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Siddikur's hard work has paid off

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It is really disappointing that I had to pull out of the inaugural Gujarat Kensville Challenge because of my nagging back problem. I did manage to finish 18 holes during the pro-am. I did not want to take any chances that could have hampered my future tournaments.

However it was heartening to see young Siddikur Rahman emerge as the worthy leader and believe you me, shooting a 67

is not an easy task on this track. The Kensville Golf and Country Club poses various challenge — the many out of boundaries on the left test the player's accuracy and the length tests the endurance.

I had seen Siddikur when he won the All India Amateur in 2004 at the Delhi Golf Club. He had a good swing but more importantly I was impressed by the grit and determination he had shown to script a comeback.

I am glad that he has matured into a fine player and no doubt his hard work has paid rich dividends. His top-10 finish in his rookie year on the Asian Tour justifies his talent. I congratulate him for bagging the 'rookie of the year' award in 2010. I got to know that Siddikur also bagged the 'player of the year' award, the Bangladesh's highest sports award and I am happy to see that the sports persons other than cricketers have been given their due.

