

Jamshed pulls out of tour

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Pakistan opener Nasir Jamshed will return home after pulling his hamstring in the first match of the one-day series against Australia, team manager Yawar Saeed said Sunday.

The 19-year-old left-handed batsman suffered the injury while fielding, and batted with a runner during Pakistan's four-wicket win in Wednesday's match. He managed just nine runs.

Jamshed was replaced by Ahmed Shahzad in the second match Friday, which Australia won by six wickets to level the five-match series one-all. The third match will be played Monday.

"It's unfortunate that Jamshed will have to return home on Sunday evening after it was diagnosed that his hamstring injury will take some time to heal. We have sought no replacement for him," Saeed told AFP.

Jamshed, who made his international one-day debut last year, has missed a second series in succession. Last year he was withdrawn on the eve of team's departure for the West Indies after suffering dengue fever.

Jamshed has played 10 one-day matches for Pakistan.

Australian opener Shaun Marsh was also sent home after pulling a hamstring during Wednesday's match. Australia have brought in Marcus North as Marsh's replacement.

Dilshan

FROM PAGE 17 wicket with Indian Virat Kohli (22).

BRIEF SCORES

BANGALORE ROYAL CHALLENGERS: 149-7 in 20 overs (Pietersen 37, Boucher 36, Taylor 31, Kohli 22; Nehra 2-34)

DELHI DAREDEVILS: 150-4 in 19.2 overs (Dilshan 67*, Manhas 23*, de Villiers 21; Singh 2-31)

Result: Delhi win by six wickets.

Arsenal see

FROM PAGE 20 Trafford promises to be yet another epic encounter in a season that has been packed with them.

Despite the grim prospect of Championship football next season, Boro are stubbornly clinging to their Premier League status of 11-year standing and, at the start, they produced a fiercely determined performance.

For long periods they frustrated Arsenal, while maintaining a threat on the counter-attack, but the Gunners' class finally told in the 26th minute.

Andrej Arshavin, who has already etched his name into Arsenal folklore in his first season after his stunning four-goal salvo at Liverpool in midweek, broke down the left to tee up Fabregas for a simple finish from ten yards.

And just as Boro were enjoying their best spell, Fabregas settled the match with 23 minutes left when he rounded onrushing goalkeeper Brad Jones.

Three in four

FROM PAGE 20 claimed points for Ferrari, so ending their hugely disappointing start to this season and avoiding the ignominy of recording their worst start in history.

Button's win was conjured up by team chief Ross Brawn who produced a commanding strategy from the pit wall.

It was a supremely-crafted victory by Button who started from fourth on the grid and delivered a masterly drive that proved he had the capacity to wring out a victory when it was not, as he predicted, a walk in the park.

It was another glorious day for the Brawn team, watched closely by Sir Richard Branson, head of the Virgin Group who are poised to become their major long-term sponsors.

Created out of the ruins of the defunct Honda outfit, Brawn are on top of the constructors title race with a clear advantage of 22.5 points ahead of Red Bull.

German Timo Glock finished seventh for Toyota, ahead of two times champion Spaniard Fernando Alonso of Renault, in eighth place.

Button leads Barrichello by 12 points in the drivers' standings, with Vettel one point further back in third.



Grameenphone's chief communications officer Rubaba Dowla (2nd from L) speaks during a press conference yesterday at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur in connection with the GP-BCB Academy Cup between the Academy side and the visiting Sri Lankan Development squad. Chief selector Rafiqul Alam (L), acting BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury (2nd from R) and Academy operations manager and former national captain Khaled Mahmud are also seen.

Onus on fast men

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Pakistan coach Intikhab Alam urged his pace spearheads to provide early breakthroughs to keep Australia to a low score in the third one-day international here on Monday.

The pace trio of Shoaib Akhtar, Umar Gul and Rao Iftikhar have managed just two wickets between them in the first two matches -- both by Gul -- allowing the Australians to win the second match in Dubai by six wickets on Friday.

The five-match series stands at 1-1 after Pakistan won the first match by four wickets, also in Dubai, on Wednesday.

Alam said it was important to get early wickets.

"We had just 207 on the board so it was important to get early wickets but we got just one and not more," Alam said of Pakistan's modest total which Australia surpassed for a loss of just four wickets.

Injury-plagued Akhtar, who has just one wicket to show for his last four one-dayers, played both games despite suffering from a viral infection but may be rested on Monday for all-rounders Sohail Tanvir or Yasir Arafat to

New look

FROM PAGE 17 unsuccessfully led City Club. But questions will be raised about the selection of batsman Kamrul Islam who played only a single first-class game for Barisal and in six Premier League matches he made 44 runs for Abahani.

Jahurul Islam, Marshall Ayub, Farhad Hossain, Raihanuddin Arafat and Arafat Salahuddin were also retained but batsmen Nasir and Nadif are suffering from jaundice. Farhad is also suffered from the same illness but his form in the NCL was satisfactory. He played only three games for Mohammedan Sporting Club in the Super League of the Premier competition.

Mahmud also informed that none of the 15-man squad would take part in the big-money Port-city Cricket League that begins on May 2.

The second four-day match will also be held in the port city before the teams move to Sylhet to play the first

with Michael Hussey and Mitchell Johnson -- singled out fielding as the grey area. "We were sloppy in the field on Friday, so we must improve on that in the coming matches," said Clarke, who has pacemen Stuart Clark and Ben Hilfenhaus in reserves -- one of whom may come in for Ben Laughlin.

The remaining two matches will be played here on May 1 and 3. The only Twenty20 international is scheduled for Dubai on May 7.

Alam praised his spinners and singled out leg-spinner Shahid Afridi, who took a career-best 6-38 in the first match, for his excellent bowling.

"Afridi is one player whose abilities have not been properly utilised. He has extraordinary talent and we want him to bowl like the way he bowled on Wednesday," said Alam.

Afridi returned figures of 2-38 in the second match, completing his 250 one-day wickets in 273 matches.

Australian captain Michael Clarke said he looked forward to playing in Abu Dhabi.

"We have not played in Abu Dhabi before, so the team looks forward to playing there and continuing with the winning ways, as we always want to win a game whatever form we are playing in," said Clarke.

Clarke, standing in for regular captain Ricky Ponting -- rested for this series along

three one-day matches. The last two one-dayers will be held at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium. The team for the limited-overs series will be announced later.

SQUAD GP-BCB NCA: Marshall Ayub (captain), Jahurul Islam (vice-captain), Nasiruddin Faruque, Imtiaz Hossain, Arman Hossain, Farhad Hossain, Suvagata Hom, Raihan Arafat, Saqlan Sajib, Rabiul Islam, Shafiul Islam, Arafat Salahuddin, Mukhtar Ali, Kamrul Islam, Shafaq Al-Jabir.

S L C D E V S Q U A D : M u t h u m u d a l i g e Pushpakumara (captain), Mahela Udawatte, Lahiru Thirimanne, Kanchana Gunawardena, Gihan Rupasinghe, Milinda Siriwardena, Kaushal Silva, Ashan Priyanjana, Nuwan Pradeep, Chanaka Welagedara, Isuru Udara, Thisara Perera, Suranga Lakmal, Ranesh Perera, Suraj Mohammed.

ITINERARY

Table with 3 columns: DATE, MATCH, VENUE. It lists dates from Apr 30 to May 22 and corresponding matches and venues like Ctg Divisional Stadium and Sylhet Divisional Stadium.

Henry rescues point

FROM PAGE 20 120 seconds later when Hernandez played a neat one-two before slotting home.

Henry came on for Seydou Keita just after the hour and forced a fine save from Sanchez.

Sanchez was at fault for the equaliser four minutes from time, however, failing to punch clear and Henry lobbed the ball in.

Real travel to Sevilla on Sunday when all eyes will be on coach Juande Ramos as he returns to his old club, where he won successive UEFA Cups in 2006 and 2007, for the first time.

Ramos and Real are still reeling from a 10-match ban handed out to Portuguese defender Pepe on Friday for violent conduct in the 3-2 win over Getafe last week and the player will now sit out the remainder of the season.

Earlier on Saturday UEFA Cup rivals Deportivo La Coruna and Malaga shared the points in a 1-1 draw with Malaga left the more disappointed after missing an 88th minute penalty.

Deportivo goalkeeper Daniel Aranzubia dived to his right to save Apono's late spot-kick.

Malaga, the surprise package of the season after being promoted, stay a point above Deportivo in sixth place.

Elsewhere, time is running out for Numancia to save themselves from an immediate return to the second division with the Soria club losing 2-1 at Almeria to stay bottom, five points from safety.

Numancia sensationally beat Barcelona 1-0 on the opening day of the season but have found the tough going ever since.

Indian duo sent home

CRICINFO, undated

Kolkata Knight Riders have asked the senior pair of Aakash Chopra and Sanjay Bangar to return to India since they do not fit in the present "scheme of things". The decision was taken after discussions between coach John Buchanan and the team management while the players were not "happy" they accepted the decision.

Both Chopra and Bangar, along with a few injured players will board a flight from Cape Town on Monday.

"These (Chopra and Bangar) are two very good senior international players so John Buchanan and the team management thought that if they are not going to have the opportunity [to play] it is unfair to keep them around," Joy Bhattacharya, Kolkata CEO, said.

Bangladesh however survived a late scare but Wali Faisal brought the relief as he made a goalline save by foiling the header of Kouch to keep the 1-0 lead intact while Enamul missed a chance in the dying moment to improve the scoreline.

Dido was courageous enough to include four newcomers in the match and he was happy with the debutantes' performance.

"May be the four debutant are weak mentally but there is no doubt about their quality and skill," said Dido when asked to comment on his four first-time players -- Emon Mahmud, Mamun Miah, Nasir and Mezbaul Haq Manik.

Cambodia coach Prak Sovannara said that it could have been different story if his side could have capitalised on an early chance.

"Unlucky because they also got chances and an early strike could have changed the scenario. I am happy as my boys never gave up the fight in the entire match," said Prak.

Yellow cards: Arman, Mamunul and Manik (Bangladesh), Sovannarith (Cambodia).

TEAMS BANGLADESH: Aminul, Nasir, Mamun Miah, Rajani, Arman, Faisal, Mamunul (Parvez), Meshu, Manik, Limon (Zahid), and Enamul.

CAMBODIA: Samreth Seiha, Kim Chan Bunrith, Lay Raksmei, Tieng Tiny, Pok Chan Than, Khim Borey (Keo Sokngorn), Teab Vathanak (Khuon Laboravy), Kouch Sokumpheak, San Narith (Ly Ravy), Sovannarith and Sam El Nasa.

Referee: Saied Mozaffari (Iran).

LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17 out) by 37 runs.

GAIBANDHA FOOTBALL Our Correspondent: Eleven Star Club crushed Gaibandha CCC 5-1 in the First Division League at the local stadium.

Palash, Ataur, Shahid, Romel and Sarwar each scored once for the winners in the first half.

In today's match, Asad Sporting Club take on Samannay Sangha.

Great to

FROM PAGE 17 "I am too old to worry about my critics," he said jokingly. "There are too many of them (critics) so I just enjoyed being out there and the win was a great feeling after losing the first game.

"I wasn't in the side so it's a nice feeling to score a fifty," Symonds said it was frustrating to be left out of the team.

"There were many (feelings), mostly frustration, really. When the team was losing, you know it was frustrating to sit and watch and feel very helpless. I desperately wanted to be there (in the team)," said Symonds.

Despite not being in the best of form, Symonds was picked for the series against Pakistan as the selectors wanted to test him before the Twenty20 World Cup to be held in England next month and then the all-important Ashes.

"At his best Andrew is a dynamic one-day player with an outstanding record. It will now be up to him to seize this opportunity of playing against Pakistan," Australian chairman of selectors Andrew Hilditch said earlier this month.

Symonds agreed it was a very important series for him.

"Yeah, this is a very important tour for me, I have to do very well, I think, but more importantly it's important that the team do well, we haven't probably achieved as a team as much as we would have liked to," he said.

Asked whether the Ashes was on his mind, Symonds said: "I have to score a few runs and take wickets, so the first task is to perform here and then think ahead."

One-captain theory

Cricket

IAN CHAPPELL

The game of cricket has an amazing capacity to voice an opinion in subtle ways. It did so in the frenetic confrontation that followed the first ever IPL tie.

The nail-biting finish resulted in a Super Over shootout between the Rajasthan Royals, the classic one-man-in-charge team, and the Kolkata Knight Riders, a side currently experimenting with the concept of multiple leaders.

Not surprisingly, the mercurial Royals' captain, Shane Warne, opted for a daring ploy. He bowled a tyro in the drama-filled situation - Kamran Khan, who eventually prevailed over the Knight Riders' internationally acclaimed Ajantha Mendis.

It's worth pondering the machinations that led to Warne anointing Kamran to bowl the match-deciding over to a highly explosive Chris Gayle.

A good leader empowers his players; he endows them with the confidence to believe in their own ability and to be prepared to take a risk. When Warne opted to bowl Kamran for only one over in an IPL trial match in Cape Town (so as to not advertise the unorthodox slinger's attributes), he empowered his player. Here was a complete unknown being paid a huge compliment by his captain, one of the best bowlers the game has ever seen. If Warne correctly judged Kamran's temperament, he was assured of that extra effort from the tyro in an hour of need.

Before they reached the Super Over stage, Kamran had already repaid his skipper's faith by taking three wickets in the innings, including the crucial one of Sourav Ganguly in the final, desperate over. Having then been awarded the onerous task of bowling the Super Over, Kamran had two choices: to wilt or raise his game. Warne had seen something in his young bowler that led him to believe it would be the latter.

Compare that style of management with the Knight Riders', where they nominate a captain but extol the virtues of multiple leadership. In Kamran's case he knows he's been anointed by Warne, but Mendis could easily be wondering if

he was chosen in a split vote by a committee. Imagine the discussion in the Knight Rider's camp. First, Brendon McCullum asks Gayle: "Who do you think should bowl?" And then he asks Ganguly and Brad Hodge and anyone else who might either have been co-opted onto the committee or wandered past at the appropriate time and voiced an opinion.

Eventually McCullum hands the ball to Mendis. After watching the consultation process Mendis is entitled to ask, as an Indian batsman once did when he was selected to replace an injured team-mate against an Australian Test side that included Jeff Thomson: "Why me?" Any doubts Mendis might have harboured about succeeding in such a pressure-cooker situation would have been elevated the moment he was handed the ball after a committee meeting.

Kamran on the other hand had already been empowered by Warne before the tournament started. Now here was his illustrious skipper maintaining his faith with a gesture that screamed loudly: "I believe you can win this match."

Warne had the advantage of having already attained right royal miracle-worker status for Rajasthan. Once a team believes a captain can guide them home in a tight situation, there's a fair chance it'll become a self-fulfilling prophecy. Warne succeeds more often than not in tense situations because he's brave enough to seek victory rather than wait for it to come knocking on his door.

In the case of the Knight Riders' multiple-leadership experiment, the players aren't exactly sure who is putting faith in their ability. Is it McCullum alone or was it decided by a split vote?

At times of high tension on a cricket field the players look to the captain to show them a successful way through the fog. That calls for a clear and positive thinking leader. At such a crucial time the last thing a captain needs is to have his train of thought derailed by input from three co-captains.

The Super Over shootout emphasises the need for a team to have a strong-minded man in charge; one man. Or at least that's the way the cricket gods appeared to want in Cape Town. (The former Australian captain wrote this on Cricinfo website).

Hauritz relishes contest

Cricket

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Australian off-spinner Nathan Hauritz said Sunday he was relishing the challenge of bowling against Pakistan's batsmen, who were adept at playing slow bowlers.

The 27-year-old took three key Pakistani wickets to help Australia bowl their rivals out for a modest 207 in the second match in Dubai on Friday.

Australia won the match by six wickets to level the five-match one-day series one-all. The third match will be played here Monday.

Hauritz, who went wicketless in Pakistan's four-wicket win in the first match in Dubai Wednesday, said it was a great challenge to play Pakistan.

"It is great to bowl on these wickets and against these guys, who are great players of spin under these conditions," Hauritz said after his team's

practice session. Hauritz said Australia were focused on winning the series.

"Australia haven't won a series since beating Bangladesh (last year) and have struggled to win even two matches in a row, so the focus is on consistency," said Hauritz, who has taken 20 wickets in 16 one-day matches.

Australia have lost twice to South Africa -- both home and away -- and squandered a series against New Zealand last year to lose their number one rankings in limited overs cricket.

South Africa now top the one-day ranking, followed by Australia.

"We've played some good cricket in patches and it would be great to string a few (wins) together," said Hauritz. "We're not far off and there's some good players back in and guys finding form."

"It's always a good habit, winning. It's definitely been a rebuilding phase in the one-day set up for Australia in the

last 12 to 18 months, and to have guys like Roy (Andrew Symonds) and Shane Watson back, and Stuart Clark is fantastic for the side."

Australia rested regular captain Ricky Ponting, Michael Hussey and Mitchell Johnson for this series. Michael Clarke is leading the team with Symonds, Clark and Watson back after missing most of last year.

Watson and Clark are recovering from fitness problems, while Symonds was left out on disciplinary violation.

Clash over

FROM PAGE 17 Later, supporters of both clubs attacked each other with rods and sticks, leaving twelve injured from both sides.

On information police rushed in and brought the situation under control. The injured were admitted to Laxmipur and Noakhali Sadar Hospitals.



State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarkar (C) gives away sporting goods to a player of Bangladesh national table-tennis team during a ceremony at the National Sports Council conference room yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include: 1. Ruin the veneer, 27. Two in duration, 41. Rotation sense, 9. Non-Tijuana, 10. Wilde-beest, 4. Turf Dieler's DOWN, 7. Asian entree, 1. Ripple pattern, 12. Entanglements, 30. "Gee", 2. Help a prankster, 14. Diner employee, 8. Garden intruder, 33. "You be!chah", 15. Foreman toe, 10. "Peer Gynt" composer, 4. Whale, 19. Pale, 11. Go ashore, 36. Checked variety, 20. Still, 13. Where the Tar, 37. Like an old postal, 16. Hawaiian music-maker, 38. Mah-jongg lingo, income for, 17. Rock opera, 39. Therefore, 25. Egos' counter-parts, 40. Roulette successsor, 26. Sculpting mediums, 28. Subway entrance, 19. Courts, 29. Playful a part, 20. Bigfoot's cousin, 30. Unclean, 31. Destroy, 21. Metallic noise, 32. "Yo!", 23. Senses, 34. Eastern potentate, 25. Unyielding, 35. Old Italian money, 26. Minimal change.

Cryptic crossword puzzle grid with clues: GP XQT ED CJBXGA BBA, QAIGAD PDARGAH HBLD, YNDA, G MTCCQMD XQT LGHNY, FD TMGAH B R X FDE MBFDE.

Yesterday's Crypticquip: AWARE THAT IT WASN'T DOING ANYTHING USEFUL AT ALL. ONE TREE YELLED TO ANOTHER "GET A LEAF!" Today's Crypticquip Clue: T equals U