

## Waiting for Warne

SYDNEY, July 2: Australia's star leg-spinner Shane Warne has yet to make up his mind up about his international cricketing future, cricket officials said today.

Brendan McClements, general manager for communications for the Australian Cricket Board (ACB), told AFP today that Warne, who came back to form with a bang in last month's World Cup triumph had yet to commit himself to Australia's August tour of Sri Lanka.

The situation regarding Shane is unchanged. He requested some time to consider his international future and he is taking that time at the moment," McClements said.

"At this stage we've no indication of Shane's intentions."

Reports from Colombo, where ACB Operations Manager Richard Watson was inspecting facilities, had mistakenly suggested Warne had already decided to play on the Sri Lanka tour.

In two to three weeks Shane will declare if he has decided to continue in international cricket and if he decides to continue he will be available for the Sri Lankan tour," Watson had said in Colombo.

Warne, dropped from Australia's Test team on their tour of the West Indies in April, roared back to form in the World Cup one-day tournament in England.

## Yorkshire shot out for 52!

LONDON, July 2: Yorkshire's title aspirations suffered a severe jolt on Thursday when they were shot out for 52 on the opening day of their county championship match against defending champions Leicestershire, reports Reuters.

By the close Darren Maddy, with 85 not out, had steered Leicestershire to 170 for six for a lead of 118.

Second placed Warwickshire also came unstuck against Kent at Maidstone where they were facing only their second defeat of the season.

Needing 245 to win after their second innings for 199, Warwickshire slumped to 104 for seven by the close with Mimi Patel taking four for 17.

However it was a better day for batsmen at Northampton where Worcestershire staged a determined revival on the back of the day's top score of 126 from England A batsman Vikram Solanki.

Worcester were still 59 runs in arrears when they resumed their second innings at 36 for three and then slipped to 47 for four.

But Solanki and skipper Tom Moody, who scored his second 63 of the match, held up the slide before Steve Rhodes (45 not out) and Phil Newport (31 not out) took the visitors to 361 for eight at the close, a lead of 266 with two days to play.

Sixth placed Sussex are in danger of an innings defeat against Somerset after being forced to follow on 338 runs behind at Taunton.

Piran Holloway added only nine runs to his 101 not out overnight, but Keith Parsons (43 not out) saw Somerset to an imposing first innings total of 503 for eight declared.

Sussex were then bowled out for 165 before closing at 16 without loss in their second innings after being made to follow on.

Essex's former England off-spinner Peter Such took six for 77, giving him match figures of 13 for 213, before Lancashire declared their second innings at 209 for seven, setting the visitors and victory target of 301 with one day remaining. They closed at 33 without loss.

Leaders Surrey, chasing a sixth win in nine games, reduced bottom club Durham to 182 for seven in reply to their 335 by the close of the second day at the Oval.

## Beckham's honeymoon offer

SYDNEY, July 2: David Beckham and bride to be Victoria Adams have been offered a 25,000 Australian dollars (17,000 US) tropical island honeymoon if he tour Australia with Manchester United, reports AP.

Beckham and Posh Spice will marry in Ireland on Sunday and United manager Sir Alex Ferguson has given his midfield star a leave pass from the tour.

Rene Rivkin, whose company is promoting matches between United and the Socceroos on July 15 and 18, has passed on the offer of a first class holiday to Beckham via the club.

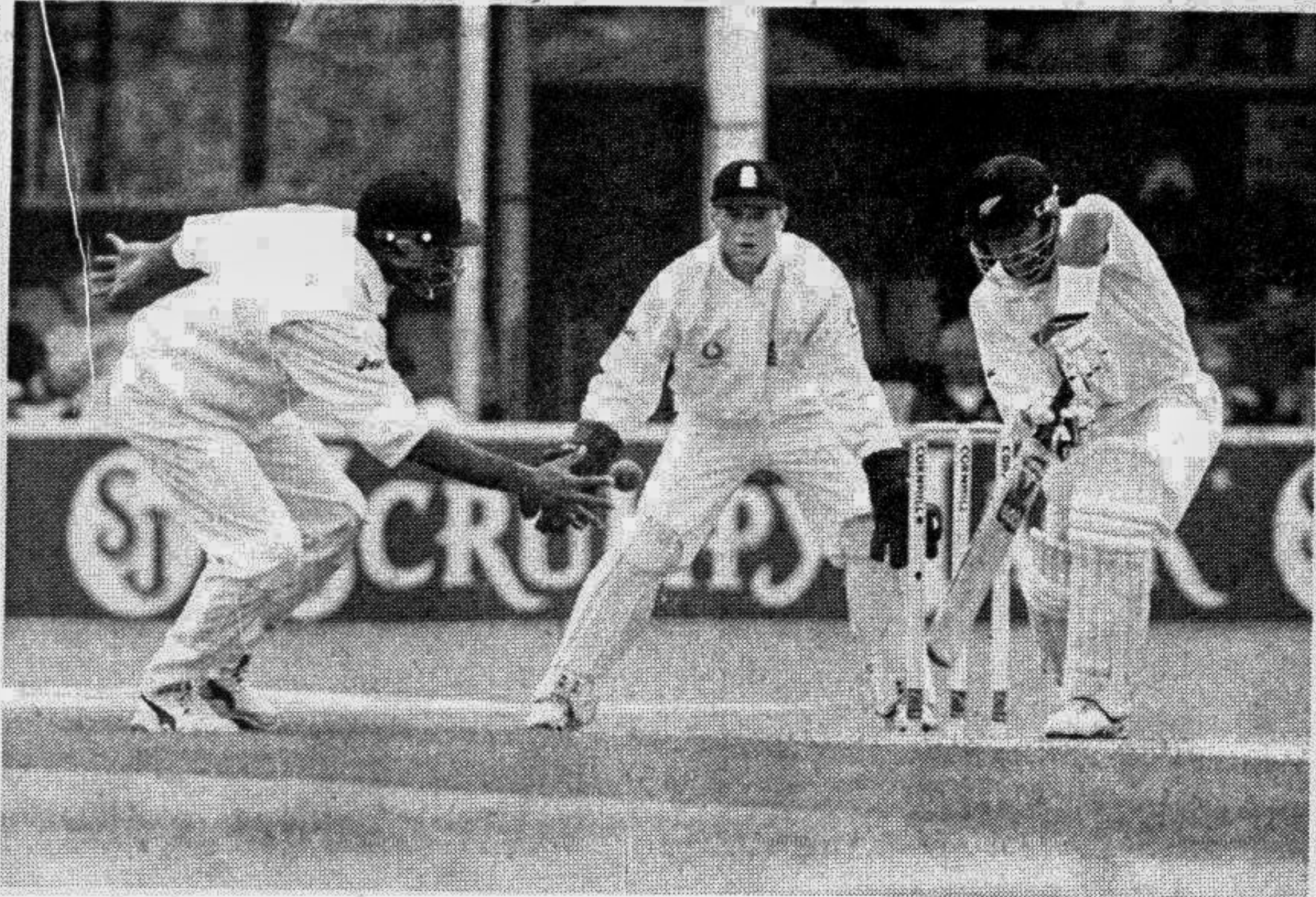
"Mr. Rivkin has tried to entice them a little bit because he's love to see David Beckham playing in Australia," Rivkin entertainment spokeswoman Robbie Harris told the AP on Friday.

"He has offered a honeymoon on a Queensland island, probably Hayman. It has been put to them through the club and we're expecting an answer in the next 24 hours."

Meanwhile Australia is likely to have 12 of the 18 players who beat a FIFA All Star team at last month's opening of Sydney's Olympic Stadium for the match against the European champion.

Leeds United's Harry Kewell, the best player in that 3-2 victory, will be the most high-profile absentee while Soccer Australia is arguing with Fiorentina over the release of its gifted new signing Paul Okon.

Wolverhampton defender Kevin Muscat is another in doubt while Josip Skokic, who is primed to leave Hajduk Split, will only make the trip if his transfer has been settled.



Mark Butcher at silly point attempts to catch New Zealand's Adam Parore on July 1. —AFP photo

## Parore provides stability

BIRMINGHAM, July 2 (AP/AF): Adam Parore scored a defiant 73 Thursday as England bowlers Andy Caddick and Phil Tufnell took three wickets apiece to bowl New Zealand out for 226 in the first Test at Edgbaston.

Caddick and Tufnell, both recalled to the lineup after England's disastrous World Cup campaign, shared the honors as Nasser Hussain's new look English team dominated the opening day.

Parore was the last man out, lasting 140 balls before he was caught behind by Rookie wicketkeeper Chris Read off Alan Mullally's bowling.

At his dismissal, the umpires called an end to play.

New Zealand-born Caddick did the damage early, dismissing Matt Horne in the first session.

Parore shared an 85-run seventh-wicket stand with Dion Nash, who scored 21 off 100 balls, before Tufnell ripped through the tailend.

The 33-year-old spinner, on the tour with England selectors since England's 1997-98 tour of the West Indies, deceived Nash with a ball that gripped and turned.

Nash got a thick edge to skipper Nasser Hussain at first slip with the total on 189.

Daniel Vettori scored one run before he was caught Hussain off Tufnell's bowling with the addition of two to the total.

Simon Doull belted 11 runs off 15 balls and took the score to 211 before driving Tufnell to mid-on, where Mark Butcher clutched a diving catch in his right hand.

Geoff Allott remained unbeaten on 7 after adding 15 valuable runs for the last wicket with Parore.

After winning the toss and electing to bat, New Zealand lost its first wicket without a run on the board when the gambler to promote World Cup hero Roger Tremain to open back-fired.

A regular at Edgbaston in six seasons with Warwickshire, Tremain was out on the third ball of the game when he edged Mullally to Graham Thorpe at first slip.

Horne (12) was next out, adjudged leg-before wicket to Caddick, with the total on 19.

Kiwi skipper Stephen Fleming scored 27 and combined with Nathan Astle to take the score to 55 before he edged Alex

Tudor to Thorpe at first slip. Fleming, who was surprised by some extra bounce in the pitch, becoming Tudor's first Test wicket on home soil.

Butcher, a part-time bowler, picked up his first Test wicket just an over before the lunch break when Astle (26) got an edge to 20-year-old Rookie Read — England's Youngest ever Test wicketkeeper.

New Zealand went to lunch at 75 for four and reached 103 before losing two wickets for one run in the next session.

Caddick had Mullally (18) caught by Thorpe at first slip — his third catch of the day — before Cairns (17) mistimed a shorter ball and popped up a

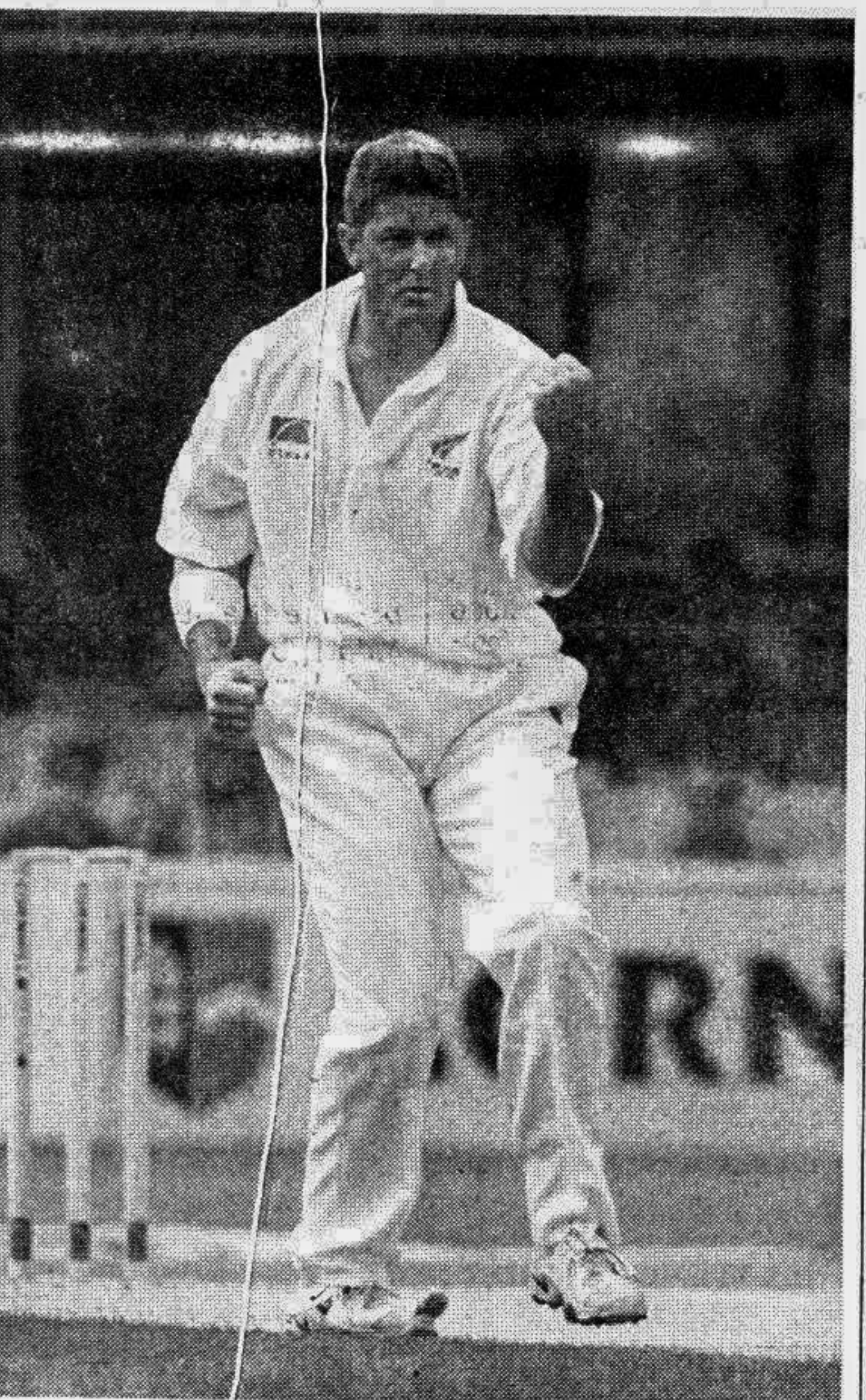
England's chairman of selectors David Graveney said he felt that a satisfactory score in the overcast conditions would have been between 250 and 300 and he was happy with his team's work.

Parore said batting had not been easy. "If we bowl well, 226 could still prove to be a reasonable score," he said.

**SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard at close of play on the opening day of the first Test between England and New Zealand on Thursday:

**NEW ZEALAND:** First Innings: Two c Thorpe b Mullally 0; Horne lbw Caddick 12



Geoff Allott exults after sending back England opener Alec Stewart yesterday. —AFP photo

simple return catch.

Caddick, who was born in Christchurch and played for New Zealand in the World Youth Cup 10 years ago, finished with three for 57.

"It was nice to get a wicket early on which settled me down," Caddick said. "There was a good mood among the players and I've come back into a team that feels very confident."

He said there was no special incentive in playing against New Zealand. "It's Test cricket," he said. "I know some of their blokes but they're just an obstacle and I've got to get them out."

Fleming c Thorpe b Tudor 27  
Astle c Read b Butcher 26  
McMillan c Thorpe b Caddick 18  
Cairns c b Caddick 17  
Parore c Read b Mullally 73  
Nash c Hussain b Tufnell 21  
Vettori c Hussain b Tufnell 1  
Doull c Butcher b Tufnell 1  
Allott not out 7  
Extras: (b-1, lb-5, w-1, nb-6) 13  
Total: (88.4 overs) 226  
Fall of wickets: 1-0: 2-19: 3-55: 4-73: 5-103: 6-104: 7-189: 8-191: 9-211.

**Bowler** O M R W  
Mullally 26.4 5 72 2  
Caddick 27 12 57 3  
Tudor 11 2 44 1  
Butcher 7 2 25 1  
Tufnell 17 9 22 3

## Clintons cheer World Cuppers

WASHINGTON, July 2: President Bill Clinton on Thursday hammed it up with the US women's soccer team, shaking hands and posing for photographs after watching them beat Germany in a World Cup quarterfinal match, reports Reuters.

Clinton, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and daughter Chelsea arrived during halftime and watched the rest of the game from a luxury box at Jack Kent Cooke Stadium in the town of Landover, Maryland, outside Washington.

They were accompanied by Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala and several other guests.

After the US team's 3-2 win, the Clintons went to the locker room to congratulate the women. There, the president was met with chants of "Hail Clinton, hail Clinton." After shaking hands, team pictures were taken with Clinton and the entire first family.

The Americans advanced to a July 4 semifinal in Stanford, California, against the winner of Thursday's second game between Brazil and Nigeria.

The popularity of the US team prompted tournament officials to open part of the huge football stadium's upper deck, which had been closed off because of an expected smaller crowd. More than 50,000 tickets were sold.

## CHAMPIONSHIPS CHIPS

LONDON, July 2 (AFP): Wimbledon referee Alan Mills has tried to explain the shambolic scenes on Thursday when players and spectators were rushed from one court to another in a bid to beat the drizzle.

"We have to be fair and even handed to all competitors," he said. "The weather has made things difficult, for example it is possible that Lindsay Davenport has to play her nine matches to play in three events."

The men still have one day per round. It is possible that we are looking at a Friday, Saturday, Sunday scenario for the women.

"I would discuss it with all of the players to see how they feel. I don't think it's fair at this stage of a Grand Slam to put pressure on them."

Try telling that to Alexandra Stevenson, who was busted off Court One without hitting a ball by over eager court coverers on Thursday night having trekked over from Court Two where her match started.

**HINGIS NUMBER-CRUNCHED**

Tennis's convoluted rankings system means Lindsay Davenport is on the verge of returning to the world number one spot in place of Martina Hingis.

According to the WTA Tour, if Davenport had reached the final, she wouldn't necessarily have amassed enough points to leapfrog Hingis, who lost in the first round here.

For reasons best known to the computer Davenport had to beat defending champion Jana Novotna — which she did on Thursday — on the way to the final to be sure of taking over at the top.

There is a simpler scenario. If Davenport, who was number one for 17 weeks until February 7 this year, wins her first ever Wimbledon title, she definitely becomes number one. We think.

**PETER PERFECT**

Pete Sampras could become only the fifth man ever to win the Wimbledon title without dropping a set.

Only Don Budge (1938), Tony Trabert (1955), Chuck McKinley (1963) and Bjorn Borg (1976) have achieved that feat before.

The five-time winner is the only player left in the men's draw not to have dropped a set on his way to the quarterfinals.

**PLAY IT AGAIN**

Steffi Graf was amazed to see her quarter-final opponent Venus Williams studying a replay of their match on Thursday in the locker-room during the three rain intervals.

"I didn't (watch) but she did and I was wondering about it," said Graf, who won in three sets.

"Why would you want to look at the replay of the match when it is not finished? She was trying to study. I don't know. I felt very awkward that the match was still on and I tried not to watch it."

**Sydney 2000**

**Blind fan unhappy with organisers**

SYDNEY, July 2: Blind sports fan Bruce Maguire, who wants Sydney Olympics organisers to release a ticket book in Braille, says he's unhappy with a compromise offered by SOCOG, reports AP.

Maguire has complained to the Human Rights Commission, a move which prodded SOCOG to offer specialist phone assistance for vision impaired where operators will fill the forms in for them.

Maguire said that wasn't a reasonable substitute for making the booklet available in Braille.

"Just as people in wheelchairs would not accept being carried into the Olympic venues, they want to go in themselves, so I want to be able to read the information myself rather than have someone else read it to me over the telephone," said Maguire.

Even if it was possible to absorb all that information if it was read out over the telephone, and I doubt that it is, the issue for me is that I can read Braille and it's about access and participation."

Maguire said he did not believe sighted fans would accept having the booklet read out over the telephone.



CLINTONS JOIN THE CELEBRATION: US President Bill Clinton, First Lady Hillary Clinton and daughter Chelsea celebrate the national women booters' World Cup quarterfinal triumph over Germany in the dressing room of the Jack Kent Cooke Stadium in Madison on July 1. —AFP photo

## Hosts, Brazil in last four

LANDOVER, Maryland, July 2: The United States and Brazil each advanced to the semifinals of the 1999 women's soccer World Cup with thrilling victories on Thursday, but neither did so easily, reports Reuters.

The Americans overcame a poorly played opening half in which they conceded an own goal before using a pair of second-half strikes to gain a 3-2 victory against a determined Germany, while Brazil squandered a three-goal lead before grabbing an extra-time strike by Sissi to beat Nigeria 4-3 before 54,642 at Jack Kent Cooke Stadium.

The Americans next meet Brazil in the semifinals Sunday at Stanford Stadium in Palo Alto, California. In the other semifinal, holders Norway play China at Foxboro Stadium in Foxboro, Massachusetts.

Both matches had dramatic moments.

US defender Brandi Chastain produced an own goal in only the fifth minute, yet came back to bring the United States level in the 49th minute with a well-struck shot from nine metres.

The United States grabbed the eventual game-winner in the 66th minute through defender Joy Fawcett who headed home a corner kick by Shannon MacMillan.

MacMillan, just inserted into the match seconds before the goal, sent a perfect corner into the German area where Fawcett headed in from six metres.

"I was just glad to get my head on it," said Fawcett who became the 10th US player to score a goal in the tournament.

The goal capped a strong US comeback, including a pair of goals in a 17-minute span.

"At halftime, (US coach) Tony (Dicioco) told us what we could do," said Chastain. "He told us we had 45 minutes left in our dream, if you don't do it, you are going home and you are going to be sad about it."

Following the Chastain blunder, the United States drew level when an unmarked Tiffany Milbrett latched onto a loose ball in the German area after a Michelle Akers shot from 23 metres.

With the German defence pulled up and Milbrett only 12 metres from goal, the US forward had only to slam a right-footed shot past goalkeeper Silke Rottenberg as Sandra Minnert and Steffi Jones converged to late.

Germany went up 2-1 in the dying moments of the first half through Bettina Wiegmann.

Taking a short pass from Sandra Smisek at the top right corner of the US area, an unmarked Wiegmann took three touches to her left and sent a left-footed rocket of a shot into

the left side of the US goal from 22 yards.

"We thought with that second goal we had enough to win," said German coach Tina Theune-Meyer, "but had a tough second half against Brazil and I was concerned we couldn't hold them (US) off in the second half."

Brazil's tournament nearly ended, but the South Americans were able to hold off Nigeria, the first African nation to advance past the first round.

Reduced to 10 players after Patience Avre was sent off for a second bookable offence in the 87th minute, Nigeria could not hold off the Brazilians, a 24-metre strike by Sissi, a left-footed blast from the top left side, sealed the match for the South Americans.

Brazil owned a 3-0 lead at the interval thanks to a pair of strikes by Cidinha in the fourth and 22nd minutes and a 25-metre chip by Nene at 35 minutes that seemingly put the game away.

Nigeria fought back with three goals in a 22-minute span beginning with Prisca Emeafu at 63 minutes followed by Nikiru Okosieme nine minutes later and Mercy Akide five minutes from time.

"I told my players to relax (before extra time)," said Brazil coach Wilson De Oliveira. "I told them to play the Brazilian way, don't get caught up in a physical game. Keep your composure and play like Brazilians."

## Graf gets past Williams

WIMBLEDON, July 2 (AP): Steffi Graf is convinced Venus Williams will be No 1 some day. Williams will have to watch as Graf chases her eighth Wimbledon title.

Graf held off the young pretender in a scintillating Centre Court duel Thursday to reach the semifinals of a rain-plagued tournament that looks destined to spill into a third week.

In a match that began an hour late because of rain, was interrupted three times by showers and ended just before dark, Graf overcame the 19-year-old Williams and her muscular all-court power game to win 6-2, 3-6, 6-4.

While the actual playing time was 1 hour, 52 minutes, the match stretched over 7 hours, 7 minutes, counting all the rain breaks.

Despite all the delays, the match featured tennis of the highest quality as Graf and Williams whipped each other around the court with stinging shots.

Graf said it was the best she has ever had to play just to reach the Wimbledon semifinals. "The match has done for the 10th time in her career."

"I think it was unbelievable tennis today," the 30-year-old German said. "It rarely happens in the quarterfinals that you have to play that kind of tennis."

Both players agreed the difference in the match was that Graf played better on the crucial points, especially the break points.

"I told myself I wanted to go for my shots and go for the points and not try to be tentative," Graf said.

Graf praised Williams. "She moves incredibly well out there," she said. "She got some balls that I thought were over. You could see in the past two years what potential she has."

A future No 1?

"I have said it before, and I would say it again: I think so, yes," Graf said. "She has the game. And she has the physique, which is equally important. She certainly has a lot of talent. She can come in and play from the back. She can do a lot of things out there."

Graf got off to her usual fast start, breaking Williams twice to win the first set in 32 minutes. But Williams, emitting a shriek-like grunt on every shot, bullied Graf in the second set, winning five out of six games to force a decisive third.

Williams was leading 2-1 on serve when the match was stopped for the third time. When play resumed, it was 7:40 pm, a wet mist still hung over the court and light was fading.

But that didn't stop the two players from maintaining their high level.

Graf took control by breaking for a 3-2 lead. She did it by

putting pressure on Williams, attacking and dictating the points. The break point featured one of the best rallies of the match, with both players firing cross-court rockets, before Graf finally struck a forehand winner.

Williams had a chance to break back in the next game, but she failed to convert on three chances — including a simple high forehand volley.

Graf served out the match in the 10th game, doing a little hope and punching the air after Williams hit a forehand wide.

"I've learned quite a few things," Williams said. "I'm definitely going to have to make more shots, that's for sure. I'm going to go out and work on my game. I'm going to continue to improve."

But Williams said she can't see herself still playing at age 30 like Graf.

"I don't think there's a big chance for me, not at all," she said. "I have a short attention span."

Only one other match was completed Thursday, with American Lindsay Davenport outlasting defending champion Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic.

public 6-3, 6-4 to reach the semifinals for the first time after two previous quarterfinal defeats.

The two other women's quarterfinals were suspended and were to resume Friday.

In a battle of two teen-age qualifiers, 18-year-old American Alexandra Stevenson of the United States won the first set 6-3 against 16-year-old Australian Jelena Dokic, but trailed 5-1 in the second.

The winner will become the first qualifier in Wimbledon history to reach the women's semis.

In the other women's quarterfinal, France's Nathalie Tauziat led Croatia's Mirjana Lucic 6-4, 3-3.

In men's play, Australia's Patrick Rafter and American Todd Martin were tied 3-3 in the first set, and Britain's Tim Henman was up 1-0 against France's Cedric Pioline.

Two other men's matches had yet to begin: five-time champion Pete Sampras of the United States vs Australia's Mark Philippoussis, and American Andre Agassi vs Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten.



Alexandra Stevenson of USA serving against Australian Jelena Dokic during their Wimbledon quarterfinal yesterday. —AFP photo



On the occasion of World Sports Journalists' Day, Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association yesterday accorded a reception to veteran writers Kamal Lohani (L) and Badiuzzaman (R) at the National Sports Council auditorium. President of the Bangladesh Olympic Association and Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Mohammad Mostafizur Rahman was the chief guest. —Star photo