

SPORT

MUSTAFIZUR'S SURGERY BCB to seek 2nd opinion

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman might undergo shoulder surgery either in England or in Australia, a Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) official revealed yesterday.

Having gone through Mustafizur's medical reports from England, the BCB has decided to take another opinion from Dr Greg Hoy in Australia who had earlier operated on Tamim Iqbal (wrist) and Anamul Haque (shoulder).

"We spoke to his doctor [Tony Kochhar] in England after going through the medical reports and according to him Mustafizur needs a surgery," BCB sports physician Debashish Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday. "My personal opinion is the same. He does need a surgery. But we also want to send the medical documents to Australia and see what Greg Hoy has to say. We will wait for his response."

"Considering that he is generally busy, it may take a while. After that we will finally decide as to where the operation can take place, either in England or in Australia," Debashish added.

The BCB is likely to take a day or two to decide on Mustafizur's immediate future.

According to Debashish, the left-artermer will take at least five months to recover from the surgery, which means he is set to miss the England series which is due to begin in October this year and it could also be difficult for him to return in time for the New Zealand series which will begin with the ODIs on December 26.

The shoulder injury is Mustafizur's fifth this year. In January, he had injured his shoulder during the second T20I against Zimbabwe. At that point, BCB's sports physician had indicated that the left-artermer's shoulder issue was not a new phenomenon and that he had first faced problems with his left shoulder during the National Cricket League in October last year. He had been dealing with it through shoulder-related exercises since the end of 2015. It was because of that injury that he missed out on the Pakistan Super League.

A month later he took part in the Asia Cup T20 but failed to play all the matches because of a hamstring injury. He then missed the first four matches of the World T20 with a side strain and after the mega event took part in the Indian Premier League, where he suffered a hamstring injury right before the final. After his return to Bangladesh, the medical team revealed that the left-artermer was not in good shape and that he lost a lot of weight.



Abahani's Jewel Rana (L) is swarmed by teammates after his decisive first-half strike against Feni Soccer sealed all three points for the Sky Blues in their Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Rubel powers Ctg Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER



Young winger Rubel Mia continued his scoring spree to guide Chittagong Abahani to an emphatic 4-2 win over Mohammedan in the JB Bangladesh Premier League at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

The national team forward, who had struck the equaliser against Dhaka Abahani in their previous match, opened the scoring in the 41st minute with a header before Leonel Saint Preux doubled the lead from the spot in the stoppage time of the first half. Rubel then struck his third goal of the league in the 52nd minute before Aminur Rahman Sajib reduced the arrears in the 76th minute.

Substitute Zahid Hossain made it 4-1 in the 89th minute after sending a rebounder home while Abdul Malek reduced the margin in the stoppage time.

The big win comes as some solace to the Chittagong giants, who had suffered an embarrassing 5-1 defeat against Mohammedan in the Independence Cup.

ABAHANI SCRAPE PAST FENI

Earlier in the day, a first-half strike from Jewel

Rana drove title contenders Abahani to a single-goal win over Feni Soccer Club.

Though the four-time professional league champions bagged all three points, the charges of George Kottan were not convincing as they struggled to expose the backline of Feni Soccer, who had held the Sky Blues to a 1-1 draw in the season's first meeting in the Independence Cup and lost to a solitary goal in the Federation Cup.

Feni Soccer probably took inspiration from their first two meetings of the season against

Uche Felix's curling effort from 20 yards.

Abahani tried their attacks from the right flank through Andrew Lee Tuck and Jewel Rana, but the duo hardly penetrated the opposition backline, who successfully negotiated the harmless crosses from Jewel and corners from Tuck.

Abahani, however, came close to taking the lead in the 37th minute but a Sunday Chizoba shot off a Emon Babu corner went off target after a deflection before Abahani broke the deadlock three minutes before the break.

Jewel tapped in from handshaking distance after Feni goalkeeper Sujon Chowdhury failed to grip a Sunday side-volley on an Emon free-kick. That goal proved to be the difference as Abahani failed to create any more scoring chances in the second half while Feni failed to score despite creating chances.

Feni came close twice to reimbursing the lead but Sohail punched away an Imran Hossain Rimon shot while substitute Chowmirin Rakhaine, who had struck the equaliser against Abahani in the Independence Cup, was provided with a great opportunity by Ghanaian midfielder Moro Mohammad, but the midfielder incredibly floated his shot over the bar from inside the six-yard box.

FENI SOCCER 0 - 1 ABAHANI
CTG ABAHANI 4 - 2 MOHAMMEDAN

Abahani and they fought neck and neck till the last minute yesterday. It would've been no surprise had the team from the country's south-eastern region held their illustrious Dhaka opponents to another draw.

Indeed it was Feni Soccer who launched the first attack of the game in the 26th minute, but a close-range header from Shahran Howlader was surprisingly blocked by defender Tapu Barman, much to the relief of Abahani goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohail, who was forced into mak-

India look to carry form into 2nd Test

LANS, Kingston

On a high after a thumping win in the series opener, India will aim to extend their winning run when they take on hosts West Indies in the second of the four-match Test series starting at Sabina Park here on Saturday.

India recorded their biggest win outside the subcontinent by beating the West Indies by an innings and 92 runs in the first Test at the Sir Viv Richards stadium in Antigua.

Skipper Virat Kohli smashed his first double ton while Ravichandran Ashwin hit a century and also claimed a match winning seven wicket haul in the second innings to dismantle the opposition batting line-up.

The visitors will look to continue and keep the momentum going with new head coach Anil Kumble making a dream debut.

The Kohli-led side might await a green pitch at the Sabina Park here unlike what they got in the first Test, but India will be high on confidence with their batting and bowling both clicking in the first Test.

But there is uncertainty about the availability of opener Murali Vijay, who didn't take the field after being hit on his thumb by pacer Shannon Gabriel on the opening day of the first game.

On the other hand, West Indies have called up rookie pacer Alzarri Joseph, who is most likely to make his Test debut on Saturday.

Joseph starred with the ball in West Indies' victorious Under-19 World Cup campaign. He claimed 13 wickets in the tournament.



After picking up four wickets in the first innings against Australia, Rangana Herath (L) came back and castled David Warner on the fourth day of the first Test at Kandy to peg back the visitors.

PHOTO: AFP

Kiwis stamp their authority

REUTERS, Bulawayo



Tom Latham's century and 91 from Kane Williamson put New Zealand firmly in the driving seat with a 151-run lead over Zimbabwe on the second day of the first Test on Friday.

New Zealand closed on 315 for four in reply to Zimbabwe's first-innings 164. Ross Taylor (38) and nightwatchman Ish Sodhi (5) were not out at the close.

Latham reached his fourth Test century soon after tea before being caught by stand-in wicketkeeper Brian Chairi off the part-time bowling of veteran Hamilton Masakadza for 105 from 209 balls.

Latham and Williamson compiled a second-wicket partnership of 156. Williamson fell nine runs short of his century after a sharp catch at slip by Masakadza off the leg-spin bowling of home skipper Graeme Cremer.

The New Zealand captain had benefited

from a contentious decision from the television umpire when he looked to have been caught at first slip by Sikandar Raza off Cremer when he was on 72.

Williamson asked Raza to confirm he had taken the catch and despite a positive response he spoke to the umpires who opted to get television evidence which could not prove the dismissal.

Opener Martin Guptill was dismissed in the first session for 40, was caught in the gully to hand debutant Chamu Chibhabha a first Test wicket.

Henry Nicholls was the fourth wicket to fall, caught behind by Chairi from a full delivery by Donald Tiripano.

Chairi was deputising for Regis Chakabva who was confined to bed on Friday with a high temperature.

The New Zealanders will look to bat through the third day after Williamson said his side would seek time at the crease to prepare for tougher series in South Africa and India over the next two months.

SCOREBOARD

ZIMBABWE: First innings 164 (Tiripano 49 not out, Masvaure 42; Wagner 6-41, Santner 2-16)				
NEW ZEALAND: First innings				
	O	M	R	W
Guptill c Ervine b Chibhabha	40			
Latham c Charib b Masakadza	105			
Williamson c H Masakadza b Cremer	91			
Taylor not out	38			
Nicholls c Charib b Tiripano	18			
Sodhi not out	5			
Extras: (b-6 nb-10 w-2)	18			
Total: (For 4 wickets in 100 overs)	315			
Fall of wickets: 1-79, 2-235, 3-272, 4-299.				
To bat: Watling, Santner, Southee, Wagner, Boult.				
	O	M	R	W
Chinouya	15	2	41	0
Tiripano	17	2	51	1
Masvaure	5	0	20	0
Cremer	35	4	113	1
Raza	9	3	37	0
Chibhabha	10	0	22	1
H Masakadza	9	1	25	1

Aus face trial by spin on last day

AFP, Pallekele



Australia face an uphill struggle to save the first Test against Sri Lanka's rampant spinners after losing three early second innings wickets Friday while trying to chase down a formidable target of 268.

The tourists were precariously placed at 83 for three, with skipper Steve Smith unbeaten on 26, when bad light forced an early end to play for the fourth day running in Pallekele.

The world number one Test team still need another 185 runs for victory on the final day on Saturday, when Sri Lanka's trio of spinners will expect to capitalise on their early inroads against the tourists.

The hosts' leading left-arm spinner Rangana Herath struck in only the second over of the Australian innings when he bowled vice-captain David Warner for one.

Usman Khawaja started positively with three fours but he was ruled leg before wicket to off-spinner Dilruwan Perera when he attempted a sweep shot after making 18, leaving Australia reeling at 33/2.

Then the debutant Lakshan Sandakan joined the party with a ball that turned sharply and bowled opener Joe Burns who had looked well set on 29.

One run later, first innings top scorer Adam Voges was ruled lbw to Perera for no score, but the batsman reviewed the decision successfully.

With the ball turning alarmingly, Smith and Voges then suppressed their urge to play attacking shots while keeping the scoreboard ticking over with some sharply-run singles.

Smith's 54-ball innings has not featured any boundaries so far, while his partner Voges was batting in a similarly steadfast mood, reaching nine at the close of play off 25 deliveries.

Australia's struggles against the Sri Lankan bowlers further underlined the importance of Kusal Mendis' superb maiden Test century in what has been a low-scoring Test. No other player on either side has passed 50.

SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA: First innings 117				
AUSTRALIA: First innings 203				
SRI LANKA: Second innings (overnight 282 for 6)				
	O	M	R	W
K Perera lbw b Starc	4			
K Silva lbw b O'Keefe	7			
Karunaratne lbw b Starc	0			
Mendis c Nevill b Starc	176			
Mathews c Burns b Lyon	9			
Chandimal lbw b Marsh	42			
De Silva c Khawaja b Lyon	36			
D Perera not out	12			
Herath c Henriques b Hazlewood	35			
Sandakan b Starc	9			
Pradeep not out	10			
Extras: (b-1, lb-11)	13			
Total: (All out in 93.4 overs)	353			
Fall of wicket: 1-6, 2-6, 3-45, 4-86, 5-203, 6-274, 7-290, 8-314, 9-323.				
	O	M	R	W
Bowler				
Starc	19	4	84	4
Hazlewood	18.4	3	59	2
O'Keefe	16.2	3	42	1
Lyon	27	2	108	2
Warner	1	0	10	0
Voges	1.4	0	3	0
Marsh	9	1	33	1
Smith	1	0	1	0
AUSTRALIA: Second innings				
Burns b Sandakan	29			
Warner b Herath	1			
Khawaja lbw b Dilruwan Perera	18			
Smith not out	26			
Voges not out	9			
Extras:	0			
Total: (For 3 wickets in 27 overs)	83			
To bat: Marsh, Nevill, O'Keefe, Starc, Hazlewood, Lyon.				
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-33, 3-63.				
	O	M	R	W
Bowler				
Pradeep	3	0	16	0
Herath	10	1	35	1
Perera	9	1	19	1
Sandakan	5	1	13	1

Aaqib in town for pace camp

SPORTS REPORTER

Former Pakistan pace bowler Aaqib Javed arrived in Dhaka yesterday to oversee a week-long special fast bowling camp for the national team and the pacers under the High Performance (HP) Programme.

The camp will start today and continue till August 5 at the National Cricket Academy in Mirpur. Nine pacers from the national team and 17 from the HP have been called up for the camp. The interesting aspect is that Mustafizur Rahman, who is currently in England and is nursing a shoulder injury, has also been included in this list.

According to the Bangladesh Cricket Board, the pacer's name has been included so that he can attend a few selected sessions just in case he returns from England within the next week.

The other national pacers who will be taking part in the camp are Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Rubel Hossain, Taskin Ahmed, Al-Amin Hossain, Mohammad Shahid, Kamrul Islam Rabbi, Shafiul Islam and Muktar Ali.

The BCB had initially contacted Aaqib to work as the national team's bowling coach. But Aaqib had to decline the offer since he had joined the Lahore Qalandars in the Pakistan Super League. However, he had also said that he would be interested in taking part in a short-term programme with the BCB.

Siddikur's early exit

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman made an early exit from the King's Cup after a horrendous second round yesterday. The Rio de Janeiro-bound Bangladeshi golfer went through his worst day of the season, coming just a week ahead of the Olympic Games, as he racked up five bogeys and a double bogey at the Phoenix Gold Golf and Country Club in Pattaya on Friday.

Having started the day at joint 19th position after a two-under-par (68) in the opening round, Siddikur found himself way below the cut mark at the end of the day after a seven-over-par (77).

The two-time Asian Tour winner started with a double bogey and followed it up with a bogey on the second hole. Three more bogeys and no birdies on the day meant that his participation in the 750,000-dollar event was cut short by two days. However, the early exit will allow Siddikur to have a couple of days' rest at home before he flies off on August 2 for Rio, where he will carry the Bangladesh flag in the opening ceremony.

Holland to replace O'Keefe

REUTERS, Colombo

Australia called up left-arm spinner Jon Holland in a like-for-like replacement on Friday after a hamstring injury all but ended Steve O'Keefe's tour of Sri Lanka.

O'Keefe hobbled off the field after hurting his right hamstring on day three of the ongoing first Test, having claimed three wickets in the first of the three-match series.

"Initial assessment indicates a moderate grade hamstring injury which means it is highly unlikely that he will be available for the remainder of the test series," physiotherapist David Beakley said in a statement. "Steve will remain with the squad in Kandy until the end of the test and will undertake imaging on the injury upon his return to Australia."