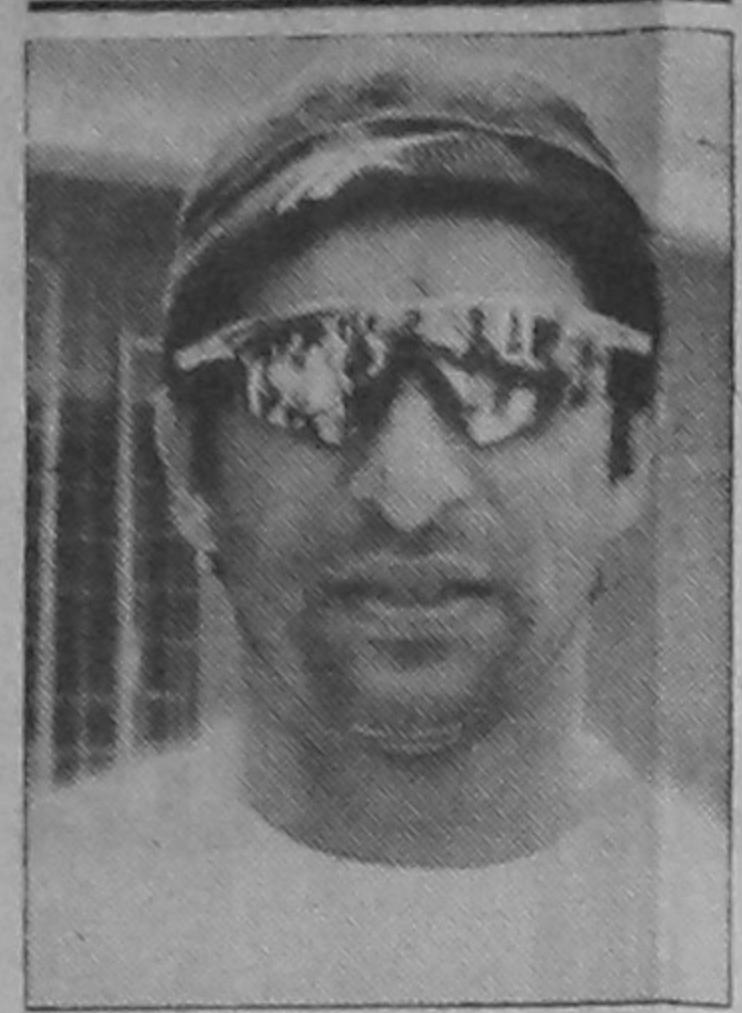


Star Sport

DHAKA TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2000 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

Column One SPORTS TALK



Wasim Akram

Pakistan cricket captain
"It's always fun playing
India and when we play India,
we always bounce back."

On the eve of the Carlton and
United tri-series match in
Brisbane.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-126

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
Feb. 4, 2000 and draw
shortly afterwards

1 How many centuries did Tendulkar score in the Tests series against Australia recently?
One Two Three

2 Who won the last ever European Cup Winners' Cup soccer?
Lazio Barcelona Man United

3 Who was named player of the cricket World Cup?
Klusener S Waugh Dravid

4 Where did Maurice Greene break the 100m world record?
Athens Seville Toronto

5 Who lifted the National Cricket League title?
Chittagong Sylhet Khulna

Name _____

Class _____ Roll No. _____

School Address _____

Phone: (If any) _____

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Hair thrown out of finals

PERTH, Jan 31: Leading Australian umpire Darrell Hair has been overlooked for the triangular tournament finals between his country and Pakistan due to concerns he had "jeopardised the perceived independence of umpires", reports Reuters.

Local media quoted an Australian Cricket Board (ACB) spokesman on Sunday as saying Hair's role in a document signed by Australia's five international umpires earlier this season had counted against him.

The document was presented to team management before this month's limited-overs triangular series involving Australia, Pakistan and India, with Hair seen as its instigator.

Reports said the umpires requested the India and Pakistan team management confirm allegations of racism or bias against their players or "hold your peace," after a Test season spiced with umpiring controversies.

"In selecting the umpires for the finals, we had to assess the total performances of all umpires involved," an ACB spokesman told local media.

"In Darrell's case, with the actions he took, there was concern that he had jeopardised the perceived independence of the umpires."

He said Daryl Harper and Simon Taufel have been appointed for the first of the best-of-three finals between Australia and Pakistan in Melbourne on Wednesday.

Steve Davis and Peter Parker will control the second final in Sydney, and Harper and Davis will umpire the third final, if required.

The umpires' document followed a Test series against Pakistan earlier in the season in which doubts were raised about the legality of fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar's action. He was subsequently banned from Test matches by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) secretary Shafqat Rana suggested the decision was racially based, though team manager Brigadier Mohammad Nasir later described the claim as "nonsense".

Hair also clashed with India's Sourav Ganguly in a tour match against New South Wales last month, in which India were warned for dissent.

Foreign guns: Bane or boon?

Al-Amin

Cricket connoisseurs heaved a big sigh of relief when the (CCDM) Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan and the CWAB (Cricketers Welfare Association of Metropolitan) buried the hatchet over inter-club players' transfer a week back. But, as soon as the crisis had ended, a new worry descended upon the cricket arena.

CCDM, the organisers of Dhaka cricket, kicked up a controversy by increasing quota of foreign players from two to three in the Premier League this season. It's true that CCDM has had a vital role for the development of the country's cricket. Ideally, CCDM should run the Dhaka cricket including the most glamorous Premier League and look after the welfare of the city-based clubs. In fact, it has dominated the structure of domestic cricket by organising extremely entertaining events. Over the years, cricketers earned their bread and butter playing only for these Dhaka clubs.

But this pioneer promoter of cricket and cricketers in this country however brought itself into a very delicate position as its latest decision drew severe criticism from both in and outside the organisation. The Daily Star Sport was surprised to find that even most of the CCDM members were not personally happy with the decision, let alone the reaction of the players.

While different club officials were very straightforward in expressing their views Eddie Barlow, the Director of Coaching and Planning of a country aspiring for cricket's ultimate goal—the Test Status, appeared quite diplomatic.

"There are two schools of thoughts. One school of thought believes in hiring overseas players. Presently, England is the only Test-playing nation who is preaching the idea. But England apart, the other eight Test-playing nations have taken a stand against hiring any overseas player," said the South African coach of Bangladesh.

After being associated with the English County cricket for more than a decade both as a player and a coach, Barlow seemed to be very critical about a system, which, he feels, adversely affected the England cricket eventually.

"They hired a captain, a fast bowler or a top quality batsman from abroad. The outcome was obvious. Presently, they are in need of a good captain, they do not have quality batsmen at the top and they do not have a real fast bowler," Barlow said while talking to this correspondent on Sunday.

"There was a time when South Africa played foreign players in the domestic cricket. But that was a different situation (during apartheid period). I'm not in a position to say that is good for Bangladesh," Barlow said admitting that he has just come here and yet to get the feel of Dhaka cricket.

Although he carefully refrained from showing his inclination towards any of the two schools of thoughts, the soft-spoken Cape Towner did not try to blur his opinion completely on the issue of foreign recruits.

"The only thing I believe is to make the best possible use of your local resource," said the former Test cap adding that any that discourages the local players to show their talents should be corrected immediately.

While Barlow banked on his vast experience about weighing the burning issue, the chairman of the CCDM, Tanvir Haider swallowed his own decision in a shuttle way.

"As the CCDM chairman my job is not to improve Bangladesh cricket or to introduce a system. My job is to run the Dhaka Leagues smoothly and finish it on time. The clubs desired to play three players. They said, there will be less financial involvement if they field more foreign players," claimed Tanvir.

A former national cricketer and the chief selector, Tanvir however personally feels that it cannot be permanent arrangement.

"I had a preconceived notion to bring less foreign players and give more opportunity to our local players. Now we are thinking that if we bring more quality foreign players our playing standard will improve. We can carry on with the idea for another two or three years and then cut it down to one the way England did," said Tanvir, who is also a senior vice-president of BCB (Bangladesh Cricket Board).

But many other CCDM members opposed Tanvir's notion of temporary arrangement. "I do not support even the idea of playing two foreign players. I had vowed to reduce it to one. Unfortunately, I was not present in the last CCDM meeting. Had I been there I would have strongly opposed it," said Jafal Younis, the cricket secretary of Abahani Limited.

"If you field three foreign players it means the trio will play most of the 50 overs depriving our local players", Jafal said. National captain Aminul Islam, like all the players, is worried about the consequences of the CCDM decision. "I'm surprised. The previous year 24 local players were deprived of

playing the Premier League. Now that the foreign quota has been increased, 12 more local players would be deprived of playing in the Premier League.

"I might not be affected by the decision. But I'm really feeling sorry for those 36 players".

Syed Amanul Haq Mamun of Surja Tarun Club also voted against the idea. "This will not help our cricket. The decision will only deprive our cricketers.

"I was there in the meeting when it was agreed to play three overseas players. But mentally I can not support it. There was a time when we hired foreign players to improve our cricket. But for the last couple of years our cricket has improved a lot. I saw the boys playing in the First Division League and they showed a lot of improvement both mentally and technically", said AFM Ziauddin, the manager of Agrani Bank.

The office secretary of Brothers Union Abid Hossain however is all for foreign players. "Foreign players helped our cricket a lot. Our players got the courage to face the big teams in the world cricket by playing against cricketers like Wasim Akram, Ajay Jadeja, Arjuna Ranatunga and Sanath Jayasuriya in the Dhaka League. The presence of quality foreign players also increases the glamour of Dhaka League", claimed Abid.

The Brothers official however said: "If our young players can prove their worth in the coming season then it would be wise to curb the quota of foreign players."

Alam Chowdhury, the general secretary of Kalabagan, meanwhile feels that this is not a bad idea at the moment. He however admitted it would have a negative impact on our cricket in the long run.

There are lots of things happening this year. The Board is planning to take 20 players for an uninterrupted preparation of the national team. On the other hand, the clubs are not willing to allow their players to involve in other place during the League. So, to fill the void we need foreign players to form a winning team", said Alam.

It seems that the clubs are distinctly divided over the controversial CCDM step. Even those who supported the idea at the CCDM meeting got confused the next moment while looking above the club interests. Now the ball is in the court of BCB, who will give the final verdict in its next meeting, where the CCDM decision would be produced for the green signal.

Cricketers and the cricket-lovers will be waiting until then to know our final destination. Should we let our cricket be-jewelled with foreign pearls? Or, shouldn't we produce our own gems?

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It's a great honour and very proud of it," McGrath, who became a father last week, added.

The medal will be presented annually to Australia's most outstanding cricketer with players, umpires and the media casting votes on their selection.

Border played more Tests (156) and scored more runs (11,174) than any player in the world and led Australia in 93 Tests.

There are not many people we left behind when we came to Australia," he said. "This is a young team which needs to be given more chances. You cannot

grew up on wickets where the ball comes shin high.

"Then they go abroad and suddenly find the ball buzzing round their ears. For them it's a new ball game, something they find difficult to adjust to.

The only solution is to make fast wickets at home and play our domestic cricket on lively tracks. The change must come now."

Tendulkar admitted his team fell well short of the mark, but believed they are on the right path if it can learn from the losses.

Former captain Mohammad Azharuddin's hopes of a recall appear remote after Kapil indicated the best available team was selected for the Australian tour.

"When we go back we've got a few things to talk about," he said. "We lost the Test series and didn't play well in the one-day series also, so it was very disappointing.

"But we are trying to build up a new team, with so many youngsters, and we were playing two of the top sides in the world, so it was always going to be difficult.

The youngsters tried their best and we need to give them a chance — a proper chance — rather than shuffling them around. We should persist with these guys and give them more confidence."

India have won just one Test match abroad since 1986, even though they have not lost a home series in the same period on doctor's wickets that assist spinners almost from the start.

It is unlikely the Indian wickets will change their colour so soon when South Africa arrive in early February.

Several of the Indian players are expected to take some time off, although the first Test against the visiting South Africans is only three weeks away. India play two Tests and five one-day matches against South Africa.

Kapil said it was a good idea to develop more fast bowling options, with Jayasuriya in the veteran category and Venkatesh Prasad generally disappointing in Australia.

Dev tipped a bright future for 22-year-old Ajit Agarkar and said there were several promising young quick bowlers in the Indian team that last week won the under-19 World Cup.

Frankly, Australia were much stronger than us and Pakistan had the advantage of five regular bowlers in every match," Test cricket's leading wicket-taker said.

Australian captain Steve Waugh said the Indians were better than their form suggested

100%.

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It's a pretty big buzz to be playing in a wheelchair to play 156 Tests which AB (Border) has done.

"I would probably be pushed in a wheelchair to play 156 Tests which AB (Border) has done.

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The gutsy left-hander also played 273 one-day internationals, scoring 6524 runs.

How it all happened

MANCHESTER, England, Jan 31 (AP): This was combination punching Mike Tyson style.

Right uppercut — knockdown.

Right hook to the body — knockdown No. 3.

Right to the body and uppercut to the head — knockdown No. 4.

Right to the body — fifth knockdown and end of fight.

Julius Francis' ordeal ended 63 seconds into the second round and Tyson was back on the victory trail. And this time there was not even a whiff of scandal, disqualification or protest.

"I was in a really destructive mood," Tyson said. "I didn't expect him to get up."

Tyson's efficient overpowering of an opponent clearly out of his class was just what he and his backers wanted.

But this was before 21,000 fans in England with a pay-per-view audience in Britain. Now all he has to do is convince a still skeptical American public, who saw it delayed on Showtime, that he is a serious contender to get his world titles back.