

England v Germany

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In 34 years because it's our next chance. I don't believe in fate and history - it's up to our players to play how we know they can on Saturday."

Both teams could still qualify for the quarter-finals with a draw but the two coaches have stressed they will be going for a victory.

For Germany, Dietmar Hamann replaces the ageing Thomas Haessler in midfield and the promising Sebastian Deisler was named on Friday instead of Thomas Linke as right wingback.

Hamann says the Germans have identified David Beckham as England's danger man. "Beckham is England's one great player and if we can shut him out we can win the game," said Hamann.

Wing back Christian Ziege will man-mark Beckham, whose crosses provided both England goals against Portugal, and their duel is likely to be one of the highlights of a game considered high-risk by police fearful of the two sets of supporters' reputation for hooliganism.

Despite widespread criticism of the current German side, the players, as always, can be relied upon to raise their game when it matters, and it always matters against England.

"We have little to lose because everyone has written us off already. We can play without pressure," said Kirsten, who will be winning his 49th cap for Germany after winning 49 for East Germany before unification.

England tumble

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England had made 26 when the 37-year-old Walsh reached a new landmark - his 450th Test wicket.

Rampkrash, on 18, inside edged a ball onto his pad to give Hinds a simple catch at short leg.

After then fell to a classic delivery.

Walsh got one to move away off the pitch and squared up the former England captain who could only edge straight to Jacobs. The Lancashire batsman was out for 20 and England were 44 for two.

This soon became 45 for three when Graeme Hick's poor record against the West Indies continued with a seven-ball duck.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close on the first day of the opening Test between England and the West Indies at Edgbaston on Thursday.

ENGLAND: First innings					
Rampkrash c Hinds b Walsh	18				
Atherton c Jacobs b Walsh	20				
Hussain c Jacobs b Rose	15				
Hick c Campbell b Walsh	0				
Stewart b Ambrose	6				
Knight c Lara b King	26				
Flintoff c Lara b Walsh	16				
Croft c Jacobs b Walsh	18				
Caddick not out	21				
Gough run out	23				
Giddins c Jacobs b King	0				
Extras: (lb-6; w-1; nb-9)	16				
Total: (All out in 69 overs)	179				
Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-44, 3-45, 4-57, 5-82, 6-112, 7-112, 8-134, 9-173					
Bowler					
	O	M	R	W	
Ambrose	20.5	10	32	1	
Walsh	21	9	36	5	
King	14.1	2	60	2	
Rose	13	3	45	1	

WEST INDIES: First innings					
Campbell not out	28				
Gayle lbw b Gough	0				
Hinds c Hussain b Caddick	12				
Lara not out	6				
Extras: (lb-3; nb-1)	4				
Total: (For 2 wks in 19 overs)	50				
To bat: S Chandrapaul, J Adams, R Jacobs, F Rose, C Ambrose, R King, C Walsh					
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-24					
Bowler					
	O	M	R	W	
Gough	8	2	20	1	
Caddick	6	2	14	1	
Giddins	3	1	12	0	
Croft	2	1	1	0	

Cronje points

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nings, but relented 45 minutes into play. He immediately sent a message to Aronstam advising that the game is on.

It was too late for Aronstam to bet on the game but he nonetheless gave Cronje a leather jacket and 50,000 rands. However, Cronje said, he did not manipulate the result of the Test, which South Africa lost, but merely made the deal with Hussain to ensure a lively match.

Cronje said he was introduced to "Sanjay", subsequently identified by Indian police as Sanjay Chawla, by Johannesburg-based Hanud Cassiem.

At a meeting in Durban, Cassiem and Sanjay pressed him to supply information and said "I could make a lot of money if we would lose a match" during the triangular series between South Africa, England and Zimbabwe.

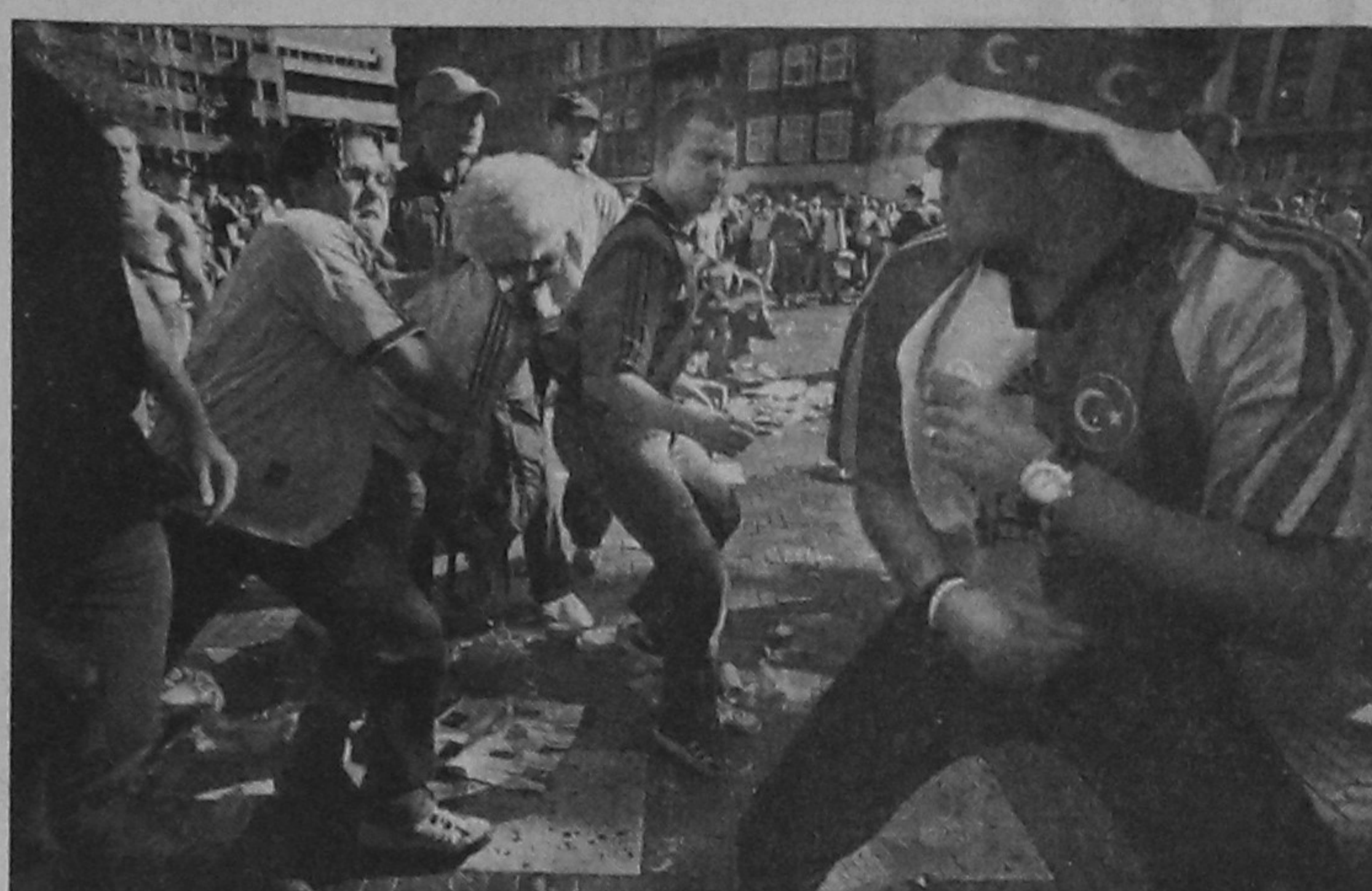
I said I was not prepared to do it unless we were assured of a place in the final," Cronje said, adding that he was "spinning them along."

Sanjay handed him a box containing US dollars. The money was not counted but Cronje said he was told it was "about 10,000 but may have been 15,000."

Sanjay and Hamid made many calls to Cronje when South Africa toured India soon afterwards. "I realise now that the purpose of the payment was to 'hook' me for the Indian tour."

After Cronje's confession Judge Edwin King adjourned the hearings until Tuesday, following a request from Cronje's legal team that cross examination be postponed "for medical and other reasons."

Cronje told the commission he was worried about his safety because he had received death threats.



SORRY SIGHT: Swedish and Turkish hooligans clash in Eindhoven on June 15 before their teams met in a Euro 2000 fixture. —AFP photo

Keegan admonishes press



SPA, Belgium, June 16: England coach Kevin Keegan, an acknowledged master of public relations, appeared to be feeling the strain ahead of Saturday's showdown with Germany when he rapped the press for their treatment of his back-up staff on Thursday, reports AFP.

Keegan said he had been upset by the hostile inquisition handed out by English journalists to his tactical adviser Les Reed 24 hours later following his team's dramatic collapse in the 3-2 defeat by Portugal on Monday.

The England coach, clearly trying to choose his words carefully, apologised to Football association chief executive David Davies sitting to his left at a packed press conference, for "speaking his mind" before taking reporters to task.

"I think some of you should be very careful," he said. "I don't mind if you give me a going over. I expect that. It's part of the job."

"And if we lose to Germany on Saturday I will be back here answering your questions as openly and honestly as I always try to do."

"But we fetch people up here every day for you to talk to so that you can fill your newspapers when you've got nothing else."

"But to interrogate someone is something else. I'm just saying you should be careful."

Asked if he thought victory would make him as a manager, Keegan replied with a half-smile: "No, but it might buy a bit more time with you people (journalists)."

Keegan has talked a good game since taking over from Glenn Hoddle at the start of last year, but in an occasionally tense press conference the affable and widely liked England coach dodged more critical lines of enquiry.

Asked if he had felt under more pressure now than he did before walking out on Newcastle United, he said: "What pressure? The only pressure was whether I would sign a contract."

On Saturday's match, Keegan said he had nothing but the greatest respect for German football having spent three

years there as a player with Hamburg.

"Both teams live off commitment and honesty and I am expecting exactly that in Charleroi. It should be a cracking match."

"If the England fans get behind us with the fantastic support they gave us in Eindhoven on Monday right up to the last minute and the German fans do the same we could have one of the greatest atmospheres of all time," he added.

Keegan said he had been very upset to hear that Germany's captain and chief goalscorer, Oliver Bierhoff, would probably miss the match with a calf injury.

"I mean this sincerely. I am never pleased when a player gets injured, even less so when

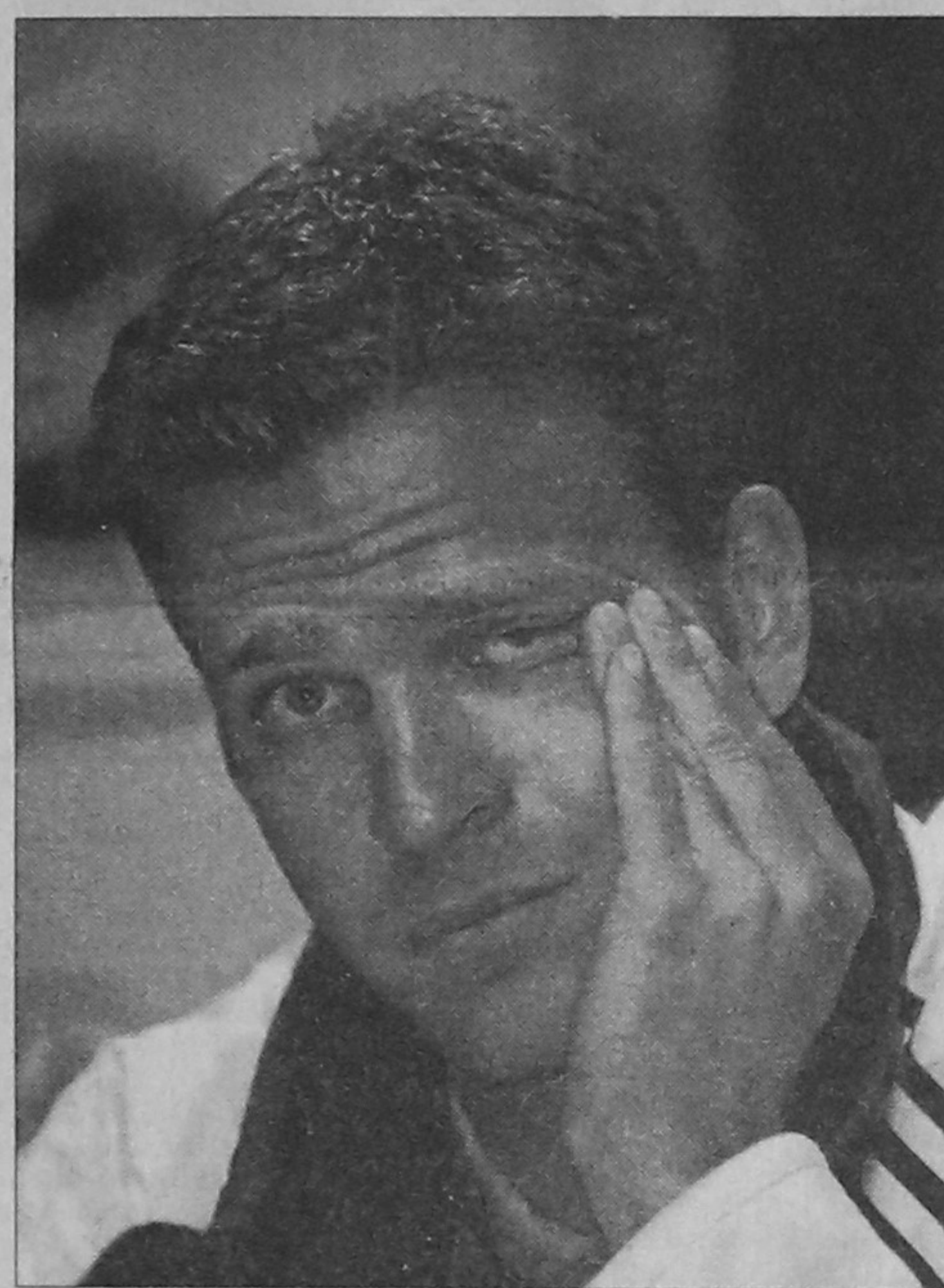
he is one of mine," said the 49-year-old former Liverpool star.

"I'm disappointed for the lad and I hope he gets over it quickly."

Keegan said he fully understood the great sense of public expectation back home in the build-up to the match, but said the importance of England v Germany games was always blown out of proportion.

"It is a big game, always has been, always will be," he added. "When I was back in England, every time I took a taxi, the first thing the cabbie would say to me is 'make sure you beat the Germans'."

"They never mentioned Portugal or Romania, only Germany. But I suppose the cabbie was right - they always are - we must beat the Germans."



A disappointed German star striker Oliver Bierhoff attending a press conference at his team's Euro 2000 base in Vaals on June 15. It was announced to the press that Bierhoff will miss the rest of the championship due to a calf injury. —AFP photo

Warne puts Durham in a spin

LONDON, June 16: Hampshire's heavy investment in Australian spin wizard Shane Warne and paceman Alan Mullally paid dividends on Thursday as they combined to shoot Durham out for 83, reports AFP.

Warne took four for 34 and Mullally three for 18 as Durham subsided to their lowest first innings total since they joined the County Championship.

Durham were made to follow on 257 behind and quickly lost opening batsman Nicky Peng to Shaun Udal to end the second day at 12 for one in their second innings and facing the prospect of defeat inside three days.

Dimitri Mascarenhas weighed in with three for 17 and only Durham captain Nick Speak (22) offered any prolonged resistance.

Hampshire had resumed at 255 for four and found batting no easier, losing their last six wickets for the addition of 85 runs.

Durham's left arm seamer Simon Brown, who finished with four for 62, took three wickets for one run in 10 balls to prevent Hampshire building a more substantial total than their 340.

Saglain Mushtaq and Ian Salisbury had Somerset in a spin after Jonathan Batty's maiden century had helped Surrey, resuming on 338 for five, pile up a daunting 548 first innings total.

Somerset openers Jamie Cox and Marcus Trescothick shared a 73-run opening stand before Pakistani star Saglain trapped Cox lbw for 31 and Salisbury bowled Trescothick (45) behind his legs.

Salisbury removed Piran Holloway and Peter Bowler

cheaply and Saglain bowled Keith Parsons and trapped debut-maker Peter Trego leg before.

Mike Burns and Rob Turner nursed Somerset to the close at 111 for six, still 288 short of avoiding the follow-on.

Chris Silverwood kept Division One leaders Yorkshire in contention in a roller-coaster second day against Kent at Headingley.

Silverwood hit an aggressive 23 not out to earn Yorkshire a first innings lead that had looked unlikely when, replying to Kent's first innings 129, they slumped to 99 for six.

The England seamer then claimed the vital wicket of Rahul Dravid, enticing an edge

to wicketkeeper Richard Blakey when the Indian Test star had made only six, as Kent closed on 36 for three, a lead of 16.

Kent lost their three wickets for 25 runs on an increasingly difficult pitch and were grateful for some stubborn resistance from opener Robert Key (10 not out).

Kent, resuming on 127 for seven, added only two runs in the morning with Ryan Sidebottom bowling Dravid for 46 to finish with career best figures of five for 27.

Yorkshire's reply looked to be going well at 54 for one but seamen Mark Ealham, David Masters and Martin Saggars claimed two wickets apiece as the Tykes' innings fell into steady decline.

Australian Test batsman Darren Lehmann top scored with 28 and England hopeful Michael Vaughan, who did not have to replace Mark Ramprakash in the Test side against the West Indies after the latter recovered from a neck injury, only made nine before edging Matthew Fleming to wicket-keeper Paul Nixon.

Leicestershire's England discard Aftab Habib scored a brilliant century while Derbyshire left-arm seamer Kevin Dean claimed the second hat-trick of his career on a dramatic day at Grace Road.

Habib hit a magnificent 164 as Leicestershire totalled 310 after being 57 for four at one stage.

They looked to be on course for an even bigger total until Dean snapped up their last three wickets in three balls for his second hat-trick in two years.

By the close Derbyshire had reached 17 for two, still 293 behind, both wickets being claimed by paceman James Ormond.

S'pore Challenge

Pakistan to take India's place

SINGAPORE, June 16: The 2000 Singapore Challenge cricket tournament opens at the Kallang ground here on August 20 with New Zealand taking on Pakistan, reports AFP.

The third team in the annual triangular event, South Africa, join the fray two days later after completing their series against Australia with a match against Pakistan.

The Proteas and Kiwis do battle two days later, with the final slated for August 27.

Pakistan, last minute replacements for India who pulled out citing a crowded calendar as the reason, will fly from Singapore to Toronto for their annual tournament against India in Canada.

FIXTURES

Aug 20: N Zealand vs Pakistan
Aug 23: Pakistan vs S Africa
Aug 25: S Africa vs N Zealand
Aug 27: Final

India's no to ECB

LONDON, June 16: India have rejected an offer by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) to play a three-match series with rivals Pakistan in England in September, reports AFP.

The ECB had been hopeful of staging the historic contest to seize on the massive Asian support in this country after noting the vibrant atmosphere at matches involving the two countries during last summer's World Cup.

But with both countries already having packed international schedules for the rest of the year, India have decided to decline the invitation.

The Indians are also concerned about agreeing to further one-day internationals in the present climate with many of the match-fixing allegations revolving around 'meaningless' one-day tournaments and matches.

Powell, Dillon to join WI in ODIs

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, June 16: Jamaican batsman Ricardo Powell and Trinidadian fast bowler Mervyn Dillon have been selected to join the West Indies squad in England for the triangular one-day series next month, reports Reuters.

England, West Indies and Zimbabwe will be competing in the tournament from July 6 to 22.

Day belongs

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115 for three. The overnight pair of Atapattu and Jayewardene took the total to 176 before things began to go wrong for the home side.

Rookie fast bowler Dilhara Fernando struck an early blow for Sri Lanka when Pakistan began their reply by having Mohammad Wasim caught at second slip off his 10th ball in Test cricket.

Younis Khan helped Anwar add 51 for the second wicket before mistiming an on drive and being caught by Fernando for 23. Younis Youhana was not comfortable from the time he came in and was dismissed for two when he played the ball into the hands of Jayewardene at shortleg.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the end of this day's play in the first Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground on Friday:

SRI LANKA: First innings
Atapattu c M Wasim b Arshad 73
Jayasuriya c Younis b Waqar 26
Arnold b Waqar 4
De Silva c Akram b Arshad 30
Jayewardene c Moin b Akram 77
Ranathunga run out 6
b Arshad 4
Vaas b Mushtaq 3
Zoya st Moin b Arshad 17
Muralitharan c Akram b Waqar 18
Fernando not out 5
Extras: (lb-5; lb-1; nb-4) 10
Total: (All out in 97.2 overs) 256
Fall of wickets: 1-52, 2-53, 3-109, 4-176, 5-187, 6-193, 7-206, 8-245, 9-257

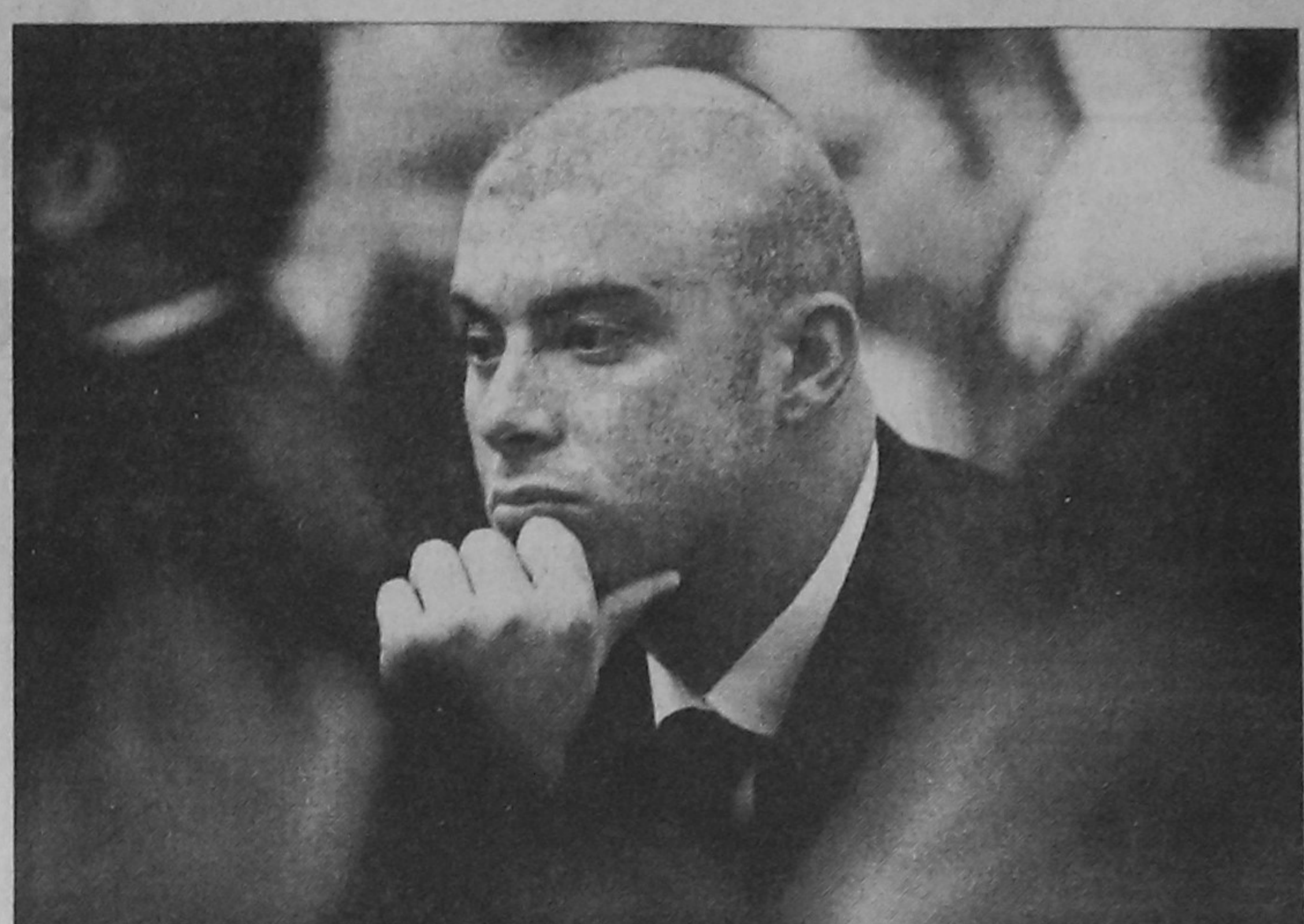
Bowler				
	O	M	R	W
Akram	20	6	55	1
Waqar	14.2	0	50	3
Razaq	18	1	58	0
Mushtaq	14	1	42	1
Arshad	31	8	62	4

PAKISTAN: First innings
(overnight 130 for 3)
Anwar c Ranatunga b M'tharan 56
Wasim c Arnold b Fernando 8
Younis c Fernando b M'tharan 23
Youhana c J'wardene b M'tharan 2
Moin c Fernando b Zoya 47
Inzamam c J'wardene b Zoya 12
Razaq run out 0
Akram b Fernando 78
Waqar c Zoya b M'tharan 4
Mushtaq c Arnold b M'tharan 2
Arshad not out 9
Extras: (lb-4; w-3; nb-18) 25
Total: (All out in 120.5 overs) 266
Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-67, 3-75, 4-130, 5-159, 6-160, 7-165, 8-173, 9-176

Bowler				
	O	M	R	W
Vaas	29	7	52	0
Zoya	19	4	30	2
De Silva	3	1	4	0
Fernando	15.5	1	53	2
Muralitharan	47	12	115	5
Jayewardene	2	1	2	0
Jayasuriya	4	3	6	0
Ranathunga	1	0	0	0

SRI LANKA: Second innings
Atapattu not out 33
Jayasuriya lbw b Waqar 8
Arnold c M Wasim b Akram 1
De Silva not out 10
Extras: (nb-1) 1
Total: (For 2 wks in 19 overs) 53
Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-25

Bowler				
	O	M	R	W
Waqar	9	3	21	1
Akram	6	0	18	1
Razaq	3	0	9	0
Arshad	1	0	5	0



South African batsman Herschelle Gibbs during the testimony of former skipper Hansie Cronje before the King Commission in Cape Town on June 15. —AFP photo

'I'm not going anywhere'



NEW DELHI, June 16: Former Indian cricket captain Mohammad Azharuddin on Friday dismissed speculation his career was over following Hansie Cronje's damning testimony against him in the match-fixing scandal, reports AFP.

"I am not going anywhere, I will fight to clear my name," the 37-year-old Azharuddin told this news agency from his home in Hyderabad.

"I have seen a lot of crises in my career and have always come out stronger."

Cronje, the former South African captain told the Edwin King commission on match-fixing on Thursday that Azharuddin had introduced him to alleged bookmaker Mukesh Gupta who offered 30,000 dollars to throw a match against India in 1996.

However, Azharuddin denied the claims.

"It's all rubbish. Cronje has no credibility left with him. I don't know the person he is talking about," he said in a statement.

Azharuddin hit back, saying it was a deliberate attempt by the South African cricket authorities to discredit India.

"They want to take revenge since it was the New Delhi police, which first caught Cronje on tape talking to bookies about match-fixing."

"I will never sell my country like Cronje has done. He has no

credibility now."

"This counter-attack and retaliation is after careful thought by the South African cricket board," Azharuddin said.

"I totally deny all the allegations and treat them with all the contempt they deserve," he said.

Azharuddin denied he knew any bookmaker. "I am not the sort of person to do all these things," he said.

The stylish middle-order batsman, who is one match away from completing 100 Test appearances, added the latest crisis did not mean the end of his career.

"People have written me off in the past, so this is not new," he said. "When I quit I will do so on my own terms. For now, I am

not going anywhere."

Azharuddin said he could not fathom why his name cropped up time and again since match-fixing allegations surfaced three years ago.

When former international Manoj Prabhakar alleged that a teammate had offered him a bribe to play badly in a match against Pakistan in 1994, most believed the culprit was Azharuddin.

Even when Prabhakar broke his silence last month and named Kapil Dev as the alleged briber, Azharuddin continued to be regarded with suspicion - mainly because of his flamboyant life-style and expensive tastes.

When an income tax officer told the media that a former Test captain had disclosed 160 million rupees (3.6 million dollars) in an amnesty scheme for tax defaulters, the first name that cropped up was that of Azharuddin.

He has flatly denied the charge, saying "I wish I had so much money, but I don't." Sources in the income-tax department said the inference was wide off the mark.

Azharuddin said he was disappointed that his name was being sullied despite "giving my blood and sweat for the cause of Indian cricket for 16 years."

Neither the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), nor the Indian government, have come to Azharuddin's defence since Cronje's sensational testimony.

MD AZHARUDDIN

India vow to punish culprits

