

Anybody's game in Karachi

KARACHI, Oct 1: Australia's seven wickets away from going one up in the three-match Test series as Pakistan chasing 314 runs to win, finished 155 for three at stumps on Saturday, the penultimate day in Karachi, reports AP.

Pakistan need a further 159 runs to win when play resumes Sunday.

Australia's strong position at stumps have completely overshadowed opener David Boon's brilliant century, which provided the backbone of the Australian second innings 232.

Boon dropped anchor while the rest capitulated after an innings building 122-run stand for the second wicket between him and Mark Waugh.

Australia lost their last eight wickets for 61 runs as the Pakistan fast bowlers, Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, did short work on the middle



WASIM AKRAM ... 5 for 64 order.

Boon shrugged off his poor form against Pakistan in the previous 10 Test innings with a timely century and remained

unbeaten at the end. He made 144 runs in 336 minutes of batting with the help of 10 boundaries off 220 deliveries.

Left-arm fast bowler, Akram, picked up his 17th five-wicket haul to finish with five for 64, to give him a match bag of eight for 138.

His new-ball partner Younis, although not at his best, picked up four for 69.

Pakistan, needing 2.24 runs an over in a minimum of 139 overs, were given a sound start by Saeed Anwar and Aamir Sohail, who put on 45 runs for the first wicket.

With the pair cruising along, a brilliant piece of fielding by Michael Bevan ended Sohail's innings, run out for 34 runs with five boundaries.

Pakistan lost Zahid Fazal 19 runs later when leg spinner, Shane Warne, had him caught at silly point.

But Anwar, joined by skipper Salim Malik, put things right for the home side in a third-wicket stand of 84 runs.

Fast bowler, Jo Angel, returning for the finals spell in the fifth last over of the day and Malik fending a short delivery to Mark Taylor at first slip for a crucial breakthrough.

Malik scored 43 runs in 130 minutes.

Anwar, who top-scored in Pakistan's first innings, was unbeaten at close on 67 hitting a six and seven boundaries in 249 minutes.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the fourth day of the first cricket Test between Australia and Pakistan on Saturday.

AUSTRALIA: First innings 337 (Michael Bevan 82, Steve Waugh 73, Ian Healy 57).
PAKISTAN: First innings 256 (Saeed Anwar 85, Wasim Akram 39).
AUSTRALIA: Second innings (overnight 181-5) Taylor c Rashid Latif b Waqar Younis 0 Slater lbw b Mushtaq Ahmed 23 Boon not out 114 M Waugh b Waqar Younis 61 Bevan b Wasim Akram 0 S Waugh lbw 0 b Wasim Akram 0 Healy c Rashid Latif b Waqar Younis 8 S Waugh lbw 0

WAQAR YUNIS: 4 for 69
Angel 12 4 34 1
S Waugh 9 2 12 0
Warne 17 5 46 1
May 10 3 36 0
M Waugh 3 1 4 0

Hosts always call the shots

HIROSHIMA, Oct 1 (AP): In the pursuit of gold at Asia's version of the Olympics, it certainly doesn't hurt to be the host.

Unlike in the real Olympics, local organisers of the Asian Games have some leeway in choosing the lineup of events. And most have not shied away from using that power to give their teams a boost.

When South Korea was host for the 1986 Asian Games, for example, organisers put their home grown martial arts sport of taekwondo on the list of medal events — and swept all the gold.

In Beijing four years later, taekwondo was out and kung fu was in, under the broader title for Chinese fighting arts: "wushu." The gold, needless to say, went to China.

Now, in Japan, karate — worth 11 gold medals — is making its debut. And Japan is hoping for a sweep of its own.

The choice of events can affect even a powerhouse like China, which won no less than 341 medals in the Beijing Games to only 181 for next-best South Korea.

"Hiroshima has cut 45 events we won in 1990 and added 15 events in which we are traditionally weak," lamented Yuan Wimin, head of China's delegation, before arriving for the Games.

Yuan didn't mention that the Beijing Games had been weighted in favour of China



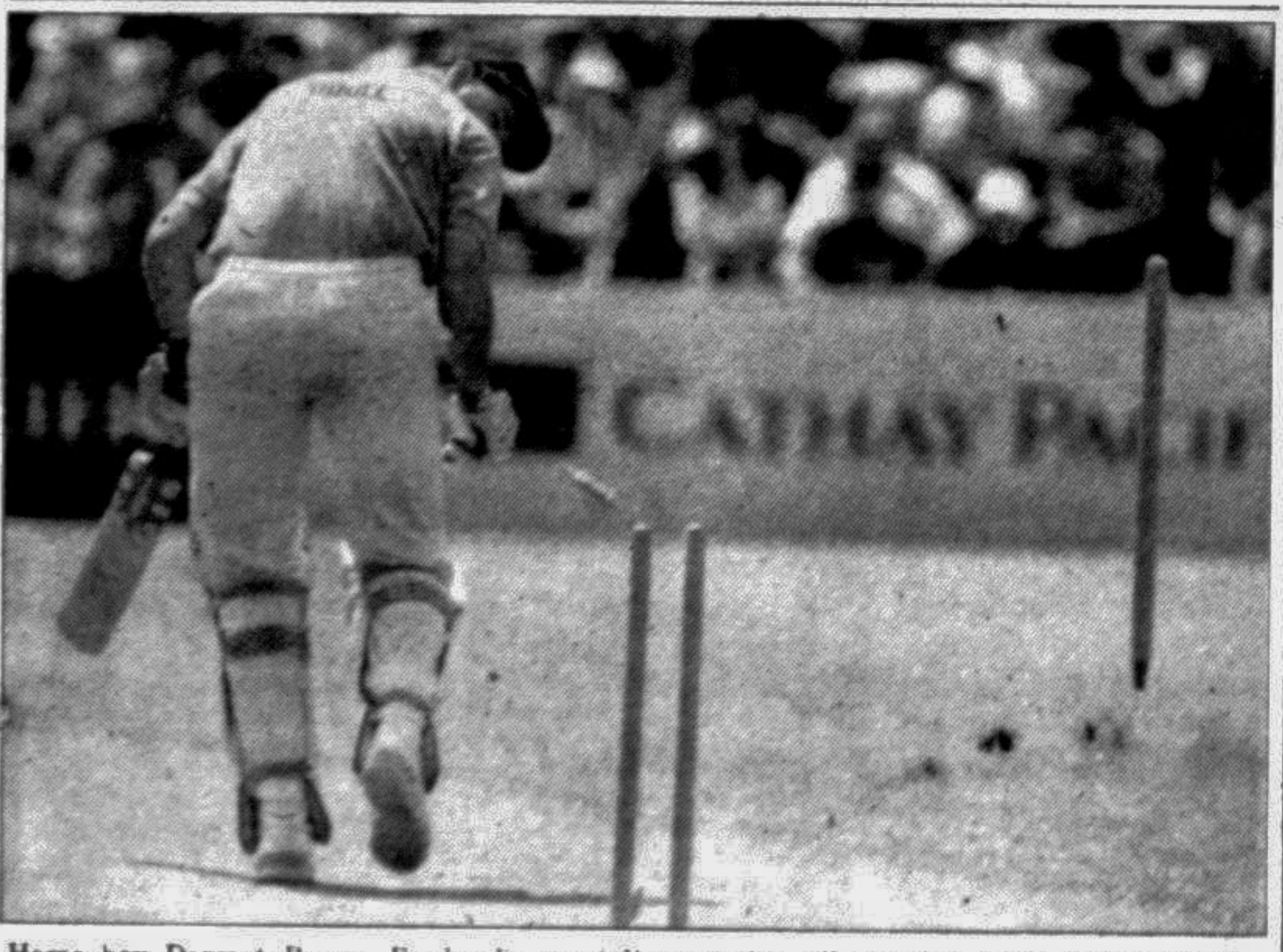
with the debut of kung fu and with the additions of women's weightlifting and team diving. China claimed all the golds in those events, too.

He might also have noted the Beijing organisers dumped not only taekwondo, but also bowling and equestrian events, sports that had been held in Seoul but in which China does not excel.

Both are back for the Hiroshima Games, as are wushu and taekwondo. The Hiroshima Games are, in fact, the most event-laden ever, with competition in 34 sports and 337 gold medals up for grabs.

Even kabaddi, played almost exclusively in India and its neighbouring nations, is again on the list, though only a handful of teams are entered. Kabaddi was the only gold won in Beijing by India's 250-strong delegation.

China, which has topped the gold tally for the past three Games, is almost certain of do-



Home boy Dermot Reeve, England's specialist one-day all-rounder sends New Zealand's Lincoln Doull's off-stump cartwheeling during a round-robin match on the inaugural day of the international cricket sixes in Hong Kong yesterday.

Dutch destroy Windies, India in int'l sixes

HONG KONG, Oct 1: The Netherlands upset India and the West Indies Saturday and advanced to the final round of the Cathay Pacific-Wharf Holdings Hong Kong International cricket sixes, reports AP.

Led by Steven Lubbers and Roland Clarke, the Dutch crushed India by six wickets and swept aside the West Indies by five wickets in their first appearance in Hong Kong.

West Indies-born Clarke struck an undefeated 34 out of the Netherlands' 47 for O in reply to India's 44 without loss in their first five-over match.

Clarke also proved unbeatable against the West Indies, chasing a target of 58 for three.

The Netherlands finished on 60 without loss to go into winners' round together with the West Indies, who beat India by two runs in their group.

The West Indies scored 95 without loss. In reply, Atul Wassam hit spinner Roger Harper for five sixes in one over during his whirlwind 31 not out to take India to 93 for two.

Defending champions England also advanced to the final round with wins over Hong Kong and New Zealand.

Led by Dermot Reeve, the English beat New Zealand by 39 runs and Hong Kong by three wickets.

South Africa beat both Australia and Pakistan by four runs in their group. The Australians advanced to the final round by beating Pakistan by four wickets.

The nine teams were divided into three groups of three, with the two top teams in each group advancing to the final stage in the two-day tournament.

After Saturday's play, Hong Kong, Pakistan and India were relegated to the losers' round.

Plague won't deter Aussie eves' tour

SYDNEY, Oct 1: The Australian women's cricket tour of India is to go ahead next month despite concerns about pneumonic plague outbreaks there, a cricket official said here today, reports AP.

The tour plans will be maintained, but cricket officials are in regular contact with the authorities in India and Canberra and are keeping a close eye on the situation, said Matt Ridley, executive director of the Australian Women's Cricket Council.

"Our advice so far is that our itinerary should keep us away from the main danger spots, and our medical precautions will be strict," Ridley said.

The 14 players and three officials are scheduled to leave Sydney on November 6 and play nine matches on the five-week tour.

"We are arranging special supplies of the pneumonic plague vaccine to be available before we leave for India and these will be used if our medical adviser thinks it appropriate," Ridley said.

Captain of the tourists is 19-year-old South Australian all-rounder Karen Rolton, star of the Youth Challenge Cup series against New Zealand earlier this year.

Surprise tests on Chinese, Japanese natants

HIROSHIMA, Japan, Oct 1: Swimming's international governing body, stung by allegations of doping at last month's World Championships, has conducted surprise tests on Chinese and Japanese swimmers here for the Asian Games, reports AP.

The tests followed the International Amateur Swimming Federation's decision after the World Championships in Rome to strengthen out-of-competition doping controls. Dr Yoshiteru Muto who helped conduct the tests, said Saturday.

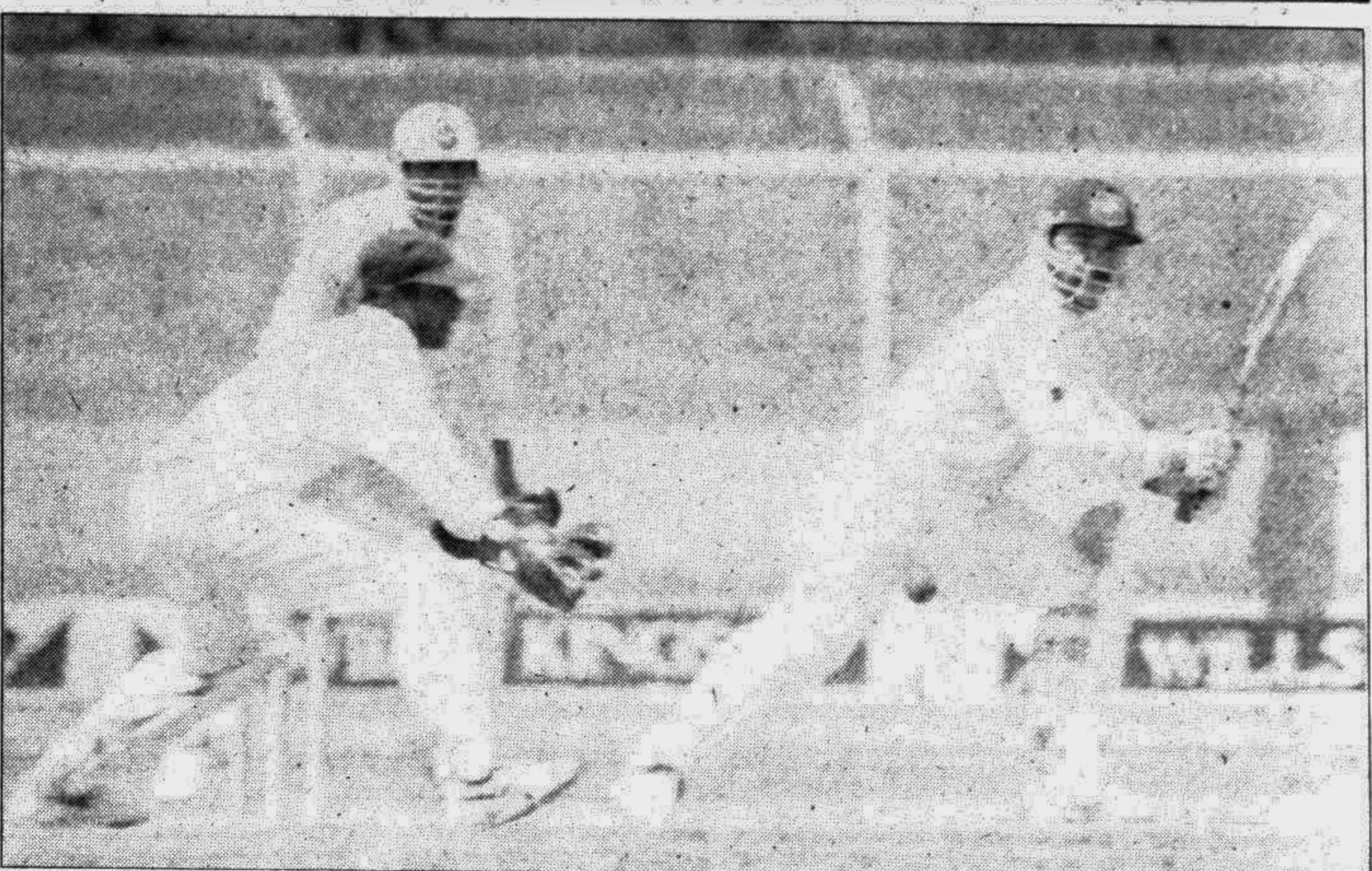
That decision followed widespread rumours of doping among the Chinese women's team, which shocked the swimming world by winning 12 of 16 golds at the championships. The Chinese women also broke five world records.

Muto said the tests, conducted Friday, involved 16 Chinese, 12 Japanese and one Hong Kong swimmer.

He refused to name any of the tested swimmers, but said the results would be passed on to the federation's headquarters, and any positive findings would be announced.

Tests at the World Championships did not back up the doping rumours, but 18 coaches signed a statement afterward urging the swimming federation to take immediate action against doping and punish any country that tries to block short-notice testing of its athletes.

China's coaches have attributed the rumours to jealousy.



David Boon, one of the mainstays of Aussie batting, who got an invaluable undefeated 114 in the second innings of the visitors from the antipodes, watches after playing against the spin of an Akram Raza delivery on September 30, the third day of the first Test between Pakistan and Australia in Karachi.

Richardson returns in Jan

HONG KONG, Oct 1: West Indies captain Richie Richardson has said he will return to international cricket early in the new year, while his star batsman Brian Lara has voiced fears about an upcoming tour of plague-torn India, reports AP.

Richardson withdrew from first-class cricket in July suffering from "acute fatigue syndrome" after an increasingly hectic international schedule in recent years.

The West Indian was excused from his English county commitments with Yorkshire and said at the time he would need up to a year off cricket because of poor health.

A rejuvenated Richardson has now said he hopes to be back for the West Indies' tour of New Zealand in January, next year and then when they host Australia in March and April.

"I feel a bit better but I'm still not 100 per cent," Richardson said.

"Hopefully by the end of the year I'll be ready and willing again and will be back for the series against New Zealand and Australia."

Record-breaking batsman Lara has voiced concern about taking part in the West Indies' scheduled tour of India because of the plague outbreak there.

Lara was due to have joined his West Indies teammates in London next Tuesday before flying on to India.

A spokesman for the Board of Control for Cricket in India said on Friday that the tour, due to start October 12, had now been postponed for a week.

The West Indies Board of Control was also expected to make an announcement about the tour this weekend.

NY to bid Navratilova 'bye

NEW YORK, Oct 1: New York will officially bid farewell to Martina Navratilova on November 15 — the day she opens her final campaign at the Virginia Slims Championships, the last singles tournament of her career, reports AP.

"I think it is only fitting that my last singles event will be a Virginia Slims championships, because they have been the most prevalent throughout my career," Navratilova said Friday.

"It seems my landmarks throughout my career have been Virginia Slims-named events, whether it be Chicago or Los Angeles, San Francisco or New York, or even Virginia Slims of Dallas, which doesn't happen any more."

Of course, Navratilova can boast a few other titles — nine Wimbledon, four US Opens, three Australian Opens and two French Opens.

In all, she has won 167 singles titles, more than any other woman in history.

That's why she'll get a special tribute on Martina's night during the Virginia Slims Championships, the finale of the women's season featuring the top-16 players in the world.

When she realised the tribute will be on the day she plays her opening match, Navratilova said: "Hopefully that won't be the only day that I will be playing here."

She said she expected the moment to be emotional.

"I just hope that I can still pick up the racket and hit the ball over the net through all the emotion that I am sure I will be feeling that day," she said.

Before then, Navratilova continues as always, with tournaments in Zurich, Filderstadt and Oakland.

She turns 38 on October 18, and said she was finding age "very annoying."

"When I try to serve and I am swinging as hard as I can and the ball is just barely making it over the net about 80 miles an hour when they used to be 100 miles an hour, that is annoying," she said.

"I am so much better now technically and every other way, except physically perhaps, than I was then."

"I am, like, how come I am not winning? You have to say it is just getting old, and that really bugs me. But that's life."



MARTINA NAVRATILOVA the top-16 players in the world.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Jailbird's view, in part
5 USO audience
8 Urban haze
12 Oodles
13 Bird of time
14 That's a laugh!
15 Tight with a dollar
16 Brian of rock music
17 Busy with
18 Lower
20 Lascivious
22 Delaying activity
23 Each
27 Lodgers of a sort
32 "This — stickup!"
33 Driver's doc.
34 Expert
35 Long, slender cigar
38 Linseed source
39 Resume,

in brief
40 Average
42 Bright red
45 Quarter-back
49 Johnny
50 Every
52 Be last iota
53 Gumbo base
54 Chest muscle, for short
55 Eager
56 Withdraw gradually
57 — Paulo, Brazil
58 Sweet potatoes
Solution time: 23 mins.

DOWN
1 Stripe
2 Sheltered
3 Peregrinate
4 Jog
5 City on the Isere
6 "And — the opposite shore..."
7 Garbage barge
8 Polished
9 1967
10 "— be in Fair site
11 Thug
19 Commercial
21 Spring mo.
24 "Great Expectations" hero
25 Dos Passos trilogy
26 Australia's capital
28 "Lorenzo's —"
29 Mexican resort city
30 GE merger co.
31 Dr. Ruth's subject
36 Flier
37 "High —"
38 Jack Webb role
41 Indefinite article
42 Grub
43 Codlike fish
44 Shril barks
46 Frat-party garb
47 Tiny bit
48 Parts: abbr.
51 Grazing land

CRYPTOQUIP
C J O W C F V C V B Y J I V J B -
V H W F J H Y W E O J I I V O F X J I E.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HOW THE FUSSY GEESE FARMER GETS PAID: IN DOWN PAYMENTS.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: O equals C
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.