

Sport

British media

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was unmistakably home-based and a wind that felt like it had last resided in the Cairngorms whipped across the pitch to make it uncomfortably cold when the sun was out and miserable as sin when it propelled the rain at 45 degrees.

"(Scottish captain) put Bangladesh in and the sound of the pipers of the First Battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders had barely faded into the pavilion before half the visiting line-up have joined it.

"The only complaint Bangladesh could have had - apart from the wicket and the weather that is - was Aminul's leg before of John Blain, which looked suspiciously high and going to leg.

On match-winning knock of Minhajul Abedin, the independent wrote, "In normal circumstances his unbeaten 68 off 116 balls would have been criminally tardy, under these it was an innings saver.

"Bangladesh conquer the brave hearts." The Guardian headline blurted out.

Bits & pieces

From page 13
fore the tournament began on May 14, but after losses to New Zealand and Pakistan they now face a tough campaign to even progress to the next stage.

Writing in Rupert Murdoch's string of News Ltd newspapers, respected journalist Robert Craddock said the Australians looked tired and there was now a 'growing suspicion the one-day side is slightly over-rated.'

"They are a good side who go well in most tournaments, but the core of their reputation is built on the lightweight Australian competition, the Carlton and United Series, where three teams compete for two spots in the final," Craddock wrote.

"Overseas teams which tour rarely seem as motivated as Australia for these matches so it is a bad year when Australia don't win the competition and a terrible one when they fail to make the finals.

"Winning this competition often gives Australia a falsely high impression of their progress in one-day cricket."

Coward and the Sydney Morning Herald's Peter Roebuck, also said the Australian selectors' policy of choosing separate one-day and Test teams had failed.

"While other countries have flirted with this potentially disruptive method ... in the main they believe it to be a bad year when Australia don't win the competition and a terrible one when they fail to make the finals."

SL v India

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still struggling and that is worrying."

In normal circumstances, Muttiah Muralitharan's form would be a consolation. He has taken six wickets in three games, with a best of three for 25 against South Africa.

Indians, however, are among the best players of spin in the world and are thus likely to blunt the off spinner's effectiveness.

If Sri Lanka fail on Wednesday not only mean, as manager Duleep Mendis put it, a return home in disgrace.

It could also cost some players, and the 35-year-old Ranatunga in particular, their international futures. The same, however, could be said of India and Azharuddin.

SQUADS

INDIA (probable): Saurav Ganguly, Sandeep Patil, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, Mohammad Azharuddin (capt), Ajay Jadhav, Nayan Mongia, Javagal Srinath, Nikhil Chopra, Debashish Mohanty, Venkatesh Prasad.

SRI LANKA (probable): Sanath Jayasuriya, Roshan Mahanama, Marvan Atapattu, Aravinda de Silva, Arjuna Ranatunga (capt), Mahela Jayawardena, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Chaminda Vaas, Eric Upasanthana, Pramodaya Wickremasinghe, Muttiah Muralitharan.

World Cup on canvas

TAUNTON, England, May 25 (Reuters): Brush strokes are complementing batting strokes as the vivid images of the cricket World Cup are captured on canvas by artist Jocelyn Galsworthy.

A professional painter for 30 years who specialises in portraits and sporting scenes, she is in Taunton for Wednesday's Group A match between defending champions Sri Lanka and former winners India. It is her latest assignment in a series of paintings at some of the tournament grounds.

"I did the opening match at Lord's and last Saturday's game at Worcester and I will also be going to Edgbaston," she said on Monday while setting up her easel to start work on the background to her painting.

"It was the second time I have painted the Worcester ground. On the first occasion (Worcestershire county club secretary) Mike Vockins asked me to paint the view looking across to the pavilion because the one from the opposite side of the ground that captures the cathedral is always being done."

"But on Saturday I painted the traditional view looking towards the cathedral."

Jocelyn, great niece of the late John Galsworthy, the novelist and playwright, has become a familiar sight at Test venues around the world. Paintings of matches at the Melbourne and Sydney Cricket grounds, Bridgetown's Kensington Oval and St John's Recreation Ground, Antigua as well as The Oval, Headingley and Old Trafford are among her completed works.



THAT'S A KNOCK OUT! New Zealand batsman Craig McMillan is felled by a bouncer from West Indies fast bowler Reon King at Southampton on May 24. —Internet photo

'Jac' of terrific trades

LONDON, May 26 (Internet report): Captain Brian Lara hailed Ridley Jacobs as "a breath of fresh air" for West Indies cricket after the wicket-keeper-batsman helped his country demolish New Zealand to get their World Cup campaign back on track.

Jacobs is not a name well known on these shores but he was the Windies man-of-the-series and one of the few bright lights in the 5-0 winter Test whitewash by South Africa.

He showed his prowess as wicketkeeper and opening batsman to claim the man-of-the-match award as Lara's side claimed their second win in the World Cup, by seven wickets with 34 balls to spare at a shivering Southampton yesterday.

Jacobs took five catches to equal the competition record as the West Indies pace attack took full advantage of a bouncy and seaming pitch to roll over the Kiwis for 156 - their lowest ever World Cup score.

Then he ensured there would be no fightback by New Zealand as he went in as opener and batted all the way through the innings for an unbeaten 80 off 131 balls with eight fours and a six.

A third-wicket stand of 72 in 15 overs with Lara, who looked in good form when making 36 off 54 balls, effectively killed off the game as a contest.

"Since Ridley came into the West Indies team a year-and-a-half ago he has been a breath of fresh air for us. He takes his responsibilities very seriously and does very well," said Lara.

"I hope he can keep up his consistency because it is important our openers bat for not just the first 15 overs but for as long as possible to give ourselves a

chance on a wicket tailor-made for the Windies quick bowlers.

Dillon ended with the best figures of four for 46, but the glory could just have easily gone to the other trio who beat the bat with consistent regularity and gave the Kiwis little chance to escape the shackles.

It was 21 overs before their top scorer Craig McMillan (32) achieved the first boundary of the innings, and there were only 11 in their 49.1 overs.

Lara admitted: "It was a very important toss to win because when you go in with an attack of four or five seamers you want to have first use of the track."

But equally if we have to bat first in similar circumstances I would want us to perform much better than New Zealand did. You need to hang in there."

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming was unhappy with the pitch and claimed: "There was too much assistance for the bowlers early on - but if you are going to have that assistance it should be there all game and not just one innings."

"They bowled magnificently and gave us nothing to hit. They took early wickets and never took their foot off the pedal."

"People might say we played a few rash shots. But in those conditions on a wicket like that you have got to take a few chances, and things just didn't come off for us."

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Nakata's second in a row

KUALA LUMPUR, May 25: Japan's Hidetoshi Nakata beat three other candidates to bag the Asian-player-of-the-year award here Tuesday for a second straight time, reports AFP.

"It is a great honour to be recognised once again as the Asian-player-of-the-year. I am very happy," Nakata said at the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) annual awards ceremony.

The AFC said Nakata, who played for Italy's Perugia, was chosen for "having flown the Asian flag high."

"Since the move to one of the world's toughest leagues, the Japanese midfielder has built up a huge following not just in Italy but in Asia as well," the AFC said in a statement.

"He is looked upon as the epitome of the new breed of Asian players set to make their mark on international football of the 21st century."

Nakata staged off strong challenges from China's Fan Zhiyi, Iran's Bayern Munich star Ali Daei and Jasssem Al Houwaldi of Kuwait.

Japan dominated the AFC awards ceremony, with rising star Shinjo Ono walking away with the coveted Asian-young-player-of-the-year award and Jubilo Iwata coach Takashi Kuwabara named as Asian-coach-of-the-year.

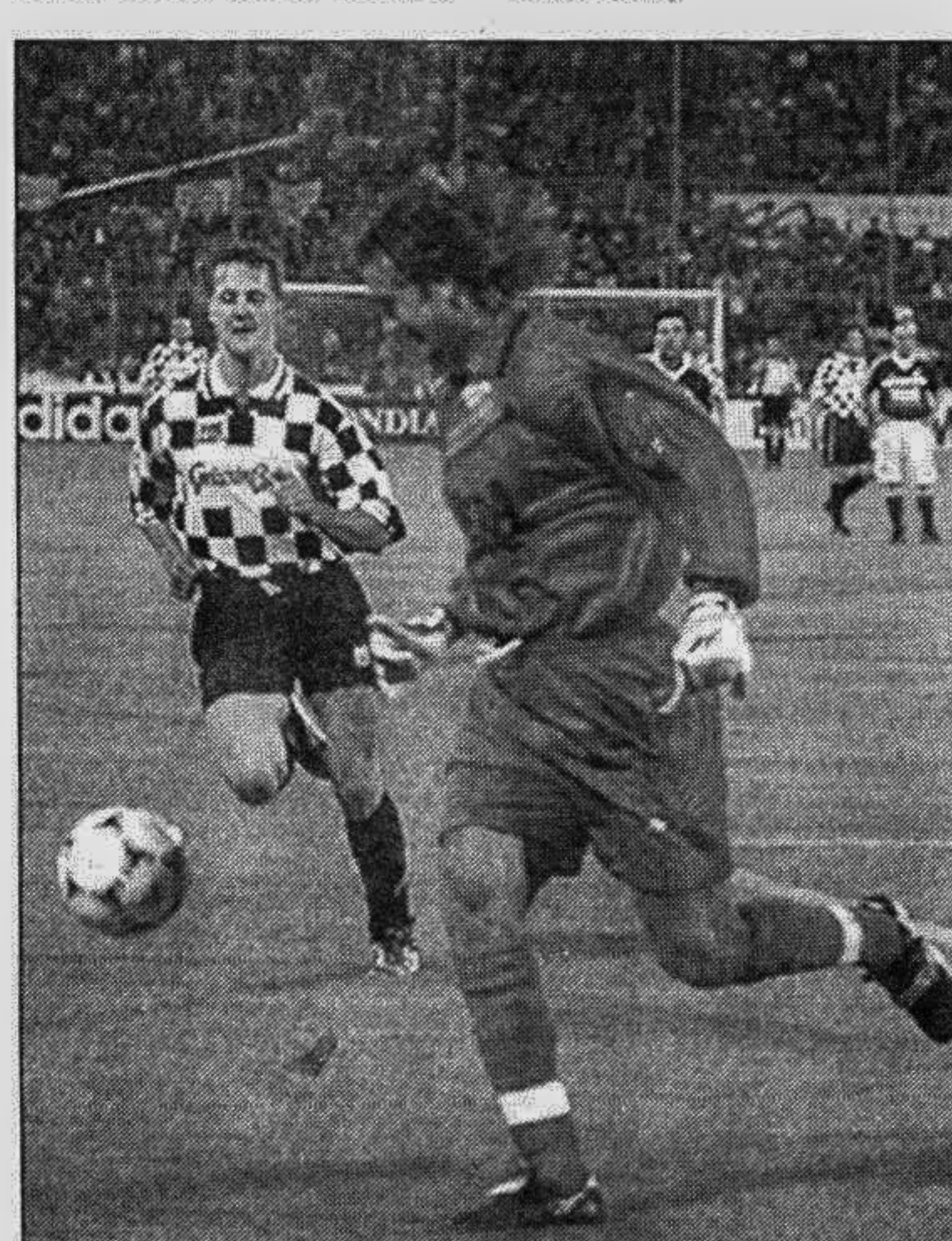
Jubilo Iwata, winner of the Asian Club Championship title, was also crowned the club team of the year, while Japanese journalist Yoshiyuki Osumi was selected as football-writer-of-the-year.

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Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta (R) tries to evade German Formula One racer Michael Schumacher during a charity soccer match for the children of Kosovo held in Florence, Italy on May 24. —AFP photo

Greetings to the cricketers

Individuals and organisations continued to felicitate Bangladesh cricket team for its victory against Scotland, reports BSS.

Bangladesh made their first ever victory in the World Cup beating Scotland by 22 runs in Edinburgh on Monday.

Awami League general secretary and Minister for LGED and Cooperatives Zillur Rahman, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, Dhaka City Mayor Mohammad Hanif, Fisheries and Livestock Minister A S M Abdur Rab, State Minister for Youth and Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader and State Minister for Jute A K Fayezul Huq in separate messages today congratulate the cricket team expressing the hope that the victory would continue in future.

Jatiya Krira Parishad and BRTC also congratulated the team, coach and manager of the Bangladesh team and said the victory would encourage the whole nation. BRTC also announced cash incentive for the cricketers.

Mustafa Kamal, MP, the chairman of Abahani Cricket Committee, also congratulated Bangladesh team on their historic success on Scottish soil.

Our DU correspondent adds: Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of ruling party yesterday congratulated the Bangladesh cricket squad for their first victory in the World Cup cricket.

Wasim keeping

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per cent so far because I have been telling him to control his line and length and when that is there he will be able to bowl a lot quicker."

Shoaib got upset with Waugh after he had stopped one of his fiery run-ups in mid-stride by claiming he wasn't ready.

They then clashed after brushing past each other as a quick single was being taken. Views were exchanged between Shoaib and the Australian captain with top scorer Michael Bevan, at the other end, also getting involved.

Subba Row claimed: "There had been some shouting and heated words out there."

Wasim said: "The umpire had a polite word with me about him and I then spoke to him and told him to relax and leave it to me to have a go at them."

Pakistan go into their next match on Friday at Derby against New Zealand virtually assured of qualification to the next stage, and Wasim will be more than happy to see Shoaib's explosive pace in full flow again.

Wasim will not want to dampen his fire as Pakistan emerge as the main rivals to South Africa for the title.

"He claims to have come about because Pakistan is so often racked with internal politics and strife over the years - have got their act together on and off the pitch."

He said: "We discussed when I took the captaincy that the senior players were going to be around for the next two or three years so we have to back each other up."

"We have to work together. We must all try to give 100 per cent in every game and if we do that I firmly believe we can beat any team in the world."

But Wasim is deliberately playing down Pakistan's chances of taking the World Cup, pointedly leaving the South Africans with the favourites tag.

"We still need to improve, we need to bowl better under pressure. We have to improve a whole lot of things," he added.

The South Africans seem to have all the confidence, well let them have it and we will concentrate on our game."

"It is a deliberate policy to play things down and then see what happens."

Time to play

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mentioned Tom Moody as a possibility.

The Australian captain admitted his players knew next to nothing about their Bangladeshi opponents. "It's going to be a question of seeing what they are like on the day."

"They're not a test playing country so we don't have any videos of them or anything like that but if we get the basics right then they should be able to beat them well enough," he said.

Former Australian captain Allan Border was in the nets with the players on Tuesday to dispense some advice. Border is a selector and television cricket commentator.

Azhar alarmed

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Earlier, Tim May, the Australian players' spokesman, said the team was so upset by the lax security at the end of matches that it was considering walking out of the tournament.

During Australia's stay in the Montenegro County Detention Centre and walked out a free man at about 4 pm EDT (2000 GMT) to waiting friends and family members.

His release was so abrupt that only a few television cameras were on hand when a bodyguard escorted a smiling Tyson,

Rockville, May 25: Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson left a Maryland prison on Monday after serving less than four months of a one-year sentence for assaulting two motorists in a Washington suburb last year, reports Reuters.

Amid expectations that the 32-year-old boxer would return to the ring as early as August, Tyson signed state parole papers ending his 10-day stay in the Montgomery County Detention Centre and walked out a free man at about 4 pm EDT (2000 GMT) to waiting friends and family members.

His release was so abrupt that only a few television cameras were on hand when a bodyguard escorted a smiling Tyson,

Miles to go

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the players starting the game were getting paid and refused suggestions that his team are full-time.

He then claimed that if the Bangladesh cricket authorities had listened to him, man-of-the-match Minhajul Abedin would have been left at home.

The 35-year-old all-rounder turned the game in the visitors' favour with a fine unbeaten 68, but that cut little ice with Greenidge.

"The authorities have set their stall out to win a World Cup match, so I hope they are happy," he said.

"I am looking at a 10-year plan to try and develop the younger players and give us a chance of being a Test nation in that time."

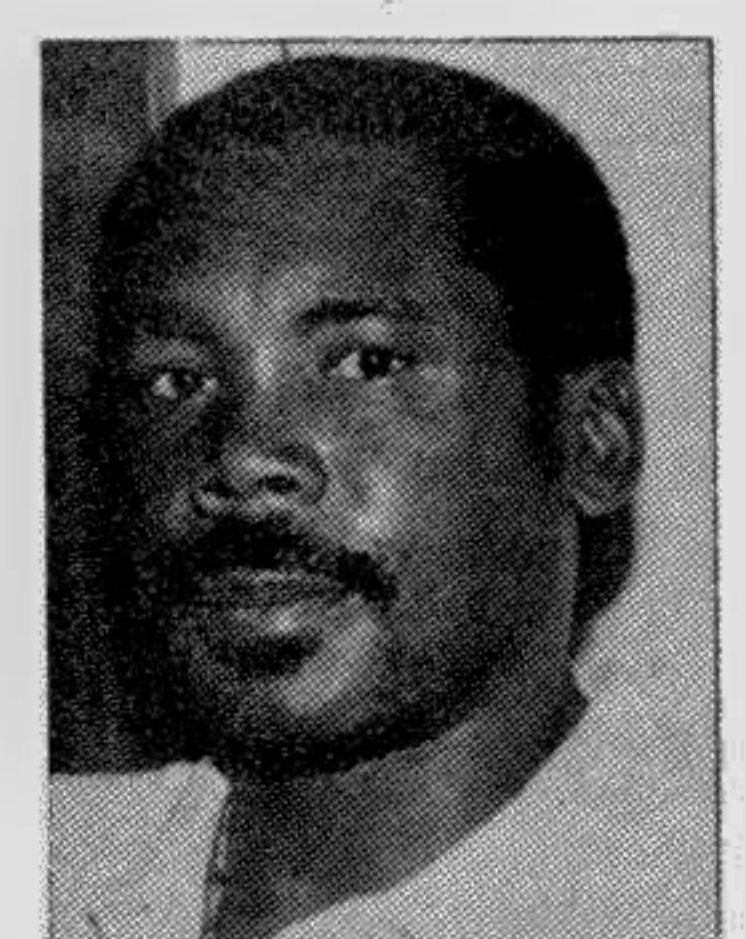
"But the authorities don't appear to listen, so I have to work with what I am given."

Minhajul did well, but I prefer to look towards the future."

Greenidge, whose contract is to end after the World Cup, was made an honorary citizen of the country after he coached Bangladesh to ICC Trophy victory in Malaysia two years back.

However, his employer, the

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), observes different opinion on its claim for Test status. BCB officials hope the country will be granted Test status at this year's annual meeting of the International Cricket



GORDON GREENIDGE

Council (ICC), the game's governing body.

"That's our aim, that is what we want," team manager Tanvir Ahmed said. "I think, we are ready to play Test cricket."

Partying at Stakis

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SEVEN SKIPPERS

The Stakis party last night was special for many reasons, but also because seven of Bangladesh's eight captains were present. Enjoying themselves were Shafiqul Haque, Raquibul Hasan, Gazi Ashraf Hossain, Faruque Ahmed, Minhajul Abedin, Akram Khan and Aminul Islam. Only the first captain Shamim Kabir could not be present.

GENEROUS PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina congratulated each member of the victorious Bangladesh team over telephone immediately after the win against Scotland on Monday. She talked to the players and thanked them for pulling off their first World Cup win.

The Prime Minister, who

follows the game keenly, doubled the prize money for Bangladesh cricketers after the victory over Scotland.

It was announced earlier that each player would receive Tk 50,000 for every match that Bangladesh won in the World Cup. On Monday, she upped the award to Tk one lakh for each player.

The PM also doubled the prize money for man-of-the-match Minhajul Abedin. He will now receive Tk one lakh for Monday's feat.

Naimur Rahman for his knock against Scotland and Mehrab Hossain for his flair against the West Indies will each receive Tk 50,000, the happy PM made it known over telephone.

Ajmal-ul Hossain, QC, announced in Edinburgh cash awards of 500 pounds for each Bangladesh player for their win against Scotland.

Run-out hits Scots hard

LONDON, May 25 (Internet report): The margins between success and failure in international sport have always been slight, but rarely can a fingertip have proved so pivotal to the outcome of a World Cup game as it did at Edinburgh today.

The records will show Scotland lost their Group B encounter against Bangladesh by 22 runs - but the cruelty of the defeat will not show up in the bare statistics.

After seemingly having the game won in the first hour, lost 10 overs into their own innings and won again as the match entered its final stages, Scotland saw their hopes of achieving the win they had dreamed of by an extraordinary fluke.

Gavin Hamilton had rescued his side from eight with a chanceless 63.

The Yorkshire all-rounder had just struck a mighty six over midwicket to signal the start of a 10-over charge which should have brought victory over Bangladesh at the Grange in Edinburgh.

He was at the non-striker's end when Monjurul Islam bowled a half-volley to Alec Davies which the Scot scattered straight back.

Monjurul dived in desperation, trying to save the boundary, and managed the merest of touches which deflected the ball into the stumps.

"I knew I was out immediately," said Hamilton, who could only kick the ground in frustration at the bizarre twist that saw him run out by an inch.

"These things happen, and there is nothing you can do."

"At that stage we had the match in the bag, and I was so frustrated to see the stumps go down."

It was the second piece of bad luck to hit Hamilton during a game played in freezing temperatures in front of a vociferous crowd.

Bangladesh had been reduced to 26 for five when Naimur Rahman joined Minhajul Abedin for a sixth-wicket stand of 69 which changed the course of a game that had been heading solidly in Scotland's direction.

If it could have been so different if Iain Philip had held on to a routine first-slip catch from a Minhajul edge when the batsman had made only three.

Instead, the ball trickled to earth and Minhajul went on to

an unbeaten 68 to help win the game for his side and earn the man-of-the-match award for himself.

"We were in the driving seat, and I thought we would get them all-out for 90," said Scotland captain George Salmon, one of the top four batsmen who have consistently failed their country during the competition.

"We can't keep expecting Gavin to dig us out of trouble and we should have been able to see off the new ball."

"It is a worry for the team and it is a worry for the individuals concerned because one of us should have been capable of going out and playing a match-winning innings."

Coach Jim Love was even more scathing of his top order, although he denied suggestions that packing his initial 15-man squad with all-rounders had been a mistake.

"There are plenty of batsmen in there, and there are still some positives that we can take from the game," he said.

"You can talk about the white ball and the difference it makes, but other teams seem to be coping with it."

"All we needed was one of the top five to go out and get 70 and the rest could have batted around him."

Indian armory

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against South Africa and Zimbabwe, have left themselves with a tricky hurdle to clear by needing to win tomorrow and then against England at Edgbaston on Saturday to stay in the tournament.

Azharuddin said: "There is always pressure when you are playing for India because the expectation of our people is so high. We must be composed and not get overawed by the situation."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Task
4 Low
8 "Fly, fly!"
12 Have a bug
13 Egyptian cross
14 Basket
15 Ball rim
16 "Mouse"
17 Demolish
18 Staff
19 Spent
20 Answered, on "Jeopardy!"
22 Actress
24 Obey
25 Flight recorder
29 Milwaukee product
30 Fact, in days of yore
31 - and
32 Bad luck
33 Lab rat's challenge
35 Police pursuit
36 You might bring it home

DOWN
5 From the top
6 "Guys and Dolls" role
7 Yon wench
8 Psychia-
9 Trist
10 Frost
11 Seep
12 Slowly
13 News-
14 Paper page
15 Algonquian
16 language
17 Georgia
18 Or Cal
19 Need
20 Breed of the steed
21 Ledge
22 Enjoy a
23 Jumble per second
24 - Raton, Fla.
25 Formal
26 Anise-
27 Flavoured
28 Apefruit
29 Cookbook
30 Squad
31 Selected
32 Prop in a
33 Carry
34 Movie
35 Tom Sawyer's girlfriend
36 Obsessed seaman
37 Humdinger
38 Lecher's
39 Count-
40 Carvey or Delany
41 "Undies"
42 Item
43 Ally
44 Assn.
45 Pirate costume feature

CRYPTOQUIP
J B Q U H K R N B D C I P
T U R P V D B J R N N T Y C
X Q U V B D C P R S P C Y R C B
H B S D Y S I C V
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IT HAS BEEN DULY PROVEN THAT CLUMSY FURNITURE-MOVERS EAT CHIPPED BEE.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: D equals F
The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.