



# Siddikur leads the charge

Siddikur Rahman shot a five-under 67 to emerge on top of the leaderboard at the end of day one of Kensville Challenge 2011

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**S**iddikur Rahman is living a dream. From a ball boy to a caddie and then to an Asian Tour title in 2010, it seems Bangladeshi golfer can't put a foot wrong on the golf course these days.

And Siddikur has got off to a rousing start in the Kensville Gujarat Challenge 2011 at the Kensville golf course.

On Thursday, Siddikur shot a flawless five-under 67 to take a two-shot lead at the end of the first round in the 200,000 euros worth maiden European Challenge Tournament in India.

Ricardo Santos, Florian Praegant and Daniel Denison chased the leader with an identical round of three-under 69.

Leading the Indian charge was Gaganjeet Bhullar, who shot a two-under par 70 to be tied for the fifth position along with Espen Kofstad, Mads Vibe-Hastrup and Klas Eriksson.

The Bangladeshi had the privilege of playing two practice rounds apart from the Pro-Am seemed at Kensville before the European Challenge got underway on Thursday. And it seemed that had done the Bangladeshi golfer a world of good. Siddikur easily adjusted to the conditions, making two consecutive birdies on the 11th and 12th, the latter with a 20-foot effort on the green.

The 26-year-old, who is a product of the development programme the Kurmitola Golf Club in Dhaka, saved two more strokes on the 14th and 16th re-

spectively before taking the turn.

Siddikur could convert only one birdie on the back nine but was happy not to commit any mistake.

"I was putting well. There were no bogeys. I was also hitting well on this beautiful golf course," said Siddikur after completing his first round.

Siddikur, who used to stay near the Kurmitola golf course in Dhaka was a ball boy in his school boys. He later graduated to a caddie in Kurmitola. Because of his keen interest in the game, the golf club allowed him to play at the golf course. And there has been no stopping the golfer since then. Siddikur won his maiden amateur title at the age of 20. He won his first title on Asian Tour, when he captured the Brunei Open last August.

## TOP RESULTS

1. Md. Siddikur Rahman (BAN) 67; T-2 Ricardo Santos (POR) 69, Florian Praegant (AUT) 69, Daniel Denison (ENG) 69; T-5 Gaganjeet Bhullar (IND) 70, Espen Kofstad (NOR) 70, Mads Vibe-Hastrup (DEN) 70, Klas Eriksson (SWE) 70; T-9 Jorge Campillo (ESP) 71, Bjorn Akesson (SWE) 71, Manav Jaini (IND) 71, Ross Bain (SCO) 71