

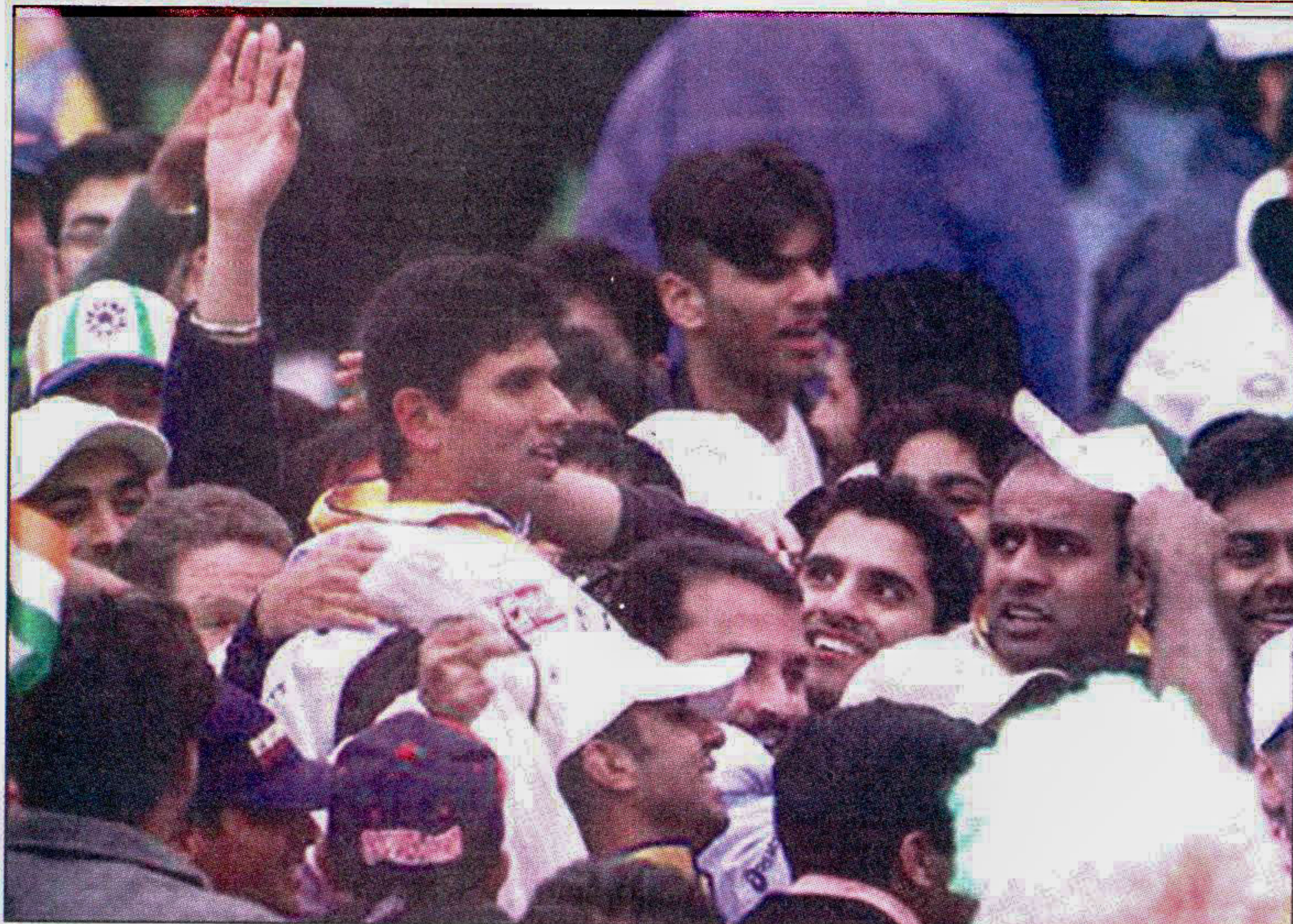


## A small step for cricket, a giant leap for Bangladesh.

Breaking Boundaries.



MORE THAN YOU THOUGHT POSSIBLE



India paceman Venkatesh Prasad has become the toast of the fans after their famous victory over hosts England at Edgbaston yesterday. — Internet photo

## Fallen stars ready to rise

NORTHAMPTON, England, May 30 : Unbeaten Pakistan look certain to give 'forgotten' men Waqar Younis and Mushtaq Ahmed their first cricket World Cup run-out here on Monday, reports AFP.

With Wasim Akram's side already qualified for the second phase of the tournament, the game against minnows Bangladesh is of little significance - except to Waqar and Mushtaq.

The pair are the most high-profile 'drinks carriers' in the tournament, having missed Pakistan's opening four wins. Monday's group B game will give them the chance to show they can still contribute on the pitch.

Strike bowler Waqar was once Akram's pace partner, the two becoming the world's most feared bowlers of the 1990s.

Mushtaq, meanwhile, vied with Australian Shane Warne for the title of the best leg spinner in the game.

But both have since been relegated to the reserves. Waqar by a combination of injuries and the emergence of Shoaib Akhtar, and Mushtaq by the excellence of off spinner Saqlain Mushtaq.

"Waqar Younis and Mushtaq Ahmed have been amazing,"

said Akram.

"It is very difficult for me as a captain to leave these two great players out but I would like to thank Waqar and Mushtaq for

backing the team up."

The key to Pakistan's success at the World Cup has been their team spirit, rebuilt by Akram after months of feuding between

players from different regions and allegations that some have helped bookmakers fix match results.

Akram said: "Everyone is pulling together now - we are backing each other up."

Waqar, 27, missed six months of last year with an elbow injury. He has also been plagued with back problems.

A star with Surrey and Glamorgan, he became famous for his ability to reverse-swing the ball late in an innings.

But his mantle of the world's fastest bowler has been usurped by Shoaib, who bowls at close to 100 miles per hour.

Waqar had 277 Test and 283 one-day wickets. Mushtaq has 169 and 144.

He was described this year as the "best bowler in the world" by Amir Sohail, Akram's predecessor as captain.

But Sohail's axing also led to Mushtaq being dropped. He is regarded as mercurial but more wayward than the highly-rated Saqlain.

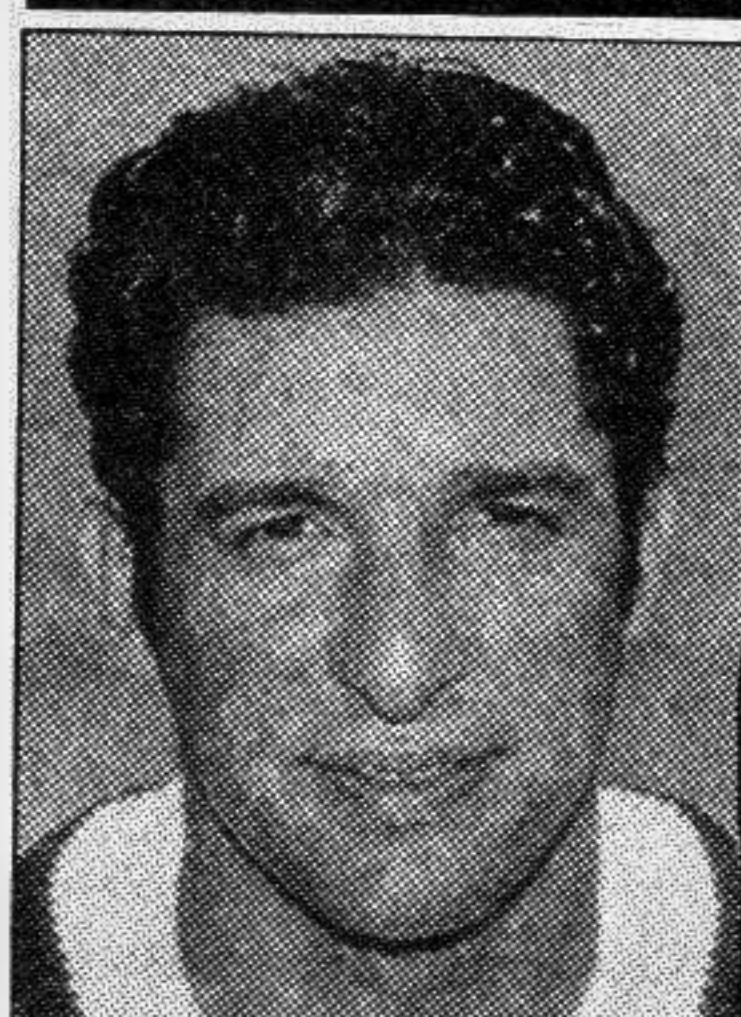
### SQUADS

**BANGLADESH (probable):** Mehrab Hossain, Khaled Mashud, Faruque Ahmed, Aminul Islam (capt), Akram Khan, Naimur Rahman, Khaled

See page 14



Seize the moment, AKTEL it.



WASIM AKRAM



AMINUL ISLAM

## Akram not at all amused

NORTHAMPTON, England, May 30 (Reuters/Internet report): Pakistan captain Wasim Akram accused corporate sponsors of taking precedence over cricketers after his team were unable to find any suitable practice venues on Sunday.

Pakistan, who meet Bangladesh in their final World Cup group B match on Monday, turned up to the Northampton county ground on Sunday morning but were unable to practise outdoors because heavy rain on Saturday had soaked the outfield.

They then discovered to their anger that the indoor nets were unavailable because they had been converted to a hospital area for Monday's match.

After rejecting an alternative offer to practise on outdoor artificial pitches because of the cold and damp, the Pakistan team returned to their hotel for a gymnasium workout.

"We came here prepared to do some fielding drills and some batting and bowling drills but

unfortunately the best indoor school is given to sponsors," Akram said. "Now the sponsors are more important than the teams."

Imagine England and Australia coming to Pakistan and not having a practice facility. It would be total chaos all over the country. Over here nobody's bothered."

Akram, who is captaining the only unbeaten side in the competition, also dismissed attempts by a British Sunday newspaper to resurrect a ball-tampering controversy.

Allegations of altering the balls' surface marred Pakistan's successful 1992 tour of England.

Pakistan's cohesion and the form shown by the younger players such as fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar and teenage all-rounder Abdul Razzaq.

"We have got hungry for success and the young boys are very strong mentally," Akram said.

The skipper however claims his side have enough room for

improvement to win every game of the World Cup and be crowned champions on June 20 at Lord's.

Earlier in the week, West Indies legend Viv Richards, among others, claimed that as the competition enters its final stages, any side will find it nearly impossible to win every game.

But Wasim is adamant his side can only get better after charging into the Super Six stage as winners of Group B having taken a maximum eight points.

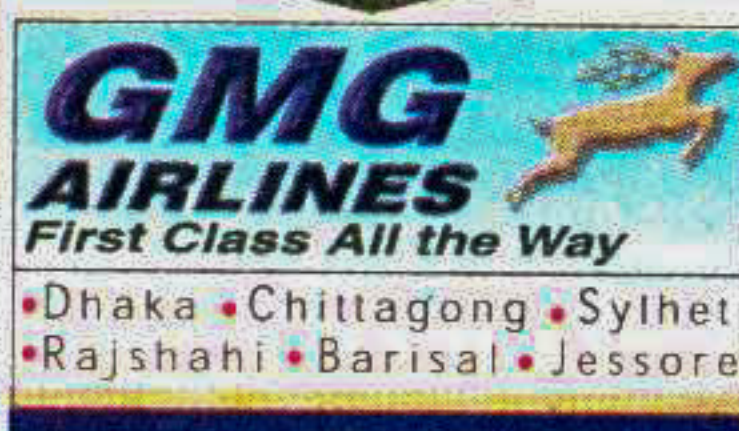
"Quite a few critics have said we have peaked too early," Wasim said.

"But we are doing well. The confidence is there, and a couple of our batsmen haven't got runs, so we know there's more to come."

Wasim even claimed he was quite pleased explosive batsmen like Saeed Anwar haven't yet imposed themselves on the World Cup stage.

See page 14

### BITS & PIECES

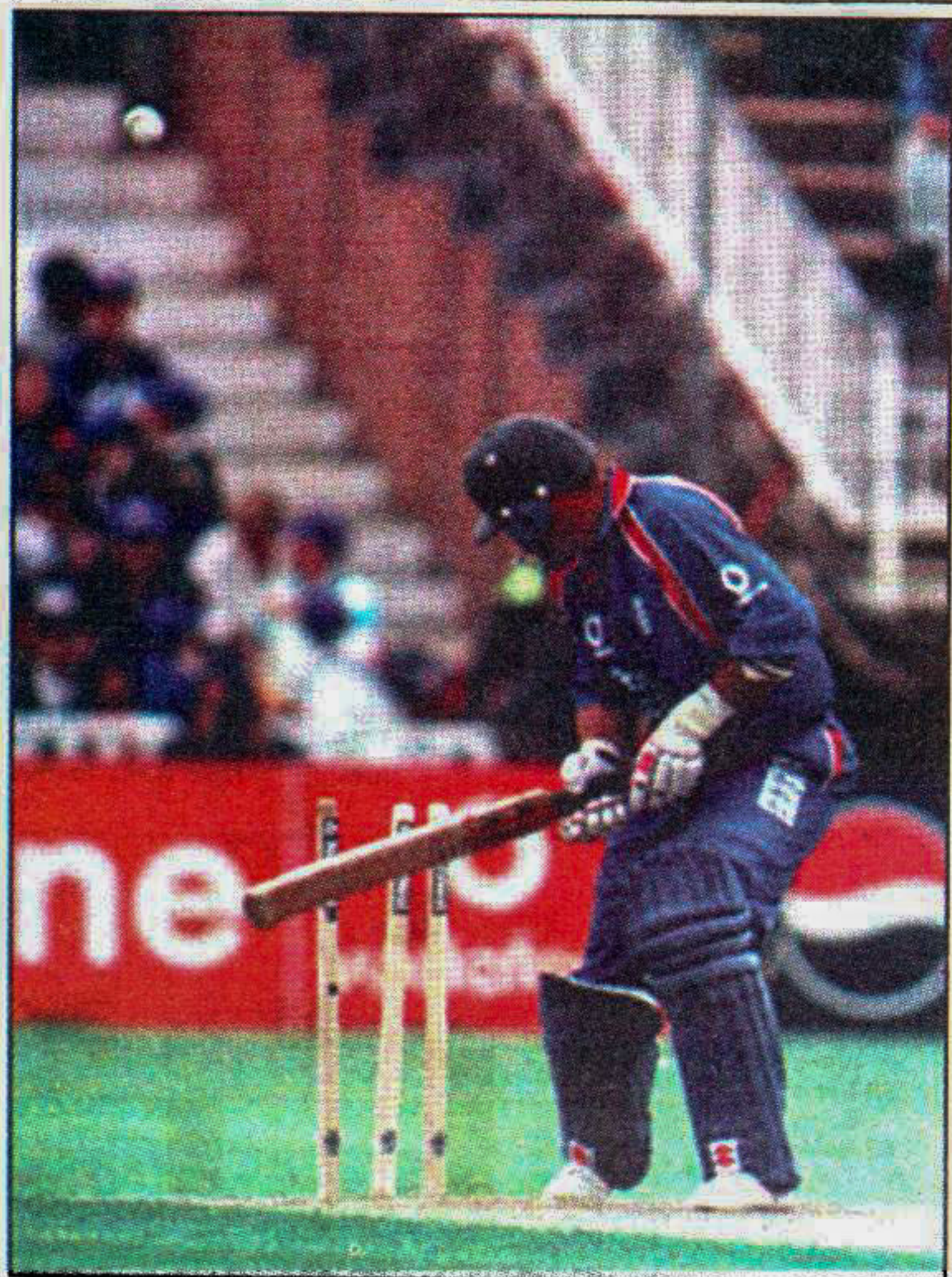


BIRMINGHAM, May 30 (AP): Andrew Flintoff's bid to make an impact at the World Cup was hit by a thief who stole his bat.

Middle-order batsman Flintoff had left the bat in the players' viewing area outside the team's dressing room at Edgbaston on Saturday after rain curtailed the home team's chase of the Indian score. But the Lancashire batsman found it missing when he prepared to leave the ground.

It was discovered that a spectator asked for the bat from a steward, saying it was his and had been given to the team for autographs. The steward simply handed it over to him and the bat, which Flintoff intended to use when the game resumed on

See page 14



HIS WORLD CUP IS OVER: England's Nasser Hussain looks back at the shattered stumps after being done in by Saurav Ganguly at Edgbaston on May 29. — AFP photo

GOOD LUCK BANGLADESH



### INDIA-ENGLAND SCOREBOARD

Full scoreboard of the World Cup Group A match between India and England at Edgbaston yesterday:

**INDIA:** 232 for eight in 50 overs.

ENGLAND	R	B	4	6
(Overnight 73 for 3 in 20.3 overs)				
N Hussain b Ganguly	33	63	3	0
A Stewart c Azharuddin b Mohanty	2	9	0	0
G Hick b Mohanty	0	1	0	0
G Thorpe lbw b Srinath	36	57	7	0
N Fairbrother c Mongia b Ganguly	30	62	2	0
A Flintoff lbw b Kumble	15	21	1	1
A Hollis lbw b Kumble	6	13	0	0
M Ealham c Azharuddin b Ganguly	0	3	0	0
D Gough c Kumble b Prasad	19	25	1	0
A Fraser not out	15	17	3	0
A Mullally b Srinath	0	2	0	0
Extras: (b-4, lb-3, w-5, nb-1)	13			
Total: (All out in 45.2 overs)	169			

Fall of wks: 1-12 (Stewart, 3.1 ov); 2-13 (Hick, 3.2 ov); 3-72 (Hussain, 19.1 ov); 4-81 (Thorpe, 23.4 ov); 5-118 (Flintoff, 31.3 ov); 6-130 (Hollis, 35.5 ov);

7-131 (Ealham, 36.5 ov); 8-132 (Fairbrother, 38.4 ov); 9-161 (Gough, 44.1 ov); 10-169 (Mullally, 45.2 ov).

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Srinath	8.2	3	25	2
Mohanty	10	0	54	2 (nb-1, w-5)
Prasad	9	1	25	1
Ganguly	8	0	28	3
Kumble	10	1	30	2

Result: India won by 63 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Saurav Ganguly.

Toss: England

Umpires: DB Hair (Aus) and Javed Akhtar (Pak).

TV Umpire: DB Cowie (NZ).

Match Referee: PJP Burge (Aus).

HSBC   
Wishes  
Good Luck to the  
Bangladesh Cricket team

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