

Dravid dropped for SL tour

BOMBAY, June 5: India's middle-order batsman Rahul Dravid has been left out of the squad for a three-week tour of Sri Lanka, reports Reuters.

Dravid's omission in favour of Rajasthan opener Gagan Khoda was the only surprise in a squad of largely tried and trusted performers for the tour, which includes a triangular series involving New Zealand.

Khoda was given the nod over Dravid as he is seen as a quicker run gatherer in one-day games.

He was preferred to middle-order batsman Rahul Dravid because of his greater enterprise, Kishen Rungta, acting chairman of the five-member selection committee, said today.

A nagging pelvic injury ruled pace bowler Javagal Srinath out of contention.

The Indian attack is made up of three medium pacers in Venkatesh Prasad, Ajit Agarkar and Debasis Mohanty, and three slow bowlers in leg spinner Anil Kumble, Rahul Sanghvi (left-arm) and off-spinner Harbhajan Singh.

The team, led by Mohammad Azharuddin, leaves for Colombo on June 16, with the first match, against Sri Lanka, on June 19.

SQUAD

Mohammad Azharuddin (captain), Ajay Jadhava (vice captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Saurav Ganguly, Hrishikesh Kanitkar, Robin Singh, Nayan Mongia, Ajit Agarkar, Anil Kumble, Venkatesh Prasad, Rahul Sanghvi, Gagan Khoda, Debasis Mohanty, Harbhajan Singh.

SL 197 for 3

GALLE, Sri Lanka, June 5: Sri Lanka's latest batting discovery Mahela Jayawardena frustrated New Zealand with an unbeaten 88 as his team overtook the touring side's first innings total of 193 Friday, the third day of the second Test at the Galle cricket stadium, reports AP.

The home side ended the day at 197 for three. The 21-year-old Jayawardena occupied the crease for 177 minutes, hitting eight fours for the third successive half century in the series.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the second test between Sri Lanka and New Zealand on Friday.

NEW ZEALAND: First innings (overnight 122-5)

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets. Includes Young c Jayasuriya b Bandaraatilleke 46, Horne c Kaluwitharana b Bandaraatilleke 1, Fleming lbw b Dharmasena 14, Astle c Tilkeratne b Dharmasena 53, Vettori c Tilkeratne b Bandaraatilleke 0, McMillan b Bandaraatilleke 13, Parore c Jayasuriya b Dharmasena 30, Cairns c Jayasuriya b Dharmasena 0, Harris c Wickremasinghe b Dharmasena 4, Wiseman st Kaluwitharana b Dharmasena 23, O'Connor not out 0, Extras: (lb-7, nb-2) 9, Total (all out) 193.

Table with columns: Player, O, M, R, W. Includes Wickremasinghe 7 1 2 0, Dharmasena 24.1 4 72 6, Bandaraatilleke 38 13 47 4, Muralitharan 23 9 33 0, Jayasuriya 4 1 8 0, De Silva 5 2 6 0.

Table with columns: Player, O, M, R, W. Includes O'Connor 4 0 13 0, Cairns 5 0 20 0, Wiseman 16 1 63 1, Vettori 18 3 57 2, Harris 9 3 23 0, McMillan 7 2 13 0, Astle 1 1 0 0.

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WC friendly scores

UNDATED, June 5 (AFP/Reuters/AP) With France '98 less than five days away, some of the teams were involved in final warmups on Wednesday and Thursday before the World Cup kicks off on June 10.

BELGIUM-COLOMBIA A spectacular 30-metre drive from Marc Wilmots helped Belgium to a 2-0 victory over a disappointing Colombia in a dis-



Morocco's ace striker Salehaddin Bassir (L) chases Pedro Reyes of Chile during a World Cup warm-up match at Avignon, France on June 4. The game ended 1-1.

getting back into it. SPAIN-N IRELAND Spain thrashed Northern Ireland 4-1 in Santander on Wednesday.

The Irish defence was finally breached on 30 minutes thanks to a piece of astute play by Sergi Barjuan.

He caught the visitors sleeping when he released Raul with a quickly-taken freekick and the Real Madrid striker centred for Juan Antonio Pizzi to score.

Pizzi then netted his eighth through to score his third international goal in only his second game.

Morientes continued his fantastic start to his international career when he headed home Spain's fourth and his second in the 66th minute.

Agustin Aranzabal played a one-two with Alfonso before he crossed for the Real Madrid striker to turn the ball home.

CHILE-MOROCCO Marcelo Salas knocked in a header in the 90th minute to give Chile a 1-1 draw with Morocco Thursday night in Montelimar on Thursday.

Salas got his head onto a cross from Marcelo Vega to beat Moroccan keeper Abdelkader el-Braz, giving Chile the draw in a mediocre showing by both teams.

Mustapha Hadji gave Morocco the lead in the 61st minute, when his blast from inside the area beat Chilean keeper Marcelo Ramirez.

ROMANIA-PARAGUAY Romania made hard work of beating Paraguay 3-2 in Bucharest on Wednesday.

Romanian striker Adrian Ilie opened the scoring after four minutes following a defensive error before Jose Cardoso equalised in the 27th minute on another defensive error, this time by Cristian Dulca.

Gheorghe Hagi and Roberto Acuna both scored before Hagi, in fine form throughout the match, hit the winner from the spot in the 83rd minute after a foul by Francisco Arce on Gheorghe Craioveanu.

CROATIA-IRAN Croatia won 2-0 against Iran in Rijeka on Wednesday night thanks to goals from Robert Prosinecki and Davor Suker.

Prosinecki opened the scoring on 30 minutes for a 25 metre freekick and Suker, the top scorer of the Croatian side, scored in the 77th minute.

It was Iran's last friendly match before the finals, however Croatia meet Australia in Zagreb on Saturday.

Brussels on Wednesday.

The fresh setback for the talented south Americans came just four days after a comprehensive 3-1 defeat at the hands of Germany and will have done little to inspire fear in their France '98 rivals.

A Danny Boffin header and Wilmots strike led the Belgians in control after only half an hour and Colombia, who face England Romania and Tunisia in Group G, never looked like

goal on his 21st international appearance when he headed home Joseba Elxerria's corner in the 37th minute.

But then Northern Ireland surprisingly reduced the deficit when Santiago Canizares missed Michael Hughes' cross and Gerry Taggart headed home his seventh goal for his country.

Substitute Fernando Morientes, who replaced Pizzi at half-time, restored Spain's two-goal advantage when he reached

"Bonjour 98," the other way of experiencing the World Cup

Stephanie Rouget

From 10th June to 12th July 1998, at the beginning of the summer period, France will host the World Cup. All those involved in the tourist industry have been mobilised to receive foreign visitors and to have them discover the 36,000 communities, 100 departments, and 26 regions of festive France.

France and her touristic richness draw more and more people. From 61.5 million in 1996, the number of foreign tourists rose to more than 66 million in 1997. This summer, they will be joined by football supporters.

In the coming months, the stake will consist in creating the right conditions for successful celebrations for both the football fans coming to France but also for the tourists who are less concerned by this sport.

In order to meet this challenge, France is putting the stress especially on the quality of the reception given to foreign tourists.

It is a difficult task, and all the more so as an event such as the World Cup is often accompanied by various fears which are more or less founded, for instance saturated accommodation facilities, security problems, price rises and a breakdown in the quality of the reception given.

Concerning the first point, France is a large country. There is little likelihood of finding many supporters on top of the Alps, on country lanes, on the Normandy or Mediterranean beaches or at the Avignon Festival.

Professionals of the tourist industry are, however, aware of the stakes and the legitimate concerns of the tourist, and so, in the framework of the "Bonjour 98" campaign, have committed themselves to making France even more convivial by signing a "welcome-contract".

A "right price" campaign will also be implemented. A sign saying "Bonjour, je m'engage pour l'accueil" (Hello, I promise to receive you well) will enable tourists to identify hotels, restaurants and other traders taking part in this campaign.

Young people, who are fond of travelling widely but who have limited means, have not been forgotten. A pass for young people, called "pass-jeune" reserved for those under 25, will enable them to obtain reductions of between 10 and 15% on the prices advertised for accommodation, leisure parks, theme parks, museums, etc.

FOOTBALL BETWEEN TWO EXCURSIONS Even though the World Cup is not the main aim of many tourists, it can be pleasant to know the results of the latest matches or to watch one's favourite team on television.

Information points will be set up in reception areas (hotels, restaurant, cafes, etc.). A mobile stand will thus enable tourists to know the latest results.

Hotels showing foreign television channels will be indicated by a special sticker. Towns not directly taking part in the World Cup will be able to show the matches chosen on a large screen.

Besides the sporting competitions, towns and their tourist offices are setting up special events and festivities to be shared by all. Each of them has its own history, tradition, special features and an art of living which they will be keen to share with the thousands of visitors they will receive during summer 1998.

The last big event to take place in France goes back to 1989. It was the Bicentenary of the Revolution. 50 million foreign tourists visited France that year. Two years later, the positive image given by this great celebration acted as an incentive for more than 60 million foreign holiday-makers to choose France as their destination.

In 1998, there is no doubt that professionals of the tourist industry will meet this "revolutionary" challenge!



England 411 for 7

Star Sport Monitor England were 411 for seven just after tea on the second day of the first Test against South Africa at Edgbaston yesterday.

Former England skipper Michael Atherton failed to add to his overnight 103 and was out with the score still reading 249 for one.

Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the first cricket test between England and South Africa at Edgbaston on Friday:

Table with columns: Player, O, M, R, W. Includes England: Atherton c Kallis b Adams 103, Stewart c Cullinan b Klusener 35, Hussain lbw b Adams 35, Thorpe b Pollock 30, Ramprakash b Donald 49, Ealham b Adams 5, Cork not out 31, Croft not out 0, Extras: (b-17, lb-25, w-8, nb-2) 52, Total: (for 7 wickets in 169.5 overs) 411.

To bat: Gough, Fraser Fall of wickets: 1-179; 2-249; 3-309; 4-309; 5-329; 6-356; 7-411

Bowling O M R W Donald 29.5 9 66 7 Pollock 36 11 71 1 Klusener 31 7 74 1 Cronje 11 10 26 0 Adams 42 10 83 3 Kallis 20 7 47 0

SOUTH AFRICA: Liebenberg, Kirsten, Kallis, Cullinan, Rhodes, Cronje, Boucher, Pollock, Klusener, Donald, Adams.

Officials for France '98

PARIS, June 5 (AFP): Referees and linesmen for the World Cup finals: REFEREES: Abdul Rahman Al Zeid (USA), Efstathiou Baharmast (USA), Marc Batta (FRA), Said Belqola (MAR), Gunter Benko (AUT), Lucian Ousmane Bouchardeau (UG), Ali Mohamed Bujsaim (NAE), Javier Castellari (ARG), Pierluigi Collina (ITA), Hugh Dallas (SCO), Paul Durkin (ENG), Jose-Manuel Garcia Aranda (SPA), Gamal Ghandour (OEGY), Epifanio Gonzalez Chavez (PAR), Bernd Heynemann (GER), Edward Leriche (AUS), Nikolai Levnikov (RUS), Arifan Lim Kee Chong (MAL), Ian McLenn (RSA), Urs Meier (SWI), Manuel Melo Pereira (POR), Kim Milton Nielsen (DEN), Masayoshi Okada (JPN), Rune Pedersen (NOR), Ramesh Ramdhan (TRI), Marcio Rezende de Freitas (BRA), Arturo Sabrizio Carter (MEX), Mario Sanchez Yante (CHI), Albro Tejada Noriega (PER), John Jairo Toro Rendon (COL), Piron Un-Prasert (THAI), Laszlo Vagner (HUN), Mario Van der Ende (NED), Ryszard Wojcik (POL).

ASSISTANT REFEREES: Mohamed Ahmed Al Musawi (OMA), Evzen Amstl (CZE), Jorge Luis Arango Cardona (COL), Dramane Dante (MAL), Jorge Alberto Diaz Galvez (CHI), Youri Dupanon (BLR), Eddi Foley (IRE), Lenzie Fred (VAN), Celestino Galvan Soto (PAR), Hussein Ghadanfar (KUW), Merere Louis Gonzales (TRI), Mohamed Mansri (TUN), Gennaro Mazzei (ITA), Michael Nilsson (SWE), Arnaldo de Menezes Pinto Filho (BRA), Jacek Pociogiel (POL), Jacques Poudevigne (FRA), Owen Powell (JAM), Laurent Rausis (SUI), Claudio Anibal Rossi (ARG), Achmat Salle (RSA), Elias Salinas Rostran (HON), Erieh Schneider (PER), Aristides Chris Soldato (CUB), Luis Fernando Torres Zuniga (CRS), Fernando Tresaco Garcia (SPA), Marc van den Broeck (BEL), Mark Warren (ENG), Muhamad Wickermatunge Samarathna (SRI), Emanuel Zammit (MLT).

FRANCE '98 SIDELINES

UNDATED, June 5 (AP/Reuters): Norway, who have one of the best warmup records of all teams heading to the World Cup, arrived at their final training camp Thursday primed for their Group A opener against Morocco.

More than a dozen police from the Gendarmerie guarded the hotel entrance at Saint-Andre-des-Baux in northwest France hours before the Norwegian team bus, escorted by several police on motorcycles, arrived in the evening from Nantes airport.

Guards did not allow photographers or reporters near the hotel, which is situated next to a golf course and is off-limits to the media according to FIFA rules.

BRAZIL EUROPE'S CHOICE? Europeans are expecting Brazil to beat Germany in the World Cup final, a Dutch market research agency Nipo said today.

In a survey of 2,800 people in Belgium, France, Spain, Germany, Italy, Britain and the Netherlands, 24 per cent said they believed Brazil would win on July 12.

Germany and Italy were joint second favourites with 12 per cent of the poll, followed by France, England and Spain.

Argentina and the Netherlands tied in seventh place.

The survey said respondents had a bias towards their own nation, with an average 30 per cent predicting a win for their country.

Italians were the most optimistic — 52 per cent expected Italy to win — while the French were the most pessimistic, with only 17 per cent predicting a home victory.

Women were more patriotic than men. More men named

Brazil as likely winners.

SPANIARDS STIRRED UP Spain's players will receive bonuses of 19 million pesetas (126,000 dollars) each if they win the World Cup, the national soccer federation said.

Squad members have already received a bonus of four million pesetas each just for making it to France '98.

Each man will get an additional 15 million pesetas if Spain go on to win the final in Paris on July 12.

Just qualifying from their first round group will net each player a further three million pesetas, with the bonus increasing as the team progresses.

Making the semifinals will earn the players 6.5 million pesetas while the disappointment of losing in the final will be sweetened by a cheque for 10 million pesetas.

Spanish national coach Javier Clemente will be paid double the amount the players receive in bonuses.

Meanwhile, looking weary from traffic chaos both in the air and on the ground around Paris, the Spanish national side arrived at this chateau town just north of the capital to begin their final preparations for the World Cup.

An angry looking Javier Clemente showed no sign of satisfaction from his side's 4-1 victory Wednesday over Northern Ireland in a friendly and led his 22-man squad straight into the Hotel Blue Green without even a gesture of greeting to the waiting staff who had lined the steps to welcome them.

Spanish federation officials said the team was exhausted from delays at the airport due to the Air France pilots' strike as well as from the snarled traffic

from Charles De Gaulle airport to nearby Chantilly. Minutes after arriving, however, Clemente and several of his assistants left the hotel to inspect the nearby training ground, following reports that the pitch was in poor condition and did not meet FIFA's standard.

BBC CLEARS THE AIR The BBC vowed today its coverage of World Cup matches would go ahead as planned next week despite British newspaper reports that technicians were threatening to disrupt coverage.

The BECTU union, which represents BBC technicians and cameramen, has called a 24-hour strike for Tuesday, 24 hours before the World Cup kicks off in France.

The workers' one-day strike on Thursday hit the BBC's live TV and radio programming but it did not affect its coverage of the first cricket Test between England and South Africa.

MCDONALD'S BONUS Fast food chain McDonald's pledged today one million dollars to a charity if any player scores a hatrick in the final of the 1998 World Cup.

McDonald's, one of the sponsors of the competition, said the million dollars would go to a charity in the same country as the player who scores the three goals.

Only one hatrick has been scored in a World Cup final before, by England's Geoff Hurst in 1966, when England beat West Germany 4-2.

The money will be donated to a children's charity. McDonald's said 25,000 dollars would be donated for each first round hatrick, 50,000 dollars for a second-round hatrick, 100,000 dollars each in the quarter-finals and 250,000 dollars each in the semifinals.

High spirited Stoichkov

SOFIA, June 5: Striker Hristo Stoichkov said he was confident Bulgaria could qualify from their first round group and make further progress in the World Cup, reports Reuters.

"I am sure we will pass through the first round and bring joy to the Bulgarian people," Stoichkov said at a party with top politicians before the squad's departure for France.

Asked about the chances of the Bulgarians if they reached the second round, he said: "After the first round? God is a Bulgarian and he will be with us."

Stoichkov, 32, rebuffed criticism that Bulgaria was an ageing team, inferior to the one which surprisingly beat Germany to reach the semifinals in 1994.

"There are not old and young players" he said. "There are players who are able and not able."

The 1994 European player-of-the-year, who struggled with injuries last season joined CSKA Sofia to prepare better for the finals in France after his eight-year, long spell with Barcelona ended in March.

"I feel very well now. I am fit. I am looking forward to our first match against Paraguay on June 12," said Stoichkov.

Nothing going right for Lara

LONDON, June 5: Brian Lara's Warwickshire, one of the pre-season favourites for a domestic title, are in danger of a third defeat in five matches, reports Reuters.

They were forced to follow on 235 behind by Somerset in the county championship match at Taunton on Thursday, then lost three second innings wickets for 53 by the close on the second day of the four-day game.

Facing Somerset's first innings total of 364, they were routed for 129 as seamer Graham Rose captured four for 25 and England paceman Andy Caddick took three for 58.

Rose dispatched West Indies and Warwickshire captain Lara for 21, but he was 11 not out in his second innings at the close after Caddick had made the inroads with a burst of three for 19 in seven overs.

Lara has had a troubled time at Taunton. On Sunday, the Trinidadian arrived too late to play in the 40 overs league game. Which Somerset won by four wickets, after he had made a business trip to the Caribbean. He was fined 2,000 pounds (3,770 US dollars) by the club.

That followed a two-hour team meeting to discuss a poor performance against Nottinghamshire in the previous county championship match.

All this has provided a sharp contrast to Lara's overseas season as Warwickshire's overseason player in 1994 when the team won three of the four domestic trophies and Lara scored more than 2,000 first-class runs, including his world record 501 not out.

Championship leaders Surrey continued to make light of the absence of their three England batsmen by piling up 502 for seven declared against Worcestershire at the Oval.

Karachi-born Nadeem Shah hit 124. Alistair Brown 72 and Ben Hollis 51.

Queensland captain Stuart Law sparked for Essex with 106 out of his side's 230 for seven at Ilford in reply to Nottinghamshire's first innings of 342.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 40 Gilpin of "Fraser"; 41 Cager's target ship; 42 "Redburn" author; 43 Mormon prophet; 44 Nastase; 47 Siouan; 48 Matalin's hubby; 49 Abner's adjective; 50 Oso buco; 51 Say it isn't base; 52 Autumnal quaff of time?; 53 Plays "Wheel of Fortune"; 54 Rowan Atkinson character; 55 The end of March?; 56 Virago; 57 Spindletop spillage; 58 Dietrich's lunch; 59 Miserable sorts; 60 Reception problem; 61 Highway; 62 Reliever's stats; 63 Hurl.

Cryptogram puzzle with grid and clues. Clues include: 1. Fellow; 2. Wanted poster; 3. Today's alumna; 4. Poker holding; 5. Streamlet; 6. Guy's date; 7. Cinnabar; 8. Revealing summer; 9. Put on it; 10. Fellini-based musical; 11. Antelope's playmate; 12. Outlet award; 13. Rani's wrap-around; 14. In Vegas; 15. Sound of dull impact; 16. Table d'; 17. Horse of another color; 18. Farm implement; 19. Stylish in the '60s; 20. Stretch out; 21. Wapiti.

The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '98 advertisement. Includes Round 5 prizes (Sanyo Microwave Oven, Philips CD RCR AZ 8051, Philips Rice Cooker, 4 dozen Philips Bulbs), competition information, prizes and rules, and a quiz form for Round Five.