

# SPORT



## Jubair makes case for more chances

SPORTS REPORTER



Jubair Hossain is perhaps the only Bangladeshi national player who finds it hard to get a domestic team to select him. In the recently concluded Bangladesh Cricket League, the country's premier four-day competition, he got to play just one game despite the fact that he is a regular member of the Test side.

He played the opening game for Abahani Limited in Fatullah yesterday and finished with brilliant figures of six for 34, his best List A figures. As a result he may get to play a number of matches for Abahani this season, but things were different in the previous year, when he played just one game.

Teams in domestic cricket prefer slow left-armers who can skid the ball on the slow and low tracks and get wickets. As a result, Jubair was sidelined a number of times. Several local coaches also complained about his apparent lack of accuracy and the amount of runs that he leaked.

The 20-year-old leg-spinner is aware of the scenario and it therefore was not a surprise that after yesterday's performance, he just asked for one thing: more game time.

"I am going to try to be in the main team on a regular basis. Playing the Premier League matches is very important for me. Honestly speaking I get very little chance in domestic cricket," Jubair told reporters.

"Today I got a chance and I managed to utilise that. I just hope I can hold on to this form," he added.

Luckily for Jubair, the national team management values his talent. The likes of Chandika Hathurusingha and Co know exactly how dangerous a bowler he can become if he develops himself.

"Not just Hathurusingha, I get support from all the senior players in the national team. Everyone tries to give me confidence. And I try to continue proving myself. I am successful at times and then I am not. But honestly speaking I have gotten fewer chances," said Jubair.

While Jubair did over-pitch the ball on a number of occasions yesterday, he troubled everyone with his googlies and was the chief destroyer.

"I think it's almost a given that a leg-spinner will bowl a few loose deliveries. Many a time they get wickets because of such loose balls. I tried my best not to bowl half-tracks. The good thing is that that didn't happen today. The more I play the better I will get," he said, adding that his favourite wicket yesterday was that of Hamilton Masakadza, who was deceived by a googly.

The other player who stole the show yesterday was Gazi Group Cricketers opener Mahedi Hasan. Playing his first DPL match, he hammered 103 off 89 balls. He was the reason Gazi Group surpassed the 300-run mark.

"Mahedi is a good player. The best part about him is his ability to select the balls. He still has plenty to develop though. I think players like him should be taken under the high performance unit and only then will they be able to perform to their full potential," said Gazi Group coach Mohammad Salahuddin.

Abahani leg-spinner Jubair Hossain (C) is the toast of his teammates after he recorded career-best figures of 6 for 34 at Fatullah against Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's Kalabagan Krira Chakra yesterday in the opening round of the Dhaka Premier League.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## 4 spinners' actions reported

SPORTS REPORTER

Four spinners across three matches were reported for possessing a suspect action by umpires on the first day of the Dhaka Premier League, the country's premier one-day competition, yesterday. According to sources two of them play for Gazi Group Cricketers, while the remaining two play for Abahani Limited and Prime Doleshwar Sporting Club. The umpires, apart from filing a report, have also spoken to the players and the coaches of the teams regarding the issue. It is still uncertain as to what would be the next step. It is likely that these bowlers would be further observed in the next few matches before a decision is taken.

According to Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) sources, this is not the first time that bowlers have been reported by umpires in Bangladesh's domestic cricket. It apparently took place during the last season of the DPL as well and is a common occurrence in the lower divisional leagues.

With no functioning review committee, these issues, according to sources, have long been ignored. However, with 'illegal bowling' receiving utmost attention ever since the banning of Taskin Ahmed and Arafat Sunny and a new review committee in the process of being formed, umpires are hopeful that in this season, their reports will be heeded to.

## Siddikur makes cut in Japan

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman avoided cut in the Panasonic Open in Japan by a single stroke yesterday. The Bangladeshi golfer, who had gone off to a disastrous start with a three-over (74) in the first round, made through to the weekend rounds after a second round score of one-under (70) for an aggregate of two-over (144). Siddikur was tied for 61st position along with 18 other golfers as a total of 79 golfer made it through to the last two rounds.

The Bangladeshi golfer made the cut as he is looking to get back into the 60-man eligibility list for the Rio Olympics, after having slipped out of it earlier this week. The cut-off date for the ranking is 11 July, and Siddikur will have one more Asian Tour event -- the Mauritius Open in May -- before the cut-off date.

## A debut ton & a stinging six-for

### Holder's Prime Bank humbled by newcomers Gazi Group

SPORTS REPORTER



Yesterday marked an auspicious and exciting beginning to the 2016 Dhaka Premier Cricket League. It saw a debut century in a debutant team that vanquished the defending champions; a six-for by a leg-spinner who has often been ignored by domestic sides and a seasoned performer leading his side to an easy win over a newcomer.

Leg-spinner Jubair Hossain, who rarely gets a chance to play domestic cricket these days, began with a bang to take six scalps against Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's Kalabagan Krira Chakra (KKC) in Fatullah.

His figures of six for 34, was the reason that Abahani managed to cruise to a seven-wicket win. Batting first, KKC were bundled out for just 140 in 33.1 overs. Their overseas player Hamilton Masakadza was their highest run-getter with a score of 41. Four of Jubair's six wickets were a result of his googly.

In reply, the Tamim Iqbal-led Abahani rode on their Indian recruit Uday Kaul's 44 and Nazmul Hossain Shanto's 35 to reach home in 28.3 overs.

At the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, Holders Prime Bank Cricket Club lost their first game of the competition to newcomers Gazi Group Cricketers. Batting first, Gazi Group

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**CRICKET COACHING SCHOOL:** 177 all out in 49.2 overs (Pinak 35, Saeed 34, Saifuddin 31; Al-Amin 3-36, Rezaul 3-22)  
**PRIME DOLESHWAR:** 181 for 2 in 45.2 overs (Imtiaz 100, Rony 47; Saif 1-18, Saifuddin 1-25)  
**Result:** Prime Doleshwar Sporting Club won by eight wickets.  
**GAZI GROUP CRICKETERS:** 303 for 4 (Mahedi 103, Anamul 67, Shamsur 56; Nazmul 1-34, Rubel 1-68)  
**PRIME BANK CRICKET CLUB:** 197 all out in 46.3 overs (Yasir 56, Rubel 45; Saeed Anwar jnr 3-31, Sharif 2-22, Moinul 2-49)  
**Result:** Gazi Group Cricketers won by 106 runs.  
**KALABAGAN KRIRA CHAKRA:** 140 all out in 33.1 overs (Masakadza 41, Tasamul 37; Jubair 6-34, Saqlain 2-25)  
**ABAHANI:** 142 for 3 in 28.3 overs (Kaul 44 not out, Nazmul 35 not out; Dewan 1-7)  
**Result:** Abahani won by 7 wickets.

finished on 303 for four. They were boosted by Mahedi Hassan's 103. The 21-year-old, who was playing his first List-A match, smashed five sixes and eight fours during his 89-ball knock and helped them post a dominant total.

Opener Anamul Haque scored a 101-ball 67, while Shamsur Rahman posted 56 runs off 62 balls. In reply, Prime Bank were out of the game as early as the 13th over when they were reduced to 61 for five. Yasir Ali, batting at number seven, scored 56.

At the BKSP, Prime Doleshwar Sporting Club made an emphatic start to this season's campaign by thumping newcomers Cricket Coaching School (CCS) by eight wickets.

CCS, a newly promoted side dominated by players from Bangladesh's under-19 team, were bundled out for 177 in 49.2 overs.

After the exchange, Prime Doleshwar veteran opener Imtiaz Hossain hit a cautious century to ensure that the win. He scored 100 off 140 balls in an innings which featured 12 fours. Rony Talukdar, who was the highest run-scorer of the Dhaka Premier League last season made a good start this year as well as he posted 47. They finished on 181 for 2 in 45.2 overs.

## BCCI drops \$42-million case against WICB

AFP, New Delhi



India's cricket board has dropped a 42 million-dollar damages claim against the West Indies over an abandoned tour in 2014 after the new World Twenty20 champions agreed to return next year, a report said Friday.

The huge damages claim lodged by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had threatened to cripple its cash-strapped West Indies counterpart which has long been at loggerheads with its own players.

But BCCI president Shashank Manohar told ESPNcricinfo the decision to waive the claim, filed by his predecessor Narayanaswami Srinivasan's regime, had been made after the West Indies agreed to fulfil their original commitments and the schedule for the tour should be finalised next month.

"That is now sorted out because they are

going to come back and play here next year," said Manohar.

"They have to complete those (unfinished) games. That was a claim raised by the board. (We) would be satisfied by them coming and playing here."

The West Indies players flew home from India in October 2014 when a long-running pay dispute came to a head in the middle of the tour.

The two teams had been due to play five ODIs, three Test matches and a T20 international, but the tourists refused to play on after the first four ODIs with captain Dwayne Bravo leading a revolt by the players.

Bravo was subsequently sacked as skipper and has since been an outspoken critic of the West Indies board.

After captaining the West Indies to victory in the final of the World Twenty20 in Kolkata earlier this month, Darren Sammy took a swipe at the governing body over what he said was a lack of support for the players.



Gazi Group Cricketers batsman Mahedi Hasan drives one towards the boundary during his aggressive 103 at Mirpur. The player began his List A career with a century yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Bat claims outrage Pistorius family Kohli, de Villiers power RCB

AP, Somerset West



Claims in a new book that Oscar Pistorius beat his girlfriend with a cricket bat before fatally shooting her in his home in 2013 were condemned as "outrageous" and "absurd" by the Olympic runner's family Friday.

In a statement, the Pistorius family said no new evidence existed to back up the allegations and called the book's authors "amateur forensic hobbyists" who were only seeking fame and money. It also condemned what it called the media's "offensive" parallel trial against him.

In their book "Oscar vs The Truth," brothers Calvin and Thomas Mollett wrote they had seen new evidence,

including marks on the back of Reeve Steenkamp's body that indicated Pistorius had hit her with the bat before he killed her.

"This is yet another attention-seeking, money-making exercise, this time by two citizens with detective fantasies who have a history of latching onto high-profile cases after the fact," the Pistorius family said.

The Mollett brothers have also published books about another high-profile murder case in South Africa involving a man who was acquitted of murder for killing his girlfriend.

Pistorius's family also dismissed a British newspaper story that said his uncle had admitted Pistorius murdered Steenkamp, calling that report "gutter journalism."

The family statement comes the same week Pistorius appeared in court

for the first time since his conviction for shooting Steenkamp was upgraded from manslaughter to murder following an appeal by prosecutors. He now faces a possible 15 years in prison and will be sentenced in June.

Pistorius' cricket bat was a key part of the evidence at his murder trial. His defense claimed it was bloodied and damaged after he broke down a toilet cubicle door with it to get to Steenkamp after shooting her accidentally thinking she was an intruder. He then left it on the bathroom floor while he tried to help his girlfriend, the defense argued.

The prosecution alleged Pistorius and Steenkamp fought in the pre-dawn hours of Feb. 14, 2013 before, enraged, he shot her multiple times through the closed toilet door after she fled to the bathroom.

FIANS, Pune



Star batsmen AB de Villiers and Virat Kohli smashed quick-fire half-centuries followed by a disciplined bowling effort which guided Royal Challengers Bangalore to a comfortable 13-run victory over Rising Pune Supergiants in an Indian Premier League (IPL) contest here on Friday.

De Villiers (83 off 46) and Virat Kohli (80 off 63) helped Bangalore post a competitive total of 185 for 3 in 20 overs. In reply, despite opener Ajinkya Rahane's 60, the hosts lost wickets at regular intervals and could manage only 172 for 8 in 20 overs.

Kane Richardson (3-13) and Shane Watson (2-31) were the pick of the bowlers for Bangalore, while Harshal Patel and Tabraiz Shamsi claimed one wicket each.

Chasing a challenging target of 186, Pune got off to a disappointing start, losing opener Faf du Plessis and Kevin Pietersen

inside two overs.

Earlier put into bat, Bangalore got off a slow start, losing opener KL Rahul in the fourth over to put a break on the scoring.

But his opening partner Kohli and de Villiers kept the scoreboard ticking, sneaking in with ones, twos to take the score to 48/1 after completion of the powerplay.

But soon after the powerplay, the in-form duo unleashed their pyrotechnics to smash boundaries and sixes to take team to 97/1 in 11 overs that set the stage for another big score.

The duo put on 155-run partnership for the second wicket to take team to a competitive total, before Kohli and de Villiers were dismissed in successive balls in 20th over.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**

**BANGALORE:** 185 for 3 in 20 overs (de Villiers 83, Kohli 80; Perera 3-34)

**PUNE:** 172 for 8 in 20 overs (Rahane 60; Richardson 3-13, Watson 2-31)

**Result:** Bangalore won by 13 runs.

**Player-of-the-match:** AB de Villiers