Tall task for Academy

SPORTS REPORTER

GP-BCB National Cricket Academy will have to bat out the last day with nine wickets in hand after the Sri Lanka Development side set them a stiff target on the third day of their four-dayer at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

Left-handed opener Nasiruddin Faruque (33*) and Sahagir Hossain (1*) remained unbeaten as the home side were 62 for one at stumps in their second innings. The tourists set them 438 for victory after declaring their second innings at 178-9.

Jahurul Islam fell to seamer Suranga Lakmal after the tall right-hander made a patient

On a day when three innings of the match were played out, GP-BCB Academy were first bowled out for just 164 in their first innings, trailing by 259 runs. Then the Lankans came out with swinging blades but the Academy bowlers made sure they never got away with it.

Pacemen Rabiul Islam and Shafiul Alam and left-armer Saglain Sajib all took three wickets each as the visitors batted for 45.1 overs in the second dig.

Warne out for ten days

PTI, Kimberley

Defending champions Rajasthan Royals were dealt a massive blow as captain coach Shane Warne was on Monday ruled out of the Indian Premier League for the next ten days owing to a hamstring injury.

The Australian was injured while fielding in their lost match against Deccan Chargers last night, making him unavailable for the rest of the team's campaign unless his side makes the final.

The Jaipur-based outfit needs to win all its remaining games to make the semifinals and Warne's absence would severely hurt the team's hopes of advancing to the knock-out round, especially in the wake of two successive losses.

South African captain Graeme Smith is most likely to lead the team in Warne's absence.

Besides, the team has also lost pacers Kamran Khan and Amit Singh due to suspect

bowling action. Rajasthan Royals director of coaching Darren Berry has reportedly said: "I think it is a balancing act that will be our focus to get it right. We can field just four overseas players and it is a difficult thing to manage. We have now put

Psychologist for Pakistan players

ourselves under pressure."

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan's cricket team has enlisted the help of a motivational psychologist to try to boost player unity and mental strength ahead of key matches, coach Intikhab Alam said Tuesday.

Following the lead of teams like Australia, India and Sri Lanka -- all of which have employed sports psychologists -- Alam said he believed the new hire would help the team ahead of the World Twenty20 tournament in England in June.

"We have hired the services of Dr Maqbool Sabri, who is a specialist in motivating people for better teamwork, unity

and passion," Alam told AFP. "I hope this will help the players get more focussed in the major events like the T20

World Cup." Alam said the psychologist will have one-to-one sessions

with the players next week during training in Lahore, adding that he thought greater mental strength might give his cricketers the edge. "This is one area where we

lag behind other teams like Australia and South Africa,' said Alam, whose team lost a five-match one-day series against Australia 3-2 in the United Arab Emirates last week.

Pakistan, however, won the one-off Twenty20 match against Australia by seven wickets in Dubai last Thursday.

Pakistan, who finished runners-up in the inaugural Twenty20 World Cup held in decided to take away Pakistan's 32, Ryder 22; Kartik 2-28) South Africa in 2007, is among the top favourites for the second World Twenty20 event to be held from June 5-21.



with captain

Pakistan chief selector Abdul

Qadir rubbished media

reports claiming he had seri-

ous difference with captain

Younus Khan and the duo was

Lahore that he was very upset

after reading media reports

about a 'serious dispute' with

Younus over the selection of

the squad for the forthcoming

It is not true that we are not on

talking terms. I have been in

touch with Younus on a regu-

lar basis over selection mat-

ters. There are no serious

differences between us," an

view in selection matters and

the purpose of taking the cap-

tain and coach into confidence

is to reach a consensus after

aware why the media was

trying to give the impression

that he and Younus were not

claimed that Younus and

Qadir got into a deadlock in

Abu Dhabi while finalising the

squad for the World Cup and

in the end the captain used his

veto power to get his team.

SPORTS REPORTER

Cox's Bazar.

Beach v'ball

Thailand and Australia will

play the men's final of the 2nd

Asian Beach Volleyball

Tournament at Laboni Point in

Australia beat Sri Lanka-B2-

0 in the first semifinal while

Thailand bettered Sri Lanka-A

in the second semifinal also by

2-0 yesterday to reach the final.

Media reports had earlier

Qadir said he was not

proper discussions," he said.

"Everyone has a different

upset Qadir said.

getting along.

"These reports are not true.

ICCTwenty20WorldCup.

Qadir told reporters in

not on talking terms.

PTI, Karachi

Sri Lanka Development batsman Mahela Siriwardena defends the ball during his blazing 64 against GP-BCB National Cricket Academy on the third day at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

Indians miss the stars

AFP. New Delhi



A new shopping mall on the outskirts of New Delhi is the closest that fans of the city's IPL cricket team get to attending a home game this year.

In an open-air square between fashion shops such as Manchester United. and chain restaurants, a huge screen shows every Delhi Daredevils match live from South Africa to a few hundred cheering supporters.

The loss of the Indian Premier League abroad this year has dented public support for the tournament, which in its inaugural season last year attracted massive fan loyalty to its eight citybased teams.

"Last year was great, and everyone was watching every evening," Shashank Sharma, an 18-year-old student, said. "But this time there is less excitement.

"It is better when there are Indian crowds in the stadium, they are very noisy."

Sharma watched the match at the mall with six of his friends, as huge speakers blared out the commentary and loud music.

Every time the Daredevils -- led by captain Gautam Gambhir -- took a wicket or scored a boundary, four scantily-clad, female dancers jumped onto a stage in front of the screen to lead the celebrations. Organisers were forced to move the five-week

event out of India due to its clash with general elections, which meant security arrangements partner for the Delhi Daredevils. could not be made for the cricketers. With the action exported to South Africa, inter-

est among India's massive cricket following has not matched last year's event -- even though games have been scheduled in television prime time. Viewing figures were down in 18 of the first 27

matches compared with 2008, according to Audience Measurement and Analytics, an independent ratings company.

Last year the IPL's blend of dramatic, shortformat cricket and Bollywood glamour proved next year.

at Harmison

Cricket

Devon Malcolm, the former

England fast bowler, has criti-

cised Steve Harmison's outlook

and believes he should not have

an ECB central contract.

Malcolm attacked Harmison's

attitude as being 'too comfort-

able', saying the fast bowler

lacked the necessary drive to

Harmison speaks at certain

times. You shouldn't give guys

tract. I'm not speaking out

against central contracts per se

but there are certain characters

that make up a team and there

are certain ways to manage

them," Malcolm wrote for The

Wisden Cricketer's website.

"How I'm reading it at the

moment, it doesn't matter to

Harmison if he doesn't play

against West Indies or Australia

because he's still got a central

contract. At the back of his mind

Malcolm, who took 128

wickets in 40 Tests, was scath-

ing of Harmison's attitude. "As

a fast bowler you've got to get

out there and show you want to

play. It seems as if he's too

Piper, who will be assisted by

Taffazul Rizvi, the PCB's legal

board that they have been

targeted by certain members of

the ICC, who have used the

situation to their advantage. It

is believed that Pakistan are

willing to pursue the option of

Abu Dhabi and Dubai as a

'surrogate' host for Pakistan's

matches, though no official

In its legal notice to cricket's

governing body earlier, the

PCB called the decision to do so

discriminatory and "legally

flawed" after the ICC, at a

recent board meeting in Dubai,

matches. The move came after wickets.

Lankan team during their Taylor.

proposal has yet been tabled.

There is a feeling within the

advisor, the statement said.

comfortable. Fast bowlers are logical advantage."

he's an England player."

FROM PAGE 17

like Harmison a central con-

"I don't like the way

CRICINFO, undated

play for his country.

not comfortable people," he

said. "You've always got to be

striving because you know

you've got to be a firestarter.

You've got to be a force, men-

tally and physically. You've got

to have the confidence to be in

fragile at the moment. The

simplest little thing knocks

him off line. It seems he still

hasn't fully recovered from

that first ball he bowled in the

last Ashes series. I've never

heard Steve say that was a

for the Test at the Kensington

Oval after two lacklustre per-

formances in the Caribbean

series, and question marks

were being raised as to whether

to can rekindle the required

pace and hostility to lead the

attack. According to Malcolm,

Harmison should never play

for England unless he had use

dence to say: 'I want that new

ball. As an out-and-out fast

bowler that should be my

right," said Malcolm.

"Harmison as second-change.

No way! You're hiding him like

that. The opposition sees the

guy who is meant to be your

quickest bowler is not taking

the new ball and it's a psycho-

February-March tour, which

was itself the first major bilat-

eral contest in Pakistan since

October 2007. A number of

teams since then had refused

to visit in the wake of an unset-

tled and increasingly violent

KKR just can't

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS:

173-4 in 20 overs (McCullum

84 not out, Hussey 43; Kumar

BANGALORE ROYAL

CHALLENGERS: 176-4 in 19.2

overs (Taylor 81 not out, Kallis

domestic backdrop.

SCORES IN BRIEF

FROM PAGE 17

share of the World Cup Result: Bangalore won by six

terrorist attacks on the Sri Man-of-the-match: Ross

"He should have the confi-

Harmison, 30, was dropped

terrible day."

of the new ball.

"Steve just seems a little bit

the opposing batsman's face.

irresistible to millions of Indians for whom the games became an evening fixture and the biggest talking point in the country.

Sponsors hope the teams, including the Mumbai Indians and Bangalore Royal Challengers, will develop passionate fan bases similar to those enjoyed by British football side

SC Vohra, a retired diplomat, watched the Delhi Daredevils beat the struggling Kolkata Knight Riders on Sunday evening at the mall with his wife, son, daughter-in-law and grand-

"The big screen makes this a good place for a family evening out, but there is not the same atmosphere with the team playing so far away,'

"In theory it is the same on television wherever you watch it, but the IPL is about entertainment and they will have to be careful that interest doesn't decline year after year. The novelty factor has gone already."

Also among the crowd was Nani Kapur, a 25year-old who works in marketing.

"I went to the stadium to see the Daredevils last year and it was fantastic. The atmosphere around the tournament is less this year," she said.

"Of course people still watch it on TV but definitely the general mood is down. It can't be same without the team playing here."

One person counting the cost was Vicky Suri, a manager for Genesis, the official merchandise "We've lost a lot of sales, we can't deny it,' he

said. "We sell replica shirts for 600 rupees (13

dollars) and the games going outside India has been a real blow. "We sell a lot of goods at the stadiums and that opportunity has just disappeared. We've been shipping shirts to South Africa, but that

very expensive. "I just hope there will now be a hunger when the teams finally come back home and play here

Malcolm lashes Rohit vying for purple

cap? PTI, Kimberley

Deccan Chargers captain Adam Gilchrist could not help but praise Rohit Sharma for his fine bowling efforts in the Indian Premier League (IPL), wondering his batting mainstay was fighting for the Purple Cap instead of chasing the Orange Cap for the highest run scorer.

Rohit took a hat-trick against Mumbai on May 6 and followed it up with three wickets for just 12 runs in Deccan's 53-run thumping of Rajasthan Royals here today and Gilchrist was all praise for the young Indian.

"Yeah, Rohit looks like fighting for the Purple Cap (for highest wicket taker) instead of Orange Cap. I was telling him like this after his hattrick. He was fantastic today also and every team would have loved to have a player like him," Gilchrist said after the match against Rajasthan Royals.

Ajmal sent to fix action

PTI, Karachi

Pakistani off-spinner Saeed Ajmal has been sent to Australia for a review of his bowling action under the supervision of biomechanic experts. The spinner, whose bowl-

ing action was reported after the second one-day international against Australia in Dubai on April 28, will undergo a scrutiny of his bowling by Dr Bruce Elliot. Elliot has worked in the

past with other Pakistani bowlers with bowling action problems including Shoaib Akhtar, Shabbir Ahmed and Shoaib Malik.

The Pakistan Cricket Board has made it clear that although Ajmal has been picked in the squad for the ICC Twenty20 World Cup, he would be replaced by a reserve player if his bowling action is not cleared by Elliot.

"Basically, his chances for the World Cup depends on what report the biomechanic experts give to us after the tests in Perth," one board official said.

Botha allowed to play CRICINFO, undated



Johan Botha, the South African vice-captain, has been given the green light to play in the World Twenty20 on condition he does not bowl his contro-

versial doosra. Botha was informed on Monday by South Africa's bowling coach, Vinnie Barnes, that tests had cleared his stock off-break, although his doosra remained under a cloud.

"I have been through the same thing before, where after a while I was retested and then allowed to carry on with it," Botha told Cricinfo. "But for me it is just a great relief to be cleared at last and able to play for South Africa at the once in the previous ODI in Cape Town. World Twenty20.

cent sure that you'll get through, but there is always that little bit of doubt until you finally receive the answer. I have not yet heard about the final results and the measurements, but I know they have said that I am not allowed to bowl the doosra at the moment."

Botha was reported by umpires Rudi Koertzen, Qadir talking Brian Jerling and Asoka de Silva after the fourth one-day international between South Africa and Australia for a suspect quicker ball and doosra. The spinner was subsequently tested at the University of Western Australia by professor Bruce

Elliott; the same biomechanist who examined Botha's action when he was last cited in 2006.

Elliott has since submitted his report on Botha to the ICC, but would not reveal whether any of the bowler's deliveries tested in excess of the legal 15 degree elbow flexion limit. Botha, though, confirmed he had received the green light to play in the World Twenty20 -- albeit without his doosra, suggesting the delivery was either borderline or above 15 degrees.

Though happy to abide by the decision preventing him from bowling the doosra, Botha said he was still unsure as to the circumstances in which he was reported in the first place. He insisted he did not bowl the doosra in the Port Elizabeth match against Australia, and only

"It has worked out like this now, so I have to "With this kind of situation, you're 90 per carry on with what I have," he said. "That's fine. I haven't really used it much in the last year. I didn't bowl it at all in the game they called me."

Elliott, meanwhile, confirmed he would test the action of Pakistan spinner, Saeed Ajmal, at the UWA facilities on Thursday. Ajmal was reported by officials Asad Rauf, Billy Bowden, Zameer Haider and Nadeem Ghauri after the second ODI against Australia in Dubai last month. Like Botha, Ajmal also possesses a doosra in his bowling arsenal.

"I expect the test will be similar to that of Botha," Elliott said. "They have similar issues."

Less cricket doesn't

FROM PAGE 17 the bat, over the last year. In 18 matches before the series, his highest score was 28. His bowling, though considerably improved, lacked wicket-taking penetration; in 11 ODIs against

established teams last year, he

picked up nine wickets. Pressure was building for his place in the side to be scrutinized. "I don't take or give pressure, no matter what anyone is saying about me. I knew I was backed by the coach, the captain and the team and that is all I needed."

But the form dip did spur him on to a more concentrated fitness and training regime. "It's come about through a lot of individual effort. I've worked really hard on my fitness levels. I used to be tired after bowling six to seven overs previously and then struggle. I've also concentrated in the nets on my lines and lengths because for a legspinner this is vital, especially in ODIs. Abdul Qadir [the chief selector] has helped with tips, though it is easy to listen and harder to

actually execute." Significantly, there were indicators of a revival in his batting fortunes. Though there was still no fifty, a couple of unusually responsible, properly constructed 40s stood out. The

fight to curb his instincts, Afridi said, goes on. "I have really fought with myself in the ground, talked to myself a lot during my batting. I've had to control myself because I need to score runs for the team -- that is the priority. I want to continue it in England, where I've had some success batting in county games. You need to counter the initial overs there but after that, conditions for lower-order guys like myself, are pretty good."

Lewis in the dock

AFP, London

Former England cricketer Chris Lewis went on trial Monday accused of smuggling more than 140,000 pounds worth of cocaine into Britain from St Lucia -- hidden in cans of fruit and vegetable juice.

The 41-year-old was stopped as he arrived at London's Gatwick Airport on December 8, 2008, carrying the drugs dissolved into five cans inside a black cricket bag, East Croydon Crown Court in London heard.

'Ryder didn't fight guards'

CRICINFO, undated

Jesse Ryder's manager has termed as "grossly exaggerated and inaccurate" reports of the New Zealand batsman being restrained by security guards in South Africa. Aaron Klee admitted that Ryder had broken his vow not to touch alcohol, but said there was no altercation with security guards.

Radio Sport and Newstalk ZB reported earlier today that Ryder, who plays for IPL franchise Royal Challengers Bangalore, had to be controlled during an off-field incident. "It's disappointing that these false and unverified rumours are being reported as fact by the media," Klee said in a statement. "Let's be fair to Jesse -- this is not a big issue. Jesse rang me and explained what happened several nights ago. He is disappointed that he drank after being off all alcoholfor over 100 days.

"But there was no security incident. We have already taken steps to make sure he has additional support during his time in the IPL.



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CRYPTOQUIP

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN ACTRESS

ONQ MTO GI'M HITEKTHIRPV?

DUNAWAY DRESSED UP AS ST. NICK LAST YEAR, I SUPPOSE FOLKS CALLED HER SANTA FAYE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals H

