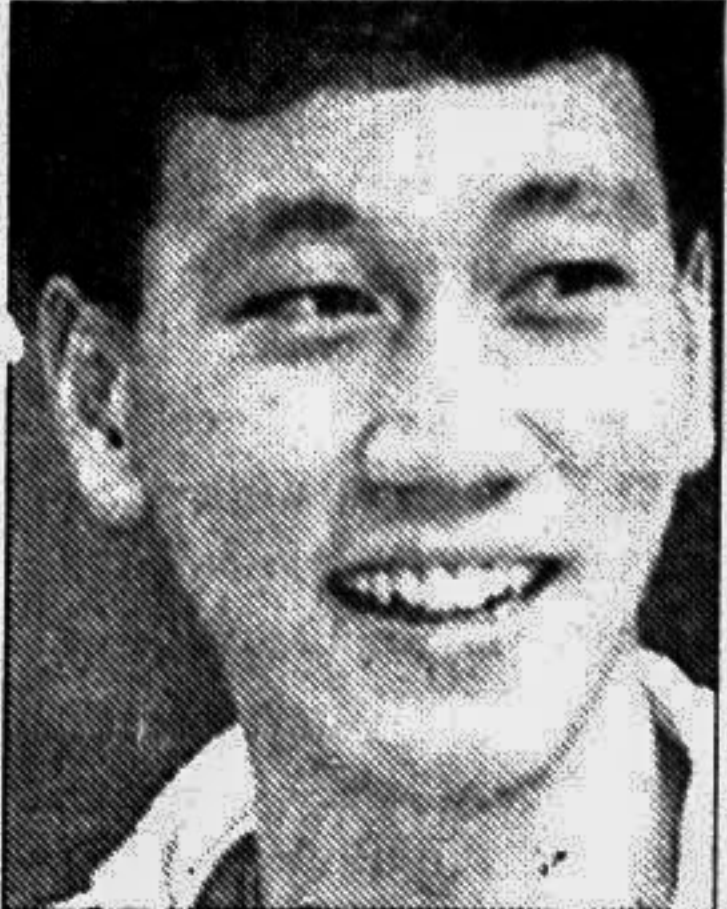


Column One

SPORTS TALK



Michael Chang
(American tennis player)
"It's fair to say in the past few months, tennis-wise, I've been struggling. I feel in my heart that the hunger is still there. The fire is not just a spark, it's still burning."
After losing to French Guillaume Raoux in the second round at the Australian Open.

Roost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-87

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes at 8 pm on Jan 30, 1998

- Which Kiwi batsman scored the only ODI century against Pakistan?
Cairns Astle Crowe
- Which is the highest ODI individual score?
194 189 198
- How many ODI centuries has Azharuddin hit?
3 4 5
- Who scored the only half-century for Bangladesh in the Independence Cup?
Amrinal Akram Mahmud
- Who is leading Bangladesh in the World Youth Cup cricket in South Africa?
Sabbir Al-Shariar Sajal

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)



Boycott hooks & ducks!

LONDON, Jan 23: English cricket legend Geoff Boycott mounted a vigorous defence here Thursday in the face of accusations that he beat up his ex-lover Margaret Moore, reports AFP.

Moore alleges he pinned her down and punched her at least 20 times in the face after an argument in a hotel in the south of France in October 1996.

A French judge agreed with her and gave Boycott, 57, a suspended jail sentence and fined him 5,100 pounds (8,000 dollars) two days ago.

Now Boycott is to appeal against the verdict and slammed Moore's version of events, claiming that she is intent on destroying his reputation because he refused to marry her.

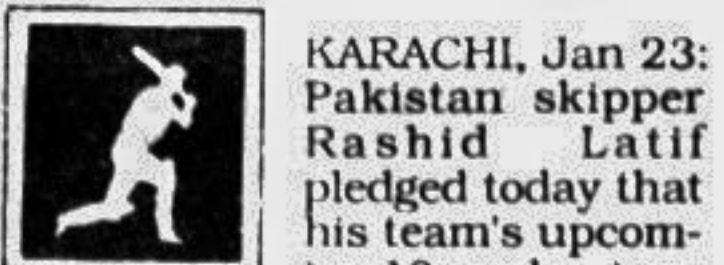
At a heated press conference, the embattled Yorkshireman said businessman Moore, 45, was bent on making money out of the allegations.

He said: "I never touched her. I have no history of violence in 57 years on anyone, a man or woman. That is a fact."

The former England cricket captain said Moore had approached publicist Max Clifford and asked him to make her one million pounds from her story. "It all hinged around me marrying her. I got sick and tired of it all and I told her that I am not the marrying kind."

Pakistan leave for SA tomorrow

Latif promises a face-lift



KARACHI, Jan 23: Pakistan skipper Rashid Latif pledged today that his team's upcoming 10-week tour of South Africa and Zimbabwe would be free from match-fixing allegations, reports AFP.

"I am here to keep the boys away from these allegations and bring back the confidence not only in the team but also among cricket fans," Latif said. "I promise the trip will be controversy-free, the 28-year-old wicketkeeper said."

The team is to leave for Johannesburg on Sunday for the two and a half month assignment to play three Test matches against South Africa.

They will then visit Zimbabwe for two Test matches and two one-day internationals and return to South Africa to participate in a triangular tournament which also involves Sri Lanka.

Latif, who walked out on the team three years ago during the South African tour, said he wanted to shed bitter past memories during this trip.

"I want to bury those memories during our trip with the entertaining and positive cricket. I assure... the cricket loving crowd of South Africa will enjoy the game, no matter who wins or loses," he said.

Latif found himself in the throes of controversy when he spoke of "something seriously wrong" in the Pakistan team during the last tour to South Africa and Zimbabwe in 1994.

Latif and teammate Basit Ali announced their retirement but reversed their decision in 1995 after cricket board official intervened.

Then allegations by Australians Shane Warne and Tim May against Salim Malik ensured. The spin duo alleged Malik offered them bribes to bowl poorly and lose at Test at Karachi prior to the African tour in 1994.

Malik was exonerated by a committee headed by a retired Supreme Court judge in 1995, but he is currently out of the team since renewed allegations of betting in September last year.

"Match-fixing, betting and off-field problems crept up when we were in South Africa last time but we will end it in the same place," Latif said.

He was handed the captaincy last month after betting charges resurfaced when Pakistan lost in Sharjah.

All-rounder Wasim Akram decided to quit as captain amid the charges and selectors subsequently dropped him from African tour ostensibly on fitness grounds.

"We will have to play with the available team. No doubt South Africa are a formidable side but we hope to see exciting battle," Latif said.

"My side will play positive cricket."

Pakistan have lost two of the four Tests played against South Africa.

Latif said he would have three raw pacers in Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Akram and Azhar Mahmood but the youngsters will be under the wings of fast bowler Waqar Younis.

Meanwhile, former captain, turned politician, Imran Khan has criticised the board's decision to exclude Akram from play saying, "I can't understand that a player of Akram's ability has been dropped from such an important tour."

Imran said Pakistan will miss Akram "especially on the South African tour where the wickets would be bouncy and best suited to fast bowlers."



Pakistan skipper Rashid Latif talking to the press on the eve of his team's tour of South Africa and Zimbabwe, at Karachi on Jan 22.

Plate final today

Sports Reporter
The high flying Bangladesh youth team will take on the powerful West Indies in the Plate final of the World Youth Cup cricket championship at Fochville, South Africa today.

Nat'l hockey Faridpur, Army in last four

Sports Reporter
Defender Isa Miah struck the decisive goal through a penalty corner as title aspirants Faridpur paved their way into the semifinals of the 20th national hockey championship with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Prosthithan (BKSP) in one of the two quarterfinals played at the National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The match was locked 1-1 in the first session.

In a see-saw encounter, Isa, the tall and stubborn defender, blasted home the winner in the 56th minute.

Earlier, Asif Imtiaz put Faridpur ahead through a field goal 20 minutes into the first half while Ariful brought BKSP back into the match with an spectacular effort after eight minutes.

BKSP forward Moududur Rahman was sent off in the 66th minutes for two bookable offences.

In Sunday's second semifinal, Faridpur will take on defending champions Dhaka University at 2 pm.

In the other match of the day, Bangladesh Army also made it to the last four with a comfortable 4-2 victory over Rajshahi.

Maksudul Haque struck twice while Siraj and Bahaz added one apiece for the winners.

On the other hand, Shamim and Wasim scored one goal each for Rajshahi.

Rajshahi skipper Mozammel was sent off in the 68th minute on disciplinary grounds.

Army will meet last year's runners-up Dhaka in tomorrow's first semifinal at 12 noon.

Kiwi colts beat Lankans

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 23: New Zealand beat Sri Lanka in a under-19 cricket World Cup match in Port Elizabeth on Thursday, holding out for a 41-run win over the fancied islanders, reports AFP.

With New Zealand dismissed for 180 their captain Jarrod England must have turned three run-outs, two of which he was responsible for, which ripped the heart out of the middle order.

England admitted after the match that he felt the total was between 20 and 40 runs short of a dependable figure.



SHAUN SHUNS SHANE: South Africa's star paceman Shaun Pollock is over the moon after uprooting the middle stump of Shane Warne — the last Australian wicket — in yesterday's first final of the tri-series at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. South Africa won by six runs.

Donald bedevils Aussies

Advantage South Africa

MELBOURNE, Jan 23: South Africa scored a thrilling victory in the first final of the tri-series here today.

digging themselves out of a hole thanks to pace supreme Allan Donald, reports AFP/Reuters.

Set 242 to win, the Australians were bowled out for 235 from 49.5 overs in reply to the Proteas 241 for nine.

It was a nailbiting finish and an astonishing comeback from the tourists who looked buried after gutsy half centuries from Steve Waugh and Michael Bevan seemingly put the game beyond their reach.

But player-of-the-match Donald turned in an amazing exhibition of fast bowling.

He was fired up after missing two easy catches and took two wickets from his blistering last over. The 49th of the innings, to end with three for 36.

It changed the face of the game, knocked the fight out of the Aussies and left 44,000 fans at the Melbourne Cricket Ground stunned.

Australian captain Steve Waugh has every right to feel dejected. It was a much improved Australian performance from the lacklustre showings in the preliminary games.

The South Africans almost squandered their chance, scoring too few runs after winning the toss and batting in ideal conditions.

They started well thanks to Gary Kirsten (70) and Daryll Cullinan (26), who again fell to his nemesis — Shane Warne, but failed to keep the momentum going.

Lance Klusener went for a duck and after a flourish from Jacques Kallis (33) the scoring rate slowed dramatically as the Aussie bowlers led by part timers Mark Waugh and Lehmann, tightened up.

If Shaun Pollock hadn't hit a crucial 36 late in the innings, including 15 off Warne's last over, the game would have been lost.

In a surprise move, the Australians sent wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist in to open with Mark Waugh in place of Tom Moody. But the experiment backfired.

increasingly comfortable playing at this level, was joined by skipper Steve Waugh who then ran him out.

It was just a reward for South Africa who were on the wrong end of some poor umpiring.

Steve Waugh should have gone when he nicked a Pollock delivery to Richardson but rode his luck, putting on 101 with Bevan before he was out for 53.

Bevan's needless run out for 57 gave the South Africans a sniff of victory.

Donald returned to the attack to dismiss Ian Harvey and Paul Reiffel while conceding just two runs in both the 47th and 49th overs.

This left Australia needing nine off the last over but Moody was run out off the first. Paul Wilson then missed two deliveries before hitting a single to give Warne the strike with seven runs needed off two balls.

Richardson not out 11 Extras: (w-2, nb-1) 3 Total: (For nine wickets in 50 overs) 241 Fall of wickets: 1-55; 2-62; 3-126; 4-137; 5-178; 6-186; 7-203; 8-210; 9-241.

Did not bat: A Donald.

Bowling: O M R W Wilson 9 0 52 1 Reiffel 3 0 18 0 Warne 10 1 52 3 Moody 5 0 24 1 Harvey 9 0 39 0 M Waugh 10 0 35 2 Lehmann 4 0 11 2

AUSTRALIA M Waugh run out 3 Gilchrist c Symcox b Pollock 20 Ponting c Richardson b Donald 33 Lehmann run out 31 S Waugh c Richardson b McMillan 53 Bevan run out 57 Moody run out 15 Harvey b Donald 7 Reiffel c Richardson b Donald 1 Warne b Pollock 0 Wilson not out 1 Extras: (lb-6, w-5, nb-3) 13 Total: (All out in 49.5 overs) 235 Fall of wickets: 1-15; 2-37; 3-94; 4-105; 5-205; 6-221; 7-231; 8-233; 9-234.

Bowling: O M R W Pollock 9.5 1 39 2 Klusener 7 0 36 0 Symcox 10 1 56 0 Donald 10 0 36 3 McMillan 9 1 39 1 Kallis 4 0 23 0

Result: South Africa won by six runs.

Player-of-the-match: Allan Donald

South Africa lead 1-0 in best-of-three finals.

'99 Allan's year

BIRMINGHAM, England, Jan 23: English county Warwickshire have awarded South African fast bowler Allan Donald a benefit year in 1999, reports AFP.

The club has not yet negotiated a contract for that season, but the benefit will go ahead irrespective of Donald's situation as a player.

West Indies batsman Brian Lara will be Warwickshire's overseas player and captain this year, as Donald — who made his debut in 1987 and captured his 500th first-class wicket for the county last summer — is expected to be touring England with his country.

Chief executive Dennis Amiss said: "These are separate issues, but it is still our intention that subject to form and fitness, we would like him to come back as our overseas professional in 1999."

Scoreboard in the tri-series limited-overs match between Australia and South Africa at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Friday:

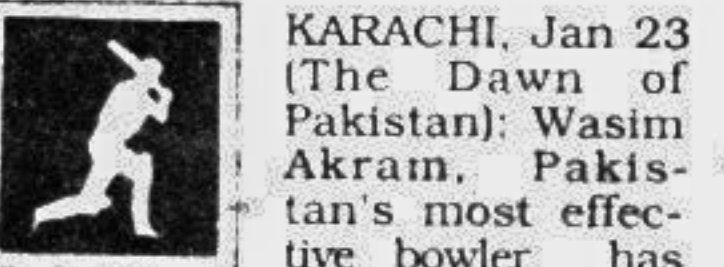
SOUTH AFRICA: Cullinan st Gilchrist b Warne 26 Kirsten c Gilchrist b M Waugh 70 Klusener c Bevan b Moody 33 Kallis c Gilchrist b Wilson 29 Cronje c Bevan b Lehmann 21 Rhodes c Gilchrist b Lehmann 21 Pollock c Bevan b Warne 36 Symcox b M Waugh 10 McMillan lbw b Warne 2

Parma scrape through

BERGAMO, Italy, Jan 23: AC Parma scraped into the Italian Cup semifinals on a 2-1 aggregate by holding Atalanta to a 1-1 draw Thursday night in a match marred by unruly fans, reports AFP.

Several objects, including flares and firecrackers, were tossed from the stands during play. No injuries were reported.

Why was Akram dropped



KARACHI, Jan 23 (The Dawn of Pakistan): Wasim Akram, Pakistan's most effective bowler has been dropped on fitness grounds and not because of reasons other than his cricketing abilities, the chief executive of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), Majid Khan, said late Wednesday evening.

"He was not considered for selection because he is unfit," Majid said from his Lahore residence.

"His involvement in match-fixing and betting is media speculation. The cricket board is not taking the stories seriously."

Asked if the board would accept Akram's plea for constituting a high level committee to probe in the match-fixing and betting affair and help the pacer clear off his name, Majid said it was his opinion. "We are very clear in our minds that he has been left out on fitness grounds."

Majid admitted that Akram played a game to prove his fitness but argued that he didn't complete that match. "He didn't bowl in the second innings because he injured his right hamstring."

Akram bagged two wickets for 29 runs in 15 overs and scored 59 runs in PIA's four-wicket win over Allied Bank in a Patron's Trophy match.

Asked if Akram would be flown to South Africa for the triangular series, Majid replied in the negative saying, "The selectors didn't consider because he was unfit. Therefore, the policy remains for the one-dayers as well."

However, Majid confirmed that there would be changes in the team for the second leg of the African safari when Pakistan engage in one-day internationals against Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka and South Africa.

necessary for the limited overs internationals.

Asked specifically if Akram's career has come to a grinding halt, he replied: "I can't answer the question."

When pointed out that two naughty boys of Pakistan cricket were appointed captain and vice-captain, Majid said they were no more 'bad boys of Pakistan cricket'.

"It is history now. Today they realise how important they are to the Pakistan team. We didn't have a sitting with them but over a period of time, they realised their mistakes and as an institution, it's our job to take care of their and team's interests."

On the continuation of Haroon Rashid as coach, Majid said if the former star has retained his job he must have the blessing of the Council members.

Commenting on the forthcoming tour of Africa, Majid said: "We don't have high expectations. All will depend how quickly the players adjust to the conditions there."

When further investigations were carried out and a couple of Council members were contacted, they said the meeting was overall a constructive one.

"As always, there were a couple of points on which lengthy debates were held like the inclusion of Wasim Akram appointment of Asad Aziz as manager etc. The meeting proceeded smoothly with every member expressing his point of view."

A Council member, requesting anonymity, said a resolution was unanimously approved in which it was decided that in future, no approval of team or captain or manager will be taken on telephone. For these issues, a proper Council meeting will be summoned."

It was also decided by the Council to appoint a new under-19 selection committee. The three-member panel is: Maazul Khan, Abdul Raqib and Azhar Khan. The chairman of the Committee will be announced later on, the councillor added.

It was also decided by the councillors that another meeting will be called after Eid in which a new selection committee will be constituted. "Since Salim Altaf (A PIA employee) has been transferred to Frankfurt and the Council not satisfied with the working of the selection committee, a new panel will be finalised next month."

The Councillor said two changes were made in the team that was submitted by the selectors. "We forced the inclusion of Waqar Younis and Mohammad Akram to add more strength to the bowling while the selectors had included Shahid Nazir and Fazl-i-Akbar."

Inter's eyes on Sousa

ROME, Jan 23: Italian league leaders Inter Milan on Thursday confirmed they were interested in buying Portuguese midfielder Paulo Sousa, who was with German club Borussia Dortmund, reports Reuters.



A goalmouth action from yesterday's national hockey championship quarterfinal between BKSP and Faridpur at the Hockey Stadium.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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 - 3 engine
 - 4 45 Gaps
 - 5 Upper limit
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 - 10 Candle
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 - 12 Fermi's bit
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 - 15 Baha
 - 16 Designate
 - 17 phanoush
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 - 34 Bottom line
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 - 8 Split com-
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CRYPTOQUIP

Y F I G T D O L J C C Y P C
A T F G F R I H A T D I J I D S L F X
G H L J X R A J S G P I D O J O
H I D H C O X H A
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: UNKIND CANARIES ARE
REPUTED TO TAKE CHEEP SHOTS.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: A equals P

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.