

## Match-fixing

## India extends investigation

CALCUTTA, Oct 7: Indian police are to extend their investigations into cricket match-fixing and illegal betting after a series of arrests in the eastern town of Calcutta, officials said today, reports AFP.

District Superintendent of Police Surajit Kar Purakayash said the probe running parallel to an independent inquiry into allegations that Indian players have been involved in fixing results, would be extended to other cities including Delhi and Bombay.

He said no evidence on top stars being involved in match-fixing had emerged.

"Eight people have been arrested in connection with illegal betting on matches. There is nothing on match-fixing," he said.

The first arrest came last month when police said they had recovered computer files "containing names and information on cricket bookies in various parts of the world."

Further arrests, according to police have uncovered a link between illegal bookmakers and top Calcutta businessmen in betting syndicates. The Asian Age newspaper today reported that one businessman was believed to have lost 5.5 million dollars in recent bets on matches.

An independent inquiry by a former Chief Justice of India, backed by India's cricket chiefs was launched earlier this year in the alleged player involvement in match-fixing.

It followed claims by former Indian all-rounder Manoj Prabhakar that he was offered 72,000 dollars by a teammate to ensure India lost to Pakistan in a limited-overs tournament in 1994.

Jagmohan Dalmiya, the former Secretary of the Board of Control of Cricket in India (BCCI), said the probe would get full backing although he thought Prabhakar was involved in "kite-flying."

The player made the claim in Outlook magazine earlier this year. Similar allegations involving Indian and Pakistani players were later made by former Pakistan wicketkeeper Rashid Latif in the same magazine, although he claimed he had been misquoted.

Betting on cricket results is illegal in India but is believed to be widespread, involving millions of dollars wagered on single matches. No player, however, has ever been found guilty of involvement.

**Stars to attend Baresi's farewell**

MILAN, Oct 7: Several world soccer greats — recently retired or still active — will play in Milan in a farewell match for former AC Milan and national team captain Franco Baresi, reports AP.

Officials of the Milan team said Tuesday that Argentine star Diego Armando Maradona, Brazilians Antonio Careca, Romario and Zico, Germany's Andreas Sammer, Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez and Spain's Emilio Butragueno and Michel agreed to start on the "Rest of the World" squad which will play an AC Milan selection at San Siro Stadium on Oct 28.

Baresi will lead a Milan team which will field the mythical Dutch trio of Marco van Basten, Ruud Gullit and Frank Rijkaard.

Ticket revenues from the exhibition, expected to draw a huge crowd, will go to UNICEF, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.

**Fencing awaits its fate**

PARIS, Oct 7: France may decide this month whether to scrap perimeter fencing for the 1998 World Cup finals, reports Reuter.

A decision will be taken soon, it could be in October or November but certainly by the end of the year, an organising committee (CO) spokeswoman said on Monday.

"Each city is doing an audit. Each stadium is different and the Interior Ministry will handle each case by case," she said.

The government of President Lionel Jospin, which took power in June, has said it is against perimeter fences in the city.

Naqvi: *veni, vidi, vici*

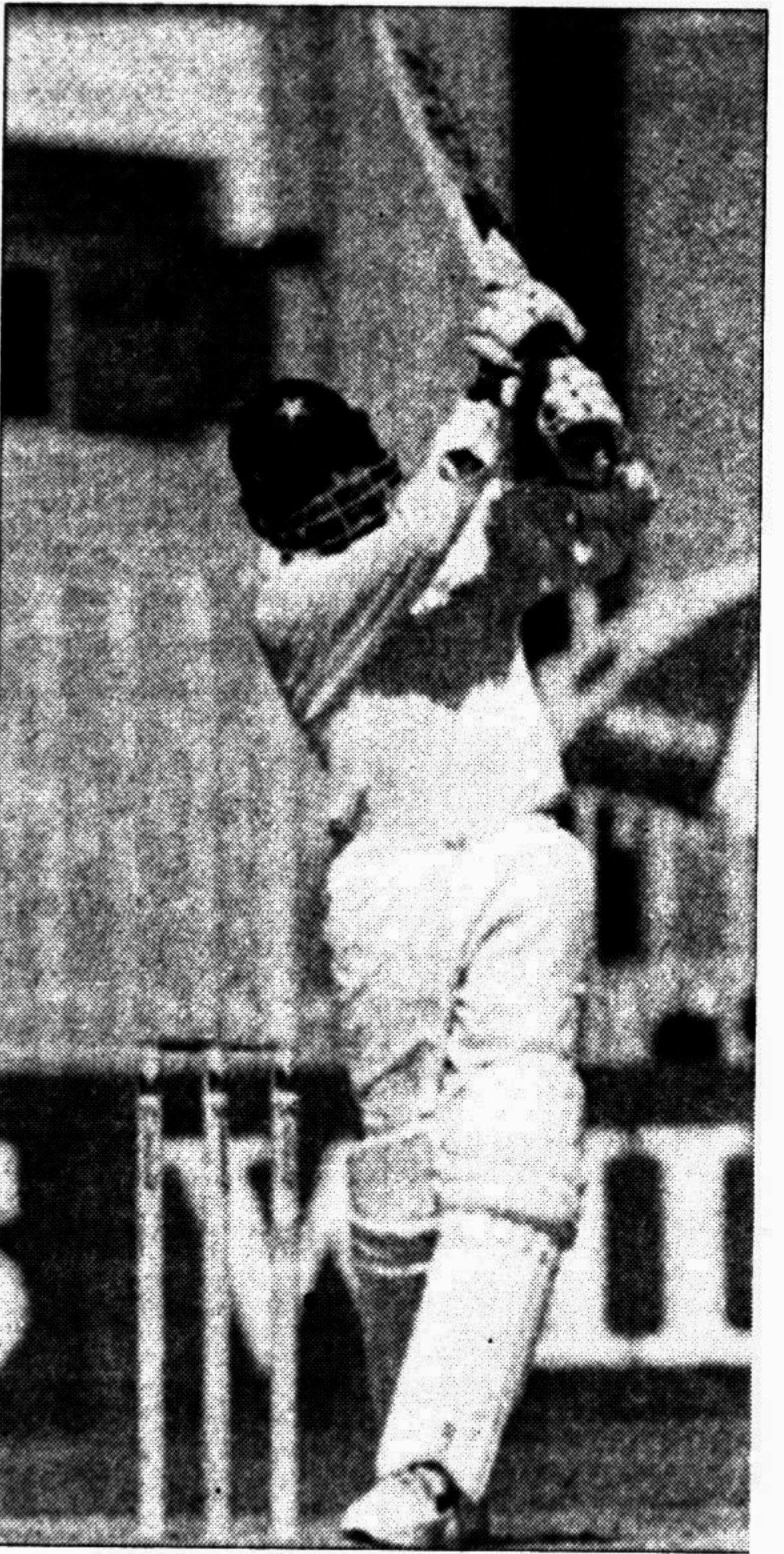
RAWALPINDI, Oct 7 (AP): Ali Naqvi, the 20-year-old Pakistani batsman who had not even played first class cricket two months ago, has become his country's latest star with a sparkling century on his Test debut.

Naqvi hit 115 Monday against South Africa's highly

regarded attack at Rawalpindi and immediately promised to add many more hundreds in future.

"I was just dreaming to score a hundred on debut and it has come as reality. Really I can't believe this but I assure you that I will score more runs, this is the beginning," a confident Naqvi told the news agency.

Pakistan Test great Javed



ALI NAQVI

## Sydney report satisfactory



SYDNEY, Oct 7: Two men charged with getting sports fans around the world to stay tuned to the 2000 Olympics — and its deluge of commercials — are pleased with the path being cleared for them in Sydney, reports AP.

Peter Diamond of NBC and Jarie Hoeyesaeter of the European Broadcasting Union are two of the most important people involved in feeding Olympic images to the world.

NBC paid 720 million dollars for the Sydney rights while the EBU paid 350 million dollars on behalf of 80 clients in 45 European countries.

The pair joined other rights holders for a progress report from the Sydney Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games and a tour of the venues this week.

Hoeyesaeter said the EBU hoped for a better service in Sydney than broadcasters needed to make comparisons with that "home" city and what he is expecting here.

"I hate to make comparisons. This committee has studied past Games and I think the subjects that needed addressing from those past two Games, such as transport and the look of the city, have been addressed," Diamond said.

Hoeyesaeter said there were "thousands of problems" facing organisers but he said that was always expected and he was confident they would be solved.

The Olympics begin in just under three years.

"Everything we've heard this week makes us feel good about the progress of the Organising

Committee, about the progress of the Host Broadcaster and we went out to Homebush yesterday and it's just a marvel — we're very impressed," Diamond said Tuesday.

Broadcasters were far from happy with conditions in Atlanta last year but Diamond would not be drawn into making comparisons with that "home" city and what he is expecting here.

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