

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Michael Atherton
(Former England cricket captain)

"I don't believe in professional cricket except for the elite. Our system breeds poor human beings and soft cricketers."

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-110

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Jan 22 '99 and draw shortly afterwards

- The margin of Australia's recent Ashes series win was
3-1 4-1 4-0
- Who is the number one player in women's tennis at the moment?
Hingis Lindsay Venus
- The final of the 1st Asian Test Championship will be held in
Dhaka Calcutta Colombo
- The eighth SAF Games will be held in
India Sri Lanka Nepal
- How many teams are taking part in the Janakantha Premier cricket league?
10 12 14

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY-RELEASING VITAMINS

WHIZZ KID-108

winner



Kamrul Islam
(Bashiruddin High School, Dhaka)

WHIZZ KID-109

Boost winner

Abdul Mamun
Bengali Medium High School, Mohammadpur, Dhaka.

ROK soccer chief to visit DPRK

SEOUL, Jan 8: South Korea's top soccer official will visit North Korea next week to discuss the possibility of holding some of the 2002 World Cup games in the communist nation, reports AP.

Chung Mong-joon, president of South Korea's Football Association, will visit the North "for three or four days" beginning next Tuesday, association officials said.

Chung has privately said that two or three of the 32 World Cup matches assigned to South Korea could be staged in North Korea. South Korea is co-hosting the 2002 games with Japan.

Ajax taste maiden victory

Mahbub shoots Biman down

Sports Reporter

Sadharan Bima while Victoria brought Agrani Bank down to earth after three consecutive



MAHABUB ... 63

victories.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, one-down Rezaul Hasan scored an unbeaten 50 as Victoria, chasing a fighting Agrani Bank total of 221, rattled up the required 222 for the loss of five wickets in 70.4 overs.

Rezaul hammered five fours in his 122-ball vigil at the crease. It was Victoria's second win from six outings.

Away at the BKSP in Savar, relegation-threatened Ajax ended their five-match drought when they defeated promotees Sadharan Bima by five wickets.

Ajax, who had earlier shot Bima out for a paltry 178 on Thursday, went on to score 180 for five in only 48.2 overs with their Pakistan recruit Selim Mughal notching a fine 60 off 83 balls.

SCOREBOARDS

Scoreboards of the three Janakantha Premier Division cricket league matches concluded at different venues yesterday.

Biman v Kalabagan KC

(Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium)

BIMAN: Overnight 275 for 9 in 80 overs (Aminul 62, Javed 35, N Shawkat 29, Shafuddin 3/52 S Saeed 2/44)

KALABAGAN INNINGS

Harun lbw b N Shawkat
Sajjad c M Akhter b Talha
C Ali lbw b M Akhter
Mushfiq c Javed b Shaifullah
S Saeed c Talha b Aminul
Mahbub c & b Aminul
Ishiaque c Talha b Shaifullah
A Hossain not out
Fahim not out
Extras: (b-9, lb-5, nb-7, w-11)
Total: (For 7 wickets in 69 overs)
Did not bat: Masudur Rahman and Shafuddin Ibne Shahid.
Fall of wickets: 1/15, 2/39, 3/78, 4/169, 5/171, 6/181, 7/264.

Bowler
N Shawkat 14 0 63
Talha 12 3 37
Shaifullah 14 0 51
M Akhter 16 3 56
Ziaur 5 0 23
Aminul 8 1 32

Result: Kalabagan KC won by three wickets.

Agrani Bank v Victoria SC

(Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium)

AGRANI BANK: 221 all out in 75.2 overs (S Malik 61, Saleh 53, Zakaria 33, Sabir 3/47)

VICTORIA INNINGS: (Overnight 33 for no loss in 13 overs)
Imran c S Malik b Russell 32
Monir c & b Suja 34
Reza not out 50
Mustadir lbw b Russell 30
Shawkat c S Kadir b Russell 2
R Hanif c & b Ziauddin 21
Sabir not out 29
Extras: (b-1, lb-6, nb-3, w-13)
Total: (For 5 wickets in 70.4 overs)
Did not bat: Jewel Hossain, Rakib Hasan, Zakir Hasan and Aftabul Islam.

Bowler
Mofizur 2 0 13
S Arefin 9 3 24
Mosaddek 11 2 36
Russell 14 4 33
S Malik 14.4 2 37
Suja 13 3 46
Ziauddin 6 0 28

Result: Victoria SC won by five wickets.

S Bima v Ajax SC

(Venue: BKSP)

S Bima: 178 all out in 58.2 overs (K Chopra 86, Rajinder, 27, A Islam 3/26, Shueb 2/10)

AJAX SC INNINGS: (Overnight 88 for 1 in 21 overs)
S Khan c T Mahmood b Rajinder 26
Imran c I Islam b T Islam 48
Shanchoy b Hadi 60
Selim not out 18
Nayan c Rajinder b K Chopra 10
R Islam lbw b K Chopra 5
Shueb not out 0
Extras: (lb 1, nb-4, w-8)
Total: (For 5 wickets in 48.2 overs)
Did not bat: A Islam, S Mansoor, H Khan and I Haider.

Fall of wickets: 1/50, 2/133, 3/150, 4/164, 5/175.
Bowler
Nakib 4 0 26
Saiful 1 0 6
K Chopra 6.2 3 19
T Islam 9 1 34
Rajinder 6 0 20
Hadi 12 1 40
Islam 2 0 5
Moin 8 0 29

Result: Ajax SC won by five wickets.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Janakantha Premier Division Cricket League:
Abahani v Surjo Tarun
(Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium)
Viri Club v Orient SC
(Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium)

Shane tells the Salim story



MELBOURNE, Jan 8 (AP): Australian star leg-spinner Shane Warne in a statement yesterday to the Pakistani inquiry committee gave details of the alleged approach by former Pakistan captain Salim Malik.

Warne said he was approached 100,000 US dollars by Malik on the night before the final day of the first Test against Pakistan in 1994. The hosts won by one-wicket in a thrilling finish, courtesy of a record last-wicket partnership. "I was in my hotel room with Tim May when, at about 10.30 pm, I was telephoned by Malik. Salim said he needed to talk to me," Warne said Friday. "I was surprised and asked him what he wanted to speak to me about. He said it was private and confidential, and asked me to come up to his room. He insisted that I come up to his room."

Warne said he went to Malik's room and was told, "our pride is at stake, everything is at stake, we can't lose this first Test."

"I said: 'well mate, our pride is at stake too. I'm sorry to tell you this but we are going to whip you blokes tomorrow,'" said Warne.

"He said: 'I don't think you understand what I am asking of you. What I want is for you and Tim May to bowl wide of the off stump and bowl poorly, so that the match is a draw, and for that I will give you and Tim May 200,000 US dollars.'"

"He said: 'I can have it in your room in half an hour.' I said: 'What the hell is going on here? What do you mean? What are you talking about? I don't understand.'"

"I thought he must be joking. I said to him: 'you've got to be kidding.' I asked him if he was serious. He said: 'I am serious. You must get back to me.' I told him to get lost in the strongest possible fashion."

Test match and we are going to thrash your team."

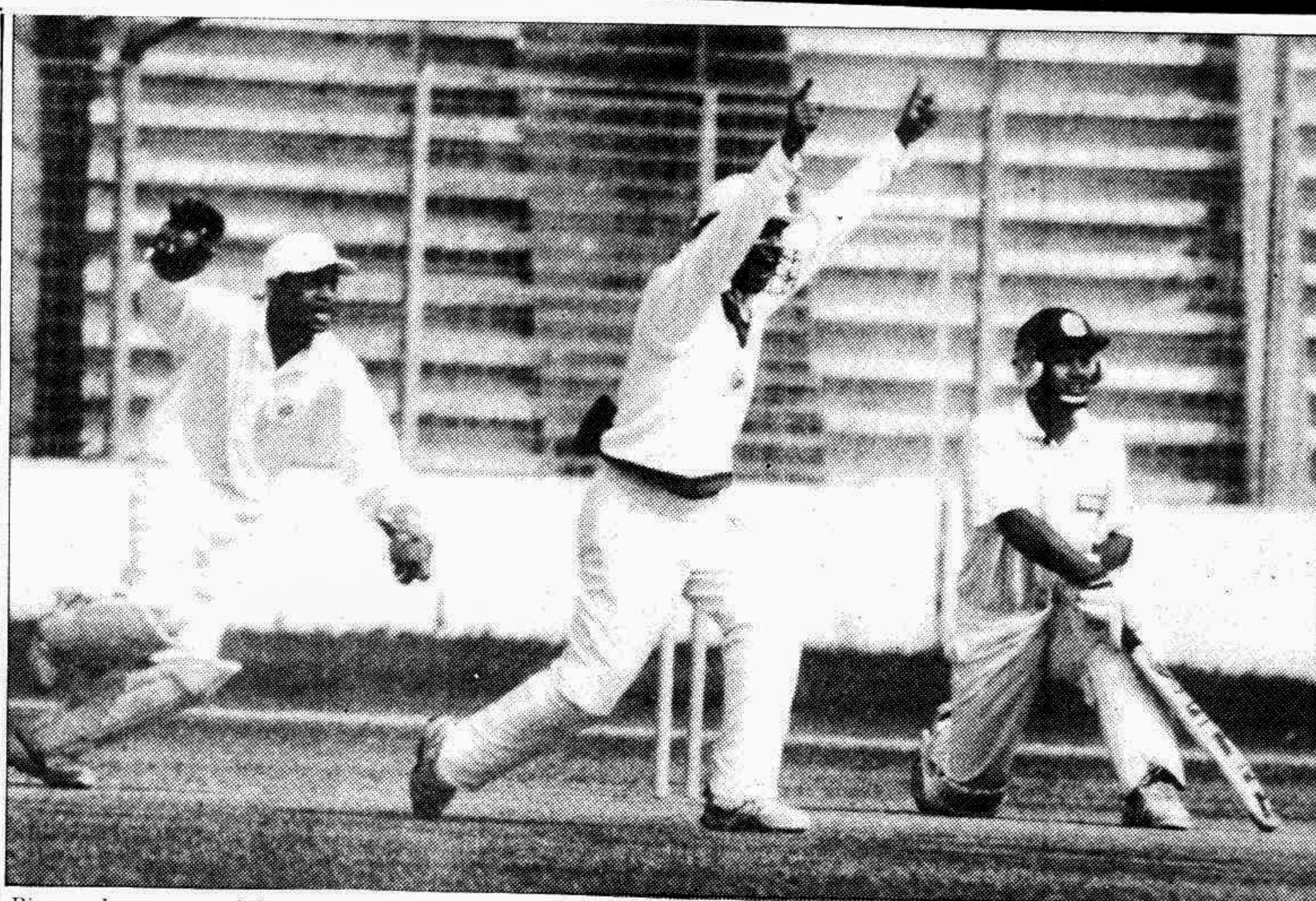
Warne said he reported the matter to team captain Mark Taylor and coach Bob Simpson the next day.

Warne said Malik tried to offer the Australians money again before a limited overs match later in the tour. "Salim Malik approached Mark Waugh, with whom I was talking, and offered 200,000 dollars for four or five Australian players not to play well the next day," Warne said. "He said that we could bat slowly and not bowl well. He suggested a few full tosses and long hops."

"He said to Mark Waugh that he would 'catchup with Mark later.' I had no further discussions with Salim Malik or Mark Waugh about the offer being made."

Warne said he made a report about the incident and gave it to the then Australian Cricket Board chief executive Graham Halbish in February 1995. Two months later he made a statutory declaration for the ACB.

Warne said "the whole incident involving Salim Malik was all a bit of a shock to me."



Biman players appeal for a caught behind decision against Kalabagan's Mushfiqur Rahman on the second day of their Janakantha Premier cricket league match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

Sub-jr chess

Ejaj alone

on top

Sayed Ejaj Hossain maintained his solo lead in the 19th national sub-junior chess tournament when he shared points with current champion Ruhul Islam Boby in the sixth round encounter at the NSC chess room yesterday, reports APB.

With the draw, Ejaj raised his points tally to 5.5 points.

Boby, Nayeem Arefin Ratul, Obaidul Islam and Maksudul Monir are sharing the second position with 5 points each. Nayeem beat Tanvir, Obaidul won over Mohan while Monir defeated Javed.

Four players — Mehdi Hasan Parag, Farhadul Islam, Golam Mostafa and Mohammad Rashid — are in the third position with 4.5 points.

Meanwhile, a two-day long Shishu-Kishore chess tournament, organised by Khelaghar Asar began at the chess federation. A total of 42 players, divided into four age groups, are taking part in the meet.

In the 15-16 years age group, Yanur Rahman, Ashrafur Islam and Jaimal Abedin are in the joint lead with full 3 points.

Nayeem Arefin took a solo lead in the 13-14 years age group with two points while Minhazuddin and Nazid Arefin shared the lead in the 10-12 years age group having 3 points each.

In less than 10 years age group, Saima Almas is in the top with 2 points.

Arsenal sign 15-year-old "wonderkid"

LONDON, Jan 8 (Reuters/Internet): Champions Arsenal confirmed on Friday they had signed 15-year-old Jermaine Pennant from Notts County, the most talented schoolboy player in England.

Arsenal are believed to have paid second division County 2.0 million pounds (3.28 million dollars) "compensation" for the player, who last week became the second youngest to play in the FA Cup when he appeared as a second-half substitute in Notts County's 1-1 third round draw with Sheffield United.

An Arsenal spokesman said: "Jermaine has signed academy forms with the club and will sign scholarship forms next season. He is likely to play at the weekend for our Under-17 team."

Pennant first came to prominence when he starred for England Schoolboys in a live televised match against Scotland last season.

Former Arsenal skipper Liam Brady, who is now head of the club's youth development said, "Jermaine is a very talented youngster with the potential to do well. County have done a fantastic job with him and we are anxious to further the development."

WHIZZ KID-109 correct answers

- Which country topped the medals table in the 13th Asian? Ans: China
- How many medals did Bangladesh clinch at the Asian Games? Ans: One
- Who scored the first century in this year's Premier cricket league? Ans: Shawkat
- Where will the 14th Asian Games be held? Ans: Pusan
- Which team won the AB Bank Senior Div TT title? Ans: Biman

Ws repeat allegations



MELBOURNE, Jan 8: Australian Test cricketers Mark Waugh and Shane Warne denied here today that they fabricated claims former Pakistani captain Salim Malik had offered them 200,000 US dollars to throw a match, reports APB.

Both also told a Pakistani judicial inquiry into match-rigging allegations had they spied information to an Indian bookmaker about pitch and weather information and Waugh confessed the relationship had lasted longer than he previously admitted.

In a statement to the inquiry, Waugh said he had told a news conference in the Australian city of Adelaide last month that he spoke to the bookmaker he knew only as "John" on "a handful" of occasions.

However, after giving this more thought I now believe that I spoke to John on approximately 10 occasions," he said in a statement, in which he admitted he had been in contact with John for about five months until February, 1995.

Waugh, currently ranked the world's fifth top-scoring batsman, and Warne, the world's most successful spin bowler, were subjected to strenuous cross-examination by lawyers for the Pakistani cricket board and Malik.

The inquiry, running in Pakistan for several months, convened here following revelations the pair had been fined by the Australian Cricket Board after admitting they had accepted money from the bookmaker during the 1994 Singer Cup series in Sri Lanka.

The fines were hushed up until last month.

The inquiry, headed by Lahore High Court registrar Abdus Salam Khawar, was adjourned after three hours from former Australian Cricket Board chief Alan Crompton and former Australian Test spinner Tim May.

Waugh said he had been approached 100,000 US dollars by Malik during a function in Pakistan and offered the money if he could get four or five Australians to play badly and lose a match the next day. But he had refused.

Warne said John had given him 5,000 US dollars with "no strings attached" after he was introduced to him by Waugh in a Sri Lankan casino in 1994.

The next day John had approached Warne and told him he had noticed he had lost money at the casino and that he was his favourite player.

Warne said John had given him an envelope containing the money which he had at first rejected.

"I told him I didn't want it but he said he would be offended. I told him again that I didn't want it but he insisted," Warne said. "I said good luck, see you later and left his room."

Warne said he had never seen the man again, although he had subsequently been contacted by him several times with requests for information on weather and pitch conditions before matches in Australia.

"I was naive and stupid," Warne said.

Waugh admitted receiving 4,000 US dollars from John for which he provided pitch and weather information on about 10 occasions.

John had also asked for information about individual Australian cricketers, team morale and tactics, but Waugh said he had refused to provide it.

Questioned about his own betting habits, Waugh said he liked betting on horse-racing but did not bet every day and never on cricket.

Asked if he knew about the rigging of a particular match in the 1994 series in which Australia beat Pakistan, Waugh said the Australian team had no knowledge of it.

Waugh told reporters after the hearing that they were glad of the chance to clear the air and hoped the public would have a better idea of what went on.

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Pakistan Cricket Board legal adviser Ali Sibtain Fazli told Waugh that the commission had evidence suggesting the match was rigged but Waugh said the Australian team had

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"Hopefully, they will believe that we were not involved in match-fixing and bribery because we are not, what we did was got involved with a bookmaker to give information and that's the end of the story."

The pair had previously appeared before the commission while on tour in Pakistan to give evidence concerning their allegations about Malik, who has denied the charges.

Shortly after Waugh had completed his evidence, a man approached him in the hearing room brandishing a copy of his written statement and accusing him of lying about the amount of money he had accepted from the bookmaker. Waugh's counsel, Michael Shatkin, QC, called a security guard to deal with the man, who was allowed to remain in the hearing room for the remainder of the proceedings.

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