



# Fizz fails on good bowling day

SPORTS REPORTER



There were concerns over Bangladesh's bowling department even before the team departed for Ireland for a tri-series, which will be followed by the ICC World Cup campaign. In their first international match of the sojourn, there were both good and bad elements as they managed to restrict West Indies for 261 for nine in 50 overs despite a flying start in the Tigers' opening game of the tri-nation series at Clontarf Cricket Club ground in Dublin yesterday.

It was Bangladesh skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza who led from the front with the ball and ended up picking three wickets for 49 runs from his 10 overs, while spinners Shakib Al Hasan and Mehedi Hasan Miraz's controlled bowling applied the brakes on the scoring rate of the Caribbean outfit in the middle overs.

However, it was yet another solid West Indian start after they elected to bat, despite first-choice opener John Campbell, who was involved in a world-record 365-run opening stand with Shai Hope in the previous game against Ireland, missing out due to a sore back.

Hope, along with Sunil Ambris, added 89 for the opening stand before Mehedi gave the breakthrough. The right-hander was caught sharply by Mahmudullah Riyad at point on 38. Shakib then came into the act and removed Dwayne Bravo in the next over for one. Hope then paired with Roston Chase and went on to add 115

runs for the third wicket but Shakib and Mehedi kept the run rate under control as they conceded 71 runs from their 20 overs and also picked up two wickets.

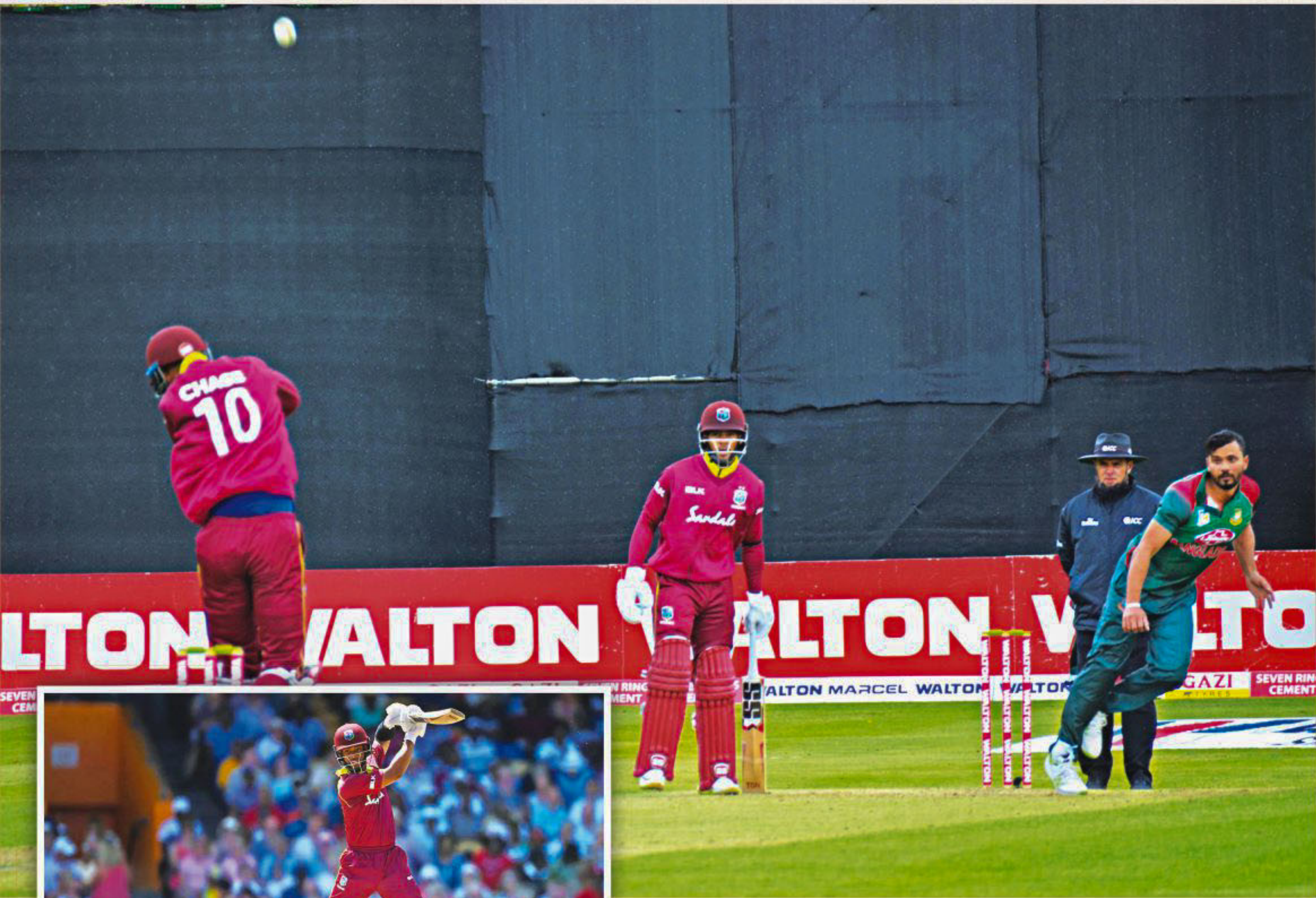
An in-form Hope went on to strike his second successive hundred, following his 170 against Ireland. It was his fourth century in eight innings.

From 205 for two in 40 overs West Indies were all set to post yet another big total but the Bangladesh bowlers made a good comeback riding on skipper Mashrafe, who removed Chase for 51 off 62 balls, which included two fours and a six.

The experienced seamer then struck a double blow to West Indies in the same over, first removing Hope -- caught at extra cover after scoring 109 off 132 balls with the help of 11 fours -- and followed it up with the wicket of skipper Jason Holder for four as Bangladesh took control.

West Indies managed to score just 38 runs in the last five overs, where another seamer Mohammad Saifuddin came into the act bagging two wickets and ending with figures of two for 47 from his 10 overs.

But among all the positives it was left-arm seamer Mustafizur Rahman's bowling that remained a major concern for the Tigers. Mustafizur conceded 92 runs -- the second most by a Bangladeshi bowler in ODIs after Shaful Islam -- in his previous game against New Zealand at Dunedin earlier this year. This time he went for 84 runs from his 10 overs and managed to pick two wickets in the latter stages of the innings, but more importantly his rhythm was no way close to what he is capable of.



Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (R) led from the front with a three-wicket haul during their eight wickets victory in the ODI tri-series opener against West Indies in Dublin yesterday. (Inset) Meanwhile, West Indies opener Shai Hope continued his fine form with his second consecutive century of the series.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Bowlers rally around Rabbi

SPORTS REPORTER

A disciplined bowling unit led by Mahfuzur Rahman Rabbi saw Bangladesh Under-16 bundle out their Pakistani counterparts on 220, 72 runs shy of Bangladesh's first innings total, on the second day of the second three-day Test at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

Resuming on 20 for two, a team high 117-ball 57 from Umer Eman was the only highlight in the visitor's innings, which lasted 83 overs.

Rabbi was the pick of the bowlers for Bangladesh with economical figures of three for 42 in 21.2 overs.

Coming in to bat, Shakib Shahriar and Rafsan Jani remained unbeaten on 18 and 5 respectively with Bangladesh reaching 29 for two in nine overs before the end of the day's play.

## Bangladesh fall short

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Bangladesh just barely missed out on the final of the inaugural Street Child Cricket World Cup as the side lost by two runs against South India in a semifinal encounter at the Lords Cricket Ground in England yesterday.

Bangladesh came agonisingly close to victory but could only manage 32 runs for three wickets in reply to South India's 34 for no loss.

Bangladesh had reached the semifinal stage by winning two of the four group stage matches they played on Monday. Despite losses to England and Tanzania, Bangladesh finished fourth in the standings.

## Mumbai move into final

Pt, Chennai

Suryakumar Yadav played one of his finest knocks on a challenging track as Mumbai Indians beat Chennai Super Kings by six wickets in the Qualifier 1, entering the IPL final on Tuesday.

SCORES IN BRIEF

CHENNAI: 131 for 4 in 20 overs (Rayudu 42\*, Dhoni 37\*; Chahar 2-14)

MUMBAI: 132 for 4 in 18.3 overs (Yadav 71\*, Kishan 28; Tahir 2-33)

Result: Mumbai won by 6 wickets.



## Drop 'anyone' to get Archer: Flintoff

AFP, London

Andrew Flintoff has urged England to drop "anyone" in order to make sure Jofra Archer has a place in their World Cup squad.

The past week has seen Barbados-born paceman Archer show glimpses of his talent while making one-day international and Twenty20 debuts for England after completing a three-year residency period.

His ability to bowl 90-mile-per-hour (145 kmh) yorkers, as well as deceptive slower balls, has caught the eye. Archer is set to have further chances to make a case for a World Cup spot during

England's upcoming one-day international series against Pakistan starting at the Oval on Wednesday.

Former England fast bowling all-rounder Flintoff is a fan of the "unbelievable" Archer.

"I was watching him bowl the other day and I found it so frustrating that a bloke can bowl so fast with what looks like so little effort," Flintoff told reporters in London on Tuesday.

But Flintoff said loyalty to existing players was no reason to ignore the 24-year-old's claims for a place in England's final 15 for the World Cup.

"You ask who I would get rid of? Anyone," he added.

## Nortje out of World Cup

AGENCIES, Port Elizabeth

South Africa fast bowler, Anrich Nortje, has been ruled out of the ICC World Cup with a hand injury, which he suffered during a practice session in Port Elizabeth on Monday.

Nortje fractured his right thumb while practising in the nets, and will need six to eight weeks to make a full recovery. In his place, Chris Morris, the all-rounder, has been called up for the World Cup.

South Africa team manager, Dr. Mohammed Moosajee, lamented the unfortunate nature of the injury.

"Anrich sustained a fracture to his right thumb during a net session in Port Elizabeth on Monday. He immediately consulted a hand surgeon and underwent surgery."

## Gayle named Holder's deputy

ICC

West Indies opener Chris Gayle has been named his side's vice-captain for the ICC World Cup 2019, Cricket West Indies announced on Monday.

The 39-year-old has represented West Indies in 103 Tests, 289 one-day internationals and 58 Twenty20 Internationals, scoring 18,992 international runs. Gayle also has prior leadership experience, having captained his side in 90 matches across formats between 2007 and



2010.

Gayle, who is set to play his last 50-over tournament, will be backing up Jason Holder, and as a senior player, felt that it was his "responsibility to support the captain and everyone else in the team".

"It is always an honour to represent the West Indies in any format, and this World Cup for me is special," he said. "As a senior player, it is my responsibility to support the captain and everyone else in the team. This will probably be the biggest World Cup, so there will be great expectations, and I know we will do very well for the people of the West Indies."

Gayle was a part of the 2019 Indian Premier League, in which he played for Kings XI Punjab, who failed to qualify for the knockouts, after finishing sixth on the table. Gayle himself had a terrific run, however, scoring 490 runs in 13 matches, at a brilliant strike rate of 153.60.

## Ashrafu's World Cup anecdote

In the lead-up to the 2019 World Cup, we take a look back on World Cups past through the eyes of Bangladesh's former World Cup stars. Undoubtedly one of the most talented cricketers to have emerged in Bangladesh's cricket history, Mohammad Ashrafu has singlehandedly led Bangladesh to numerous victories. Ashrafu, who captained Bangladesh in all three formats of the game -- Tests, ODIs and T20s -- has also had many impactful performances in the three World Cups -- in the 2003, 2007 and 2011 editions -- he featured in for the Tigers. The 34-year old might have been amongst the senior members playing in this edition of the World Cup had he not been involved in spot fixing controversies that saw him receive an eight-year ban from international cricket in 2014. In an interview with The Daily Star's Nabid Yeasin, Ashrafu shared some of his World Cup memories and more.



The Daily Star (TDS): What is the difference between playing in a World Cup and any other series or tournament?

Mohammad Ashrafu (MA): The World Cup is different as it can turn a regular player into a star. Unlike a normal series or any other tournament, a player gets more recognition and also gets an individual identity in the world of cricket by doing well in a World Cup. During a World Cup, everyone wants to know which players are doing well and which are not. That's why it's a great opportunity for any player.

TDS: You put in a lot of good performances in the World Cup. How did you feel after such performances, especially after that 87-run knock against South Africa in 2007?

MA: We played very poorly in my first World Cup as we lost against everyone, including teams like Canada and Kenya. I scored a fifty in that tournament against New Zealand and it was the first fifty of my career.



Africa. At the time, South Africa was no. 1 in rankings. Although reaching the quarterfinal in 2015 was a big achievement, if we consider team performances then I think the 2007 World Cup was the best one.

Defeating South Africa was a special feeling since we could not play well in the first two games against New Zealand and

Australia after we had reached the second round. So after we scored 249 against South Africa and our bowling and fielding won us the game...it was a great feeling to have done that. There were many who questioned our achievement, saying that we should not have qualified for the second round but after we defeated South Africa, we proved that we qualified because we deserved it.

TDS: Any other memorable experiences in the World Cup?

MA: During our first game in the tournament, I don't know why but India's coach at that time, Greg Chappell, came to me before the match when we were shaking hands and told me 'all the best for this World Cup'. That was like a different kind of motivation for me at the time. And by the grace of the Almighty, I remained unbeaten in the first three games of the first round. I scored an unbeaten seven against India after coming in to bat at number seven. Then in the next game against Sri Lanka I scored an unbeaten 44 after coming in to bat at six. In the following match against Bermuda I remained unbeaten on 29. So I remained unbeaten in the first three games and then again in the Super Eight stage. I was named the player-of-the-match for scoring 87 runs

against South Africa. So in total I won the player-of-the match award twice -- against Bermuda and South Africa -- in that World Cup and it felt great.

TDS: What are your views on the current World Cup squad and Bangladesh's chances this time around?

MA: It is an amazing squad but it would be very good if a few players were totally fit as it would have filled in our lackings. Then again, the ones who were picked were almost automatic choices. Everyone dreams to see Bangladesh play in the semifinal or final after the last World Cup but the format is different as every team will play against each other so there are no weaker teams this time. In the last three World Cups there were two or three weaker teams grouped with Bangladesh. In 2007, Bermuda was a weaker team in our group. In 2011 we got two weaker teams in Ireland and Scotland and in 2015 we had Afghanistan and Scotland. But this time there are no weaker teams. Even Afghanistan's recent performances make them a team who are on the same level as us. So this World Cup will be a big challenge for us and if we are to emulate our last three World Cup performances then we need to play very well.

### BD-WI SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES	R/B	4s/6s
Hope c Mithun b Mashrafe	109/132	11/1
Ambris c Mahmudullah b Mehedi	38/50	4/0
Bravo c Mushfiqur b Shakib	1/4	0/0
Chase c Mustafizur b Mashrafe	51/62	2/1
Carter c Shakib b Mustafizur	11/17	1/0
Holder c Mushfiqur b Mashrafe	4/2	1/0
Dowrich c Soumya b Saifuddin	6/8	1/0
Nurse c Sabbir b Mustafizur	19/17	0/1
Roach b Saifuddin	1/2	0/0
Cottrell not out	4/7	0/0
Gabriel not out	0/0	0/0
Extras: (b-2, lb-8, nb-1, w-6)	17	
Total: (For 9 wickets in 50 overs)	261	
Fall of wickets: 1-89, 2-90, 3-205, 4-207, 5-211, 6-219, 7-245, 8-251, 9-260.		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Saifuddin	10	1	47	2
Mashrafe	10	0	49	3
Mustafizur	10	0	84	2
Shakib	10	0	33	1
Mehedi	10	0	38	1
BAWLDESH			R/B	4s/6s
Tamim c Holder b Gabriel	80/116	7/0		
Soumya c Bravo b Chase	73/68	9/1		
Shakib not out	61/61	3/2		
Mushfiqur not out	32/25	2/2		
Extras: (lb-5, w-13)	18			
Total: (For 2 wks in 45 overs)	264			
Did not bat:Mithun, Mahmudullah, Sabbir, Saifuddin, Mashrafe, Mehedi, Mustafizur.				
Fall of wickets: 1-144, 2-196.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Cottrell	7	0	47	0
Roach	7	0	30	0
Gabriel	10	0	58	1
Holder	4	0	27	0
Nurse	7	0	46	0
Chase	10	0	51	1

Result: Bangladesh won by 8 wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Shai Hope.

## Sabina returns from Kolkata

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh women's national team captain Sabina Khatun came back from India yesterday instead of joining Gokulam Kerala FC for the ongoing Indian Women's League.

Sabina was supposed to reach Ludhiana, Punjab yesterday and the 24-year-old striker had reached Kolkata on Monday night. But she was asked to go back to Bangladesh from there by the Gokulam Kerala, who informed that the deadline of signing foreign players was already over.

"I came back today [Tuesday] after the team management told me that there is no opportunity to sign up foreign players anymore as the league already got underway," Sabina said through social media.

Sabina was initially supposed to play in women's league in Chinese Taipei but she failed to obtain work permit.

She had, in the meantime, refused an offer from her former outfit Sethu FC to take part in the Indian Women's League this year. She had scored seven goals last season to power Sethu FC to the semifinals of the league.