

READERS' CORNER

The Daily Star Sports is pleased to invite you to join us in the wonderful writing experience. We strongly rate our readers' feedback and know some of you have a lot of interesting takes on certain sporting events. So, let's play the game where we bridge the gap to exchange some amazing expressions related to our ever-buzzing sporting sphere. Feel free to surprise us with your sports-related piece--both English and Bangla-- and we would try to process it in getting published on a dedicated corner of our page. Send in your write-ups at [sports@thedailystar.net](mailto:sports@thedailystar.net)



# ‘Mahmudullah used to cry in pain during treatment’

While players get the most focus and attention in international cricket, the ones part of the backroom-staff usually go unnoticed. Bayjedul Islam, the national team physiotherapist, is among those unsung heroes who work relentlessly to keep the players fit and poised to deliver their best. In an interview with The Daily Star's Mazhar Uddin, Bayjedul shared his experiences and challenges.

**The Daily Star (DS):** Tell us about your journey as a sports physician?  
**Bayjedul Islam (BI):** I started working at the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) in 2006. However, I had planned to pursue this career even before that. I studied physiotherapy after my HSC with the intention to work in sports. I did my Bachelor's from CRP in Savar. My plan was to complete my Masters and then start but I started working at the BCB before that.

**DS:** What was the most challenging injury that you had to deal with?  
**BI:** Mahmudullah Riyad and Mehedi Hasan Miraz have a complex shoulder injury called slap lesion. In most cases, slap lesion is removed by surgery but our challenge was to have Mahmudullah recover without surgery. Even Thihaan Chandramohan, our national team physio, was determined to go for a surgery. I had the experience of having a few patients recover from slap lesion without surgery. So, I took the challenge.

As you all know, Mahmudullah, at one point of his career, was unable to bowl due to that injury. I was working with the Bangladesh A team in India and somehow I was called to join the national team in Sri Lanka. So, I took it as a challenge to prove my worth. I remember that Mahmudullah used to cry in pain during the treatment. We hurt him a lot but that was a process. And in that Sri Lanka series, he was able to start bowling again with side on action. After working with him for another three months, he was able to bowl in his natural action during the BPL. Miraz also helped him a lot. Getting

success in both of their cases gives me a lot of satisfaction.

**DS:** What is the most common type of injury that you have to deal with after players return from a break?  
**BI:** Fitness used to be the main issue but the situation is changing now. Previously, when



players returned from a break, their level of fitness used to drop a lot. But now the fitness doesn't drop much as the players follow guidelines. The awareness among the players has grown and they don't usually get a long break.

**DS:** Can you tell us any incident when a player suffered a critical injury on the field during a game but the team needed his service badly?  
**BI:** It happened in the last South Africa tour. You may have noticed that Mushfiqur Rahim hurt himself while celebrating after taking a catch off the bowling of Taskin Ahmed. He actually dislocated his right shoulder. Usually, we take the patient to the hospital in case of a dislocation to relocate the shoulder and then give him an arm sling and suggest at least three days of rest.

When I went to the field, Mushfiqur told me that his shoulder is dislocated. I slowly relocated it and Mushfiqur was interested to keep on going. But I was against it. I took him off the ground but it was very important for the team to have him on the field. After five overs, Mushfiqur returned to the field and while he was in the dressing room, I fully taped his shoulder. I also recorded a video of the treatment to share this with my junior colleagues, showing them how to deal with such injuries. Interestingly, he was able to take part in the Test series after five days.

Another interesting story is about [MS] Dhoni's infamous shoulder barge on Mustafizur Rahman. In that game, we were struggling after Taskin Ahmed suffered a side strain. Then Mustafizur also hurt his calf muscle after the collision. Head coach Chandika Hathurusingha was furious as two of our prime pacers were down. I went to the ground and I asked for eight minutes and during this time, I managed to recover Mustafizur and the rest is history.

## SAIF SC continue upturn

SPORTS REPORTER

Following a wholesale change in management, Saif Sporting Club have continued their upward swing in the second phase of the Bangladesh Premier League.

The Yellow-Blacks, who changed their general secretary and manager recently while giving the captain's armband from Jamal Bhuiyan to Riyadul Hasan Rafi, have notched a comprehensive second consecutive victory with a 4-2 win over Rahmatganj MFS at the Birshreshtho Flight Lt Motiur Rahman Stadium in Munshiganj yesterday.

Coming off a 6-1 thrashing of Bangladesh Police, Saif got off to a perfect start when defender Emery Bayisenge curled in a wonderful freekick in the fourth minute, beating the Rahmatganj goalkeeper Ziaur Rahman to his left.

Nigerian forward Emeka Ogbugh doubled Saif's lead four minutes later from an assist from Asror Gafurov. The scoreline remained 2-0 for the rest of the half before Saif increased their advantage 13 minutes after restart, with Mfon Udoh placing the ball past Rahmatganj keeper from the top of the box. Enamul Islam reduced the arrears four minutes later with a placing shot. And when Ashraful Islam made it 3-2 with a quarter of an hour left, it looked like the match would head to an exciting finish.

However, Emeka put the game to bed with his second goal in the 78th minute, with a powerful



header on a corner, as Saif Sporting Club raised their tally to 21 points from 13 matches, moving within a point of fourth-placed Chittagong Abahani, who lost 2-1 against a resurgent Sheikh Russel at the Shaheed Dhirendranath Dutta Stadium in Cumilla.

Both teams were coming off draws – Chittagong Abahani a goalless draw against Rahmatganj and Sheikh Russel a 1-1 draw against Mohammedan.

New recruit Ismahil Akinade gave Sheikh Russel a 32nd-minute lead before Aizar Akmatov dispatched a spot-kick six minutes into the second half to put the former champions in driving seat. Shakhawat Hossain scored a consolation goal for Chittagong Abahani deep into stoppage time. Chittagong Abahani remained in fourth position with 22 points while Sheikh Russel consolidated eighth position with 14 points.

Meanwhile, six-time champions Abahani staged a second consecutive fightback to remain in contention for the title with a 2-1 win over Bangladesh Police at the Sylhet District Stadium.

The Sky Blues, who had beaten Mukhtijoddha Sangsad 4-3 after going 2-0 down early in their previous match, conceded an early lead against Police. Mohammad Al Amin gave the visitors an 18th-minute lead following an assist from Markoni Tudu.

However, national team winger Jewel Rana came to Abahani's rescue four minutes later, finishing off a move initiated by Raphael Augusto. The 26-year-old winger confirmed Abahani's victory in the 68th minute as the Dhanmondi giants moved to 28 points, four behind leaders Bashundhara Kings.

## What to WATCH

**SUNDAY**  
**T SPORTS & STAR**  
**SPORTS 1**  
IPL  
Delhi vs Lucknow  
Live from 04:00 pm  
Hyderabad vs Chennai  
Live from 08:00 pm  
**STAR SPORTS 3**  
IPL  
Everton vs Chelsea  
Live from 07:00 pm  
STAR SPORTS HD 2  
EPL  
Tottenham vs Leicester  
Live from 07:00 pm  
West Ham vs Arsenal  
Live from 09:30 pm  
**MONDAY**  
**T SPORTS**  
La Liga  
Barcelona vs Mallorca  
Live from 01:00 am  
**T SPORTS & STAR**  
**SPORTS 1**  
IPL  
Kolkata vs Rajasthan  
Live from 08:00 pm  
**TUESDAY**  
**T SPORTS**  
La Liga  
Getafe vs Real Betis  
Live from 01:00 am  
**T SPORTS & STAR**  
**SPORTS 1**  
IPL  
Gujarat vs Punjab  
Live from 08:00 pm  
STAR SPORTS HD 2  
EPL  
Manchester United vs Brentford  
Live from 01:00 am  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**TEN 2**  
UEFA Champions League  
Villarreal vs Liverpool  
Live from 01:00 am  
**T SPORTS & STAR**  
**SPORTS 1**  
IPL  
Bangalore vs Chennai  
Live from 08:00 pm

## Liverpool keep pressure on City

REUTERS, Newcastle

A first-half strike from midfielder Naby Keita helped Liverpool secure a hard-earned 1-0 win at Newcastle United on Saturday as Jurgen Klopp's side kept their Premier League title hopes alive and provisionally went top of the table.

The victory put Liverpool two points ahead of champions Manchester City, who can regain first spot with a win at Leeds United later on Saturday. Newcastle are ninth on 43 points.

"It's the most difficult of circumstances. A team in form, a crowd waiting for ages for proper success," said Klopp. "Our people were outstanding and Newcastle are obviously a really passionate crowd. Winning here is special."

After an early half-chance for Virgil van Dijk, Liverpool hit the front in the 19th minute through Keita when he cleverly dribbled past Martin Dubravka to slot home following a smart link-up with Diogo Jota.

The goal was met with furious protests by Newcastle players who reckoned James Milner had fouled Fabian Schär in the build-up but the VAR allowed the effort to stand.

Liverpool, with possibly one eye on the second leg of their Champions League semi-final against Villarreal on Tuesday, started without Mohamed Salah, Fabinho and Trent Alexander-Arnold but their absence was seldom felt as the visitors were barely troubled in the opening exchanges.

Sadio Mane had a glorious chance to double Liverpool's lead from a counter-attack but the Senegal forward's side-footed effort was comfortably kept out by Dubravka, who was called into action again when he tipped over Jota's 41st-minute header.

With Liverpool dominating possession, Newcastle's best moment of the half arrived when Miguel Almiron had the ball in the net after being played through by Bruno Guimaraes, only for the Paraguayan to be flagged offside.

Newcastle manager Eddie Howe said his side never got going despite the opposition not being at their best.



Liverpool's Naby Keita celebrates with Luis Diaz and Andrew Robertson after scoring the all-important goal against Newcastle United to keep their Premier League title hopes alive yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS