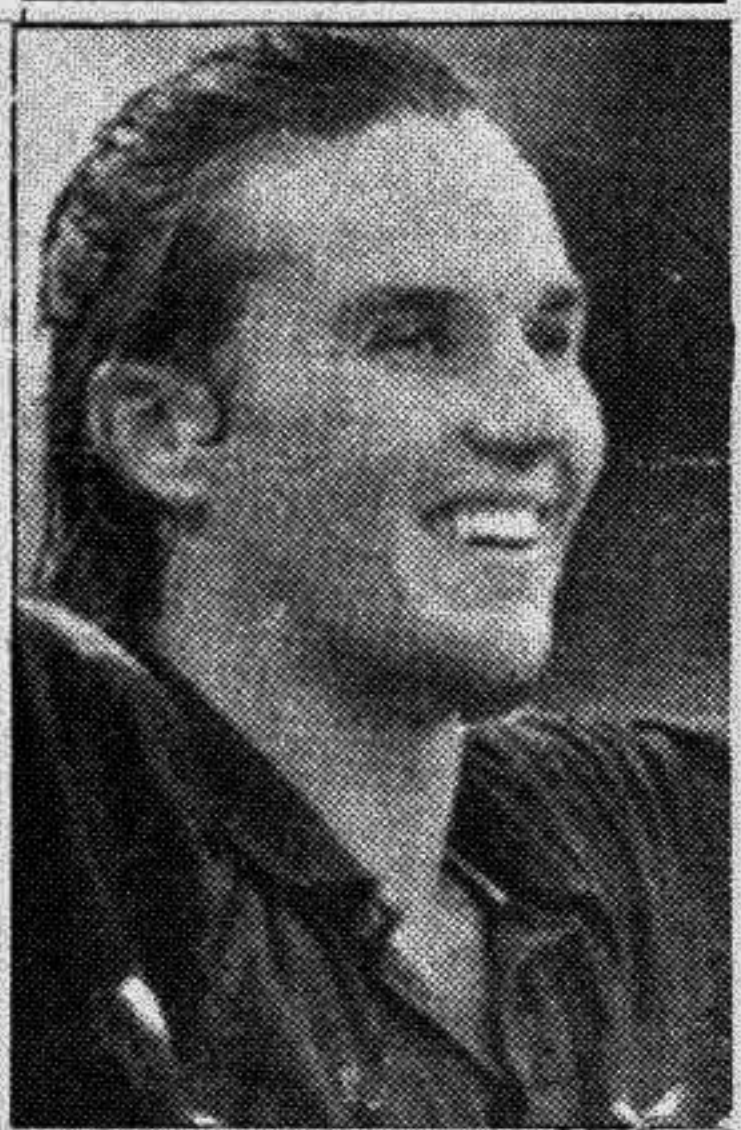


**Column One**  
SPORTS TALK



**Patrick Rafter**  
(Australia's No 1 tennis player)  
"I never feel comfortable on grass, I never have and I never will."

**Boost sports WHIZZ KID**  
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-119

✓ Tick the Correct Answers  
Post to The Daily Star  
Win attractive prizes  
Competition closes at 8 pm  
Aug 27, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who are the current FA Cup champions?  
Man United Arsenal Liverpool
- Who is Sri Lanka's cricket coach?  
Whitmore Yardley Fernandez
- Who won the Confederations' Cup title?  
Brazil Mexico USA
- Who is the Bangladesh cricket captain?  
Moinuzzul Akram Aminul
- Which stadium will host the final of 2002 World Cup?  
Yokohama Suzuki Nagoya

Name .....  
Class ..... Roll No. ....  
School Address .....  
Phone: (if any) .....



**Football camp for Bangabandhu Cup, Nepal SAF games**

**Sports Reporter**  
The national football team's residential camp for the 2nd Bangabandhu Cup and the 8th SAF Games will start at the Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Proshikhan (BKSP) tomorrow under the supervision of Iraqi coach Samir Sakir.  
Thirty-one players have been called from which 18 will be named for the Bangabandhu Cup.  
A Bangladesh Football Federation official said that Muktiyoddha defender Masood Rana may be called to the camp later.  
The Bangabandhu Cup will be held from August 27 to September 7, while the SAF Games will begin in Kathmandu from September 25.  
Placed in Group A along with Kerollet Football Club of Hungary and Malaysian Olympic team, Bangladesh will take on Malaysia in their opening Bangabandhu Cup match on August 31. The game against Hungary is on September 3.  
The draw for the six-nation SAF Games tournament, however, is yet to be held.  
Bangladesh Olympic Association secretary-general Zafar Imam said yesterday, the SAF draw will be held on August 31.

**Sponsor scare for England**

LONDON, Aug 19 (AFP): English cricket was dealt another blow on Thursday when sponsors Cornhill Insurance hinted they may end backing of England because of the national team's poor performances.  
The company has sponsored English Test match cricket for 22 years but are concerned about "long-term poor performances."  
The news came only hours before England met New Zealand in the final Test at The Oval where Nasser Hussain's men bid to restore pride after a disappointing summer.  
Cornhill Insurance spokesman Geoff Meyhew told BBC radio: "We are concerned about the long-term performance of England because it impacts upon audiences and that's effectively what we're buying."

## AFC appoints referees

**Sports Reporter**  
The Asian Football Confederation has appointed six referees to officiate matches of the 2nd Bangabandhu Cup, to be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from August 27 to September 7.  
According to BFF yesterday, MG Sivarama of India will act as the referee-inspector of the 12-team tournament.  
Three FIFA referees—Jerry Andres of Philippines, Hasan Abdullah Salmeen of Oman and Balu Sandaraj of India—will conduct matches, while two assistant FIFA referees—Ali Ahmed Ali of Oman and Kurian Shaji of India—will act as linesmen.  
Tournament committee secretary and BFF joint-secretary Sirajul Islam Bachchu said yesterday, local referees will also be appointed to conduct matches.  
Teams from twelve countries—Brazil, Hungary, Kuwait, Indonesia, Malaysia, Ghana, Japan, South Korea, Nepal, Thailand, Uzbekistan and host Bangladesh—will take part in the 12-day-long tournament.  
Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar will cover all the matches live from the stadium.  
Meanwhile, the Thailand Football Association sent the list of their national Olympic team yesterday. Pencilled in group B for the first round along with Rio de Janeiro Soccer Federation team and South Korea



Bangladesh will take part in the 12-day-long tournament. Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar will cover all the matches live from the stadium.

## Paddlers for Asian Jr. TT

**Sports Reporter**  
Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation yesterday named a seven-member team for the 7th Asian Junior Table Tennis Championships to be held in Madras, India, from August 31 to September 5.  
The team includes six paddlers and an official.  
**The team:** Abu Taher Salahuddin, Edison, Pavel Biswas, Pappu, Jananjay Shil Tirtho, Saicha Parveen, Setu Farhana Parveen, Mounita Alam Rumi and Abu Muntaz Saaduddin Ahmed (manager).  
Prior to the start of the championships, Edison and Pappu will undergo a week-long training organised by the Asian Table Tennis Union.

## Shukla all smiling

**From Our Correspondent**  
CALCUTTA, Aug 19: Fortune finally smiled on Laxmi Ratan Shukla, the young cricket hopeful from the West Bengal state.  
When the team for the triangular series in Sri Lanka and Singapore had been announced Star TV had mistakenly put the aspiring all-rounder's name in the squad. An error that left the young man depressed.  
However, it seems that Shukla has been destined to make the trip. The sudden injury to all-rounder Ajit Agarkar has once more opened up a new vista of hopes for him. Shukla knows that he will have to make the most of the unlikely opportunity.  
Talking at the Calcutta Airport Wednesday morning before his departure to Chennai, he said, "I could not believe when the news was conveyed by the Cricket Association of Bengal. It is God's blessings. I had played two matches for the country. But I had done nothing to show that I deserved a place in the side. Now if I get the opportunity to figure in the playing eleven, I will definitely try to retain my place."  
He knows that unless he does something extraordinary, Agarkar will come back into the side at his expense. "It's not that I will have to perform with the ball, I will have to do so with the bat also."  
The 19-year-old cricketer is not at all nervous to face the challenge. "I have bowled to the likes of Saied Anwar, Sahid Afridi, Moin Khan and Inzamumul Haq. So, I am aware of what international cricket is all about. All I need is a bit of luck. If I get that I will be able to satisfy the thousands of cricket followers in the country."



Action from yesterday's Premier Division football league match between Fakirerpool and Mirpur Chalantika at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. —Star photo

## Keya Premier Football League return-leg Jalal salvages Fakirerpool

**Sports Reporter**  
But, after the lemon break, Fakirerpool punched in three more goals to take an unassailable 5-1 lead with Moin, Sohagh and Jalal notching one goal apiece in a space of 12 minutes.  
Moin made it 1-2 for Farashganj in the 79th minute before Bidyut neutralised the score seven minutes from the final whistle.  
Although Badda had nothing at stake since they are far away from the dreaded relegation zone, Farashganj were desperately in need of the crucial one-point to avoid the forbidden zone.  
Today is a rest day. The return leg will resume at the new venue of Mirpur's Sher-e-Bangla Stadium from tomorrow.

**FIXED MATCH?**  
Meanwhile, in the other match of the day at the same venue, Badda Jagorani and Farashganj Sporting shared honours in a two-all draw in

**Team Rank M W D L F A Pts.**  
Badda Jagorani 5th 13 5 4 4 19 16 19  
Farashganj 6th 13 4 4 5 14 16 16  
Fakirerpool 8th 12 3 4 5 15 22 13  
Chalantika 10th 12 0 1 11 12 35 1

## Asian Club Cup Championship Muktiyoddha favourites against Mohun Bagan

**Sports Reporter**  
Defending league champions Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra will enrol national and Abahani club today to strengthen their line-up for their Asian Club Cup Championship match against Mohun Bagan of India.  
The all-reds are scheduled to leave the capital today for Calcutta, where they will take on the Indian giants at the Salt Lake Stadium on Saturday.  
The 18-member Muktiyoddha team, led by Bangladesh captain Jewel Rana, also includes their Nigerian midfielder Alieu Rahman.  
The members of the Muktiyoddha team are: Jewel Rana (captain), Masud Rana, Masud Rana, Rajani Kanth Barman, Hasan al Mamun, Intiaz Ahmed Nakib, Saiful Bari Tutu, Rezaul Karim Liton, Aminul Haq (goalkeeper), Mamun Joarder, Biplob (goalkeeper), Arif Khan Joy, Mahabubur Rahman Roxy, Alieu Rahman, Walid Khan, Bakhtiar, Jahangir Alam (manager) and Shaiful Haq Manik (coach).  
Our Calcutta correspondent

**not seen them play this year. So the initial approach to the game will be one of caution.**  
Even though he has not seen them play Nayeem has heard that Nakib is in tremendous form. "He has scored ten goals so far, according to the information that I have. So the defence will have to be careful about him."  
Mohun Bagan's main problem has been their two main midfielders, Satyajit Chatterjee and Basudeb Mondal. Both are yet to show the form that had made them a threat to the opposition. Talking on these two players, Nayeem said, "Just to bring the team into a better shape, I am having practice sessions twice a day. Other than that what else can I do? The Muktiyoddha team has seven footballers, who played in the SAF football tournament at Goa. The Bangladesh team received the award for the best team in April from the Asia Football Confederation. Considering our form and the experience that they have, I would say that Muktiyoddha start as the favourites against us."

## Aussies right on target

COLOMBO, Aug 19 (AFP): Australia won their opening warm up match against Sri Lanka Board President's XI by six wickets Thursday ahead of their tri-nation tournament involving the hosts and India.  
Australia scored 212 for four in 45.1 overs in reply to Sri Lanka's 208 for five in their allotted 50 overs at the Sinhalese Sports Club grounds here.  
**Brief scores:** Australia 212 for 4 in 45.1 overs. Adam Gilchrist 45, Ricky Ponting retired 60, Darren Lehmann 37, Bowling, Russel Arnold 2/43.  
Sri Lanka: 208 for five in 50 overs. Sajith Fernando 67, Chamara Silva 45. Bowling: Glen McGrath 2/17, Jason Gillespie 2/40.

## Sachin's stiff back worries India

MADRAS, Aug 19 (Reuters/Internet report): Indian cricket captain Sachin Tendulkar may not be fit for the forthcoming triangular limited overs tournaments in Sri Lanka and Singapore, the team's coach said today.  
"It's anybody's guess at the moment whether he'll make it for the tour," coach Anshuman Gaekwad told reporters in the southern city of Madras.  
The star batsman left the team's training session in Madras on Wednesday morning after complaining of stiffness in his back.  
He also failed to turn up for the practice session on this morning.  
Gaekwad said Tendulkar had developed severe stiffness in his back while running at a training session on Wednesday morning and had been advised to go back to the hotel and rest.  
"The stiffness has persisted even today and we've carried out a lot of tests, including MRI and CT scans, and once the reports come later in the day, we'll know," he said, explaining Tendulkar's absence from nets today.  
Tendulkar missed two limited over tournaments in India and Sharjah earlier this year after suffering excruciating back spasms during Pakistan's tour of India in January, but recovered for India's unsuccessful campaign at the World Cup in summer.  
Gaekwad said the team management was still hopeful that Tendulkar, who was reappointed as captain only last month replacing injured skipper Mohammad Azharuddin, would be declared fit for the tour.  
"We're hopeful he will be able to make it. Sachin himself is very keen and knowing him, he'll make it," he said.  
India is affected by frequent injuries to senior cricketers and Tendulkar is the fourth in

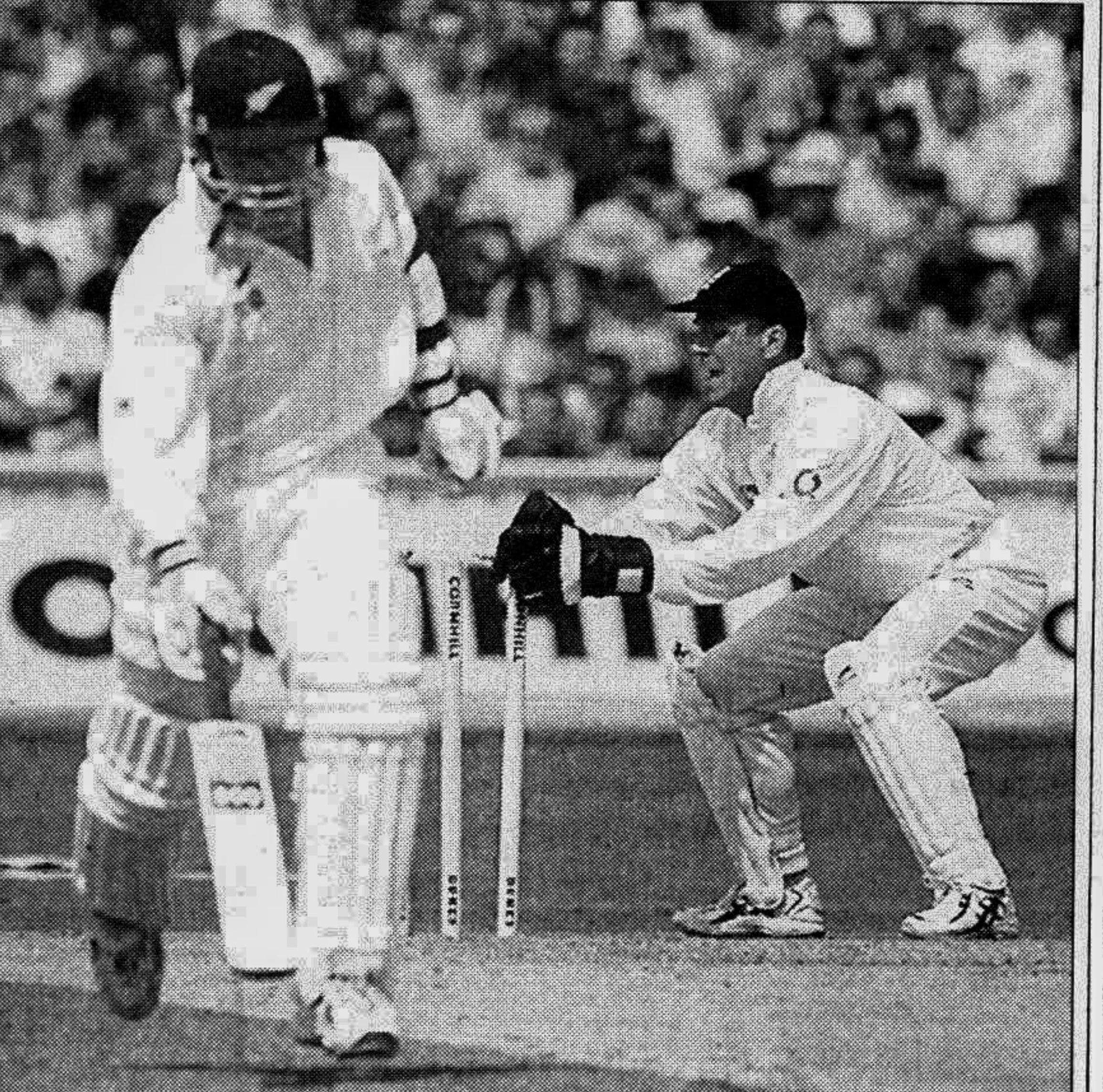


SACHIN TENDULKAR month replacing injured skipper Mohammad Azharuddin, would be declared fit for the tour.

## Irani draws first blood

LONDON, Aug 19: Ronnie Irani brought smiles and relief to England by making the long-awaited breakthrough in the deciding Test against New Zealand at The Oval on Thursday, reports AFP.  
Matthew Horne was the man out after he and Matthew Bell had taken New Zealand to 39 without loss in a tense opening session to the fourth match of the series which is currently tied 1-1.  
By lunch New Zealand were 45 for one with Bell on 23 and Kiwi captain Stephen Fleming 3 not out.  
England captain Nasser Hussain caused a surprise by asking New Zealand to bat first on a good-looking pitch, but he had to wait 26 overs for his first success. It came when Horne 15 from 82 balls, slashed the recalled Irani high in the air and Andy Caddick ran back to take a well-judged catch at point.  
That wicket may not have been the reward for a particularly fine piece of bowling, but it was nonetheless welcome for England who overall had bowled well without luck, particularly Caddick.  
Hussain had clearly decided to exploit any early moisture in the surface after his opposite number Fleming called incorrectly at the toss.  
What could also have come into Hussain's calculations was England's poor first innings performances in the series. Not once have England topped 200—126 at Edgbaston, 186 at Lord's and 199 at Old Trafford.  
England omitted Yorkshire's Chris Silverwood for the third time in the series and left out Northamptonshire off-spinner Graeme Swann from their final eleven, resulting in debuts for Warwickshire fast bowler Ed Giddins, and Leicestershire batsman Darren Maddy.  
New Zealand were boosted by the fitness of vital all-rounder Chris Cairns, who has been under treatment for a knee injury since the last county match against Essex.

**NZ 103/6**  
LONDON, Aug 19: England spinner Phil Tufnell produced a vital double strike on his favourite Test ground to leave New Zealand struggling at tea on 103 for six in their first innings in the series decider at The Oval on Thursday, reports AFP.  
To bat: N Astle, C McMillan, R Twose, C Cairns, A Parore, D Vettori, D Nash, S O'Connor.  
**Bowler:** O M R W  
Caddick 10 6 4 0  
Mullally 7 5 5 0  
Giddins 5 1 9 0  
Tufnell 3 1 9 0  
Irani 5 1 16 1  
**ENGLAND:** Mike Atherton, Darren Maddy, Nasser Hussain (captain), Graham Thorpe, Alec Stewart, Mark Ramprakash, Ronnie Irani, Andrew Caddick, Ed Giddins, Alan Mullally, Phil Tufnell.  
Umpires: G Sharp and S Venkataraghavan.  
Toss: England.



Alec Stewart (R), the England wicketkeeper, trying to inflict a run out against New Zealand at The Oval yesterday. —AFP photo

## Hussain wilful, wistful

LONDON, Aug 19 (Internet report): Captain Nasser Hussain launched England's new long-term policy of selection by assuring the squad newcomers they would not be added to the long list of Oval one-cap wonders.  
Hussain is keen to avoid the chopping and changing which may have contributed to England's inability to perform consistently on the Test stage.  
That indecision has particularly affected selection for the final Test of the English summer at The Oval with 17 of England's 83 one-cap players making their only appearance at Surrey's South London base.  
Defeat against New Zealand in the deciding Test of the Cornhill series would relegating England to bottom place in the unofficial Test rankings below

that they are going to be in for the next three years, but 90 per cent of the people here have a very good chance of being on tour, if not 100 per cent."  
Hussain believes the chopping and changing has contributed to rumours of dressing room disharmony, most recently when former coach David Lloyd claimed Leicestershire's Aftab Habib and Chris Read were "traumatised" by their period in the England side this summer.  
With Warwickshire's Ed Giddins, Darren Maddy of Leicestershire and an emerging Northamptonshire off-spinner Graeme Swann all joining up with England for the first time this week, extra time has been taken to ensure they feel comfortable in their new environment and join in with "the ban-