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Column One SPORTS TALK



Gordon Greenidge

(Bangladesh cricket coach)
"July would have been a better time... for some of the other teams, because the pitches would not be so difficult from ones they play on for the rest of the year."

On the timing of the World Cup 99.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-115

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

Competition closes at 8 pm
May 14 '99 and draw shortly afterwards

1 Who will replace Bob Woolmer as South African cricket coach?
Ford | Stewart | Marsh

2 When England last hosted cricket World Cup?
1975 | 1987 | 1983

3 Umpire Steve Bucknor is a
Guyanese | Jamaican | Trinidadian

4 The final match of the 1999 cricket World Cup will be held at
Edgbaston | Lord's | Oval

5 The World Cup match between Bangladesh and Scotland will be played in
Edinburgh | Belfast | Cardiff

Name
.....

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POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Steve, Glenn
sing for
sledging!

LONDON, May 10: Australian captain Steve Waugh and fast bowler Glenn McGrath today slammed proposals designed to erase sledging from the game, reports AFP.

Waugh said the recommendations by an MCC committee, which would see off-sides docked five runs for intimidating or insulting batsmen, were "pretty stupid" and hoped they would not be enforced.

"They don't even dock runs for missing overs. Why do it for so-called sledging, which is open to interpretation," he said.

"It's always been up to the captain and players to do the right thing on a field. Sometimes you're going to overstep the boundaries, but that's happened for 200 years."

"I don't see (the law happening). I mean, it could affect a Test match."

Media reports here say the proposals could come into force next year. It would be the first time umpires had the authority to mete out on-the-spot penalties. Under existing rules, players can be fined or suspended but without affecting the score.

The committee included leading umpires Steve Bucknor of the West Indies and Nigel Plews of England, besides former Test cricketers Bob Simpson of Australia and Clyde Walcott of the West Indies.

A five-run penalty would also be imposed if a bowler deliberately scuttled the pitch to help spinners or if a fielder tried to obstruct the batsman running between the wickets.

McGrath, who ran foul of the umpires for spitting near an opponent on the recent tour of the West Indies, said: "If they want to turn the game into a sport full of robots and really kill it, that is what they'd want to do."

"It makes you wonder why they want to keep tampering with the rules. There are certain other aspects of the game I think they could concentrate on, rather than tweak at little bits here and there."

McGrath even argued fans and television viewers enjoyed sledging.

Optimistic outsiders



LONDON, May 10: Bangladesh are ready to be pitted against cricket's elite this summer but first they will have to cope with the English weather, says a report on internet.

The rank outsiders for the World Cup arrived a month before the start of the tournament to acclimatise - only to be blighted by an incessant deluge. Bangladesh, who were granted one-day international status in 1997, have been left unhappy as their plans have backfired.

Former West Indies opening batsman Gordon Greenidge organised a schedule geared to getting Bangladesh used to English conditions.

To an extent they did, but sitting in Watford hotel rooms watching a pond develop outside, was not quite what Greenidge had in mind.

Having arrived on April 15, ten days without being able to bat or bowl outdoors had rendered the exercise worthless.

But captain Aminul Islam, the side's premier all-rounder, is upbeat about their prospects despite many pundits placing them below Scotland in the list of also-rans because of their experience on wickets in this country.

The Bangladeshis view the game against Scotland as the one they have most potential to win but Aminul is not ruling out further shocks.

The pitch condition in Scotland is almost similar to that in England, which is very difficult to assimilate. We came here early to adjust ourselves," he

said. "However, since we will be playing practice matches against three counties, who are better sides than Scotland, I think that will give us extra confidence before we meet them.

"We're not only thinking about Scotland, we're also looking to play well against the other Test-playing nations right from our first match against the Kiwis.

"You see, one-day games are like a lottery. The team playing better on a particular day will be the winners. So you cannot write off an upset."

Fixture
Group B
Bangladesh
First-round
May 17: v New Zealand, Chelmsford
May 21: v West Indies, Dublin
May 24: v Scotland, Edinburgh
May 27: v Australia, Chester-le-Street
May 31: v Pakistan, Northampton

Group A
May 14: v India, Lord's
May 18: v Sri Lanka, Oval
May 21: v South Africa, Edgbaston
May 24: v Zimbabwe, Lord's
May 27: v England, Old Trafford
May 31: v Australia, Old Trafford

Group C
May 14: v Pakistan, Lord's
May 18: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 21: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 24: v South Africa, Old Trafford
May 27: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 31: v Australia, Old Trafford

Group D
May 14: v South Africa, Old Trafford
May 18: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 21: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 24: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 27: v Pakistan, Old Trafford
May 31: v Australia, Old Trafford

Group E
May 14: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 18: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 21: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 24: v South Africa, Old Trafford
May 27: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 31: v Pakistan, Old Trafford

Group F
May 14: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 18: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 21: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 24: v South Africa, Old Trafford
May 27: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 31: v Pakistan, Old Trafford

Group G
May 14: v South Africa, Old Trafford
May 18: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 21: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 24: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 27: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 31: v Pakistan, Old Trafford

Group H
May 14: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 18: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 21: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 24: v South Africa, Old Trafford
May 27: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 31: v Pakistan, Old Trafford

Group I
May 14: v Pakistan, Old Trafford
May 18: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 21: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 24: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 27: v South Africa, Old Trafford
May 31: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford

Group J
May 14: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 18: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 21: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 24: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 27: v South Africa, Old Trafford
May 31: v Pakistan, Old Trafford

Group K
May 14: v South Africa, Old Trafford
May 18: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 21: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 24: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 27: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 31: v Pakistan, Old Trafford

Group L
May 14: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 18: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 21: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 24: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 27: v South Africa, Old Trafford
May 31: v Pakistan, Old Trafford

Group M
May 14: v Pakistan, Old Trafford
May 18: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 21: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 24: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 27: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 31: v South Africa, Old Trafford

Group N
May 14: v South Africa, Old Trafford
May 18: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 21: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 24: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 27: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 31: v Pakistan, Old Trafford

Group O
May 14: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 18: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 21: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 24: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 27: v South Africa, Old Trafford
May 31: v Pakistan, Old Trafford

Group P
May 14: v Pakistan, Old Trafford
May 18: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 21: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 24: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 27: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 31: v South Africa, Old Trafford

Group Q
May 14: v South Africa, Old Trafford
May 18: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 21: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 24: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 27: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 31: v Pakistan, Old Trafford

Group R
May 14: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 18: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 21: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 24: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 27: v South Africa, Old Trafford
May 31: v Pakistan, Old Trafford

Group S
May 14: v Pakistan, Old Trafford
May 18: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 21: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 24: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 27: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 31: v South Africa, Old Trafford

Group T
May 14: v South Africa, Old Trafford
May 18: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 21: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 24: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 27: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 31: v Pakistan, Old Trafford

Group U
May 14: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 18: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 21: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 24: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 27: v South Africa, Old Trafford
May 31: v Pakistan, Old Trafford

Group V
May 14: v Pakistan, Old Trafford
May 18: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 21: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 24: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 27: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 31: v South Africa, Old Trafford

Group W
May 14: v South Africa, Old Trafford
May 18: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 21: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 24: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 27: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 31: v Pakistan, Old Trafford

Group X
May 14: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 18: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 21: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 24: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 27: v South Africa, Old Trafford
May 31: v Pakistan, Old Trafford

Group Y
May 14: v Pakistan, Old Trafford
May 18: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 21: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 24: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 27: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 31: v South Africa, Old Trafford

Group Z
May 14: v South Africa, Old Trafford
May 18: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 21: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 24: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 27: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 31: v Pakistan, Old Trafford

Group AA
May 14: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 18: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 21: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 24: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 27: v South Africa, Old Trafford
May 31: v Pakistan, Old Trafford

Group BB
May 14: v Pakistan, Old Trafford
May 18: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 21: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 24: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 27: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 31: v South Africa, Old Trafford

Group CC
May 14: v South Africa, Old Trafford
May 18: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 21: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 24: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 27: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 31: v Pakistan, Old Trafford

Group DD
May 14: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 18: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 21: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 24: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 27: v South Africa, Old Trafford
May 31: v Pakistan, Old Trafford

Group EE
May 14: v Pakistan, Old Trafford
May 18: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 21: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 24: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 27: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 31: v South Africa, Old Trafford

Group FF
May 14: v South Africa, Old Trafford
May 18: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 21: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 24: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 27: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 31: v Pakistan, Old Trafford

Group GG
May 14: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 18: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 21: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 24: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 27: v South Africa, Old Trafford
May 31: v Pakistan, Old Trafford

Group HH
May 14: v Pakistan, Old Trafford
May 18: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 21: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 24: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 27: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 31: v South Africa, Old Trafford

Group II
May 14: v South Africa, Old Trafford
May 18: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 21: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 24: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 27: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 31: v Pakistan, Old Trafford

Group JJ
May 14: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 18: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 21: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 24: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 27: v South Africa, Old Trafford
May 31: v Pakistan, Old Trafford

Group KK
May 14: v Pakistan, Old Trafford
May 18: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 21: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 24: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 27: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 31: v South Africa, Old Trafford

Group LL
May 14: v South Africa, Old Trafford
May 18: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 21: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 24: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 27: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 31: v Pakistan, Old Trafford

Group MM
May 14: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 18: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 21: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 24: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 27: v South Africa, Old Trafford
May 31: v Pakistan, Old Trafford

Group NN
May 14: v Pakistan, Old Trafford
May 18: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 21: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 24: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 27: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 31: v South Africa, Old Trafford

Group OO
May 14: v South Africa, Old Trafford
May 18: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 21: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 24: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 27: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 31: v Pakistan, Old Trafford

Group PP
May 14: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 18: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 21: v New Zealand, Old Trafford
May 24: v Sri Lanka, Old Trafford
May 27: v South Africa, Old Trafford
May 31: v Pakistan, Old Trafford

Group QQ
May 14: v Pakistan, Old Trafford
May 18: v Australia, Old Trafford
May 21: v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford
May 24