

Sport

Malik has nothing to hide

KARACHI, Mar 5: Pakistan cricket captain Salim Malik said on Wednesday he was ready to face an inquiry into allegations that he offered bribes to two Australian players to lose a Test match last year, reports Reuter.

He also said on his return with the team from a three-month tour to South Africa and Zimbabwe that he was considering whether to sue the Australian newspaper which printed the allegations and any individual or individuals who had levelled the charges.

Malik has strongly denied allegations that he offered Australian players Shane Warne and Tim May 50,000 dollars each to influence the result of the first Test between the countries in Karachi last year.

"I have already discussed the matter with my lawyer and some time next week will again discuss the matter before taking a decision in this regard," he said.

"I am ready to face an inquiry by the Pakistan cricket board and will accept the verdict of that inquiry."

Team manager Intikhab Alim also dismissed the allegations and said those who had made them would carry the burden of providing proof.

But he said that if an inquiry found there was any substance in the charge, he was willing to step down as manager.

As the Pakistan team arrived at Karachi Airport, they were met by a group carrying banners and chanting slogans asking vice-captain Rashid Latif and Basit Ali to change their minds about retiring from international cricket.

The two players declined to talk about the reasons for their retirement, announced last week in Harare, until they had met the cricket board.

Accolade for Lala Amarnath

CALCUTTA, Mar 5: Lala Amarnath would be the first recipient of the rupees two lakh Col C K Nayudu Award for his outstanding contribution to Indian cricket, reports PTI.

Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Jagmohan Dalmiya today said that the award would be presented to Lala Amarnath in a function on March 10 in Bombay by the Union Minister for Power, NKP Salve, who is also the chairman of Col C K Nayudu Centenary Celebrations Committee.

The BCCI has instituted the annual award to honour outstanding contribution to Indian cricket, both on the field and off it. The first award is being coincided with the World Masters Col C K Nayudu Trophy which is in progress in Bombay.

"Lala's contribution to Indian cricket as a player and as an administrator is well known and there could not have been a better choice for the first award," Dalmiya said.

A set of commemorative postage stamps on C K Nayudu, Vijay Merchant, Vinoo Mankad and Prof D B Deodhar would be released soon while a cricket academy would also be set up to be named after Col C K Nayudu.

Whitaker wins WBA crown

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ, Mar 5: Pernell Whitaker felt Vasquez, who lost for only the second time against 52 victories, "The decision was correct."

Whitaker used hard right jabs and accurate counter punches to build up a big margin as the fight progressed. Vasquez also was penalized a point by referee Tony Orlando for holding behind the head in the ninth round and another point for holding and hitting behind the head in the 11th round.

Whitaker, whose WBC welterweight championship was not at stake, won 118-110 on the card of Pinit Prayadsab to Thailand, 118-107 on the card of John Riley of New Jersey and 116-110 on the card of Guy Juras of Canada.

Jackson sets all-comers' record

SYDNEY, Mar 5: World record holder Colin Jackson of Wales Sunday swept to an Australian all-comers' record for the 110 metres hurdles at the national track and field championships.

Jackson, whose world record is 12.91 seconds, clocked 13.32 seconds to win ahead of Australian Kyle Vander-Kuy, who clocked 13.68.

Jackson, 28, had shared the previous best time run in Australia — 13.37 — with Canadian Mark McCoy.

"It was a trifle slower than I thought, but the conditions didn't allow it to be faster," Jackson said after his run through wind and rain.

"I was hoping the conditions would be better, but when I got down to the start line it started to rain and I started to laugh: 'OK, I'm back in Britain,'" he said.

Sammy Langat of Kenya won the 800 meters in one minute, 48.10 seconds from Australian Joseph Ischia (1:48.36) and fellow Kenyan Vincent Malakwana of New York.

The other fighters to win at

Cricket and the media

By Shakil Kasem

which that he has one of the shrewdest cricketing brains in the business.

The above lines are not so much a digression, as they are a defence against the accusations levelled against him: to wit his "mis-handling" of Bangladesh's batting order against England "A".

Cricket is a game which is immensely profitable for the critics of the armchair variety. The ifs and buts are numerous in this unpredictable game. A captain relies as much on game theory as he does on intuition. On more than one occasion logic and reason have failed to take a wicket but a match was still won by a desperate gamble on a wild hunch. It has happened to me many a time, and, I have captained sides for years in more matches than I care to remember.

One was therefore, more than a little disconcerted and disturbed by the bickering tone of a recent story in the Star, that took the present Bangladesh team manager Roqibul Hasan unnecessarily to task after the second one dayer against England "A".

Roqibul Hasan was the nearest to a cricket prodigy this country has produced. In the mid-sixties, when he was merely a student of class eight, Roqibul made his debut in first class cricket. He played creditably for the East Pakistan team during those days in the Quaid-e-Azam trophy, against the best new ball bowlers that Pakistan had. As far as Bangladesh was concerned, he was technically the best batsman this country can ever hope to see. Having played with him for many a year, I can also

I therefore, saw nothing "bizarre" in Roqibul's faith in Zakaria Iftikhar for the number three slot: in fact, there were three reasons why I did not think so. As far as a captain of a Bangladesh side is concerned, any player who is good enough to play for his country's team should be good enough to pull his weight when the chips are down. Zakaria could not be expected to be provided with insurance cover by other batsmen in the line up. Secondly,

he is a highly gifted player who has scored tons of runs in the last three years and nerves were the least of his problems as he proved conclusively against the other touring sides only the week before. Thirdly, assuming he was "inexperienced," as your correspondent suggested, there was all the more reason why he should have been sent in at 79 for one, rather than at say 148 for 5 when the pressure would really have been on him.

Let us just face facts: Bangladesh played well on the day, but a thoroughly professional England "A" played better. Bangladesh lost because one day cricket is a whimsical phenomenon and the players perhaps lacked the killer instinct. Bangladesh did not lose because the manager was sleeping on the job. To suggest otherwise would be exposing the limitations of self-styled "experts." Such flippant and disparaging comments do great disservice to a person whose handling of cricketing situations over the years have been well thought out and always calculated. By the same token, this kind of cricket journalism lacking in depth, certainly did no justice to The Daily Star. Good writing as we know, is not always what is written, but what is NOT written.

No malice intended, really.

Foreman's off-court defeat



ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey, Mar 5: George Foreman lost the WBA heavyweight championship on Saturday in a meeting room at the Taj Mahal, reports AP.

The WBA Executive Committee voted to reject the 46-year-old Foreman's appeal that it sanction his April 22 fight against unranked Axel Schulz of Germany. The vote count was not revealed.

The committee backed up a 5-0 vote by the WBA's Championships Committee Jan. 27 that Foreman make his first title defense against the top available contender or have his title recognition withdrawn by the organisation.

James Binns of the WBA said that Foreman had until Sunday to comply, which means the title will be declared vacant.

Foreman said Saturday: "All I know is, I do believe on Nov. 7 I became the heavyweight champion of the world. It wasn't given to me as a gift. I had to get it by a knockout and I had to go to court to make sure I was allowed to fight, so there's no telling what court battle lurks behind the curtain now."

I guess certain guys can be heavyweight champion of the world and do whatever they want but they seem to pick on George Foreman for some reason. But I don't feel sorry for

Tony Tucker, ranked No. 1, and Bruce Seldon, No. 2, will fight for the WBA championship. Both are promoted by Don King.

Foreman won the WBA and IBF titles by knocking out Michael Moorer in the 10th round Nov. 5 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. The IBF will sanction Foreman's fight against Schulz at the Grand.

Foreman and promoter Bob Arum have indicated that they would take court action against the WBA if it didn't sanction

myself because I am the heavyweight champion of the world. If I'd been in this position, and not heavyweight of the world I would be upset but I like the position I'm in and I

GEORGE FOREMAN

the Schulz fight.

Foreman said in a statement read Saturday by promoter Butch Lewis, asked by the fighter to represent him at the appeal hearing, that if the WBA allowed him to fight Schulz, he would "defend the title against the challenger designated by the WBA later this year."

Foreman also said he would retire late this year or early in 1996.

If ever an exception to the rule should be applied, it should be applied to George Foreman," Lewis said in asking the WBA not to withdraw championship recognition from Foreman.

"I applaud George Foreman on his accomplishment," said Tucker, a former IBF champion, "He's a great champion, but I would like the opportunity to fight for his title."

"I'm getting old," the 28-year-old Seldon told the committee. "I would like my chance. Boxing is a very tough sport."

Arum, in a letter to the WBA, called Foreman, "One of the most important American heroes of this century."

"Popularity cannot be the test," said Rocco DePaolis, Seldon's manager. "This is not professional wrestling."

The WBC champion is Oliver McCall. He will defend his title against 45-year-old Larry Holmes April 8 at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas.

Mandela rallies for boxing

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ, Mar 5: Pernell Whitaker felt Vasquez, who lost for only the second time against 52 victories, "The decision was correct."

Whitaker used hard right jabs and accurate counter punches to build up a big margin as the fight progressed. Vasquez also was penalized a point by referee Tony Orlando for holding behind the head in the ninth round and another point for holding and hitting behind the head in the 11th round.

Whitaker, whose WBC welterweight championship was not at stake, won 118-110 on the card of Pinit Prayadsab to Thailand, 118-107 on the card of John Riley of New Jersey and 116-110 on the card of Guy Juras of Canada.

The AP favoured Whitaker 116-109.

Whitaker had said that, win or lose Saturday night, he would campaign as a welterweight in the future. In fact, he is scheduled to make a mandatory defense of the 147-pound title against the WBC's No. 1 contender, Gary Jacobs of Scotland, in July.

"I didn't really think the punch was that hard," Whitaker said of the left that put him down for the fourth time in his career. "I was off balance. I had to get up and I got up. It wasn't really a full-fledged knockout."

"The jab was the only punch I needed in this fight," said the 31-year-old Whitaker, who weighed 153.3-169.6 kg., the same as Vasquez. Whitaker's record now is 35-1-1 with 15 knockouts.

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"I was hoping the conditions would be better, but when I got down to the start line it started to rain and I started to laugh: 'OK, I'm back in Britain,'" he said.

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The other fighters to win at

the 10th round is described as being in critical condition at the Royal London Hospital after undergoing surgery following the fight to remove a blood clot from his brain.



Former West Indian skipper Viv Richards is undone by a slower from Australian Bennett (R) during a Masters' Cup match at the Brabourne Stadium in Bombay on March 4. Richards hit a hurricane 33-ball 51 to pave the path for a crushing 72-run victory.

— AFP photo

BFF names 18 Indian masters in semis



BOMBAY, Mar 5: Indian veterans stormed into the Masters' Cup semifinals on Sunday with a crushing 62-run win over their South African counterparts at the Brabourne Stadium here.

In reply, Australia managed 239 for eight with opener Graeme Wood hitting 56 and John Dyson an unbeaten 56.

The sparse crowd was treated to a masterful batting display by the Caribbean cricket oldies after skipper Joel Garner won the toss and elected to take strike.

Greenidge (51) and Jeff Dujon (49) put on a relatively sedate 91 for the first wicket setting the stage for Logie and Richards to launch a spectacular lar assault.

Logie blasted 87 off 69 balls hitting a dozen fours and two sixes but even he was upstaged when Richards swaggered to the middle at the fall of the second wicket.

The 43-year-old Richards clubbed four sixes, including three in an over-off Australian skipper Geoff Lawson besides two fours.

SUNDAY SCORES

Scoreboard in the Masters' Cup match between Indian and South African veterans here.

INDIA:

K Srikanth b Rice 85
G Logie b Kapil 44
K McEwan b Venkatrathavan 30
G Pollock not out 79
C Rice c and b Ghavri 0
K McEwan c Gavaskar 2
Venkatrathavan 10
K Smith c Kirmani b Kapil 10
O Henry not out 31
Extras : (b-2, lb-5, w-4) 11
Total : (for 7 wickets in 45 overs) 280
Fall of wickets : 1-0; 2-101; 3-152; 4-241; 5-249; 6-279; 7-279.

Bowling : O M R W

Price to pay

WELLINGTON, Mar 5: A member of Pakistan's youth cricket team has been sent home after being accused in a sexual attack on a 13-year-old girl, the Sunday Star-Times newspaper reported today, reports AFP.

The Indian total proved a tall order, but Pollock showed glimpses of the left-handed grace that cricket fans here missed during South Africa's 22-year apartheid-induced sporting isolation.

At 51, the oldest member of the South African team, Pollock delighted the crowd with his century with 15 fours and a six. He put on 89 runs for the fourth wicket with Yashpal Sharma (39).

Rice was South Africa's most successful bowler with three for 42 in six overs.

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The report said the girl was attacked on Wednesday night when the Pakistani youth team was staying at a Wellington hotel.

Pakistan youth team manager Masood Iqbal was quoted as saying the decision to send the 19-year-old player home was taken after discussions with New Zealand Cricket officials and the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan.

"It was just a confusion. These boys don't know anything. They are very young. It's very unfortunate," the paper quoted Iqbal as saying.

Kirmani and Lal, who made 16 runs, remained not out at the close.

The contest was suspended Friday night when floodlights at the Brabourne Stadium here failed with India on 106 for four after 30 overs, chasing Sri Lanka's total of 172 for six in the first Group A match.

It was the first time in India that an international one-day cricket match was suspended due to a power failure.

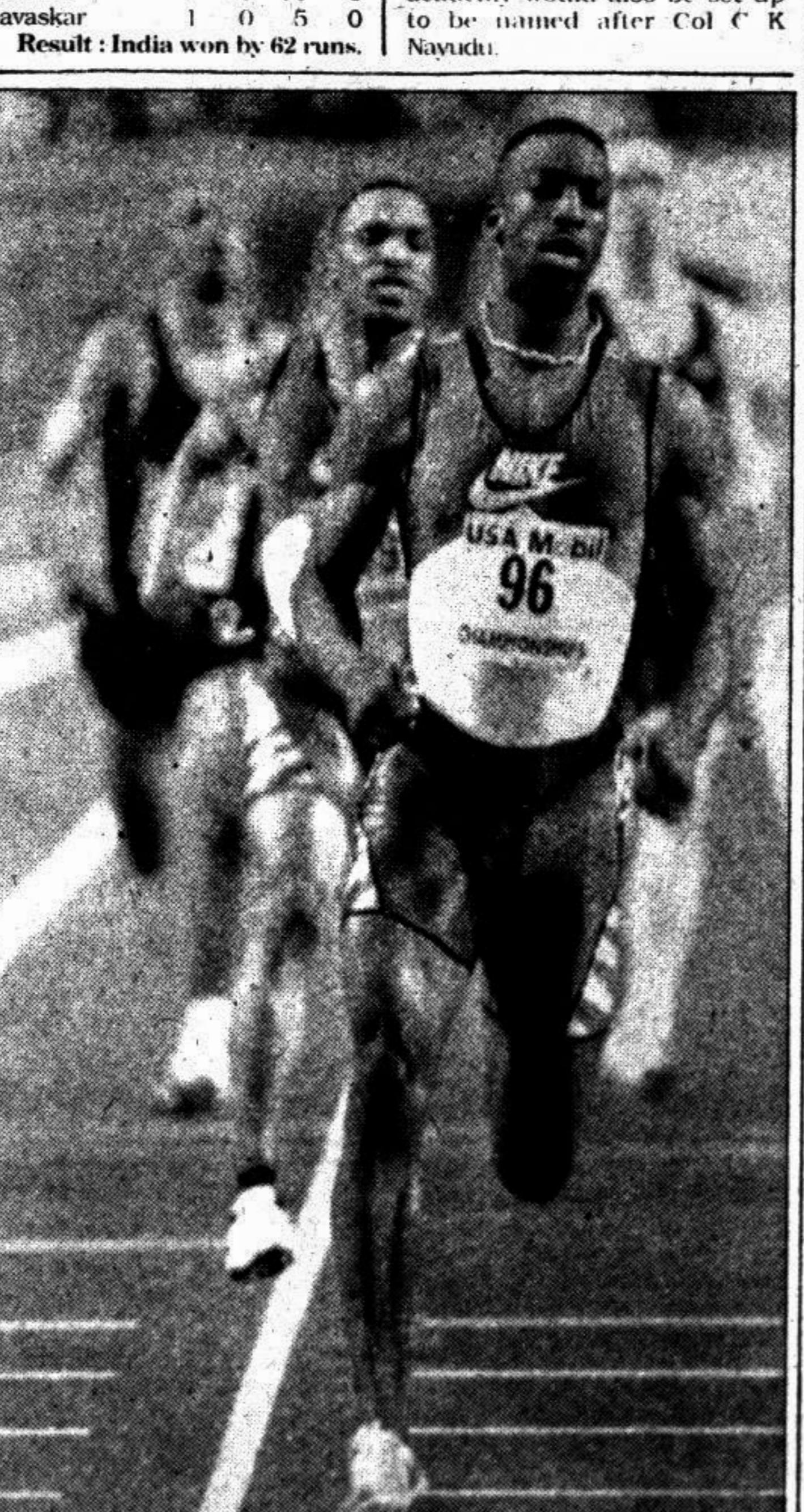
— CARIBBEAN ONSLAUGHT

Meanwhile West Indies cricketing veterans crushed their Australian counterparts by 72 runs with a vintage performance.

China, ROK in Asian b'ball qtrs

MANILA, Mar 5: Defending champions China and South Korea on Saturday virtually clinched slots in the quarterfinals of the 13th Asian Basketball Confederation junior men's championships by scoring one-sided wins, reports Reuter.

The Chinese squad whipped Malaysia, 85-43, and the Koreans routed Hong Kong, 86-41, to stay undefeated after two matches.



Michael Johnson on his way to winning the 400 metres at the Mohil indoor track and field championships in Atlanta on March 4. Johnson set a new world record with the time of 44.63 seconds.

— AFP