



Colonial cousins draw swords today.

Breaking Boundaries.



MORE THAN YOU THOUGHT POSSIBLE

Minhaz saves the blushes

From Nizamuddin Ahmed

EDINBURGH, May 24: If you wanted to see all four seasons in an hour, Edinburgh's Grange Cricket Club on Monday was the place. It was cold, wet and windy conditions under which your might want to curb up in front of a fireplace instead of being at a cricket match. It was not surprising that the stalls were half filled.

The wicket was harder than usual because there had been some dry days ahead of the match. The baked, bone-dry, grassy wicket gave unusual bounce to the wicket, particularly at the pavilion-end, which turned opening bowler John Blain into a villain.

Scotland won the toss and you would expect, with their inside knowledge of how the Grange wicket behaves early on in a match on a day as windy and wet as this, skipper George Salmond put Bangladesh in.

Bangladesh were dead and almost buried in the first ten overs until Naimur Rahman and Minhazul Abedin played a duet to resuscitate the innings.

The pair put on 69 runs for the sixth wicket to take Bangladesh from a pathetic 26 for five to 95.

That was not enough even the likes of Scotland, but Khaled Mahmud failed to apply tips from the dressing room and handed Salmond a decent catch at mid wicket in the very fourth ball he faced.

Vice captain Mahmud was not the only man out for a duck. There were three others before him to account for the worst start Bangladesh had in the tournament.

Bangladesh soon failed the 'B' test as got Blain and Butt into their threatening strides. As the Scottish bowlers turned the grass-top into a bowling alley, the Bangladesh batsmen could only be blamed for their self-inflicted misery.

Without venturing to deny Butt and Blain the credit for getting a flip from their own wicket, the Bangladesh top-order trudged off to the pavilion while trying to play maverick shots instead of defensive See page 14



ELASTIC: Bangladesh opener Mehrab Hossain evading a bouncer from Scottish paceman John Blain at Edinburgh yesterday. —AFP photo

Zimbabwean v Zimbabwe

NOTTINGHAM, England, May 24: For Graeme Hick, England's encounter with Zimbabwe here on Tuesday will have a special significance, reports AFP.

Harare-born Hick is playing in his fourth cricket World Cup. His previous appearances were in 1992 and 1996 for England ... and in 1983, as a 17-year-old schoolboy ... for Zimbabwe.

And although he didn't get a game in that first tournament he remains the youngest player to feature in a World Cup squad.

Desperate to play cricket at the highest level, Hick moved to Worcestershire in 1984 and seven years later qualified for England.

Just 12 months after he qualified to play for his adoptive country, Zimbabwe were granted Test status.

Neither England nor Zimbabwe have referred to Hick's defection before Tuesday's group A match, which will help decide which team makes it to the second round of the tournament.

Should he live up to his reputation as a match-winner, however, the 33-year-old, who has played 53 Tests and 94 one-dayers, can probably expect some on-field comment from his opponents - and from Eddo Brandes, his former schoolmate, in particular.

Brandes, though, did not have much time to sledge Hick in 1992, during the only previous World Cup meeting between the two sides.

Hick faced six balls before Brandes bowled him.



GRAEME HICK

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BANGLADESH-SCOTLAND SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Bangladesh innings against Scotland at Edinburgh yesterday:

BANGLADESH	R	B	4	6
Khaled Mashud c Philip b Blain	0	9	0	0
Mehrab Hossain c Dyer b Asim Butt	3	19	0	0
Faruk Ahmed b Blain	7	25	1	0
Aminul Islam lbw b Blain	0	1	0	0
Akram Khan c Philip b Asim Butt	0	14	0	0
Minhajul Abedin not out	68	118	6	0
Naimur Rahman c Stanger b Brinkley	36	57	5	0
Khaled Mahmud c Salmond b Dyer	0	4	0	0
Enamul Hoque c Philip b Dyer	19	40	1	0
Hasibul Hussain c b Blain	6	17	0	0
Manjurul Islam not out	2	7	0	0
Extras: (lb-5, w-28, nb-11)	44			
Total: (For 9 wickets in 50 overs)	185			

Fall of wickets: 1-6 (Khaled Mashud, 2.3 ov) 2-12 (Mehrab Hossain, 5.3 ov); 3-13 (Aminul Islam, 6.1 ov) 4-24 (Akram Khan, 9.4 ov); 5-26 (Faruk Ahmed, 10.3 ov); 6-95 (Naimur Rahman, 29.4 ov); 7-96 (Khaled Mahmud, 30.6 ov); 8-133 (Enamul Hoque, 40.5 ov); 9-164 (Hasibul Hussain, 46.6 ov).

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Blain	10	1	37	4 (9-nb, 6-w)
Asim Butt	9	1	24	2 (8-w)
Hamilton	10	3	25	0 (2-nb, 5-w)
Brinkley	10	0	45	1 (4-w)
Stanger	4	0	23	0 (1-w)
Dyer	7	1	26	2 (2-w)

Toss: Scotland.

Umpires: KT Francis (SL) and DL Orchard (SA)

TV Umpire: B Dudson (Engl)

Match Referee: JR Reid (NZ).

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Hosts in tricky territory

NOTTINGHAM, England, May 24: If any cricket World Cup team can claim to have a psychological edge over an opponent, then it must be Alistair Campbell's Zimbabwe over Alec Stewart's England, reports AFP.

The African side, who only joined the Test-playing nations seven years ago, are England's

day's crunch match against Zimbabwe at Trent Bridge fresh from being decimated by South Africa.

That 122-run defeat - or "hammering", as chief selector David Graveney put it - was so bruising that England have asked sports psychologist Steve Bull to clear his couch in case the players feel they need help to cope with the Oval trauma.

Zimbabwe skipper Alistair Campbell played on England's fears on Monday, reminding them of their record against his men and adding: "We will have the psychological edge ... we are not scared of them."

"England batted badly on Saturday after playing well in the previous two games and they will realise they have to get that aspect right against us."

Zimbabwe coach David Houghton, meanwhile, has been indulging in some reverse psychology of his own, lambasting his team for lacking the killer instinct.

After accusing his side of playing like "schoolboys" in their warm-up campaign,

Houghton branded them "chokers" when losing to Sri Lanka, adding: "Our boys don't like to admit that - but I will admit it for them."

Tuesday's game is vital for both sides' ambitions of vaulting out of group A and into the second round.

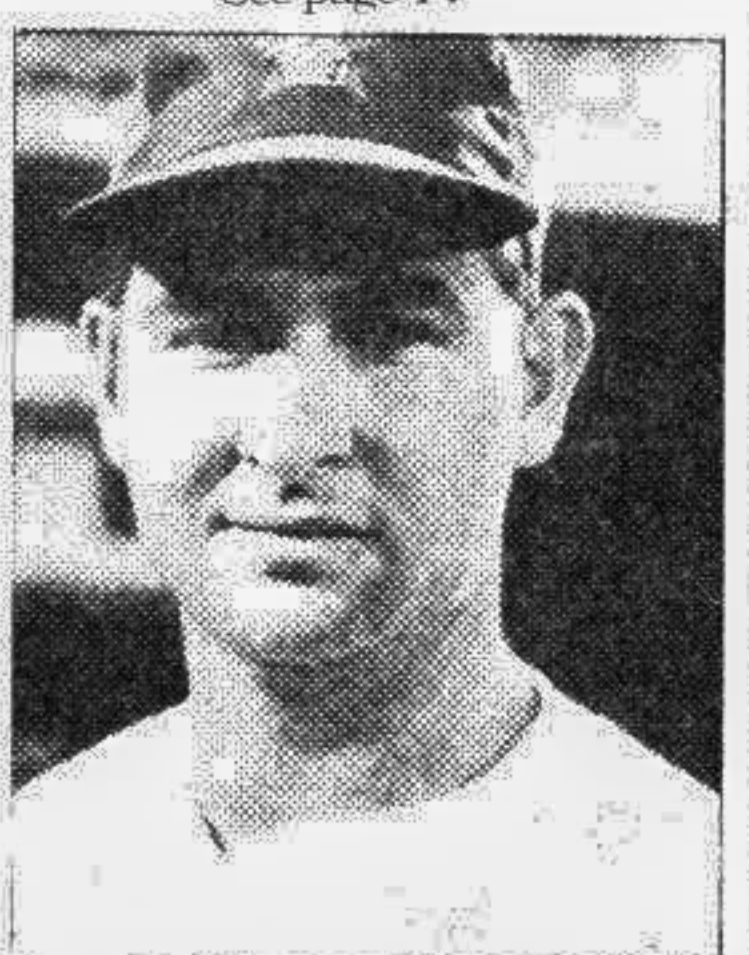
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ALEC STEWART

jinx team, having won five of their six one-day confrontations.

Worse still for the tournament hosts, they go into Tues-



ALISTAIR CAMPBELL

BITS & PIECES



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LONDON, May 24 (AFP): England World Cup batsman Neil Fairbrother, a famously nervous starter to his innings, tends to go missing in the pavilion before going out to bat - and now everyone knows why.

Former England captain Mike Atherton has flushed out the truth on his Lancashire colleague.

"You know when he's in next," says Atherton. "Because he's always in the 100. I've lost count of the times we've had to get him out before an innings."

CRUCIAL FOR CROFT
LONDON, May 24: England spinner Robert Croft and his wife Marie are expecting their first child on June 20 - the day of the World Cup final, reports AFP.

Guess which parent will not be present at the birth if England were to make it to Lord's for the tournament climax? Croft has made it quite clear where his priorities lie by telling his wife "in the nicest possible way I'm hoping I won't be able to be there."

HEAVYWEIGHT LANCE

LONDON, May 24: South Africa's big-hitting all-rounder Lance Klusener is wielding the heaviest bat in the World Cup, reports AFP.

His willow weighs a mighty 3lbs and 20oz (about 1.5 kilos) - heavier even than the one West Indian captain Clive Lloyd used in the 1975 final against Australia when he scored 102.

It seems to work for him. Klusener, nicknamed 'Zulu', hit 48 not out from 40 balls against England and 52 off 43 balls against Sri Lanka.

India's Sachin Tendulkar, regarded as the best batsman in the world, uses a 3lb bat. West Indian Brian Lara, however, favours a much lighter blade.

FASTER THAN SHOAB?

LONDON, May 24: Wasim Akram claims that Pakistan have another bowler quicker even than Shoab Akhtar, reports AFP.

The Pakistan captain will not reveal the bowler's identity but commentators believe he is referring to Mohammed Zahid, who signed for English county Nottinghamshire but never played because of a back injury.

The 23-year-old Akhtar has been recorded bowling at 97mph but is expected to break See page 14

Confident Campbell

LONDON, May 24 (Internet report): Zimbabwe skipper Alistair Campbell says his players are relaxed and ready to beat England in tomorrow's crunch World Cup encounter at Trent Bridge.

Campbell believes Zimbabwe will go into the Group A clash holding the psychological edge over Alec Stewart's side after winning five of the previous six one-day clashes between the countries.

Victory is vital to both sides in their bid to reach the Super Six stage of the tournament. England are looking to recover from Saturday's mauling by South Africa and Zimbabwe aim to bounce back from defeat by Sri Lanka.

"Things have certainly livened up in the group after the weekend results and the next game against England is the big crunch game. Whoever wins

will probably go through to the later stages," said Campbell.

"England need to win this one so they are going to come at us with all guns blazing. They will realise that the match against us is a 'must win' game and they will be up for it."

"England batted badly on Saturday after playing well in the previous two games and they will realise they have to get that aspect right against us."

"Maybe the fact none of their middle-order batsmen had batted before they played South Africa, after losing only four wickets in the previous two matches, showed on Saturday."

"Overall they are playing well and have a good record on home soil, but we have beaten them five times out of six and will have the psychological edge."

"We are not scared of them"

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TERRIFIC TUMBLE: Scotland's Greg Dyer taking a tumbling catch to get rid of Mehrab Hossain yesterday. —AFP photo



Bangladesh captain Aminul Islam looks down dejected after falling lbw to John Blain (2nd from R) yesterday. —AFP photo