

# 'Double delight' for Mustafizur

SPORTS REPORTER

 Yesterday came as a double delight to Bangladesh pace sensation Mustafizur Rahman as the left-arm seamer was named ICC's Emerging Cricketer of the Year and also made a confident return to the competitive circuit after a five-month break.

"It's a double delight for me as I got the award and also bowled comfortably in my first competitive match after returning from my shoulder injury.

"I had no complaints during bowling and I could generate pace. I am happy with the way I bowled in the practice match," Mustafizur told The Daily Star over the phone after taking two wickets at Whangarei in the tour match against New Zealand XI.

"This award is the best gift of the year for me and will encourage me to do even better in the coming years. I'm delighted and proud to win this award, especially since it's the first time that a Bangladeshi player has won an ICC award.

"To play international cricket is a dream for every budding cricketer and it

has been a dream come true for me. I want to thank everyone who has supported me over the years and I promise to give my best at every opportunity," was Mustafizur's reaction to the ICC award.

Since his international debut in April 2015, the young paceman has enthralled the world's cricket fraternity with his cutters and slower deliveries alongside his shrewd cricketing brain.

Mustafizur was the first Bangladeshi cricketer to win an annual ICC award and picked up eight ODI wickets and 19 T20I wickets in the voting period.

Chief selector Minhajul Abedin was delighted by the rare achievement but was happier with the way the bowler performed in the match.

"It was nice to watch the way Mustafizur bowled after returning from injury and it is good news for the team. He was as cunning as always and I hope things will be much better when it will be a real fight. Although we lost, I am happy with the overall performance of the team in the practice match, especially Soumya [Sarkar] getting runs came as a great relief to us," said Minhajul.

of Shipley's bat and ballooned to cover. Throughout his seven overs that went for 39 runs, he bowled with good pace and beat the bat on numerous occasions. Most encouragingly, he did not complain of pain in his left shoulder.

Shakib Al Hasan was the other success story in the bowling ranks, taking three wickets for 41 from his seven overs. A look at the bowling figures tell the story of Mashrafe looking to test out his resources in Kiwi conditions -- leg-spinner Tanveer Haider was bowled most often with nine overs for 59. The skipper himself bowled five overs for 29 while Taskin Ahmed



Bangladesh's young bowling superstar Mustafizur Rahman broke new ground for the nation's cricket by becoming the first Bangladeshi to win an ICC award when he was named the ICC's Emerging Player of the Year yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR FILE

## A fruitful tour match

SPORTS REPORTER

 The result of Bangladesh's tour match against New Zealand XI at the Cobham Oval in Whangarei yesterday was a three-wicket defeat for the tourists, but it was a fruitful outing for Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's team ahead of the first ODI at Christchurch on Boxing Day.

The few question marks heading into the series would mainly have been about the returning Mustafizur Rahman's fitness after having recovered from shoulder surgery and the form of the struggling Soumya Sarkar. The team management should be breathing easier on both counts after yesterday's match.

Soumya, who has averaged 10.11 from three ODIs and 15.93 in 16 T20Is this year, hit a solid 40 from 47 in Bangladesh's first innings score of 245 for eight in the rain-shortened 43-over match. The left-hander seemed to have rediscovered some of his timing and was moving his feet well against the new ball. He hit four boundaries, giving good support to Imrul Kayes, who got off to a flyer with a 29-ball 36 after Tamim Iqbal's early departure for one.

Although there were no big scores against a New Zealand XI attack made up mostly of first-class journeymen and former Under-19 players, a pair of 40s from Mashfiqur Rahim (45) and Mahmudullah Riyad (46) was evidence enough that the batting group were settling in well to the conditions, something both captains -- Mashfiqur and Mashrafe -- placed onus on before the tour.

All eyes then turned to Mustafizur who bowled the second over of New Zealand XI's innings and had opener Ryan Duffy caught down the leg side off the fourth delivery. He did not taste success again till the 36th over, but it was the classic Fizz wicket as a cutter caught the leading edge

bowled only 3.4 overs for 19 runs.

The testing phase however may have been costly as after having the opposition at 154 for six and then 199 for seven, they lost the match with 1.2 overs left. Ben Horne starred for New Zealand XI with an unbeaten 53-ball 60.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**BANGLADESH:** 245 for 8 in 43 overs (Mashfiqur 45, Mahmudullah 42, Soumya 40, Imrul 36; Hicks 2-30, Hampton 2-44, McPeake 1-32)

**NEW ZEALAND XI:** 247 for 8 in 41.4 (Horne 60 not out, Smith 50, Popli 45, Hampton 29 not out; Shakib 3-41, Mustafizur 2-39)



Bangladesh players Soumya Sarkar (R) and Mustafizur Rahman (4th from R) positively answered pressing questions about their form and fitness respectively in yesterday's tour match against New Zealand XI at the Cobham Oval in Whangarei.

PHOTO: BCB

## Agrani Bank go joint-top

SPORTS REPORTER

Agrani Bank SC climbed to the top of the Marcel Bangladesh Championship League with a one-goal win over Victoria SC at the Shaheed Suhrawardi Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Zillur struck the decisive goal in the 10th minute. A sixth win from 10 matches helped Agrani Bank equal Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club and Saif SC at the top of the eight-team table, with the three teams now on 17 points each.

However, Saif SC have a game in hand.

Defeat sees Victoria stay in seventh with seven points from 10 matches.

### Amir fit for Boxing Day

AFP, Melbourne

Pakistan spearhead Mohammad Amir is expected to play the Boxing Day Test against Australia despite stiffness and a bruised thigh, officials said Thursday.

The left-arm seamer left the field during the first Brisbane Test on a motorised stretcher after falling on the Gabba turf.

He appeared in agony but returned a short time later and continued to bowl.

"There's quite a bit of bruising on his thigh," Pakistan batting coach Grant Flower told reporters. "He's feeling a bit stiff but he's all right."

## Dhaka, Khulna secure big wins

SPORTS REPORTER

 Two fixtures of the National Cricket League (NCL) produced results inside three days as Dhaka Division posted a five-wicket victory against Dhaka Metro while Khulna secured a massive ten-wicket win against Barisal courtesy of debutant pace bowler Ashiquzzaman's six-wicket haul.

A first outright win sees Khulna to the top of the tier-one table with 36 points, while Dhaka Division followed close behind on 27 points.

Facing a huge deficit, Barisal resumed the day at the BKSP on 10 for no loss but could only set a 12-run target for Khulna as Ashiquzzaman tore through their innings with six wickets for 57 runs.

Ziaur Rahman and Bishwanath Halder chipped in with two wickets as Barisal were bundled out for 211 in their second innings. Monir Hossain was Barisal's top-scorer with 70.

Khulna, who took a handsome first innings lead by making 371 in reply to Barisal's 171, reached the target with all their wickets intact.



ASHIQUZZAMAN ... 6 for 57

At the Fatullah Cricket Stadium, resuming the third day on 27 for four, Dhaka Metro lost their remaining six wickets for only 98 runs to set a 105-run target for Dhaka Division. Mohammad Sharif, along with Shahadat Hossain and Taibur Rahman, helped Dhaka Division bundle out Dhaka Metro for 125 runs. Opener Joyraz Sheikh's 30 and Taibur's unbeaten 27 helped Dhaka Division reach the target in 31.5 overs for the loss of five wickets.

In the tier-second contest at Sylhet International Cricket Stadium, Chittagong continue to fight tooth and nail to avoid an innings defeat against Rangpur. In reply to Rangpur's 450, Chittagong scored 149 runs for four wickets at stumps after being dismissed for 182 in their first innings. Chittagong will resume on the final day, trailing by 119 runs.

Meanwhile, at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra, Sylhet face a daunting task against Rajshahi, who rode on Farhad Hossain's 132 to set a 330-run target. Farhad smote nine fours and four sixes during his five-hour stay in the middle as Rajshahi amassed 344 runs in their second innings.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

#### DHAKA METRO V DHAKA DIV

**DHAKA METRO:** 166 and 125 all out in 55.5 overs (Shadman 28, Mehrab Jr 39; Sharif 3-24, Shahadat 2-22, Taibur 2-13)

**DHAKA DIV:** 187 and 106 for 5 in 31.5 overs (Sheik 30, Taibur 27 not out; Hider 4-42)

**RESULT:** Dhaka Division won by five wickets

**PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH:** Mohammad Sharif (Dhaka Division)

#### BARISAL V KHULNA

**BARISAL:** 171 and 211 all out in 46.3 overs (Al Amin 37, Monir 70, Tawhidul 30; Ziaur 2-27, Ashiquzzaman 6-57, Halder 2-47)

**RESULT:** Khulna won by ten wickets

**PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH:** Ashiquzzaman (Khulna)

#### RAJSHAHI V SYLHET

**RAJSHAHI:** 204 and 344 all out in 92.5 overs (Junaed 78, Farhad 132, Sunzamul 30; Javed 3-77, Khaleed 2-52, Rahatul 2-52)

**SYLHET:** 219 and 28-1 in 11 overs (Imtiaz 18 not out)

#### RANGPUR V CHITTAGONG

**RANGPUR:** 450

**CHITTAGONG:** 182 all out in 58 overs (Irfan 47; Hasan 2-13, Shuvo 3-48, Saddam 3-36) and 149-4 in 56 overs (Pinak 45, Yasir 39 not out; Ariful 2-16)

## TEST TEAM OF THE YEAR

- 1 David Warner
- 2 Alastair Cook (capt)
- 3 Kane Williamson
- 4 Joe Root
- 5 Adam Voges
- 6 Jonny Bairstow
- 7 Ben Stokes
- 8 R Ashwin
- 9 Rangana Herath
- 10 Mitchell Starc
- 11 Dale Steyn
- 12 Steven Smith

## ICC'S BEST OF 2016



RAVICHANDRAN ASHWIN

### TEST CRICKETER OF THE YEAR

8 Matches

336 Runs (Avg 42)

118 High Score

48 Wickets (Avg 15.39)

6 five-fors



QUINTON DE KOCK

### CRICKETER OF THE YEAR

30 Matches

394 Runs (Avg. 35.81)

78 Wickets (Avg 16.70)

138\*

Average: 56.64



MUSTAFIZUR RAHMAN

### ODI PLAYER OF THE YEAR

16 Matches

793 Runs

Four Centuries

High Score: 138\*

Average: 56.64



MOHAMMAD SHAHZAD

### EMERGING PLAYER OF THE YEAR

13 Matches

27 Wickets

11.74 Bowl Avg

### SPIRIT OF CRICKET AWARD

MISBAHUL HAQ

## ODI TEAM OF THE YEAR

- 1 David Warner
- 2 Quinton de Kock
- 3 Rohit Sharma
- 4 Virat Kohli
- 5 AB de Villiers
- 6 Jos Buttler
- 7 Mitchell Marsh
- 8 Ravindra Jadeja
- 9 Mitchell Starc
- 10 Kagiso Rabada
- 11 Sunil Narine
- 12 Imran Tahir

## Petersen handed two-year ban

AFP, Johannesburg

Alviro Petersen, a veteran of 36 Test matches, on Wednesday became the highest-profile South African cricketer to be banned for corruption since former captain Hansie Cronje in 2000.

Former opening batsman Petersen, 36, was banned for two years after agreeing a plea bargain with Cricket South Africa (CSA).

He is the sixth player to be banned following a corruption scandal which led to former international player Gulam Bodi being banned for 20 years for attempting to fix matches in South Africa's domestic Twenty20 competition during the 2014/15 season.

