Bumrah out of South Africa series

Lower back issue delays his home debut; Umesh Yadav named the replacement

SA IN INDIA

G. VISWANATH MUMBAI

India's pace attack for the three-Test home series against South Africa was dented in a big way, with Jasprit Bumrah rendered hors de combat because of a lower back issue.

There was a lot of excitement with the 25-year-old Gujarat speed merchant who has taken 62 wickets at 19.24 in 12 overseas Tests all set to make his Test debut in a home series in the first Test in Visakhapatnam starting on Oct. 2.

India's next home series is against Bangladesh in Indore (Nov. 14-18). Bumrah has been replaced by Umesh Yadav.

Bumrah has not played competitive cricket after returning from the West In-

Not in danger zone

It has been said that the lower back issue is not in the "danger zone" and although he was in slight discomfort after the Antigua Test, he played the Jamaica Test only



Heading for recovery: Jasprit Bumrah, whose injury was detected during a routine radiological screening, will undergo rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy, Bengaluru. • AP

because he was bowling well and among wickets.

The team-management, selection committee and the BCCI have decided to give him sufficient rest.

A BCCI press release signed by chairman of the senior national selection

committee, M.S.K. Prasad said: "Jasprit Bumrah has sustained a minor stress fracture in his lower back and has been ruled out of the upcoming Paytm Freedom Series for the Gandhi-Mandela Trophy against

The injury was detected during a routine radiological screening. He will undergo rehabilitation at the Bengaluru-based National Cricket Academy.

He will be monitored by the BCCI medical team." Bumrah has been the

India squad:

Virat Kohli (Capt.), Mayank Agarwal, Rohit Sharma, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane (Vice-capt.), Hanuma Vihari, Rishabh Pant (wk), Wriddhiman Saha (wk), R. Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav, Ishant Sharma and Shubman Gill.

THE SCHEDULE Oct. 2 to 6: Visakhapatnam Oct. 10 to 14: Pune Oct. 19 to 23: Ranchi

game-changer for India in the two-Test series against the West Indies in Antigua and Jamaica.

He was also the highest wicket-taker in the series with 13 victims at 9.23 (five for seven in the second innings in Antigua & six for 31 in the first innings in Iamaica).

While Bumrah will get the benefit of full rest before the two-Test series against Bangladesh, it is understood that the BCCI is trying to find a long-term solution for Hardik Pandya's back that keeps flaring up on and off.

Rain halts South Africa's practice session

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

Rain played spoilsport to the preparations of the Faf du Plessis-led South African team as its scheduled training session at the Dr. YSR-ACA-VDCA Stadium here had to be cut short following a heavy downpour within 40 minutes of the commencement of the nets here on Tuesday.

During that brief stint, kev players including du Plessis, fast bowler Kagiso Rabada and Temba Bavuma got a feel of the conditions in the city where the South Africans will take on India in the first Test to be played from October 2.

Animated discussion

With rains forcing the players to hurry for cover, the sight of du Plessis engaged in an animated discussion with one of the support staff members apparently gesticulating about the follow-through of the bat was a reminder that the South Africans are determined to keep improving with each game after the moraleboosting effort to level the



Irksome: Heavy rains meant that Faf du Plessis and his team had to curtail their training schedule. • K.R. DEEPAK

T20I series against India.

In a way, the visitors, who are scheduled to play a three-day warm-up game against Rohit Sharma-led Board President's XI at Vizianagaram from September 26 to 28, also got a hint of the inclement weather which is predicted to follow them over the next few days.

The Vizianagaram District Cricket Association officials

are keeping their fingers crossed hoping that the rains will stay away as they prepare to host the biggest cricket match at the Dr. PVG Raju Sports Complex at home.

A senior official said Rohit was expected to join the team on Wednesday even as the President's XI is expected to have a full training session in the morning.

(11b), Laura Wolvaardt b Poo-

nam 14 (14b, 2x4), Nadine de

Indian bowlers keep their cool, defend modest total in first T20I

Harmanpreet's knock takes the hosts to 130; du Preez's counterattack almost guides South Africa home

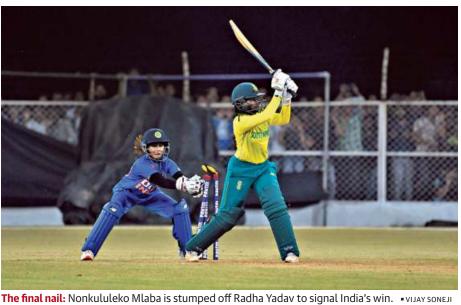
SA WOMEN IN INDIA

AMOL KARHADKAR

With the Diamond City's long wait for international cricket finally over, the Indian women gave the fans another reason to head home with a big smile as they held their nerve to pip South Africa women by 11 runs in the opening T20I on Tuesday.

Despite Mignon du Preez's brilliant counterattack, the spinners ensured that India successfully defended a total of 130. Had the South African received some support from the other end, she could well have taken the team past the finish line instead of going for an almighty heave and getting stumped with 12 needed off three balls.

While du Preez planned



the Indian tweakers had the South Africans dancing to their tune. Though the visitors' chase got off to a flier, over bowled by Pooja Vastrakar, seasoned pacer Shikha Pandey cleaned up the dangerous Lizelle Lee. The Deepti Sharma started with a double-wicket maiden, outsmarting Tazmin Brits in flight for 'keeper Taniya Bha-

Nadine de Klerk to nick one behind. While Deepti didn't concede a run till she bowled her final over at the death, leggie Poonam Yadav picked up wickets off successive balls. She drew Laura Wolvaardt forward, the googly sneaking through her defence to rattle the timber. Off the next delivery, skipper Sune Luus hit straight to Smriti Mandhana at cover.

Earlier, Harmanpreet, making a return to international cricket after a shoulder injury forced her to miss the previous series against England, came up with a gutsy knock to take the hosts to a modest total.

Harmanpreet forged a 46run stand with Deepti for the fourth wicket – the highest of the match. She used her feet exceptionally well against the and Jemimah Rodrigues' foundation in PowerPlay.

While Jemimah's cover drive off Shabnim Ismail showed her class, Smriti's twin boundaries off Tumi Sekhukhune gave the spectators, numbering more than 10,000, a chance to go wild.

Shafali makes debut

The spotlight was on India's 15-year-old Shafali Verma who made her debut.

The opener, however, perished off the fourth ball of the contest, without opening her account, as Sekhukhune lunged to her left to pluck an on-drive off Ismail.

The other debutant, South Africa's left-arm spinner Nonkululeko Mlaba, wilted under pressure, bowling too short and even bouncing the ball twice to Jemimah early on in

SCOREBOARD INDIA

Shafali Verma c Sekhukhune b Ismail O (4b), Smriti Mandhana c du Preez b Shangase 21 (16b, 4x4), Jemimah Rodrigues c Brits b Sekhukhune 19 (25b, 3x4), Harmanpreet Kaur lbw b de Klerk 43 (34b, 3x4, 2x6), Deepti Sharma c Lee b de Klerk 16 (16b, 2x4), Veda Krishnamurthy lbw b Ismail 10 (11b, 1x4), Pooja Vastrakar run out 1 (3b), Radha Yadav b Ismail 1 (2b), Taniya Bhatia (not out) 11 (5b, 2x4), Shikha Pandey (not out) 3 (4b); Extras (lb-2, w-3): 5; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 130.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-0 (Shafali, 0.4 overs), 2-28 (Smriti, 5.3), 3-58 (Jemimah, 9.5), 4-104 (Deepti, 15.4), 5-105 (Harmanpreet, 15.6), 6-113 (Pooja, 17.2), 7-114 (Radha, 18.1), 8-125 (Veda, 18.6).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING

Ismail 4-0-26-3, Khaka 4-1-10-0, Sekhukhune 4-0-24-1, Shangase 2-0-18-1, Mlaba 3-0-26-0, Luus 1-0-14-0, de Klerk 2-0-10-2.

SOUTH AFRICA

Lizelle Lee b Shikha 16 (11b,

Klerk c Taniya b Deepti O (4b), Mignon du Preez st. Taniva b Radha 59 (43b, 4x4, 3x6), Sune Luus c Smriti b Poonam O (1b). Nondumiso Shangase b Harmanpreet 4 (10b, 1x4), Shabnim Ismail st. Taniya b Deepti 6 (7b, 1x4), Ayabonga Khaka b Shikha 5 (14b), Sekhukhune (not out) 2 (3b), Nonkululeko Mlaba st. Taniya b Radha O (1b); Extras (lb-1, w-9): 10; Total (in 19.5 overs): 119.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-25 (Lee, 1.6), 2-29 (Brits, 4.1), 3-29 (de Klerk, 4.5), 4-48 (Wolvaardt, 8.4), 5-48 (Luus, 8.5), 6-65 (Shangase, 11.5), 7-73 (Ismail, 13.2), 8-105 (Khaka, 17.5), 9-119 (du Preez, 19.4).

INDIA BOWLING

Pooja 1-0-18-0, Shikha 4-0-18-2, Deepti 4-3-8-3, Poonam 4-0-25-2, Harmanpreet 3-0-20-1, Radha 3.5-0-29-2.

Toss: South Africa.

Player-of-the-match: Deepti.

India won by 11 runs to take a

'Unfair to compare Pant with MS'

If Dhoni wants to play, you got to respect that, says Yuvraj

ANANT KAUR

Yuvraj Singh wants M.S. Dhoni to have the privilege of deciding when to announce his retirement from cricket.

"He needs to decide when he wants to go out," said Yuvraj. "If he wants to play, you got to respect that. He has been the most successful Indian captain, so you got to give him time. His replacement is going to take lot of time.'

On Rishabh Pant, the replacement for Dhoni, Yuvraj did not appreciate the comparison. "I think it's a bit unfair to compare (Pant) with MS. It took a lot of years to become MS. It will take years to become Rishabh Pant. He is the most-talented wicketkeeper-batsman

He stood up for Pant. "I really don't know what is

happening. Why so much criticism," he wanted to

"Obviously need to get the best out of him. You need to understand his character, psychology and work accordingly; if you are going to suppress it, then you can't get the best out of

Yuvraj added, "Need to understand and encourage him. The problem in our country is, the moment a guy is not doing well everybody starts criticising him. I would rather be very keen to talk and understand as to what he is saying rather than attacking him."

Citing his own example, Yuvraj said, "Unfortunately, there was no one to tell me. Today young guys are getting a lot of money and they need to be told how to go about their lives. The guy (Pant) has a lot of potential.'



more time to blossom the way M.S. Dhoni did. ■FILE РНОТО

Kushagra causes a ripple; Srihari, Maana clinch backstroke gold

SWIMMING

N. SUDARSHAN

Kushagra Rawat was the star for India with two golds on the opening day of the Asian Age Group swimming championship at the Padukone-Dravid Center for Sports Excellence here on Tuesday.

The 19-year-old, who has already achieved the B-mark Olympic Standard Time in 800m freestyle, set a new meet record by clocking 8:10.05s. But it was his performance in the 200m freestyle earlier in the evening, where he pipped Syrian opponent by three-hundredths of a second, that caught the eye. His timing of 1:52.30s was a new personal best, better by 0.6



Double delight: Kushagra Rawat won the 200m and 800m freestyle. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"I caught up in the last 75 metres," said Rawat. "I saw the person next to me and pushed. I believed I had so much left in me so I just went all out. I wanted to go 1:501:51 but happy with 1.52. It was the first [individual] gold

Elsewhere, Srihari Nataraj

for India and I'm really hap-

and Maana Patel claimed golds in the men's and wo-

50m backstroke events. While Srihari came home in 25.30s, Maana finished in 29.92.

Relay team, Shaon win

India's other two gold medals on the day came in the men's 4x100m freestyle relay (Srihari, Anand Anilkumar, Sajan Prakash and Virdhawal Khade) and through Shoan Ganguly in the Group II boys' 200m individual medley.

The hosts also had six silver and six bronze to take its first day tally to a creditable

The results (Indians unless specifed):

Open category: Men: Freestyle: 200m: 1. Kushagra Rawat 1:52.30s, 2. Abbas Omar (Syr) 1:52.33; 3. Anand Anilkumar 1:54.19; 800m: 1. Kushagra Rawat 8:10.05 (NMR; OR: Lam Quang Naht, 8:13.13, 2017), 2. Chang Cheng Li Wei (Tpe) 8:20.14, 3. Abbas Omar (Syr) 8:31.64; Backstroke: 50m: 1. Srihari Nataraj 25.30, 2. Atayev Merdan (Tuk) 26.30, 3. Chograthin Kasipat (Tha) 26.36; Breaststroke: 100m: 1. Vladislav Mustafin (Uzb) 1:01.41, 2. Denis Petrashov (Kyr) 1:01.88, 3. S.P. Likith 1:02.19; 200m IM: 1. Ketin Nuttapong (Tha) 2:06.29, 2. Sajan Prakash 2:07.24, 3. Sukkieo Phuwadon (Tha) 2:08.21; 4x100m freestyle: 1. India 3:23.72, 2. Iran 3:28.46, 3. Uzbekistan 3:30.59. Women: Freestyle: 200m: 1. Junkrajang Natthanan (Tha) 2:02.89, 2. Shivani Kataria 2:05.75, 3. Yamsuan Fonpray 2:05.80; 800m: 1. Junkrajang Natthanan (Tha) 9:14.25, 2. Teeka Katawan (Tha) 9:23.69, 3. Shivani Kataria 9:27.62; Backstroke: 50m: 1. Maana Patel

29.92, 2. Boonamphai Saovanee (Tha) 30.29, 3. Nimdam Kanitta (Tha) 30.39: Breaststroke: 100m: 1. Vu Thi Phuong Anh (Vie) 1:11.84, 2. Boonamphai Saovanee (Tha) 1:12.45, 3. Srisa Ard Jenjira (Tha) 1:12.49; 200m IM: 1. Pawapotako Phiangkhwan (Tha) 2:21.41, 2. Wong Ching Lam Athena (HKG) 2:22.42, 3. Nimadam Kanitta (Tha) 2:23.96; 4x100m freestyle: 1. Thailand 3:54.29, 2. India 4:00.76, 3. Hong Kong 4:08.64.

Other Indian medallists (number denotes position): Group I: Boys: 4x100m freestyle: 3. 3:33:52; Girls: 50m backstroke: 3. Suvana Basker 30.32

Group II: Boys: 4x100m freestyle: 2. 3:41:49; 200m freestyle: 2. Shoan Ganguly 1:55.18; 50m backstroke: 2. Sahil Laskar 28.11; 200m IM: 1. Shoan Ganguly 2:11.18; Girls: 50m backstroke: 3. Ridhima Kumar 30.64.

India suffers embarrassing defeat against Japan

Dominant Australia brushes aside Philippines; South Korea, China register wins

BASKETBALL

ASHWIN ACHAL

Japan crushed India 103-27 on the opening day of the FI-BA Women's Asia Cup Division-A basketball tournament at the Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium here on Tuesday.

The defending champion proved to be superior to India in every department of the game.

The trademark Japanese offensive speed left India gasping, and tight defence gave the home team little option but to attempt wild shots and layups.

Himawari Akaho was the

star performer of the match, recording 23 points. Point guard Rui Machida kept the action at a hectic pace, and spread the ball well.

Perfect fast-break play

It was Akaho who got Japan on the scoreboard, with an early corner three-pointer. Only a few seconds later, skipper Maki Takada found herself without company under the board to complete a perfect fast-break play.

It was a pattern that repeated itself countless times in the encounter.

The Japan unit was not quite the well-oiled machine seen in the previous edition, but on the day, it was enough to coast to victory

For India, Shireen Limaye (11 points) stood out. Shireen, the hero of India's victorious Division-B campaign in 2017, was unafraid to drive through the lane and take a few bumps. In total, India managed to

goal attempts (17.9%), and one of 12 three-point shots India next takes on South Korea - another tough

convert only 10 of 56 field-

Group-A opponent – on Wednesday. Earlier, a dominant Australia dismissed Philippines

123-57 in Group-B.

No less than eight Australian players made double-digit scores. Ezi Magbegor the 12th pick in the 2019

WNBA draft - topped the charts with 18 points.

The results:

Group A: South Korea 48 (Minjeong Kim 10) bt Chinese Taipei 44 (I-Hsiu Cheng 10)

Japan 103 (Himawari Akaho 23, Sanae Motokawa 16, Saki Hayashi 11, Evelyn Mawuli 11, Moeko Nagaoka 10) bt India 27 (Shireen Limaye 11)

Group B: Australia 123 (Ezi Magbegor 18, Jenna O'Hea 17, Cayla George 11, Sara Blicavs 11, Bec Allen 11, Abby Bishop 11, Steph Talbot 11, Lauren Marie Nicholshon 10) bt Philippines 57 (Gemma Miranda 17, Afril Bernardino 15).

China 67 (Yuan Li 13, Shao Ting 13, Tongtong Wu 10) bt New Zealand 44 (Micaela Cocks



Stealing the thunder: Japan's star performer Himawari Akaho recorded 23 points against India. • K. MURALI KUMAR