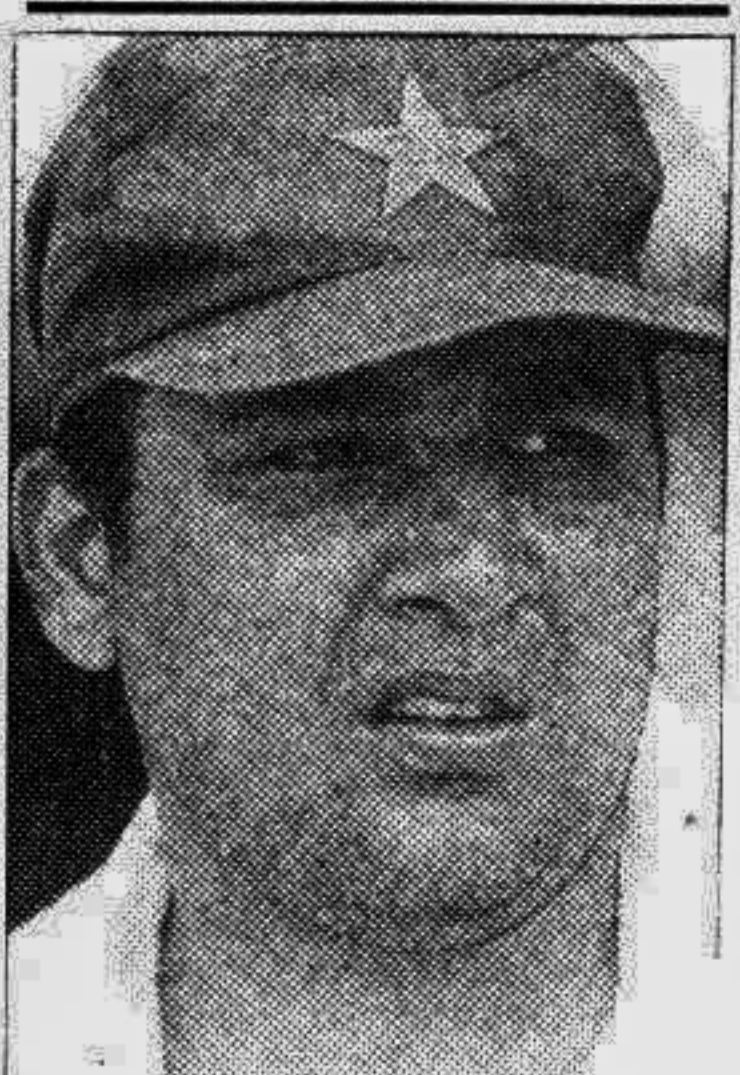


## Column One

### SPORTS TALK



**Inzamamul Haq**

(Pakistan star batsman)  
"It has become a fashion to call us heroes when we win and to brand us traitors when we lose."

### DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT Cross-Country Running is a long-distance running over open country in the West. Unlike the longer marathon race, cross-country races usually are not run along roads or paths, but over the countryside. Events are held during the autumn or winter months, and many amateur athletes use the sport as a means of keeping fit and developing stamina.

What? Our regular mode of travelling is a sport? God knows how much we are missing out!

### Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN  
Competition-118

✓ Tick the Correct Answers  
Post to The Daily Star  
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm  
July 30, '99 and draw  
shortly afterwards

- Who is the new England cricket coach?  
Fletcher Hussain Marsh
- Brazilian footballer Rivaldo plays for  
Lazio Barcelona Arsenal
- Who is the captain of Argentina soccer team?  
Simone Batistuta Ayala
- How many Grand Slam titles has Steffi Graf won till now?  
22 23 24
- Who is ATP's top ranked player right now?  
Sampras Moya Agassi

Name .....

Class ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

POWERED WITH  
**EN-VITS**  
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

### Hussain out of action

LONDON, July 24: England's woes piled up today when captain Nasser Hussain was ruled out of cricket for three weeks after breaking a finger fielding against New Zealand, reports AFP.

During the morning session on the third day Hussain had stopped a shot into the gully from New Zealand batsman Adam Parore which bounced awkwardly in front of him as he dived.

After brief treatment on the field he headed off to hospital for an X-ray on the middle finger of his right hand.

It revealed a fracture which will, probably stop Hussain playing for three weeks, meaning he will miss the third Test starting on August 5.

Graham Thorpe took over as captain in his absence.

Hussain top-scored in England's first-innings total of 186, making 61.

Hussain has played in the last 31 consecutive Tests since missing the first Test against Pakistan at Lord's three years ago, having fractured his right index finger scoring a century against India at Trent Bridge.

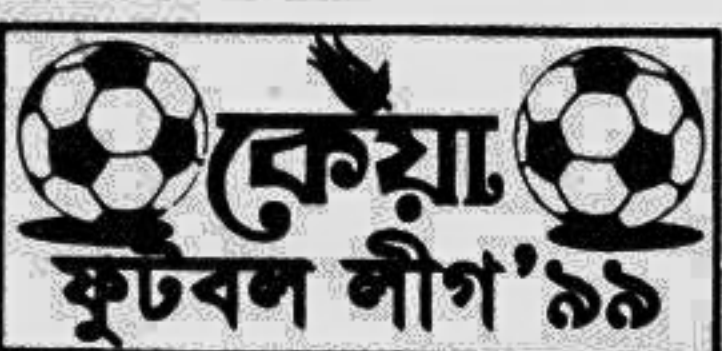
### Barjuan extends Barcelona days

BARCELONA, July 24: Barcelona's in-demand defender Sergi Barjuan has signed an improved contract that will keep him at the Catalan club until at least 2002 — and almost certainly for the rest of his career, reports Reuters.

### Muktijoddha's reliance on locals

## Alien trio to Abahani's aid

Sports Reporter



Abahani Krira Chakra will be desperately in search of a victory when they take on holders Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra in a crucial Keya Premier Football League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today. The match will kick-off at 5.30 pm.

Although Muktijoddha can afford a draw, the popular Dhanmondi outfit, who are now six points behind joint League leaders Mohammedan and Muktijoddha, know better than anyone that they will have to win their penultimate game of the first phase to keep their chances alive in the title race.

The anxiety of Abahani, who lost 1-2 to their arch rivals Mohammedan Sporting in their previous match last Thursday, was quite evident as they registered two imports from Ghana at the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) office last evening.

The signing of William Opuju and Charles Ghansah Benin, the Ghanaian duo who arrived in the capital on Thursday, means the sky blues are all set to field their full quota of three foreign players for the first time in the League.

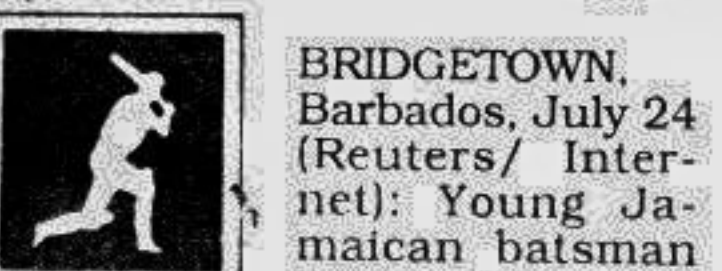
The presence of Opuju and Benin alongside India's Sabir Pasha will certainly bolster Abahani's strength. The Federation Cup champions will have to rely mostly on the brilliance of their imported trio in the absence of their key player Zakir, who sustained a severe injury on his left foot in the previous match against Mohammedan.

Zakir's absence, however, might not cause any serious problem provided that Opuju, a striker who plays for Mine Stars along with Benin, lives up to his potential in his maiden Dhaka League appearance.

Abahani will also be looking forward to the defensive abilities of Benin, who is likely to provide the much-needed solidity in the rear, which has been suspect after the retirement of Monem Munna.

While Abahani will mostly rely on their foreign recruits, Muktijoddha will depend on their strong local resources. The emerging force in the domestic football, who are still licking the wounds of their disappointing tie-break defeat to Abahani in the Federation Cup final, will leave no stone unturned to reverse the fortunes in their second meeting of the season.

## Cs together no more



BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, July 24 (Reuters/Internet): Young Jamaican batsman Wavell Hinds has been named in a 14-man West Indies squad for a triangular one-day tournament in Singapore in September.

Fast bowler Nixon McLean, who was omitted from the World Cup squad, has been recalled while left-handed opener Adrian Griffith, who played in the last two Tests against Australia, is also in the squad which will be captained by Brian Lara.

include them together on teams to tour Singapore from August 29 to September 9, and Sharjah from October 10-22, it said. "As a consequence, while Walsh has been included in the team to tour Singapore, he will be replaced by Ambrose on the tour of Sharjah."

Apart from Ambrose, the

### SINGAPORE SCHEDULE

Sept 2: West Indies v Zimbabwe  
Sept 4: India v Zimbabwe  
Sept 5: India v West Indies  
Sept 7: Final

Gifted young Jamaican right-handed batsman and off-spin bowler Ricardo Powell, who played one match in West Indies' unsuccessful World Cup campaign, has also been retained.

The West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) said in a statement it "sees the need to use these short tours to expose and groom young talented cricketers."

Veteran Curtly Ambrose has been left out but the WICB said it had been decided to alternate him and fellow fast bowler Courtney Walsh in forthcoming tours.

"Having regard to the packed regional and international cricket programme involving the West Indies between now and next June, the long term future of West Indies cricket, and the physical demands on players, especially long-serving fast bowlers Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh, the West Indies selectors have decided not to



CURTLY AMBROSE

other three players axed from the World Cup squad are batsmen Stuart Williams, Phil Simmons and Keith Arthurton.

### SQUAD

Brian Lara (captain), Jimmy Adams, Ridley Jacobs, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Sherwin Campbell, Ricardo Powell, Mervyn Dillon, Reon King, Courtney Walsh, Hendy Bryan, Nehemiah Perry, Adrian Griffith, Wavell Hinds, Nixon McLean.

## Horne hits a hundred



LONDON, July 24: A disciplined century by opener Matthew Horne set New Zealand on the road to a big first innings lead on the second day of the second Test against England at Lord's on Friday, reports Reuters.

Although he was dismissed for exactly 100 in the final session as England took three late wickets, New Zealand were still well placed at 242 for six, a lead

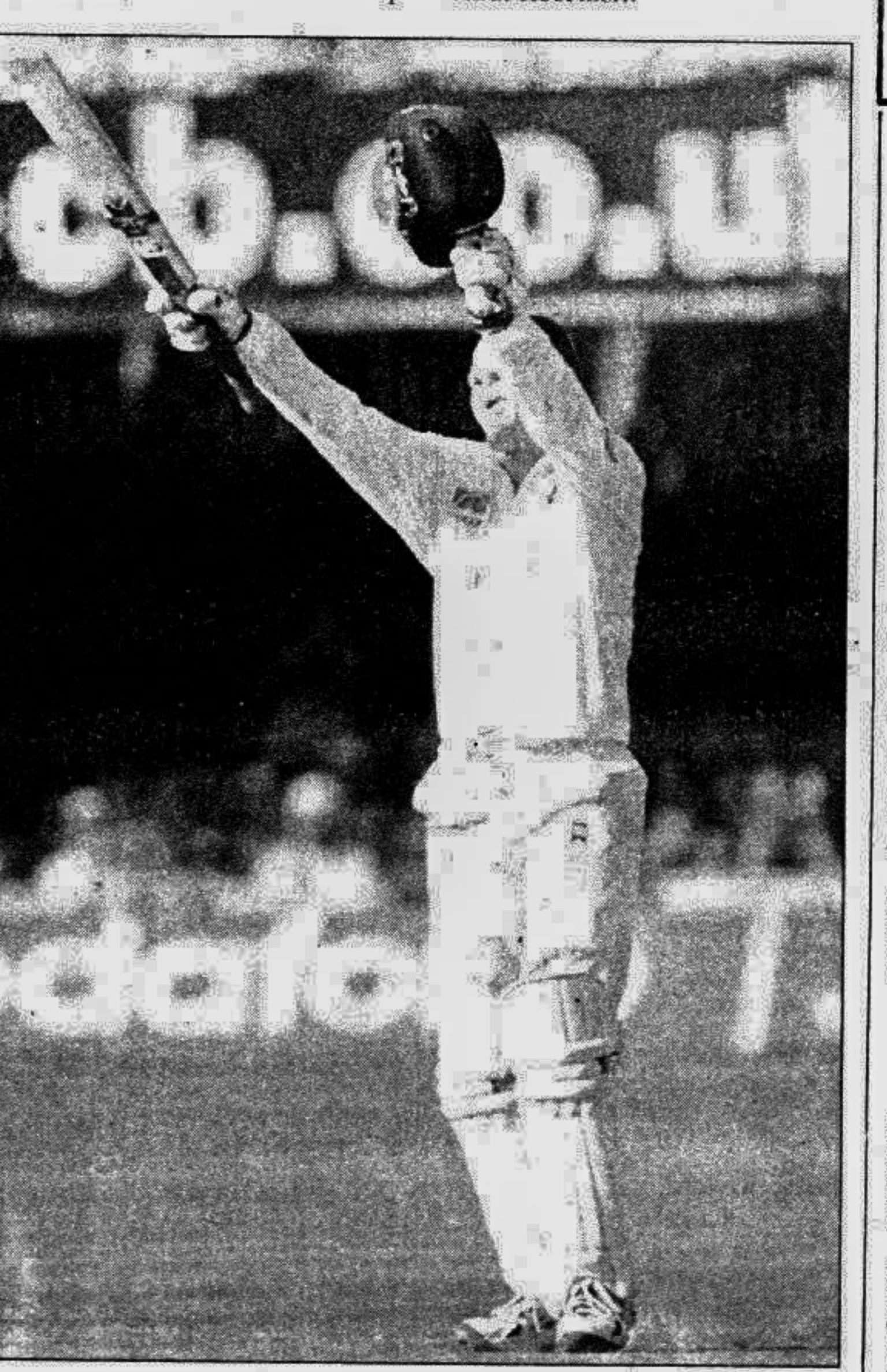
tween England and New Zealand at Lord's on Saturday.

NEW ZEALAND: First innings (overnight 242-6)  
Bell lbw b Headley 15  
Horne c Hussain b Headley 100  
Fleming c Read b Mullally 1  
Headley c Read b Mullally 43  
Twose c Caddick b Headley 52  
McMillan c Read b Caddick 53  
Vettori not out 58  
Parore b Caddick 12  
Cairns b Caddick 31  
Nash not out 1

Extras: (b-1, lb-23, w-2, nb-13) 31  
Total: (for eight wickets) 350  
Fall of wickets: 1-43; 2-45; 3-112; 4-232; 5-239; 6-242; 7-275; 8-345.

To bat: Geoff Allott.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mullally	27	7	98	2
Caddick	31	11	88	3
Headley	27	7	74	3
Tufnell	24	5	58	0
Butcher	3	0	7	0
Rampersack	1	0	1	0
Umpires: Mervyn Kitchen, Rudi Koertzen.				



New Zealand opener Matt Horne acknowledges the crowd's applause after reaching his century during the second day's play of the Lord's Test on July 23. —AFP photo

### England 55 for 1 at tea

LONDON, July 24: Left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori struck a timely blow for New Zealand just before tea to leave England battling to avoid an innings defeat in the second Test at Lord's on Saturday, reports AFP.

Facing a 172-run first innings deficit after New Zealand added a further 116 runs to their overnight 242 for six and unlikely to have the services of captain Nasser Hussain after he fractured a finger fielding, openers Mark Butcher and Alec Stewart appeared to have given England a solid start.

But with just three balls remaining before the tea interval on the third day, Butcher attempted an optimistic sweep shot and the ball flew off his top edge to enable Nathan Astle to take the catch running backwards from slip to make the score 55 for one.

Earlier, New Zealand's tail-enders progressed relatively untroubled towards their significant first innings advantage.

Vettori, just two overnight, advanced to a deserved half-century at an impressive rate having weathered the early storm with a 33-run partnership off just 51 balls with Parore.

Andy Caddick made the important first breakthrough of the day when Parore rocked back attempting to cut but instead chopped onto his stumps.

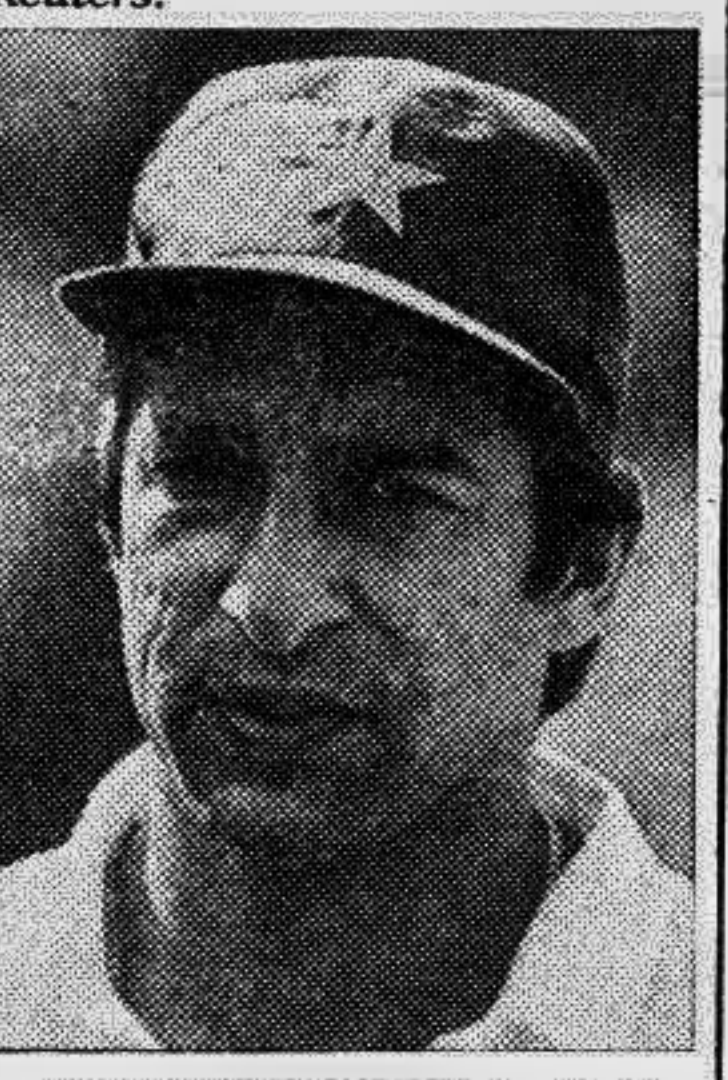
Their determination and strokeplay enabled New Zealand to progress from 250 to 300 off just 69 balls while their own 50 partnership took just 64 deliveries — hardly the economical bowling England manager David Graveney had demanded overnight.

Once again Caddick broke up their partnership, Cairns pushing forward in search of his sixth boundary but mis-timing the stroke and the ball rolled off his pads to clip his off-stump.

Left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell then wrapped up the tourists' innings, ending Vettori's innings for 54 when he edged to acting captain Thorpe at slip and then pouncing Dion Nash into driving high in the air to Alan Mullally at mid-on.

### Wasim charged

ISLAMABAD, July 24: The Pakistan government's anti-corruption investigation filed match-fixing charges against captain Wasim Akram and other players today, the official AFP news agency said, reports Reuters.



It said former captain Salim Malik and batsman Ijaz Ahmed were also charged "after match-fixing over the last six years," but gave no further details.

The accusations were made by the government's Ehtesab or Accountability Bureau, which has been probing corruption allegations against political figures in the former government of Benazir Bhutto.

### Azharuddin back home

MUMBAI, July 24: Mohammad Azharuddin returned home unnoted last night from London after undergoing a shoulder operation there at the end of the World Cup in which he led India's unsuccessful campaign to retain the coveted title, reports PTI.

However, the veteran player was unavailable for comments about his fitness for the August 22-31 Tri-series in Sri Lanka which would be India's first campaign after the World Cup.

Azhar, who has led the national team for most of the nineties barring the 17-month period from August 1996 to December 1997 when Sachin Tendulkar was the captain, has to wait till July 28 to see whether he retains his job.

At the moment there are strong indications of a change at the helm in favour of Tendulkar for his second stint on the hot seat of Indian cricket.

### Akatiev's title

ISTANBUL, July 24: Alexei Akatiev of Russia retained his 25 kilometres open-water title at the European Swimming Championships today, reports Reuters.

World champion Akatiev won with an unofficial time of five hours 11 minutes six seconds from fellow Russian Anton Sanachev (5:11:59) and German champion Andre Wilde (5:12:41).

Akatiev chases his third consecutive European 5 kms open water title on Monday.



Action from yesterday's Premier Division football encounter between Mirpur Chalanika and Rahmatganj at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. —Star photo

## Chalantika's late snatch

Sports Reporter



Promotees Mirpur Chalanika earned their first point in the Keya Premier Division Football League when they drew 1-1 with Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

In the day's lone match, Rahmatganj forward Milan put the old towners ahead at the stroke of the breather while substitute forward Rabi levelled the margin four minutes before the final whistle.

Rahmatganj, with their three national footballers Tipu, Raju and Masum, were pretty impressive against the Mirpurians from the word 'go' and should have gone for the lemon break with at least a 4-0 lead as they launched a series of offensives.

Lack of co-ordination among the forwards, however,

had them waiting for the lead till the last minute of the first session.

Skipper Milan had the first opportunity in the 35th minute when he was fed by Tipu at the goalmouth and needed only to tap in the ball. But he failed to keep his cool and sent the ball over the crosspiece.

Milan again failed to get control of another Tipu pass in the danger area four minutes later.

Tipu, perhaps inspired by his skipper, then spoiled another good opening in the next minute when he got the ball from Biplob Marma at the goal mouth. To the utter surprise of the few hundred spectators, Tipu shot the ball wide of the far post.

Finally, Milan broke the deadlock in the last minute of the first half placing a rebounder past Chalanika custodian Amad's left.

After the break, Rahmatganj had two more chances in Tipu to increase the margin in the 59th and 65th minutes. But the national forward failed to cash in on those because of his poor imagination.

After surviving the close calls, Chalantika, who have not won a single match in their six outings, staged a late second-half rally and levelled the score in the 86th minute. Substitute Rabi, after receiving a long pass from the midfield, defeated the advancing Rahmatganj keeper Himu with a brilliant volley.

With the draw, Chalantika earned their first point in the Premier League from seven matches. On the other hand, it was the third draw for Rahmatganj against a win in seven matches, which raised their tally to six.

**Yellow cards:** Din Mohammad, Tipu (Rahmatganj) and Tareque, Liton (Chalanika).

### TEAMS

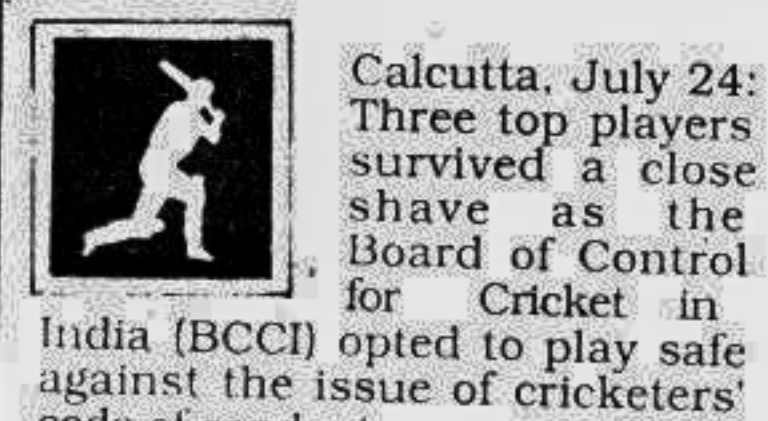
**Rahmatganj MFS:** Himu, Biplob, Din Mohammad, Masum, Shakil (Kamal), Monir (Javed), Nayan, Raju, Milan (Saiful) and Tipu.

**Mirpur Chalanika:** Amad, Rafique (Munna), Tareque, Uzal, Dulal, Kakan, Pappu, Liton, Sohail (Rabi), Babu Das (Mamun) and Sohag.

**Referee:** Ilyas Fulu.

## Indian Board plays safe

From Our Correspondent



Calcutta, July 24: Three top players survived a close shave as the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) opted to play safe against the issue of cricketers' code of conduct.

Saurav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid and Robin Singh received letters from the BCCI, seeking explanation for their comments to the media about Indian team's performance in the World Cup. And, all the three have promptly gone on to back-foot, informing the Board about their rebuttals.

The BCCI, which had earlier stated that it would issue show-cause notice on these players, however preferred to go soft on

the entire episode where he had reported to criticise the manager Brijesh Patel and the coach Angshuman Gaekwad.

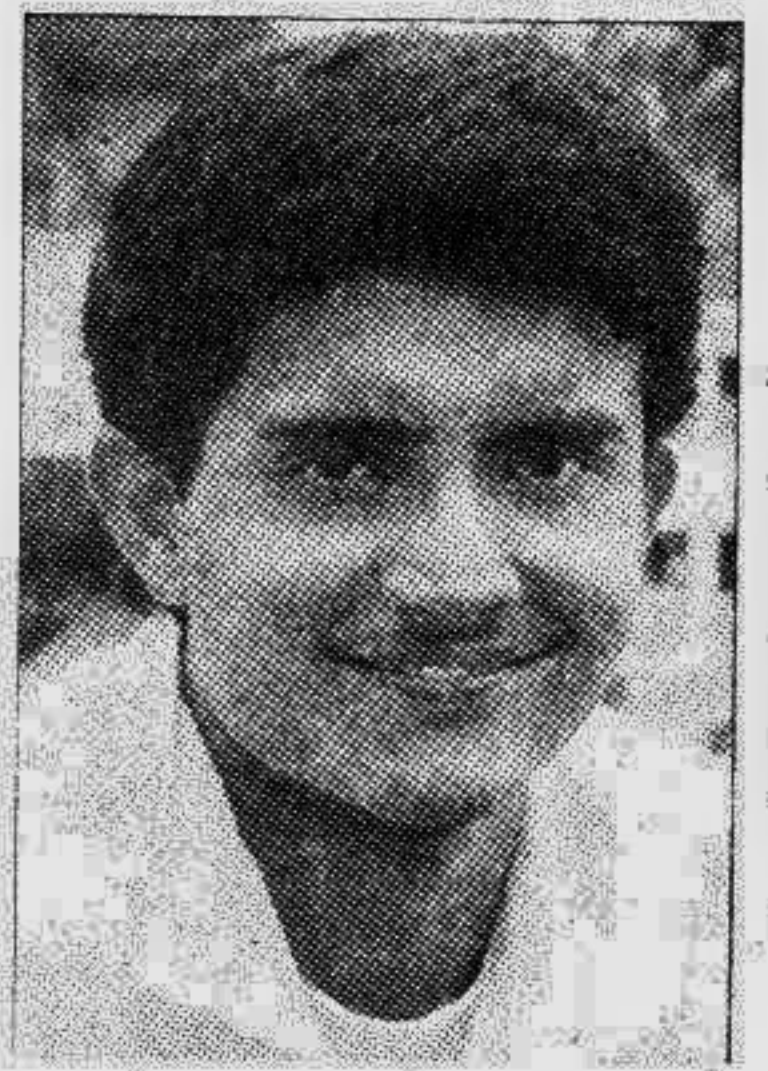
The BCCI has however accepted the replies and decided that it would be 'proper' to just issue a warning and impose a token-fine on the players. The BCCI decision not to pursue the controversy further is because it is much worried about the captaincy issue. Selection of the captain for Indian team's forthcoming tours to Sri Lanka, Singapore and Kenya will take place on July 28. And for once, after the unhappy performance both as player and skipper, Mohammad Azharuddin is no more the forerunner for the demanding job. Although he has already started getting in

is eager to take over the reins of the Indian team after India's tour down under.

At present he is anxiously waiting to become father for the second time and captaincy is the last thing on his mind. His doctor wife, Anjali, is due to give birth to their second child in September.

This makes Jadeja an automatic choice to lead the side in the one-dayers. He is also eager to face the challenge. When contacted through his cell phone, Jadeja however made it clear that he would not like to get involved in any controversy. "Look Azhar just had one bad year and is being pulled down. This should not have happened," he said.

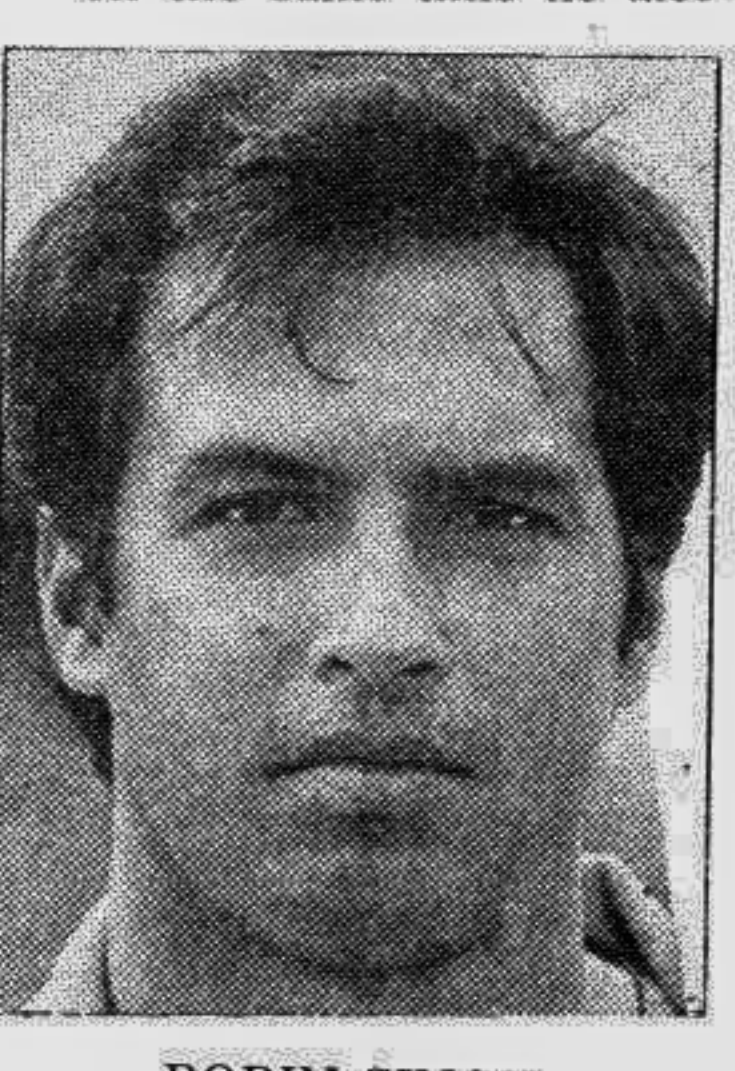
At the same time he also



SAURAV GANGULY



RAHUL DRAVID



ROBIN SINGH

them. The letter was just sort of formality, merely asking the cricketers whether they had made the comments. As usual, the players have denied the entire episode.

Ganguly on his arrival in Calcutta after India's unsuccessful campaign at the World Cup wrote Sachin Tendulkar should bat down the order in his column of a vernacular daily. On the other hand, Rahul Dravid had donned the mantle of a commentator during the final of the World Cup and finally Robin Singh had accused the team management of failing to explain the tournament rules properly.

In their replies, Ganguly stated that he had expressed his personal point of view, which had been misinterpreted by the press. Dravid has clarified that during the World Cup final he had not commented on the performance of the Indian team. Robin Singh meanwhile denied

touch with the BCCI on his return from London Thursday, it appears to many that his chances of a survival are slim.

Board president Raj Singh Dungarpur, known to be an ardent Azhar supporter, has already made it clear to the selectors that he would not interfere with their decision. Three of the selectors namely Ashok Malhotra, Madan Lal and Anil Deshpande have openly expressed their dissatisfaction against Azhar. In fact they do not want him in the team even. Azhar only has the support of Shivlal Yadav, who incidentally is also from Hyderabad. The cricketers in line for the top job are Sachin Tendulkar, Ajay Jadeja and Saurav Ganguly. However it was learnt that in spite of having repeated discussions with the chairman of the selection committee Ajit Wadekar, the 'little master' is yet to make up his mind to lead the side. Tendulkar has made it clear that he

mentioned that he enjoyed the job tremendously when he stood in for injured Azhar in the three matches at Sharjah. "It was really challenging and I enjoyed every moment of it. If captaincy comes, I will not shy away from it."

Even then if he is chosen for the job, the BCCI may nominate him captain for the first two one-day tournaments and then proceed according to the performance of the team. Besides that Jadeja is also not a regular member in the Test team.

At this point Saurav Ganguly gets an edge. If Jadeja fails to deliver or runs out of form, the selectors may think of Ganguly as captain for the Test matches against New Zealand in India. However, all these are stopgap arrangements for Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar. The selectors and most of the players feel that the seat belongs to him. It is only a matter of time before he decides once more to sit on it.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at lunch on the third day of the second Test be-