

Sport

Rahul don't
worry be
happy

HYDERABAD, Jan 19: The national cricket selectors barring committee chairman Ramakant Desai said today that star middle order batsman Rahul Dravid should not get disheartened on being omitted from the Indian one-day team for the three-nation Independence Cup held at Dhaka recently, reports PTI.

The selectors Kishen Rungta, MP Pandove, Shivali Yadav and Sambaran Banerjee, who were here to witness the Deodhar Trophy league tournament between West and North Zone, felt that Dravid was an outstanding player in the Test matches but could not show his potential to the optimum in the one-day games. However, he should not get disheartened.

The selectors also came down heavily on cricket commentators Sunil Gavaskar and Ravi Shastri for their adverse comments during the Independence Cup with regard to selection of the team.

The members of the committee also asserted that they had not reprimanded Mohammad Azharuddin prior to the selection of the team at Mumbai recently for the one-day series against Sri Lanka.

Sheffield Shield allures Allan

PERTH, Jan 19: South African paceman Allan Donald said today he wanted to play at least one season of Sheffield Shield cricket with Western Australia, reports AFP.

Donald's comment followed his player-of-the-match winning haul of 4-29 in Sunday's limited-overs thrashing of Australia.

Infatuated by the pace and bounce of the WACA wicket, the firebrand speedster, like so many great fast bowlers before him, relishes the chance to bowl in Perth and is hoping to spend a summer with Western Australia once his illustrious international career finishes.

"I'd love to spend at least one season here," Donald told reporters.

"I know when we were here in 1992 it was a possibility and I dream of coming here and playing for Western Australia — it would be great."

Donald said he thrived bowling on a pitch where fast bowlers, more often than not, were rewarded if they proved too good for the batsmen.

"It's a good wicket where the ball really flies, the edges carry and fly at a good height and pace."

"It's definitely the best type of cricket wicket to play any match on. Test matches or one-day cricket."

Bowling with a stiff south-westerly at his back Sunday, Donald's delivery to oust Steve Waugh first ball was simply brilliant.

Aware that the Australian one-day skipper plays from his crease early, Donald fired in a full-pitched leg-cutter which Waugh tickled through to wicket-keeper Dave Richardson.

Earlier this season, the 31-year-old unleashed one of the fastest spells of bowling seen at the WACA in recent times in a tour match against Western Australia.

"In an explosive 90-minute stint after lunch on day three, Donald claimed 3-14 off nine overs.

Adam Gilchrist was struck on the helmet by a Donald thunderbolt, which mangled his grill and prompted the Western Australian and national side one-day wicket-keeper to joke that the delivery was "the quickest ball I haven't seen."

Sino goal a gold

BELJING, Jan 19: China is hoping for its first gold at a Winter Olympics from its squad of 61 skiers and skaters bound for the 18th Games in Nagano, Japan, Xinhua reported today, says AFP.

"What we need in Nagano is to make a breakthrough in Chinese winter sports, and that is to win a gold medal," Xu Sheng, head of the Chinese delegation told the official news agency.

Was it really cricket?

Almas Zakiuddin

The thrill of the Independence Cup final match between India and Pakistan in Dhaka on Sunday is likely to be tarnished somewhat by a question which appears to have been glossed over somewhat in the heat of the moment.

Why did the umpires allow play to resume in the 40th over after they had both clearly decided that the match was over because of bad light? It is abundantly clear that the two umpires walked off the field because they decided there was not enough light to continue the match. Decisions like these are evidently part of their job and have been taken countless times in cricket matches. Indeed, only several hours ago during the same match, the umpires had halted play because of insufficient light. At that time, they allowed the game to resume only after visibility had improved.

But this time, as the 40th over came round, and the umpires decided to call it a day, why did they go back on their decision?

Did they return because the light had improved? (If so, they were clearly in a different stadium, not Dhaka, where the light was fading — and fast!) Did they return because they had changed their mind? If so, what made them change their mind?

It is the norm for play to be called off due to inclement playing conditions, among which might feature rain, storm, bad light, mist, a wet pitch — anything which, in the view of the umpires, makes the game unplayable. It is also the norm for play to resume only when conditions improve.

So, if play had been stopped because it had started raining it would have been regarded as quite insane — and certainly not cricket — for the umpires to change their mind suddenly and decide that it was all right to play in the rain, after all.

When the umpires left the field, in the 40th over, they did so because of bad light. According to extremely well-informed sources, the two umpires in-

formed all concerned, including the organisers of the prize-giving ceremony, of their decision. In fact, one source who spoke on condition of anonymity claims that the Bangladesh Cricket Board had already started making arrangements to set up the podium for the prize giving, when they were told that play had resumed.

According to the informed sources who feel that the game was resumed for inexplicable reasons, the referee is not supposed to be involved in the traditional role of umpiring and hence played no part in making the decision to stop or to resume play. These sources noted that soon after the umpires walked into the pavilion, the ICC secretary, David Richards, was seen actively engaged in discussions with the umpires and other officials. A few moments later, the Indian batsmen began the walk back. They had actually started to walk back into the pavilion when they saw the umpires coming back and realised play was going to resume! We saw this, clearly, ourselves. That is why people have been wondering about what exactly happened.

Some people claim that the match had to resume, otherwise the crowd would have gone on the rampage. Exactly who made that decision, both to resume play and about the possibility of crowd trouble, is not however clear. The same sources claim that the police on duty were placed on alert, soon after play halted during the 40th over.

Other sources claim that the batting side refused to end the match and they were within their rights to do so — that it is the prerogative of the batting side to agree or disagree with the umpires' decision to end play.

They further claim that international cricket rules make it incumbent upon umpires to consult the batting side in a situation in which the batting side is about to lose the match because of bad light and/or the run rate. They say that the fielding side and the umpires have no say in deciding to call on.

The views expressed are entirely that of the author and are not necessarily endorsed by The Daily Star Sport either in part or full.

From the Sports Editor's desk

Cricket and much more

There is no official document or report (till date) either by the match referee or the umpires saying that the match on Monday was called off in the 40th over. Also, it may be noted, that when the umpires left the ground to "consult with the referee" if the match had been stopped after the 40th over. But, several paras later, the same crowd is praised as being "intelligent, enthusiastic and completely fair and applauding good cricket" —

This is contradiction within the article. At one stage it expressed fear that the crowd may have gone on "rampage" if the match had been stopped after the 40th over. But, several paras later, the same crowd is praised as being "intelligent, enthusiastic and completely fair and applauding good cricket" —

Clearly, the entire Dhaka stadium was not supporting any one particular team on Monday or at any stage in the tournament. There was never any threat of the whole crowd rising to "consult with the referee" and had declared "time out", taking advantage of which Rashid and his team left the ground to take some refreshments.

The Indian captain, Mohammad Azharuddin, talking to the press after the match, said that the umpires had left

What was obvious from the performance of the two teams till the last ball of the match on Monday was that they were both very much committed to the game and each was trying to give his best in the deciding final. The players of both India and Pakistan deserve kudos for always considering cricket more important than the outcome. In the end, cricket was the winner. Yes, it was cricket and much more.



Australia's Michael Klim displays his swimmer-of-the-meet trophy as fireworks light up the night sky over Perth during the closing ceremony of the World Championships on Jan 18.

—AP/UNB photo

As claimed in the article, it is not the prerogative of the batting side to "agree or disagree" with the umpires' decision to end play.

Officials from world swimming's governing body FINA tried to restore the balance, and might have succeeded.

But when four more Chinese were thrown out for using banned masking agents, their violations quickly overshadowed the competition.

Div I cricket Sports Reporter

CITY CLUB: 222 for eight in 45 overs (Irat Jahan 42, Liton 40, Munna 33, Russell 30 not out; Farid 2/27, Shaon 2/25, Shudha 2/49)

GULSHAN YOUTH: 163 all out in 36.4 overs (Mashukur Rahman 52; Majed Zufri 4/15)

Result: City Club won by 59 runs.

City Club recorded a resounding 59-run win over Gulshan Youth in a First Division cricket league match at the Dharmendra Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Batting first, City Club piled up a commanding total of 222 for the loss of eight wickets in their share of 45 overs.

Opener Irat Jahan scored highest 42 runs followed by a brey Liton 40 from middle-order batsman Liton and a workmanlike unbeaten 30 by Russel.

In reply, Gulshan Youth were skittled out for 163 in the face of some accurate bowling from City Club skipper Majed Zufri, who captured four wickets for only 15 runs in his niggling 7.4 overs.

Only Mashukur Rahman with an enterprising 52 off 59 balls fought a lost battle for Gulshan.

Guy Whittall fined

COLOMBO: Jan 19: Zimbabwe bowler Guy Whittall was fined half his match fee in the second Test against Sri Lanka for dissenting against a decision of the match referee, cricket officials said today, reported Reuters.

Match referee Raman Subba Row said in a statement put out by the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka that he had asked the two captains to tell their bowlers not to run to the wicketkeeper following an appeal without ascertaining the result.

"Guy Whittall did precisely that, which brought about his charge," Row said.

Row had cautioned the captains after the two sides appealed excessively in the second and final Test that ended on Sunday.

World swimming meet ends

PERTH: Jan 19: China's drug violations have cast a long shadow over the eighth World Swimming Championships which ended Sunday, dimming the glory achieved by the United States and Australia, reports AP.

Six Chinese were sent home in disgrace and the team managed only three gold medals as the United States, powered by Jenny Thompson's four golds, and Australia, led with four from Michael Klim, led the field at the start of a long lead-in to the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

Klim, named swimmer-of-the-meet following his two individual golds and two in the relay, will form the core of Australia's bid to claim supremacy in their home pool in two years.

Australia claimed seven gold, six silver and seven bronze in Perth to surpass its previous best performance in the 25-year history of the World Championships in Rome four years ago where it won nine medals, including four gold.

The Americans returned with 24 medals — 14 gold, five silver and five bronze.

Australia's concern is a lack of balance. Its women's team led the way in Rome, but won a sole gold in Perth, through 200-metre butterfly swimmer Susie O'Neill.

China won 12 of 16 gold medals in women's events in Rome, but its Perth campaign collapsed before the pool programme had even started.

When Australian Customs seized 13 vials of a banned human growth hormone in the bags of swimmer Yuan Yuan on arrival in Australia, the whole championship went into a fast tailspin.

Officials from world swimming's governing body FINA tried to restore the balance, and might have succeeded.

But when four more Chinese were thrown out for using banned masking agents, their violations quickly overshadowed the competition.

Norway defeated China 2-1 in the day's other game.

Dhaka triumph Azhar's treasure

know what transpired between the umpires and the match referee, but they came back and we carried no," he said, summing up the way he stood in the middle with Saurav Ganguly as the umpires and the Pakistan players walked off the field.

He complimented the efforts of Saurav Ganguly and Robin Singh as brilliant and said the

out) Robin was sent to take advantage of field restrictions. He and Saurav did extremely well.

Azharuddin, looking extremely relaxed after the complete turnaround in fortunes, did not like to ruminate over his omission for the Independence Cup tournament at home following the disastrous West Indies tour.

"Yes. It was sad, but can't keep thinking of that now, but I can only say winning this Cup is quite satisfying."

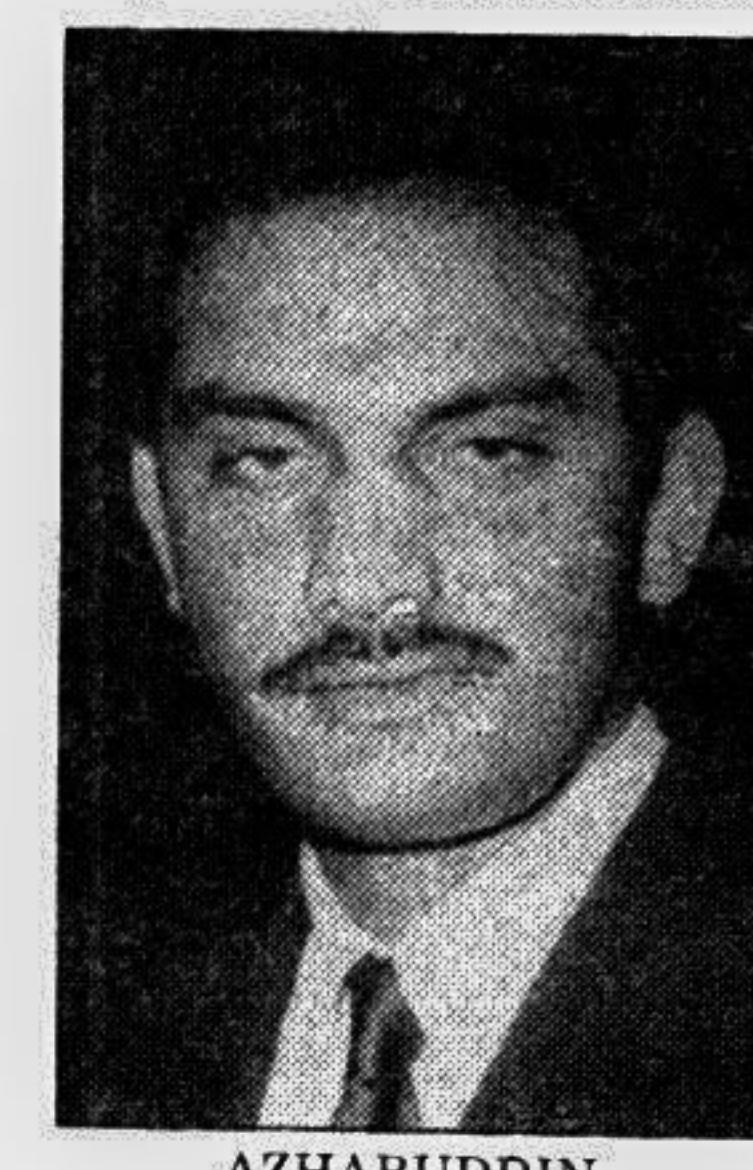
The 34-year-old said the most important point was to keep maintaining the competitive approach. "We have started the year on a winning note, hope to end it also the same way."

"We can only try our best. Once you're winning things are okay," he said, in a reference to the criticism that followed last year's dismal show.

He reiterated that Indian fielding and bowling had to improve drastically and welcomed the Indian board's move to bring in a physical trainer for the team. "Batting has also let us down, but it is quite steady now," he added.

Azhar said the win wiped out any mental block India may have had against Pakistan and agreed the win would mark a turnaround in India's approach in one-dayers.

"At this level all have to be mentally prepared. But we have been winning quite a few matches against Pakistan in the last two seasons. But we have to continue winning, that's the most important thing," he said.



AZHARUDDIN

cool approach of the young Hrishikesh Kanitkar helped India pull off the incredible win. Nayan Mongia, who knocked off nine runs in the 47th over, came in for special praise.

On Robin Singh's promotion which proved decisive, Azhar said, "at that point (ninth over) when Sachin Tendulkar was

Notice of RHD Inviting Tender

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| 1. | Tender Notice No : | 148 BRD of 1997-98. |
| 2. | Name of work : | Repairing & seal coat work at 4th KM and 5th KM of Taltai-Shastabadi-Fakirbari Road under Road Division, Barisal during the year 1997-98. |
| 3. | Estimated amount : | Tk 8,75,292/00 |
| 4. | Earnest money : | Tk 17,505/00 |
| 5. | Time allowed : | 20 (twenty) days. |
| 6. | Eligibility of contractors : | "A" to "C" class enlisted contractors under general category of Roads & Highways Department, "D" class enlisted contractors under general category of Barisal Road Circle, Barisal & "E" class enlisted contractors at Barisal Road Division, Barisal. |
| 7. | Name of offices where tender documents will be available : | Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Barisal/Patakhali/Bhola/Projipur/Planning Division (P&D), Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division, Bansal/Jhalakati/1st Line Workshop, Sub-Division, Barisal during office hours on all working days. No tender form will be sold on the opening date of tender. |
| 8. | Last date of selling of tender : | 20-10-1404B/2-2-98E. |
| 9. | Name of offices where tender bids will be received in sealed cover : | Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Barisal Zone, Barisal/Superintending Engineer, RHD, Barisal Road Circle, Barisal/Supervising Engineer, RHD, Monitoring & Evaluation Circle (P&D), Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Barisal/Patakhali/Bhola/Projipur. |
| 10. | Last date & time of receiving of tender bids in sealed cover : | Up to 12-30 PM on 21-10-1404B/3-2-98E. |
| 11. | Date & time of recording tender bids in sealed cover : | At 12-45 PM on 21-10-1404B/3-2-98E. |
| 12. | Date, time & name of office where tender will be opened : | At 11-00 AM on 29-10-1404B/11-2-98E. at office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Barisal Road Division, Barisal. |
| 13. | Lottery date & time : | At 11-00 AM on 30-10-1404B/12-2-98E. |

Md. Abdul Quddus-2
Executive Engineer, RHD, (CC)
Barisal Road Division

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| 2:00</ |