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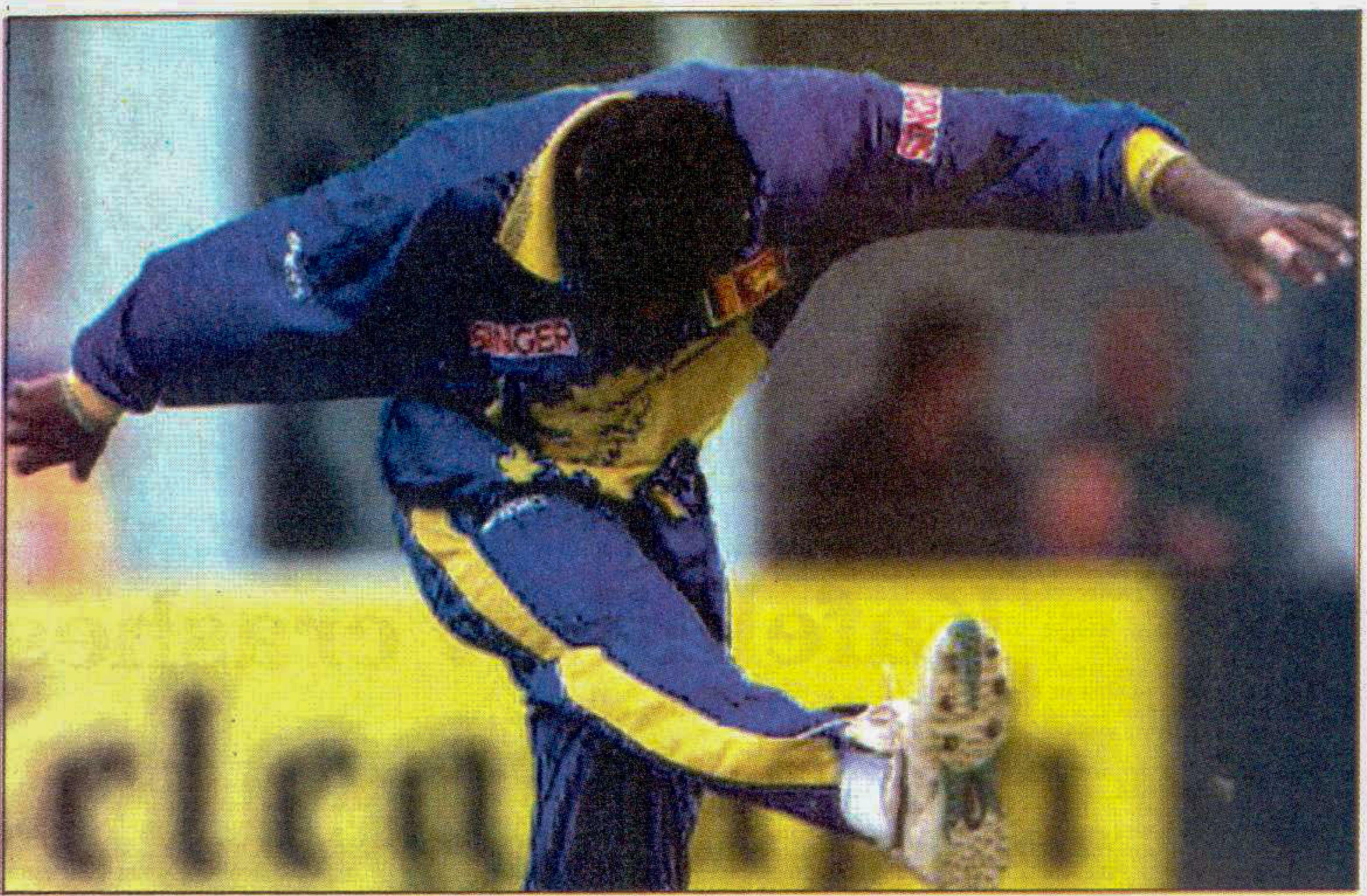


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SHEER FRUSTRATION! Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan kicks the ground in disgust after dropping a regulation catch, which was in abundance during the Indian innings at Taunton yesterday. —Internet photo

Calypso Kings v Bravehearts : West Indies v Scotland

LEICESTER, May 26 (Reuters/Internet) : Now you're starting to see the real West Indies and captain Brian Lara believes his side are starting to show their true form ahead of tomorrow's clash with Scotland at Leicester, reports Reuters.

The Windies put the cat among the pigeons in World Cup Group B with victory over New Zealand on Monday, meaning those teams plus Australia are realistically fighting for the two qualifying places behind pool leaders Pakistan for the Super Six.

Lara said: "It was a very important win for us and vital to get some points against one of the teams who could also be going through to the next stage of the competition."

The good thing is that we're learning from our mistakes and learning as the tournament is progressing. Hopefully we'll be at our very best on the day of the final.

But there are still things to improve and the plan is not to break down from here and to be as consistent as possible.

"We don't want to keep sending down wides and no-balls which better teams will take advantage of, and if we're going

to play four fast bowlers we need to bat 50 overs and make sure the top seven batters get runs."

Lara's aim at Leicester will be to win by a big margin to improve their net run-rate - a helpful cushion in case they get beaten by Australia on Sunday.

Lara, rated the best batsman in the world alongside India's Sachin Tendulkar, will have to lead from the front against Australia after disappointing scores of 11, 25 and 36 so far.

For their part, Scotland - who lost to Bangladesh earlier in the week - are looking for

their batsmen to start firing. Even Gavin Hamilton has been unable to dig his side out of the huge holes his team-mates have left them in and captain George Salmon said: "In the games against Australia and Pakistan you can forgive low scores because the bowling is so tough."

"But that was obviously not the case against Bangladesh. It's a chance for one of us to make an impression on the World Cup and it's so disappointing that so far we've failed to take it."

"People have spoken about the difference playing with a

white ball makes but the other teams are managing to cope with it."

"It seems an easy enough task to stay in and see off the new ball but it's just not happening. I suppose the only remedy is hard work, getting in and applying yourself."

"But it's a worry because the games aren't going to get any easier."

Experienced batsman Bruce Patterson may be axed after a succession of low scores, with Mike Allingham coming in to the middle order and Mike Smith moving up to opener.

SQUADS

WEST INDIES (Probable) :

Ridley Jacobs, Sherwin Campbell, Jimmy Adams, Brian Lara, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Stuart Williams, Phil Simmons, Curtly Ambrose, Reon King, Marvyn Dillon, Courtney Walsh.

SCOTLAND (Probable) :

Ian Phillip, Mike Smith, Ian Stanger, George Salmon, Gavin Hamilton, Mike Allingham, James Brinkley, Alec Davies, John Blain, Asim Butt, Nick Dyer.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

The sides have never met in one day internationals.

Players to watch

West Indies: Reon King. The fast bowler from Guyana bowled with enough pace and venom against New Zealand and has already taken five wickets in the two matches that he has played.

Scotland: Asim Butt. His prodigious left arm swing bowling and probing line has earned the respect of some of the top batsmen in the competition.

Venue

Leicester. It is the second largest ground in the world after Melbourne. The team Leicestershire won the county championships last season. Capacity: 7,500.

Mullally making a difference

LONDON, May 26 (Internet report) : Alan Mullally is emerging as the key figure in England's move to the World Cup's Super Six.

The paceman claimed the man of the match award for his figures of two for 16 in 10 overs that sent Zimbabwe ploughing to defeat at Trent Bridge.

England cruised to a seven-wicket victory that was never in doubt against opponents who were punished for annoying Alex Stewart's side by calling them "underdogs" before the match.

The mind games backfired badly and they were restricted

to 167 for eight in their 50 overs, a total that was never going to trouble Nasser Hussain (57 no) and Graham Thorpe (62) who put together a match-winning third-wicket stand of 124.

But it was Mullally's destructive and economical spell that really put England on the way to their third Group A victory that virtually ensures their passage into the second stage.

And skipper Stewart was quick to underline the contribution of the Leicestershire pace ace.

Stewart said: "Alan really bowled well. There were a few

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KENYA-S AFRICA SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Kenyan innings against South Africa at Amstelveen yesterday:

KENYA	R	B	4	6
K Otieno lbw b Elworthy	26	42	3	0
Ravindu Shah c Boucher b Donald	50	64	3	0
S Gupta b Elworthy	1	7	0	0
S Ikoko c Cronje Klusener	10	35	0	0
M Odoyo lbw b Elworthy	7	15	1	0
A Vadhier c&b Klusener	2	24	0	0
T Odoyo lbw b Klusener	22	40	2	0
Aasif Karim lbw b Cronje	8	26	0	0
Mohammad Sheikh b Klusener	6	10	1	0
M Sujit not out	6	5	1	0
J Angara b Klusener	14			
Extras (lb-5, w-7, nb-2)	152			
Total: (all out in 44.3 overs)	152			
Fall of wkt: 1-66 (Otieno, 15.2 ov); 2-80 (Gupta, 17.6 ov); 3-82 (Ravindu Shah, 18.3 ov); 4-91 (Odumbe, 22.5 ov); 5-104 (Ikoko, 30.3 ov); 6-104 (Odoyo, 30.4 ov); 7-107 (Vadhier, 32.1 ov); 8-138 (Aasif Karim, 41.4 ov); 9-140 (Mohammad Sheikh, 42.2 ov); 10-152 (Angara, 44.3 ov).				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pollock	0	1	22	0 (1nb, 1w)
Kallis	8	0	37	0 (1w)
Donald	8	1	42	2 (1nb, 3w)
Elworthy	10	2	20	2 (1w)
Klusener	8.3	3	21	5
Cronje	2	0	5	1 (1w)
Toss: South Africa.				
Umpires: D B Cowie (NZ) and P Willey (Eng).				
TV Umpire: D J Constant (Eng).				
Match Referee: R Subba Row (Eng).				

Security call, yet again

NOTTINGHAM, England, May 26 (Reuters/Internet) : A further call to World Cup organisers to review security was made by the England and Zimbabwe captains on Tuesday when their match ended with a pitch invasion.

The Home Office (Interior Ministry) has been asked urgently to extend the law outlawing football pitch invasions to cricket stadia, at least during the duration of the World Cup.

English cricket chief Tim Lamb has summoned chief executives and safety officers from England's test match grounds and police to a meeting in Birmingham on Thursday to consider new security measures.

England captain Alec Stewart said: "It has not been a problem to us yet... (But) it needs to be looked at. No one has been hurt yet but you never know."

Earlier this week World Cup organisers appealed to the British government to introduce emergency legislation to combat the stream of pitch invasions that have left players fearing serious injury.

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Campbell said fines or ground bans might deter fans from rushing on to the pitch.

But the British government

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England's odds slashed

LONDON, May 26 (Reuters): England's World Cup odds have been cut from 15-2 to 13-2 following their seven wicket Group A win over Zimbabwe on Tuesday. South Africa remain favourites, with bookmakers William Hill quoting them at 6-5.

LATEST ODDS
South Africa 6-5
Pakistan 5-2
England 13-2
Australia 8-1
New Zealand 12-1
West Indies 12-1
India 20-1
Sri Lanka 25-1
Zimbabwe 150-1

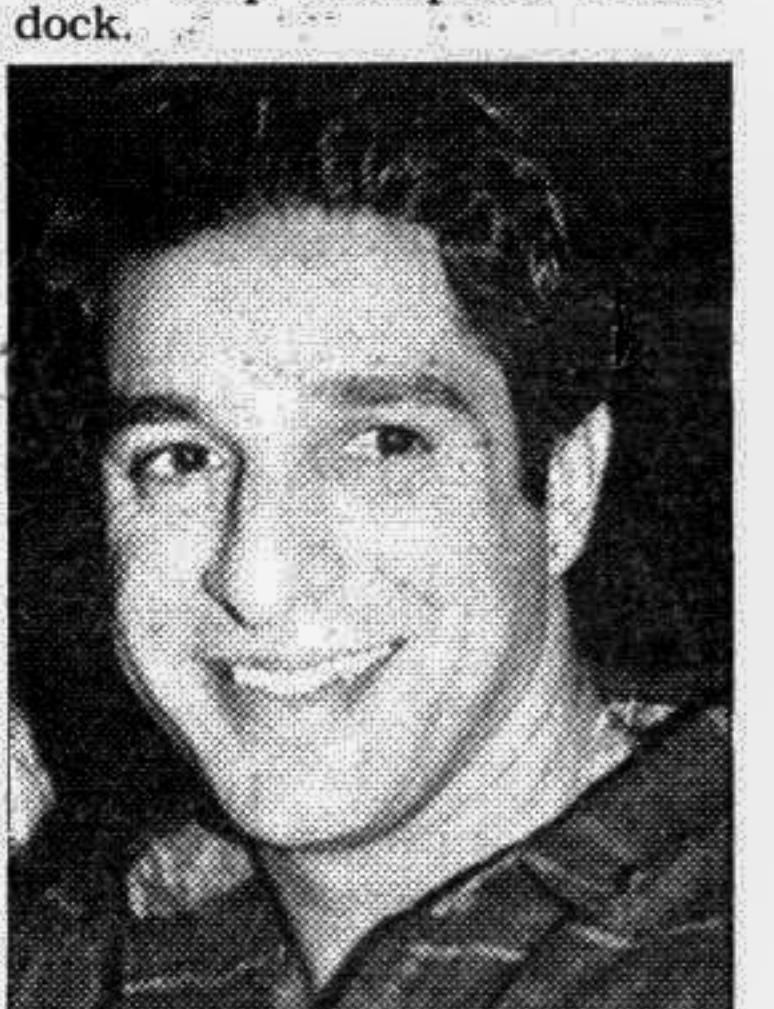
There is only one blot on the landscape.

The World Cup, it appears, brings out the best in him. Akram was instrumental in Pakistan's win against England in the 1992 final in Melbourne, when he smashed 33 off 19 balls and removed Allan Lamb and Chris Lewis with successive deliveries.

Akram's sacking as captain followed match-fixing allegations. Tortuous inquiries into the affair are continuing.

Some people suspect the findings of the probe were delayed so as not to coincide with the World Cup.

Akram, however, is well aware that his best insurance policy against censure would be to return home with the trophy in his suitcase. Nobody would dare put the captain of the World Cup champions in the dock.



WASIM AKRAM

His chin is up

LONDON, May 26 (Internet report): Adam Gilchrist is hoping a word of advice from his mother will help put him among the runs against Bangladesh tomorrow.

The Australian opener has failed to fire in three World Cup Group B matches so far, scoring 20 runs in three innings against Scotland, New Zealand and Pakistan.

But he is remaining upbeat about his chances of hitting form when the Aussies meet Bangladesh, who beat Scotland on Monday, at Chester-le-Street.

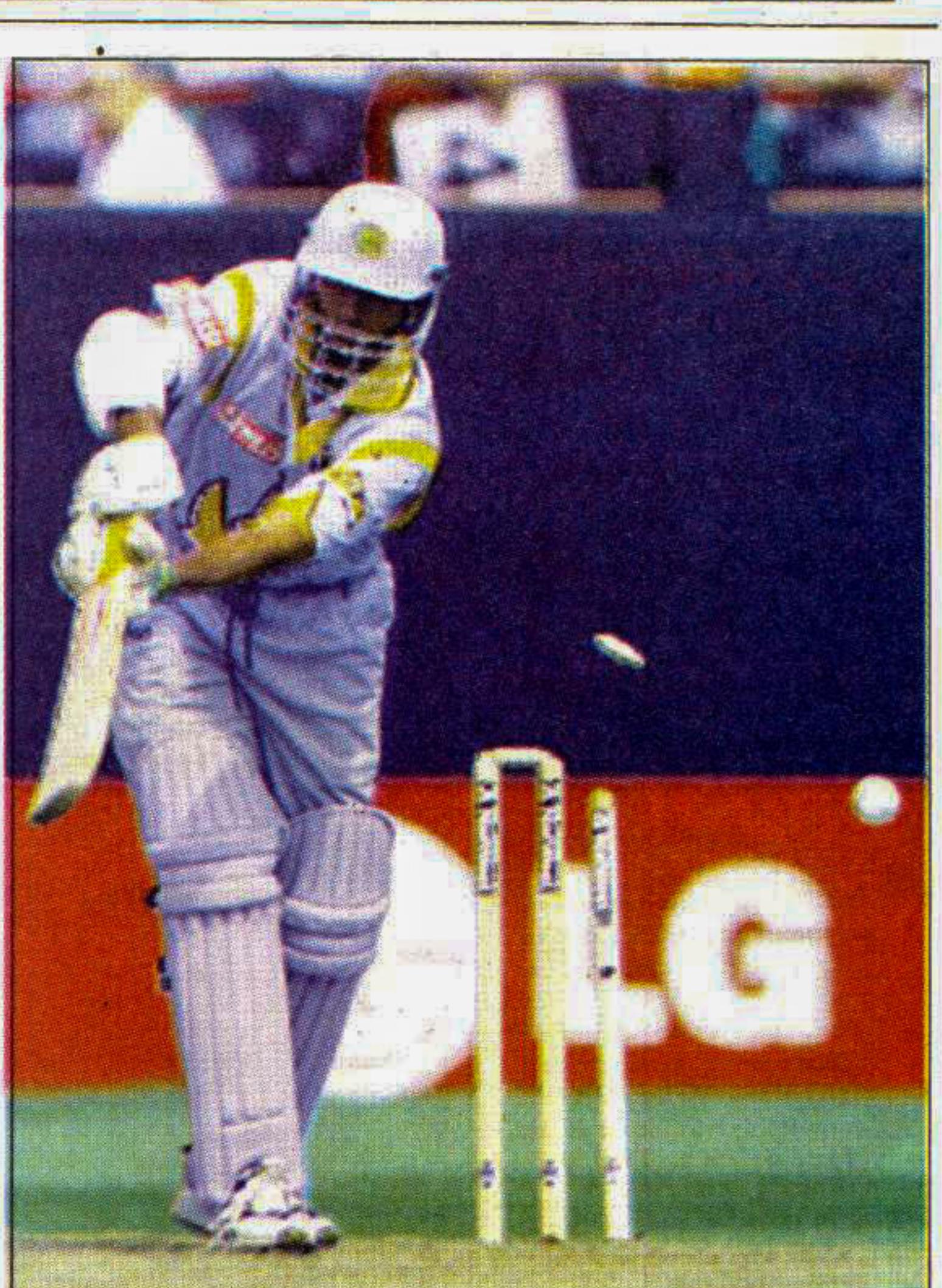
"You know you're in trouble when you get long-lost friends ringing you up to tell you to keep your chin up," said the wicketkeeper. "My mum even rang to tell me to do something about my technique."

Australia need to beat both Bangladesh and the West Indies, which they play at Old Trafford on Sunday, to qualify for the Super Six after losing their last two matches.

Captain Steve Waugh, though, is refusing to let their poor form get him down and he insisted: "We will be aggressive in both matches. 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".



England batsman Graham Thorpe paddles the ball against Zimbabwe on May 25. —AFP photo



WICKET-SNATCHER: A spectator of the England-Zimbabwe match tries to get away with a stump after the game at Trentbridge on May 25. —Internet photo