



Today Bangladesh has a fair chance, of making the Scots dance.

Breaking Boundaries.



MORE THAN YOU THOUGHT POSSIBLE



TENDULKAR THUNDER: Sachin Tendulkar in full flow against Kenya yesterday.

— AFP photo

Aminul & Co badly treated

From Nizamuddin Ahmed in Edinburgh

MAY 23: The Scottish Cricket Union seemed to have used a rather unorthodox off-the-field tactic to upset Bangladesh's chances in tomorrow's vital World Cup clash in Edinburgh.

The Bangladesh cricketers, having been forced to arrive in the Scottish capital by an early morning flight quite unnecessarily from Dublin, were kept stranded in their hotel lounge for more than four hours before being allotted their rooms.

The hotel, Stakis Grosvenor Edinburgh, was earmarked for the Bangladesh team several weeks ago. In a culture where every booking from a meal to an airline flight, from a hairpin to a motor car can be confirmed over telephone months in advance, it was not immedi-

ately explainable how a visiting team like Bangladesh, coming to play the first World Cup match on Scottish soil, could be so maltreated by the hosts. It is unthinkable how the Scots could have goofed up a simple matter as hotel booking.

The organisers of the World Cup, the England and Wales Cricket Board, and even the ICC, have some explanation to make for the humiliation meted out to a team that is not entirely familiar with the local weather and society.

"The players were extremely tired after getting up at five in the morning and now instead of practicing, we're left exhausted in a hotel lounge", was the remark of captain Aminul Islam. "This is our most important match. There was no need for

such an early morning flight. There are many other flights", moaned the skipper in utter frustration on being had by an apparent deceit.

The Bangladesh manager Tanveer Muzhar Islam said he would file an official written complaint with the Scottish board, and if necessary, with the England and Wales Cricket Board.

"There is politics involved. This could be a mean strategy. This is our most important match at the home ground of Scotland. I am very angry", said Tanveer to this correspondent.

"I do not understand why a country wants to be a host of a World Cup match if it cannot manage a simple thing as a ho-

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BITS & PIECES



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From Nizamuddin Ahmed LONDON, May 23: Many here agreed that Bangladesh performed admirably last Friday in the Dublin match considering the might of the opposition. But, at the Clontarf Castle Hotel, one BCB official looked shattered. He said, requesting anonymity, that he was not satisfied with the team's performance.

"I am not saying that we should have won against the West Indies. But, after spending six, seven crore taka on this team, what else can we do to get

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Babes' battle royale

EDINBURGH, May 23: Minnows Bangladesh and Scotland clash here on Monday in an encounter they regard as their very own World Cup final, reports AFP.

It is only a preliminary round match, to decide who finishes last in a group which includes 1992 title winners Pakistan, 1975 and 1979 victors West Indies, Australia - who triumphed in 1987 - and New Zealand.

Scotland's coach Jim Love, however, said Monday's match "was the big one - our Cup final". Bangladesh captain Aminul Islam called it the "most important match of my life".

Until now, both teams have limited their Cup ambitions to being competitive. Monday's game, however, is one they both hope to win as they try to consolidate their reputations as emerging cricket nations.

In their previous encounter, Scotland defeated their opponents here last year - skipper George Salmond scoring a match-winning 81 off 85 balls. That avenged Bangladesh's win during the World Cup qualifiers in Malaysia in 1997.

Scotland have been well



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AMINUL ISLAM



GEORGE SALMOND

beaten by both Pakistan and Australia in their two games to date, but could draw positives from both matches, taking Pakistan's first five wickets for 92 and scoring a respectable 182 against Steve Waugh's side.

Bangladesh similarly, while caving in to New Zealand after being dismissed for 116, showed their batting qualities when making 182 against the West Indies.

Bangladesh coach Gordon Greenidge, the former West Indian opener, said Scotland might be the favourites on their home turf, but argued: "If we bat as well as we did against the West Indies, we will be through. For me it's a 50-50 game."

Love, who hopes a win will help boost cricket's popularity in Scotland where it is a minor sport, responded: "We should win this one but we should not be over-confident."

Salmond, meanwhile, returns to his home Grange Club ground which was renovated at a cost of 500,000 pounds (750,000 US dollars) for its biggest cricket match.

"Most of our guys are familiar with the surroundings," he

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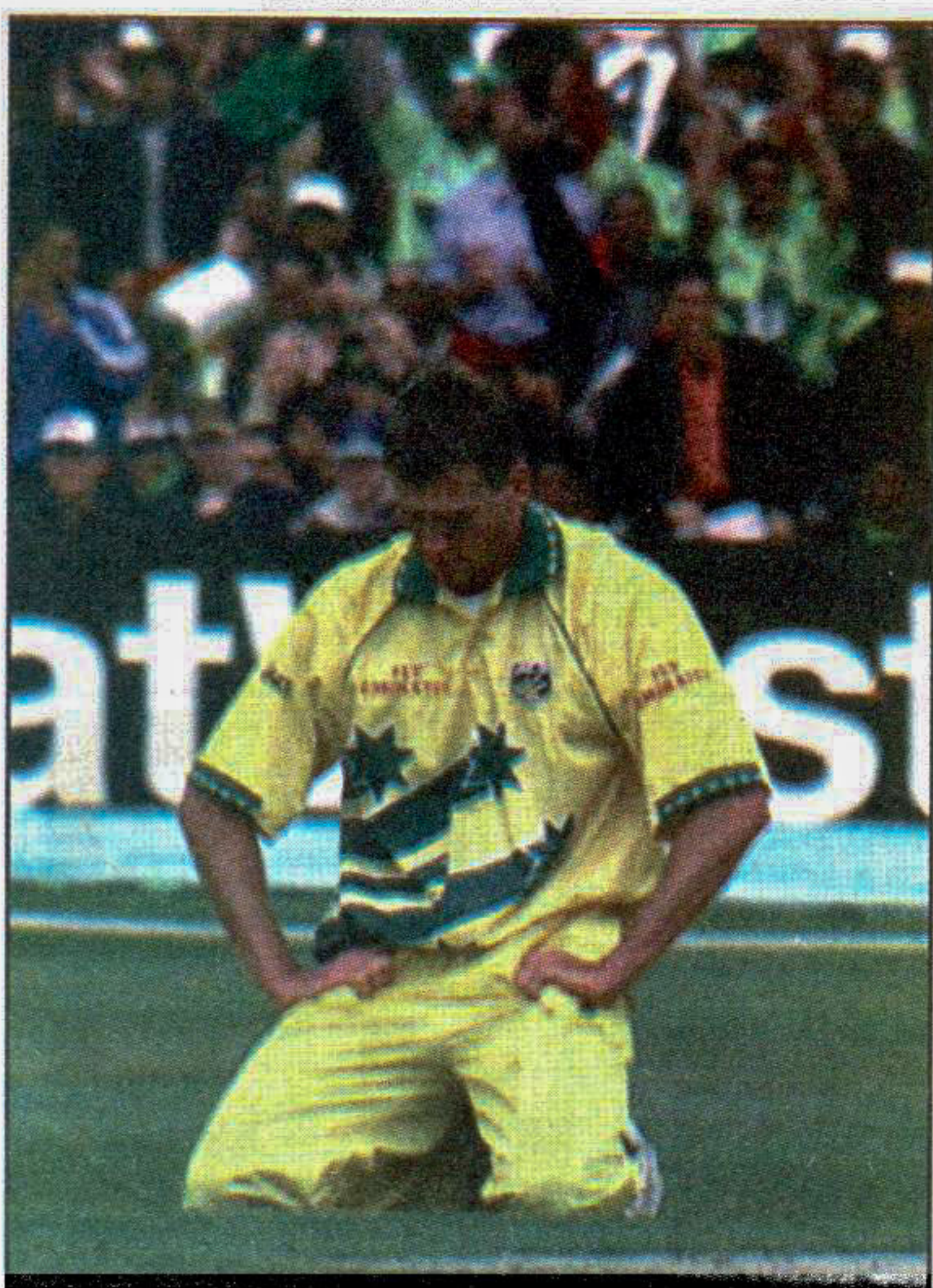
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ASIATIC MCL



WHAT'S HAPPENING? Australian fast bowler Glenn McGrath gets down on his knees in an apparent show of frustration at the sloppy fielding of his team against Pakistan yesterday.

— AFP photo

GOOD LUCK BANGLADESH



PAK-AUSSIE SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Pakistan innings against Australia at Headingley yesterday:

PAKISTAN:	R	B	4	6
Wajahatullah Wasti c S Waugh b McGrath	9	31	1	0
Saeed Anwar c Gilchrist b Reiffel	25	23	5	0
Abdul Razzaq c Fleming b Warne	60	99	3	1
Ijaz Ahmed lbw b Fleming	0	6	0	0
Inzamam-ul-Haq run out (Fleming)	81	104	6	1
Yousuf Youhana run out (Warne/Lehmann)	29	16	4	1
Wasim Akram c Gilchrist b Fleming	13	12	1	0
Moin Khan not out	31	12	2	3
Azhar Mahmood run out (Martyn/McGrath)	1	1	0	0
Saqib Mushtaq not out	0	0	0	0
Extras: (b-1; lb-5; w-15; nb-5)	26			
Total: (For 8 wickets in 50 overs)	275			

Did not bat: Shoaib Akhtar.
Fall of wkts: 1-32 (Saeed Anwar, 7.4 ov), 2-44 (Wajahatullah, 11.1 ov), 3-46 (Ijaz Ahmed, 12.3 ov), 4-164 (Abdul Razzaq, 39.3 ov), 5-215 (Yousuf Youhana, 44.4 ov), 6-229 (Inzamam-ul-Haq, 46.2 ov), 7-261 (Wasim Akram, 48.6 ov), 8-264 (Azhar Mahmood, 49.3 ov).

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Fleming	10	3	37	2 (1-nb, 4-w)
Reiffel	10	1	49	1 (1-nb, 4-w)
McGrath	10	1	55	1 (1-nb, 4-w)
Warne	10	0	50	1 (1-w)
S Waugh	6	0	37	0 (1-w)
Martyn	2	0	25	0 (1-nb)
Lehmann	2	0	17	0

Umpires: RE Koertzen (SA) and P Willey.

TV Umpire: R Julian.

Match Referee: R Subba Row.

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