

# Jamal falls back

SPORTS REPORTER



Jamal Hossain Mollah fell four shots off the pace after a one-over in the crucial third round of the AB Bank Bangladesh Open yesterday.

The 33-year-old golfer, who started the day in pole position at eight-under, exchanged three birdies for two bogeys and a double bogey at the Kurmitola Golf Club on Friday to severely compromise his chances of winning his maiden Asian Tour title.

After his first over-par round, Jamal was on aggregate of seven-under-par (206), with England's Jack Harrison taking the clubhouse lead at 11-under-par (202).

Sri Lanka's Mithun Perera was one stroke behind the Englishman, looking to win his first title on Asia's premier tour while there were five other golfers between nine-under and eight-under.

Two-time winner on the tour Siddikur Rahman was way back at two-under-par alongside his compatriot Badal Hossain.



PHOTO: STAR

English rookie golfer Jack Harrison grabbed the clubhouse lead with a four-under in the third round.

A total of 89 golfers made the final two rounds, with 10 Bangladeshis from a total of 49 local golfers making it through.

Jamal, who has been in pretty good form of late having finished runner-up in the BTI two weeks ago, had a poor start to the day as he played a double bogey on the third hole. He recovered with three birdies in the next eight holes to get back in the lead, but two more bogeys on the 15th and 16th holes saw him slide down the leaderboard.

"My tee shots were not accurate today and I failed to putt properly so I had to concede a double bogey and two bogeys," the two-time PGTI winner said after the day's play.

The Kurmitola-based golfer, however, was not willing to give up and thinks there is still a chance for him to win his home event.

"Anything can happen on the last day because all top 10 golfers have a chance to win the title. I played really well in the first two days and the third day was a bad one for me. In golf, nothing is lost until the last shot. I will try my best to make a good start tomorrow," Jamal said.

Englishman Harrison, who is making his debut on the tour after coming through the qualifying school in January, said he was enjoying every bit of his game and the surroundings.

"I am loving the good vibes out here, especially when I am playing well. I am loving Dhaka so far. I love the course here, the people and everything else," Harrison told AsianTour.com.

The Englishman, who fired five birdies in his closing six holes, said he would play to his strengths on the final day. "I am just going to stick to the same game plan tomorrow and play my best and take advantage of my strengths, which is off the tees this week and hopefully win. I guess it's all about decision making and not being too greedy around the course here. It can really bite you. You got to keep it in play and don't try to go for the pins because if you miss, you won't have a chance really."



Golf fever seems to have truly caught the imagination of stars from across the board. In this picture, golfer Siddikur Rahman shows basic techniques of the game to cricketer Mehedi Hasan Miraz while actor Riazuddin Ahmed Siddiqui watches with interest during the third day of the AB Bank Bangladesh Open at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Mariner continue winning run

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Mariner Young's Club moved to the top of the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League table alongside Abahani with a 6-0 victory against Shadharan Bima at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The defending champions, who had won their last match against Ajax SC by the same margin on the previous day, rode on a brace each from Farhad Ahmed Shitul and Moinul Islam Koushik and a goal apiece from Mamunur Rahman Chayan and Hasan Jubayer Niloy to record their fifth victory in five matches.

The win took the Arambagh-based outfit to 15 points from five matches alongside Abahani even though the latter have a superior goal advantage.

Earlier in the day, Sonali Bank notched a 5-2 win over Victoria Sporting Club.

## One of Broad's best feats

AGENCIES, London

English cricketer Stuart Broad has beaten nearly six million other Fantasy Football managers to record the best weekly score in the game.

The 31-year-old's side scored 180 points in Gameweek 37, helped by a sterling performance by Arsenal's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, who alone accounted for 46 points.

It was a nervy Thursday night for Broad, who was still relying on results from the West Ham versus Manchester United game to secure the accolade.

But a clean sheet from Adrian saw 19 points added to his score. The England bowler used his bench boost chip to benefit from points scored by his substitute players.

Before the Thursday night game, Broad posted a picture of his team to Instagram along with the caption: "I enjoyed 8-15 in the Ashes but leading GW37 in #EPL Fantasy Football runs it close as a sporting achievement!"

The official Fantasy Premier League Twitter account confirmed the news at the full-time whistle.

## Tigresses keep collapsing

SPORTS REPORTER



Inept batting continues to haunt the touring Bangladesh women's cricket team as Rumana Ahmed and her troops were bundled for a sub-100 total for the third consecutive time, crumbling to 76 all out in their crushing 154-run at the hands of their South

African counterparts in the fourth ODI of the five-match series at the Diamond Oval in Kimberly yesterday.

The lack of technique and mental strength being exposed by a quality side has been the theme of the ongoing South Africa tour and yesterdays' defeat was no exception.

After being bundled out for 164 runs in the first ODI, Bangladesh's three subsequent totals have been 89, 71 and 76 while South Africa were largely untroubled with the bat - highlighting the gulf in class between the two sides.

Chasing 231 -- a fairly modest target but one made all the more challenging because of the failures in the last two matches -- only three Bangladesh batters were able to reach double figures with Fargana Hoque's 22 being the highest score. At 66 for five there was some hope that the visitors would cross the 100 mark for the second time in the series, but they lost their last five wickets for just 10 runs.

Earlier, after the hosts chose to bat first opener Lizelle Lee top-scored with 70 off 102 balls while skipper Chloe Tryon added a quickfire sixty off just 42 balls with six fours and two sixes as the hosts added 48 runs in the last five overs.

Bangladesh will now hope against hope to avoid a 5-0 whitewash when they take the field for the fifth and final match on May 14 at the Mangaung Oval in Bloemfontein.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**South Africa:** 230 for 7 in 50 overs (Lee 70, Wolvaardt 32, Chetty 31, Tryon 60; Jahanara 2-54, Nahida 2-36)

(Fargana 22, Shamima 17; Ismail 2-8, Ntozakhe 2-10, Luus 2-12)  
**Result:** South Africa women won by 154 runs and led the 5-match series 4-0.

**Bangladesh:** 76 all out in 33.2 overs

## Rhythm on the field and off it

MAZHAR UDDIN



It all started with classical music lessons when Iftekhar Sajjad Rony was studying in class nine in Chittagong, before his passion for cricket called him away to the field of play. Iftekhar's family however was against the pursuit of a cricket career initially, instead encouraging him to become a musician and urging him to concentrate on his studies.

He was finally able to convince his parents to back his desire to become a professional cricketer and joined the Brothers Union academy in Chittagong, but only after completing his HSC examinations in 2007.

Soon, the off-spinning all-rounder was playing in the Dhaka First Division League in 2008 and made the step up to the Dhaka Premier League, which he has been playing the past six years now. Iftekhar made his first-class debut for Chittagong Division against Rangpur Division in 2015 and made a stellar impression in just his second game by notching innings figures of eight for 112 against Rajshahi. A handy batsman, Iftekhar also struck his maiden first-class ton in the same season when he hit an unbeaten 128 against Sylhet after coming in to bat at number eight.

The 30-year-old has 69 wickets from 22 first-class games with as many as five five-fors. He was also among the top four wicket-takers in the National Cricket League last season, during which he picked up 18 wickets in five games with two five-wicket hauls. He also featured for Brothers Union in the just-concluded DPL.

He did not forget about his other talent. Iftekhar continued making

music along with playing cricket and has established himself as a Youtube musician; he has his own music channel and his solo track, 'Ojosro raat', was quite popular.

When asked how he manages to play cricket and make music at the same time Iftekhar, who idolises famous singer Tahsan, said that cricket will always remain his top priority.

"To be honest my first priority is cricket while singing is my hobby. My parents always encouraged me to learn music but never wanted me to play

singing abilities among his fellow cricketers. Often he sings during breaks in play, on request.

"I was among the three singers who were selected to sing with Tahsan bhai during a music fest and he praised me a lot. At the moment I record music by myself on my phone with the music apps... I dream of launching my own album someday. I am trying to establish my Youtube music channel like the big singers do worldwide. During matches my teammates often ask me to sing songs in the dressing room and



Iftekhar Sajjad Rony's first love is cricket and he indulges that in the top flight of the domestic circuit, but his other passion of singing keeps cricketers entertained during match breaks and the singer occupied during the off-season.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

cricket because my result in HSC was not good as I used to play tape tennis cricket in Chittagong back then. But I still convinced them and started playing Dhaka leagues from 2008. Whenever my cricket season starts I totally focus on cricket and don't work on music; only after the season ends do I work on music," Iftekhar told The Daily Star yesterday.

The multi-talented Iftekhar dreams of launching his own album in the future and is already famous for his

I enjoy it a lot. My parents are happy to see me as a professional cricketer now. Let's see where life takes me but at the moment I am happy to concentrate more on cricket," he added.

Former Bangladesh cricketer Mehrab Hossain Jnr is another cricketer known for his singing abilities, and now it is Iftekhar who is looking even further to become a professional singer, but for the time being his musical presence will certainly keep cricketers upbeat and in rhythm.



## Late twist keeps Royals in the hunt

STAR SPORT DESK

A brilliant unbeaten 95 from Jos Buttler and a penultimate-over blitz from Krishnappa Gowtham turned the match, and potentially the campaign, around for Rajasthan Royals as they won an IPL encounter against high-flying Chennai Super Kings by four wickets with a ball to spare in Jaipur yesterday.

Rajasthan, who were facing possible elimination from the playoff race if they lost, needed an unlikely 28 from the last two overs to eclipse Chennai's 176 and Gowtham hammered two sixes in the 19th over from David Willey before being dismissed off the last ball of the over for a four-ball 13.

With 8 required off the last three balls from Dwayne Bravo, Buttler hit a six and finished it off with a couple off the next ball to end on a 60-ball 95 with 11 fours and two sixes.

Earlier, after choosing to bat a 35-ball 52 from Suresh Raina was the mainstay of Chennai's 176 for four.

SCORES IN BRIEF

**CHENNAI:** 176 for 4 (Raina 52, Watson 39, Dhoni 33 not out; Archer 2-42, Sodhi 1-29)  
**RAJASTHAN:** 177 for 6 in 19.5 overs (Buttler 95, Binny 22; Thakur 1-22, Jadeja 1-28)  
**Result:** Rajasthan won by four wickets.



The rain that washed out Ireland's first day of Test cricket did nothing to dampen the spirit of 12-year old Aran Cavanagh (L) and his sister, 11-year old Joise, as they playfully fight over their umbrella on the first day of the only Test against Pakistan at the Malahide Cricket Club in Dublin yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Rain fails to dampen zeal

REUTERS, Dublin



It was hardly surprising to hear the words "rain stopped play" echo around Malahide Cricket Club when Test cricket came to Ireland for the first time on Friday.

Yet the grey skies around Dublin did not dampen the enthusiasm of the fans in green, many of whom had waited decades for the day Ireland might at last be granted the opportunity to play in the five-day format so steeped in tradition.

"I played cricket way back in the '50s and as a child, of course, you dreamed of playing the international stuff," said Barry Ramsey, 76, who travelled from the north-west county of Donegal with his son, Barclay, to see the landmark match against Pakistan.

"Now to be at this stage, even though it's a long time since I played, is absolutely phenomenal."

Despite a World Cup win against Pakistan in 2007, an even more celebrated one over England in 2011 and their elevation to full Test match status last year, Ireland has always seen cricket very much as a minority game, way behind soccer, rugby and the traditional sports of Gaelic football

and hurling.

Ramsey recalled playing in the cricket street leagues in Donegal, a Gaelic football stronghold, and having to bow his head in team photos for fear the Gaelic Athletic Association, which until 1971 banned members from playing or attending so-called "foreign games", would forbid him from playing football.

Others were attending their first cricket game, keen to savour the occasion, while teachers brought lines of school children into the temporary stands, which were close to a 6,300 sell-out on the opening day.

Australians John Stewart and Jeremy Jastrzav had flown from Sydney just for the Test before returning home next Tuesday.

"Coming here and watching a Test in Ireland is a bit of a unique experience, this is a bit different to the SCG (the world-famous Sydney Cricket Ground) for us. It's an historic game," Stewart said.

No longer just constrained to the one-day game however, Ireland's enthusiastic fans will at least get four more shots at enjoying Test cricket for the first time.

"Could I swing Monday or Tuesday? Maybe," said Barclay Ramsey. "We'd be making nice phone calls into work!"