

USOC commends decision

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado, Jan 25: The president of the US Olympic Committee on Sunday praised the decision to oust six bribery-tainted international Olympic Committee members as a "good start," but warned that more will have to be done to restore credibility to the celebrated Games, reports AP.

"We think it is a good start," Bill Hybl said at the US Olympic Complex after six IOC members were essentially removed in a purge stemming from the biggest corruption scandal in the history of the Olympics.

"However, we will say there is more to be done," said Hybl. "We don't think this will be gone tomorrow."

The shake-up, Hybl said, indicates "that the International Olympic Committee is taking this very seriously."

He said he was satisfied that the IOC and Samaranch "have done a very good job in moving the process forward."

But Hybl said the moves are only the first of several steps that the IOC will take.

"It will certainly take substantial change to restore confidence and credibility" to the Olympics, he said.

"When they go to their March meeting they will be addressing a whole series of issues. A series of issues that can make the Olympic Movement stronger," said Hybl, who applauded a proposal that more athletes participate in the decision-making process in the IOC.

Stewart puts it behind Bevan misses today's tie



ADELAIDE, Jan. 25: Australia's Michael Bevan was ruled out of Tuesday's tri-series match with England at the Adelaide Oval because of a continuing groin injury, reports AP.

Australia in Sydney, 66 not out against Sri Lanka in Melbourne, and an unbeaten 126 in Bourne's match against Sri Lanka, which England lost by six wickets.



MICHAEL BEVAN one wicket despite posting a total of 302.

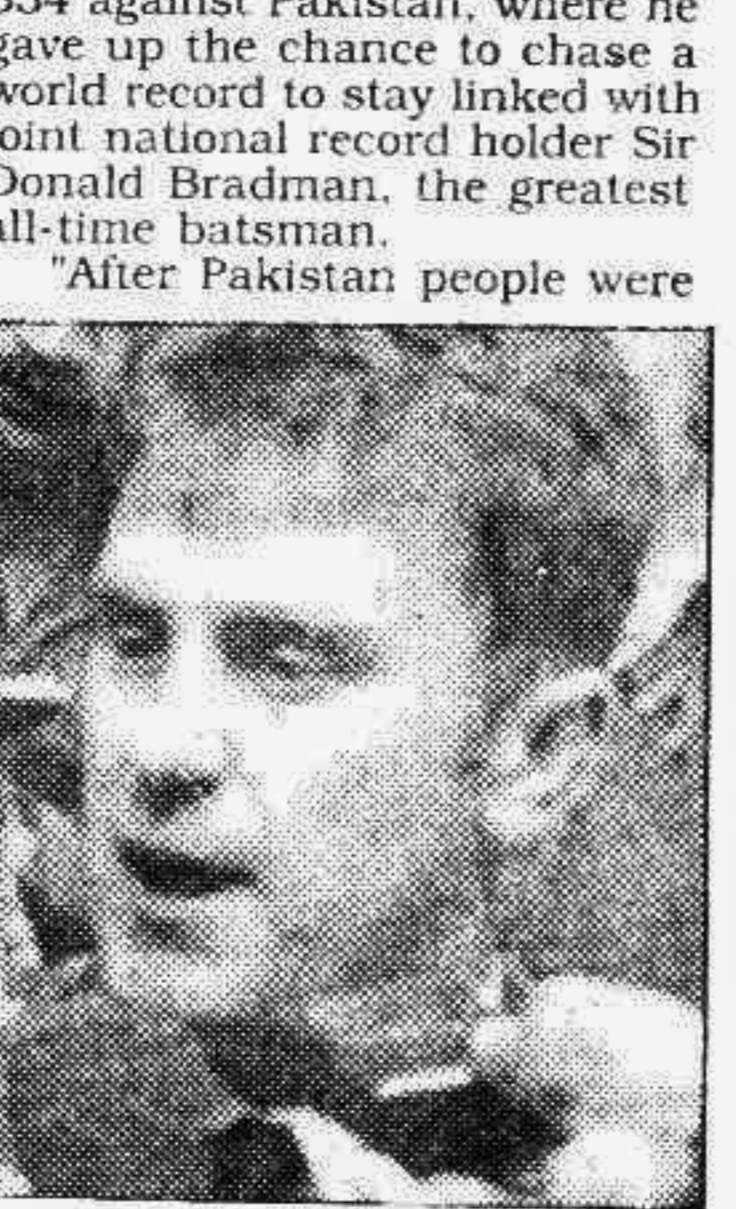
Meanwhile, England captain Alec Stewart said his clash with Sri Lankan counterpart Arjuna Ranatunga in Saturday's one-day international was a closed episode and had not affected relations between the two teams.

Taylor says time will tell



MELBOURNE, Jan 25: Mark Taylor was named the Australian of the year on Monday and said his future as captain of the world's leading cricket team would be known by the weekend, reports AP.

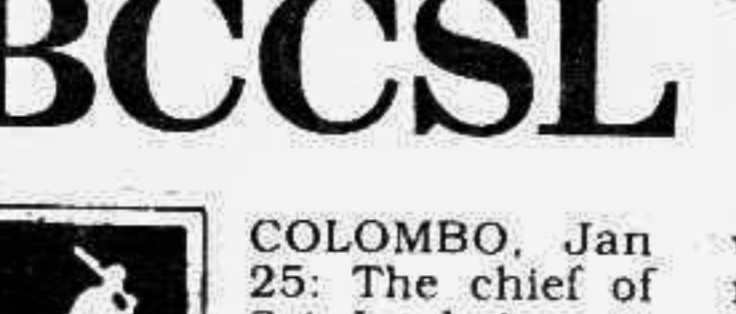
decision made but first I'll let the ACB know because they've been great to meet so I intend to tell them first."



MARK TAYLOR using me in the same sentence as Sir Donald Bradman so it was amazing how quickly things turned around and how much I enjoyed that innings."

He refused to elaborate on retirement plans in interviews Monday following the announcement he followed predecessor Allan Border, who won in 1989, as the second Test captain to be honoured with the annual award.

Ranatunga's hearing today BCCSL boss still angry



COLOMBO, Jan 25: The chief of Sri Lanka's cricket board says the national team may walk off the field again if spinner Muttiah Muralitharan is called for throwing in the tri-series in Australia.

would take if Muralitharan was no-balled again.

Emerson is scheduled to stand in Sri Lanka's match against England at Perth this week.

Peter van der Merwe, who came out on the field on Saturday.

Play stopped for about 12 minutes and an angry Ranatunga and Emerson could be seen pointing fingers at each other.

Italy setting 60 pct roof on TV soccer rights

ROME, Jan 25(Reuters/Internet): The Italian government will prepare new rules later on Monday limiting a single digital television broadcaster from owning more than 60 percent of rights to the total amount of football games, an Italian newspaper reported on Monday.



A Deportivo la Coruna boater is under pressure from Real Madrid striker Raul (R) during a Spanish First Division encounter at La Coruna on January 24. Real were thrashed 0-4.

Ponting fined

MELBOURNE, Jan 25: Australian cricketer Ricky Ponting has been fined 5,000 Australian dollars (US \$3,150) and received a three-match ban after a nightclub fight left him with a black eye.

Jamaica gain initiative

KINGSTON, Jan 25: Jamaica's bowlers struck back to claim three Guyanese wickets and put their team back in contention in the Busta Cup cricket match at Sabina Park, reports AP.

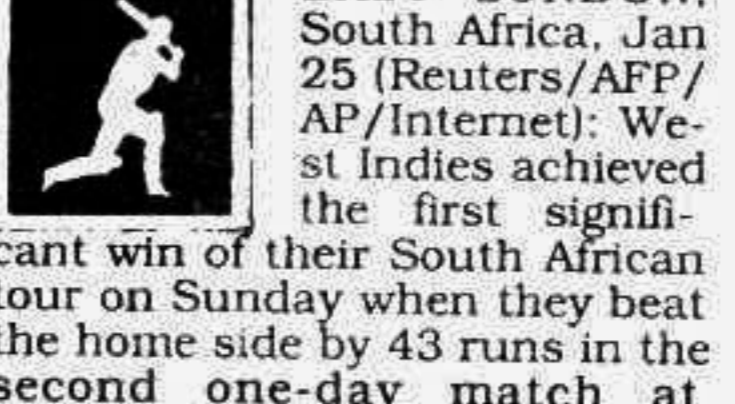
Barcelona revolution takes shape

MADRID, Jan 25(Reuters/Internet): Barcelona's quickfire recovery from mid-table strugglers to Spain's "winter champions" has done more than grant Louis van Gaal a stay of execution.

Age no bar for Mendy

PARIS, Jan 25: Jean-Baptiste Mendy of France will attempt to continue to defy father time when he defends his WBA lightweight title against Alberto Sicurella of Argentina at the Porte de Versailles here today night, reports AP.

Windies draw level



EAST LONDON, South Africa, Jan 25 (Reuters/AP/Internet): West Indies achieved their first significant win of their South African tour on Sunday when they beat the home side by 43 runs in the second one-day match at Buffalo Park.

sealed in the 33rd over when Hansie Cronje was bowled through his legs by Hooper for 34.

Mark Boucher, who made his highest score of 51, and Klusener, last out for 46, ensured South Africa went down fighting with an eighth-wicket stand of 64.

The third match of the series is in Durban on Wednesday.

SCOREBOARD: West Indies of the second one-day international between West Indies and South Africa on Sunday. WEST INDIES: 292 for nine in 50 overs (Chanderpaul 150, Hooper 108; Pollock 6/35) SOUTH AFRICA: Kirsten c Wallace b King 3, Boucher c Artherton b King 46, Kallis c Semple b Hooper 51, Rhodes c McCarrell b King 21, Cronje b Hooper 34, Pollock run out (Wallace) 6, Boucher c Ambrose b Artherton 51, Klusener run out 46, Boje run out (Lara) 7, Williams not out 1, Extras: (nb-8, w-8, lb-5) 21. Total: (All out in 46.5 overs) 249. Bowler: O M R W. Ambrose 6 1 21 1, King 10 2 40 3, McLean 7 5 0 0, Hooper 10 0 50 2, McCarrell 10 0 50 0, Artherton 3 0 21 0. Fall of wkts: 1-8; 2-9; 3-18; 4-78; 5-116; 6-123; 7-159; 8-223; 9-243. Result: West Indies won by 43 runs. Man-of-the-match: Shivnarine Chanderpaul.



Dutch international Frank de Boer (L), making his Barcelona debut, tackles Real Zaragoza's Yugoslav star Savo Milosevic during their Spanish premier league clash at Barcelona on January 24. Barca won 3-1.

Barca catch Celta Real Madrid crushed



MADRID, Jan 25 (Reuters/Internet): Real Madrid tumbled to a 4-0 defeat at Deportivo Coruna on Sunday, missing their chance to join Barcelona and Celta Vigo at the top of the Spanish first division.

sweetly struck free kick just outside the area from Fran on 12 minutes.

Turu Flores scored the second 11 minutes later with an equally precise finish, this time just inside the box, and Portuguese striker Pauleta Recende put the result beyond doubt as he took advantage of hesitation in the Real defence, sliding in to guide the ball past Bodo Illgner and in off the post.

Foe West Ham bound

LONDON, Jan 25(Reuters/Internet): Cameroon international Marc Vivien Foe is on the brink of joining West Ham United, the premier league club said on Monday.

The 23-year-old Lens midfielder is currently in London and will have a medical on Monday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer and CRYPTOQUIP. Includes crossword grid and word lists.