

Bits & pieces

From page-13
half-century in the World Cup. Holding said, "Mehrab has a lot of potential and cricketing knowledge in him and has a bright future."

TV BAN

LONDON, May 22: England made sure none of their World Cup cricketers gave in to the temptation of tuning into the FA Cup final between Manchester United and Newcastle today, reports AFP.

They banned television from the dressing room at The Oval before the game against South Africa.

David Lloyd, the England coach, is a passionate Manchester United fan, as is Neil Fairbrother.

England's match against the South Africans attracted a sell-out crowd of 18,500. But that was dwarfed by the 79,000 that packed Wembley for the football.

NO HOPE FOR WOOLMER

LONDON, May 22: England's hopes of recruiting South African coach Bob Woolmer after the cricket World Cup have dimmed, according to media reports today, says AFP.

Several newspapers said England, who took on South Africa at The Oval today, were losing hope of winning Woolmer's signature.

The tournament hosts have already announced the departure of their current coach David Lloyd immediately after the World Cup. Woolmer, meanwhile, sees his contract with the South Africans end after the event.

Woolmer, a former English Test batsman and regarded as one of the most innovative thinkers in the modern game, seemed an obvious replacement.

But the Daily Mail newspaper said today that England were "increasingly wary about employing someone who has given the impression that a financial offer he simply cannot refuse will be the only enticement."

Pak v Australia

From page 13
in Lahore between them in November.

Then, Pakistan put on 315 for eight, thanks to centuries from Ijaz Ahmed and Yousuf Youhana, only to see Australia win with six wickets and seven balls to spare, thanks to tons from Gilchrist and Ricky Ponting.

SQUADS

AUSTRALIA (probable): Adam Gilchrist, Mark Waugh, Ricky Ponting, Darren Lehmann, Steve Waugh (capt), Michael Bevan, Shane Lee, Shane Warne, Damien Fleming, Adam Dale, Glenn McGrath.

PAKISTAN (probable): Saeed Anwar, Shahid Afridi, Abdul Razzaq, Ijaz Ahmed, Javed Miandad, Yousuf Youhana, Moin Khan, Wasim Akram (capt), Azhar Mahmood, Saqlain Mushtaq, Shoaib Akhtar.

It's now football

From page-13
ten thousand hot dogs. Preliminaries of today's FA cup final began on September 5 with five hundred fifty-eight clubs entering the tournament.

Back in Dublin, preparations are afoot for tomorrow's short flight to Edinburgh. Despite Bangladesh's two defeats, both to superior and experienced opponents, they were not humiliated.

Spirit in Tanveer Muzhar Islam's camp is high, although one or two BCB officials are becoming increasingly frustrated for they had hoped for better performances from the senior members of the team.

A good result on Monday could change all that. Anything less could be disastrous for the future of cricket in Bangladesh.

It was always a difficult game when players go out under these 'do or die' situations. But, who said cricket was a ball game?

"We are working well together and the combination is good," he said. "The most important thing is that we are playing as a team."

It was just that sort of team spirit that enabled Pakistan to fight back from adversity in 1992 and go on to lift the trophy.

Steve refutes rift rumour

LEEDS, England, May 22: Australian captain Steve Waugh denied rumours of a rift in his World Cup squad and said it was ridiculous to claim he was not talking to vice-captain Shane Warne, reports AFP.

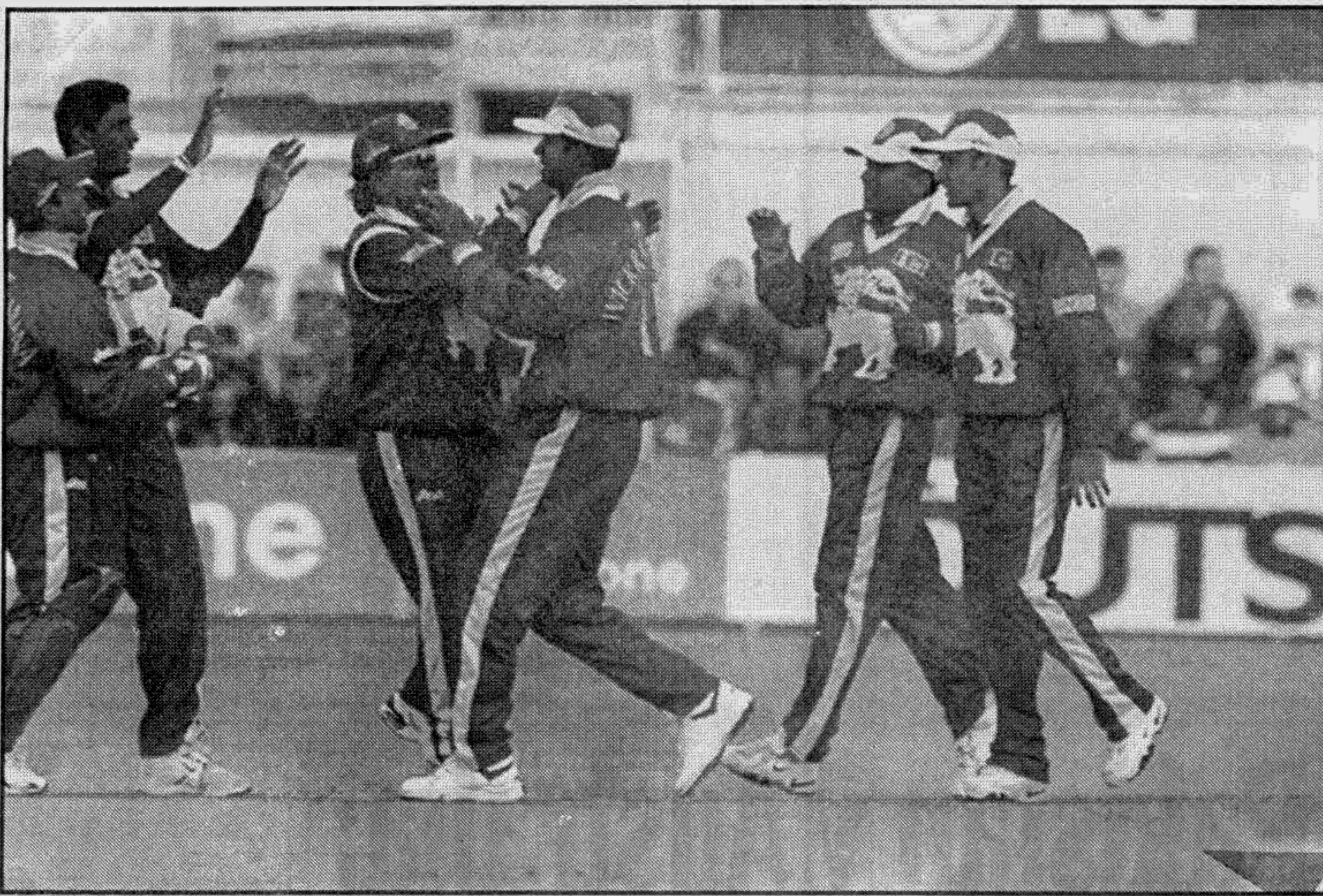
An Australian radio station had reported that the two men were not speaking because of a difference of opinion over Waugh's low key approach to captaincy.

But the skipper, with Warne alongside him, totally refuted the claim after training at Headingley on Saturday.

"It's just ridiculous," he said. "There is absolutely no problem between us or anyone else in the team and I don't know where the idea comes from," said Waugh.

Warne agreed and said that there was no disharmony in the squad and that they were all focused entirely on beating Pakistan in Sunday's fixture.

Both sides will name their team on the morning of the match.



Sri Lankan players celebrate after the fall of a Zimbabwe wicket.

— AFP photo

BATTING, BOWLING SO FAR

LONDON, May 22 (Reuters): Top batting and bowling performances at the World Cup tournament after Friday's matches (*denotes not out).

BATTING

- 97 — Saurav Ganguly (India) v South Africa, May 15, Hove.
- 96 — Jacques Kallis (South Africa) v India, May 15, Hove.
- *88 — Nasser Hussain (England) v Kenya, May 18, Canterbury.
- 88 — Alec Stewart (England) v Sri Lanka, May 14, Lord's.
- 81 — Yousuf Youhana (Pakistan) v Scotland, May 20, Durham.
- *80 — Roger Twose (New Zealand) v Australia, May 20, Cardiff.
- 77 — Shivnarine Chanderpaul (West Indies) v Pakistan, May 16, Bristol.
- 76 — Darren Lehmann (Australia) v New Zealand, May 20, Cardiff.
- 76 — Gavin Hamilton (Scotland) v Pakistan, May 20, Durham.
- *73 — Graeme Hick (England) v Sri Lanka, May 14, Lord's.
- 71 — Steve Tikolo (Kenya) v England, May 18, Canterbury.
- *69 — Andy Flower (Zimbabwe) v India, May 19, Leicester.
- 67 — Mark Waugh (Australia) v Scotland, May 16, Worcester.
- 64 — Mehrab Hossain (Bangladesh) v West Indies, May 21, Dublin.
- *53 — Jimmy Adams (West Indies) v Bangladesh, May 21, Dublin.
- 51 — Ridley Jacobs (West Indies) v Bangladesh, May 21, Dublin.

BOWLING

- 4 for 25 — Courtney Walsh (West Indies) v Bangladesh, May 21, Dublin.
- 4 for 34 — Darren Gough (England) v Kenya, May 18, Canterbury.
- 4 for 37 — Alan Mullally (England) v Sri Lanka, May 14, Lord's.
- 4 for 37 — Geoff Allott (New Zealand) v Australia, May 20, Cardiff.
- 4 for 42 — Neil Johnson (Zimbabwe) v Kenya, May 15, Taunton.
- 3 for 11 — Shoaib Akhtar (Pakistan) v Scotland, May 20, Durham.
- 3 for 19 — Gavin Larsen (New Zealand) v Bangladesh, May 17, Chelmsford.
- 3 for 21 — Lance Klusener (South Africa) v Sri Lanka, May 19, Northampton.
- 3 for 22 — Henry Ologna (Zimbabwe) v India, May 19, Leicester.
- 3 for 23 — Wasim Akram (Pakistan) v Scotland, May 20, Durham.
- 3 for 25 — Muttiah Muralitharan 3 for 28 (Sri Lanka) v South Africa, May 19, Northampton.
- 3 for 26 — Jacques Kallis (South Africa) v Sri Lanka, May 19, Northampton.
- 3 for 28 — Courtney Walsh (West Indies) v Pakistan, May 16, Bristol.
- 3 for 29 — Mervyn Dillon (West Indies) v Pakistan, May 16, Bristol.
- 3 for 30 — Geoff Allott (New Zealand) v Bangladesh, May 17, Chelmsford.
- 3 for 30 — Reon King (West Indies) v Bangladesh, May 21, Dublin.
- 3 for 32 — Abdul Razzaq (Pakistan) v West Indies, May 16, Bristol.
- 3 for 38 — Abdul Razzaq (Pakistan) v Scotland, May 20, Durham.

ZIMBABWE SRI LANKA SCOREBOARD

From page 13

Scoreboard of the Zimbabwe innings against Sri Lanka at Worcester yesterday:

	R	B	4	6
N Johnson c Wickramasinghe b Upashantha	8	17	1	0
G Flower c Kaluwitharana b Wickeramasinghe	42	69	6	0
P Strang b Wickramasinghe	5	8	1	0
M Goodwin run out (Jayasuriya/Muralitharan)	21	29	2	0
A Flower c Kaluwitharana b Jayasuriya	41	60	3	0
A Campbell c Kaluwitharana b Wickeramasinghe	6	8	1	0
G Whittall c Ranatunga b Muralitharan	4	11	1	0
S Charles run out (Vaas/Jayasuriya)	27	36	1	1
H Streak c Atapattu b Muralitharan	10	23	0	0
E Brandes not out	19	29	1	1
H Ologna not out	7	0	0	0
Extras: (lb-3, w-6)	5	10	1	0
Total: (For 9 wickets in 50 overs)	197			
Fall of wickets: 1-21 (Johnson, 7.3 ov); 2-34 (Strang, 10.5 ov); 3-78 (Goodwin, 19.2 ov); 4-81 (GW Flower, 20.4 ov); 5-89 (Campbell, 22.4 ov); 6-94 (GJ Whittall, 25.5 ov); 7-162 (Charles, 39.3 ov); 8-162 (A Flower, 39.4 ov); 9-176 (Streak, 46.6 ov).				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Vaas	10	1	47	0 (lb)
Upashantha	10	1	43	1 (4w)
Wickramasinghe	10	1	30	3
Jayawardene	1	0	8	0
Muralitharan	10	2	29	2 (lb)
Jayasuriya	7	0	28	1
De Silva	2	0	9	0
Umpires: SA Bucknor (WI) and D R Shepherd.				
TV Umpire: MJ Kitchen.				
Match Referee: Talat Ali (Pak).				

Media madness

SYDNEY, May 22: Australia's cricketers have come under heavy fire from their national media after their unexpected World Cup defeat by New Zealand, reports Reuters.

While most commentators insisted Thursday's defeat itself was no real cause for panic the general consensus was that Australia were facing an ignominious and premature exit from the tournament if they failed to improve sharply.

"This loss will be remembered as the sobering face slap Australia needed to bring them to life or the first step of a painful slide out of the tournament," the Daily Telegraph's Robert Craddock wrote.

"In the fickle world of one-day cricket it is tempting to write off the loss as one bad day. But Australia have not played well since they landed and again looked flail and flayed by the impatience generated by the mental fatigue of a long summer."

The Sydney Morning Herald's Peter Roebuck said the Australians had been too hesitant against New Zealand and needed to revert back to their traditional aggressive style if they wanted to advance in the

competition. "Australia's cricket has been useless this week and it's time someone took games by the scruff of the neck," Roebuck wrote.

"The Australians must impose themselves, mentally and physically, they must stop fiddling around and waiting for changes."

Most observers said there was no need to make wholesale changes to the side but agreed that some adjustments were necessary.

The Sydney Morning Herald said Australian captain Steve Waugh needed to switch strike bowler Glenn McGrath back to open the attack rather than bowling first change.

The paper also said the Australians should consider moving Michael Bevan up the batting order and dropping all-rounder Shane Lee for Damien Martyn.

Under the headline 'We've lost our sting,' the Telegraph said it was almost inconceivable that Australia's cricketers should underperform in light of the fact they had been preparing for the tournament since the 1997-98 season.

Poor guy !

NEW DELHI, May 21 : While many Indian cricket fans have lost an arm and a leg gambling on India in the World Cup, one luckless punter saw the entire right hand side of his face disappear, reports AFP.

Kamachi, 25, was forced to shave off half his beard, moustache and hair after losing a bizarre bet on India's opening matches against South Africa and Zimbabwe.

The bet also required him to walk through his hometown of Manapara in the southern state of Tamil Nadu state, as lap-sided testimony to the failures of India's out-of-form team.



CAREER SWITCH ? British pop legend Rod Stewart exhibiting his footballing skills during a celebrity soccer game on the occasion of the opening of Glasgow's Hampden Park Stadium on May 21.

— AFP photo

Lara looking forward

SOUTHAMPTON, England, May 22 (Reuters): Only a privileged few competing in the current World Cup have the ability to reverse the course of a game through pure individual genius.

One of the elite is Brian Lara and, as the West Indies' captain showed against Australia in the drawn test series these year, he can make a mockery of otherwise sensible pre-match predictions.

Lara played a cameo innings of 25 from as many balls in West Indies' seven wicket win over Bangladesh on Friday after tallying a disappointing 11 in the loss to Pakistan.

He is overdue for a big score and Monday's Group B match against the resurgent New Zealanders would appear a perfect opportunity.

"It was important to get our first win," Lara said. "And hopefully we can get on top of them." Lara's astonishing recent form in the Caribbean and the perennial excellence of Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh can not obscure the flaws in the current West Indies' team which were again evident in the matches against Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The backup bowling after Ambrose and Walsh is indifferent and the West Indies have had particular problems coping with the white Duke ball, conceding 48 wickets in their two

matches to date. Ambrose missed the Bangladesh match with a shoulder injury but is expected to be fit for Monday's match.

The West Indies' batting fell away against Pakistan and although Ridley Jacobs, Jimmy



BRIAN LARA

Adams and Shivnarine Chanderpaul have each scored half-centuries they have less depth than New Zealand.

If West Indies' success these days depends essentially on three individuals, New Zealand have based their game on team

work. Successful New Zealand cricket teams, rare beasts compared to their rugby sides, have always been more than the sum of their parts and coach Steve Rixon has emphasised personal self-belief and collective responsibility.

The former Australian wicketkeeper had no divided loyalties after New Zealand's five-wicket win over his home nation on Thursday and believes he has assembled a team ready to beat the best.

"We have got as much flair as any team in this tournament," Rixon said. "There's enough batting to chase a score of 250 or 300 and get them."

The last World Cup of the millennium may provide the setting for all-rounder Chris Cairns to show he can at last be ranked among the world's more significant players.

Cairns has as much pure talent as any competitor in the tournament as he demonstrated with a gem of an innings against Australia.

He shares the growing confidence of a New Zealand side whose odds are shortening daily but in understandably wary of Lara.

"You just never know what he's going to do," Cairns said. "It just depends what side of the bed he wakes up on."

Tyson to be freed June 4?



WASHINGTON, May 22: Mike Tyson, in jail since February for assaulting two motorists, was

granted parole Friday and is scheduled for release no later than June 4, reports AP.

The Maryland Parole Commission voted 5-1 to grant the former heavyweight champion his release, contingent upon approval by Indiana authorities. The exact date of Tyson's release will depend on how soon Indiana acts.

The commission said it granted parole because it would guarantee that Tyson would be supervised upon release. Had Tyson served out his term in Rockville, Maryland — due to expire in September — he could not have been placed under the supervisory terms of parole.

"Our No 1 reason for release is to assure that Mr Tyson will reintegrate safely into society and follow the general rules of his parole," the commission said. "He needs to be supervised and held accountable to public standards of conduct."

A call to Tyson probation officer George Walker was not immediately returned.

Manager Shelley Finkel.

Aussies lodge security complaint

LEEDS, England, May 22: Australia have made an official complaint following the pitch invasion after Thursday's World Cup defeat by New Zealand in Cardiff, reports Reuters.

As the players left the pitch at Sophia Gardens, Mark Waugh had a running tussle with a fan who tried to wrench a bat from him and was angry that stewards did nothing to help.

"Twice he tried to grab the bat right in front of a steward," said Australian manager Steve Bernard.

"There was a guy there and he did nothing," added Bernard, who said the team had lodged an official complaint.

Australian captain Steve Waugh complained about crowd invasion after their first match against Scotland at Worcester, warning that a player would soon be injured.

World Cup officials asked each of the grounds hosting matches to review their security arrangements but virtually every match of the tournament has ended with a mass of fans sprinting into the middle.

Waugh is particularly sensitive about this issue following trouble that marred Australia's recent one-day series in West Indies when he was almost hit by a bottle thrown from the stands and said he feared for his life.

Australia face Pakistan at Headingley on Sunday where a noisy full house is guaranteed.

However, the Yorkshire ground has many years' experience as a test match venue and officials said today they will have "an army of stewards" on perimeter duty and do not envisage any problems.

Lee out of action

LEEDS, England, May 22: Australian all-rounder Shane Lee has been ruled out of the cricket World Cup match against Pakistan on Sunday because of a knee injury, reports AFP.

Lee, who bowls lively right-arm fast-medium and bats at seven, damaged ligaments while fielding in the Group B defeat to New Zealand on Thursday and has failed to respond to treatment.

He is likely to be replaced by Tom Moody, a powerful hitter who bowls medium pace, or left-arm pace bowler and pinch-hitter Brendon Julian.

Both have featured in Australia's recent one-day campaigns.

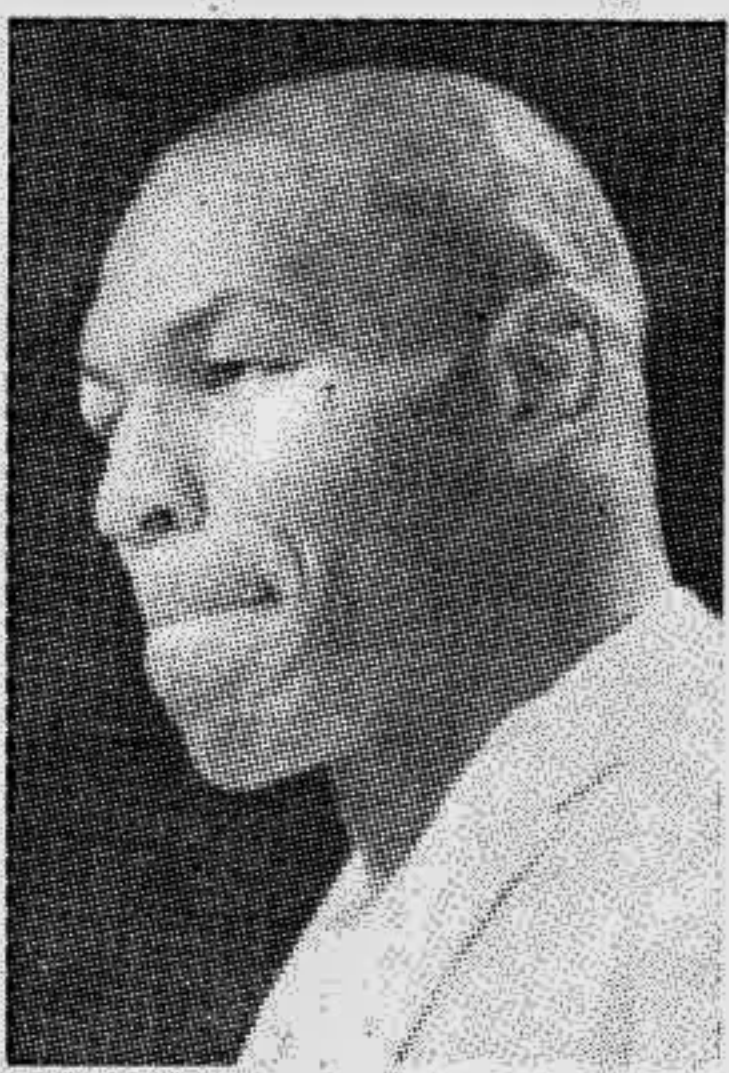
REGRETS

Due to space constraint our regular item CROSS-WORD could not be accommodated. — Sports Editor

when asked when Tyson might fight again, said, "I can't tell you when until he gets out and I sit down and talk with him."

Tyson has three fights remaining on a deal with the MGM Grand in Las Vegas and at least three more fights with Showtime, Finkel said.

With good behaviour, Tyson



would have been released in September had he not been granted parole. He will now be on parole until September, followed by two years' probation.

"We expected it," said Douglas Gansler, state's attorney for Montgomery County. "He's being treated like everyone else would be treated with the same criminal history and the same criminal conduct."

"It's not like he's now sort of scot-free. He will still be under parole, and he's going to be under the auspices of the criminal justice system for the next two years."

Tyson last fought Jan 16 and he was behind on all three cards before he stopped Francois Botha in the fifth round in Las Vegas.

He was tentatively scheduled to fight again April 24 against an undetermined opponent but was then sentenced to jail.

The Botha fight was Tyson's first since his license was restored by Nevada boxing authorities on Oct 19. The license had been revoked after he was disqualified for biting Evander Holyfield ears June 28, 1997.

Tyson pleaded no contest to misdemeanor assault charges following a minor traffic accident in suburban Gaithersburg, Maryland, in August. He was sentenced Feb 5 on one year in the Montgomery County jail, and 60 days were later added as punishment for violating pro-

bation for a 1992 rape conviction in Indiana.

Early in his sentence, Tyson spent five days in solitary confinement for throwing a TV in a jail recreation room.

Tyson also has undergone counseling while in jail. His medication was changed, and he has been studying for a high school equivalency diploma.

Friday's hearing was at 9 am EDT (1300 GMT). The hearing officer then traveled to Baltimore to present his findings before the parole commission, which informed Tyson of the decision at about 2 pm (1800 GMT).

In addition to the opportunity to place Tyson under tighter supervision, the commission said it also granted the parole because both the assault victims had said they did not want to see the boxer jailed.

Hussain won't compare himself with Rhodes

LONDON, May 21: England's cricket World Cup star Nasser Hussain here on Friday dismissed suggestions that his fielding was on the same level as Jonty Rhodes, reports AFP.

Hussain, who has excelled for England at backward point - the same position occupied by his rival - went further, arguing that the South African was the best fielder the game had ever seen.

"I believe South Africa have the best fielder there has ever been in Jonty," Hussain said.

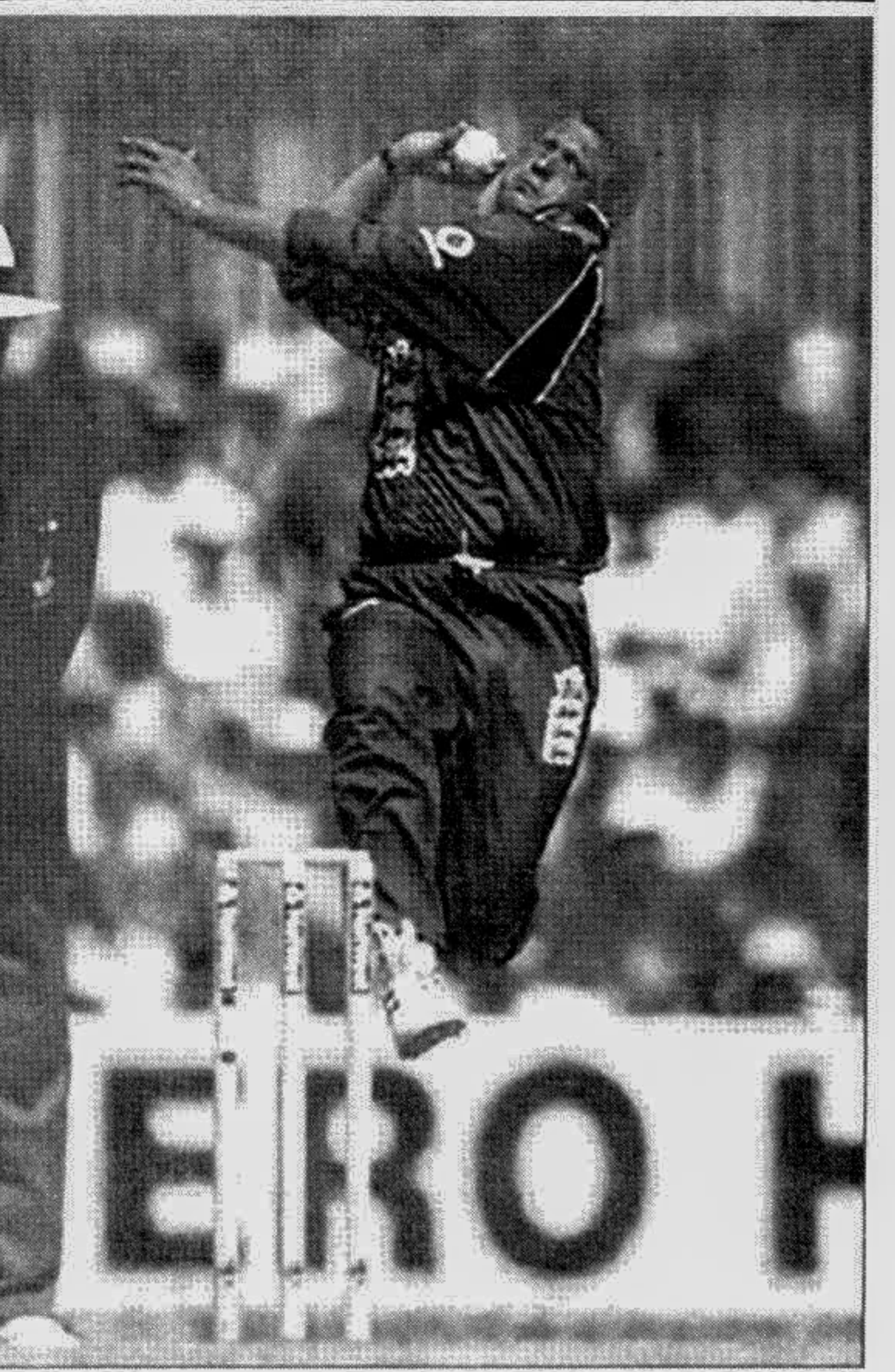
"Saving 10 runs and pulling off a run-out can be the difference in a one-day game."

Hussain, drafted into the World Cup squad after Michael Atherton had to withdraw through injury, described himself as "a grafter, a worker."

Rhodes, nicknamed "rubber man", first made his name in the 1992 World Cup when he ran out Pakistan's Inzamam-ul Haq with a full-length dive into the stumps.

England take on South Africa at the Oval on Saturday. Both sides are unbeaten in group A after two wins each.

If the result is close, South Africa's fielding could carry the day. England coach admitted before the tournament that England were "not the most mobile of teams". Only one player in the 15-man squad - Andrew Flintoff - is under 27 years of age.



ABOUT TO STRIKE : Darren Gough set to unleash a delivery against South Africa yesterday.

— AFP photo