

Cut, retake

Iyer's audition for the number four slot was cut short by rain in Providence; 2nd ODI in Port of Spain may give him another chance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PORT OF SPAIN, AUGUST 10

SHREYAS IYER is likely to audition for the number four position in the Indian batting line-up as the visiting side take on the West Indies in the second match of the three-ODI series here on Sunday. Iyer, who didn't get any game during the T20 series, was in India's playing XI for the first One-day in Providence, Guayana, that was abandoned after 13 overs due to rain. There is little chance that India will tinker with their batting order.

Two matches can never be enough for anyone to cement their place in the team, but a couple of decent outings will surely reduce the pressure on the youngster. Iyer has had a good series with the A team in this part of the world, having hit two half centuries against the West Indies A. He has now got a measure of the tracks.

If Iyer is given a go at number four, KL Rahul would likely have to cool his heels till Shikhar Dhawan is persisted at the top of the order. The team combination for the first game is an indicator that after a good World Cup at the top of the order post Dhawan's injury, Rahul is being looked at as a back-up opener.

The series is also important for Kedar Jadhav, and his future will depend, to a considerable degree, on how he performs here. Post the World Cup, there's a question-mark over his place in the team. Certainly with the talented Shubman Gill waiting in the wings, time is running out for the pint-sized Maharashtra cricketer, whose batting slot has been a worry for skipper Kohli and coach Ravi Shastri.

There are suggestions that Jadhav doesn't have the requisite technique to bat up the order, nor does he possess enough power to clear the ropes consistently towards the end. Unless the top order scores runs, Jadhav has often been underwhelming, not being able to force the pace unless there has been one of the bigger names batting at the other end. His side-arm off-spin is handy, but with Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja in the playing XI, how much of it will be utilised is question.

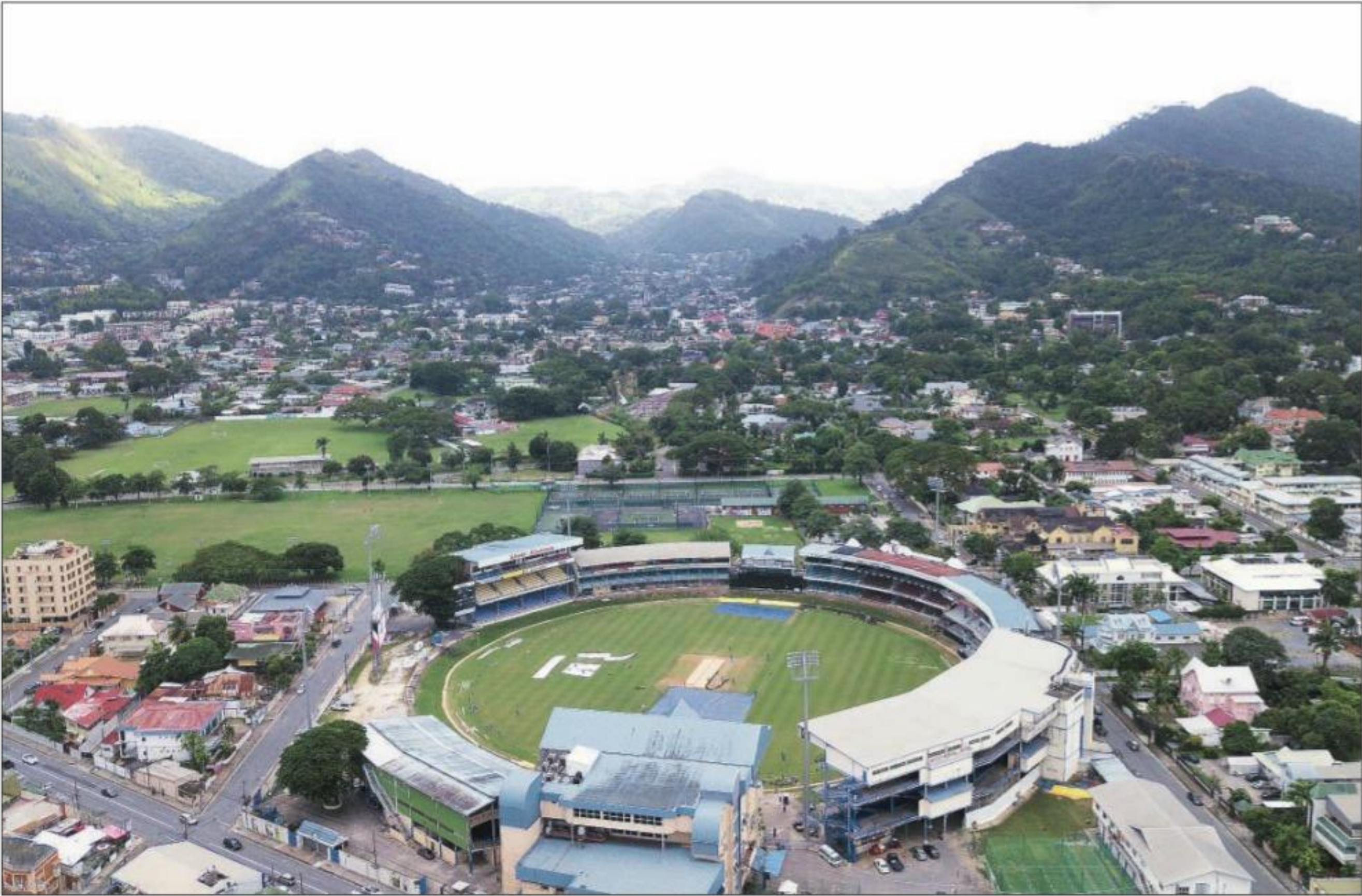
In case Bhuvneshwar Kumar wants some rest, the new pace sensation Navdeep Saini could come in, while a bit more turn on offer would mean Yuzvendra Chahal could be back in the mix as an additional spinner in place of the left-arm pacer, Khaleel Ahmed. Khaleel went for 27 in three overs and was guilty of bowling short to opener Evin Lewis, who was on 40 when the heavens opened up.

For the hosts, Lewis getting some form back augurs well, but the would also want Chris Gayle to fire. The Jamaican looked in wretched form during his 31-ball-knock that yielded only four runs in the first ODI.

2ND ODI: LIVE ON TEN SPORTS 1 & 3 — 7PM ONWARDS



Iyer was in India's playing XI for the first ODI but didn't get to play as the match was abandoned. *BCCI*



BEAUTY QUEEN

An aerial view of the Queen's Park Oval cricket stadium in Port of Spain, Trinidad, on Saturday. India and the West Indies will play their second One-Day International here on Sunday. *AP*

No farewell Test as WI ignore Gayle for India series

REUTERS & PTI
AUGUST 10

WEST INDIES have called up uncapped spin-bowling all-rounder Rahkeem Cornwall for the two Tests against India later this month, but paceman Alzarri Joseph will miss the series with injury. Cornwall's impressive record for Leeward Islands Hurricanes and the West Indies 'A' team earned him his maiden call-up with Robert Haynes, head of interim selection panel, saying they had high hopes from the 26-year-old.

The flamboyant Chris Gayle, however, was overlooked in the 13-man squad despite his wish to play a farewell Test at home in Kingston. Gayle, who is just six weeks shy of his 40th birthday, last played a Test match way back in 2014, against Bangladesh. Gayle looked completely out of sorts during the opening ODI against India where he managed only 4 off 31 balls before being bowled by Kuldeep Yadav. Prior to the World Cup match against India in Manchester in June, Gayle expressed his desire to play one final Test match, preferably at his home ground Sabina Park in Kingston. However, the West Indies selection committee decided otherwise.

In fact, former pace great Curtly Ambrose, in an earlier interview with the PTI, had said that selecting Gayle for Tests would be a step back. "If Chris Gayle wants to play an ODI series or a T20 series, well, that's not a problem. In terms of Test matches for me is a no, no," Ambrose had said.

"Gayle hasn't played Test matches for five years. Bringing him back for one Test,



West Indies's Chris Gayle and Evin Lewis attend a practice session in Port of Spain on Saturday. With the WI selection committee not paying heed to Gayle's request for a farewell Test at his home ground, the next two ODIs could well be the last of a storied international career. *AP*

I think, is a backward step. What kind of message are you sending to the younger players? ODIs and T20s are not a problem as he still is a destructive player but Test matches, no, definitely not."

Cornwall, a consistent performer

Meanwhile, regarding Cornwall's selection, WI chief selector Haynes said: "Rahkeem has been performing consistently

over a long period of time and has proven to be a match-winner, so we believe his elevation to the Test squad is merited at this time. We believe he can provide an attacking option to our bowling attack with his sharp turn and extra bounce."

The off-spinner has taken 260 wickets from 55 first-class matches.

"He can also lend a bit of depth to the batting, so we are looking forward to him

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coming into the squad and making a valuable contribution," Haynes added.

Joseph was allowed to recover from an arm injury sustained during the Indian Premier League earlier this year.

"Alzarri is undergoing remedial work and we are monitoring his recovery, but we do not think he is ready yet to last five days of a gruelling test match," Haynes said.

"He represents a key part of West Indies future and we do not want to rush him back. We have two important series coming up later in the year in India and we want to be very careful how his recovery is managed."

Along with Cornwall, regular West Indies 'A' captain Shamarh Brooks is the only other uncapped player in the squad. The Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Ground in Cornwall's native Antigua hosts the first Test from August 22 while the second Test is scheduled at Jamaica's Sabina Park from August 30.

WEST INDIES SQUAD: Jason Holder (captain), Kraigg Brathwaite, Darren Bravo, Shamarh Brooks, John Campbell, Roston Chase, Rahkeem Cornwall, Shane Dowrich, Shannon Gabriel, Shimron Hetmyer, Shai Hope, Keemo Paul, Kemar Roach.

BRIEFLY

Shahzad's contract suspended for indefinite period

Kabul: The Afghanistan Cricket Board on Saturday suspended the contract of wicket-keeper batsman Mohammad Shahzad for an indefinite period for breaching its Code of Conduct. According to an ACB release, Shahzad did not adhere to a policy that requires players to seek the board's permission for travelling out of the country. "As per ACB's policies, any player travelling out of the country is required to seek the permission of ACB. Shahzad has not adhered to this, repetitively," the ACB said. The board said Shahzad has also breached its Code of Conduct previously and was recently called for questioning by the ACB Discipline Committee in relation to a disciplinary matter during the ICC Cricket World Cup. The ACB indicated that further sanctions may come against Shahzad later in the month. **PTI**

Starc enjoying pace jostle, team success

London: Australia's strength in pace makes Mitchell Starc believe that he and fellow quick Josh Hazlewood will have to work harder to break into the playing XI in the ongoing Ashes series against England. Left-arm quick Starc finished as the highest wicket-taker in the 50-overs World Cup last month but was overlooked, along with Hazlewood, for the Ashes opener in Edgbaston which Australia won by 251 runs. Starc naturally wants to play the second test at Lord's from Wednesday but is even keener on Australia bringing home the urn, even if it means spending more time on the sidelines. "We're here to win the Ashes," said Starc, who took 10 wickets in the last test he played, against Sri Lanka in February at Canberra. "We're not just here to make it on the park. We want to win this Ashes." "Whether that's a different bowling attack each game, or the same through five test matches, it's pretty exciting." **REUTERS**

India in U-19 tri-series final despite loss to Eng

Beckenham (UK): India U-19 team made it to the final despite losing to England U-19 by eight wickets via D/L method in a rain-hit youth one-day match of the Tri-Nation series. India U-19 team will face Bangladesh U-19 in the summit clash at Hove on Sunday. With three wins and three losses, India U-19 team finished at second place with eight points, behind Bangladesh U-19, who topped the table with 11 points. England secured 5 points. **BRIEF SCORES:** England Under-19 214/2 (41.3/42 ov, target 214) beat India Under-19s 278/8 (Divyaansh Saxena 102, Tilak Varma 52). **PTI**

BCCI under NADA a positive turn: Rijiju

New Delhi: Sports minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday welcomed BCCI's decision to come under the ambit of National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), terming it a major step towards clean and transparent governance in sports. Rijiju termed the development as a major positive turn of events. "I don't want any issues or matter to remain unresolved. All the differences must be resolved amicably because I believe in clean and transparent governance in Sports in the interest of the sports and sports persons," Rijiju told PTI. Having stalled the ministry's near decade long attempts to bring BCCI under the NADA fold, the Board finally relented on Friday, a move that could have far-reaching implications in the near future. **PTI**

[SPORTS BAR]



Fraser-Pryce smashes 40-year-old record

Jamaican Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce broke the 40-year-old Pan Am Games 200 metres record when the twice Olympic 100 metres champion clocked 22.43 seconds to win gold on Friday. The 32-year-old clipped two-hundredths of a second off American Evelyn Ashford's Games record of 22.45 set at San Juan, Puerto Rico in 1979. Fraser-Pryce, who won Olympic titles in 2008 and 2012, beat Brazil's Vitoria Cristina Rose by almost two-tenths of a second with Bahamian Tynia Gaither third in 22.76.

Nadeem takes five-for, India A win series 2-0

West Indies A top-order put up a gutsy show to force a draw despite another five-wicket haul by left-arm spinner Shahbaz Nadeem as India A won the unofficial three-Test series 2-0. Chasing a stiff target of 373, West Indies A started the day at 37 for no loss needing another 336 runs on the fourth day but only reached as far as 314 for 6 in the end. Opener Jeremy Solozano's dogged 92 off 252 balls along with No 3 Brandon King's attacking 77 off 84 balls and senior international Sunil Ambris' 69 off 142 helped the home team earn a draw after losing the first two 'Tests'. For India, Nadeem turned out to be the best bowler once again with figures of 5 for 103 in 41 overs. The Jharkhand orthodox left-arm played two of the three games and had three 'five-for' in four innings, finishing with 15 wickets in the series.



Andy Murray's first match next week in Cincinnati will be his first competitive singles outing since the Australian Open in January.

Murray to return to singles in Cincinnati

Three-time Grand Slam champion Andy Murray said on Friday he will return to singles competition next week at the ATP Cincinnati Masters, seven months after having right hip surgery he feared might end his career. The British star posted a photo of himself on his Facebook page on court while yelling with a clenched right fist and the caption: "That feeling when you accept a wildcard for the singles in Cincinnati... #LetsDoThis #HereWeGo." The 32-year-old Scotsman has fallen to 325th in the world rankings after his January operation to ease nagging hip pain. His first match next week in Cincinnati in the final major tuneup for the US Open will be his first competitive singles outing since the Australian Open in January. "Good news for the sport," Spain's Rafael Nadal said of Murray's return to singles. "Especially great news for him. That means that he's healthy." "That's going to be a big, big moment for him," Nadal told reporters in Montreal. After all the retirement that he predicted in Australia... six months later seems like he's back again, healthy, competing well." Murray will face Richard Gasquet in the first round in Cincy.

Draw puts Saina, Sindhu on collision course

Saina Nehwal and PV Sindhu are on a collision course at next week's World Championships in Basel, Switzerland, as they have been placed in the same half after the world governing body re-conducted the women's singles draw. "It was determined a player had mistakenly been included in the women's singles entry list and the BWF has subsequently adjusted the entry list and conducted a re-draw," the Badminton World Federation said on its website. Saina and Sindhu could face-off at the semifinals.

Johnson seizes lead with final hole birdie putt

Dustin Johnson sank an eight-foot birdie putt at the last to take a one-stroke lead over Jordan Spieth in the second round of the Northern Trust in New Jersey on Friday. Johnson shook off an opening bogey to make five birdies as the world number two shot a four-under par 67 in the afternoon at Liberty National to move to 12-under for the tournament. "I drove it really well," Johnson said, pleased to be playing against the backdrop of New York City across the Hudson River. "I've got a lot of control with the golf ball and hitting a lot of really nice shots and rolled in a couple putts today which is nice, but still feel like I left quite a few out there." Spieth dropped in eight birdies against a single bogey for sparking 64 in the morning.



Bajrang wins gold, Vinesh in final

India's top two wrestlers continued their impressive run this season with Bajrang Punia defending his title at Tbilisi Grand Prix and Vinesh Phogat reaching her fourth final at Medved event. Bajrang, who had won a gold at the same event last year as well, prevailed 2-0 over Iran's Peiman Bibyani in the 65kg final of the men's free style competition in the capital city of Georgia. It is fourth gold of the season for the Asian Games champion Bajrang after standing atop the podium at Dan Kolov, Asian Championship and Ali Aliev tournament. At the Medved event in Minsk, Belarus, Vinesh outclassed local wrestler Yafremenko 11-0 in the 53kg semifinals to be in line for her fourth consecutive gold. Next for Vinesh is Russia's N Malisheva, who blanked local girl Pichkouskay 6-0. The top Indian woman wrestler won at Grand Prix of Spain Yasar Dogu International and Poland Open recently.

