



Today, if the red and green flies high, the Aussies can kiss the cup goodbye.

Breaking Boundaries.



DEVASTATING DRAVID: India's Rahul Dravid, who became only the second batsman to score back-to-back centuries in World Cup history, in full flow against Sri Lanka yesterday. —AFP photo

Stage set for an assault?

DURHAM, May 26 : Australia warm up for Sunday's make-or-break group B clash with what should have been a leisurely outing against World Cup debutants Bangladesh on Thursday, reports AFP.

But the game could determine whether they will make it to the Super Six second stage.

Australia, with just two points from three games in group B, are trailing in fourth behind Pakistan (six points) and New Zealand and the West Indies (four each).

Steve Waugh's men must score a big win over Bangladesh at Chester-Le-Street and then defeat the West Indies at Old Trafford on Sunday to have any chance of reaching the second round Super Six - and then only on run-rate.

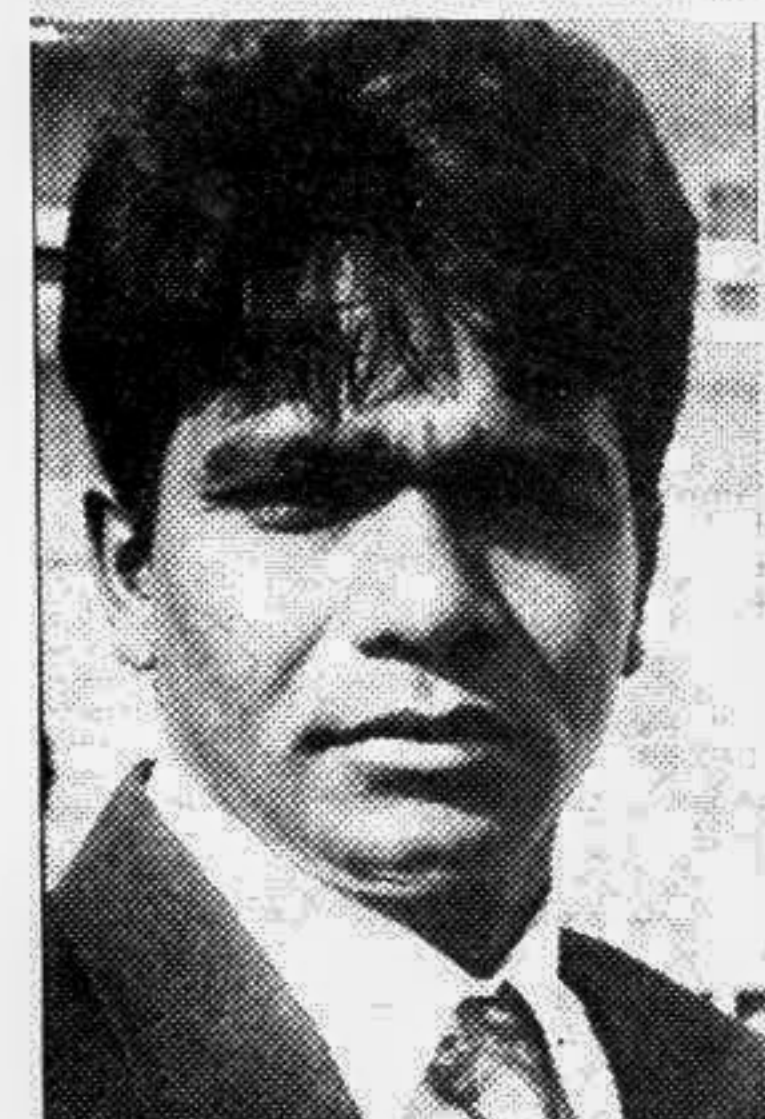
Just one defeat away from an early exit, the Australians can take inspiration from the experience of Pakistan seven years ago.

Pakistan were one defeat away from elimination in 1992, before they hit form midway through the tournament and went on to snatch the title.

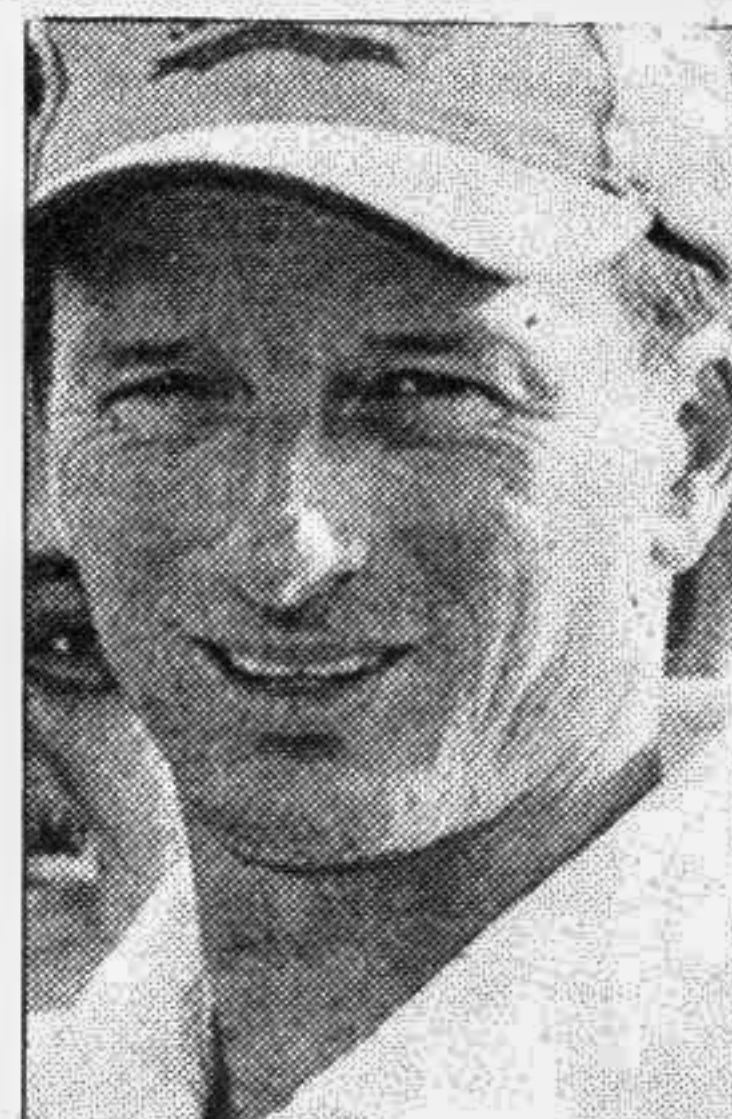
But with only a lone win against Scotland so far, even



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STEVE WAUGH

the bookmakers are having doubts about the Australians.

From 3-1 joint favourites with South Africa, Waugh's men have slipped to 8-1, but the captain believes the tide can still be stemmed.

Waugh, who has been slammed in the media for tactical blunders against New Zealand and Pakistan, promises a do-or-die effort.

"We will be aggressive in both matches," Waugh said. "We want to get as many quick runs as possible against Bangladesh, and the strategy will be pretty much the same against the West Indies."

"Anyone who writes us off now is a bad judge," he said.

"We're going to do well, we're going to win these next two games, we're going to get through to the next round and then we're going to play some good cricket after that."

The man Australia needs to come good is their dashing opener and wicket-keeper Adam Gilchrist, who made six against Scotland, 14 against New Zealand, and a third-ball duck against Pakistan.

Bangladesh, go into the

'G' trouble for Bangladesh

Nizamuddin Ahmed in England

LONDON, May 26: Bangladesh coach Gordon Greenidge is on his way out. His contract with the Bangladesh Cricket Board, where he has been serving as Director of Coaching since October 1996, will in all probability not be renewed when it runs out in end June this year.

Several BCB officials now in England following the World Cup indicated this to this correspondent, adding that the complaints against Greenidge was mounting, particularly in view of his behaviour on the current tour.

To add fuel to the rumour, it was circulating in Edinburgh yesterday that the legendary West Indian batsman, who was part of the Caribbean victory in the 1979 and 1983 World Cup, is to become the next coach of Scotland.

Greenidge has not been in the best of terms with his employers since after Bangladesh's ICC triumph in mid

1997. There was mutual unhappiness about how the coaching programme should run. While Gordon seemed to lament over too much interference and lack of all-round ability, organisational and performance, some BCB high-ups questioned the coaching rookie in him. At times the working relationship between the two did not exist.

Fair it is to say that the master batsman has not been able to display his coaching acumen. There is no success like success and that had been lacking since the ICC joy, which came five months after Greenidge's signing.

The players as individuals and they as a team did not improve. The results were appalling. The Commonwealth championship in Malaysia was a disaster, as was the tri-nation in India and the Merit Cup in Dhaka. Only the series win against a visiting West Indian 'A' gave us reason to smile.

Matters came to a head after the dreadful tour of Ireland, Scotland and England last June. Losing to Ireland and Scotland was difficult to digest despite the infamous UK weather with abject wet, windy and cold ingredients. There was call for his neck from several BCB high-ups then. But for an in-depth interview with Greenidge conducted at his request by Al-Amin and Hasan Masood of The Daily Star, the West Indian legend was about to be shown the door.

Manager Tanveer Muzhar Islam confirmed at Edinburgh that Greenidge was one of the five persons responsible for selecting the final eleven before a match. It has been gathered from several sources that Gordon left the meeting of selectors before the vital Scotland match, saying he was unwell.

While the team was in a selection meeting at the Stakis Grosvenor before the vital Scotland match, he was unwell.

BITS & PIECES

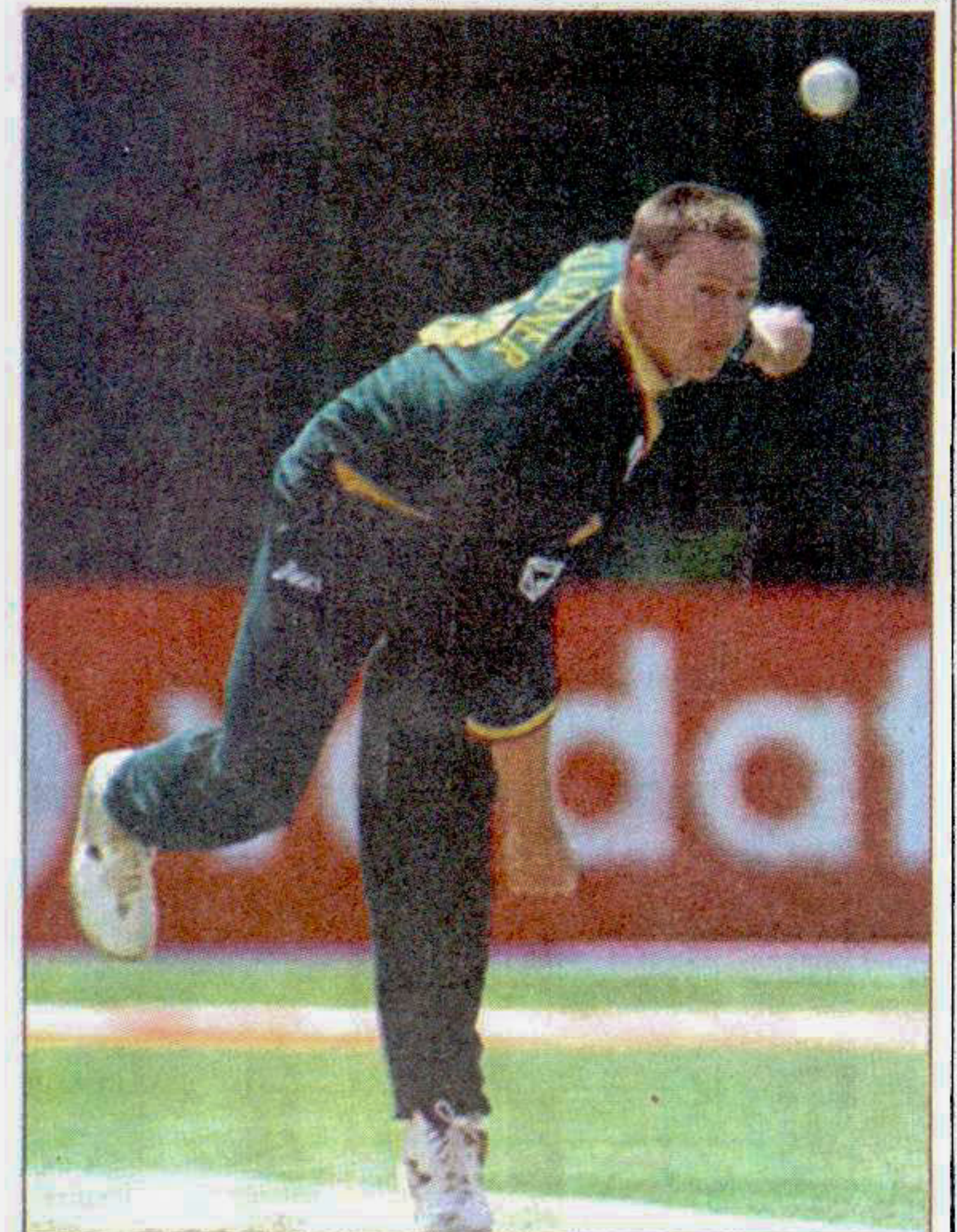


LONDON, England, May 26 (AFP): Much was made of the importance of winning the toss before the World Cup, with commentators predicting many matches could be decided by it.

Sides put in by the opposition, the argument ran, would be at a major disadvantage, battling to survive as swing and seam bowlers exploited wickets made lively by early-morning moisture.

The early statistics, however, don't back up that argument.

South Africa, the tournament favourites, have been skipper Hansie Cronje lose all three tosses against India, Sri Lanka and England. Put in twice, they won each of those games. Pakistan — who have won one of three tosses — have



South African paceman Lance Klusener unleashes yet another deadly delivery against Kenya yesterday. —Internet photo



INDIA-SRI LANKA SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Indian innings against Sri Lanka at Taunton yesterday:

INDIA	R	B	4	6
S Ramesh b Vaas	5	4	1	0
S Ganguly c sub (U Chandana) b Wickramasinghe	183	158	17	7
R Dravid run out (Muralitharan)	145	129	17	1
S Tendulkar b Jayasuriya	2	3	0	0
A Jadeja c & b Wickramasinghe	5	4	0	0
R Singh c De Silva b Wickramasinghe	0	1	0	0
M Azharuddin not out	12	7	0	1
J Srinath not out	0	0	0	0
Extras: (lb-3, w-12, nb-6)	21			
Total: (For 6 wickets in 50 overs)	373			

Did not bat: A Kumble, V Prasad, D Mohanty.

Fall of wkts: 1-6 (Ramesh, 0.5 ov); 2-324 (Dravid, 45.4 ov); 3-344 (Tendulkar, 46.5 ov); 4-349 (Jadeja, 47.3 ov); 5-349 (Singh, 47.4 ov); 6-372 (Ganguly, 49.5 ov).

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Vaas	10	0	84	1 (3-nb, 1-w)
Upashantha	10	0	80	0 (3-nb, 3-w)
Wickramasinghe	10	0	65	3 (1-w)
Muralitharan	10	0	60	0 (2-w)
Jayasuriya	3	0	21	0
De Silva	4	0	37	1 (2-w)

Toss: Sri Lanka.

Umpires: R S Dunne (NZ) and D R Shepherd.

TV Umpire: R Julian.

Match Referee: C W Smith (WI).

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HSBC Wishes Good Luck to the Bangladesh Cricket team

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