

OUT-OF-DANGER FIZZ likely to miss multiple BPL games

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman survived a serious blow to the head without any internal damage yesterday but the wounds will keep him out of action for some time, said Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) chief physician Dr Debashish Chowdhury.

The Comilla Victorians pacer was left bloodied after getting hit on the head with a ball struck by a batter while walking back to the start of his run up during a net session at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram.

He was immediately rushed to the hospital and the franchise later informed that he didn't suffer any internal injury.

"After CT scan, we are satisfied that he [Mustafizur] only has an external injury, there was no intracranial bleeding. Now surgical team has given him stitches for open wound. Now he is under close supervision of Comilla Victorians team physio," said a statement released by the franchise.

Although the initial reports were positive, the BCB chief physio said the 28-year-old might be kept under

observation for a longer period.

"In the cases of head injuries, we keep players under observation for at least 24 hours. Even though Mustafizur's CT scan was good, his observation period could be extended up to 72 hours," Debashish told The Daily Star.

The pacer was given five stitches on his head to stop the bleeding, Debashish said that Mustafizur cannot return to action before the wounds heal.

"As he has multiple stitches on his head, it will definitely take a few days before he can return to action in the BPL," Debashish added.

Mustafizur featured in all of Comilla's matches thus far, picking up 11 wickets in nine outings, making him the most successful pacer for his side.

Comilla, who are second on the table, are unlikely to get his services for their remaining three matches in the group phase, which will end on February 23, and might have to depend on local pacer Mrittunjoy Chowdhury, who is yet to play a match this season, or Musfik Hasan, who played just one game.



Comilla Victorians spinner Sunil Narine made himself at home and enjoyed the welcoming weather of Spring as he sipped on a green coconut to quench his thirst in the rising heat during his side's training session at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday. The 35-year-old Caribbean superstar is set to star in a game for Comilla, who play Sylhet Strikers today in the day game. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Jaiswal too good for 'Bazball'

STAR SPORTS DESK

The main attraction heading into England's ongoing five-match Test series against India was whether England's 'Bazball' tactics would work in the Indian subcontinent.

It did the trick in the first Test in Hyderabad, when Ben Stokes' England sprung a surprise on the hosts with a 28-run win.

But in the following two Tests, one young Indian batter gave it back to the English bowlers, dazzled with his finesse and also his ability to bludgeon the cricket ball as he paved the way for the hosts to take a 2-1 lead.

The name of the Southpaw is, of course, Yashvi Jaiswal, who now finds himself in elite company in the record books just seven Tests into his career.

Yesterday, in one fell swoop, Jaiswal broke records set by his skipper Rohit Sharma, went level with Pakistan's Wasim Akram, and found himself in the same category as Sir Donald Bradman.

Jaiswal's unbeaten 214 off just 234 balls in the second innings of the Rajkot Test, where he plundered 14 fours and 12 sixes, was the first for an Indian batter in the second innings of a Test since Wasim Jaffer did it against South Africa in 2006.

This innings came after his maiden double ton in Tests in Visakhapatnam, an impressive 209 off 290 balls which set up the series leveling 106-run win.

Before that, Jaiswal made his arrival felt in Test cricket with a century on debut in the West Indies.

The good series against the Caribbeans was followed by an underwhelming one in South Africa, which drew doubts from naysayers about his ability against top opponents.



The left-hander has dispelled those fears so far against England, as he has been the only Indian batter who has scored runs throughout the series, having made a well-compiled 80 in the first Test as well.

He averaged over 80 in first-class cricket when making his debut for India and now averages 71.75 in Tests.

Jaiswal had been earmarked for greatness since his days at age-level cricket. He was the highest run-getter in the 2020 ICC Under-19 World Cup, averaging over 133.

From having to sell snacks at the roadside to make some extra bucks to becoming the next big thing in Indian cricket, his story has attracted many. Former cricketers and experts are

envisioning a sparkling future for the young left-hander.

But among the many cricketing greats he matched yesterday in the records column, there is also a cricketer named Vinod Kamble, who, like Jaiswal, was once considered the next big thing in Indian cricket alongside Sachin Tendulkar, but ended up becoming a cautionary tale.

Like Jaiswal, Kamble also hit consecutive double hundreds very early on in his career and averaged above 80 while making his Test debut. But off-field shenanigans meant he could only play 17 Tests for India. Jaiswal now has the world in his palms and if he doesn't lose his way like Kamble, the world could very well rejoice in his own brand of cricket for many more years to come.

India's 434-run victory is the largest for them in terms of runs where all four innings were played. The previous highest was a win by 372 runs against New Zealand at the Wankhede in 2021.

Jaiswal made back-to-back double hundreds at the age of 22 years and 49 days, making him the third youngest batter in the world to record two double centuries in Tests after Sir Donald Bradman and Vinod Kamble, both of whom were 21 during their second double ton. He also became the third Indian batter to score successive double hundreds in Tests after Kamble and Virat Kohli.

Jaiswal hit 12 sixes during his 236-ball unbeaten 214, equalling the record for the most sixes in a Test innings set by Wasim Akram way back in 1996 during his knock of 257 against Zimbabwe.

Jaiswal hit three consecutive sixes off James Anderson -- a first for the veteran quick with 696 wickets in 185 Tests.

The left-hander now has 22 sixes in the series, making it the most any batter has recorded in a bilateral Test series. Jaiswal beat the record set by his opening partner Rohit Sharma in 2019 against South Africa (19 sixes).

As a team, India have smashed 48 sixes in the ongoing Test series, the most by any team in a Test series. India beat their own record of 47 sixes against South Africa in 2019. 28 of those 48 sixes came in the Rajkot Test alone, the most by any team in a single Test match.

SHORT CORNER



Sagorika happy that 'everyone knows her now'

Bangladesh striker Mosammat Sagorika expressed her delight at receiving trophies for the best player and the top scorer in the SAFF U-19 Women's Championship, seven days after the final had taken place in Dhaka. "Before the tournament, nobody knew me but now everyone knows me," said the footballer from Thakurgaon.

Zahir grabs silver in Tehran

Bangladesh's best 400m runner Zahir Rayhan settled for a silver medal in the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships in Tehran last night. The 22-year-old, who finished first in heats on Saturday night, finished with a timing of 48.10 seconds, 0.15 seconds slower than Sajad Aghaei of Iran, who took the gold medal.

Sura Krishna goes 8-0 up

Bangladesh's premier boxer Sura Krishna Chakma beat India's Sandeep Kumar in an eight-round battle at a competition titled 'Path to Glory: Hustle in Dhaka Square' in Dhaka on Saturday night. An eighth consecutive victory, the win maintained Sura Krishna's 100 percent record in the professional boxing circuit since his debut in 2018.

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Haaland's frustration spills over

REUTERS, Manchester

Erling Haaland pushed aside a television camera after the final whistle on Saturday, his frustration spilling over after he took nine shots but scored no goals for the first time in his Manchester City career.

Rodri netted a late equaliser to salvage a 1-1 Premier League home draw for the champions against Chelsea as they avoided their first loss at the Etihad in 15 months.

"That's good, it's good to have nine shots," City manager Pep Guardiola said. "Next game he is going to score."

As the players gathered on the pitch after the final whistle, Haaland pushed aside a live TV camera focused on the striker's face.

Haaland, coming back from a foot injury, scored twice in City's 2-0 win over Everton last weekend to reclaim sole possession of the league scoring lead with 16 goals.

However, the 23-year-old Norwegian looked frustrated all game long, sending two headers over the crossbar before hitting a volley just wide. Many City fans around the world did the same.

The outcome meant the Premier League title race became even more intense with City remaining third in the table on 53 points, four behind leaders Liverpool and two adrift of Arsenal, but with a game in hand.



LaLiga leaders Real Madrid were held to a frustrating 1-1 draw at lowly city rivals Rayo Vallecano on Sunday, a result that could help spice up the title race. Real moved to 62 points, six points ahead of second-placed Girona who have a game in hand and play Athletic Bilbao on Monday. [Inset] The disgruntled visitors were reduced to 10 men in added time when 75th minute substitute Dani Carvajal was shown two yellow cards in two minutes. PHOTO: AFP

'A giant has fallen'

AFP, Durban

Long time friend and team-mate Barry Richards said "a giant has fallen" as he paid tribute to former South African all-rounder Mike Procter, who died aged 77 near Durban on Saturday.

"We were part of each other's lives," said Richards of his 65-year friendship with Procter.

Richards and Procter, acknowledged as two of South Africa's greatest cricketers, played against each other as schoolboys and went on to play together for the Natal province and South Africa at both junior and international level.



"Anyone who played for Natal, Rhodesia and Gloucestershire in the 1960s and 70s knew that they were in the presence of a genius," said Richards.

Procter and Richards teamed up for four Tests, starting for South Africa as they won all four matches against Australia in 1969-70 before their international careers were cut short by the international isolation caused by South Africa's apartheid policy.

Vincent van der Bijl, who formed a devastating new ball partnership for Natal with Procter, described his former

team-mate as "the most unpretentious great cricketer I knew." Van der Bijl, a former International Cricket Council head of umpires and match referees, said Procter was "a warrior on the field". "He played the game tough and yet amateur in spirit. He used to end every pre-game session by saying, 'Let's go and have some fun.' He played the game as it should always be played. It was a real privilege to play with and against him."

Procter was South Africa's first coach when that period of international isolation ended in 1991.

Fast bowler Allan Donald made his international debut under him. "I learned a lot from him. Just to listen to him was an experience. He made me aware of what was needed to have the mentality of a fast bowler," he said.