

Bicknell, Tudor tear Kent apart

LONDON, June 6: Surrey moved to the top of the English county championship on Saturday after duly completing a comfortable victory over Kent by an innings and 28 runs at Tunbridge Wells, reports Reuters.

Kent resumed their second innings on the final morning at 154-9, still needing another 46 runs to avoid an innings defeat. But captain Matthew Fleming and last man Julian Thompson managed only 18 before Thompson fell lbw to Martin Bicknell.

It was Surrey's fourth successive championship win, engineered in the main by strike bowlers Bicknell and Alex Tudor who finished with match returns of 7-55 and 7-69 respectively.

But the new pacers were the only side on the day to beat the weather with the other eight rain-hit matches all being abandoned as draws.

Bottom of the table Durham perhaps had most cause to rue the rain after bowling Somerset out for 199 to put themselves within sight of their first win for a year.

But before they could set about chasing a target of 188 in 52 overs rain washed out the remainder of play.

England batsman Graeme Hick made up for his first innings duck against Sussex by completing a match-saving century for Worcestershire at Horsham.

The visitors began the day still 84 runs in arrears with six second innings wickets intact. But Hick led them to 255-9 as he advanced from his overnight 54 not out to reach 134 off 222 balls, with 19 fours and one six.

Australian batsman Stuart Law was the day's only other century maker, making 107 not out off 114 deliveries in Essex's 218-3 declared against the championship's previous leaders Hampshire at Ilford.

Left with only 20 overs to make 249 for victory, Hampshire closed at 36-2.

Paul Johnson (83 not out) and Graeme Archer (43 not out) frustrated Northamptonshire, who had piled up 484-3 dec the previous day, as Northamptonshire made 209-3 in their second innings when the rain arrived.

And at Derby, Anthony McGrath (76) and Richard Blakey (70 not out) steered Yorkshire (308-8 dec) to safety after they had started the final day 44 runs in arrears.

De La Hoya demands double

SAN JUAN, June 6: Oscar De La Hoya wants double the proposed 15 million dollars purse to get into the ring with Felix Trinidad, reports AP.

According to Sunday's El Mundo newspaper, De La Hoya won't agree to fight Trinidad in a welterweight reunification fight for the 15 million dollars that he has been offered.

"Oscar not only has not signed the contract but also will not accept the offered purse of 15 million dollars to fight Trinidad," the newspaper quoted Roberto Alcazar, De La Hoya's trainer, in a telephone interview from Los Angeles.

Alcazar said De La Hoya, the WBC champion, was discussing getting double that amount with his promoter, Bob Arum.

The 15 million dollars figure came from Arum, who is arranging the Sept. 18 bout in Las Vegas. De La Hoya was paid 5 million dollars for his last bout, when he defended his title against Oba Carr in Las Vegas two weeks ago.

It was thought that everything was arranged when after an internal dispute about how to share the purse, Trinidad's camp agreed this week to 10.5 million dollars for the IBF champion. Trinidad was said to get 8.5 million dollars and promoter Don King 2 million dollars.

Trinidad's lawyer Nicolas Medina said the Puerto Rican fighter had accepted the deal only after Arum had informed him that De La Hoya had agreed to the terms, El Mundo said.

Trinidad is undefeated in 35 fights with 30 knockouts and for years has sought an opportunity to challenge De La Hoya, who is considered the top welterweight in the world. De La Hoya has won all 31 of his fights, with 22 knockouts.

"An England captain carries on until he is replaced." English

William's clinch doubles title

PARIS, June 6: Martina Hingis' French Open misery was complete Sunday when she and partner Anna Kournikova lost the final of the women's doubles to Americans Serena and Venus Williams, reports AFP.

The ninth-seeded Williams sisters made up for their surprisingly early exits from the singles with a 6-3, 6-7, 8-6 triumph in their rain-interrupted encounter with Switzerland's Hingis and Russia's Kournikova, the second seeds.

Hingis, number one in the singles rankings, lost Saturday's singles final to German veteran Steffi Graf after coming within three points of winning the only Grand Slam she has never won.

Sunday's defeat brought an end to a brilliant doubles run of five straight Grand Slam wins for Hingis.

She and Kournikova teamed up to win the Australian Open title in January while Hingis won last year's Australian Open doubles alongside Croatia's Mirjana Lucic before partnering Jana Novotna to win the French, Wimbledon and the US titles.



(From R-L) Bangladesh World Cup vice-captain Khaled Mahmud, captain Aminul Islam, BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury and team manager Tanveer Mazhar Islam at a press conference yesterday.

— Star photo

Imran

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try for donkeys' years," Cumbers said.

"We will protect it and enjoy it."

The Sunday Telegraph, meanwhile, reported that all fans will be searched for weapons as they enter the ground. No such precautions have been taken at previous World Cup matches.

Undercover police officers experienced in tackling football hooligans will mingle with the crowd and extra stewards have been drafted in.

Calls for calm by Indian and Pakistani community leaders will be read out before play begins.

Virmani said they had asked for people not to invade the field after play. "The players don't like it, so why should anyone do it?" he said.

The last time India and Pakistan played a Test in February, 70,000 spectators were driven out of Calcutta's Eden Gardens stadium by baton-wielding police after projectiles were thrown following a controversial decision.

I won't quit

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successor in the one-day hot seat, went on to make an unbeaten century. Azharuddin managed only three before being scalped by Glenn McGrath.

The normally well-mannered captain lost his cool when he was questioned about his future by reporters.

"The criticism of my captain has been unfair," he said. "The captain is only as good as his team."

Azharuddin acknowledged that his own batting form had hit rock bottom but it was wrong to lay the blame for India's defeats on him alone.

"Eleven players play the game and the captain is just one of them," he said. "We simply did not play up to our potential but to blame the captain alone is not done."

Azharuddin, who conceded after the semifinal defeat three years ago that he was wrong to field first, however, maintains

he was right this time. "The wicket was covered for two days because of rain and the moisture would help the seamers," he said. "It was not a negative decision."

India had Australia down to 238 for six in 46 overs, before some big hitting by Tom Moody and Michael Bevan saw them add 44 in the last four overs.

Azharuddin said McGrath's opening spell, which saw India slip to 17 for four, would have defeated most teams.

"We did not bat well because McGrath did not allow us to," he said. "He was too good for us, just as would have been for others. We must accept that."

The troubled captain was, however, certain India will recover from the loss in time to face Pakistan with confidence.

We've played Pakistan before and won, so it's not a cause for worry. If we play well, anything can happen. It's just that we may have left it all too late."

Inside hostile

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picture of Sanath Jayasuriya greeted by a group of constables deployed to prevent possible violence against the team. The headline for the picture read: "Zero welcome for hero."

Amid mounting calls for the sacking of skipper Arjuna Ranatunga, he has vowed to play on.

Ranatunga, who stayed back in England and was spared the frosty reception at Colombo International Airport, said in a prepared statement sent here that he wished to play on.

"What I do wish to say is that it is my firm belief that I do have a few years of cricket left in me and if my services are wanted I am willing to represent my country in whatever capacity," Ranatunga said.

In his statement addressed to all cricket-loving public of Sri Lanka, Ranatunga expressed his "profound regret to you all for the debacle of the Sri Lankan team" and said he was accepting responsibility.

He said his team's best was simply not good enough, a point repeated by team manager Dulree Mendis.

Sri Lanka's miserable World Cup ended with an unconvincing 45-run win over Group A minnows Kenya. Sri Lanka had earlier lost to England, South Africa and India but won against Zimbabwe.

He said his team's best was

Heads held high - III

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will try our best and we will come up with good performance," Mahmud said.

His view was that team spirit was "superb".

"Everyone knew that this was one of the most important tournaments, and the whole world was watching us. Everybody was excited. Everybody knew their job and what they had to do," he continued.

After the victory against Pakistan Mahmud thought of his father, elder brother and everyone else, but mostly of his late mother.

Mahmud owes his success in cricket to his family. His elder brother Ashfaq Ahmed Yafee also played for the national team. "My father was also a sportsman. He played football. My cricket has come from my family," he said before departing.

World Cup stats: Played: 5, Runs: 49, HS: 27, Ave: 9.80, Wickets: 6

Khaled Masud

"There is a great feeling in beating Pakistan, but more so because we won it in the World Cup, a tournament that is followed by every one. We will not get a bigger tournament. I have played in the tournament and am taking back with us some achievement. That is my greatest pleasure," said the wicket-keeper batsman.

He considered the tour successful because, participating for the first time, Bangladesh did well against the counties and won against Pakistan.

"My wife (who was on the tour) continuously encouraged me. Wives never want that the husband should play poorly. They are always helpful. She is of big support," Khaled Masud kept on uttering as his wife urged him to hurry up.

They were rather late in reaching the airport, as they got stuck somewhere in traffic and were pressed for time.

He was hopeful about the future of Bangladesh cricket and said he will give his best.

World Cup stats: Played: 5, Runs: 40, HS: 17, Ave: 10

Mohammed Rafique

"I will not give my interview to any journalist. Whatever I say, I shall say when I get home. I have not set foot on my homeland as yet, what should I say? The tour was fine," were the words with which this gifted player declined to talk to this correspondent despite repeated requests.

World Cup stats: Played: 2, Runs: 6, HS: 6*, Ave: 3, Wickets: 2

Enamul Hoque

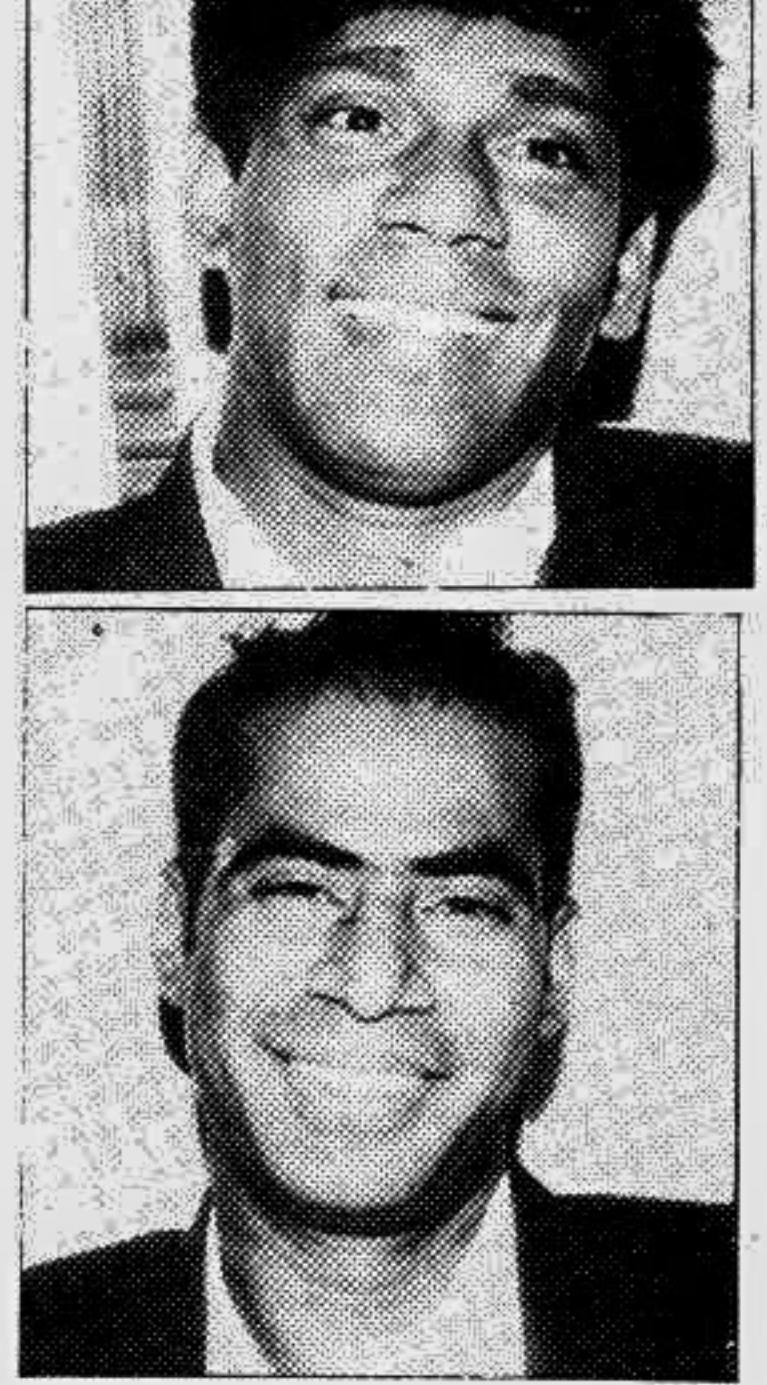
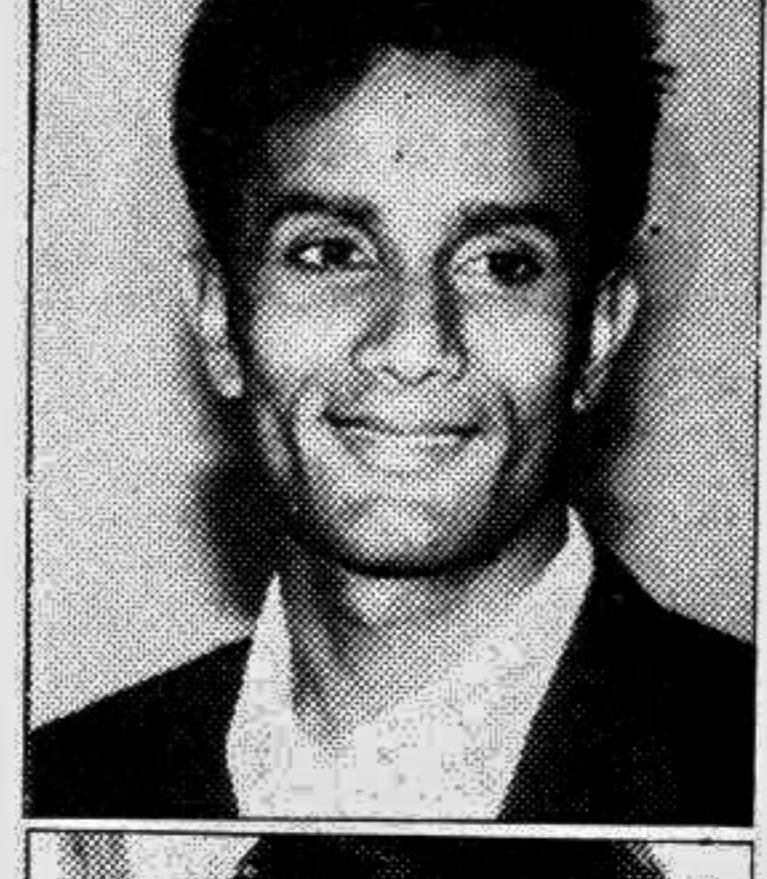
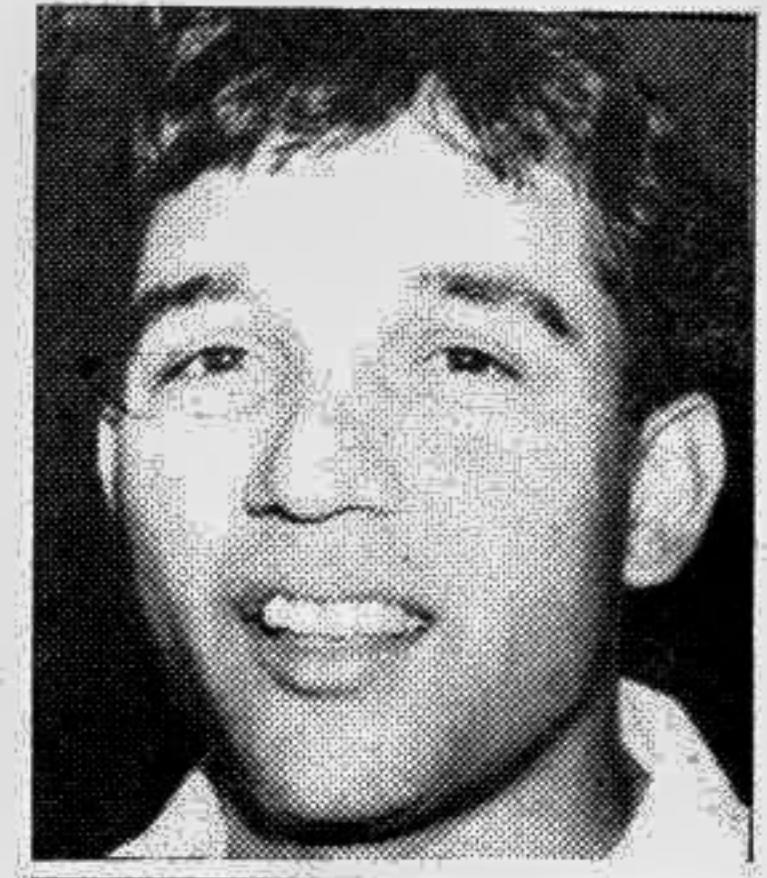
"This is our biggest victory. We have beaten a Test country for the first time in the World Cup," said the all-rounder with pride.

He knew what his future plans were and said firmly, "I have already announced my retirement from the national team." This announcement, he said, was made before the match against Pakistan.

After beating Pakistan his first thoughts were, "After we did badly in the Merit Cup, it was said that our team won't be sent to the World Cup; that was foremost in my mind."

"My thoughts were also very much with Athar (Bhai) because he was not in this squad. I remembered Anis: people with whom I played in the ICC," said Enamul pensively.

World Cup stats: Played: 4, Runs: 59, HS: 19, Ave: 19.66, Wickets: 3



Ben vows to be back

SYDNEY, June 6: Disgraced sprinter Ben Johnson has vowed to race at the Sydney 2000 Olympics and says he will be ready to run 10 seconds flat in the 100 matches, reports AFP.

The 37-year-old Canadian is confident an August 16 hearing by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) will clear the way for him to compete.

I don't know how the IAAF will vote. I've got my fingers crossed and I just hope to God the wind will blow my way," he told Sydney's Sunday Telegraph.

It took me 15 years to be world No 1, so I am patient enough to get myself reinstated, but not that patient because time is running out on me to run again."

Johnson won the 1998 Seoul Olympic 100 metres in a world record time of 9.79 seconds but lost his gold medal and the historic mark three days later when analysis of his urine sample showed the anabolic steroid stanozolol.

Cronje not contented

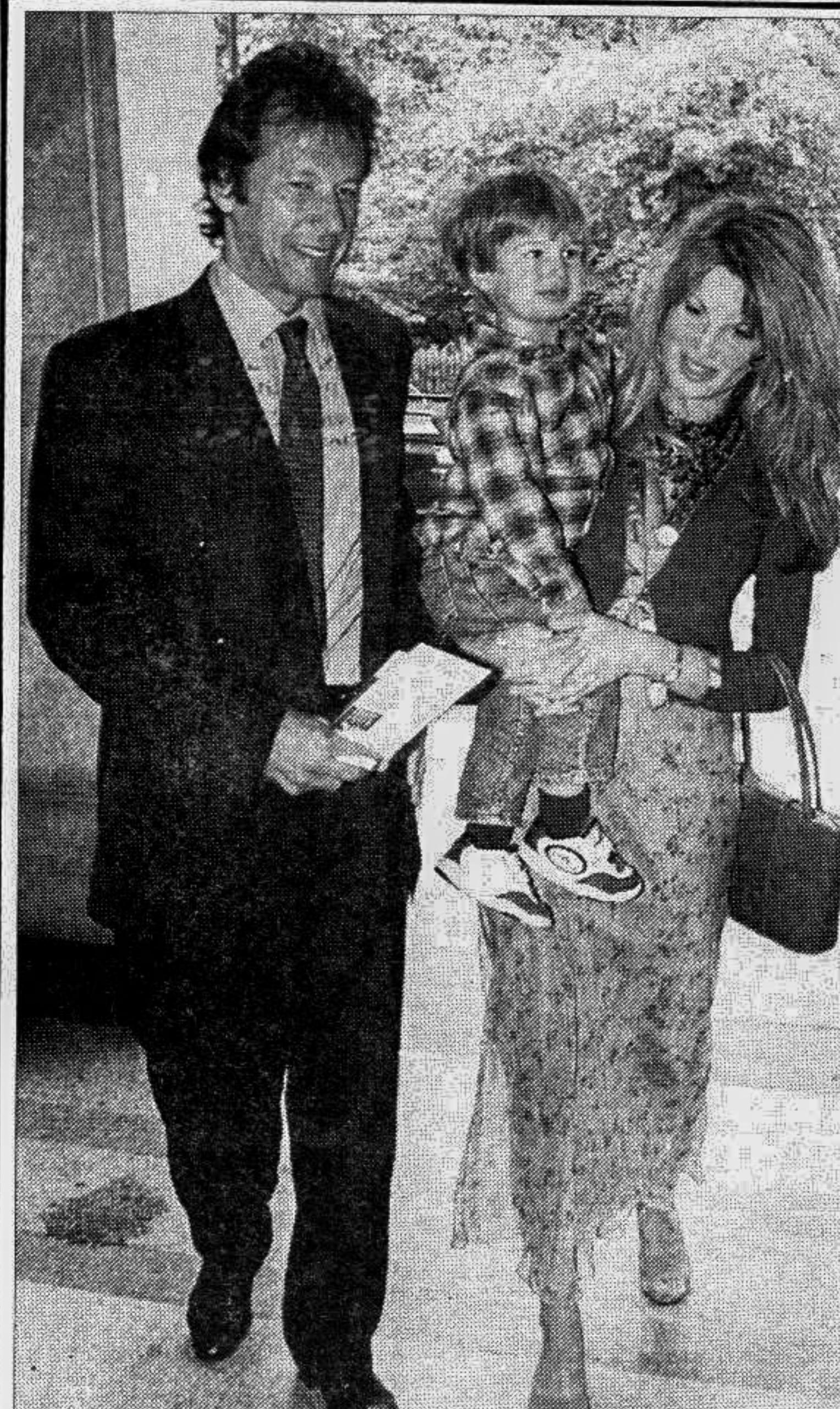
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match itself.

"Pretty even," was Cronje's verdict on the duel. "Certainly from a pace point of view I think Shoab won the battle but from an accuracy point of view it was pretty even," he said.

"As Shoab grows older, more mature and plays more, he'll learn it's not all about fast bowling but where you put the ball."

"I feel that someone like Waqar (Younis) was really good in the last two or three overs (of a one-day match). He never gave you anything to hit whereas with Shoab you feel you can score off him."



Pakistani cricket legend Imran Khan arrives at the Churchill Inter-Continental Hotel in London yesterday along with wife Jemeima and son Suleiman to attend the Children's Charity Fashion Show in the aid of Down Syndrome Educational Trust.

— AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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