

## Gooch's poor preparation

LONDON, July 25: Graham Gooch's hopes of making a spectacular farewell from England cricket were upset by Worcestershire paceman Alangir Sheriyar in the English county championship on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Former England captain Gooch was desperate to finish his career with a big score on his home ground in his penultimate innings for Essex at Chelmsford.

But the 44-year-old had made only 11 from 26 balls before losing his leg stump to Sheriyar after making room to try and force the ball through mid-wicket.

Sheriyar showed no mercy for one of the England's most popular cricketers.

He promised that he would be looking for a repeat performance when Gooch steps out for his final innings either on Friday or Saturday.

"He is a great player and it is always nice to get someone out who has scored so many Test runs and played that many years," he said.

"I was there to do a job. I know it could be very emotional when Graham goes to the wicket for the last time but I'll be trying to do the same as in the first innings."

That's what I'm paid to do and we need a win. It's first-class cricket and it is never an arena where you are going to throw freebies to someone just because he is retiring."

Essex went on to finish the second day of the four-day clash on 230 for three, still trailing Worcestershire's 394 all out.

Championship leaders Glamorgan have plenty to do if they are to stay out in front after seeing Derbyshire bat on to make 513 for six before the declaration finally came at Chesterfield.

Glamorgan that lost their in-form batsman Steve James for 25 out of 39 for one before the end of a rain-hit day.

## Britain to pour \$15m into 2006 WC bid

LONDON, July 25: England, locked in fierce competition with Germany, plans to spend a record 9 million pounds (15 million dollars) on its bid for the 2006 World Cup, reports AP.

The Times reported Thursday that the British government is offering full backing for the bid to bring soccer's showpiece to England for the first time since 1966.

The paper said the Football Association has already committed 3 million pounds (5 million dollars) and the figure is expected to be matched with 3 million pounds from the FA Premier League and a further 3 million pounds from lottery funding.

The government does not have direct control over lottery funding, which is currently in the hands of the English Sports Council. But the Times said the government wants lottery money spent on the bid and government lawyers are examining whether it can control the funds directly.

The 9 million pounds (15 million dollars) would be the highest amount ever spent in trying to bring an international sports event to this country. It would exceed by more than 4 million pounds (6.6 million dollars) the figure spent by Manchester on its unsuccessful bid for the 2000 Olympics.

Alec McGivern, director of the World Cup bid, said the FA was already discussing support from companies such as British Airways.

"However, we will not let it get out of hand as the Japanese and South Koreans did," he said, referring to the bitter campaign waged between the two Asian rivals before they were selected to co-host the 2002 World Cup.

McGivern said the government could play a significant role by giving leadership to the bid and providing hospitality and diplomatic support.

"The new government is extremely enthusiastic about our candidature," he said. "Both (Prime Minister) Tony Blair and (Sports Minister) Tony Banks are football followers. What we must do is to make the bid unique, to make it something to excite people."

Soccer's European governing body, UEFA, initially endorsed Germany's bid as the sole candidate from Europe. That upset the English, who insisted they should be allowed to go forward with their bid.

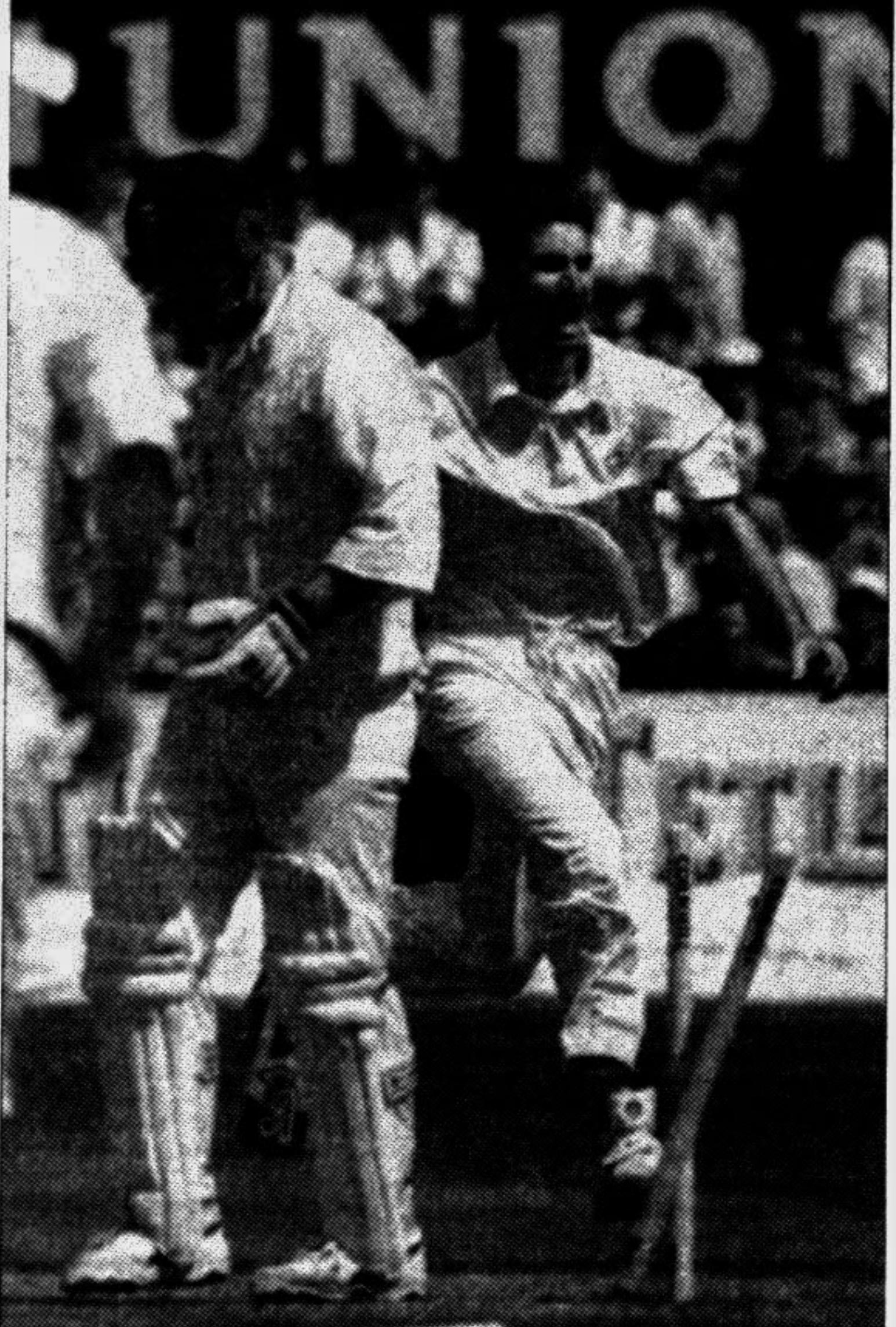
The Germans have accused the English of going back on a gentlemen's agreement to support the German bid.

## Gillespie rocks England

LEEDS, England, July 25: Jason Gillespie produced a sensational spell of fast bowling to rip through England and help bowl them out for 172 at lunch on the second day of the fourth Test at Headingley on Friday, report agencies.

The lanky speedster made a mockery of the England batting in a 45-ball spell, taking six for 23 and finishing with seven for 37, his career-best.

Gillespie and fellow fast bowler Glenn McGrath took ad-



Australia's Jason Gillespie (R) roars in ecstasy after having Englishman Graham Thorpe's (C) stump shattered during the second day's play of the Headingley Test in Leeds yesterday.

—AP/UNB photo

vantage of some undisciplined batting to give Australia the upper hand.

Atherton top scored with a subdued 41 in nearly four hours, but couldn't curb the temptation to hook a short delivery from McGrath, which he top edged to Gillespie at long leg.

It is the second time in three innings Atherton has failed hooking. He tried to hook in the first innings of the third Test at Old Trafford and gloved a catch

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