPL's Governing Council, stated that the committee wanted 'to get the ball rolling' since the board wouldn't get a free slot to host the competition later in the season.

He further claimed that while the irregularities with regard to payment of the foreign players have been resolved, payment to all the local players though hasn't yet been completed. The board has provided the franchises with yet another deadline -- December 30 -- to clear the dues.

"We will definitely solve the disputes with the franchises, but as of now the tournament has to go on," said Sinha. "We have been given the responsibility [to organise the tournament] just around 10-12 days back and that time is not enough to organise a league," he added.

Meanwhile, the league might also witness an additional team this year. "Event management company Game On is handling the new team's auction. We will probably get it finalised tomorrow [Saturday]. As the seventh team we will bring on board Rangpur," said IH Mallick, member-secretary of the council.

In another change in the rules of the league, the governing council has decided that no employee of the board would be allowed to be a part of the teams. "There can't be any direct involvement, the coach, board's physio or even the selectors; none can be a part of any team," informed Sinha.

Furthermore, members of the governing council

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(L) Sheikh Jamal's Nigerian striker Mike Otuoreri gets into the Victory Day mood at the end of their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League match against Abahani at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. (R) Minutes later that mood turned into one of chaos and bitterness as his countryman and club coach Joseph Afusi was hit by a brick from the crowd and rowdy mob took control of the pitch.



PHOTOS: FIROZ AHMED

Action after goalless draw

SPORTS REPORTER



The insecurity of footballers and football officials was once again nakedly exposed as rowdy fans injured a coach and two Bangladesh Football Federation officials at the Bangabandhu National Stadium last evening. The incident took place after the end of the Grameenphone Premier League encounter between defending champions Abahani and contenders Sheikh Jamal which ended in a goalless draw. As the Sheikh Jamal coach Joseph Afusi was making his way to the press conference room, he was struck by a piece of brick on his head. Minutes later BFF's media

manager Ashikur Rahman Habibe Rabbi and BFF executive Mohibul Islam were physically assaulted inside the field by some Abahani supporters who had entered through the fences from the VIP galleries. Police finally stepped in to rescue the BFF officials.

The incident once again revealed the insecure condition of the BNS as only two months ago, Mohammedan coach Saiful Bari Titu was also assaulted by some of his club's supporters during the Grameenphone Federation Cup.

Fortunately for Afusi, the injury was not that serious as he confirmed over phone after the incident. "It was a minor cut and did not need any stitch and fast-aid was enough. But this is very unwanted and unfortu-

nate incident and it is harmful for Bangladesh football. Football means and requires respect to the opponents," said Afusi who, along with his captain, refrained from attending the press conference following the incident.

Afusi's opposite number Ardeshir Pournemat was of the same sentiment and felt things should be taken care of by the authorities.

"It is not acceptable. He (Afusi) came from abroad to help your football and you (spectators) should control yourself," said the Abahani coach at the press conference.

"However, it is not our job to control the spectators rather it is a job of police or the officials of game's governing body," Ardeshir added.

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New planning for Pak tour

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Bangladesh is in its second phase of planning for its tour to Pakistan, informed Bangladesh Cricket Board president Nazmul Hassan Papon during a press conference at BCB headquarters.

"It's obviously not possible to tour Pakistan this month. However, we are looking for a gap in January, in order to fulfil our commitment," said Papon. The president further stated that he was satisfied with the security issues and that a suitable time to tour is all that is required.

Back in November, Papon said that the BCB made a 'written

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India in tatters

 Cricket

BBC ONLINE, Nagpur

James Anderson took three wickets to put England in control after Day Two of the final Test against India in Nagpur yesterday.

The paceman bowled both Virender Sehwag (0) and Sachin Tendulkar (2) and had Gautam Gambhir (37) caught behind.

Off-spinner Graeme Swann dismissed Cheteshwar Pujara (26) as India closed on 87-4, still 243 runs behind England, who lead the series 2-1.

Joe Root scored a patient 73 and Graeme Swann smashed 56 to help England to 330 all out on a slow, low wicket.

Having reached that score from their overnight total of 199-5, England's bowlers were in an ideal position to apply some pressure on the Indian batsmen.

And, like so many other times before in this series, the home side duly crumbled.

The pitch offered little seam, swing or spin for the Indian bowling, but as soon as Anderson got the new ball in his hand he immediately had India in trouble.

First he got one to come back in and bowl Sehwag, then he returned later in the evening session to nip one back into Tendulkar.

Finally, he got one to shape away from Gambhir, who went for an expansive cover drive and got a faint edge behind to Matt Prior.

However Anderson will also be grateful for the intervention of Swann after he broke up a promising 58-run partnership between Gambhir and Pujara to hand England the momentum.

It was a superb, diving catch by Ian Bell that brought about the end of Pujara's innings, but the batsman will be disappointed after replays

showed the ball may not have hit his glove on the way to short leg.

Swann's wicket capped a superb individual day for the off-spinner, who scored his first Test half-century since 2009 in typically belligerent style.

He came to the crease after Prior had played down the wrong line to Ravichandran Ashwin -- the wicketkeeper being bowled for a valuable 57 to end a potentially match-changing 103-run partnership with debutant Root -- and Tim Bresnan was pinned in front by Ishant Sharma for a second-ball duck.

Root continued where he left off on the first day, as he showed a solid defence while keeping the scoreboard moving. He looked assured and confident from the first ball of the day and his gritty knock was complemented by Swann's strokeplay -- the Nottinghamshire man hitting six fours and two sixes in his breezy innings.

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India batsman Virender Sehwag (L) looks back at the uprooted castle as England bowler James Anderson sets off to celebrate during the second day of the fourth and final Test in Nagpur yesterday.

PHOTO: CRICINFO



PHOTO: STAR

Cricketers attend a dinner party of the Bangladesh Cricket Board at the Ruposhi Bangla Hotel last night. The dinner was organised to felicitate the Tigers' good performance in the just-concluded series against the West Indies.

Siddikur still on

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman was close to surviving another cut as he made some ground on the second day of the Iskandar Johor Open on Friday. The 28-year old golfer, who was able to play only three holes on Thursday due to thunderstorm, finished the first round on par and then was on one-under-par in the thirteen holes of the second round.

Siddikur's first round was a mixed bag as he managed two birdies and an eagle along with three bogeys which left him on par. The second round was a bit better as he carded one birdie and

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গভীর শ্রদ্ধায় স্মরণ করি

আজ ১৫ ডিসেম্বর ২০১২ রোজ শনিবার বাংলাদেশ ইউনিভার্সিটি প্রতিষ্ঠাতা ভাইস-চ্যান্সেলর এবং মোহাম্মদপুর প্রিপারেটরি উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বিদ্যালয়ের প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান মরহুম কাজী আজহার আলীর তৃতীয় মৃত্যুবার্ষিকী। ২০০৯ সালে এই দিনে তিনি বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতালে ইন্তেকাল করেন। তাঁর মৃত্যুবার্ষিকী উপলক্ষে আজ বেলা ১.৩০ টায় গাজী ওয়ালিউর রহমান মিলনায়তনে (১৫/১ ইকবাল রোড, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা) মরহুমের কর্মময় জীবনের উপর আলোচনা ও দোয়া মাহফিলের আয়োজন করা হয়েছে। উক্ত আলোচনা ও দোয়া মাহফিলে মরহুমের বন্ধু-বান্ধব, আত্মীয়-স্বজন ও শুভাকাঙ্ক্ষীদের উপস্থিত থাকার জন্য বিনীতভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।



বাংলাদেশ ইউনিভার্সিটি-পরিবারবর্গ