

Sport

Column One SPORTS TALK



Imran Khan (Pakistani cricket legend) For me the one-bouncer-per-over rule is without doubt one of the most brain-dead pieces of legislation passed by the ICC...

DID U' KNOW? (The Professor does)

THAT like the Olympic Games, the Commonwealth Games is the sports festival of the Commonwealth countries. Held at an interval of four years...

Sports WHIZZ KID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN (The rules are published every Saturday)

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-19 Tick the Correct Answer (Competition closes: 8 p.m. Dec 29, 1995)

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

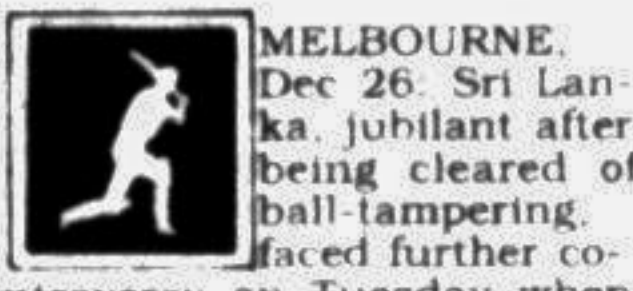
Tonya's mystery honeymoon!

WASHINGTON, Dec 26: Don't ask where disgraced Olympic skater Tonya Harding is honeymooning, reports AFP.

China to soup up boxing

BEIJING, Dec 26: China plans to hire foreign boxing coaches and sparring partners and send their boxers abroad for training next year to boost their standards...

Muralidharan at centre of controversy Old Boon on way back



MELBOURNE, Dec 26: Sri Lanka, jubilant after being cleared of ball-tampering, faced further controversy on Tuesday when off-spinner Muttiah Muralidharan's bowling action was ruled illegal...

was under threat after several failures during Australia's series win over Pakistan and the first Test against Sri Lanka two weeks ago. He hit ten boundaries in a sedate innings lasting 338 minutes and 263 balls.

Sri Lanka removed Australian captain and opener Mark Taylor for seven before lunch and his fellow opener Michael Slater for 62 during the afternoon session.

Taylor was bowled by pace bowler Pramaodya Wickremasinghe with the total on 14, the first time the left-hander has been dismissed for less than 40 in Test or limited-overs matches in Australia this season.

Slater skied an attempted hook to Wickremasinghe on the deep fine leg boundary off a short delivery from Chaminda Vaas.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard on the opening day of the second Test between Australia and Sri Lanka at the Melbourne Cricket Ground Tuesday.

AUSTRALIA: First innings Slater c Wickremasinghe b Vaas 62



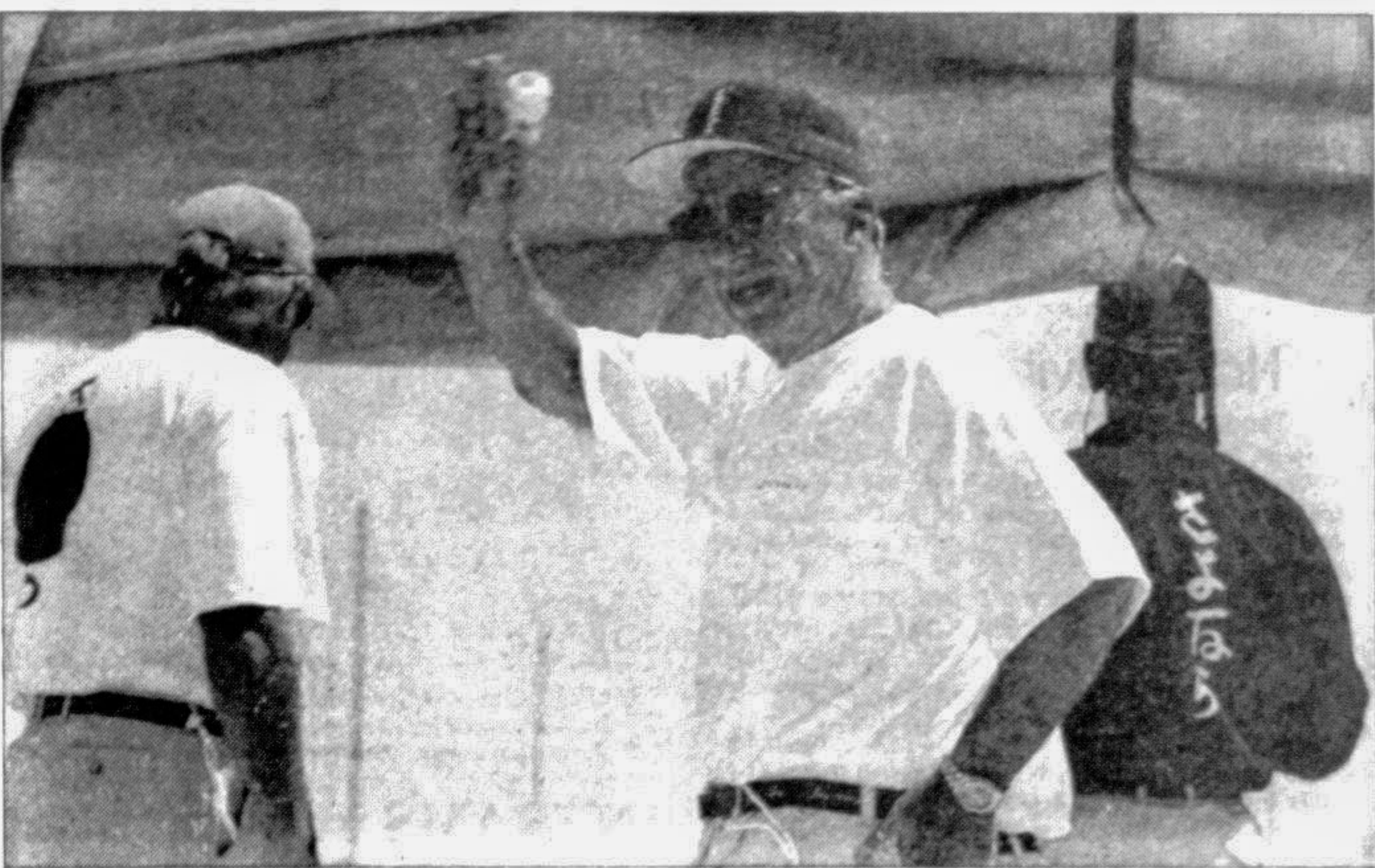
BOON... 93 n.o. batsman David Boon, his highest first-class score of the season, as Australia reached 234 for three at close of play.

Under cricket regulations, a bowler is deemed to have thrown the ball if there is a partial or complete strengthening of the arm in the action of releasing the ball from the hand.

Muralidharan, who was taken off by his captain Arjuna Ranatunga after a spell of six overs during the afternoon session, returned in style when he returned five overs later. New Zealand umpire Steve Dunne did not call any of his deliveries in his remaining eight overs in the day.



MURALIDHARAN Table with columns: Taylor b Wickremasinghe, Boon not out, M Waugh b Muralidharan, S Waugh not out, Extras, Total, Bowling, O M R W



Rupert Murdoch, the Australian media magnate waves with his index finger bandaged prior to the start of the 51st Sydney to Hobart yacht race on Dec 26. The 64-year old Murdoch, a regular competitor of the race, required plastic surgery after his finger was crushed in a boating accident on Thursday.

Windies willow brings some solace

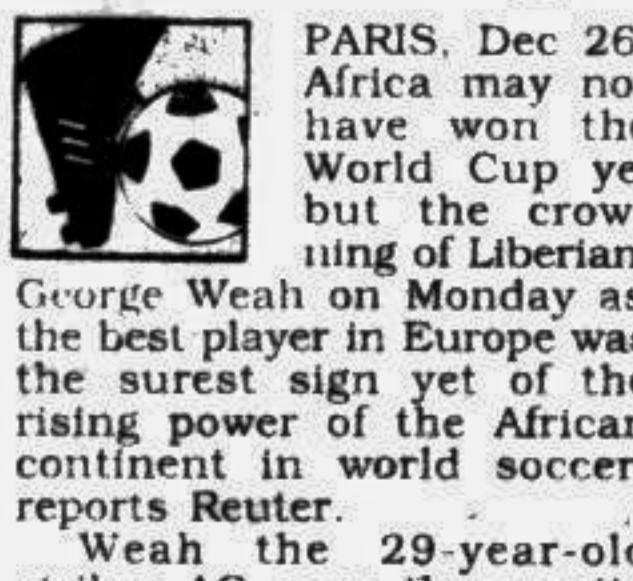
BRISBANE, Australia, Dec 26: A quickfire 77 off 88 balls by Jimmy Adams and Roger Harper saved West Indies in their one-day match against Queensland at the Brisbane Gabba today, reports AFP.

Confident Messiah strikes out for the top

Leading African soccer players are showing the world that their continent is a force to be reckoned with. Gemini News service spotlights a Ghanaian superstar who is worshipped in Europe and is about to thrill South African crowds.

By John Perlman from London A sportsman who is said to combine the speed and power of an Olympic sprint champion with the skill and vision of the world's best soccer player is ready to set the African Cup of Nations alight in January.

Weah puts on golden boot



PARIS, Dec 26: Africa may not have won the World Cup yet but the crowning of Liberian George Weah on Monday as the best player in Europe was the surest sign yet of the rising power of the African continent in world soccer, reports Reuters.

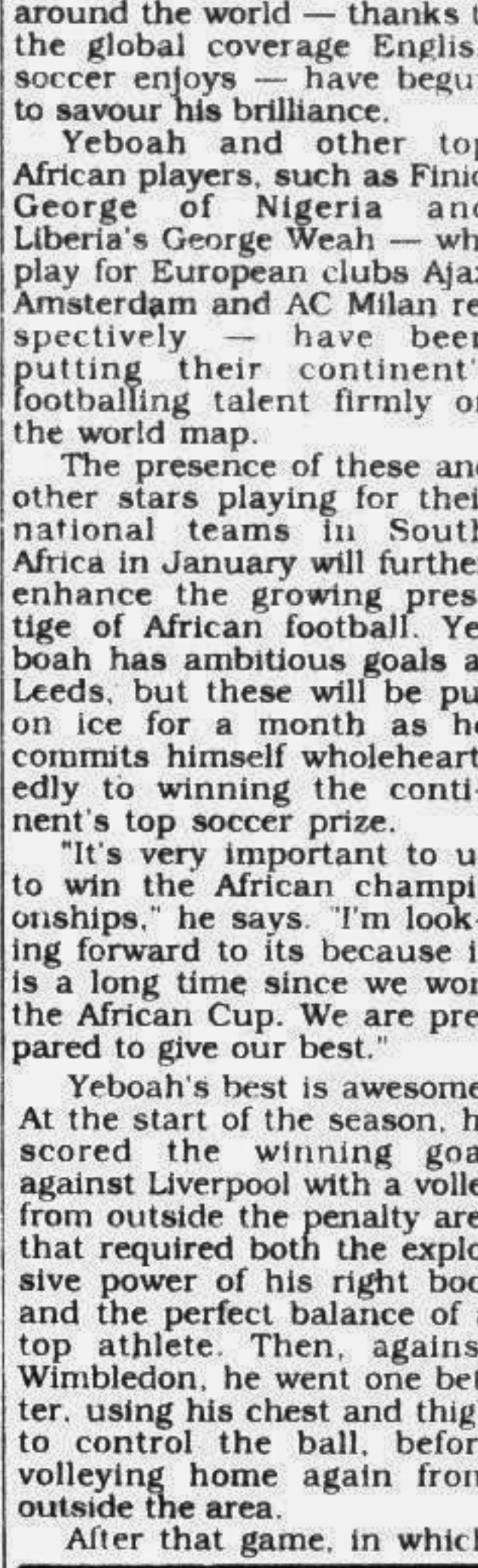
award." Weah, who moved from Paris St Germain to AC Milan during the summer, is actually the second African player to take the award as the Mozambique-born Eusebio won the title in 1965 as a Portuguese national.

Ghana's Anthony Yeboah have charmed German and English fans. Nantes won the French title last season with Chad's Japhet N'oram pulling the strings and Nigerian Finidi George helped Ajax Amsterdam to the European Cup.

A helping hand to a champion in need

SAN JUAN, Dec 26: This week, Gov Pedro Rosello signed into a law a benefits package for local boxers, which would pay Benitez 600 dollars a month for life, reports AP.

Anthony Yeboah: 'I'm not nervous when I get a chance to score'



He packs a ferocious shot with both feet. He says they left is stronger, but the rockets against Liverpool and Wimbledon were both scored with the right. Many of the openings he makes are created by his speed. He has run 100 metres in less than 11 seconds, and is especially quick over the first 20 metres.



An AFP file photo showing AC Milan's Liberian international George Weah celebrating after scoring a goal. Weah 29, was declared winner of the prestigious European Golden Boot (Ballon d'Or) award on Dec 25.

What can I say. This will help ease the pain," Benitez said. Benitez's case is the latest in a long list of Puerto Rican champions whose careers have ended in mayhem.

TOP GUNS Following are the top ten footballers in European club and nationality are in brackets: 1. George Weah (AC Milan/Liberia) 144 points

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer and CRYPTOQUIP. Includes crossword clues and a grid.