

2ND T20 TODAY Windies drop Darren Bravo

INTERNET, Bridgetown West Indies have dropped out of form batsman Darren Bravo for the second Twenty20 International against Australia.

After struggling in the ODI series and the opening T20 on Tuesday, the left-hander has been replaced by Danza Hyatt for the match on Friday.

The hosts struggled to get quick runs in St Lucia with Bravo adding just 12 off 14 balls and Australia were able to comfortably chase down the modest target of 151.

The West Indies selectors could also elect to make changes in the bowling department as Fidel Edwards sat on the sidelines for the opening match.

Vice-captain Darren Bravo hinted at Edwards' inclusion as the West Indies were severely lacking a fast bowler at the Beausejour Stadium.

"Obviously firepower will definitely help," Bravo said. "You look around anywhere in international cricket, teams that do well at T20 have at least one bowler that bowls at 145-plus."

SQUAD Darren Sammy (captain), Dwayne Smith, Johnson Charles, Nkrumah Bonner, Danza Hyatt, Dwayne Bravo, Kieron Pollard, Marlon Samuels, Carlton Baugh (wk), Sunil Narine, Fidel Edwards, Krishnar Santokie, Garey Mathurin.

Ryder brings psychologist with him!

AFP, Wellington

Troubled New Zealand cricketer Jesse Ryder will return from a self-imposed exile to play in the India Premier League (IPL) next month, taking his psychologist with him for support.

Ryder, who has been involved in many alcohol-related incidents throughout his career, announced an indefinite break from the game after being handed a one-match ban for drinking following an ODI against South Africa last month.

Although the reason for the break was never specified, New Zealand Cricket (NZC) chief executive David White said Thursday that Ryder "has reached the point where he is ready to play competitive cricket again".

White said cricket would always be an important element in Ryder's return to full health and fitness, and playing for the Pune Warriors in the Indian Premier League offered him the opportunity to play at a challenging level.

No consensus

FROM PAGE 16 The managerial job well. I mean a committee needs a variety of people but if all members are just organisers than football will die in a few years. That's why we need some patronisers in the committee this time," said Salam adding that some long-serving organisers should leave the federation to make spaces for the newcomers.

Some candidates like Golam Rabbani Helal, Sheikh Russel KC president Nurul Alam Chowdhury have already declared the candidatures for senior vice president post in the BFF election and like Helal and Chowdhury, many are waiting to observe the situation before declaring their names as the schedules and the councillor lists have not been declared yet. That has meant there is no chance to leave any candidates unopposed in the election which will elect one president, one senior vice president, four vice president and 15 members in the 21-member committee. All 128 affiliated bodies of the BFF have been asked to send their councillors by April 7.



Great Britain's world no 4 Andy Murray stretches to hit a backhand return against Janko Tipsarevic of Serbia during their ATP-WTA Miami tournament match at the Crandon Park Tennis Center on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Nadal-Murray semi

Tennis

AFP, Miami

Rafael Nadal set up a mouthwatering semifinal clash with Andy Murray at the ATP-WTA Miami tournament Wednesday, coming through a tough battle with French sixth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

The Spanish world number two, chasing his first tournament win of the season, needed almost three hours to defeat Tsonga 6-2, 5-7, 6-4 in a quarterfinal night match.

Nadal struggled at times on his serve, failing to land a single ace, but he managed to save eight of 10 break point opportunities. He served for the match at 5-4 in the second set but Tsonga dug deep, winning three straight games to force a decider.

Nadal, 25, who has reached the final in Miami three times, broke the Frenchman in the ninth game of the third to lead 5-4 and survived two break points in the final game to progress to the semifinals.

Earlier, 2009 champion Murray, chasing

his second title of the season after a win in Brisbane, rallied to beat Serb ninth seed Janko Tipsarevic 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

The Scottish fourth seed lost his opener at Indian Wells earlier this month and he looked as if he could be headed for another early exit when he lost six games in a row.

Murray called for the doctor in the first set when he was ahead 3-2, saying he had an upset stomach and he might have been suffering from indigestion.

Tipsarevic fell behind 2-4 before winning six straight games -- four to win the first set and two more for a 2-0 lead in the second.

But Murray rallied to win the second set and converted a lone service break in the final set to take the match in two hours 39 minutes.

Tipsarevic fired seven aces but won just 32 per cent of his second-serve points.

Besides winning in Brisbane this year, Murray also finished runner-up to Roger Federer in Dubai and lost a five-set thriller to Novak Djokovic in the semifinals of the Australian Open.

DRS alright: Smith

Cricket

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Graeme Smith is comfortable with television referrals and the umpire decision review system (DRS) playing a larger role in international cricket, the South Africa captain said on Wednesday.

South Africa's recent series in New Zealand was marred by criticism of the DRS, with the ball-tracking, hot-spot and Snicko components coming up with results seemingly at odds with what was seen live.

England, meanwhile, have been struggling to adapt to the system in Tests against Pakistan and Sri Lanka, their crease-bound batsmen falling to record numbers of lbw decisions via DRS.

"I did read a report that there were issues with the set-up of the cameras, which obviously isn't ideal, and there has been a lot of skepticism about the last bit of the ball-tracking," Smith told a news conference.

"But DRS has become an integral part of the game, it's great for the fans and I can't imagine playing without it."

"It was designed to take away the shocking decision and it's done that. I'd like to see it play a prominent part in international cricket," Smith added.

South Africa won the T20 and one-day sections of their tour to New Zealand, before dominating the Test series but being restricted to a 1-0 win due to bad weather and are confident ahead of tough tours of England and Australia.

"I definitely think we can beat both England and Australia away. We have a lot of the same players who did it in 2008-09, but we have an extra edge now in terms of the way we think about the way we play and train, plus there's the addition of players like Vernon Philander, Marchant de Lange and Lopsy Tsotsobe," Smith said.

"But we know those two teams play very well at home and you've got to handle the pressure of big crowds and the media being against you. England will have played a lot of competitive cricket by the time we get there and it's a tough place to win. "So it's a very big tour for us, but we've crossed that hurdle before and we know we can do it," Smith said.

The burly left-hander led South Africa to a 2-1 series win in England in 2008 and they won the first two Tests of their three-match series in Australia later that year.

New coach Gary Kirsten was delighted by his team's performances in New Zealand.

Eng caught in Herath maze

FROM PAGE 16

"Suraj too is settling into his groove now and can be a very good bowler for us.

"But we can't afford to be complacent. There is one more Test to go and we know England are a quality side and will come back hard."

England, who will slip to number two in the rankings behind South Africa if they lose the series, lost Kevin Pietersen in the day's third over after just seven runs had been added to the overnight score of 111-2.

Pietersen, on 30, attempted to on-drive Randiv and only managed to spoon an easy catch to Mahela Jayawardene at short mid-wicket. The sloppy dismissal

ended a valuable 70-run partnership for the third wicket with Trott after England had been reduced to 48-2 late on Wednesday afternoon.

Bell, who top-scored with 52 in the first innings, missed a sweep shot off Herath and was given out leg-before by umpire Rod Tucker.

Bell immediately asked for a review, but he did not earn a reprieve from TV umpire Bruce Oxenford and England slipped to 152-4.

SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA: First innings 318 (M. Jayawardene 180; Anderson 5-72, Patel 2-27)

ENGLAND: First innings 193 (Bell 52, Broad 28; Herath 6-74, Randiv 2-26)

SRI LANKA: Second innings 214 (P. Jayawardene 61 not out; Swann 6-82)

ENGLAND: Second innings (overnight 111-2) Strauss c Dilshan b Herath 27 Cook c P. Jayawardene b Herath 14 Trott c Dilshan b Randiv 112 Pietersen c M. Jayawardene b Randiv 30 Bell lbw b Herath 13 Prior c Thirumane b Herath 41 Patel c Dilshan b Herath 9 Broad not out 5 Swann lbw b Herath 1 Anderson c P. Jayawardene b Randiv 0 Panesar c Dilshan b Randiv 0 Extras: (lb-6, w-1) 7 Total: (All out in 99 overs) 264 Fall of wickets: 1-31, 2-48, 3-118, 4-152, 5-233, 6-252, 7-256, 8-259, 9-264

Bowler O M R W Welegedara 13 2 40 0 Lakmal 10 5 22 0 Herath 38 9 97 6 Dilshan 12 1 25 0 SRI LANKA: Second innings 214 (P. Jayawardene 61 not out; Swann 6-82) Result: Sri Lanka won by 75 runs and lead

Hinds held, then bailed

PTI, Bridgetown

West Indies cricketer Ryan Hinds has been charged with rape but was released on bail after appearing before a magistrate court here.

The 31-year-old, who played 15 Tests and 14 ODIs for the West Indies team, is accused of raping a 28-year-old woman last month.

The all-rounder, whose last Test appearance for the national team was in 2009 against Bangladesh, is a former captain of the Barbados team.

Hinds appeared in the District 'B' Magistrate Laurie-Ann Smith-Bovell and was granted 7,500 Barbados dollars bail with a surety, the media here reported.

"He was also ordered to surrender his passport and must report to the Hometown Police Station once per week as the other conditions of his bail," it added.

Hinds will reappear in court on July 5. In a moderately successful international career, Hinds scored 505 Test and 101 ODI runs.

His left-arm spin fetched him 13 wickets in Tests and six scalps in the one-dayers.

Chisora to appeal ban

AFP, London

Disgraced British heavyweight Dereck Chisora has launched an appeal against the decision to revoke his licence following his brawl with David Haye, promoter Frank Warren confirmed on Thursday.

Chisora's licence was withdrawn "indefinitely" by the British Boxing Board of Control (BBC) following his fight with Haye at a press conference following his WBC title bout with Vitali Klitschko in Germany.

However Warren has confirmed that Chisora is to mount a bid to regain his licence, and said he believes a grudge match against Haye is now inevitable.

"It's a natural fight, it doesn't matter what anyone says," Warren said. "It's a bigger fight than either of them fighting Wladimir or Vitali Klitschko. "There's a lot for them to fight about -- in a proper environment."

Warren said Chisora was appealing his ban on the basis he had not received a fair hearing by British boxing chiefs.

"The appeal has gone in already. The grounds for the appeal are that we're not satisfied with the way the hearing went," he said.

"There was also no chance to review any evidence before the hearing. All I want to see is a fair hearing."

The trip will worth it

Indo-SA friendly T20I today

Cricket

AFP, Johannesburg

India and South Africa meet in a one-off Twenty20 international at the Wanderers Stadium Friday with India coach Duncan Fletcher insisting the long round trip will be worthwhile.

India arrived in Johannesburg Wednesday with a near full strength T20 squad, with batsman Virender Sehwag and pace bowler Zaheer Khan the only key players being rested.

Superstar Sachin Tendulkar, reportedly receiving medical treatment in London, is not a regular T20 international player.

South Africa, by contrast, have picked only eight of the squad which won a T20 series in New Zealand last month, resting all their Test players with the exception of Jacques Kallis, who will be the recipient of a special tribute at the match.

The South African Test squad arrived back just over 48 hours ahead of the Wanderers game.

Cricket South Africa (CSA) will contribute to the Jacques Kallis Foundation, which provides scholarships for talented cricketers from under-privileged areas to attend leading cricket schools.

Kallis said he would, in turn, assist the Yuvraj Singh Foundation. India player Singh is being treated for cancer. Kallis's father died of cancer in 2003.

The South African squad includes three uncapped players and will be captained by off-spinner Johan Botha in the absence of

the regular captain AB de Villiers and vice-captain Hashim Amla, who both played in the Test series in New Zealand.

India, though, will be led as usual by Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

Fletcher said the Indian team contained a significant number of young players.

"We've been trying to develop a young one-day squad and Twenty20 squad," he said. "These blokes have played well on the subcontinent and any game they play out of it must be very good from an experience point of view."

The announcement of the match was made as recently as March 5. It was one of the last acts of Gerald Majola before he was suspended as CSA chief executive following a judicial report on undeclared bonuses paid to him.

The game comes at the end of a long international season for both teams and only five days before the start of the Indian Premier League, which will feature most of the players involved this Friday.

TEAMS

SOUTH AFRICA: Johan Botha (captain), Farhaan Behardien, Faf du Plessis, Colin Ingram, Jacques Kallis, Richard Levi, Albie Morkel, Justin Ontong, Wayne Parnell, Rusty Theron, Lonwabo Tsotsobe, Morne van Wyk, Dane Vilas.

INDIA: Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Ravichandran Ashwin, Ashok Dinda, Gautam Gambhir, Ravindra Jadeja, Virat Kohli, Praveen Kumar, Vinay Kumar, Irfan Pathan, Yusuf Pathan, Suresh Raina, Rahul Sharma, Rohit Sharma, Manoj Tiwary, Robin Uthappa.

LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Navy reached the final of the KFC Pizza Hut Independence Cup Volleyball Tournament at the Volleyball Stadium yesterday.

Bangladesh Army defeated Bangladesh Navy by straight 3-0 sets. Despite the defeat, Bangladesh Navy qualified for the final as the second best team in four-team tournament. In the day's other match, Bangladesh Air Force beat Border Guard Bangladesh by 3-1 sets.

Women's School Football

Agargaon Adarsha Girls High School recorded a 3-0 win over Biddya Niketan School in the Plan Metropolis Women's School Football tournament at the Sultana Kamal Sports Complex ground yesterday.

Tajnehar struck two goals while Sonia netted one goal for Agargaon.

MSC official ban

Mohammedan SC director Mahbub Rob was recently banned for one month to enter the venue of ongoing Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League following his attempt to assault the match official after their game against Team BJMC on April 17.

The BFF disciplinary committee also served a show-cause notice to Mohammedan SC on why they should not be fined for the incident.

BCL beings

The second-leg of the Premier Bank Bangladesh Championship League begins today at the Cox's Bazar Stadium with Beanibazar SC taking on Uttar Baridhara Club.

Having earned an identical eight points from six matches, Uttar Baridhara are ahead of Beanibazar as they are in the third position while Beanibazar are in the fifth position and a win for any side will take them to the top of the seven-team point table with leaders Wari Club

British side

FROM PAGE 16 assistant coach. Pakistan later lost its World Cup co-hosting rights.

The British Universities team will arrive in Lahore on April 2 and play two one-day games against a Pakistan Cricket Board Under-19 team at Gaddafi Stadium on April 4 and 6.

Pakistan have invited Bangladesh to play a limited-over series next month, but the tour appears in doubt over security fears.

Those fears have forced Pakistan to play their home series on neutral venues such as England, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates.

Pakistan are also planning a five-match one-day series against Australia in Sri Lanka this August. Australia have not toured Pakistan since 1998.

Tamim

FROM PAGE 16 matter how big a player is and how much he has performed over the years, one bad series and it can all go wrong. Another thing that I have understood is that I must think of the game all the time, and not let outside thoughts come in. That is the only way to do well in this game," he opined.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 25 mins and a solution grid at the bottom.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with a 11x11 grid of numbers and letters for solving.

CRYPTOQUIP SX DQNDWCKZ HDDPVKE QHI LACKLONL IPSVDQ, AQHE EQNX SHCO SN SCZQE HI ANOO GN GOIKW IEIENSNEI. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT FORCING ME TO CONSUME ROOT VEGETABLES. I DISLIKE THEM, FOR BEET'S SAKE! Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals M