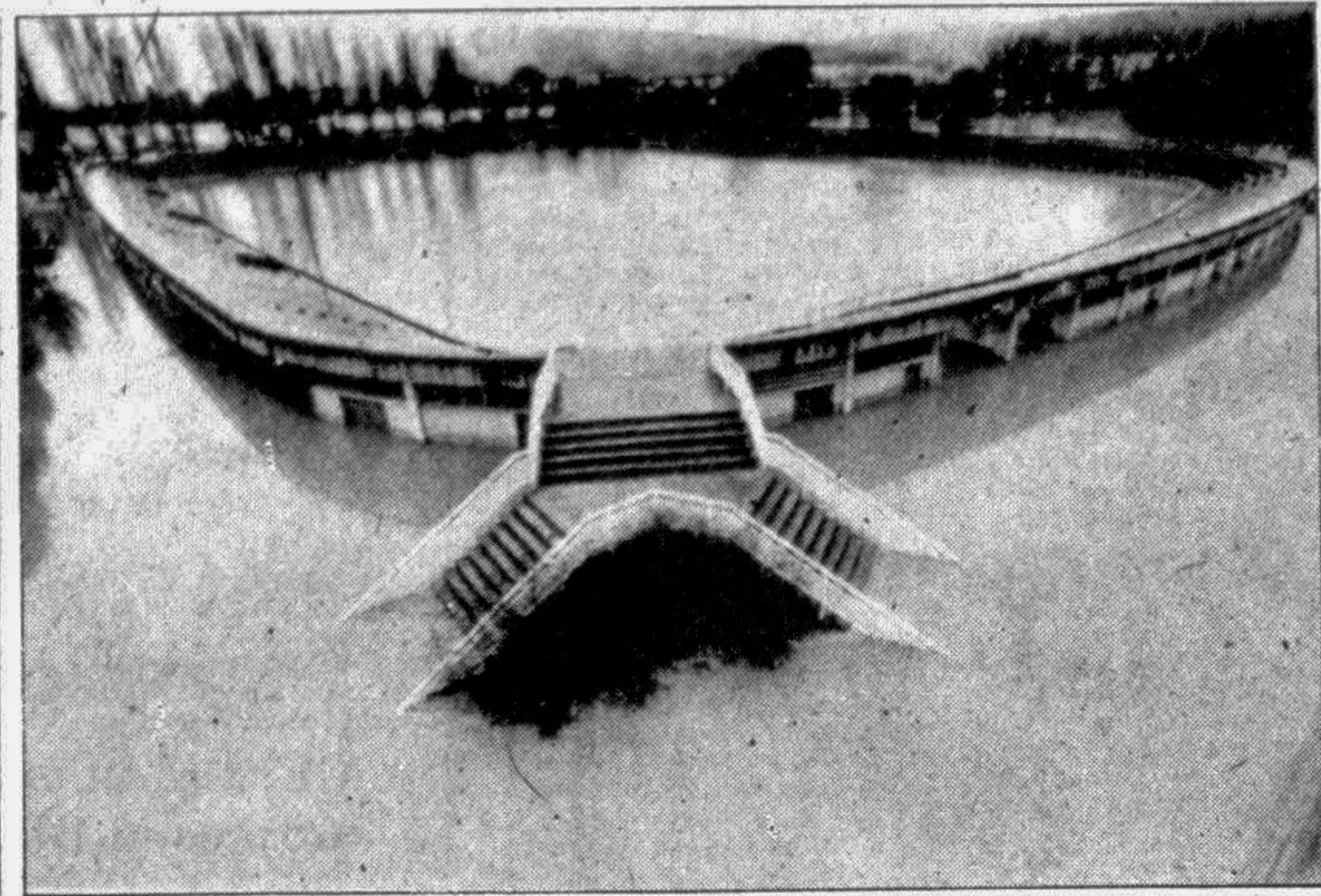


Nat'l sub junior chess from Jan 3

Sports Reporter The fourteenth national sub-junior (under-16) chess competition '94 will begin from January 3 under the aegis of the Bangladesh Chess Federation...

Nothing to hide

MELBOURNE, Dec 28: The majority of the world's professional tennis players, if not all, were clean of drug-taking, Tennis Australia president Geoff Pollard said here Friday...



A general view of the totally flooded La Magdalena sports stadium in Pamplona on Dec 26. Many regions in northern Spain have experienced a very wet Christmas, due to recent heavy rainfall.

Indonesia had a great year

PARIS, Dec 28: World Champions Joko Suprianto and Susi Susanti made 1993 an impressive milestone for Indonesian badminton, reports AFP. Not since 1980 had Indonesia won both world singles titles...

defending champion Tang Jihong failed to win China's sixth successive women's singles title. Lim Xiaoping, the Chinese-born Swede who topped the 1992 grand prix points table...

match points before ousting top-seeded teammate Joko Suprianto 15-8, 17-16 in a hard-fought men's singles final. Susanti, 22, the reigning queen of women's badminton...

Becker was asked in the interview to be published on Friday by the newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung if players had failed tests. 'Yes, I don't mean necessarily anabolic substances, but cocaine, amphetamines and marijuana,' he said.

'Why wouldn't there be doping in a sport with so much money at stake?' The fact that, officially, no player has been positively tested for drugs is a 'joke,' Becker said.

Top class field

TOKYO, Dec 28: Three of the world's top five female players will compete in the \$750,000 Pan Pacific Open Tennis tournament in February, organisers said Friday, reports AP.

It was no surprise to team manager Leo Wiranata, who claimed: 'As far as I'm concerned, six of our players could have won the world title.' Holders of both singles titles at the Olympic Games and the prestigious All-England championships...

Europe had its moment of glory in England when Sweden's Jens Olsson came back from a set down to beat top seed Heryanto Arbi in the quarter-finals at Birmingham. And the Danish/Swedish pairing of Thomas Lund and Cathrine Bengtsson claimed the mixed doubles crown...

More action less talk

LONDON, Dec 28: The English Soccer Players' Union has criticised an official decision not to charge Wimbledon striker John Fashanu with misconduct for the elbowing incident which nearly blinded Tottenham's Gary Mabutt last month...

'We can't keep brushing this under the carpet. One of these days it will be too late, when someone has lost an eye or suffered brain damage,' said Players' Union chief Gordon Taylor on Friday. Taylor was speaking after a Football Association (FA) commission of inquiry decided earlier on Friday not to charge Fashanu over the incident...

However, Indonesia were not able to wrest the prestigious Sudirman Cup team event from holders South Korea in Birmingham earlier in the year. Chung Su Young and Gil Young Ah spearheaded a remarkable fightback as the South Koreans clinched a dramatic 3-2 victory in the final against Indonesia.

'That was the best match in the history of Korean badminton, because we were losing and then we beat them,' admitted team manager Kim Hak Suk. Nigeria will be in the same qualifying group as Argentina, Greece and Bulgaria.

'Air' Jordan's retirement best story of year

NEW YORK, Dec 28: He isn't even playing basketball anymore, yet Michael Jordan dominated sports news in 1993 with three stories among the top nine in balloting in the United States for Associated Press Sports Story of the Year, reports AP.

Jordan's stunning decision to retire as a player for the Chicago Bulls was judged the year's top story in nationwide balloting by US sports editors and broadcasters. That story got 874 points in the voting, followed by the stabbing of Monica Seles (528) and the Toronto Blue Jays second straight World Series championship (369).

Baseball realignment was sixth, followed by the Dallas Cowboy's Super Bowl championship, the aviation deaths of auto racing stars Davey Allison and Alan Kulwicki, the shooting death of Jordan's father, and Reggie Lewis death from a heart attack.

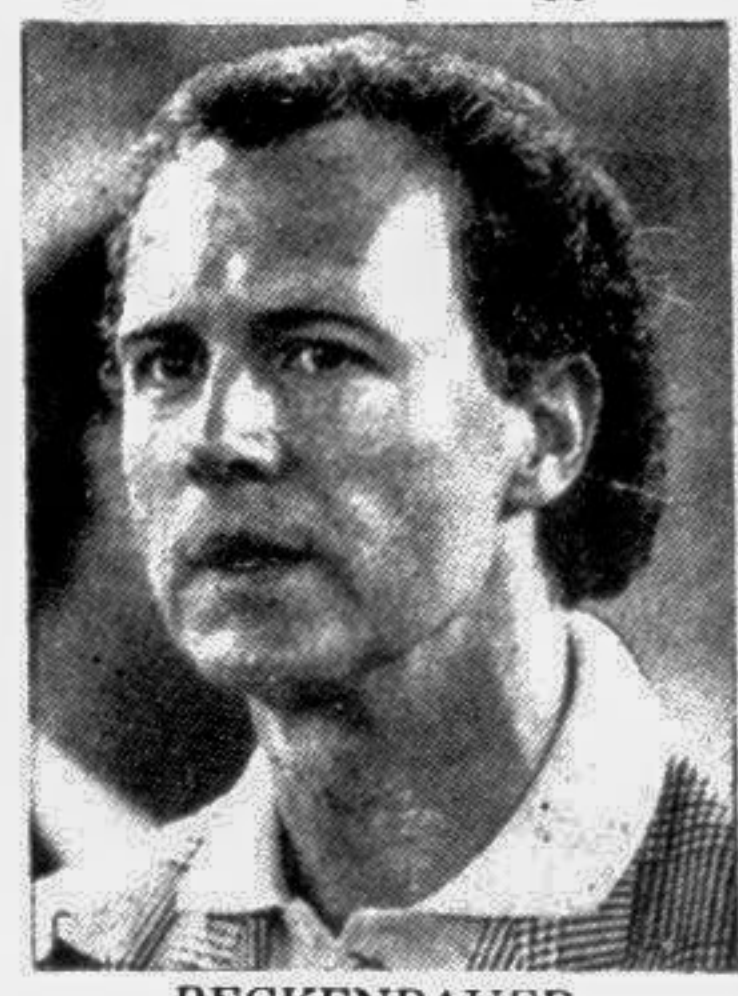
'I never wanted to leave when my skills started to diminish, because that's when I'd feel the foot in my back, pushing me out the door,' the 30-year-old Jordan said when he announced his retirement on Oct. 6. 'My skills are still good. I am not on the downside of my career... This is the perfect time for me to walk away.'

Of the top 10 stories, half involved death or violence of some kind, and only three stories (about the Bulls, Blue Jays and Cowboys) involved victorious performances on the field. Balloting was completed on Dec. 17, too early to include stories about Fox television network outbidding CBS for its part of the National Football League contract. First world of the Fox bid came on Dec. 17.

'Kaiser' on a comeback trail

MUNICH, Germany, Dec 28: Germany's favourite soccer son Franz Beckenbauer took over on Monday at Bayern Munich, the club he captained to three successive European Cup triumphs in the 1970s, reports Reuter.

that's up there at the top. Unfortunately, I must say clearly — and this may in the end be the reason why I'm leaving — that it failed in the second round of the UEFA cup. After a sticky period following the UEFA Cup disappointment...



BECKENBAUER

The way for the 'Kaiser' to try to restore the glory days was cleared by the resignation earlier in the day of Bayern Coach Erich Ribbeck. Beckenbauer, the only man to win the World Cup as captain and coach, is expected to start his new job next week...

But he disputed any suggestion he was giving Beckenbauer a second-rate team. 'I'm not handing over a team of nobodies or a pile of rubble, as some people might think,' he said. 'This is a complete team living in North America as their agents.'

The newspaper said New Jersey Devils defenceman Viacheslav Fetisov, whose family lives in Moscow, was among those targeted by the 'new Russian mafia.' The La Presse report Thursday, by columnist Rejean Tremblay, did not identify its sources.

The newspaper said some Russian players, such as Oleg Petrov of the Montreal Canadiens, fear the extortionists. Others, such as Alexei Yashin of the Ottawa Senators and Igor Larionov of the San Jose Sharks, have brought their families with them to North America.

Bayern did well enough to stand third as the German League went into its winter break. Bayern have won the Bundesliga a record 12 times. But their last championship was in 1990. For a club which once dominated Europe, their inability to secure a place in the Champions' Cup in recent seasons has...

controls the Russian hockey league, which receives large transfer payments in hard currency for its players who sign with clubs in the NHL or in the richer western European leagues in Switzerland or Germany. An NHL spokesman said the league had no comment on the story. NHL Players Association director Bob Goodenow did not return calls to his office.

The New York Times, citing an NHL executive who requested anonymity, said in its Friday editions the league is aware of the situation and the Los Angeles Police Department is investigating at least one suspected case of intimidation. Gord Renwick, vice president of the International Hockey Federation, said federation president Jan-Ake Edvinsson had just returned from meetings with Russian hockey officials and didn't mention it.

Russians reveal dark secret

MONTREAL, Dec 28: A number of Russian players in the NHL have been forced to pay the Moscow underworld protection money for their families back home, Montreal La Presse reported, reports AP.

The newspaper said New Jersey Devils defenceman Viacheslav Fetisov, whose family lives in Moscow, was among those targeted by the 'new Russian mafia.' The La Presse report Thursday, by columnist Rejean Tremblay, did not identify its sources.

The newspaper said some Russian players, such as Oleg Petrov of the Montreal Canadiens, fear the extortionists. Others, such as Alexei Yashin of the Ottawa Senators and Igor Larionov of the San Jose Sharks, have brought their families with them to North America.

In some cases, the story said, Russian players bound for the NHL have been forced to sign contracts acknowledging gangster - controlled Russians

Tragic

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador, Dec 28: Hundreds of mourners gathered on Monday for the funeral of Ecuadorian soccer international Carlos Munoz, killed in a car crash near Guayaquil in the early hours of Sunday, reports Reuter.

Nigeria need a coach

LAGOS, Dec 28: Nigeria are looking for a coach to help current team selector, Clemens Westerhoff in next year's World Cup finals, reports AFP. National sports commission chairman Sylvanus Akinwunmi said: 'We need a good coach so that we can take on the good teams in our qualifying group with confidence.'



Inspector General of Police A S M Shahjahan giving away the prizes among the winners of the Bangladesh police hockey tournament '93 at the Rajarbagh Police Line ground yesterday.

Police sports

Sports Reporter Dhaka Metropolitan Police clinched the Bangladesh Police hockey championship '93 title when they beat Chittagong Range 2-0 in the final at the Rajarbagh Police Line ground yesterday. Inspector general of police A S M Shahjahan later gave away the prizes as the chief guest.

New South Africa is not yet ready to bat

After 30 years a South African cricket team is touring Australia. Its arrival has highlighted the legacy of apartheid. No blacks are yet ready to compete on the world stage and the team does not reflect the new multi-racial South Africa now being forged. It will still be a little time, reports Gemini News Service, before blacks bowl and bat overseas for their country in the 'gentlemen's game' of cricket.

South Africa's first cricket tour to Australia in 30 years has barely begun, yet its white population is once again being reminded how dangerously late it has left the fashioning of a multi-racial society. No sooner had the republic's cricketers arrived Down Under than injuries took such a heavy toll that reinforcements had to be called up from back home.

constituencies — the townships. The initiative of Dr. All Bacher, now managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, to introduce cricket to the embattled wasteland of Soweto and Alexandra in 1987, was greeted with either undisguised cynicism or plain ridicule. To be fair to the sceptics, even Bacher had his doubts when he stood at the appointed bus terminal waiting for 1,000 children to turn up.

problems with money — all of which puts them at a disadvantage to white kids. That's why we had to push really hard but we gave them a purpose. The results of Bacher's bullying and cajoling, nurturing and nursemaidening are now beginning to bud — as England's A team has discovered. Of these unlikely converts, two are already thought to have Test match potential. Bowler Walter Masemola, 18, impressed on a tour of England with the South African Under-17 side.

Africa to produce its first black Test cricketer, but we feel it would be unfair to put too much pressure on them. The townships are tough schools — some of the facilities have to be guarded round the clock while murders and political revenge killings still occur not a six-hit away. It is also not unknown for players to have to use their bats for self-defence. Even if they do not make it, Masemola and Toyana will always be grateful for their time in white flannels. Masemola admits: 'My mother didn't want me to be a thief stealing stuff from white men's houses so encouraged me to join the (cricket) clinics.'

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a small word search puzzle at the bottom.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters M D N L V L T P H Z O G P L P O T L P Z V T L P V T Y G O P L T B B P E E T H Y G D B T P L M.

CRYPTOQUIP M D N L V L T P H Z O G P L P O T L P Z V T L P V T Y G O P L T B B P E E T H Y G D B T P L M. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER OUR HIGH BID FOR IMELDA MARCOS' BIG SHOE COLLECTION, AUCTIONEER CRIED 'SOLED!' Today's Cryptoquip clue: V equals F. The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.