



## Sri Lanka or India? Here today, gone tomorrow.

Breaking Boundaries.



## Miles to go

LONDON, May 25 (Internet report): Gordon Greenidge celebrated Bangladesh's first World Cup victory - and then claimed the country are light years away from achieving full Test status.

Bangladesh defied a chronic start to record a 22-run triumph over Scotland in Edinburgh in the Group B clash of the minnows.

It was a result which deflated the home supporters who held such high hopes when their team had reduced the visitors to 26 for five after barely an hour's play.

But the competitive spirit shown by the Scots during the entire campaign should guarantee they will be awarded one-day international status even though they are now likely to finish the competition with five straight defeats.

Bangladesh are already part

of that elite group and have applied to the International Cricket Council for full Test status.

But, while a cricket-mad country of 120 million would seem ideally suited to take the next stride forward, Greenidge - a West Indian World Cup-winner and now Bangladesh coach - has a different view.

"We are miles away," he said. "We do not even have a three-day league, so how can we play a five-day Test."

"The most our guys are ever likely to bat is 50 overs, so how can they be expected to keep their concentration for six hours."

"If we don't have anyone capable of that how can we have a Test side?"

Greenidge also revealed that out of his 15-man squad, only

See page 14



A MOMENT TO CHERISH: Naimur Rahman (C), one of Bangladesh's heroes in the match against Scotland, being congratulated by ecstatic team-mate Shafiuddin Ahmed after the famous win on May 24. —AFP photo

## Partying at Stakis

From Nizamuddin Ahmed

EDINBURGH, May 25: Bangladesh cricketers laid a party at the Stakis Grosvenor last night in celebration of their well-earned victory over Scotland in the World Cup. The impromptu 'do' was attended by BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury, other board members present in the city, some resident Bangladeshis and a few journalists covering the World Cup.

Speaking on the occasion the BCB president recalled the supreme sacrifice of thirty lakh shaheeds and added, "We are here today because of the martyrs." He also thanked profusely all the past players, BCB officials and club officials whose "contribution was vastly responsible for what Bangladesh has achieved today."

Skipper Aminul Islam was not short of words on the evening. He specially thanked the band of Bangladeshi supporters who were following the team to different venue.

Stakis got in the mood and hurriedly prepared some light that was as close as they got to Bangladeshi cuisine amid the Scottish delicacies spread on buffet.

Also present at the noisy merry-making was former national cricketer Yousuf Rahman Babu who has been living in the States for over a decade. The

master blaster of the yesteryears, who scored Bangladesh's first century in the ICC Trophy, brought a special cap from the USA. Rahman had scored 115 against Papua New Guinea in 1982. At a simple ceremony at the party, Rahman was almost in tears as he proudly presented the cap to Mehrab Hossain. On the cap were written the words: "Historical 101, Bangladesh vs. Zimbabwe, March 25/1999."

The Bangladesh team left for Durham this afternoon by coach. They play Australia on May 27.

### DIVIDED LOYALTIES

Mrs. S. Habib is hosting about a dozen Bangladeshi guests at her house. They have all come to watch the match against Scotland. She has been to the game and was yelling her guts out to every success that Bangladesh had. In her salwar-kameez, she looked every bit a Bangladeshi, fanatic at that too. After the match she called her mother on the mobile and shouted, "We have won!"

"What do you mean 'we have won'?" asked her literally shocked mother.

For Mrs. Habib is Amy and she is Scottish. Her husband is a Bangladeshi.

See page 14

**MORE CRICKET MORE PEPSI**  
Global Partner

### ZIMBABWE-ENGLAND SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Zimbabwe innings against England at Trent Bridge yesterday:

ZIMBABWE	R	B	4	6
N Johnson b Gough	6	12	0	0
G Flower c Thorpe b Ealham	35	90	4	0
P Strang c Hick b Mullanly	0	17	0	0
M Goodwin c Thorpe b Mullanly	4	18	0	0
A Flower run out (Hussain)	10	24	0	0
A Campbell c Stewart b Fraser	24	35	2	0
G Whittall lbw b Ealham	28	51	3	0
S Carlisle c Fraser b Gough	14	38	2	0
H Streak not out	11	13	1	0
H Olonga not out	1	3	0	0
Extras (lb-16, w-17, nb-1)	34			
Total (For 8 wickets in 50 overs)	167			

Did not bat: M Mbangwa  
Fall of wkts: 1-21 (Johnson, 6.1 ov); 2-29 (Strang, 11.5 ov); 3-47 (Goodwin, 17.3 ov); 4-79 (A Flower, 26.2 ov); 5-86 (G Flower, 28.1 ov); 6-124 (Campbell, 38.1 ov); 7-141 (G Whittall, 44.3 ov); 8-159 (Carlisle, 48.5 ov)

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Gough	10	2	24	2 (3-w)
Fraser	10	0	27	1 (1-nb, 2w)
Mullanly	10	4	16	2 (4-w)
Ealham	10	1	35	2 (1-w)
Flintoff	3	0	14	0 (5-w)
Hollisake	7	0	35	0 (2-w)

Toss: England  
Umpires: S A Bucknor (WI) and D B Hair (Aus)  
TV Umpire: RE Koertzen (SA)  
Match Referee: Talat Ali (Pak)

## Sri Lanka v India: One has to go

TAUNTON, England, May 25: The form book says India, the history books says Sri Lanka. One thing is certain about Wednesday's cricket World Cup encounter at Taunton - whoever



ARJUNA RANATUNGA

loses will be out of the tournament, taking with them some of the biggest names in the game, reports AFP.

It seems a crime that players of the calibre of Sachin Tendulkar, Mohammed Azharuddin and Anil Kumble on the one hand, or defending champions Sanath Jayasuriya, Aravinda de Silva and Muttiah Muralitharan on the other, will not play in the second round of the 1999 showpiece.

Both, however, have just one victory from three games and will have to win their last two group A matches to be in the frame for the second round.

India, the 1983 champions, look the likelier victors on Wednesday.

Tendulkar, the world's best batsman, returned from his father's funeral in Bombay to crack 140 off 101 balls against Kenya on Sunday and give the side - and under-pressure skipper Mohammed Azharuddin - a timely lift.

Azharuddin has other reason for confidence, including six wins out of seven in the sides' recent one-day encounters. Coach Anshuman Gaekwad, however, is determined to avoid complacency.

"Our past record against Sri Lanka does not count," he said. "This is a new game, we start from zero, not with a bonus."

Arjuna Ranatunga, meanwhile, will have to dig deep into the dusty past to find arguments in favour of a Sri Lankan victory.

The World Cup records show that the sides have met four times in the tournament. One was abandoned, the other three went the Sri Lankans' way.

India's more recent defeat, in the 1996 semi-final at Calcutta, left an indelible blot on the national psyche. The match was awarded to Ranatunga's side by default as the home crowd, sensing defeat, went on a riot.

Ultimately, however, it is not the past but the present which will decide the Taunton encounter. And Ranatunga knows that his top players - at present - are all misfiring.

De Silva, the man who scored 107 not out in the 1996 final, has scored seven runs in three outings.

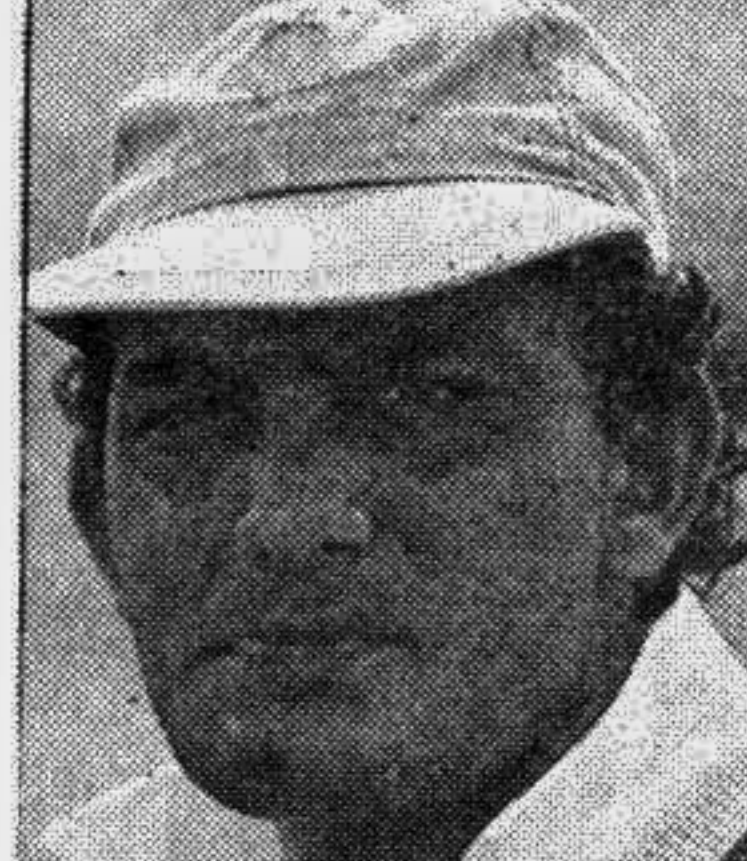
Jayasuriya, the player of the tournament three years ago and whose aggressive hitting revolutionised limited-over cricket, has 40 runs at an average of 13.3.

Ranatunga, who averaged 120 in 1996, thanks to four not

outs, is currently scoring 14 runs per innings.

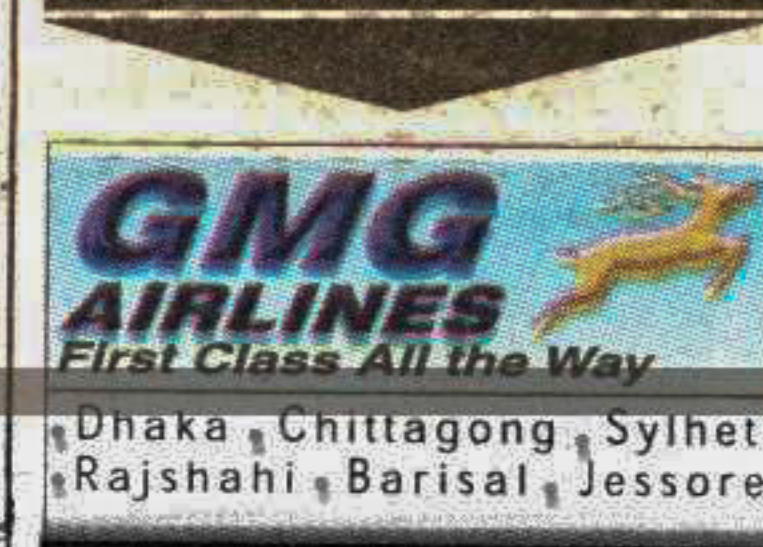
Even in victory over Zimbabwe on Saturday, Ranatunga had conceded: "The top order is

See page 14



AZHARUDDIN

### BITS & PIECES



DHAKA, Chittagong, Sylhet, Rajshahi, Barisal, Jessore

DHAKA, May 25: Bangladesh Road Transportation Corporation (BRTC) today announced that it would award Tk 1000 for every single run if a Bangladeshi batsman is able to score at least a half-century in their next matches of the World Cup, reports BSS.

BRTC also announced, Minhazul Abedin and Mehrab Hossain would receive Tk 68 thousand and 64 thousand respectively for hitting half centuries in their previous matches.

### MEDIA ANGRY AT AUSSIES

SYDNEY, May 25: Australian media reaction to the country's disappointing form in the cricket World Cup was mostly subdued on Tuesday, with many commentators agreeing selectors chose the wrong side for the conditions, reports Reuters.

The Australians were one of the favourites to win the Cup before

See page 14

## British media view

Sports Reporter

The 22-run victory of Bangladesh against Scotland sparked a rapturous mid-night celebration in Dhaka. People from all walks of life took to the street immediately after slow left-arm Enamul Haque heralded the fall of the last Scottish batsman at the Grange Cricket Club ground in Hamilton on Monday.

The historic World Cup win of the Bangladeshi cricketers in their first-ever appearance at the biggest extravaganza was lauded by the British media, providing the details of the virtual final of the minnows.

"Bangladesh survive Hamilton's surge" - read the headline of The Times.

"It was as though Bangladesh had won the World Cup itself as their supporters celebrates in front of the Old Grange Cricket Club pavilion last night. As it was, they had taken an important step towards the Test status that they crave by overcoming adversity to re-affirm their supremacy over the cricketing world that exist beyond the nine Test-playing nations," said the English daily.

"Hamilton runs out of luck in chasing Bangladesh," says The Daily Telegraph headline.

Scotland run out of 'cup final' luck - read the two-line heading in The Independent.

The Independent, however, opted for a dramatic start to their lead story.

"The World Cup has already thrown up a few surprises, but none would have compared with Scotland being level on points in Group B with Australia after three matches. Sadly for those who value cricketing embarrassment down under it is not the case."

Instead it is Bangladesh, who have drawn level with the team who were second favorites for the tournament after a 22-run victory in the wooden- spoon match, and suddenly they are meeting with the Australians at Chester-le-Street on Thursday has taken on a significance; no one imagine when the schedule was drawn up.

"Bangladesh were hardly downplaying the event either as their captain, Aminul Islam, described it as "the most important match of my life" and, with 1500 fellow countrymen to support them, the delightful Grange Cricket Club sounded like a suburb of Dhaka rather than the Scottish capital.

"Unfortunately the weather

See page 14



Allan Mullally starts celebrating the wicket of Murray Goodwin yesterday. —AFP photo

**AKTEL**  
CLEARLY AHEAD  
Seize the moment, AKTEL it.

### HEAD-TO-HEAD

India have won six out of their last seven one-day encounters. They won twice without reply in a triangular competition in February/March and twice in November. In the Champions Trophy in Sharjah, Sri Lanka's last win came nearly 12 months ago at home but they still lost two games to one at the Independence Cup.

The last Test between the two, in February 1998, ended in a draw.

**World Cup:** They have met four times since their first encounter in 1979, with India still looking for their first victory. Sri Lanka won in 1979 and twice on their way to winning the trophy in 1996. The match in 1992 was abandoned.

**Players to watch:** India: Javagal Srinath. Spearhead of India's pace attack and capable of producing genuine pace, he has performed creditably, taking five wickets from 30 overs for 135 runs. He is only the third Indian fast bowler to take 100 Test wickets after Kapil Dev and Karsan Ghavri. Has also topped 200 one-day wickets.

**Sri Lanka:** Sanath Jayasuriya. The star of the 1996 World Cup, whose pinch-hitting heroics transformed one-day cricket, he has struggled for form on England's slower wickets, scoring 29 against England, five against South Africa and six versus Zimbabwe. He boasts the fourth highest individual Test score of 340.

**Venue:** Taunton. Home of county side Somerset whose former star players include such world stars as Ian Botham, Viv Richards and Joel Garner - who all played in the same side - as well as Sunil Gavaskar, Jimmy Cook, Mushtaq Ahmed, Steve Waugh and Martin Crowe. Capacity: 7,500. (AFP)



SOMETHING TO CHEER ABOUT AT LAST: Cricket fans brought out a procession around the Bangladesh National Stadium yesterday hailing Bangladesh's World Cup victory over Scotland. —Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Maggi | Nestle MILO energy | NESCAFÉ | POLO | Nestle | NESCAFÉ CLASSIC | Enjoy the World Cup with RICH taste of 100% pure COFFEE