

SPORT



Doctor clears Fizz to return

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh pace sensation Mustafizur Rahman had his final medical checkup yesterday and has received the green signal to return home, Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB's) sports physician Debashish Chowdhury told The Daily Star.

Debashish, who is currently in London along with Mustafizur, said that the left-arm's bandages had been removed yesterday afternoon and that Andrew Wallace, the doctor who performed the surgery, shared with him rehabilitation plans as well. "Most of the stitches have dried up and some others will take a little more time. But the doctor said that his job is done and that he is good to go. For the next three weeks he will have to rest. Our (medical team) job will begin after those three weeks," said Debashish.

There is a chance that Mustafizur may return on Saturday, but it is yet to be confirmed.

Saintfiet back to start the 'real work'

SPORTS REPORTER

Belgian coach Tom Saintfiet returned to Bangladesh yesterday morning after attending to his pregnant wife in Belgium for the last two weeks.

"I'm very happy to be back in Bangladesh. After my vacation in Belgium, I told my wife I miss Bangladesh. I was looking forward to be back and now we can start working. The real work starts now," said Saintfiet adding that he would sign the agreement with the Bangladesh Football Federation today.

The 43-year-old coach also said that he would announce a 32-member squad on Friday for the Asian Cup Qualifying play-off against Bhutan to be held on September 6 in Dhaka.

The training camp of the national football team will get underway from August 21 after the completion of the sixth round of the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League.



Simone Biles bowed out of her Olympic debut with a record-equaling haul of four golds -- short of the five she had so desperately sought -- but enough to ensure that her name will shine alongside some of the greatest gymnasts.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Fabulous four for Biles

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Simone Biles bowed out of her fabulous Olympic debut in Rio with a record-equaling fourth gold, short of the record five she sought, but with her name in lights among the gymnastics greats.

"It's been a long journey, but I've enjoyed every moment," said the Texan whose early life struggles had not set her out as the future face of women's gymnastics.

The 19-year-old took gold on floor on Tuesday ahead of US teammate Amy Raisman, muscles flexed and with the steely determination she had shown on her way to the team, all-around and vault titles.

The only blip standing between her and history, a slip on the beam on the penultimate day of competition, which gave her bronze. She is the fifth woman to win four gold at the same Games after Hungarian Agnes Keleti (1956), Soviet Larissa Latynina (1956), Czech Vera Caslavsk (1968) and Romanian Ecaterina Szabo (1984).

But Biles remains unfazed. "To walk away from your

first Olympics with five medals and four in gold, how can you be disappointed," she said. "It's exciting it's over, but kind of sad too."

Biles missed London 2012 because she was too young to compete but has dominated gymnastics in the four-year cycle since.

Her long-time coach Aimee Boorman believes the sport will never be the same after the Biles whirlwind.

"Right now I would say she's the greatest gymnast," said Boorman, who has coached Biles since she was six years old.

"She has really raised the bar. But then four years ago nobody thought they would see a Simone Biles."

Her epic Olympic adventure has seen Biles photographed alongside Jamaican sprint star Usain Bolt and US swimming greats Michael Phelps and Katie Ledecky.



Security team begin inspection

SPORTS REPORTER



A three-man security team from the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) arrived in Dhaka yesterday afternoon.

Security advisor Reg Dickson, Professional Cricketers Association chief executive David Leatherdale and ECB's director of cricket operations John Carr have meetings scheduled with a number of parties in the next few days, from officers of the high commissions to government officials.

Their assessment is likely to decide the fate of England's tour of Bangladesh in October, when they are scheduled to play two Tests and three ODIs.

As per their schedule they were supposed to visit the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur and a couple of high commission offices yesterday. They are also scheduled to have a meeting with the home ministry today. They will travel to Chittagong tomorrow in order to inspect the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium,

where a leg of the tour is scheduled to take place.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury yesterday said: "They have come here as part of their routine visit. They will be checking the areas where the English team will be staying and practising.

Besides that, they will also have meetings regarding our security plans with the concerned authorities."

"We have a security plan prepared. But even if they want something more, we have the permission of the government to provide that. We can fulfil whatever desires they have," added Chowdhury.



PHOTO: STAR

A security delegation from the ECB arrived in the capital yesterday in order to assess the security arrangements ahead of England's tour of Bangladesh.

'Fielding just as important'

SPORTS REPORTER



It is not the easiest thing to make a comeback into a well-tuned side that has been enjoying a period of success, and Shahriar Nafees is well aware of that reality. So he has been doing the most he can do under the circumstances in the ongoing training camp; sharing his experiences, gaining some from his colleagues and the coaching staff that is supervising his training for the first time.

The 31-year old left-hander may have been out of international cricket for almost three years but he has followed the team's fortunes closely and is now of the opinion that the Tigers must now take their five-day game to the same heights they have achieved in ODI and T20 cricket. And he observed that one cannot ignore the fielding department on way to becoming a good Test side.

"We have sometimes misread one thing. From the outside one may think that fielding in Test cricket is easy but the reality is different. If you look at the recent Pakistan-England Test series you would have seen that Pakistan might have won the series had they not dropped a few catches," said Nafees while talking to the reporters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

"Fielding is very important in Test cricket and you may need to field for two and a half days so fitness is a very crucial part. We have reached certain positions in one-day and T20 cricket but we cannot match that in our Test performances. If we want to win Tests or do well we must make sure that we are good in all three departments... we can in no way ignore it. And I think we are working in that direction," he continued.

He also said that they were now waiting for the skill training after gruelling fitness sessions over the last one month.



SHAHRIAR NAFEEES

RIO SNIPPETS

ATIQUÉ ANAM from Rio de Janeiro

OUR GIRL MILLER

On Monday night at the Olympic Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, a Bahamian sports journalist was bragging about the tradition and promise of athletics of his country. He was there to cover the women's 400m sprint where Bahama's Shaunae Miller was one of the finalists, pitted against the defending champion Allyson Felix of USA. On questioning who he thought would win the race, the journalist came up with an emphatic reply: "Our girl Miller, who else?" To the look of disbelief from this reporter, the Bahamian came up with mischievous smile, retorting: "No I'm just kidding, man. Alyson is the favourite." And then when Miller grabbed the gold with a desperate headlong dive to the disbelief

of many, the elation on the journalist's face was worth a million dollars.

THE SUN IS OUT AGAIN

The weather in Rio de Janeiro is probably the most inconsistent aspect of this part of Brazil. You may wake up to a blazing sun in the morning and go out in your tees and trouser, or in your shorts and precious little else if you're a local going out on a bike ride or a jog, and the next thing you find are dark clouds circling overhead. Not that it rains all the time, but those clouds do bring such violent winds and chills that you invariably end up shaken to your bones and cursing yourself. So you think you are wiser the next time and go out fully loaded only to find the sun making merry all day long. The interesting thing is it's supposed to be winter here now in Brazil.

Lankans sweep Aussies off the top

AFP, Colombo



Australia lost their crown as the kings of Test cricket Wednesday after another devastating burst of spin bowling from the veteran Rangana Herath helped Sri Lanka clinch an historic series whitewash.

Set a formidable target of 324 in their second innings of the third and final Test, Australia were all out for just 160 as Herath took seven for 64 at the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) in Colombo.

It was the first time that the hosts had ever recorded a clean sweep of a major cricketing nation since they gained Test status in 1981.

Openers David Warner and Shaun Marsh briefly raised Australian hopes of a consolation win as they made a brisk start to their chase before their partnership was broken just before

lunch with the score on 77. Off-spinner Dilruwan Perera's dismissal of Marsh was the cue for a dramatic collapse by the Australians who lost their last nine wickets for just 60 runs.

The destroyer-in-chief was Herath, who claimed six wickets in the first innings. Smith was his first

- This was the third straight whitewash in Asian conditions for Australia (0-4 in India in 2012-13 and 0-2 to Pakistan in 2014-15)
- The last whitewash of Australia in series containing three or more matches before the 2010s was by Pakistan in 1982-83
- Rangana Herath's match figures of 13 for 145 is the best by a Sri Lankan in a Test against Australia
- Before the series Australia were handed the Test mace as the No 1 side in Test cricket. With the whitewash, they slip to third and India take top spot.

Abahani held Mymensingh phase ends

ANISUR RAHMAN from Mymensingh



The curtain was drawn on the Mymensingh phase of the JB Bangladesh Premier League yesterday with title contenders Abahani being held to a 1-1 draw with 10-man Brothers Union at the Rafiq Uddin Bhuiyan Stadium.

Ten minutes after Nigerian forward Nkowcha Kingsley had given Brothers the lead in front of 10,000 spectators -- the second highest turnout so far -- English midfielder Lee Tuck curled home a free-kick in the 63rd minute to rescue Abahani.

Brothers took the lead eight minutes into the second half as Kingsley scored from the spot after Awudu Ibrahim was brought down by defender Samad Yussif. But the All Oranges lost momentum when striker Mannaf Rabbi picked up a second yellow, leaving Brothers with 10 men in the 57th minute.

With a third draw, Abahani are now joint-second along with three other teams on nine points each, two behind leaders Chittagong Abahani, while Brothers are ninth with four draws from five matches.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA: First innings 355

AUSTRALIA: First innings 379

SRI LANKA: Second innings 347 for 8 decl (K Silva 115, Chandimal 43, De Silva 65 not out; Starc 2-72, Lyon 4-123, Holland 2-72)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings 160 all out (S Marsh 23, Warner 68, Starc 23; Herath 7-64, Perera 2-71)

Result: Sri Lanka won by 160 runs and clinched three-match series 3-0.

Player-of-the-match: Rangana Herath.

Player-of-the-series: Rangana Herath.

বাংলাদেশের সর্বাধিক বিক্রিত #1 পেইন্ট ব্র্যান্ড

BERGER Robbialac

বাজেট বিনয় ইকোনমিস্ট

MEDALS TALLY

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze
United States	28	29	28
Great Britain	19	19	12
China	17	15	19
Russian Federation	12	12	14
Germany	11	8	7
Italy	8	9	6
Netherlands	8	3	3
France	7	11	11
Australia	7	8	9
Japan	7	4	18
Republic of Korea	6	3	5
Hungary	6	3	4
Kenya	4	3	1
Spain	4	1	2
New Zealand	3	6	1
Brazil	3	4	4
Canada	3	2	9
Croatia	3	2	0
Jamaica	3	0	2
Kazakhstan	2	3	5
DPR Korea	2	3	2
Cuba	2	2	4
Poland	2	2	3
Colombia	2	2	0
Belgium	2	1	2
Switzerland	2	1	2
Greece	2	1	1
Thailand	2	1	1
Argentina	2	1	0

(The medals tally was updated at 10:00pm Bangladesh time)