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BPL: Learning from mistakes

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The scenes that preceded the third edition of the Bangladesh Premier League were quite similar to that of its previous editions.

There was plenty of excitement in the air. So much so that it, in a way, shrouded the Zimbabwe series, for the BPL had taken centre stage and that seemed to dominate discussions amongst players and fans alike.

At the same time though there was this eerie tension, which despite all the assurances given by the BPL's governing council, stuck its head out: Would the third BPL be able to get rid off its scars from the past?

It was a question that dominated talk shows, dressing rooms and even the late night addas at the tea stalls.

Truth be told, towards the start, it did seem as though that the third edition would eventually go on to follow the footsteps of the previous two tournaments, which were rocked by players payment issues and fixing allegations.

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For starters, the competition attracted lesser number of owners than expected and the systems and the various processes followed by the BPL's governing council didn't seem fool proof.

Questions were also raised since an employee of a company that bought a team was named the member-secretary of the BPL's governing council.

When all these hurdles were passed the problems appeared once the tournament started.

On the first day there was a stampede of sorts at the stadium as hundreds of fans who had come along with the Dhaka Dynamites rushed past the main gate of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium. The security personnel had to be on their feet that day.

And then there was controversy when the BPL's governing council bent the rules to allow the Sylhet Superstars to play with two foreign players instead of the required four. However, once the competition surpassed these early gaffes, there was plenty to look forward to.

The biggest plus-point of this season was that there hasn't been any complaints from players regarding their payments. Almost all the franchises cleared their due amounts and unlike the last two seasons the members of the governing council didn't exactly have to chase the franchises.

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As far as Bangladesh's cricketers are concerned the BPL did seem to do them plenty of good. There was a lot more enthusiasm on the ground when compared to any other domestic tournament and almost every player, young or old, had something to play for.

The find of the tournament was none other than Abu Hider. The energetic left-arm pacer finished as the second highest wicket-taker of the competition;