

PRESS RELEASE

Assam Cricket Association made several significant and crucial announcements in a press meet held today at its office at the ACA Stadium, Barsapara, Guwahati.

Addressing the media, Shri Romen Dutta, President, Assam Cricket Association and Shri Devajit Saikia, Secretary, Assam Cricket Association totally dismissed the allegations levelled against it regarding promotion of Cricket at the expense of Football, and gaining control of the historic Nehru Stadium of Guwahati solely for developing the game of Cricket. Terming the accusations unfounded and uncalled-for, it was informed that Assam Cricket Association never sought or tried to relegate the importance of Football in Assam, but instead only worked towards the development of the game. Substantiating the claim, it was said that Assam Cricket Association had recently identified 40 acres of land in Tinsukia for developing both Cricket and Football, besides adopting other football-friendly measures, including donating a sum of Rupees 50,000 recently to Assam Football Referee Association.

Regarding the accusation concerning the possession of the Nehru Stadium for promoting Cricket at the cost of Football, it was categorically stated that the Nehru Stadium was a property of the Board of Sports, Assam, and that Assam Cricket Association was allowed to host the BCCI domestic tournaments there only after the ground was allotted to ACA in response to an application made to the Board of Sports, Assam for the same.

It was further said that Assam Cricket Association had signed an agreement with the Board of Sports, Assam to revive the glorious past of the Nehru Stadium by developing 4 centre wickets for Cricket and two grounds for Football at the sole expense of the former, and has accordingly delivered what was promised. Upon the request of the Board of Sports, Assam, Assam Cricket Association had also installed sprinkler system on the Football grounds of the Nehru Stadium for their utilisation as one of the practice grounds for the FIFA Women Football U-17 tournament, which was originally scheduled to be held in February, 2022, it was informed. Furthermore, with a view to preserve the sanctity of the Nehru Stadium and restrict unauthorised entry into the newly developed Football and Cricket grounds, Gate No. 1 and 2 of the Nehru Stadium were also sealed by Assam Cricket Association with the approval of the Board of Sports, Assam.

In the Press Meet, it was also informed that Assam Cricket Association had appointed an enquiry committee to look into the match-fixing and other allegations highlighted by DSA Silchar with respect to a J.K. Barooah U-19 Cricket Tournament match that was held between NFR and Jorhat at Golaghat on February 16 and 17, 2022, and accordingly reached at a conclusion. It was said that the match-fixing accusation was rejected, as Silchar didn't have any grievance/objection till the last 2 overs of the match, and that the possibility of any kind of fixing in the last 2 overs has been ruled out. Further, two different and opposite positions were taken by the Captains of the Jorhat and NFR Teams regarding calling off the match after the 11th mandatory over, and as such, disagreement between the two teams was crystal clear. However, it was informed that as the NFR Team was found guilty of deliberately underperforming in the last two overs for reasons best known to them, the NFR (U-19) team was debarred from participating in any ACA or ACA-recognised tournament for the next 3 years. It was, however, added that it was quite evident from the findings that the

Jorhat team was no way responsible for the said underperformance of the NFR (U-19) Team. Also, since the role of the NFR (U-19) Team's Coach and the Captain were found to be against the game and spirit of Cricket, Manager-cum-Coach of NFR (U-19), Satyabrata Chakraborty, has been banned from taking part in any cricket activities under ACA for life, and Captain of NFR (U-19), Ronit Akhter, has similarly been banned from any cricket activities under ACA for the next 3 years.

In what is a major fillip to the promotion of Women Cricket in Assam, the announcement of the kicking-off of the maiden ACA Women's T-20 Challengers Trophy 2022 from February 24, 2022 to March 6, 2022 at the idyllic Amingaon Cricket Ground was also made. Six teams - Kapili Princess, Barak Queens, Dikhou Tigress, Digaru Viranganas, Dhansiri Dashers and Subansiri Champs - comprising players from various parts of the State have taken part in the never-seen-before tournament, which will be broadcasted live on the FanCode Application. Two matches will be played on a daily basis, with the Final match slated for the 6th of March, 2022. While the first match of the tournament will witness Kapili Princess take on Subansiri Champs, Digaru Viranganas will face Barak Queens in the second match.

It is to be noted that Assam Cricket Association is extremely determined to promote Women's Cricket in the State and churn out quality players to represent Assam, and as such, has decided to organise the said tournament just two days after the conclusion of the 1st Kanaklata Barua Inter-District Women's Cricket Tournament 2022, which saw many a top-notch performance from the participating women players.

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