

Bravo out, Hinds in

CRICINFO, undated

West Indies have suffered another injury blow with confirmation the all-rounder Dwayne Bravo will miss all the engagements against Australia this month.

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Bravo's withdrawal places increased pressure on the captain Chris Gayle, who scored a century in the warm-up, and the all-rounder Kieron Pollard.

Women bring

FROM PAGE 17 fightback and got 12 points against thirteen won by India. But they could not overcome the deficit and the regional powerhouse prevailed in the end with a 34-20 scoreline.

The hosts, however, were not disappointed with the result as it was the first silver won by the Bangladeshi girls in an event that started in Colombo Games in 2006.

Nepal won the bronze medal coming third in the points table.

Hiddink

FROM PAGE 20 Hiddink, who led Chelsea to victory in the FA Cup during a short spell at the Premier League club at the end of last season, has in recent weeks been linked to the managerial posts at Liverpool and Juventus.

Fursenko said he would discuss Hiddink's position with the former Australia and South Korea coach before making any decision about his future in the post.

"We are both interested in meeting as soon as possible to discuss his work in Russia and our team's future," said Fursenko.



India coach Gary Kirsten (L) spins the ball while master batsman Sachin Tendulkar looks on during a practice session in Nagpur yesterday. The first of the two-match Test series begins tomorrow.

India need a draw to remain No. 1

CRICINFO, undated

India need only draw with South Africa in the upcoming two-match series to retain the No. 1 spot in the ICC Test rankings. But if they lose the series, being billed as a world championship bout, they stand to lose the US\$175,000 the ICC gives to the team that is on top come April 1.

MS Dhoni's India go into the series with 125 points, five ahead of Graeme Smith's South Africa, whom they displaced at the top of the pile on December 6 with a 2-0 Test series win over Sri Lanka. A 1-0 win will lift India to 127 points and push South Africa to 118 ratings points; a 2-0 result will drop South Africa to 116 points, for which they will receive \$75,000 from the ICC.

Having made clear their intentions to recapture the No. 1 ranking when they defeated Australia in a Test series for the first time in 16 years last summer, South Africa need to win 1-0 to do so, which will take them to 123 points and see India drop to 122. If South Africa sweep the series they will rise to 125 points and India fall to 120.

They have won just two of their past eight Tests, four of which were against Australia, and their inability to register a series victory over England at home recently kept them from taking the top spot.

Australia are ranked third and, though they are touring New Zealand, have no chance of overtaking South Africa.

Defoe fires Spurs

AFP, Leeds



Jermain Defoe spared his own blushes and those of Tottenham Hotspur with a hat-trick at Elland Road to help Harry Redknapp's side overcome brave Leeds and book a place in the FA Cup fifth round at the second time of asking with a 3-1 win here on Wednesday.

England striker Defoe missed a host of good chances but still managed to come up trumps for the Premier League side with strikes in the 37th and 73rd minutes before putting the result beyond all doubt in the fourth minute of stoppage time to take his tally for the season to 22 goals.

Luciano Becchio had equalised for Leeds on the stroke of half-time as Simon Grayson's League One side threatened to pull off another shock in front of a partisan home crowd.

But Defoe scored a trip for Tottenham to top-flight rivals Bolton in the last 16 and kill-off

the Cup dreams of Leeds, who had knocked Manchester United at Old Trafford out of the competition in stunning style in the previous round.

Redknapp made three changes from the side held to a draw by Birmingham last weekend, recalling Jermaine Jenas, Sebastien Bassong and Niko Kranjcar to his starting line-up.

Ledley King was rested and both Wilson Palacios and Luka Modric dropped to the bench.

This was a game Redknapp was desperate to win, given it represented his side's last realistic chance to win some silverware this season.

They arrived at Elland Road in confident mood as well, having lost just one of their last 10 games in all competitions.

Yet his starting line-up proved just how much Redknapp respected Leeds, despite their being 42 league places separating the two clubs.

He knew to his cost from the first tie at White Hart Lane, which ended in a 2-2 draw, just what Grayson's men were capable of.

But it was Tottenham who dominated the first half and

they would have been home and hosed before the interval had it not been for some woeful finishing from Defoe.

He could have had a hat-trick but continued to let Leeds off the hook.

Defoe pounced on a weak back header from Andrew Hughes in the first minute but fluffed his shot badly.

He then pounced on a clever chest down from Peter Crouch only to see his instant strike fly inches wide.

Worse was to follow from Defoe, who found himself clean through on goal thanks to Jermaine Jenas's hopeful pass in the 24th minute but with just Casper Ankergrren to beat he was unable to get the better of the Danish goalkeeper.

Leeds' luck ran out in the 37th minute when Defoe latched onto David Bentley's cross and turned sharply, only for his shot to slice luckily beyond Ankergrren and into the top corner.

But Leeds, whose resilience was a feature of their Cup run, hauled themselves level when Heurlho Gomes could only palm Jermaine Beckford's instant volley straight into the path of Becchio, who shot into an open goal.

Redknapp's press continued to pile the pressure on Leeds, however, with Defoe blazing just over the crossbar and Crouch wasting Niko Kranjcar's cross when it seemed easier to score.

Sorrow

FROM PAGE 17 Sohail adding that he had checked his emotions during the game to keep his concentration on the game.

He later took part in his father's namaz-e-janaza in afternoon before the dead body was taken to their home district of Noakhali where the deceased will be laid to rest.

Sohail will resume his third round play today.

Indians reign

FROM PAGE 17 Prakash (547) along with Poshuk Ahluwalia (546) and Vivek Singh (530) aggregated 1,623 to clinch the gold in the men's 50m pistol team event while silver went to Pakistan with Kalim Ullah Khan scoring 534, Muhammad Gul Faraz 527 and Muhammad Shehzad Akhtar 525 to amass a total of 1,586.

EM Senanayake (532), NPN Gunadasa (511), TDS Fernando (501) scored total 1,544 to bag bronze.

Prakash maintained his form also in the individual shoot-off and came up with a score of 547 to clinch the individual gold while the silver went to his countryman Ahluwalia, who scored one point less than him, while Pakistan's Kalim Ullah Khan (534) took bronze.

SA exude confidence

First Test against India tomorrow

Cricket

AFP, Nagpur

South Africa will draw confidence from their record on the subcontinent as they seek to replace India at the top of the world rankings in their two-Test series starting Saturday.

India dislodged South Africa as the number one Test side in December after beating Sri Lanka 2-0 at home, and a series victory against the Proteas would consolidate their position.

An International Cricket Council (ICC) said in a statement on Thursday that Graeme Smith's tourists will return to the top if they win the series.

"If South Africa beats India by 1-0, it will go to 123 rating points and India will drop to 122 points," the ICC said.

"In case of a 2-0 win, the Proteas will rise to 125 rating points and India will drop to 120 points."

Smith, speaking ahead of the first Test in Nagpur, said: "India now hold the mantle of number one in the world, which is a credit to the way they have played."

"But we have come here to hopefully play better than them, and take it away from them. That's something we are talking about."

Smith said it was tough to win a series in the subcontinent and success is "a real feather in your cap".

"But we won in Pakistan on our last tour there, we won in Bangladesh, we came very close to winning the series here in India. We were 1-0 going into the last Test, so I think

generally we have played well," he said. On their last tour of India in 2008, South Africa won on a green top in Ahmedabad, before the hosts levelled the series on a turning wicket in Kanpur. The first Test was drawn.

The task this time appears more daunting for South Africa, who are going into the series after a week of turmoil at home that ended in the resignation of long-serving coach Mickey Arthur.

And the entire selection committee, headed by former Test all-rounder Mike Procter, was sacked following a 1-1 series draw to England at home.

National high performance coach Corrie van Zyl has taken over from Arthur for the Indian tour, which also features three one-day internationals after the Tests.

India are depleted by injuries to key players -- sustained during a 2-0 away victory over Bangladesh -- upsetting the team combination.

Rahul Dravid, a vital cog in the middle order, is recuperating after undergoing surgery for a fractured jaw while the aggressive Yuvraj Singh is nursing a sore left wrist.

Dhoni, India's first-choice wicketkeeper, has also been suffering from a troublesome back, forcing the national selectors to pick uncapped Wriddhiman Saha as his cover in the 15-man Test squad.

The Indian pace attack will be without the mercurial Shanthakumaran Sreesanth who impressed against Sri Lanka, before being laid low by a hamstring injury in Bangladesh.

India's chairman of selectors Krish Srikanth conceded Dravid's experience will be missed, but he was confident the

hosts would do well in the series. "A player of Rahul's calibre, experience and expertise will be missed by any team," the former Test opener told the Mumbai-based Daily News and Analysis (DNA) newspaper.

"We still have a competent side. We have the most feared batsman in the world in Viru (Virender Sehwag), the best opening pair in the world in Viru and Gautam Gambhir, and then we have a great player like Sachin Tendulkar."

Srikanth predicted a well-fought series between what he said were "very good, balanced sides with all-round abilities."

"They are the two best sides in the world. South Africa have been playing well. Having said that, I can declare that we are capable of winning the series. I can't say by what margin, though."

The second and final Test will be played at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata from February 14.

**SQUAD**  
**INDIA (from):** Mahendra Singh Dhoni (capt), Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Murali Vijay, Sachin Tendulkar, Venkatesai Laxman, Subramaniam Badrinath, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, Ishant Sharma, Amit Mishra, Sudeep Tyagi, Prayan Ojha, Abhimanyu Mithun, Wriddhiman Saha.

**SOUTH AFRICA (from):** Graeme Smith (capt), Hashim Amla, Ashwell Prince, AB de Villiers, Jacques Kallis, Jean-Paul Duminy, Alvaro Petersen, Mark Boucher, Paul Harris, Johan Botha, Ryan McLaren, Morne Morkel, Wayne Parnell, Dale Steyn, Lonwabo Tsotsobe.

Glenn gets his love again

AFP, Sydney

Australian cricket legend Glenn McGrath has found love again, 18 months after his wife's tragic death from breast cancer, a report said on Thursday.

Sydney's Daily Telegraph pictured the smiling father of two, 39, at a restaurant with 28-year-old Italian Sara Leonardi, saying he met her late last year.

"Glenn is happy for people to know he has a girlfriend," his agent Warren Craig was quoted as saying. "He's happy and so are his children."

The former fast bowler has devoted much of his time to raising funds to fight breast cancer since the death of his wife, Jane, in June 2008.

It's golfers

FROM PAGE 17

However, I can assure you that the fight for gold will be between me and Dulal," said Jamal.

"I never thought that I would be a part of such occasion and I really can't express my joy in words," said Dulal, who became champion in the amateur section of a recently concluded tournament. He also thanked major (ret) Anisul-Islam and coach Babu Ahmed for their contribution during the build-up for the last one year.

An ecstatic coach Babu Ahmed gave all credit to the boys who came to Kurmitola Golf Club as children and eventually turned finest golfers of the country with their wholehearted effort.

"They never thought that they could make the nation proud and it was possible only because of their eagerness to learn the game," said Babu.

Yousuf vows to stay

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan's Mohammad Yousuf vowed Thursday to fight on as skipper despite a hint from the country's cricket chief that a new captain would be appointed after Test and one-day drubbings in Australia.

Pakistan's 3-0 whitewash in the Test series and 5-0 routing in the one-day series forced chief selector Iqbal Qasim to resign and put pressure on Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ijaz Butt to quit.

Butt last week hinted at a change in the captaincy. "Ideally, a younger player could have been chosen to lead Pakistan, but Australia is not the place to experiment. So the choice fell on the senior-most player Yousuf," Butt said in a television report.

"Now we would like to hand over the reins to a younger captain," he added. But Yousuf, who was handed the captaincy only after Younus Khan withdrew from the tour of New Zealand and the Australia Tests due to lack of form, said he would not step down.

"If the chief selector has resigned it's his

thinking," Yousuf told reporters on his return from Australia Thursday. "I didn't do badly as captain, not as badly that I should resign or quit."

"I accepted captaincy when no one was willing to take captaincy for the tours. I took it (captaincy) only because of the country and will continue for the country in future," he added.

Yousuf said Butt's statement had not been good for team morale as it had raised uncertainty about who would be the next captain.

The 35-year-old master batsman, who has not been selected for the one-off Twenty20 match in Melbourne on Friday, defended the team's showing after they slumped to their fourth successive 3-0 series defeat against Australia, saying they had fought well in the first two Tests but were short of experience.

"Under the circumstances we went there, I think we did well to draw the series in New Zealand. Our players were inexperienced but I think we did well in the Australia Tests," said Yousuf.

Yousuf said Shahid Afridi's ball-tampering in the fifth and final one-day international in Perth, for which he was handed a ban of two Twenty20 matches, was not good for the image of Pakistan cricket.

Pakistan drew their Test series against New Zealand 1-1.

Again it's India test

FROM PAGE 17

times and captain Aminul Islam wants to keep the momentum going against India too.

"We are two steps away from our target and we are looking forward to keeping up the spirit what we put in the previous three games. We all are determined to follow the instructions of the coach," said Aminul.

"I have said before that our first priority is putting up good show and we are still doing that and want to think about the result after 90 minutes," said the Bangladesh skipper.

Djordjevic's boys began the campaign on a great note with a 3-0 win over Bhutan and then thumped two-time champions Nepal 4-0 to confirm the semi-

finals berth and the Serbian coach rested seven regular players in the match against Maldives where his benchers beat Maldives by a solitary goal.

However the fact remains that Bangladesh frequently face an early exit whenever they take on India and the Bangladesh-India semifinal of the recent SAFF Championship also speaks for itself.

"That type of thing did not happen this time and I can promise you that you will see a different Bangladesh against India on Friday," said the Bangladesh captain adding that they were not thinking of the opponents.

After the final group match against Maldives, coach Djordjevic said that his boys would play against India with

their heart and they were determined not to go down in the semifinal.

Djordjevic will also get his full-strength side against India with Zahid Hasan Emily and Enamul Haque playing up front. Nevertheless the focus will be on Enamul, who struck seven goals in his 10 international matches.

"We are not thinking about the opponents because we are fully focussed on the championship. We have to beat everyone on our way to be champions," said Enamul, who struck two goals in two matches in the SA Games.

Enamul thinks the players have ability to play the 90-minute game throughout similar pace and they are ready to face India.

DAY'S EVENT National Cricket League (Four-Day Match, Day-4) Rajshahi v Khulna Venue: Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Chittagong Chittagong v Dhaka Venue: Shahid Chandu Stadium, Bogra SOUTH ASIAN GAMES (MEN'S FOOTBALL SEMIFINALS) Bangladesh v India Time: 5:00pm Afghanistan v Maldives Time: 8:30pm Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium CRICKET Sri Lanka v Maldives Time: 9:30am Bangladesh v Pakistan Time: 2:00pm Venue: Sher-e-Bangla Cricket Stadium, Mirpur SHOOTING Time: 9:00am Venue: National Shooting Complex HOCKEY Pakistan v Sri Lanka Time: 1:00pm Bangladesh v India Time: 3:00pm Venue: Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium SWIMMING Opening Ceremony Time: 9:30am Venue: National Swimming Complex BASKETBALL Nepal v Bangladesh Time: 5:00pm Afghanistan v India Time: 7:00pm Venue: Basketball Indoor Stadium

H'ball final

FROM PAGE 17

lead, India never looked back and kept widening the margin before taking the match finally by 41-29.

Nayachandra netted highest 13 goals for India while Waliur Rahman netted seven for the hosts.

In fact it was the better technical play by the Indians that prevailed over the hosts and made the difference. They dominated the game through their speed and agility while the hosts found it hard to break the opponents' solid defence often enough. On the other hand, the speedy Indians took the left flank to

create more attacks and score many goals.

General secretary of Bangladesh Handball Federation, Asaduzzaman Kohinor expressed his dissatisfaction at the performance of his boys: "We are sad. We expected a lot more from the boys. So much effort, hard work and support were put in preparing them for the Games. But it all counted for very little."

Bangladesh will fight for the bronze today against Nepal whom they beat 40-18 in the group match. Sri Lanka will take on Afghanistan in the fifth place deciding match at the same venue today.

Shakib optimistic

FROM PAGE 17

strongest suit. Their previous two assignments were a surprise run to the ICC Champions Trophy final and a series win over Pakistan in the UAE. All that makes a New Zealand victory on Friday seem as certain as a Meryl Streep Oscar nomination.

What will hearten Bangladesh, though, is that New Zealand are missing four first-choice one-day players: Jesse Ryder, Grant Elliott, Shane Bond and Kyle Mills.

Also, while it was not on evidence during the walloping in Hamilton, this is a much-improved Bangladesh side from the one that visited in 2007 - with a lot more experience, a world-class all-rounder in Shakib Al Hasan and possessing the ability to shock top

sides on their day, as Sri Lanka and West Indies found last year.

For New Zealand, this series will be a loosener for the big home contest coming up, the trans-Tasman clash with Australia.

SQUADS

**NEW ZEALAND (probable):** Brendon McCullum, Peter Ingram, Martin Guppitt, Ross Taylor, Neil Broom, Jacob Oram, Daniel Vettori (captain), James Franklin, Ian Butler, Daryl Tuffey and Tim Southee.

**BANGLADESH (probable):** Tamim Iqbal, Imrul Kayes, Mohammad Ashraful, Rokibul Hasan, Shakib Al Hasan (captain), Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah Riyad, Nayem Islam, Shahadat Hossain, Shafiqul Islam/Rubel Hossain and Nazmul Hossain

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 37 Pigpen 2 Met 23 That 1 Complain 38 Needed melody man's 5 Fido's liniment 3 Take ten 24 Swiss reply 4 Burst canton 5 Mush- 25 Blend 8 Cupola 42 Stitch room 26 Stir-fry 12 Sandwich 45 Circus cloud-vessel 13 Spelling per- maker 14 Concept 46 Send 6 Guns the 27 — and 15 Show to 48 Some 7 Doctor's 28 Praise in be false deer due verse 17 Drunk- 49 Eggs 8 Difference 29 Scandi- 18 Perched 50 Give a 9 Stench 31 Hockey 19 Type 51 Lecher- scending 30 Eye part 32 Race place 33 Soda purchase 34 Help 35 On 37 Rope 38 Roundish 39 Block the 40 Shoe part 41 Split apart 42 Celebrity 43 Beige 44 Roller coaster shout 46 Anonym- 47 Performance

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CRYPTOQUIP SY YFW JWBEUNYND OEBTSDC, N QWOWDYQW FWSQJ XEBW WBTUECWXX BNKFY EQKSDNAW YE JWBSDJ S QSAW. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE OUR FARM HAS ONLY A SINGLE STORAGE BUILDING FOR FODDER, YOU MIGHT CALL IT A SOLO SILO. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals T